



## The Bank of Finland Museum will open next Tuesday

The Bank of Finland Museum will open to the public on Tuesday 26 August 2003. The museum is situated next door to the Bank of Finland, beneath Helsinki Cathedral, at Snellmaninkatu 2. In spite of its name, the museum concentrates on the present monetary economy. The key themes are monetary policy and the role of the central bank as the watchdog of the monetary economy. The museum also displays the history of money and the Bank of Finland – the fourth oldest central bank in the world – as well as banknotes and banknote art. The aim is to present the various themes in a manner as interactive and graphic as possible.

The museum has been designed by architects Juhani Pallasmaa and Teemu Taskinen of Juhani Pallasmaa Ky. Refurbishment of the facilities and fitting for the museum's purposes have cost approximately EUR 1,2 million, while the contents and inventory of the museum amounted to a little less than EUR 1 million.

The Bank of Finland Museum is split into three sections. The heart of the museum is the central plaza illustrating monetary policy, central banking functions and the features of the monetary economy. This section was designed by Juha Tarkka, Head of the Research Department. He has also developed the monetary policy game 'Taito', which offers the public the opportunity to try being a central banker.

The history section offers displays on money and the development of monetary policy, in Finland and abroad. It has been designed by Vappu Ikonen, Archivist at the Bank of Finland, who has also co-ordinated the entire museum project. The banknotes and banknote art section concentrates on banknotes and the artists who created them. It has been designed by Jaakko Koskentola, Curator of the Bank of Finland Museum.

The museum will also contain a changing, seasonal exhibition. The first one was designed by Ms Ikonen. Its theme is 'The country that paid its debts'. This will display news cuttings and cartoons from the United States of the 1930s, when Finland was the only country to repay its war and post-war reconstruction loans to the United States of America.

The abstract issues concerning money and banking are illustrated by multimedia. In addition to the monetary policy game, there are four other multimedia displays in the museum. The history multimedia takes you on journey through time looking at the development of the monetary economy and enabling you to take a quiz to see what you have learned during your museum trip. The monetary value calculator 'Arvo' illustrates the development of prices and the value of money. Lastly, the currency supply video describes the circulation of money in the economy.

Opening hours are Tuesdays to Fridays 12.00–19.00, Saturdays and Sundays 11.00–16.00. The museum will close on Mondays. Guided tours for groups can be arranged in Finnish, Swedish and English. The museum also houses a small café and museum gift shop. Admission to the museum is free of charge.

Additional information, press material including press photographs as well as the answers to some of the more general questions you may have (FAQ) are found at the museum website: .

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