



# FINLAND

## State of Play – Winter 2017



### MACROECONOMIC SITUATION

- Economic growth strengthened in 2016 with expanding employment

#### No imbalances based on the In-Depth Review

- Cost competitiveness started to improve
- Improving labour market situation, with a decline in unemployment rates, but long-term unemployment continues to increase
- Re-orientation of economy ongoing, losses in export market shares decelerating
- Private debt high, but not seen as constraining growth



### PROGRESS ON COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Substantial progress

- in ensuring that wage setting systems contribute to competitiveness

#### Some progress

- in addressing skills and regional mismatches and improving incentives to work
- in improving competition in services
- in the implementation of the healthcare and social services reform



### FISCAL SITUATION

- No excessive deficit
- Structural balance not at the medium-term budgetary objective, worsening in 2017
- Public debt above the 60% of GDP reference value and projected to increase, but at slower pace than in previous years



### POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Social partners concluded the Competitiveness Pact, which is expected to improve employment by reducing employers' wage costs

More info at

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester/european-semester-timeline/analysis-phase>