

THE PARTICIPATION GAP



Democratic Participation, Representation and Public Trust in a Changing Finland

A Finland evidence base with Nordic and European lessons for democratic institutions.

2026

A democratic constituency can change faster than its institutions.

Finland's demographic transformation is already visible in its electorate. The central question is no longer whether international and foreign-background communities are part of Finland's democratic future. They are part of its democratic present.

This report examines where participation and representation narrow, what the evidence can and cannot explain, and what public and political institutions can responsibly do next.

RESEARCH PRINCIPLE 01

Define the population before counting the population.

Statistical categories are kept source-specific throughout this publication. "Foreign background", "foreign-language speaker", "foreign-born", "immigrant" and "descendant" are related but not interchangeable.

The participation gap in brief

At the end of 2025, 660,800 people living in Finland were classified by Statistics Finland as having foreign background - 11.7% of the population. Of these, 102,183 were born in Finland.

In mainland Finland's 2025 municipal elections, 412,684 people with foreign background were entitled to vote. Demographic presence, however, did not translate proportionately into political candidacy.

People with foreign background accounted for 9.0% of persons entitled to vote but 2.9% of candidates. Using a different statistical measure, foreign-language speakers represented 8.7% of the eligible electorate, 2.8% of candidates and 1.0% of elected councillors.

Turnout also differed sharply in Statistics Finland's detailed register-based analysis: 65.2% among Swedish speakers, 54.8% among Finnish and Sámi speakers, and 22.4% among foreign-language speakers.

The evidence does not support a single-cause explanation. Participation can be shaped by knowledge, access, efficacy, networks, belonging and institutional experience - as well as the openness of institutions themselves.

Representation narrows before election day.

9.0%

of persons entitled to vote were of foreign background

2.9%

of municipal-election candidates were of foreign background

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING

The representation gap begins before voters choose among candidates.

Measure: foreign background (origin/background classification). Finland municipal elections, 2025.

Source: Statistics Finland.

A separate language-based pipeline shows further narrowing.

8.7%

eligible voters

2.8%

candidates

1.0%

elected councillors

Eligible → Candidate → Elected

These figures refer to foreign-language speakers. They should not be combined with the foreign-background figures on the previous page.

Source: Statistics Finland, Municipal Elections 2025.

The turnout difference is substantial.

Swedish speakers

65.2%

A horizontal bar chart for Swedish speakers. The bar is dark grey and extends to the 65.2% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%. The remaining portion of the bar to the right is light grey.

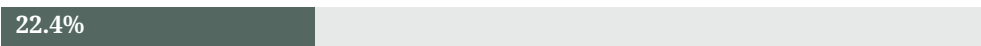
Finnish / Sámi speakers

54.8%

A horizontal bar chart for Finnish / Sámi speakers. The bar is dark grey and extends to the 54.8% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%. The remaining portion of the bar to the right is light grey.

Foreign-language speakers

22.4%

A horizontal bar chart for foreign-language speakers. The bar is dark grey and extends to the 22.4% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%. The remaining portion of the bar to the right is light grey.

Coverage note: Statistics Finland's detailed register-based turnout analysis did not have complete election-day coverage nationwide. The published rates should therefore be read within the source's stated methodological limits.

Evidence first. Interpretation second. Application third.

01 Evidence

Official statistics, institutional evidence and academic research establish what is known.

02 Interpretation

MandateMark™ identifies patterns, limitations and questions that the evidence raises.

03 Application

MandateMark™ frameworks structure diagnosis and action without claiming more validation than has been completed.

ABOUT THE MANDATEMARK™ MODELS

The models in this report are proprietary analytical frameworks developed from the evidence reviewed. The underlying research is drawn from authoritative statistical, institutional and academic sources. Where a MandateMark™ tool has not yet undergone independent validation, no such validation is claimed.

The Finland we are governing has changed.

Finland's demographic transformation is already a governance reality. At the end of 2025, the population was 5,652,881, including 660,800 people classified by Statistics Finland as having foreign background - 11.7% of the population.

660,800

people with foreign background living in Finland at the end of 2025

Define the population before counting the population.

Citizenship, country of birth, language and origin measure different things. A person may be born outside Finland and later become a Finnish citizen; another may be born in Finland and still be classified as having foreign background because of parental origin.

Those distinctions determine who is being counted, which democratic rights apply and what conclusions the evidence can support.

