

INVITATION

Monday, 22 September 2025 at 12:30 - 14:00
Helsinki Central Library Oodi

Panel discussion on Europe's future – Is sivistys/Bildung a pillar of EU competitiveness?

The European Union is currently preparing a new programming period, starting in 2028. This will have a significant impact not only on the future of Finnish research and innovation, but also on the values and vision the EU seeks to build. At present, the debate is heavily focused on technological competitiveness and defense — yet the voice of sivistys/Bildung must not be overlooked.

As universities, we call for a stronger emphasis on the value of sivistys/Bildung — the cultivation of wisdom, humanistic knowledge, and societal insight — in EU policy. These elements must be recognized as essential to sustainable and inclusive development. Sivistys/Bildung forms the foundation not only for competitiveness, but also for a productive working life and a resilient society capable of meeting future challenges.

Why does sivistys/Bildung — the cultivation of wisdom, humanistic knowledge and societal insight — matter more than ever for Europe's future? Join our panel discussion in these extraordinary times to explore how the values shaping our shared future are being defined.

Panelists: Ville Niinistö (Member of the European Parliament), Gabi Lombardo (Director, EASSH), Elina Holmberg (Senior Director, EU Collaboration, Business Finland), and Jesse Maula (CEO, Ecobio).

Moderator: Professor Risto Kunelius, Director of the Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities (HSSH).

Date: Monday 22 September 2025

Time: Panel discussion at 12:30 - 13:30 followed by coffee

Location: Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Töölönlahdenkatu 4, 00100 Helsinki

The event can also be followed remotely. A link will be sent to registered participants.

The language of the event is English.

REGISTRATION BY 15 SEPTEMBER >>

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EASSH
European Alliance
for Social Sciences
and Humanities

The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) is an alliance established in 2015 with the aim of influencing the EU's science policy and strengthening the position of the humanities (SSH) in the EU's research activities and RDI funding programmes. The network already includes more than 70 European organisations and higher education institutions. Finland's members are the University of Helsinki, the University of Eastern Finland, Turku University of Applied Sciences, the University of Turku and the University of Oulu.