



FINNISH  
GOVERNMENT

# Regional Government, Health and Social Services Reform in Finland

Nordregio Forum 28.11.2018

Hanna-Maria Urjankangas



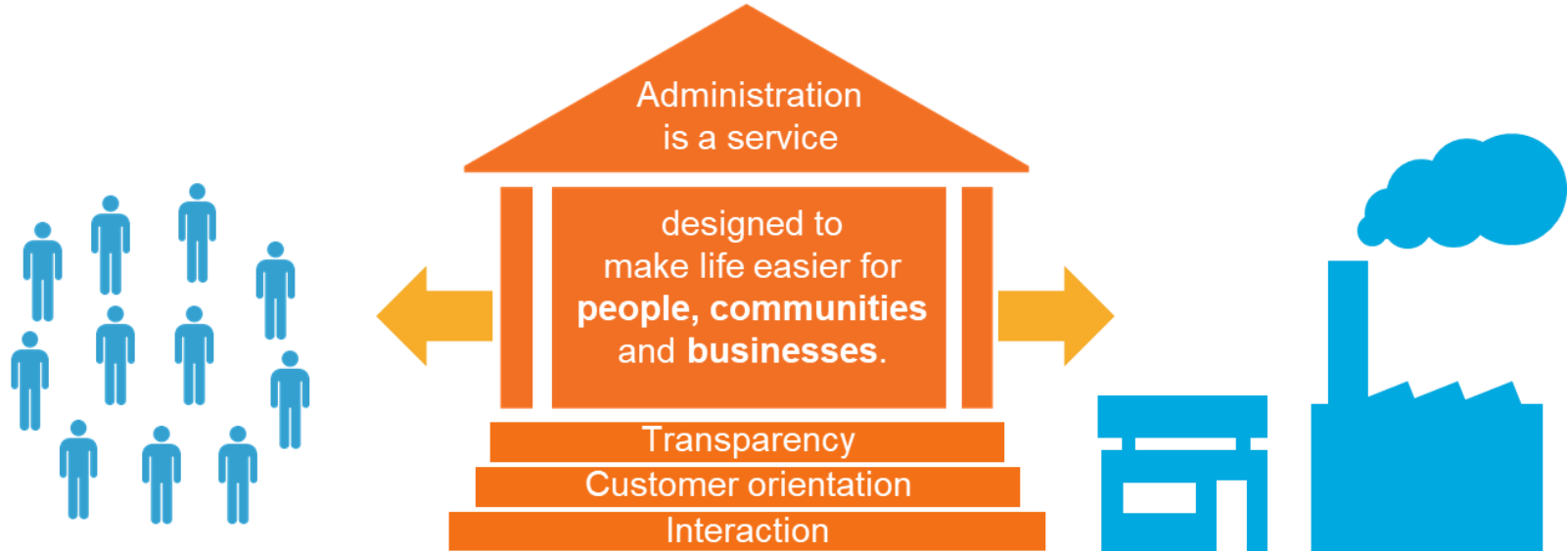
# General description of the reform package

- Public administration in Finland will be organised on **three-tier level: central government, counties (autonomous regions), local government**
- The regional government, health, and social services reform will establish **new counties (18)**.
- The **state shall have primary responsibility for financing** the counties
- A number of legislative amendments will be required to implement the county government reform. Each ministry have initiated the drafting of legislative amendments in its branch of administration
- The **reform is one of the biggest ever** in the administrative history of Finland
- The current **employment and business services** will be gathered into growth services located from the beginning of 2021 in the counties
- The reform is due to come into force on **1 January 2021**.

