



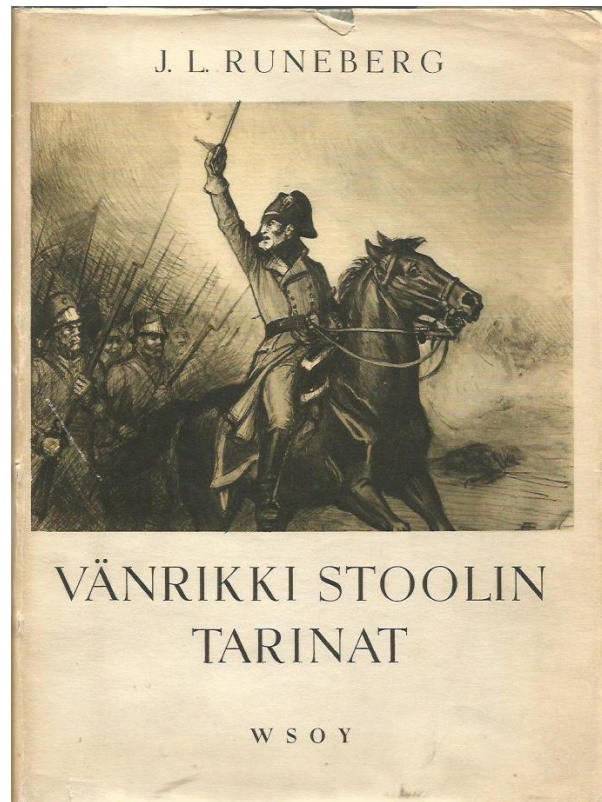
# GET TO KNOW FINLAND

Friday 5.2.  
10.15-11.45



**FLAGS ARE FLYING TODAY, WHY?**

# TODAY IS NATIONAL POET J. L. RUNEBERG DAY





# THE FINNISH WAY OF LIFE

- 1) A society of trust
- 2) Customs and manners

# THE FINNISH WAY OF LIFE: CUSTOMS AND MANNERS

**Shortly introduce your part of the pre-task text “A guide to Finnish customs and manners” and then discuss:**

What did you find interesting/odd/nice..? Why?

What feels approachable (or unapproachable)?  
Why?

What did you find similar/different to your home country?

