

## World Figure Skating Championships in Helsinki, Mar. 29 – Apr. 2, 2017



*The Finnish Figure Skating Association will host the World Figure Skating Championships during the centenary year of Finland's independence. The competition will take place in Hartwall Arena in late March - early April. Helsinki last hosted the World Figure Skating Championships in 1999 and the European Figure Skating Championships in 2009. The World Synchronized Skating Championships were skated in Helsinki Ice Hall in 2011, where two years later the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships also took place. The President of the Republic of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, is the Patron of the Championships.*

*Figure skating enjoys worldwide popularity, and an estimated 65,000 spectators are expected to attend the event in Hartwall Arena. Along with Finns, the largest audiences will come from Japan and North America. The five-day event will also have extensive media visibility: Hundreds of media representatives will attend the event and an estimated 300 million viewers will be watching the competition on TV. The Finnish Broadcasting Company Yleisradio has the television rights of the event. The World Championships will be the most important sporting event in the metropolitan area during Finland's centenary celebration year.*

*The 2017 World Championships are especially significant in the figure skating world, because the event will also largely determine the number of entries for each country at the 2018 Winter Olympics. Many top skaters will be making a comeback in Helsinki in hopes of repeating their previous Olympic success. According to preliminary information, among these athletes are Italy's Carolina Kostner and Canadian ice dancers Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir. Some 200 of the world's best figure skaters will be seen in Helsinki in the spring.*

*Finland can field up to one entry in each discipline in the World Championships. The Finnish representatives for the competition will be selected in the spring according to specific criteria.*

*The international Finlandia Trophy competition, which will be held October 6-9 in Espoo, will give a taste of the world-class competition and atmosphere. With all disciplines represented - pair skating is included for the first time - Finlandia Trophy will serve as an introductory competition for the coming Worlds.*

Mila Kajas-Virtanen, Communications & Media Manager,  
World Figure Skating Championships 2017  
+358 40 530 54 00

Henri Nordenswan, Secretary General,  
World Figure Skating Championships 2017  
+358 50 531 9171

[www.helsinki2017.com](http://www.helsinki2017.com)

Facebook helsinki2017

Instagram helsinki2017

Twitter helsinki\_2017

#helsinki2017 #skatingfinland