

National Dialogues

**Sustainable homeland
(or a more detailed title)**

Draft script for dialogue
Duration 120 minutes

**NATIONAL
DIALOGUES**

Instructions for using script

- Plan the dialogue in advance using the script.
- The script supports facilitating the dialogue, do not distribute it to the participants. But do print a copy of the script for yourself after you have modified it to suit yourself.
- The wordings of the script are examples. Edit them to better suit the topic of the dialogue, your target group and for yourself.
- The times are indicative. They are intended to give an idea of how much time to spend on each stage. With the exception of the start and the end, you do not have to follow exact timings.
- You can use your own facilitator competence and, if needed, different facilitation techniques to support the dialogue.
- Decide before the dialogue who will be the notetaker. It is important to take notes of the whole dialogue. The notetaker does not need to edit the notes afterwards. The idea is to record as precisely as possible what was said during the dialogue. The script can help the notetaker to prepare for the dialogue.

READING INSTRUCTIONS:

On the right, tips for the facilitator:

Basic font – say for example this

The Latin font – directions for modifying the script

Bold: change as needed

Minutes	Section
15	Start, principles, attuning
85	Joint conversation (incl. break)
5	Writing insights
10	Sharing insights
5	Conclusion
total 120 minutes	

Start

Welcome to the National Dialogue. Today, our theme is **"Sustainable homeland"**. *Edit this to match the title of your conversation.* The Autumn National Dialogues bring together people living in Finland to discuss the new foundations on which we can build our shared life. Changes in our population, economy, national security and natural environment require us to think and act in new ways. What actions will foster sustainability at local, national and international levels?

I'm XX, and I'm the facilitator of the dialogue today. *Tell the participants how the turns to speak will be distributed.* The purpose is to talk about our own experiences and listen to others' experiences of the topic.

During the dialogue, there may be different views on the theme. That is all right, because the goal is not unanimity. At the end, we will discuss what we have learned or understood during the dialogue.

There is no need to make decisions or seek solutions in the dialogue, but such may emerge during the conversation. The dialogue is confidential.

XX is the notetaker of the dialogue. The notetaker does not write down who said what. The notes are anonymous. All notes from different dialogues will be compiled into a summary report. Individual participants cannot be identified from the notes and the summary.

Let's start with a brief introductions. You can present yourself with your first name and by telling what brought you to this dialogue today.

5 min

The principles of dialogue

1. **Listen** to others and do not interrupt.
2. **Connect** to what others have said.
3. **Share** your own experiences.
4. **Ask** questions to understand more.
5. **Explore** also new and unknown things.

We will use the principles of dialogue. Let's go over them briefly.

The facilitator goes through the five principles that can be found on the left side. It is good to have the principles printed so that the participants can see them during the whole dialogue.

1. Everyone should be allowed to speak in peace. It is important that we do not interrupt one another.
2. Try to relate what you say to the points raised by others during the conversation. However, you don't need to agree on things.
3. To understand the topic and one another better, we should talk about our own experiences. This means that we explain to others what events and situations have shaped our views. We can enrich the conversation by sharing our thoughts, feelings, observations, memories and impressions on the topic.
4. When you want to know more about something, ask the others directly about their points of view.
5. It is important to look for things that have gone unnoticed for one reason or another. We can try to see things together that nobody can see from their own point of view.

Can we commit to these principles together?

All right, let's go on!

5 min

Attuning: introducing the topic

Let's start with the following text (or video, music, pictures etc.)

You can use this text to get ready for the topic, for example:
Our society is on the cusp of major changes. In particular, changes in our population, economy, national security and natural environment require us to think and act in new ways. Amidst these numerous changes, many people living in Finland are wondering which direction our country is heading in. How can we simultaneously ensure care for the elderly and job opportunities for young people? Will our public services continue to function well? How can we maintain security and peace in a world of prevailing conflicts? Will we succeed in adapting to climate change and halting biodiversity loss?