A long-term demographic shift

1990

37,618

people with foreign background

2025

660,800

people with foreign background

The 2025 figure is about 17.6 times the 1990 level. The composition of the population is changing too: 102,183 people with foreign background were born in Finland in 2025.

National averages hide local realities

Statistics Finland reported that one in five residents of Uusimaa was of foreign background in 2025. The capital region therefore operates in a markedly different demographic environment from many other parts of the country.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING 01

**Internationalisation is increasingly part of Finland itself,
not simply something arriving from outside.**

Demographic presence is becoming electoral presence.

4,530,989

people entitled to vote in mainland Finland

412,684

eligible voters with foreign background

In Helsinki, 103,457 of 560,647 eligible voters had foreign background. International- and foreign-background residents are therefore part of the democratic constituency itself, not merely integration-policy recipients or communications audiences.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING 02

Demographic presence has grown much faster than democratic participation.

Having the right to vote is not the same as participating.

Finland's changing population is increasingly reflected in its electorate. But possessing a democratic right and exercising it are different things.

The participation gap

Statistics Finland's 2025 register-based analysis shows substantial differences in turnout among the examined language groups.

Swedish speakers



Finnish / Sámi speakers



Foreign-language speakers



Examined by origin, turnout among people with foreign background was 33.0 percentage points lower than among people with Finnish background.

The stronger question is not “Why are they not voting?”

Ask instead: What is happening between eligibility and participation?

That shift moves the analysis beyond assumptions of apathy. Leaders need to establish whether relevant barriers concern practical knowledge, access, political relevance, efficacy, civic networks, institutional relationships, belonging or another factor.

The detailed Statistics Finland analysis relies on electronic voting-register data that did not provide complete election-day coverage nationwide. It supports comparisons within the covered data, but should not be converted into an exact national count of foreign-background non-voters.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING 03

A powerful statistic does not become more useful by making it more precise than the evidence allows.

Citizenship does not automatically close the gap.

73%

immigrants with host-country nationality
reporting voting

~80%

native-born citizens reporting voting

Across the EU and OECD, participation gaps persist at all levels of education. Length of residence also changes the picture: among host-country-citizen immigrants with less than ten years of residence, turnout is more than 20 percentage points lower; among settled immigrants, the average remaining gap falls to around four points.

A recently naturalised citizen, a person who has lived in Finland for thirty years and a Finland-born young adult with foreign-born parents can therefore have very different relationships with political institutions.

The Participation Pipeline

The pipeline is a diagnostic map, not a prescription that every person should move through every stage.

ELIGIBLE	INFORMED	PARTICIPATING	CONNECTED	CANDIDATE	REPRESENTATIVE	LEADER
Has the right / opportunity	Knows the system	Acts or takes part	Builds civic / political links	Enters candidacy	Wins representation	Progresses to influence

WHERE DOES YOUR PATHWAY NARROW?

The model helps an institution locate narrowing before choosing an intervention. It does not assume that every barrier is present, or that every participant seeks candidacy or leadership.

The gap doesn't end at the ballot box.

Voting is one expression of democratic participation, not the whole system. Inclusion also concerns who becomes a candidate, who is elected, who enters political networks and who progresses into leadership.

From electorate to candidacy

9.0%

eligible voters with foreign background

2.9%

candidates with foreign background

Using language rather than origin, foreign-language speakers represented 8.7% of persons entitled to vote, 2.8% of candidates and 1.0% of elected councillors. These measures are different and remain separate throughout this report.

Representation is not a demand for automatic demographic proportionality.

Democracy does not require every council to reproduce the exact demographic composition of the population. Nor do people automatically represent others because they share a language, birthplace or family background.

The institutional question is different: when a substantial part of the electorate appears at much lower rates among candidates and elected representatives, what happens between eligibility and realistic access to representation?

Political parties are part of the participation infrastructure

Candidates do not simply appear. Political organisations identify people, invite them into networks, encourage candidacy, select candidates, provide campaign support and create pathways towards responsibility. Parties are therefore gateways into representative democracy as well as competitors for votes.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING 04

Presence asks who is in the room. Power asks who can influence what happens in the room.

Measurement turns a visible gap into an institutional question.

In Norway's 2023 local elections, immigrants and Norwegian-born people with immigrant parents represented 18% of eligible voters, around 6% of candidates and 3.3% of elected municipal representatives. Norway uses its own definitions, so these figures are a structural comparator rather than a direct ranking against Finland.

What should an organisation be able to see?

