

ENVIRONMENT

Significant EU funding to improve the status of Finnish waters – Including the Laihia River



PHOTO: The Laihianjoki River is a 60-kilometre-long river in Ostrobothnia with a catchment area of 507 mk2. Its lower part flows into the Gulf of Bothnia to the south of Kaupunginselkä south of Vaasa. Niina Hyttinen, South Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Finland’s waterways will receive a historic investment – the nearly EUR 28 million ACWA LIFE project will start in January 2026 and improve the status of waters over eight years. The project brings together landowners, organisations, researchers and authorities to develop water management in five model areas, including the Laihia River.

“It’s great that we are able to repatriate EU funding to improve the status of our waters! Catchment area-wide planning and measures as well as extensive cooperation are a good starting point for curbing eutrophication,” says Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Sari Multala.

EUR 16.6 million of the project’s funding comes from the EU’s LIFE programme. ACWA

LIFE is one of the most significant projects in the history of Finnish water management.

**An holistic approach to the entire catchment area**

The project will move from traditional local restoration to extensive catchment area planning. This means that the condition of waterways is improved by taking into account the entire catchment area – agriculture, forestry, stormwater, housing and industry.

“The condition of water bodies reflects the state of the entire catchment area,” Minister Multala emphasises.

Climate change makes the management of waterways even more important. Extreme weather phenomena, such as heavy rainfall and drought, exacerbate eutrophication.

**Model areas around Finland**

The project has five demonstration areas, representing different environmental conditions:

- Porvoonjoki catchment area
- Mynälahti catchment area
- Laihianjoki catchment area

River Temmesjoki catchment area

Virtasalmi-Joroinen fishing area

Concrete measures will be implemented in these areas that will serve as models for the whole of Finland. The measures are voluntary for landowners and tailored to their needs.

**Extensive cooperation with different actors**

The project is coordinated by the South Ostrobothnia Economic Development Centre, and it involves an extensive network of partners from ministries to research institutes and environmental organisations.

The project will develop new design tools, produce information on organic loading, and disseminate best practices. As a special innovation, the project pilots value-based funding and aims to attract private funding for water management.

The ACWA LIFE project is expected to bring permanent improvements to the state of Finland’s waterways and create a new kind of cooperation model in water management

Source: South Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment | South Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

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VAASAN SÄHKÖ

Vaasan Sähkö: Net sales decreased due to weather

Vaasan Sähkö Group’s net sales decreased by 4.6 per cent in January–September compared to the previous year. Net sales were EUR 132.9 million, compared to EUR 139.3 million in the previous year. The decrease

was due to the mild weather at the beginning of the year and lower prices in the electricity market.

The Group’s operating profit for the first three quarters was EUR 20.6 million, which is lower than the previous



us year’s EUR 28.6 million. However, the equity ratio rose slightly to 53.6 percent.

“So far, the year has been strong in terms of earnings compared to 2024, also taking into account lower electricity market prices,” says CEO Stefan Damlin.

Vaasan Sähkö will continue to make investments that support the green transition. At the end of September, investments totalled EUR 13.8 million. The company has just completed its new strategy, which emphasizes a comprehensive overhaul of the energy system.

“In the energy system of the future, energy will be transferred not only as electricity and heat, but also in the form of hydrogen. Therefore, it is increasingly important to

look at the system level,” comments Damlin.

In October, the EU switched to quarterly electricity prices, which is also reflected in Vaasan Sähkö’s electricity prices from November onwards. Damlin assures, however, that customers who switch electricity do not need to monitor their consumption at such short intervals.

“Smart home automation can also make everyday life easier for residents of detached houses,” advises Damlin.

According to the company, the current product range has hit its target groups well, and customers are evenly distributed in different types of electricity contracts.

Source: Vaasan Sähkö

STUNDARS

Christmas market at Stundars



On Saturday 30 November, we inaugurate the Advent season with Stundar’s lovely Christmas market. Between 10 am and 3 pm, a real Christmassy day awaits the whole family.

The market offers a rich supply of everything that belongs to Christmas. Here you can shop for local products, homemade goodies and unique handicrafts – perfect opportunities to find the finest Christmas gifts. And no one needs to go hungry: the café serves coffee, and for those who are in the mood for something hot, there are barbecue sausages. Don’t forget to pop into the store to take one of Stundar’s popular jam pigs with you – a real favorite!

Stundar’s Christmas market has become a beloved tradition for many, and it’s not hard to see why. Here you will find the scents of gingerbread and mulled wine, the sound of Christmas music and a sea of beautiful handicrafts. It’s the place to get into the Christmas spirit.

Welcome to create great memories at Stundar’s Christmas market – see you on November 30th!

Christmas walk at Stundars 17.12

Get into a real Christmas dream! On Tuesday 17 December between 18:00 and 19:30, Stundars invites you to an unforgettable Christmas walk through the festively illuminated museum village.

Bring your own lantern and let yourself be enchanted by a magical evening where the light of lanterns and candles leads your way. Wander along the illuminated path through the museum area, in search of hidden gnomes, and explore the historic buildings freely. Visit the cosy country store, feel the Christmas spirit in the farmhouse where the father of the house reads from the Christmas gospel in different languages, and step into the smithy’s cottage where the smell of freshly baked gingerbread welcomes you – perhaps with a small taste to enjoy.

This is a unique chance to experience the historic Christmas spirit in a beautiful, light-filled setting. Take the opportunity – admission is free for everyone!

EDITORIAL

Stress and Art



Image of the Week:



Minister Sanni Grahn-Laasonen speaking at a memorial service for victims of intimate partner violence on Tuesday in Helsinki.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saara Aalto in Vaasa Church: Angels Christmas concert brings a magical atmosphere



Popular singer Saara Aalto will bring her angelic voice and magical Christmas concert to Vaasa Church on November 28, 2025. This year, the Angels – Christmas concerts will tour twelve selected cities, and Vaasa will have one of the lucky hosts.

