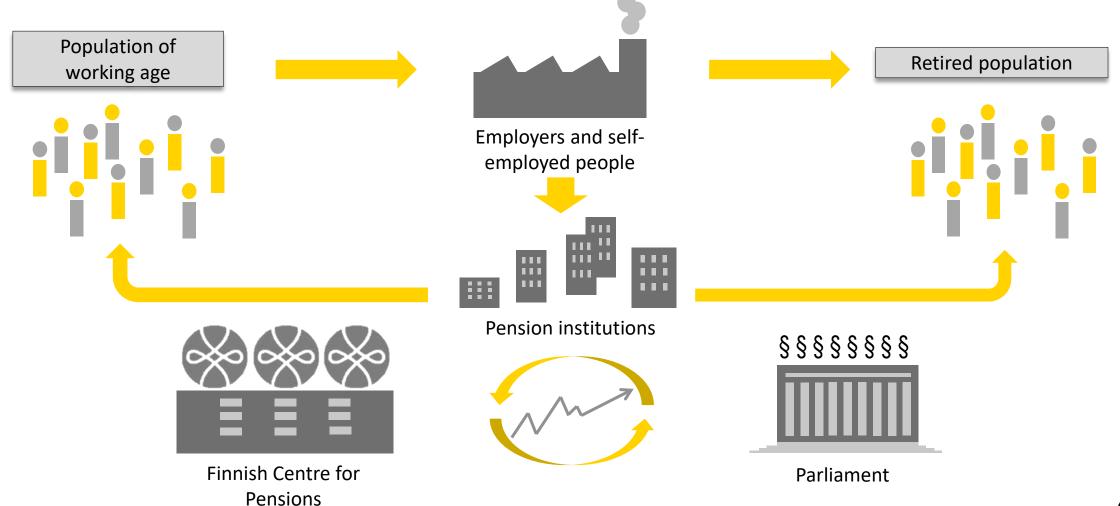
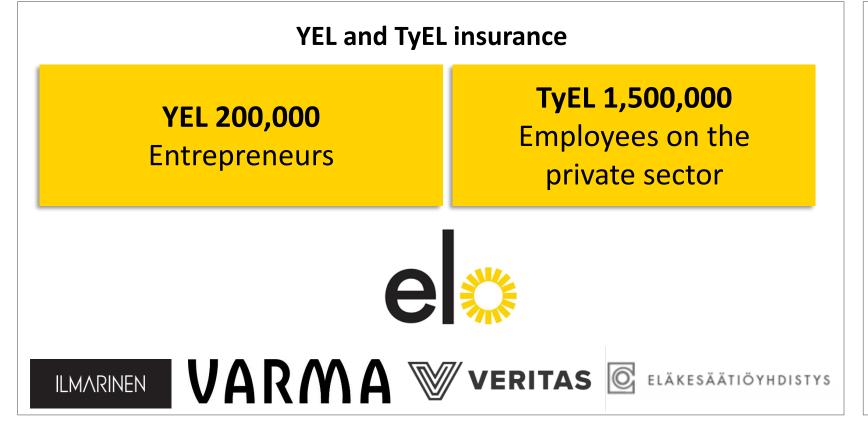


## The employment pension system in Finland





## **Employment pension market in Finland**



## **Others** JuEL 700,000 Public sector MEL 6,000 Sailors MYEL 70,000 Agricultural entrepreneur



#### What is YEL insurance?

- A self-employed person insures themselves with a pension insurance known as YEL insurance
- Insurance is mandatory when the self-employed person meets the eligibility criteria under the Pensions Act
- The social security of a self-employed person is based on YEL earned income
- The self-employed person is responsible for taking the YEL insurance and is personally responsible for paying the insurance premiums.





