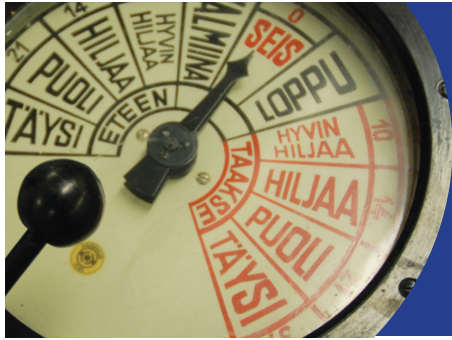


WELCOME AS A MEMBER!

THE FINNISH SEAMEN'S UNION



You can join the Finnish Seamen's Union by completing the membership application.

The Finnish Seamen's Union was established in 1916.

Members work mainly in maritime and inland water transportation, 43 per cent of the membership are women and 57 per cent are men.

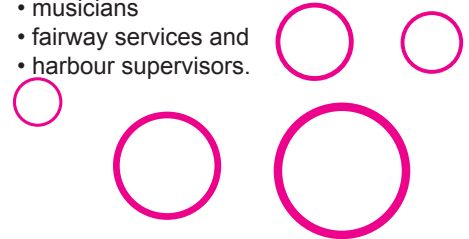
The Finnish Seamen's Union is an affiliated member of the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK.

The members of the Finnish Seamen's Union work for example in

- passenger vessels
- cargo vessels
- tankers
- ice-breakers
- log-floating tugboats
- push barges
- ferries going between the archipelago and
- small inland ferries.

The professional spectrum of the Union's members is wide and they represent over 50 different professions, such as

- ratings working on deck and in the engine room
- kitchen personnel
- shop sales personnel
- musicians
- fairway services and
- harbour supervisors.





Our most important task is to monitor the benefits of our members

The Finnish Seamen's Union promotes the interests and defends the rights of seafarers. The Union concludes collective bargaining agreements which concern its members, ensures that they are complied with and in other ways works to improve their working and living conditions.

Collective bargaining is the most significant benefit for our members. Salaries and their increases, overtime remuneration, working hours, annual holidays and other important terms and conditions of employment are written in collective bargaining.

The Union also seeks to improve the working and living conditions of its members. Occupational health and safety and well-being at work are especially important when working on a vessel in particularly demanding conditions.





The Local Trade Union Branches

The members of the Finnish Seamen's Union belong to the local trade union branch according to where they live or where the vessel they work on is located. The national local trade union branches are: Harbour Branch, Travel and Forwarding Branch and Ship's Entertainment Professionals. The local trade union branches organise different education-, courses-, hobbies and pastimes and recreational activities

You can for example:

- participate in the branch's decision-making process
- influence the union's operations and the forming of objectives
- get advice concerning questions about your employment and working place
- participate in education organised by the branch
- receive a subsidy for other education
- participate in trips
- enjoy refreshing leisure-time activities and
- find new friends.

For more information about a branch's activities, current events and branch organised education, please refer to the home pages of the branch concerned. Information about events will also be included in the Finnish Seamen's Union's own magazine 'Merimies'.

Membership Benefits

The Union's members are entitled to expert-, negotiation- and legal assistance in situations of dispute in working life.

The shop steward in your own working place is the closest person from whom you are able to ask help if you encounter a problem in your working place or if you need advice concerning your employment relationship. The shop steward is someone who is elected by the members of the Finnish Seamen's Union. His/her task is to monitor compliance with the collective bargaining agreements and the legislation.

If the negotiations do not lead to a result, then a resolution to the problem is attempted through negotiations between the chief shop steward or an official of the Finnish Seamen's Union and the employer.

Safety concerning working conditions in vessels is monitored by the occupational healthy and safety delegate. You can ask for advice and obtain help from them if you feel e.g. that there are any deficiencies in your working conditions.



The membership entitles you to benefits and discounts

All of the actual members of the Union, also student members and those who have retired will receive the membership card of the Finnish Seamen's Union.

With the membership card of the Finnish Seamen's Union you will receive many kinds of benefits and discounts.



Merimies magazine

All of the members of the Union who are in the labour market will receive, delivered to their home, free of charge, the magazine of the Finnish Seamen's Union Merimies-Sjömannen-lehti. The magazine goes to and is present in the working places of members and follows actual the news and events of working life. The 'Merimies' is published five times a year.