Last Christmas, more than

7000 spectators had time to see the very popular concert series, which is now returning even more magnificently. The repertoire consists of a series of the finest Christmas songs from Finland and the world, which are sure to bring the Christmas spirit to the surface when interpreted by Saara and her top musicians. The concert starts at 19.00.

Saara Aalto is familiar to

Finns from many singing competitions, such as Talent Finland, The Voice of Finland and the New Music Competition. She rose to international prominence when she finished second in the UK’s The X Factor competition in 2016. Aalto represented Finland in the Eurovision Song Contest 2018 with the song “Monsters” and has released six studio albums during his career. Don’t miss the opportunity to

see Saara Aalto visit the magnificent premises of Vaasa Church – it might be the perfect start to Christmas! TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATIONConcert: Angels – Christmas ConcertPresented by: Saara AaltoDate: 28.11.2025 at 19:00Place: Vaasa ChurchTickets: from Price from 38 € PHOTO: Ville Paul Paasimaa, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

SOUTH OSTROBOTHNIA WELFARE COUNTY

The county of the welfare service reduce of person-years by 265 people

The Health Services County of South Ostrobothnia has decided on the results of the cooperation process, in which 265 person-years will be reduced as a result of the key projects and the reorganisation of operations. The decision applies to the entire region and aims to save around EUR 15 million.

The Board of the Wellbeing Services County of South Ostrobothnia has confirmed the results of the co-operation negotiations held in the region. As a result of the decision, the number of employees will be reduced by 265 person-years. The measure is part of a savings plan drawn up to achieve the region’s financial balance.

The reductions will primarily be implemented by leaving vacancies unfilled, and the aim is to avoid redundancies as much as possible. The region emphasises that the goal is to take care of redundancies by the most natural means, such as annual layoffs and pension applications. The co-operation procedure has targeted all functions in the area, including social and health services, the rescue department and the health and social services support and development function.

**Savings target EUR 15 million**

The decision is based on the region’s tight economic situation. The reductions and other measures aim to save approximately EUR 15 million. The county’s leadership justifies the cuts with the need to ensure the sustainability of health and social services in the future.

“The decision is difficult, but it is necessary to ensure the sufficiency of primary health care and specialised medical care also in the future. The implementation methods have been considered very carefully, and we aim to minimise the negative impact on the personnel,” says the Regional Director in a press release.

**Service impacts are carefully assessed**

The wellbeing services county assures that the effects of the services will be closely monitored. The decision includes several key projects aimed at improving the efficiency of operations and developing services in a new way. These include, among other things, the promotion of digital services, increasing the use of electronic services, and the development of various cooperation and partnership models.

Despite this, the cuts raise concerns about the deterioration of the quality and availability of services. The personnel reductions are significant, and their actual effects on practical work and customer service will only become apparent after implementation.

The decision is part of the broader cost-cutting measures that several wellbeing services counties have had to take as the financial situation has become tighter. The reductions in South Ostrobothnia reflect the challenge seen in the financing of health and social services throughout the country.

According to the press release, information sessions will be held for the personnel to receive more information about the effects of the decision on their own work roles.



Feeling Stressed? Please Visit an Art Exhibition!



In our fast-paced world, stress has become a common companion for many of us. Whether it's the pressures of work, family responsibilities, or the constant buzz of technology, finding effective ways to unwind is essential. One surprisingly powerful remedy lies in the world of art. Recent research has shown that visiting art exhibitions can significantly reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

A groundbreaking study published in late October 2025 highlights the physiological impact of viewing original artworks. The findings reveal that engaging with art can lead to immediate and measurable benefits for our bodies. Here are some key takeaways from the research:

- Stress Reduction:** Participants who viewed original pieces by renowned artists like Manet, Van Gogh, and Gauguin experienced a remarkable 22% reduction in cortisol levels, the hormone primarily responsible for stress. This suggests that simply being in the presence of original art can help calm our minds and bodies.
  - Heart Health:** The study also found that viewing art promotes more dynamic heart activity. This means that art not only engages our emotions but also positively influences our physical health by promoting calmer heart rhythms.
  - Immune System Boost:** Engaging with art has been linked to improved immune function. This is particularly important as we navigate through cold and flu seasons, making art a delightful way to enhance our health.
  - Emotional Engagement:** The emotional arousal triggered by original artworks can lead to a deeper connection with the pieces, further enhancing the stress-relieving effects. It's not just about looking; it's about feeling and experiencing.
- So, the next time you find yourself overwhelmed, consider taking a trip to your local art gallery or museum. Immerse yourself in the beauty of original artworks and allow the experience to wash over you. Not only will you enjoy a cultural outing, but you'll also be doing wonders for your mental and physical health. Art truly is a powerful tool for stress relief, and it's waiting for you to explore!

**Reference:**  
Worrell, C., Kirkpatrick, M., Ribeiro Perez, C., Fortuna, P., Bumbra, L., Bradnock, L., & Woods, A. J. (2025). The Physiological Impact of Viewing Original Artworks vs. Reprints: A Comparative Study.

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van Gogh style oil paintings made by AI

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KORSHOLM

Hitachi Energy to build a solar panel power plant at the Mustasaari plant



Hitachi Energy is investing in green energy by installing a one-megawatt solar power plant at its new factory in Mustasaari. In the future, 2414 solar panels will produce electricity for the company's own use.

The solar power plant is part of a historic investment of €170 million to build the Hitachi Energy Park production and technology center of more than 40,000 square meters. The area will be completed in early 2027 and will double the transformers' production capacity.

"Our new centre is in itself a very significant investment in the green energy transition. We develop and produce the technologies that will be used to build a carbon-neutral energy future," says Matti Vaatovaara, CEO of Hitachi Energy Finland.