#### **Contents**

- Principles of YEL insurance and identifying a self-employed person eligible for YEL
- 2 Definition of YEL earned income
- 3 Effects of earned YEL income
- (4) Insurance in practice





## YEL is for people who

- are 18–68 years of age, and
- earn income, but are not in an employment relationship or hold an office or other post governed by public law, and
- Entrepreneurial activity has lasted at least four months
  - without interruptions during which:
- their YEL earned income at an annual level has been at least EUR 8,261.71 (2022)





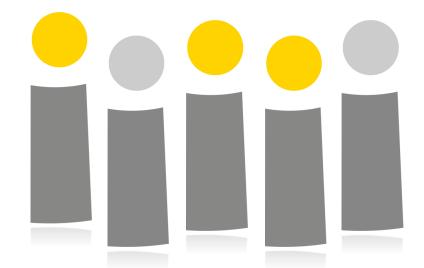
## Age limits for YEL insurance

#### The lower limit is 18 years of age

The obligation to take out insurance starts from the beginning of the month following the person's 18th birthday

#### Upper limits:

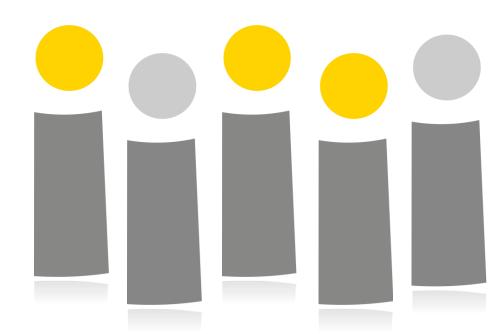
- 68 years for people born in 1957 and earlier
- 69 years for people born between 1958 and 1961
- 70 years for people born in 1962 and later
- The obligation to take out insurance ends at the end of the month the person reaches the upper age limit





# A self-employed person | Earns income without being in an employment relationship or holding an office or other post governed by public law

- Typical characteristics
- Works without an employment contract
- Works on their own account without supervision and management
- Can choose their working hours and location freely
- Owns the production inputs and tools
- Ties capital to the operations
- Exposes themselves to the risk of loss
- Owns any profit generated





#### **SOLE PROPRIETOR OR SELF-EMPLOYED PERSON**

- sole proprietor or self-employed person
- a family member, if they are not paid a salary

• family members, if they are paid

#### **GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**

all partners

#### LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

active partners

• silent partners, if they are paid a salary

#### LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

- a managerial position and sole ownership of over 30% of the shares or votes granted by the them
- a managerial position and ownership together with family members of over 50% of the shares or votes granted by them
- non-managerial position and sole ownership of a maximum of 30% of the shares or votes granted by them
- non-managerial position or ownership together with family members of a maximum of 50% of the shares or votes granted by them



## According to YEL, a family member

- Lives in the same household with the self-employed person
- Is a direct ascendant or descendant of the self-employed person or their spouse
- Is the self-employed person's adopted child or spouse
- Also an unmarried partner is considered a family member, even if the couple has no children
- Siblings are not considered each others' family members, even if they live in the same household



## **Managerial position**

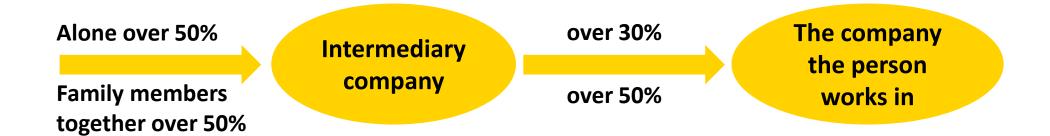
- Actual member of the Board of Directors
- CEO
- Other person operating in a managerial position
- The right to sign on behalf of the company (procuration)
- Small family-owned businesses
- Usually all owners are considered to hold a managerial position
- Authorisation to make commitments on behalf of the company





## **Indirect ownership**

- The calculation of the share of ownership which a person has of a company also takes into account indirect ownership via other entities or consortia.
- Owns more than half of an intermediary company or has an equivalent control of the company, either alone or with family members





## Entrepreneurial activities without a business ID

(so-called light entrepreneurship)

- A YEL insurance can also be taken even if the self-employed person has no valid business ID
- People working through invoicing service companies should be insured with YEL insurance, if the other conditions for insuring the person are met.





## Discount for a beginning entrepreneur

- A first-time entrepreneur gets a 22% discount off the insurance premium for the first 48 months.
- If the first entrepreneurial period does not use all discount months, they will be available in the next insurance period. However, discount months remaining after the second entrepreneurial period will not be transferred further.





