

Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland

by Rainer Hiltunen ¹

The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples

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Based on the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#) on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples (Section 1 – Formalisation)

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¹ Rainer Hiltunen (lawyer, Helsinki) is grateful for the useful comments that Aija Valleala, LL.M. (Doctoral Student, University of Helsinki) made on an earlier version of the answers in this section of the database.

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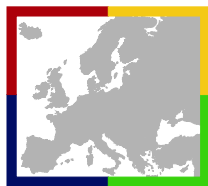
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FamiliesAndSocieties

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The six sections of the questionnaire

The [interactive LawsAndFamilies Database](#) is based on the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#), which consists of six sections:

- Section 1 – Formalisation
- Section 2 – Income and troubles
- Section 3 – Parenting
- Section 4 – Migration
- Section 5 – Splitting up
- Section 6 – Death

Papers and an interactive database

For each jurisdiction there are therefore six papers like this one. And each of these papers contains the full answers, references and explanations (given by

a legal expert for the jurisdiction concerned) to the questions in one of these six sections. All these papers can be found in open access at www.LawsAndFamilies.eu. There the user also has access to the [interactive part of the LawsAndFamilies Database](#), which can be used to search the whole database and to create comparative overviews for different questions, different years, different countries and/or different legal family formats.

This website also contains references to publications analysing the results of the project, and to some other legal, sociological and statistical publications about same-sex and different-sex families. And it gives information about the methodology used for this questionnaire and database.

About the questionnaire

The [full text of the questionnaire](#) can be found in the paper: K. Waaldijk, J.M. Lorenzo Villaverde, N. Nikolina & G. Zago, 'The LawsAndFamilies questionnaire on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples: Text of the questions and of the accompanying guidance document', *FamiliesAndSocieties Working Paper* 64(2016), www.familiesandsocieties.eu.

The [Guidance document](#) contained in that paper, asked the experts answering the questionnaire to make several assumptions. These included the assumption that the partners have been living together as a couple already for at least two years. Plus the assumption (except for certain questions in Section 4 – Migration) that both partners have the citizenship of the country where they are now both lawfully and habitually residing, and that this is also the country where their relationship would have been formalised and where it would be dissolved.

About the answers

This paper contains the answers, references and explanations – for one jurisdiction – to all questions in one of the six sections of the questionnaire. The answers are presented in columns. Each column is a coloured timeline, representing legal developments for one question for one legal family format.

The year at the top of each coloured timeline is the most recent year for which a question was answered by the author. In the timelines the years given above and below an answer indicate that the answer applied between a certain day in the lower year and a certain day in the higher year. The year "0000" means that the answer applied since an unknown year before 1965. See further the [Guidance document](#).

The following **answer codes and colours** have been used:

Yes	Yes, this is so in the law of this country/jurisdiction, although possibly with a qualifying period of 24 months or less.
Yes, but	Yes, but with exceptions or restrictions, for example a qualifying period of 25 months or more, or only in most parts of the country/jurisdiction, or this is mostly a “dead letter”.
No, but	No, but it may be so exceptionally, or in a very limited way, or in a few parts of the country/jurisdiction, or indirectly, or by using a different legal instrument, or legislation says no while some courts might say yes.
No	No, this is not so in the law of this country/jurisdiction.
Doubt	The law is unclear (the law does not “know” the answer).
?	No information was available.
N/A	Not applicable (for example because this family format is not available in this jurisdiction, or not for same-sex or different-sex couples).
X	This question was not asked for this legal family format.
Open question	Question without answer codes like Yes and No.
Empty cell	For this year the question was not asked or not answered.

The six papers about Finland

The answers concerning Finland can be found in the [interactive database](#) and in the following six papers (all of which are published in open access in: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*, Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu):

Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 1)

Income, troubles and legal family formats in Finland by Aija Valleala (Section 2)

Parenting and legal family formats in Finland by Aija Valleala (Section 3)

Migration and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 4)

Splitting up and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 5)

Death and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 6)

So this paper is based on **Section 1 (Formalisation)** of the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#), which contains questions about the following topics:

- 1.1 Legal family formats
- 1.2 Two siblings
- 1.3 With resident foreigner
- 1.4 With non-resident foreigner
- 1.5 Two foreigners
- 1.6 Two resident foreigners
- 1.7 Two non-resident foreigners
- 1.8 Start at registry
- 1.9 Start at public authority
- 1.10 Start at religious building
- 1.11 Contract
- 1.12 Statutory contract
- 1.13 Surname
- 1.14 Living together
- 1.15 Sex
- 1.16 General background regarding formalisation
- 1.17 Literature

In the following pages of this paper, first the answers to questions 1.16 and 1.17 are presented, followed by the answers to questions 1.1 to 1.15.