The Finnish way of life:  
Some customs and manners

low key, informal

punctuality

equality

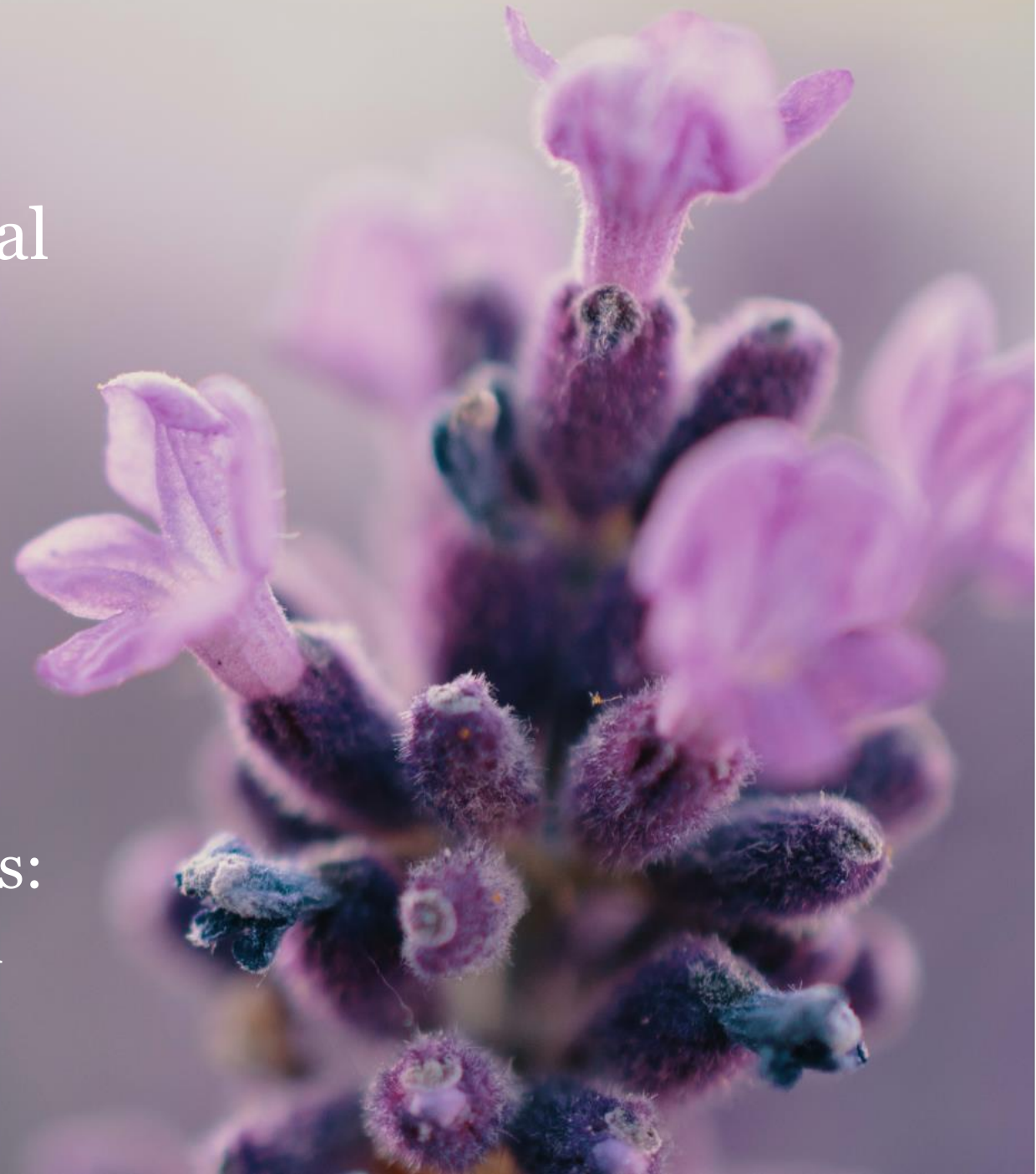
help yourself!

no shoes at home

recycling

two official languages:  
Finnish and Swedish

sauna (more or less)





# FINLAND: A SOCIETY OF TRUST

**Eurobarometer 2018:** Finns are the most trusting people in Europe

*“In the Nordics, high levels of trust can be explained by a welfare model based on equality and a universal right to basic services. This prevents “us” vs “them” division from forming.”*

- Maria Bäck, Political researcher at Åbo Akademi.

(YLE News 23.6.2018.)

**Transparency International 2019:** Finland is the 3<sup>rd</sup> least corrupt country in the world



# FINLAND: A SOCIETY OF TRUST

**Eurobarometer 2019:** What do Finnish people have trust in?

94 % trust in the police

(Poliisibarometri 2020: 91 % trust in the police)

84 % trust in judicial system

71 % trust in the press

56 % trust in the EU

12 % trust in the social media

(<https://ec.europa.eu/finland/sites/finland/files/eb92.pdf>)



# FINLAND: A SOCIETY OF TRUST

**Video: *Well done, Finland!***

**Share your thoughts on the pre-task (and the previous slides) in your group**

- Would you trust a stranger?
- How would you describe the trust in society in your home country compared to Finland? Discuss the examples in the text: e.g. having somebody return your lost valuables, independence of children at early age, and following rules.
- What is corruption? What does it mean? Have you experienced/seen corruption in your life?
- How is the society organized in your home country? E.g. “public” vs. “private”