## YEL insurance premiums 2022

#### **Payment percentages**

<ul> <li>a self-employed person 18–52 years of age</li> <li>A first-time entrepreneur</li> </ul>	24.10% 18.798%
<ul> <li>a self-employed person 53–62 years of age</li> <li>A first-time entrepreneur</li> </ul>	25.60% 19.968%
<ul> <li>A self-employed person, 63 years of age or older</li> <li>A first-time entrepreneur</li> </ul>	24.10% 18.798%

#### **Earned income limits**

<ul><li>Lower limit</li><li>Upper limit</li></ul>	EUR 8,261.71 EUR 187,625
Unemployment security	EUR 13,573



## Tax-deductibility of YEL insurance premiums

- YEL insurance premiums are completely deductible in taxation
- Payments personally paid by the self-employed person are deducted from personal taxes
- The deduction is family-specific: also the spouse can deduct the premiums from their earned income
- Premiums paid by a company are deducted from the company's taxes
- The actual payer of the premiums is not significant,
   what matters is the party recorded as a payer for the insurance



**Definition of earned income** 



#### **Definition of YEL earned income**

"Earned income is the salary that should be reasonably paid if the self-employed person had to hire another person to perform the entrepreneurial operations referred to in this Act, with the person having the same level of professional skill or the compensation that could be otherwise considered to correspond to the said work."

YEL section 112, subsection 1



### Determining the correct level of earned income

- The amount of earned income must correspond to the entrepreneur's work input in the company
  - This amount must correspond to the salary which the entrepreneur would pay to an equally skilled worker to replace them.
- The earned income must be in line with the average level in the industry
  - For example, the Your Guide to Earnings-related Pensions 2020 of the Finnish Centre for Pensions can be used as an aid in determining the earned income.
- Earned income is influenced by the number of hours worked, turnover of the company and possible seasonal nature of the operations.
- Earned income is determined at an annual level also when the insurance is valid for only a part of the year. The insurance premium is paid for the period of validity of the insurance
- If a person has more than one company, a single YEL insurance cover all YEL-eligible activities of the entrepreneur and the earned income is calculated as the sum of all such activities.

## **Confirming the YEL earned income**

- The pension company confirms the earned income at the beginning of the insurance
- The pension company issues a written decision on the confirmation of the earned income
- The decision can be appealed against in 30 days (+7 mail carrying days) from the issuance date
- Confirmed earned income cannot be changed retroactively



## Example of determining the right level of earned income



#### **Person A**

- A physician who has established a private clinic
- A total of approximately
   20 hours of patient appointments per week
- The set-up costs of the clinic impact its profitability in the beginning
- The company's first financial year shows a loss or EUR 500,000



#### **Person B**

- A physician who owns a private clinic
- Participates in an annual general meeting once a year
- The company's financial year shows a positive result or EUR 2,000,000
- The entrepreneur is paid EUR 500,000 as dividends



## Example of determining the right level of earned income



#### **Person A**

According to the Finnish Centre for Pensions (ETK), the earned income of a general practitioner is determined as follows:

Patient appointment hours per week x EUR 3,150

- = 20 h x EUR 3,150
- = earned income EUR 63,000/year



Person obligated to take out YEL insurance



#### **Person B**

Working hours as a self-employed person: 0 hours

- = 0 x the value of any work
- = earned income EUR 0/year



Not obligated to take a YEL insurance



## Average YEL earned income 2013–2018

YEL-insured persons by earned	income			
		Both genders	Men	Women
	2013	23,869	24,995	21,615
Confirmed YEL earned income with 2018 wage coefficient	2014	23,827	24,960	21,558
	2015	23,607	24,670	21,486
	2016	23,286	24,307	21,261
	2017	22,632	23,642	20,644
	2018	22074	23073	20127



**Effects of earned YEL income** 



## Difference between social security of a self-employed person and employee







### **Effects of earned YEL income**

#### **Pension security**

Old-age pension

Disability pensions, vocational rehabilitation

Partial early old-age pension and career pension

Survivors' pension

#### **Social security**

Sickness allowance

Maternity, paternity and parental allowance

Special maternity allowance

#### **Unemployment security**

Earnings-related unemployment allowance

Basic unemployment allowance

**Accident** 



## A self-employed person's pension provides pension security for entrepreneurs

- Old-age pension
- Disability pension
- Employment pension rehabilitation
- Partial early old-age pension (age limit 61 years)
- Career pension (age limit 63 years)
- Survivors' pension