- Entry and outreach
- Recruitment and invitation
- Mentoring and network access
- Candidacy and selection
- Campaign support
- Election and representation
- Leadership and retention

MandateMark™ does not assign demographic identity to individuals based on names, photographs, appearance or presumed ethnicity. Where authoritative aggregate data or responsibly self-reported information do not exist, the limitation should be recorded.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING 05

Better to record an evidence gap than manufacture a statistic.

The evidence points to a pathway problem - not a single participation problem.

The first three chapters establish three different forms of narrowing: demographic presence does not automatically become participation; participation does not automatically become candidacy; and candidacy does not automatically become representation or leadership.

The next section asks what may be producing those gaps. Rather than assume one explanation, MandateMark™ separates the diagnostic problem into distinct dimensions that can be investigated and tested.

NEXT

**Why participation can narrow - and how to diagnose
before intervening.**

Why is participation lower?

The participation gap is measurable. Explaining it is harder. A turnout statistic tells us that a gap exists; it does not, by itself, tell us why.

Do not diagnose a population from a statistic.

The populations described as foreign-background, foreign-born, foreign-language-speaking or international are highly diverse. They differ by age, education, income, citizenship, language, country of origin, reason for migration, length of residence, political experience and connection to Finnish society.

There is no single participation barrier

OECD evidence illustrates why one-factor explanations are inadequate. Participation gaps persist across educational levels, citizenship does not automatically remove the gap, and length of residence matters strongly. Among EU youth aged 18–34 with the nationality of their country of residence, self-reported turnout is 58% among native-born young adults with two foreign-born parents, compared with 66% among peers with native-born parents. [7][10]

Civic networks also differ: immigrants are less likely to participate in voluntary organisations than native-born people in most countries. At the same time, it would be wrong to assume that immigrants simply have lower institutional trust. In two-thirds of countries, immigrants report higher trust than native-born people in the police and legal system; across the EU, they also report higher average trust in parliament. Perceived discrimination has nevertheless increased in the EU, and native-born people with foreign-born parents are often more likely than foreign-born adults to report discrimination. [11]

Six-Dimension Participation Diagnostic

01 KNOWLEDGE	Do people understand their rights, opportunities and the system?
02 ACCESS	Can they participate without avoidable practical or language barriers?
03 RELEVANCE & EFFICACY	Does participation feel relevant, and can it influence outcomes?
04 NETWORKS & CONNECTION	Are people connected to civic and political pathways?
05 BELONGING & EXPERIENCE	What have interactions with institutions taught them?
06 INSTITUTIONAL OPENNESS	Can people realistically enter, progress and lead?

WHERE IS THE BARRIER LOCATED?

The six dimensions are diagnostic hypotheses, not a claim that every participation gap is caused by all six. Their purpose is to identify what matters locally before action is selected.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING

Lower participation cannot responsibly be attributed to a single cause. Diagnose before selecting an intervention.

Diagnose before you intervene

Three people may all appear in a statistic as “did not vote” while requiring different responses. One may not know they are eligible; another may understand the election but see little relevance to their life; a third may care deeply but believe institutions only appear when they need votes. Information, relevance and institutional relationship are different problems.

Segment without stereotyping

Where possible, participation strategy should segment by democratic condition rather than assume behaviour from identity. Useful categories may include newly eligible voters, informed but disconnected voters, young first-time voters, active community participants outside formal politics, potential candidates without established party networks, or former participants who have disengaged.

What leaders should stop assuming

- Low turnout does not prove apathy.
- Foreign background does not prove low political knowledge.
- Citizenship does not automatically produce participation.
- High education does not automatically produce participation.
- Translation can remove an access barrier but does not by itself create engagement.
- Diverse candidates do not automatically make an institution inclusive.
- Consultation does not automatically create trust.

Finland is not alone

Finland's participation gap is significant, but it is not uniquely Finnish. Nordic and wider European evidence shows related gaps in turnout, candidacy and representation. The size of the gap and the statistical definitions vary, which is precisely why comparison should be used to identify patterns rather than create simplistic rankings.

