Constructing Cultural Statistics
Sari Karttunen, Statistics Finland
Municipal, Cultural activities and funding in Finland

Abstract
My presentation introduces the work on developing cultural statistics that has been carried out at Statistics Finland since 1998. A special development project was first set up as no comprehensive statistics on culture had been produced in the country since the early 1980s. The development work is set up in the context of domestic cultural policies, the Ministry of Education being a partner in the planning and financing, and in that of the European harmonisation of cultural statistics under the auspices of Eurostat.

This year our aim is to improve statistics on municipal cultural activities and funding. Systematic statistics on this area stop at the mid-1990s. Our first task is to map out what interests our major customers and partners, especially the Ministry of Education and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, might have in the matter. Cultural policy researchers will also be consulted.

In my paper, I will present some preliminary statistics on municipal cultural funding and activities based on official registers. I will also propose a list of cultural indicators that could be constructed from existing sources at the municipal level.