## Accumulation of pension during the entrepreneurial activity as of 1 Jan 2017

Obligation to take insurance  18 years of age	53–63 years of age*	63–68/69/70 years of age
1.5%/year	1.7%/year	1.5%/year

Entrepreneurial activity insured alongside pension accumulates pension 1.5% per year

\* The transitional rule will be in effect until 31 Dec 2025

A postponement increase of 0.4% per month for the period the person remains at work even after having reached the lowest age limit for old-age pension



#### The effect of YEL earned income on Kela benefits

- Kela calculates the daily allowances according to the entrepreneur's annual income. The
  calculation of the annual income of the entrepreneur is based on the YEL earned income. The
  annual income is calculated from the 12 calendar months preceding the calendar month prior
  to the start of entitlement to the benefit.
- If the amount of YEL earned income has changed during the 12 months under review, the
  average earned income is taken into account. If the self-employed person is in paid
  employment in addition to their entrepreneurial activity, both the earned income and the YEL
  earned income are taken into account in the annual income.



YEL earned income cannot be changed retroactively, so it is of utmost importance to keep the YEL income at the correct level for the duration of the entrepreneurial activities.

The 6-month rule that was in force until 31 December 2019 was abolished without a transitional period



## Sickness allowance for a self-employed person

- Kela pays a sickness allowance for 6 days in a week
- Eligibility for sickness allowance begins when disability has lasted for the duration of the day the person fell ill
- The YEL insurance must have been valid on the day when the disability began
- Must be applied for in two months after the disability began





## Self-employed person's unemployment security

- The lowest YEL earned income that makes a person eligible for unemployment security is EUR 13,247 per year in 2021
- If the earned income is less than EUR 13,573, the self-employed person cannot join an unemployment fund nor obtain a basic unemployment allowance from Kela.

The working hours condition must also be met in order for a person to be eligible for unemployment allowance

- ✓ Work as a self-employed person for a minimum of 15 months in the last four years.
- ✓ The earned income for the corresponding period must amount to at least EUR 13,573.
- ✓ To be eligible for earnings-related allowance the person must have been a member of an unemployment fund for a corresponding 15 months



## Self-employed person's unemployment benefits

### Means-tested benefit

#### **Earnings-related**

#### unemployment allowance

- Requires membership of an unemployment fund
- Earnings-related benefit
- The employment condition is fulfilled
- To be applied from the unemployment fund

#### **Basic unemployment**

#### allowance

- The employment condition is fulfilled
- Average benefit
   EUR 726/month EUR/month
- To be applied from Kela

#### **Labour market subsidy**

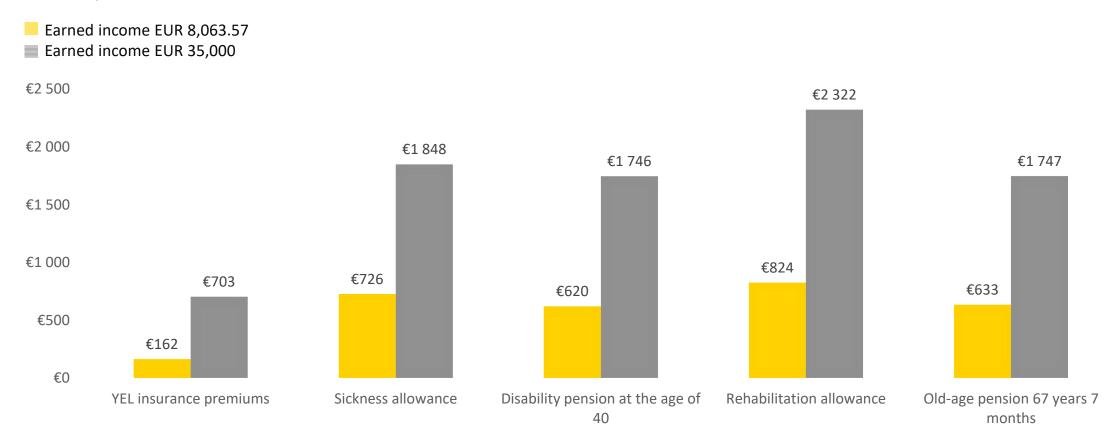
- Not subject to condition on working
- Average benefit
   EUR 726/month
- To be applied from Kela

Subject to condition on working: Working as an entrepreneur for at least 15 months during the 48 months preceding unemployment, during which time YEL insurance earned income has been at least EUR 13,573 per year (2022).