The solar panels produce 1.19 gigawatt hours of electricity per year, which is equivalent to the annual consumption of about 66 detached

houses. The power plant will cover about 10 percent of the plant's electricity needs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 135 tons per year.

In addition to electricity generation, the new plant will use geothermal heat and waste heat recovery to improve energy efficiency. All electricity used by Hitachi Energy in Finland is already produced with renewable energy sources.

The investment will create 200 new jobs in Mustasaari and strengthen Finland's security of electricity supply. The plant will focus on the production of large transformers, which are crucial for the green energy transition and electrification.

PHOTO: Hitachi Energy Park is Hitachi Energy's €170 million investment in a production and technology centre of more than 40,000 square metres in Mustasaari, Vaasa region. Hitachi Energy will recruit 200 new employees as a result of the investment. Photo: Granlund Architects

VAASA

Stormwater fees will increase at the year

Stormwater fees for the city of Vaasa will increase at the turn of the year, and the changes will take effect on 1 January 2026. The increases are due to increased costs and at the same time aim to clarify the payment system for the residents.

On average, stormwater fees will increase by 5–20 per cent, but for some properties the fee may also decrease. The payment ceiling for the largest properties will be raised to EUR 2,200 from the current EUR 2,000.

The fee system will be simplified by classifying properties into three groups in the future:

Detached house: €42 (currently €25–40)  
Semi-detached house: €84 (currently €45–90)  
Other properties: area-dependent fee

In the previous division into seven classes, the information in the building register will be used as the main criterion instead of the local detailed plan. The increases are based on the growing maintenance needs of the stormwater system. Heavy rainfall and stormwater flooding caused by climate change require more investment and maintenance measures.

STATISTICS FINLAND

Prices fell in October – inflation negative



A rare situation occurred in Finland in October: consumer prices fell and inflation was negative. According to Statistics Finland, prices were 0.3 per cent lower in the year than one year ago.

The price decreases of fuels and electricity. The price of petrol has fallen by almost 10 per cent and the price of electricity by more than 17 per cent compared to the previous year. The increase in food prices has also slowed down significantly.

The fall in prices is mainly due to

20 percent higher than a year ago. The reason for this is world market prices and weak harvest expectations.

This will give consumers some relief to their purchasing power, but economists say the situation could be temporary. They point out that negative inflation may not last long, and that price trends can quickly reverse as a result of changes in global politics and the energy market.

This is the first time since the beginning of 2020 that inflation has been negative in Finland. The situation will provide temporary relief to household budgets, but the weakening of the economy may prove severe in the long term. Negative inflation, or deflation, is not a very favorable phenomenon for the economy.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Orion's prostate drug is a global success



The Finnish company Orion Corporation has achieved enormous global success with its prostate cancer drug. The company has just been awarded the Internationalisation Award by the President of Finland as Growth Company of the Year 2025.

The prostate cancer drug, developed jointly by Orion and the German company Bayer, was sold globally for more than €1 billion by 2024. Prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer in men in the world.

"Orion is growing strongly as a Finnish export company – thanks to our investments and innovations, we export top-class medical expertise to the world," says Liisa Hurme, President and CEO of Orion.

The traditional pharmaceutical company, founded in 1917, employs more than 4,000 people, most of them in Finland. Last year, 78 percent of Orion's net sales came from outside Finland, and the company invested approximately EUR 180 million in research and development.

The President's Internationalisation Prize is awarded annually in recognition of internationally successful Finnish companies. Orion's success underlines the strength and expertise of the Finnish pharmaceutical industry in the global market.

Photo: Emmi Syrjäniemi / Office of the President of the Republic of Finland

VAASA

The quality of Vaasa's swimming water improves



The City of Vaasa's measures to improve bathing water are starting to show in the results. According to a report from the Health Protection Authority, the water quality classifications on the beaches of Hietasaari and Kustaala will be raised next year. Hietasaari goes from bad to satisfactory and Kuuslinna from satisfactory to good. However,

the quality of Ahvensaari is still poor for the third year in a row.

The water at Mansikkasaari will remain good and the water in Strömsö excellent. If the quality of the bathing water is classified as poor for five years in a row, a permanent swimming ban must be imposed on the beach.

The improved results are due to the city's active measures. "The goose patrol and its dogs

have reduced the faeces of geese on the beaches, and the cleanliness of the beaches has clearly improved," says health engineer Maarit Kantola.

The origin of the bacterium was studied in more detail in the summer of 2025. The bacterial concentrations in stormwater were many times higher than in other water samples. "Some of the bacteria on beaches may originate from pollution carried by rainwater," says Kantola.

The measures will continue at a rapid pace next summer. The monitoring of Ahvensaari and Kustaalinna will be intensified, and the planning of the Hietalahti stormwater collection basin will be promoted. The expulsion of geese will continue on five beaches with the help of dogs.

The City of Vaasa will continue its work to ensure clean bathing water so that the city's residents can enjoy safe swimming on the beaches of nearby parks.

Source: Vaasa.fi  
Image: The classification of Hietasaari shore water rises from poor to satisfactory. Photo: City of Vaasa

VAASA

Vaasa's vitality on the rise: Regional survey of land and urban planning experts in 2025 shows strong development



WSP Finland's latest Regional Survey 2025 offers an enlightening overview of the vitality of municipalities with a comprehensive comparison using 21 indicators in three thematic dimensions: human capital, productivity and economy, and green structural change.

This article analyses the results and strengths of the Vaasa region in particular – and the surrounding municipalities such as Mustasaari, Laihia, Malax and Kaskinen – as well as the development areas highlighted in the study.

1. Overview: Vaasa region is on the rise

The Vaasa region ranks fifth among the most vibrant urban regions in Finland, just behind the largest metropolitan areas such as Helsinki, Tampere and Turku.

At the municipal level, Vaasa is ranked number 24 in the survey, while the neighbouring municipality of Korsholm is ranked number 30.

