



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

This year, the Finnish Lifeboat Institution celebrates 125 years of commendable work. Voluntary lifeboat activities began when the first voluntary lifeboat station was established on Suursaari island in 1857. The Finnish Lifeboat Institution was founded 40 years later.

Today, the member associations of the Finnish Lifeboat Institution maintain 60 lifeboat stations on the coast and inland waters from Hanko to Inari. Around 1,500 trained lifeboat crew members are involved.

The duties of the volunteer lifeboat crews have grown steadily over the last ten years. Activities include rescue and relief missions, patrols, on-call duty and training. Volunteer service has helped countless people in need. In recent years, the pandemic and warm weather has led to an increase in the popularity of boating and there have been a historically large number of lifeboat rescue missions, over 2,000 a year. Some of the missions involve an immediate danger to life.

Everyone can contribute to boating safety by acting responsibly on the water. Attitude is important. The Finnish Lifeboat Institution has done admirable preventive work by disseminating information on maritime safety and training boating enthusiasts.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the activities of the Finnish Lifeboat Institution for their valuable volunteer work for the good of those who use our waterways. The value to society of the work of volunteer lifeboat crews is immeasurably high.

I congratulate the Finnish Lifeboat Institution on its 125th anniversary and wish you success in your important work!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sauli Niinistö".

Sauli Niinistö  
President of the Republic of Finland  
Patron of the Finnish Lifeboat Institution's 125th anniversary year