## Example of the impact of the YEL earned income level on different benefits

Entrepreneurial activities commence at the age of 30 (born in 1991), an employment pension of EUR 300 per month accrued



<sup>\*</sup>Figures are reported and calculated at the level of 2021



### Use the YEL calculator to determine earned income

#### www.elo.fi

YEL-LASKURI På svenska In English

Kokeile YEL-laskurilla, miten YEL-työtulo vaikuttaa eläkkeesi määrään ja vakuutusmaksuusi.

Syötä omat tietosi				
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11.9.1999	巤			
	äjätoiminnan ensimmäistä kertaa, saat YEL- uun 22 %:n alennuksen ensimmäisen neljän vuoden			
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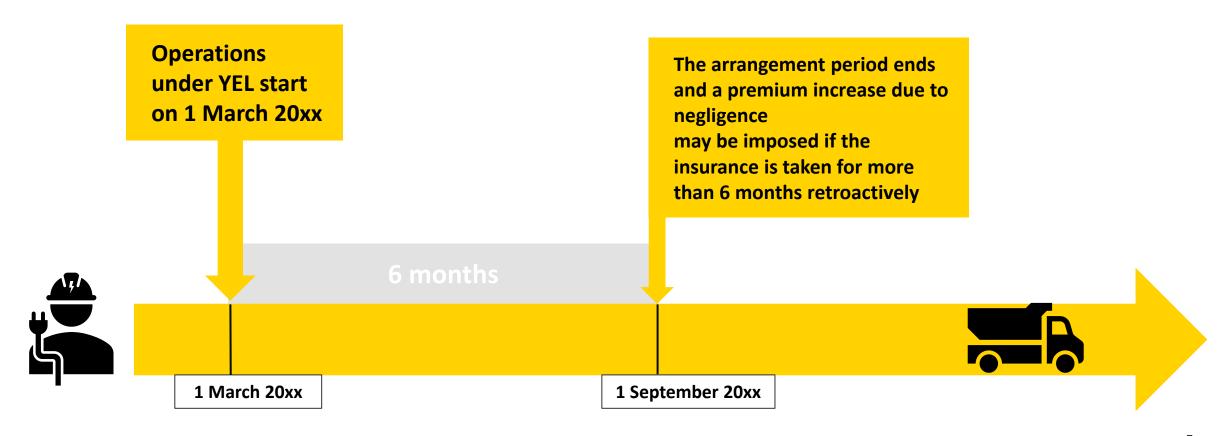
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**Insurance in practice** 



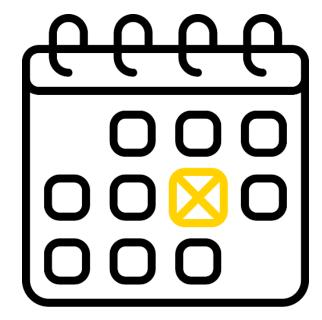
### Beginning of a YEL insurance





### **Beginning of a YEL insurance**

- The YEL insurance starts from the date the value of the selfemployed person's work input exceeds the minimum limit for YEL earned income at an annual level. In practice, it means that the value of the entrepreneur's work input is approximately EUR 690/month or more
- The insurance can be taken retroactively for the current year and three preceding years
- YEL insurance must be taken out within 6 months of starting entrepreneurial activity
- If the insurance is taken out too late, the insurance premium may be increased following the instructions from the Finnish Centre for Pensions (ETK)





### YEL insurance is supervised

- One of the tasks of the Finnish Centre for Pensions is to supervise employment pension insurance.
- Tax information is commonly used as a source of information, on the basis of which
  the Finnish Centre for Pensions approaches persons who can be considered to work as
  entrepreneurs and have such work volumes that insurance must be taken out in
  accordance with the legislation, but the persons do not have YEL insurance.
- If no insurance is taken out or the person does not submit a report on the matter, the Finnish Centre for Pensions may decide on taking out an enforced insurance and take out YEL insurance on behalf of the person retroactively.
- In this case, the entrepreneur will have to pay the insurance premiums retroactively for the period of time stipulated by law as well as a premium increase due to negligence. It is not possible for an entrepreneur to get a discount for a beginning entrepreneur on enforced insurance.