1.16 - General background regarding formalisation (Open question)

If you consider it useful to provide some general information or comments about (past, present or future) developments and trends in legal policy and case law in your country/jurisdiction, or information on other aspects (socio-legal, political, constitutional, legal-cultural, religious, etc.) that may be relevant for the understanding of your answers above regarding formalisation, then please do so here.

1.17 - Literature (Open question)

Please list some relevant literature about the family formats concerned, especially in English and/or online (with web links).

Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234 was changed by Act 20.2.2015/156 which allows two persons of the same-sex to marry from 1 March 2017.

The Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950 was changed by Act 8.4.2016/250 according to which partnership registration is no longer possible when the act comes into force 1 March 2017. After that, registered partners remain registered unless they wish their partnership to be converted to marriage.

Mikkola, Tuulikki: Kansainvälinen avioliitto- ja jäämistöoikeus. WSOY 2009.

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.01 - Legal family formats**

Which of the three legal family formats mentioned here are available to different-sex and/or same-sex couples?

(For the distinction between registered partnership and cohabitation, see section e of the [Guidance for experts answering questions in the questionnaire](#). If there are two or more formats available for informally cohabiting couples, then please mention these formats separately in the explanation to this question.)

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 No 0000	2015 No 0000	2015 Yes 2002	2015 Yes, but 2011	2015 Yes, but 2011
			No 0000	No, but 0000	No, but 1971
					No 0000
References to legal sources: Art. 1 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners 14.1.2011/26.	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234 was changed by Act 20.2.2015/156 which allows two persons of the same-sex to marry from 1 March 2017.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: The Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950 was changed by Act 8.4.2016/250 according to which partnership registration is no longer possible when the act comes into force 1 March 2017. After that, registered partners remain registered unless they wish their partnership to be converted to marriage.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: There is no general legislation on cohabiting, only on dissolution of the household of cohabiting partners. In order to be recognized for the application of the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners, the partners need to have cohabited for at least 5 years or "have, or have had, a joint child or joint parental responsibility for a child".</p> <p>Prior to the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners cohabitation of different-sex partners was recognised e.g. in taxation legislation if they were married before, but divorced later or who had or have had a joint child. Same-sex cohabiting couples were far more seldom recognised in legislation, but they were recognised as being next of kin in cases of wrongful death or rent law.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.02 - Two siblings**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for two siblings?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2002	2015 No 2011	2015 No 2011
			N/A 0000	? 0000	? 0000
References to legal sources: Art. 7 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 2 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.		References to legal sources: Art. 3 of the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners 14.1.2011/26.	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.03 - With resident foreigner**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for a national citizen and a foreigner both residing in the country?
(As to the meaning of "residing", see section c of the [Guidance for experts answering questions in the questionnaire](#).)

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 108 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.04 - With non-resident foreigner**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for a national citizen residing in the country and a foreigner residing abroad?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 108 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.05 - Two foreigners**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for two foreigners, only one of whom is residing in the country?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No, but 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 108 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: According to art. 10 of the Act on Registered Partnerships, partnership may be registered in Finland only if both parties have been habitually resident in Finland for two years immediately before the registration.</p> <p>There is no similar requirement for different-sex couples who want to marry. Therefore this requirement for same-sex couples is likely to be ruled unconstitutional if appealed to the Administrative Court. See case law in question 1.6.</p>			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.06 - Two resident foreigners**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for two foreigners residing in the country?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes, but 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 108 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: According to the art. 10 of Registered Partnership Act both foreigners must have had residence in Finland for at least two years.</p> <p>This provision has been ruled as unconstitutional by Administrative Court of Helsinki in August 2015 because there is no such requirement for different-sex couples when entering into marriage. The Administrative Court considered the Act on Registered Partnerships to be discriminatory in this regard on grounds of sexual orientation and therefore contrary to Art. 6(2) of the Finnish Constitution.</p>			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.07 - Two non-resident foreigners**