Norway: formal eligibility does not guarantee participation

In Norway's 2023 local elections, 18% of eligible voters were immigrants or Norwegian-born people with immigrant parents. Turnout was 69% among voters without immigrant background, 38% among naturalised immigrants, 36% among Norwegian-born people with immigrant parents and 25% among foreign citizens. Candidates from immigrant backgrounds accounted for around 6%, while 3.3% of elected municipal representatives had immigrant background. [9]

Sweden: the gap persists across generations

In Sweden's 2022 parliamentary election, turnout was 89% among Swedish-born people and 67% among foreign-born people. Among native-born people with two foreign-born parents, turnout was 77%. [12] This is a national parliamentary-election comparison, not a municipal-election equivalent, but it reinforces the point that citizenship and a second generation do not automatically eliminate participation gaps.

Copenhagen: diversity does not automatically create participation

Official Copenhagen reporting states that 30% of residents with immigrant background voted in the 2021 municipal election, compared with 50% among people with immigrant background nationally. [13] Earlier city material and the underlying comparative work also show large origin-based turnout gaps; the final designed publication should use only figures tied to the exact official table or report being displayed.

Europe: widespread, but not inevitable

Across the EU and OECD, immigrant citizens participate less on average than native-born citizens, but the gap varies substantially between countries. [7] Variation matters because it shows that lower participation is not an automatic consequence of migration background. Context, residence history, civic networks and institutional arrangements matter.

Local democracy matters

A 2025 European Commission analysis found substantial variation in migrant participation in policy design and implementation across EU Member States. It reported that the most meaningful engagement often occurs locally, where cities and municipalities pioneer consultative structures, and that migrant-led organisations and civil society frequently fill institutional gaps. Limited funding, political will and awareness can hinder sustained participation. [14]

Three horizons for democratic inclusion

MANDATEMARK™ THREE-HORIZON MODEL

ACCESS NOW - clarify eligibility, practical information, reminders and immediate accessibility

CAPABILITY NEXT - strengthen political knowledge, efficacy, civic networks and participation confidence

INSTITUTIONS OPEN - improve recruitment, progression, influence, leadership and accountability pathways

DIFFERENT BARRIERS REQUIRE DIFFERENT TIME HORIZONS.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING

Variation between Nordic and European contexts shows that lower participation is not an inevitable consequence of migration background.

What the evidence says can work

Once a gap has been diagnosed, the next question is what to do. This is also where organisations can confuse visible activity with measurable impact. MandateMark™ therefore separates the strength of the evidence from the attractiveness of the idea.

Practical information and reminders

Norwegian randomised field experiments provide unusually concrete evidence. In the 2015 local elections, direct-mail letters containing practical voting information and encouragement increased turnout by 5.8 percentage points among first-time eligible immigrant voters and by 3.3 points among previously eligible immigrant voters. [15] A separate SMS experiment found effects of 2.93 points among recently eligible foreign nationals and 2.73 points among immigrants eligible in earlier elections. [16]

The lesson is not that reminders solve democratic exclusion. They address a narrower problem: practical information, salience and mobilisation can change participation for some groups. Effects vary by election and context, so local evaluation remains necessary.

Prioritise newly eligible voters

“Newly eligible voter” is often a stronger intervention category than “immigrant”. It may include a young first-time voter, a recently naturalised citizen or a foreign resident who has newly met local-election eligibility conditions. The shared feature is a democratic transition, not ethnicity.

Build relationships before participation is requested

Election-season contact alone can create a transactional relationship. Sustained engagement can build institutional familiarity, two-way information flows and routes through which leadership potential becomes visible. The evidence supports treating civic networks and local relationships as part of participation infrastructure, while the precise effect on turnout should not be assumed without measurement. [11][14]

Work with community organisations without creating gatekeepers

Community, civic, migrant-led, professional, youth and faith organisations can provide knowledge, credibility and connection. European Commission evidence highlights the role of migrant-led and civil-society organisations in participation structures. [14] But no single organisation or visible individual should automatically be treated as the voice of an entire demographic population.

Remove language barriers where they genuinely exist

Language accessibility is good participation practice when language is an identified access barrier. It should not be treated as a substitute for relevance, efficacy, relationships or institutional openness. Translation may remove a barrier; it does not prove that participation will increase.

Open candidate and leadership pathways deliberately

Finland’s 9.0% eligible-electorate versus 2.9% candidate comparison makes candidate recruitment an institutional inclusion issue. [4] Parties should examine who identifies potential candidates, which networks are used, who receives personal encouragement, what knowledge is assumed, who receives mentoring and campaign support, and who progresses after election.

Give people meaningful opportunities to influence decisions

European Commission policy work encourages involving migrants and people with migrant background not only in consultation but in the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies. [14] Participation should be honest about the scope of influence: if a decision is already fixed, a process should not be presented as though participants are deciding it.