We need a new kind of society that is more sustainable. This society must be sustainable for all people and for the natural world around us. It must also be resilient in the face of crises while remaining humane and hopeful. Such a sustainable Finland can only be built by working together.

You can use a topical article, news, research, song, or other material that fits your group of participants and uses it to stimulate conversation. Or you can edit the text to suit the group of participants.

2 min

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You can edit the questions in the dialogue so that they are better suited for the group of participants.

Attuning: in pairs

Divide the group into couples, clearly tell who's with whom. If there are only three people in the group, you can discuss the first thoughts among the whole group.

Discuss your experiences. Make sure that both of you have time to express your thoughts.

Share with the pair of you a personal experience – a thought, a feeling, an image – that the introduction sparked in you regarding a sustainable homeland?

Or alternatively:

Tell your partner about a recent personal experience or situation that has made you reflect on issues relating to sustainability from a particular perspective.

This will take three minutes. You can start...
... it's time to stop.

3 min

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Joint conversation

Briefly describe what you both were talking about and what kinds of experiences arose.

Who will start and tell what you were talking about?

What other experiences emerged?

-> At this stage, it is good asking each participant something. This sends a message that everyone's participation in the dialogue is important. Dialogue may be freer in future

Thank you everyone. You highlighted at least the following:
compile some of the themes that have emerged.

20 min

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You can edit the questions to suit your group, region or organisation. After the question, make use of the possibility of self-reflection or discussing in pairs, if necessary.

Joint conversation continues

Try to collect the issues that come up from the participants and ask additional questions based on them. It is good to let the dialogue flow at its own weight and avoid turning it into an interview.

Possible additional questions:

- **What issues give cause for concern when it comes to sustainability?**
- **What seems promising and encouraging?**
- **What is needed to make Finland a sustainable country for everyone who lives here?**
- **What actions are helping to build sustainability right now?**

65 min, incl. possible break

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Writing insights

Our dialogue is now coming to an end. I want to hear what has been meaningful and relevant for you in our conversation.

Write on your own piece of paper a few insights, feelings or ideas that have been important to you in this dialogue. We collect these insights to support the notes from our dialogue. As said before individual persons cannot be identified from the notes.

Take a few minutes to write. Then select one of your insights, thoughts, or feelings that you want to share with us here.

5 min

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Sharing insights

Let's start with you. What has been important in this discussion?

→ *Select a person who is likely to be ready to share his or her insight.*

Finally, I would like to hear from you what subjects should be discussed in the National dialogues in the future?

→ *Have a brief discussion with the participants on what topics they consider important in the future?*

10 min

Conclusion

Now we are ready to conclude the conversation.

The dialogue was confidential, so don't tell what the other participants said without their permission. You can share your thoughts and feelings and, in general, the themes that came up in the dialogue.

If you wish, you can tell about your participation in this dialogue, for example on social media. You can use the hashtag #NationalDialogues.

The notes of this dialogue will be used, together with the notes of other dialogues, as material for the summary report on the National Dialogues. The report will be submitted for discussion within the government to the steering group of the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, to a meeting of the highest-ranking officials in the ministries (i.e., permanent secretaries), and to the Ministerial Group on Social Reform.

Thank you for the dialogue!

5 min

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What happens next?

The core group of the National Dialogues receives the notes from the dialogue.

Submitting the notes for the joint resume will increase the impact of the dialogues. They will be part of the national summary and all those organisers who have been involved can use the summary report to support their own work.

The team operating in connection with the core group reads all notes carefully and draws up a national summary based on them, which will be published on the [National dialogues' website](#).

For the organiser:

Thank you for organising the dialogue!

Thank you for participating in the National Dialogues. We hope the dialogue was a good experience for you and the participants. One of the objectives of the National Dialogues is to develop the dialogue competence of different actors and citizens in the society.

Dialogue is an opportunity to deepen understanding, learn the skills of constructive discussion, stop and listen to the experiences of others and get to share their own, even preliminary, thoughts with others.