Hae asiakastiedot **Omat Asiakkaat** Materiaalit **Uutiset** 16.12.2019 | Laskujemme ulkoasu Y-tunnus/Henkilötunnus muuttuu Y-tunnus/Henkilötunnus Hae 29.11.2019 | Elo ja Eezy yhteistyöhön 🗸 YEL-vakuutushakemukset TyEL-vakuutushakemukset Verkkopalvelusopimus 25.11.2019 | Uusia työkykyjohtamisen 🗸 mittareita lisätty Elon verkkopalveluun Tee TyEL-tarjous Tee YEL-tarjous 25.11.2019 | Sähköinen YELvakuutushakemus uudistui **ENNAKOI TYÖKYVYTTÖMYYSRISKIT** Elon verkkopalvelun hyödyt JA JOHDA TIEDOLLA - ELON VERKKOPALVELUSSA. 22.11.2019 | Huoltokatko Elon Tutustu tästä Elon verkkopalvelun hyötyihin. Eion Verkkopalvelu tarjoaa yrityksen HR:lie työkalut, Jotka auttavat ennakolmaan, ehkäisemään ja hallitsemaan yrityksen verkkopalveluissa 23.11. klo 7-16 työkyvyttömyysriskejä ja niistä aiheutuvia kuluja. > Avaa 21.11.2019 | Elon Fiilismittari poistetaan käytöstä Mickylphtemiers have Ana ajantaniser Seider yrigeaseouromisen ja ytypogroomaan mejarytis one tyleinididdisem jarikuskoolisutusia ja ankohri sutaan turub, attaa kyleijojohantaan ja jarikuskoolisutusia jarik maila mittareita voidaan arviolda enna taahkii se-



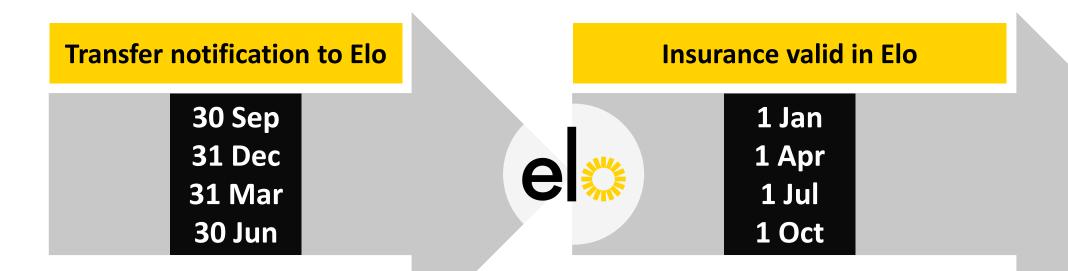
# Information required for the YEL application

- Self-employed person's personal identification number, business ID and start date of business activity
- Contact details of the self-employed person and the company and any other invoicing address
- YEL earned income and its grounds
- Number of instalments requested
- Payer information (entrepreneur or company)





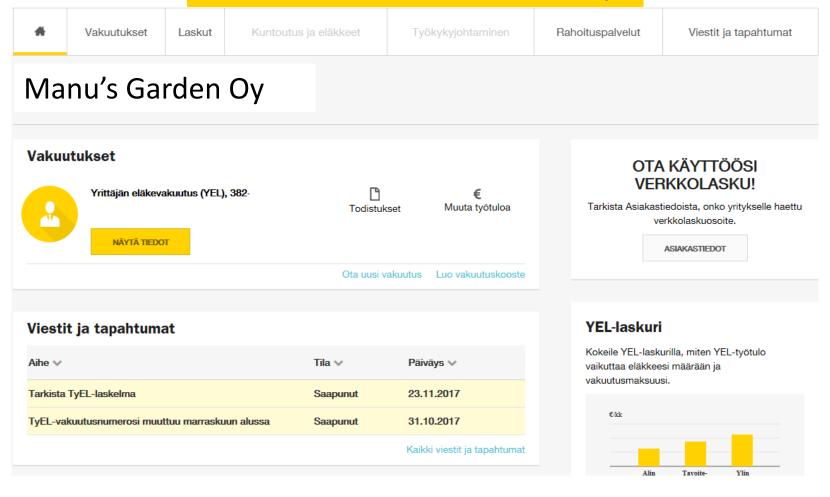
### Transferring the pension insurance



- The insurance can be transferred from one company to another, when the insurance has been valid in one company for at least a year before the transfer.
- The insurance must be terminated in the other company three months before the desired transfer date.