The achievements of the trade union movement

Many of the rights and benefits connected to working life are achievements, which the trade union movement has negotiated. If the trade unions did not exist, Finnish people would not enjoy anywhere near as many of the rights, which they nowadays consider to be self-evident.

- a five-day working week
- annual vacation
- winter holidays
- paid sick leave
- job alternation leave
- security against redundancy
- maternity and parental leave
- over-time remuneration
- holiday bonus pay

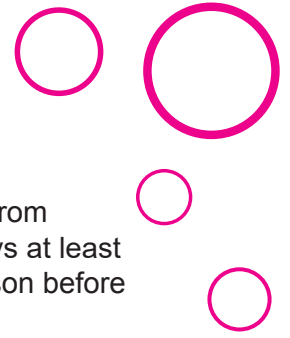


Cabins

The Union owns 8 cabins located in Espoo, Himos, Tahko, Pyhtää, Levi and Kustavi. There is also one cottage only for the members of South-western branch, called Meripesä near the city of Rauma.

You can reserve a cabin for yourself via **this reservation website** (Only in Finnish and Swedish).

During peak season time (June-August and February-April) the cabins are rented on the basis of the applications for one week at a time.



Fuel discounts

As a member of the Finnish Seamen's Union you can obtain a discount on petrol and diesel from every ST1 and Shell-service stations. The discount varies by station and by time, but is always at least 0.5 cents/liter. To obtain the discount you must show your membership card to the sales person before paying or by feeding it into the automatic pump before inserting your card or money.



You decide!

The members are the basis of the Union's administration. The Union Congress is the highest decision-making body of the Union and it convenes every fourth year. The members of the Finnish Seamen's Union elects from amongst its members delegates for the Union Congress.

The Congress chooses the members of the Executive Committee and the General Council. The General Council convenes in a statutory meeting twice a year, in the spring and autumn and the Executive Committee once a month. The General Council approves the budget for the following year and the annual report and statement of accounts for the previous financial period. It also takes a stand on topical issues. The tasks of the Executive Committee include, e.g. the approving of new collective bargaining agreements and making decisions about major economical issues.



Membership fee

The membership fee of the Finnish Seamen's Union is in total 1.55 per cent of gross salary which includes the fee for the Unemployment Fund. Part of the union's share is refunded to the local trade union branches for their activities and part is used for financing the collective bargaining operations.

Exemption from the membership fee

A member is exempt from the membership fee if s/he does not earn income due to the fact that s/he is unemployed, on sick leave, maternity-, paternity or child care leave, serving in the military forces, on student leave or studying. You must always inform the Membership register about the reasons mentioned above to get the exemption from membership fee.

Membership register of the Finnish Seamen's Union

John Stenbergin ranta 6, 00530 Helsinki
Telephone +358 (0)9 6152 020 (open on weekdays from 9am-12pm
and 13pm-15pm)
E-mail: jasenrekisteri@smu.fi





Open Unemployment Fund

A person is entitled to become a member of the Open Unemployment Fund if s/he has not yet reached the age of 68 and is gainfully employed in a sector which is within the sphere of the Unemployment Security Act and s/he works on a Finnish merchant ship, in coastal or inland water transportation, in tugboats or in some other capacity, which is closely connected to shipping.

It is important to remember that membership of the unemployment fund must be applied for in writing. The date of signature of the membership application form and its date of arrival in the unemployment fund's office has significance from the point of view of when the member begins to accumulate the membership and employment conditions, which must be fulfilled before the member is entitled to receive earnings-related unemployment benefits. For this reason it is extremely important that the membership application form must be completed and sent to the Union's head-office immediately a seafarer's employment relationship begins.

The Transport Workers' Unemployment Fund grants and pays to its members an earnings-related unemployment benefit in the event of unemployment. The pre-requisites of the amount of and the conditions for receiving the earnings-related daily allowance, labour market support for adult training, training allowance and job alternation compensation are prescribed in law.

www.a-kassa.fi/en

The Open Unemployment Fund
Hakaniemenranta 1
PB 116 00531 Helsinki

Tel. exchange 029 372 4000



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Suomen Merimies-Unioni SMU ry**

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**Open:
9.00am - 3.00pm**

**E-mail:
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www.smu.fi

