

Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU 2019 Sustainable meeting arrangements

Summary of calculations of greenhouse gas emissions

EU2019.FI

Background

- > During its Presidency of the Council of the EU, Finland aimed to promote sustainable meeting practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts.
- > The Secretariat for Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU carried out a calculation with Gaia – Consultancy for Sustainable Business to find out how sustainable choices affected the generation of greenhouse gas emissions.
- > The Secretariat also wanted to find out the scale of how much the sustainable meeting practices reduced emissions compared to standard meeting practices.

Scenarios and data sources

Scenario A

- Based on standard meeting arrangements
- 300 meetings, including 10 ministerial meetings organised in different cities
- Total number of guests 36 000

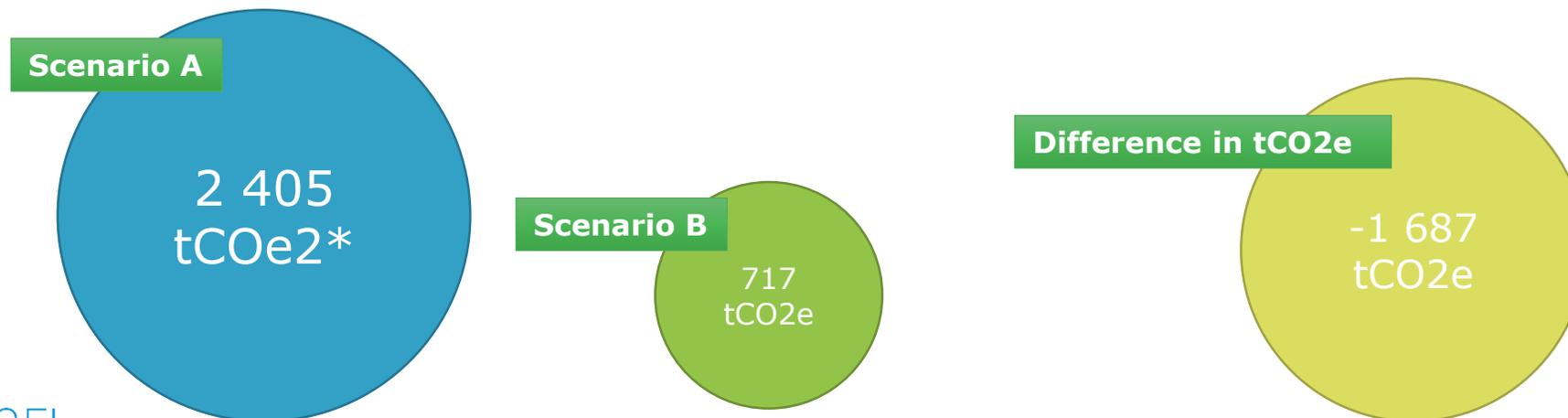
Scenario B

- Data based on Finland's Presidency in 2019 when concrete actions were made to reduce climate impacts
- 130 meetings, including 7 ministerial meetings in Helsinki
- Total number of guests 16 000