# The demo of ELO's online service can be found on the electronic desktop

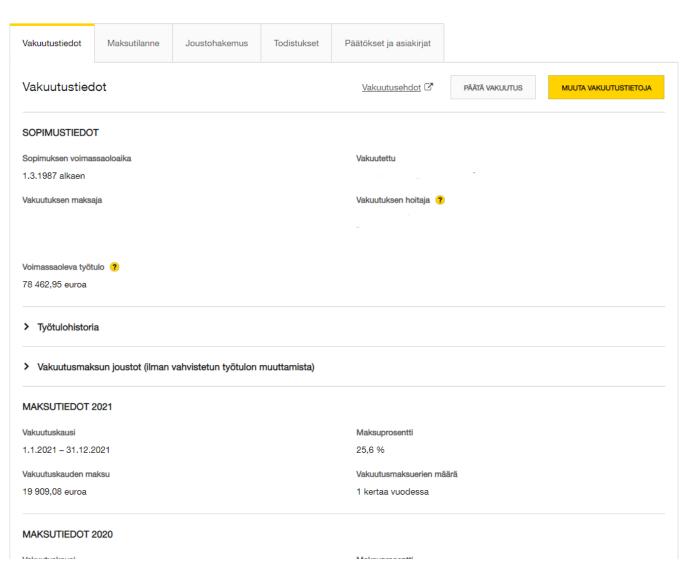




#### Vakuutukset

#### Voimassaolevat vakuutukset

Vakuutus	Vakuutettu
TyEL-vakuutus	MUUT KUIN MÄÄRÄAIKAISET
TyEL-vakuutus	MÄÄRÄAIKAISET
YEL-vakuutus	<b>→</b>

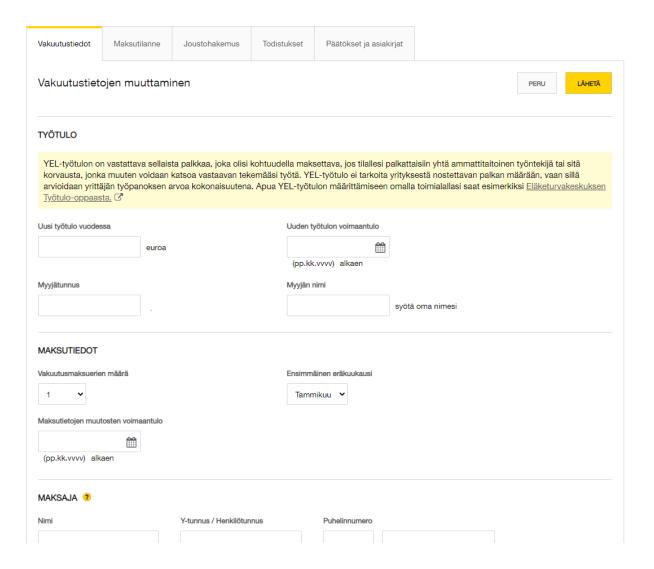




You can edit the insurance details in the Insurance details tab by selecting "Change insurance details" or "End insurance"

#### The information you can edit are:

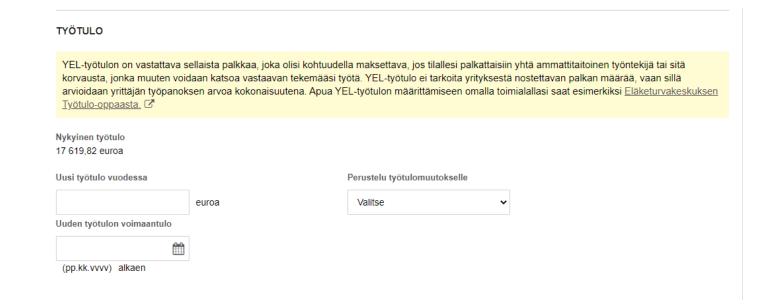
- Earned income
- Number of instalments
- First instalment month
- Terminating the insurance
- Insurance paid by