This means a significant improvement in Vaasa's vitality: according to Ilkka-Pohjalainen, Vaasa has increased its shares in the vitality list and "overtaken Mustasaari" in investments.

2. What factors accelerate the vitality of the Vaasa region?

WSP's report highlights several factors that explain the positive development in the Vaasa region:

- o Vaikka investoinnit vihreään rakennemuutokseen ovat vahva plus, päästövoittojen saavuttaminen edellyttää pitkäjänteistä panostusta ja teknologisia investointeja.
- o Lisäksi kiinteiden infraratkaisujen, kuten Vaasa-Uumaja-yhteyden laajentamisen, ympäristövaikutukset ja kustannukset herättävät keskustelua. Ilkka-Pohjalaisen mukaan yhteiskunnan kehittämisessä on huomioitava myös ympäristövaikutukset.

(a) Net migration and migration potential

One of the most significant drivers is positive net migration: more people move to the Vaasa region than move out of it, which increases the population and brings in new workforce.

This attraction is not only based on local factors, but Vaasa also attracts migrants because it offers a combination of industry, educational opportunities, and higher education jobs. According to Ilkka-Pohjalainen, the share of highly educated people in the population is a strong competitive advantage.

(b) Human capital and know-how

Vaasa benefits from a high level of education: according to the report, the share of highly educated people is at the level of a reference city, which creates strong human capital.

The number of higher education and degree places increases the attractiveness of the region for students, who are expected to remain part of the local labour market.

(c) Enterprise and productivity

Industry is the backbone of Vaasa's economy: according to Ilkka-Pohjalainen, industry accounts for a significant share of jobs, which supports the region's productivity and economic resilience.

The diversity of business activities – in addition to industry, services and research – lays the foundation for both current growth and long-term development.

(d) Green restructuring  
Vaasa stands out in terms of green transition indicators: according to the report, green investments are significant and the share of electric/hybrid vehicles in registrations is increasing.

This policy supports both climate goals and long-term attractiveness: the green economy can attract investments, companies and experts who value sustainable development.

3. Perspective of neigh-

bouring municipalities: Korsholm, Laihia, Maalahti, Kaskinen

The vitality of the Vaasa region is not only an urban factor in Vaasa, but on a larger scale it forms a strong entity together with the municipalities in the region.

Korsholm: As a municipality, it is ranked after Vaasa in the WSP survey, but its role in vitality reflects Vaasa's attractiveness and integrated labour and housing markets.

Laihia, Maalahti and Kaskinen do not necessarily make headlines in the mainstream media separately in the survey, but they are part of the wider employment area of the Vaasa region, which reports low unemployment. For example, the employment area of Ostrobothnia – which includes Vaasa, Korsholm, Laihia, Maalahti and Kaskinen – reported an unemployment rate of 7.0% in May 2025.

In Malax, the number of unemployed jobseekers even decreased in 2025 compared to the previous year.

This shows that the vitality of the Vaasa region also spreads to rural and coastal municipalities, not just to the city.

4. Challenges and risks: What pain points does WSP highlight?

Although there are clear success factors in the Vaasa region, WSP's report is not blind to challenges:

Falling income level and indebtedness

According to Ilkka-Pohjalainen's article, Vaasa's challenges include a downward trend in income and net debt per capita, which has increased in recent years.

Velkarasite voi rajoittaa julkisten investointien määrää tai pakottaa kun-nat priorisoimaan menojaan tiukemmin.

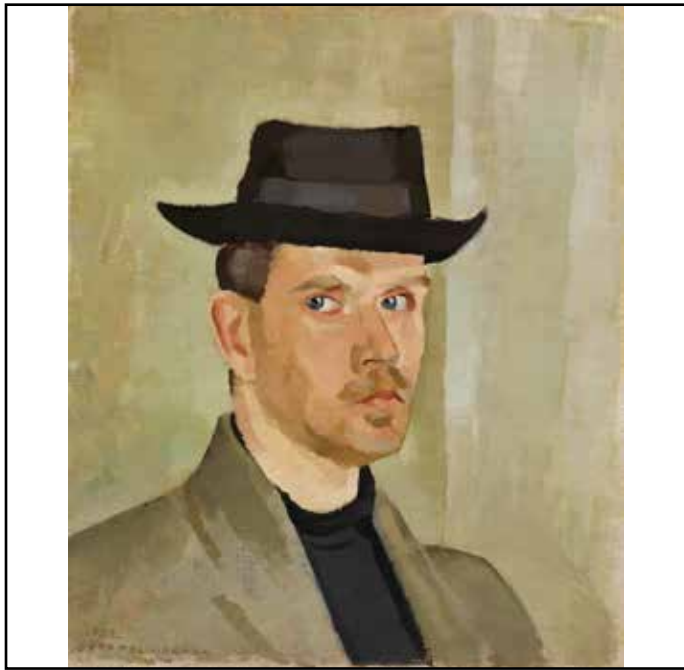
2. Muuttoliikkeen dynamiikka

Vaikka nettomuutto on positiivinen, tutkimuspohdinnassa mainitaan, että maahanmuuton hidastuminen on yleinen riski elinvoimalle.



## ATENEUM

### The exhibitions in 2026 are Eero Nelimarkka, Arcana Borealis and Elga Sesemann



The exhibitions on the third floor of the Ateneum Art Museum 2026 are Eero Nelimarkka, which will open in March, and Arcana Borealis – Women of the North and Esotericism, which will open in October. In addition, a new exhibition series, Modern Classics, will open on the first floor in August, with Elga Sesemann as the first artist. On the second floor, the group exhibition A Question of Time is on display. The Gallen-Kallela, Klimt & Vienna exhibition is open until February 1, 2026.

**Eero Nelimarkka's (1891–1977)** career-wide exhibition looks at the versatile artist

with new eyes and sheds light on the perspective through which he saw the world. The artist's fascinating life story tells the journey from the son of a Vaasa washer to one of Finland's most popular artists.