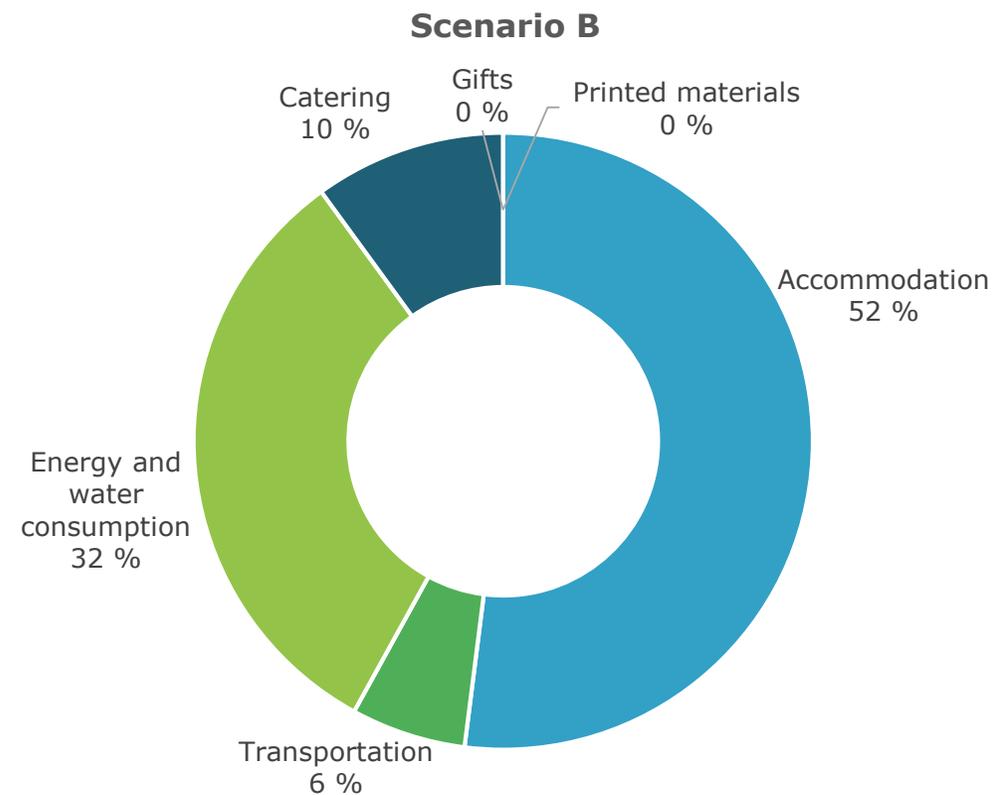
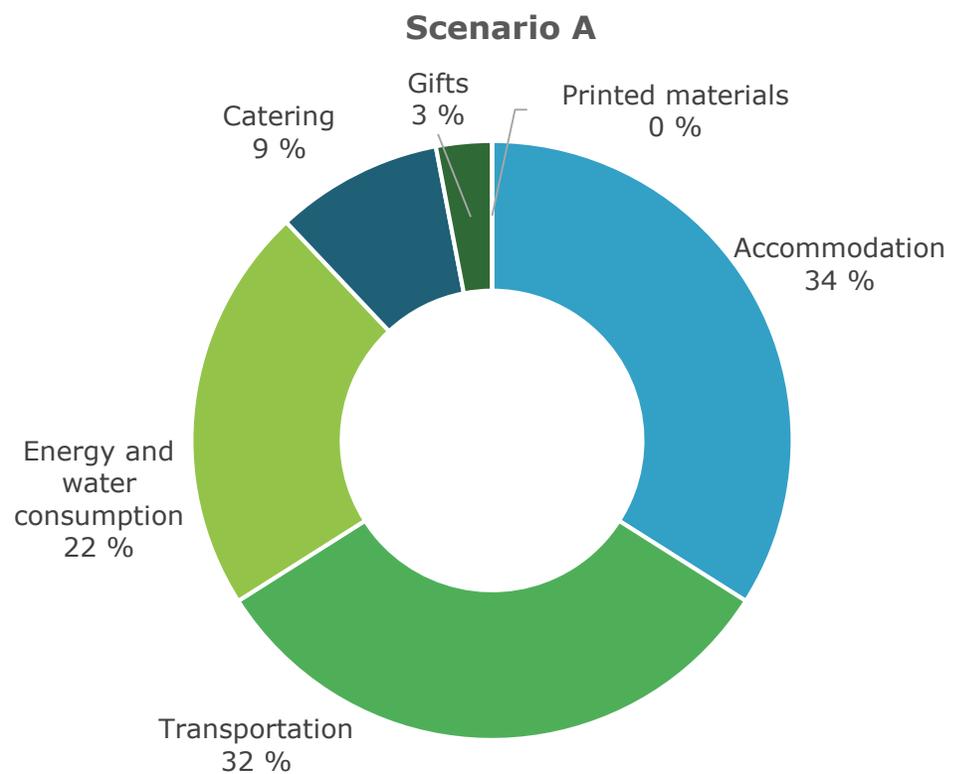
- > Most of the data used in the calculations are based on actual data received from the Presidency Secretariat (e.g. catering, energy and fuel consumption, prints).
- > In many cases, input data for Scenario A was calculated by multiplying the input data for Scenario B with the ratio of the number of meetings in scenarios A and B (2 308).

Results of the calculation

- > Scenario B, based on current meeting arrangements, managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% compared to Scenario A.
- > The main reason for the reduced emissions is the number of meetings organised (-41%)
- > However, the sustainable meeting arrangements, such as the use of biofuels, and digital solutions, cut the carbon footprint by approximately 29%.