Close the feedback loop

RETURN is central. Participants should be told what was heard, what was decided, what changed, what could not change and why, and what happens next. This turns participation from extraction into an accountable relationship.

Measure outcomes, not only activity

Events held, messages sent, documents translated and people reached are operational measures. A stronger chain distinguishes activity, reach, response, outcome and continuity. Causal claims should be made only where the design supports them.

MANDATEMARK™ EVIDENCE LADDER

EVIDENCE-SUPPORTED - credible evidence of effect under comparable conditions

PROMISING - strong evidence-informed rationale; local testing required

TEST LOCALLY - plausible intervention with measurement built in

DO NOT ASSUME - attractive idea without sufficient evidence of effect

MATCH THE INTERVENTION TO THE DIAGNOSED BARRIER AND THE STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.

Intervention evidence matrix

Intervention	Evidence position
Clear practical voting information	Evidence-supported
Focus on newly eligible voters	Evidence-supported priority
Timely reminders	Evidence-supported; context-dependent
Relationship-building between elections	Strongly evidence-informed
Community/civic partnerships	Promising; adapt locally
Multilingual information	Accessibility good practice; effect should be measured
Candidate recruitment review	Evidence-supported institutional priority
Candidate mentoring / leadership pathways	Promising; evaluate outcomes

Meaningful participation beyond elections	Strongly evidence-informed
Closing the feedback loop	Core accountability practice
Assuming diverse candidates automatically increase turnout	Do not assume causality
Assuming translation alone creates engagement	Do not assume
Assuming low turnout means apathy	Do not assume

The institution is part of the equation

Participation debates often focus on the people who participate less. MandateMark™ adds another question: what is the institution doing — or failing to do — that shapes the conditions for participation?

This does not remove individual agency or responsibility. Institutions cannot guarantee turnout. But they control many structures through which participation becomes possible: communication, relationships, recruitment, entry routes, consultation design, measurement and what happens after participation.

Participation capacity and institutional capacity

Participation capacity asks whether people can participate meaningfully. Institutional capacity asks whether the institution can create, sustain and evaluate the conditions that support meaningful participation. A strong democratic strategy requires both.

MANDATEMARK™ INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY MODEL

DEFINITION → EVIDENCE → ACCESS → RELATIONSHIP

PATHWAYS → MEASUREMENT → ACCOUNTABILITY → CONTINUITY

CAN THE INSTITUTION SUSTAIN MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION - NOT MERELY INVITE IT?

Institutional Readiness Test

1. Define: Do we know precisely who we are trying to reach and why?
2. Locate the narrowing: Is the problem eligibility awareness, information, turnout, connection, membership, recruitment, election, leadership, retention or accountability?
3. Evidence: Do we know why, and what remains unknown?
4. Self-examination: Are our own systems part of the problem?
5. Entry: Can people realistically find and move through the door?
6. Progression: What happens after people enter?
7. Measurement: Can we determine whether anything changed?

Measurement capacity is a democratic capability

An organisation may report events, translated documents, social-media impressions and consultations while still being unable to answer whether participation changed. Measurement should therefore be designed before action begins, not added as an afterthought.

Stop measuring only reach

“People reached” can describe very different things. MandateMark™ distinguishes exposure, engagement, participation, progression and outcome. Where causal attribution cannot responsibly be made, the organisation should say so.

Participation without power

A consultation can attract diverse participants while decision-making remains unchanged. A party can recruit diverse candidates while leadership remains closed. A municipality can create an advisory group whose recommendations rarely reach decision-makers. Access, voice, influence, power and accountability should therefore not be treated as equivalent.

From programme to institutional habit

A strong intervention should leave something behind: better evidence, stronger relationships, repeatable processes, internal capability, new participation pathways, measurement systems or an agreed accountability cycle. The strongest change is not permanent dependence on an external consultant; it is improved institutional capability that endures.

DEPTH OF PARTICIPATION

ACCESS → VOICE → INFLUENCE → POWER → ACCOUNTABILITY

PARTICIPATION IS NOT THE SAME AS INFLUENCE.

MANDATEMARK™ FINDING

Democratic participation is shaped by institutional capacity, practices and openness as well as by individual characteristics and choices.

From participation to public trust

Participation is not the final product of democracy. It creates expectations about what follows. When people vote, consult, organise or contribute knowledge, they reasonably ask what became of their participation.