### **Changing earned income**

- Earned income can be changed from the date of notification onwards, not retroactively
- A self-employed person must ensure that the earned income remains at the correct level

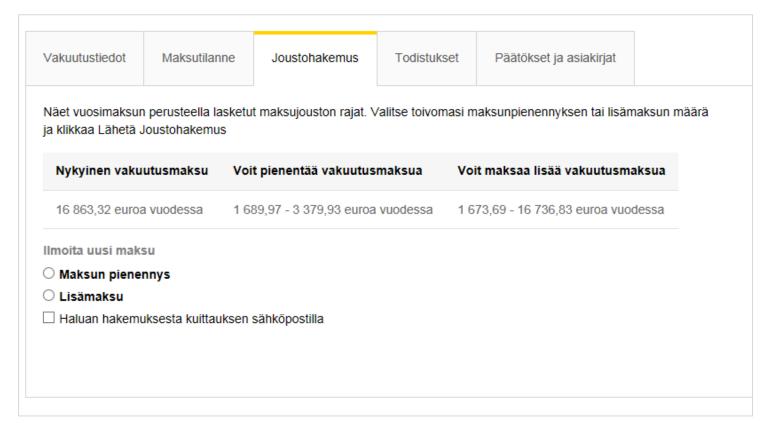


 Each year, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health confirms a salary coefficient by which earned income is automatically adjusted at the turn of the year.
 However, the effect of the salary coefficient is moderate, and its purpose is to make earned income follow general trends.



### Adjusting earned income

- A self-employed person can adjust their earned income 10–20% downwards or 10–100% upwards
- The adjusted earned income may not fall below the minimum limit or exceed the maximum limit
- The adjustment affects the overall earned income based on which the pension is determined, but does not affect social security.





### Terminating the insurance

The insurance will terminate on the date the obligation to take a YEL insurance ends
 The obligation can terminate for several reasons

- The business operations simply cease entirely
- The business operations do not cease, but as the amount of work falls, earned income falls below the statutory minimum
- The person's ownership in a limited liability company falls below the statutory requirements
- If the insurance is terminated retroactively, unduly paid premiums will be refunded to the customer
- The insurance will not terminate automatically when the company form changes, but you should check whether you still belong to the scope of YEL

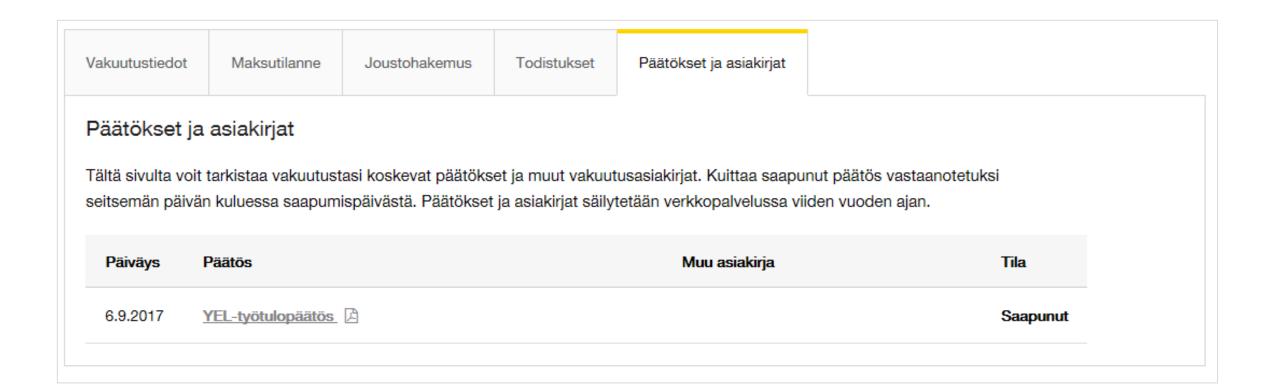


### **Certificates**

Vakuutustiedot	Maksutilanne	Joustohakemus	Todistukset	Päätökset ja asiakirjat				
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Voimassaolo- ja maksutodistus (pdf)  ☑			Todistus maksetuis	Todistus maksetuista maksuista, vuosi 2020 (pdf)  ☑				
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Tulosteet								
Tuloste maksutilanteesta								



### **Decisions and documents**







## Thank you!













@tyoelakeyhtioelo