



FINLAND ranks high for competitiveness

The World Economic Forum has ranked Finland second among EU member states when it comes to building a smart, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economy.

The 2012 edition of the Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report covers 27 EU Member States and six accession and candidate economies.

It is the first of a series of reports that will be produced every two years until the end of the decade.

Finland's enterprise environment fosters business creation, supported by readily available finance for business investment, the report says. It also occupies the top position in the higher education and training category, the result of a strong focus on education over recent decades. This has provided the workforce with the skills needed to adapt rapidly to a changing environment and has laid the groundwork for high levels of technological adoption and innovation.

The report praised Finland as one of

the innovation powerhouses in Europe and highlighted a well-functioning labour market and strong social inclusion based on low inequality and the provision of social services.

The index measures European countries' competitiveness according to seven criteria: enterprise environment, digital agenda, innovative Europe, education and training, labour market and employment, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Finland's strong showing on the sustainability component demonstrates that its economic prowess is not at the expense of environmentally sustainable practices and outcomes, the report says.

The Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report is led by Sweden, Finland and Denmark and ends with Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. +

Source: www.goodnewsfinland.com

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Geomachine Oy aims to become a full-service "geohouse"

The increase in urban structures and turning old industrial areas into residential areas requires investigation of the ground and groundwater.

Geomachine Oy, founded in 1984, is a company specialized in designing, manufacturing, selling and maintaining soil investigation, mining exploration and geothermal drilling rigs. Thanks to research and development work conducted over the past thirty years, Geomachine has become the leading company in its field in the Nordic countries.

- The techniques and technology of Geomachine are based on our own patented solutions. We manufacture modern drilling rigs for our customers, and we're also responsible for the maintenance of these machines, as well as for selling and developing meas-

uring equipment and drilling equipment, says **Jukka Ylänen**, CEO of Geomachine.

Drilling rigs are purchased by both the public sector and private companies operating in ground planning, construction and mining exploration. Equipment manufactured by Geomachine are Finnish from start to finish.

As the number of urban structures increases and old industrial areas are turned into residential areas, the need for soil and groundwater investigations becomes ever more important. In order to conduct these investigations, quality technology is needed; this is where Geomachine and its soil investigation equipment come in.

- To some extent the demand for our equipment is increased by the utilization of mineral resources in the northern hemisphere, which requires investment into infrastructure and mining operation. We meet these challenges and offer functional solutions, Jukka Ylänen says. + **KKN** | www.geomachine.fi

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