# *Finland – A welfare system*

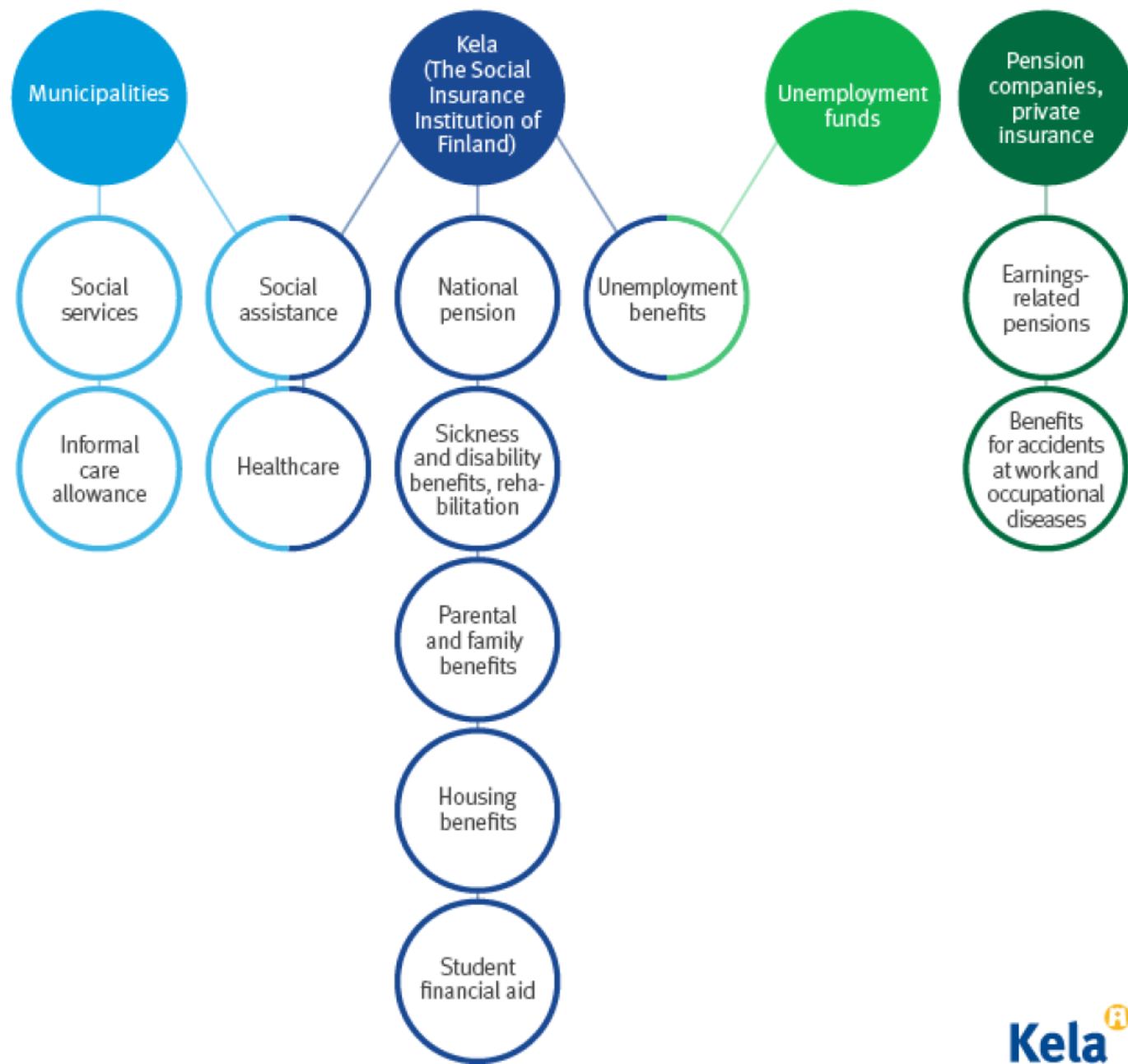
- The society is organized by a broad and effective public sector
- Public schools, communal day-care system, public health care
- High taxes
- Openness across social systems: e.g. yearly tax and income data, possibility to participate in the national core curriculum process
- Equality

## *Finland - A welfare system*

"In Finland, the social security system aims to safeguard sufficient economic security in all life situations." (*Kela.fi*)

# Social security in Finland

○ Based on residence    ○ Based on employment



*Finland uses almost a third of its GDP to support the welfare state.*



# FINLAND: THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

**Video: *Is Finland really the happiest country in the world?***

**United Nations World Happiness Report 2020:** Finland is the happiest country in the world for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row

## **Happy or just content?**

Trust in society: social trust, trust in the government

Welfare system

Safe environments

Healthy life

# FINLAND: THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

**Finnish institute for health and welfare** (Sep 5, 2018): “Alcohol consumption in Finland has decreased, but over half a million are still at risk from excessive drinking.”

**Suicide rates by country 2019:** Finland 23<sup>rd</sup> in the listing