Eero Nelimarkka is known as a painter of landscapes in South Ostrobothnia, but he was also a particularly skilled human photographer. Nelimarkka's output includes a variety of characterful portraits and a large number of self-portraits.

The artist's interesting still lifes have an ambiguous strangeness with elements of magical realism. Their motifs are quite simple – a pair of shoes left on the floor or a pile of hats – but you can sense that still lifes have many meanings. There is something inexplicable in the works, the presence of which

the viewer can only feel. The exhibition is the first to be shown at the museum, which largely presents the artist's entire career. In addition to the paintings, there are also a few drawings and photographs of Nelimarkka's life. In addition to works in the Finnish National Gallery's collection, loans are available from a wide range of museums and private collections around Finland.

His marriage to Saima Alaviitala from Alahärmä in 1918 opened the doors for Nelimarkka to a thriving farming environment in South Ostrobothnia. From 1933 onwards, Nelimarkka lived in the artist's home Lallukka. The artist himself founded the Nelimarkka Museum in Alajärvi in 1964, which was designed by architect Hilding Ekelund. The museum currently serves as the regional art museum of South Ostrobothnia.

The exhibition is curated by Riitta Ojanperä, Head of Collection Management at the Finnish National Gallery. An extensive exhibition catalogue in Finnish, Swedish and English will be published in connection with the exhibition, and it will be edited by Marja Lahelma, Chief Curator at the Ateneum. The publication has been supported by the Nelimarkka Fund sr. Another partner has been the Nelimarkka Museum, the South Ostrobothnia Art Museum.

Source: Ateneum Photo: Eero Nelimarkka: Self-Portrait (1922). Finnish National Gallery collection / Ateneum Hannu Pakarinen

**\*3\* Wasa Daily, November 23, 2025**

## CAUSERIE

### Ockham's razor: The world's sharpest, laziest philosophical principle



By: Our Editor-in-Chief for Laziness & Logic

Are you tired of complicating things? Do you sometimes feel like the world forces you to consider dozens of bizarre, intricate explanations when a simple one is enough? Congratulations, you're ready for Ockham's Razor (or Occam's Razor), the most effective and time-saving philosophical principle since "eat what you have in front of you".

Ockham's Razor, named after the medieval philosopher William of Ockham (who probably mostly used it to cut away superfluous veils of theological doctrine), is basically a license to be a little lazy. Its central message can be summed up in a single word: KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid).

The philosophical formulation: "Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate." The practical translation: "Do not assume more than necessary." The humorous translation: "The simplest explanation is usually the right one. Don't waste my time." The razor doesn't say that the simplest explanation is always true, just that it's the one we should test first. It cuts out the unnecessary hypotheses that a chef cuts fat from a fillet.

#### Sharp Examples from Everyday Life

Here are a few places where you can pull out your mental Ockham's Razor and save yourself a mental breakdown:

1. The case of the lost key  
Situation: You can't find your car keys.

Hypothesis 1 (Ockham's razor): You put them on the kitchen counter when you came in and forgot about it because you were busy barking at the dog.

Hypothesis 2 (Ockham Cathedral): Your neighbor's cat, secretly trained by Russian spies, broke through the window, stole the keys and planted them in the birdhouse to sabotage your commute and thereby influence the development of world oil prices.

Summary: Ockham's razor says: Look at the kitchen counter again. (They are there.)

2. Chest pain (the doctor uses a razor)

Situation: The patient comes to complain of severe chest pain.

Hypothesis 1 (Ockham's razor): . It is a heart attack, and treatment is started immediately before other options are

considered.

Hypothesis 2 (Ockham Cathedral): The patient is the victim of a rare genetic disease that only affects those born during the eclipse on a few Tuesdays, and the pain is actually a hallucination caused by a radio wave from Venus.

In summary: A good doctor uses his razor and first rules out the most serious yet common causes (such as a heart attack) before even considering calling Venus. They are looking for the most common, not the most sensational.

#### The Lazy Man's Guide to the Truth

Ockham Razor is a great tool because it forces us to resist the temptation to embroider a good story. Life is rarely a conspiracy theory – it's usually about poor planning, seriousness and people forgetting where to put their things.

So the next time you come across a mystery, take out your mind blade. Leave ghosts, secret agendas and alien cats behind. You'll find that the truth isn't just easier – it's also much, much faster to find.

And that, my friend, is a philosophy that we can all live by.

**Image:** William of Ockham, for stained glass windows in a church in Surrey, England.

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## UKRAINE PRESIDENT

### The United States Has the Power to Ensure that Russia's Willingness to End the War Becomes Serious – Address by the President



20 November 2025 - 23:05

Today, I had a meeting with representatives of the United States. A high-level delegation, and a very serious conversation. The American side presented its proposals – the points of a plan to end the war – their vision. From the first days of the war, we have upheld one very simple position: Ukraine needs peace. A real peace – one that will not be broken by a third invasion. A dignified peace – with terms that respect our independence, our sovereignty, and the dignity of the Ukrainian people. And it is exactly such terms that we must secure. I outlined our key principles.

And we agreed that our teams will work on these proposals to ensure it's all genuine. We will not make any sharp statements. And we're geared up for clear and honest work – Ukraine, the United States, and our friends and partners in Europe and around the world.

#### Phona call to the President of Finland

These days, there are many conversations with European leaders, a lot of correspondence – and I thank all of Ukraine's friends for their support. Today, I spoke with President of Finland Stubb – we are coordinating our efforts. I

also remain in constant contact with other leaders, with the President of France. I expect to speak with President Trump in the coming days. We are fully aware that America's strength and America's support can truly bring peace closer, and we do not want to lose that. We are also aware that Russia has no real desire for peace – otherwise they would not have started this war

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## STATISTIC FINLAND

### Reliable data for 160 years – the history of Finnish statistics reveals surprising facts



Finland's statistical activities are now celebrating their 160th anniversary, and the story began surprisingly modestly – the first official statistics were published in 1865, "The Population of Finland", which showed that 1.8 million people live in the country.

how the statistics have reflected the changes in society, for example, in the following ways:

At the first census in 1865, there were only 12 cities in the country.