The Return Gap

MandateMark™ uses “Return Gap” to describe the distance between asking people to participate and demonstrating what happened because they did. Closing that gap does not mean every request must be accepted. It means leaders should be able to explain what they heard, what they decided, what they acted on, what they could not act on, why, what changed and what happens next.

Trust should not be promised

MandateMark™ should not promise that a particular participation intervention will increase public trust. Trust is influenced by many factors. A more defensible aim is institutional trustworthiness: clarity, competence, fairness, responsiveness, delivery, transparency and accountability can give people stronger grounds on which to judge an institution.

The objective is not to manufacture trust. It is to become more trustworthy.

THE EXTENDED DEMOCRATIC RELATIONSHIP

INFORM → ENGAGE → PARTICIPATE → DECIDE

ACT → MEASURE → RETURN → CONTINUE

PARTICIPATION CREATES AN OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN WHAT FOLLOWED.

The Accountability Loop

MANDATEMARK™ ACCOUNTABILITY LOOP

MANDATE → DEFINE → OWNER → BASELINE → ACT

MEASURE → EVIDENCE → RETURN → CONTINUE ↻

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MANDATE?

RETURN

MandateMark™ uses the Return Gap to describe the distance between asking people to participate and demonstrating what happened because they did.

The Participation Pipeline and Accountability Loop answer different questions. The first asks who can enter and progress through democratic participation. The second asks what happens to the mandate once participation and authority have been given.

Accountability includes failure

Sometimes an intervention will not work. A mature accountability system should be able to state the commitment, the action taken, the result, what the evidence suggests and what will change next. Failure to achieve a result is not the same as failure to account for a result.

What leaders should do now

1. Define precisely who you mean. Do not use statistical categories interchangeably.
2. Establish the baseline before promising improvement.
3. Find where the participation pathway narrows.
4. Diagnose before designing an intervention.
5. Examine the institution as well as the community.
6. Match interventions to the strength of the evidence.
7. Build pathways, not election-season moments.
8. Define measurable commitments with ownership and a clear success condition.
9. Measure outcomes, not only activity.
10. Return: explain what happened, what did not happen and what comes next.

From public mandate to measurable results

Finland's demographic transformation is already reshaping its democratic constituency. The evidence shows substantial narrowing between population, eligibility, participation, candidacy and representation. The response should not be to conclude that international communities simply need to become more engaged, nor to assume that translation, campaigns, consultations or more diverse candidate lists will automatically close the gap.

Democratic participation is produced through a relationship between people and institutions.

People bring choices, experiences, knowledge, expectations and agency. Institutions shape access, information, relationships, recruitment, opportunities, decisions and accountability. Public leaders carry a particular responsibility because institutions possess authority and resources — and because they make public commitments.

MandateMark™ begins with a simple proposition: a public commitment should not disappear after it is announced. It should become possible to determine what was promised, who owns it, what action followed, what evidence exists, what changed and what the public was told afterwards.

POSITIONING PRINCIPLE

Research can be country-specific. MandateMark™ is not.

Notes on interpretation

- Finland’s “foreign background” classification is an origin/background measure and is not equivalent to language, citizenship or birthplace.
- The 9.0% eligible electorate → 2.9% candidate comparison is background/origin based. The 8.7% → 2.8% → 1.0% pipeline is language based.
- Statistics Finland’s detailed 2025 turnout analysis has partial election-day register coverage; use the published rates and limitations as reported.
- Cross-country comparisons combine different election types, years and statistical classifications. They are used for pattern recognition, not a league table.
- OECD turnout measures cited here are self-reported participation in the most recent national parliamentary election among people holding host-country nationality.
- MandateMark™ frameworks are proprietary analytical synthesis. Validation, scoring rules, facilitator protocols and detailed client implementation tools remain outside this public manuscript.

About the MandateMark™ models

The models in this report are proprietary analytical frameworks developed from the evidence reviewed. The underlying research is drawn from authoritative statistical, institutional and academic sources. The frameworks provide a structured way to interpret and apply that evidence; where a MandateMark™ tool has not yet undergone independent validation, no such validation is claimed.

Source register

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Evidence & Insights

MandateMark™ Evidence & Insights examines public commitments, participation, institutional capacity and accountability through evidence-led analysis. Country-specific research can inform broader diagnostic and leadership questions without assuming that one national context applies everywhere.

MANDATEMARK™

From public mandate to measurable results.

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