# Why is the reform being implemented?

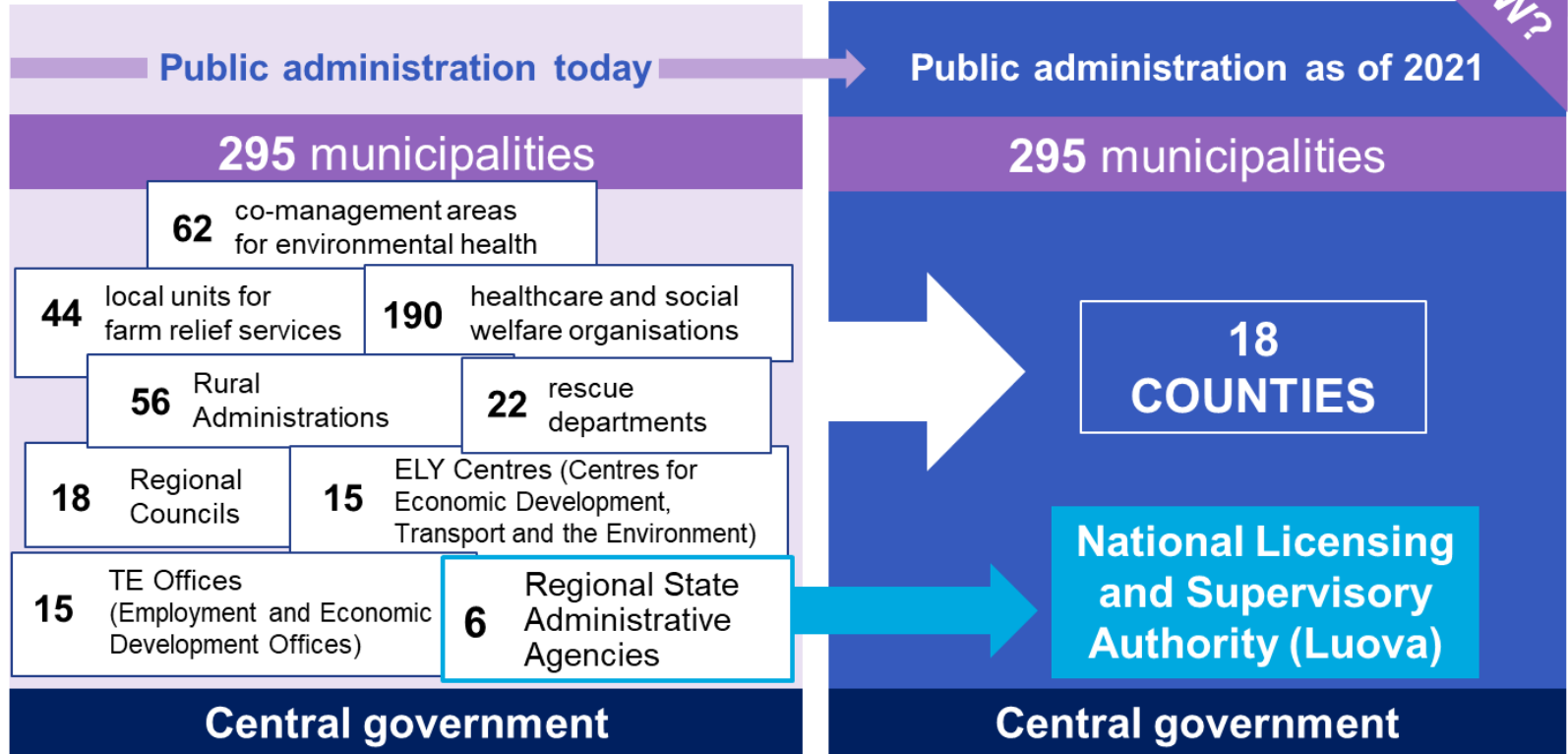
The Constitutional Law Committee, summer 2017:  
“The reform is necessary, urgent and important.”

More effective services	Change in practices	Cost-efficiency
Administrative streamlining	More democracy	Promotion of growth



# Uniting the fragmented regional administration

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



# Division of duties: municipalities, counties, state

## Municipalities



Communities of local involvement, democracy and vitality that manage the duties of municipal self-government as decided by the residents and local duties defined by law.

- Skills and education
- Health and wellbeing
- Sports and culture
- Youth work
- Local industrial and business policy
- Land use and construction

## Counties



- Health and social services
- Expert in promoting health, wellbeing, and safety and security
- Rescue services
- Environmental healthcare
- Regional development

- Steering of regional land use and construction
- Employment and business services
- Transport system planning, regional public transport planning
- Rural development and farm relief services

## State



- Maintaining and developing the rule of law
- Safeguarding and assessing fundamental rights

- Safety and security
- National and international duties
- Public guardianship

# Thoughts and questions for the way forward

- Does one size fit all?
- Saving or spending?
- Self-government vs. steering?
- Regional development in the new counties?
- Cementing regional borders or developing functional regions across regional borders?





FINNISH  
GOVERNMENT

# Thank you!

**Hanna-Maria Urjankangas**  
**Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment**

**[hanna-maria.urjankangas@tem.fi](mailto:hanna-maria.urjankangas@tem.fi)**