At the beginning of the 20th century, more than 70% of Finns worked in agriculture – today the corresponding proportion is less than 2%.

The proportion of agricultural work was about the same as in today's Ethiopia.

"In the early stages of statistics, the key task was to map the country's economic conditions, especially agri-

culture and forests. Statistics were also an important part of Finland's independence and nation-building," says Professor of Statistics Jarmo Peltola.

Statistical activities have undergone a tremendous transformation in 160 years. Previously, the calculations were done by hand and data was collected via circulars. Nowadays, the statistics tell us in real time, for example: Population of Finland (approx. 5.6 million)

About digital trends Changes in GDP

"Reliable statistical activity is a prerequisite for good decision-making. In international comparisons, Finland is always one of the most stable and reliable statistical countries," says Marjo Bruun, Director-General of Statistics Finland.

A new history book "The History of Statistics and Operations in Finland" has been published by Hansaprint and is available openly online. The book covers the period from the beginning of independence to the present day and offers a unique window into Finland's development.

Source: Statistics Finland

## George Orwell 1984 8.

Years ago—how long was it? Seven years it must be—he had dreamed that he was walking through a pitch-dark room. And someone sitting to one side of him had said as he passed: "We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness." It was said very quietly, almost casually—a statement, not a command. He had walked on without pausing. What was curious was that at the time, in the dream, the words had not made much impression on him. It was only later and by degrees that they had seemed to take on significance. He could not now remember whether it was before or after having the dream that he had seen O'Brien for the first time, nor could he remember when he had first identified the voice as O'Brien's. But at any rate the identification existed. It was O'Brien who had spoken to him out of the dark.

Winston had never been able to feel sure—even after this morning's flash of the eyes it was still impossible to be sure whether O'Brien was a friend or an enemy. Nor did it even seem to matter greatly. There was a link of understanding between them, more important than affection or partisanship. "We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness," he had said. Winston did not know what it meant, only that in some way or another it would come true.

The voice from the telescreen paused. A trumpet call, clear and beautiful, floated into the stagnant air. The voice continued raspingly:

'Attention! Your attention, please! A newsflash has this moment arrived from the Malabar front. Our forces in South India have won a glorious victory. I am authorized to say that the action we are now reporting may



well bring the war within measurable distance of its end. Here is the newsflash-----'

Bad news coming, thought Winston. And sure enough, following on a gory description of the annihilation of a Eurasian army, with stupendous figures of killed and prisoners, came the announcement that, as from next week, the chocolate ration would be reduced from thirty grammes to twenty.

Winston belched again. The gin was wearing off, leaving a deflated feeling. The telescreen—perhaps to celebrate the victory, perhaps to drown the memory of the lost chocolate—crashed into "Oceania, 'tis for thee". You were supposed to stand to attention. However, in his present position he

was invisible.

'Oceania, 'tis for thee' gave way to lighter music. Winston walked over to the window, keeping his back to the telescreen. The day was still cold and clear. Somewhere far away a rocket bomb exploded with a dull, reverberating roar. About twenty or thirty of them a week were falling on London at present.

Down in the street the wind flapped the torn poster to and fro, and the word INGSOC fitfully appeared and vanished. Ingsoc. The sacred principles of Ingsoc. Newspeak, doublethink, the mutability of the past. He felt as though he were wandering in the forests of the sea bottom, lost in a monstrous world where he himself was the monster. He was alone. The past was dead, the future was unimaginable. What certainty had he that a single human creature now living was on his side? And what way of knowing that the dominion of the Party would not endure FOR EVER? Like an answer, the three slogans on the white face of the Ministry of Truth came back to him:

WAR IS PEACE  
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

He took a twenty-five cent piece out of his pocket. There, too, in tiny clear lettering, the same slogans were inscribed, and on the other face of the coin the head of Big Brother. Even from the coin the eyes pursued you. On coins, on stamps, on the covers of books, on banners, on posters, and on the wrappings of a cigarette packet—everywhere. Always the eyes watching you and the voice enveloping you. Asleep or awake, working or eating, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or in bed—no escape. Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimetres inside your skull.

The sun had shifted round, and the myriad windows of the Ministry of Truth, with the light no longer shining on them, looked grim as the loopholes of a fortress. His heart quailed before the enormous pyramidal shape. It was too strong, it could not be stormed. A thousand rocket bombs would not batter

it down. He wondered again for whom he was writing the diary. For the future, for the past—for an age that might be imaginary. And in front of him there lay not death but annihilation. The diary would be reduced to ashes and himself to vapour. Only the Thought Police would read what he had written, before they wiped it out of existence and out of memory. How could you make appeal to the future when not a trace of you, not even an anonymous word scribbled on a piece of paper, could physically survive?

The telescreen struck fourteen. He must leave in ten minutes. He had to be back at work by fourteen-thirty.

Curiously, the chiming of the hour seemed to have put new heart into him. He was a lonely ghost uttering a truth that nobody would ever hear. But so long as he uttered it, in some obscure way the continuity was not broken. It was not by making yourself heard but by staying sane that you carried on the human heritage. He went back to the table, dipped his pen, and wrote:

To the future or to the past, to a time when thought is free, when men are different from one another and do not live alone—to a time when truth exists and what is done cannot be undone:

From the age of uniformity, from the age of solitude, from the age of Big Brother, from the age of doublethink—greetings!

He was already dead, he reflected. It seemed to him that it was only now, when he had begun to be able to formulate his thoughts, that he had taken the decisive step. The consequences of every act are included in the act itself. He wrote:

Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime IS death.



