

Costs of family leave must be shared

The Women Entrepreneurs of Finland (Suomen Yrittäjänaiset) urges the Parliament to share out the costs of parental leave by means of broad-based taxation.

The Parliament must take measures to share out the costs of parental leave by means of broad-based taxation for the following reasons:

- Tripartite collective bargaining has not succeeded in solving the problem.
- The current system pushes young women into jobs that are only temporary.
- The costs of parental leave are largely paid for by female-dominated sectors.
- One child costs the mother's employer around 14 000 euros.
- The largest items of direct expenditure paid for by the employer include:
 - wages and holiday pay
 - leave of absence during pregnancy
 - leave taken to look after a sick child.
- In Finland, around a million euros of taxpayers' money is invested in every child, including girls, by the time the child reaches the age of 20. When it comes to job recruitment, the 14 000 euro "mother risk" too often turns out to be the straw that breaks the camel's back.
- Because of the current system, only about 30 percent of entrepreneurs are women.
- The current system hinders growth, employment and internationalisation in female-dominated sectors.
- SMEs already keep the wheels running in Finland. Over 60 percent of Finns earn their daily bread in them.
- The population of Finland is ageing fast, and hundreds of thousands of people will be retiring in the near future.
- Not enough children are born in Finland.
- The work input and entrepreneurship of women is needed to maintain Finland's competitiveness, since half of the population are women.
- The current system is a remnant of old times that Finland no longer can afford.

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