

# **WORLD STUDENT CAPITAL**

## **STUDENTS OF THE CAPITAL REGION**

### **THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION OBJECTIVES**

#### **A MINIMUM OF 600 NEW STUDENT APARTMENTS ARE PLANNED AND CONSTRUCTED IN THE CAPITAL REGION EVERY YEAR.**

A binding goal for the production of student apartments must be included in the plans cities make on the construction of student apartments. A sufficient number of subsidised student apartments near the campus areas of the Capital Region and along extensive traffic connections must be ensured through planning and plot conveyance. The shortage of apartments in the Capital Region must be addressed by constructing small, reasonably priced apartments.

According to the 'Opiskelijan kaupunki' ('student's city') study of 2019, 53% of students responding to the survey would be willing to live in a micro apartment (an apartment under 20 m<sup>2</sup> in size) if the price was right. Regulations restricting the size and type of apartment could be abandoned in the planning of certain areas as needed, as long as a sufficient amount of accessible construction is ensured. Construction should be based on actual needs, and this can be promoted by, for instance, enabling high-rise construction, the construction of micro apartments and exceptions to the norm on parking spaces when constructing student apartments.

#### **CAREER SERVICES AIMED AT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE LINGUISTIC ACCESSIBILITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES ARE IMPROVED.**

The Capital Region's attractiveness to international students and employees must be developed. The Capital Region should provide affordable housing solutions, jobs and accessible services to people whose native language is some other language than Finnish, too. The integration of international experts can be facilitated by offering enough courses on the languages of Finland near the participants and by providing services, such as information and courses, that provide help with finding employment. The cities of the Capital Region must actively influence the government's decisions in order to eliminate barriers preventing international students from getting employed. The services and decision-making processes of the cities, as well as serving in different positions in the cities, must be accessible not only in Finnish, but also in English and Swedish in particular.

As a result of the FSHS expansion, the city is responsible for the health services of an increasingly large number of exchange students. Understanding others and being understood is of particular importance in health care, and sufficient resources must be ensured for multilingualism in health care.

## **THE ACCESSIBILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS IMPROVED, AND LOW-THRESHOLD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE EXPANDED.**

According to the Finnish Student Health and Wellbeing Surveys (KOTT), the mental health problems of students and young people have increased significantly during the 21st century. As many as 30% of higher education students suffer from mental health symptoms (KOTT 2015). Low-threshold municipal mental health services must be more accessible, and resources for producing these services must be increased. The first treatment contact must take place within one month of seeking treatment. To expedite access to mental health services, the cities of the Capital Region must adopt a therapy guarantee. Everyone under 29 years of age and everyone who studies in higher education institutions must have the opportunity to receive free psychotherapy if needed.

The cities of the Capital Region must increase resources for preventive mental health work. Care pathways between the services of higher education institutions, the FSHS and the cities must be seamless, and mental health services – just like any other municipal services – must be accessible in Finnish, Swedish and English.

## **WHEN DEVELOPING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SPECIAL ATTENTION IS PAID TO IMPROVING CROSS-CITY TRAFFIC CONNECTIONS, ENABLING AFFORDABLE SINGLE AND SEASON TICKETS AND EXPANDING THE CITY BIKE NETWORK.**

According to the 'Opiskelijan kaupunki' ('student's city') study, almost half of students consider HSL's public transport and city bike services as their preferred method of travel. The user fees should be reasonable to ensure that students are able to favour public transport. Student discounts must be at least 50% of normal ticket prices. The discounts should apply to both season and single tickets, as single tickets encourage people to use public transport flexibly even when their need is only occasional.

Public transport connections should be developed by constructing additional cross-city traffic connections, especially rail connections. World Student Capital supports the Science Tram project.

The cities of the Capital Region must expand the city bike network to cover a more extensive operating area than at present, thus encouraging residents of the city to use the city bikes. The systems must be compatible over city boundaries.

### **Further information:**

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