# ASTRONOMY

## Time to Admire the Leonids Meteor Shower is Just Now!



Stargazers, prepare for a celestial treat! The annual Leonids meteor shower is reaching its peak, offering one of the best viewing opportunities of the year thanks to near-perfect conditions. The dramatic display of "shooting stars" is at its most active right now, until November 30th, 2025.

**A Cosmic Rain of Fire**  
The Leonids are renowned for being one of the fastest and most visually striking meteor showers. As the Earth slices through a trail of dusty debris left by the comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, these cosmic particles, often no bigger than grains of sand, collide with our atmosphere at a blistering speed of approximately 71 kilometers per second (about 44 miles per second). The resulting friction causes them to burn up in fiery, colourful streaks of light. This year, astronomers anticipate a rate of up to 10 to

15 meteors per hour under ideal dark-sky conditions. While this is a modest rate compared to the shower's historic "storms"—which occur roughly every 33 years and can produce thousands of meteors per hour—the viewing conditions could hardly be better.

**Why This Year is Special**  
What makes the 2025 Leonids particularly appealing is the nearly absent moonlight. The Moon is currently in a slim, waning crescent phase (only about 9% illuminated) and will not rise until shortly before dawn. This minimal lunar interference means the skies will be exceptionally dark, allowing even the fainter meteors and the characteristic lingering, ionized trails of the faster Leonids to be clearly visible.

**How to Catch the Show**  
To maximise your chances of witnessing this stellar performance, follow these simple tips:

- When to Look: The

best viewing window is after midnight and before the first light of dawn on Monday, November 17th, when the shower's radiant point—the constellation Leo—is highest in the sky.

- Find the Dark: Get as far away from city light pollution as possible. A secluded spot in the countryside or a local park after hours will significantly improve visibility.
- Look East/Overhead: The meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Leo (hence the name Leonids), which rises in the East after midnight. However, meteors can streak across any part of the sky. The best advice is to lie back (a reclining chair or blanket is a must) and look at the sky broadly, about 40 degrees away from the radiant for the longest, most spectacular tails.
- Be Patient: Give your eyes at least 15 to 20 minutes to fully adjust to the dark.

**A Legacy of Storms**  
The Leonids hold a significant place in astronomical history. The shower is famous for its periodic "meteor storms," most notably the breathtaking 1833 event, when observers reported seeing tens of thousands of meteors per hour, described by some as "stars fell as rain." While a storm isn't predicted this year—the next major surge is anticipated around 2031, when the parent comet returns—the annual peak offers a reliable and beautiful cosmic spectacle. Don't miss your chance to step outside tonight and enjoy this fantastic natural light show, a fleeting moment where Earth passes through cosmic dust, creating a luminous shower from the heavens.

**Image:** A piece of art by Edmund Weiß in 1888, showing the Leonid Meteor Shower on the night between Nov 12 and 13 in 1833.

## \*4\* Wasa Daily, November 23, 2025

# HUMOUR ONE

## HUNDRED YEARS AGO

**CONSCIENCE**  
Auntie: Your conscience always tells you when you're not doing the right thing.  
Lillan: Who is it talking to?  
Aunt: To you.  
Lillan: It was too good then! I thought it would gossip for you or mom

**EXACTLY BECAUSE.**  
Man: I don't think you'd take that maiden, Henrietta. Think, she has been with no less than ten families in the course of a year! Wife: That's exactly why I'm taking her. What interesting stories she must be able to tell about these ten families.

**HELPFULNESS.**  
The conductor: You really have to get on, if you want to join; the train is going now! Miss: But first I want to give my sister a kiss.  
Conductor: Get up now, I'll take care of the rest.

**THE EXPLANATION.**  
Police constable: I cannot understand where you got the strength to hold the big, strong thief. Wife: Well, you see, it was really dark, and so I thought it was my husband who wanted to run away with the maid.

**ADVERTISEMENT FROM THE DAILY PRESS.**  
"Impure fantasies" cleaned at Augusta Blomberg's.

**THE CAUSE.**  
I just can't stand the sound of a car horn. Why not? I will tell you that some time

ago my driver stole my car and ran away with my wife, and every time I hear a car horn, I fear that he will come back with her.

**BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING.**  
Colonel: I feel sorry for you, Lieutenant Möller, because there are still complaints about you not paying your debts. Aren't you going to sort out your financial situation soon? The lieutenant; Well, Colonel, just yesterday I bought a ticket in the class lottery.

**A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.**  
An English doctor claims that his countrymen eat too much meat. As a morning snack, he recommends: A cup of tea, a cutlet and a dog, which eats the cutlet.

**ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE.**  
A little boy was always pestering his mother with questions, a habit that little boys often have. One day he wanted to know why men are so often bald. It is because they have so much work that their brains are getting tired, replied the mother patiently. Then I also know why the women don't have beards, exclaimed the hopeful little one delighted. Why then, my dear boy? asked the mother in surprise. Because they have so much work to do with their mouths, they talk all the time, was the surprising answer.

## Astronomic picture of the week:

ICEAND, Satellite picture



Iceland lives up to its name in this image, acquired by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra satellite on January 28, 2004. The island country is completely covered in white snow and ice, obscuring the permanent glaciers and icecaps that exist year-round. The effect of ice on this island sandwiched between the North Atlantic and the Greenland Sea, just below the Arctic Circle, is visible along its rugged northern shores. Over millennia, ice has carved out deep fjords leaving fringes of land that extend like fingers into the ocean.

Credit: NASA  
Public domain

## Next week:



## HOROSCOPE FOR NOVEMBER 2025

### November Horoscope: What's Written in the Stars?

**Aries (March 21–April 19):** Your enthusiasm will hit an all-time high this month, Aries! But beware: not everyone is ready for your energy before their third cup of coffee. Channel that passion into something productive, like reorganizing your sock drawer. Hey, it's the little victories!