Is starting this type of relationship legally possible for two foreigners residing abroad?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No, but 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 108 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: According to art. 10 of the Act on Registered Partnerships partnership may be registered in Finland only if both parties have been habitually resident in Finland for two years immediately before the registration.</p> <p>There is no similar requirement for different-sex couples to marry. Therefore this requirement for same-sex couples who want to register as partners is likely to be ruled unconstitutional if appealed to the Administrative Court. See case law in question 1.6.</p>			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.08 - Start at registry**

Can you legally start this type of relationship at the registry of births, marriages and deaths (État civil, Standesamt)?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 17a of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 4 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.09 - Start at public authority**

Can you legally start this type of relationship at another public authority (e.g. notary public, local population administration, court)?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 17a of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 4 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			
Explanations and nuances: A civil marriage ceremony can be performed in court by the Chief Judge of a District Court, a District Judge or a District Court Notary. In Local Registrar Offices civil marriages can be officiated by the heads of local register offices, district registrars or public notaries.		Explanations and nuances: A civil partnership can be registered in court by the Chief Judge of a District Court, a District Judge or a District Court Notary. In Local Registrar Offices a civil partnership can be registered by the heads of local register offices, district registrars or public notaries.			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.10 - Start at religious building**

Can you legally start this type of relationship at a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious building?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No, but 2002	X	X
			N/A 0000	X	X
References to legal sources: Art. 17 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.			
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances: Unlike marriage, partnership cannot be registered by a priest of a religious community. The building itself is not determining. Therefore partnership can be registered in church building if the authority is willing to perform the registration in religious building.			

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.11 - Contract**

Can the partners make a contract (with or without third-party effect) to organise their relationship, for example with regard to property or personal obligations? (Think of prenuptial contracts and cohabitation contracts.)

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	2015 Yes 0000	2015 Yes 1971
			N/A 0000		? 0000
References to legal sources: Art. 34 of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.		References to legal sources:	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.12 - Statutory contract**

Are there specific statutory rules regarding such a contract?

(See question 1.11 about the possibility for the partners to make a contract to organise their relationship.)

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	2015 Yes 2011	2015 Yes 2011
			N/A 0000	No 0000	No 0000
References to legal sources: Art. 35(2) of Marriage Act 13.6.1929/234.		References to legal sources: Art. 8(1) of Act on Registered Partnerships 9.11.2001/950.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners 14.1.2011/26.	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.13 - Surname**

Can (or must) one partner use or have the surname of the other partner?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No, but 2002	2015 No 2011	2015 No 2011
			N/A 0000	No 0000	No 0000
References to legal sources: Art. 7 of Names Act 9.8.1985/694.		References to legal sources: Art. 10 of Names Act 9.8.1985/694.		References to legal sources: Art. 1 of the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners 14.1.2011/26.	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances: The Registered Partnership Act does not allow same-sex registered partners to acquire the same surname just by announcing this when the partnership is registered. Registered partners have been able to get a joint surname by applying for it from the Local Register Office.		Explanations and nuances:	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.14 - Living together**

Do partners in this type of relationship have a duty to live together in the same house?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2002	2015 No, but 2011	2015 No, but 2011
			N/A 0000	? 0000	? 0000
References to legal sources:		References to legal sources:		References to legal sources:	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances: There is no general definition in legislation on cohabitation. In order to be recognised in applying the Act on the Dissolution of the Household of Cohabiting Partners, the partners need to have cohabited for at least 5 years or "have, or have had, a joint child or joint parental responsibility for a child".	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **R. Hiltunen**, "Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section1.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **1 - Formalisation**

Question: **1.15 - Sex**

Does the law require relationships of this type to be sexual or intimate?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No 1994	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2002	2015 No 2011	2015 No 2011
No, but 0000			N/A 0000	No 0000	No 0000
References to legal sources:		References to legal sources:		References to legal sources:	
Explanations and nuances: The statutes in the Penal Code 19.12.1889/39 were changed in 1994 to criminalise rape in marriage.		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:	