**Taurus (April 20–May 20):** November brings you a cozy vibe, Taurus. You'll feel an irresistible urge to cocoon yourself in blankets and binge-watch your favorite shows. Productivity? Overrated. Comfort? Essential. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

**Gemini (May 21–June 20):** You'll be juggling more tasks than a circus performer this month, Gemini. Multitasking is your superpower, but remember: responding to emails while doing yoga is how things get weird. Take a breath—or five.

**Cancer (June 21–July 22):** This November, your emotions will be as unpredictable as the weather. One moment you're ready to hibernate, the next you're planning a spontaneous road trip. The good news? Your friends already know they're in for a rollercoaster—so just enjoy the ride.

**Leo (July 23–August 22):** You're feeling extra fabulous this month, Leo! Strut your stuff like every sidewalk is a runway, but don't be surprised if you trip over your own feet once in a while. It's all part of the charm. Just remember, confidence can get you out of almost anything!

**Virgo (August 23–September 22):** November is all about organizing, Virgo. You'll get a kick out of color-coding your life down to the last detail. But don't go overboard—your friends may not appreciate it when you start alphabetizing their kitchen spices.

**Libra (September 23–October 22):** You'll be the diplomat of the group this month, Libra. Everyone will turn to you to settle disputes, from dinner plans to who gets the last slice of pizza. Just don't overdo it—you deserve that pizza slice, too!

**Scorpio (October 23–November 21):** It's your season, Scorpio, and you're feeling mysterious and magnetic. You might be tempted to brood a little, but don't forget: even you need to laugh sometimes. Embrace your inner comedian—you're funnier than you think!

**Sagittarius (November 22–December 21):**

Adventure calls, Sagittarius! But before you go booking a last-minute trip to a distant land, maybe start with cleaning out your fridge. That expired yogurt won't survive until your return, but your wanderlust will!

**Capricorn (December 22–January 19):** You're in work mode, Capricorn, but don't let the grind get you down. Remember, even superheroes take breaks (and look good doing it). So grab a cup of tea, put your feet up, and let the world handle itself for a few minutes.

**Aquarius (January 20–February 18):** You're brimming with ideas this month, Aquarius, and your genius will be hard to contain. Just make sure your friends are ready for your next big invention—it might involve more cardboard and glitter than they anticipated.

**Pisces (February 19–March 20):** Dreamy and creative as always, Pisces, you'll find yourself drifting into daydreams mid-conversation. Don't worry if you forget what someone was saying—you were probably coming up with your next masterpiece. Just nod and smile; it works every time!

**Happy November!**

## SPACE

### Avi Loeb: 3I/ATLAS is a spaceship from another civilization

Harvard's most famous producer of cosmic drama, Professor Avi Loeb, has once again waved stardust in a scientific teacup.



This time, his eyes are fixed on 3I/ATLAS — a small, rather modest interstellar object that, according to NASA, is just... Well, a rocky tuber. But according to Loeb, it could be more than that. Much more. Possibly some kind of prototype from the space age.

Loeb says based on "observations" and "evidence" (i.e., at least two PowerPoint slides and a very reliable reference) that 3I/ATLAS does not

behave like a regular meteor. According to him, its trajectory is "a little too smooth", its surface composition "suspiciously mysterious" and its general appearance is "clearly the work of an alien civilization". What else would it be than overtime for a cosmic engineer?

Critics note that the object looks and behaves exactly like any other space rock. But Loeb

dismisses it: "The fact that it looks like a rock is part of the plan. A good mask is simple." At that point, the room is usually quiet – either out of respect or because everyone is trying not to laugh.

What's next? Loeb suggests we explore. He wants to build a small space probe that flies to 3I/ATLAS and "knocks on the door". Because if a galactic space probe parks past the solar system, there will of course be someone sitting in there just waiting for a gesture of polite hospitality.

Is 3I/ATLAS really an alien ship? Probably not. But one thing is for sure: thanks to Avi Loeb, space science is never boring – and the world always needs more great stories from beyond the stars.

## AI

### AI-Generated Podcasts: A New Era in Audio Content

In the rapidly changing world of digital media, artificial intelligence (AI) continues to push boundaries and shape industries and redefine creative processes.

One of the most significant advancements is Google's NotebookLM, an advanced language technology that has the potential to revolutionize the podcast world. Its ability to produce high-quality audio content that matches that produced by humans opens up new and exciting possibilities for AI-powered storytelling, education, and entertainment.

**The rise of AI-generated podcasts**  
As the podcast industry grows at breakneck speed, content creators

and media companies are constantly looking for innovative tools to boost production and boost creativity. NotebookLM, which initially gained attention for its ability to produce high-quality texts, has now made the leap into audio content. This cutting-edge technology can produce podcasts that are almost indistinguishable from human creation, opening up new possibilities for the future.

**NotebookLM**  
The appeal of podcasts is based on a number of unique features that set them apart from traditional podcasts:

Natural sound: NotebookLM can produce audio content that mimics the natural rhythm and tone of human speech. This ensures a smooth experience for the listener, where it is difficult to detect that the podcast is generated by AI.

Variety of topics: Whether it's news, current events, or light sto-



**Podcasts**  
<https://vpress.ovh/podcasts.htm>

ries, NotebookLM can cover a wide range of topics. Its flexibility makes it an ideal tool for content creators.

## BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer!

Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

Interested? Send us your blog pitch or a short sample, and let's get your words published! Join us in making Wasa Daily a platform for meaningful conversations and inspiring stories. Contact us at [wasadagblad@gmail.com](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com) for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

## Wasa Daily

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobothnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts. Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future.

The magazine is available online for free. Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toineen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: [wasadagblad@gmail.com](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)

## From our readers

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: [wasadagblad@gmail.com](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)

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