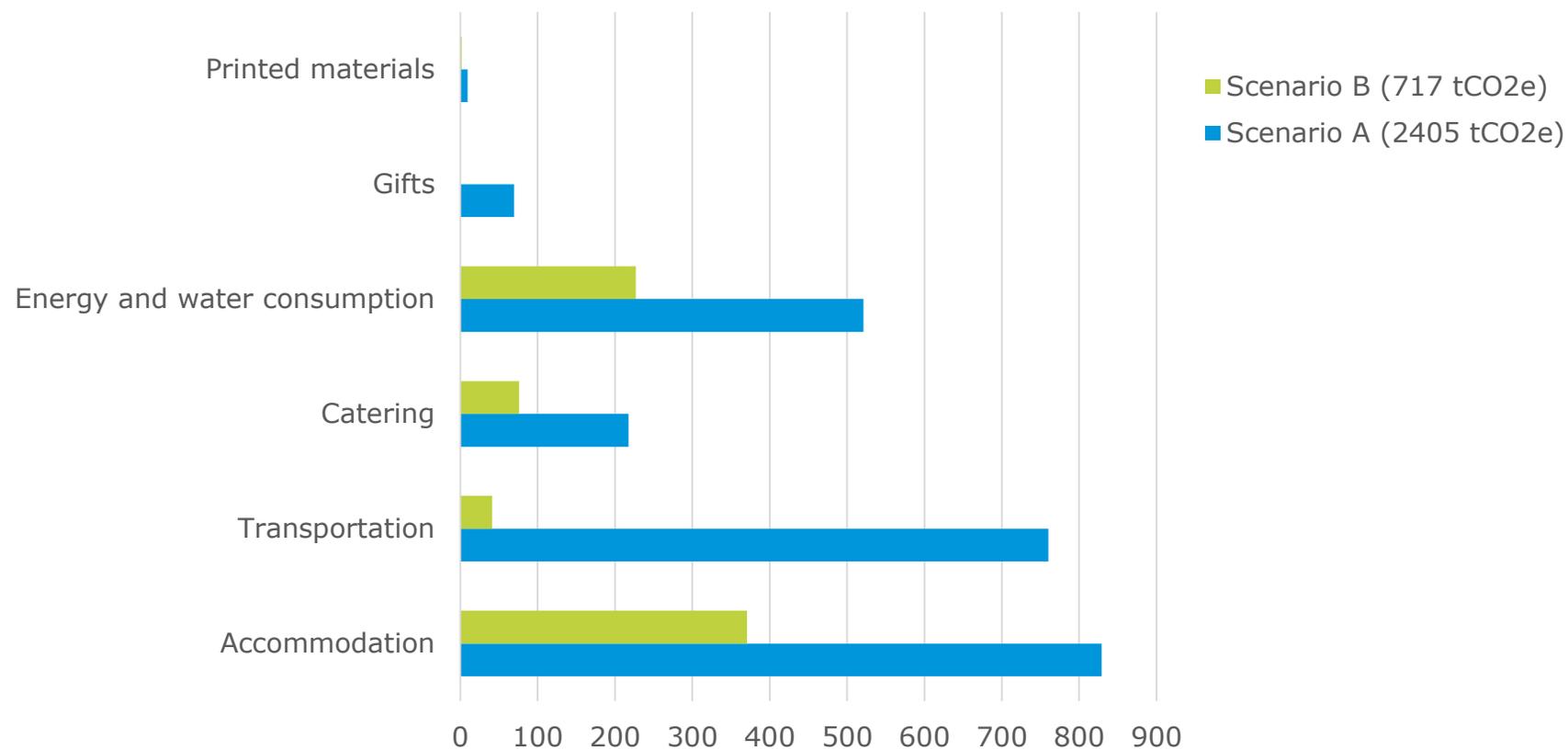


Results of the calculation

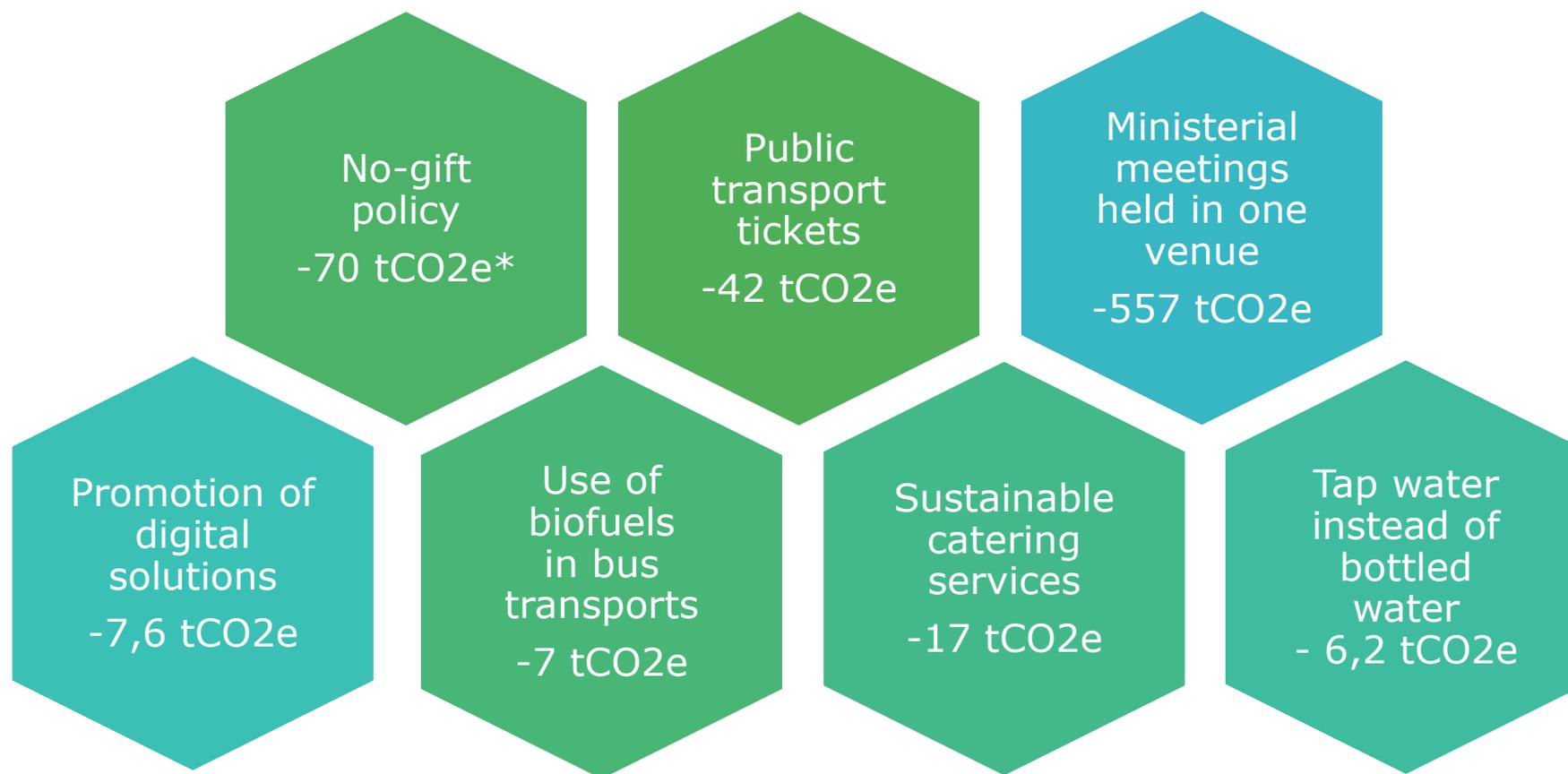


Results of the calculation

Greenhouse gas emissions from Presidency meeting arrangements



Climate impacts of sustainable choices in Scenario B



Data sources and assumptions

- > The calculations were mainly based on actual data. However, when actual data were unavailable, some assumptions had to be made based on previous experiences.
- > It should be noted, therefore, that the impact estimates are not based on data that 100% reflects the actual activities.
- > Nevertheless, the results can be used as indications of the magnitude of impacts and in understanding **what kinds of decisions can have the greatest impacts on reducing emissions.**

Data sources and assumptions

- > The assumptions were based on information from the Presidency Secretariat:
 - > The number of hotel nights was assumed to be **1.46 nights/guest** in both scenarios.
 - > As for mobility, guests using HSL tickets were assumed to make **2 one-way trips during their stay in Helsinki.**
 - > One guest was assumed to consume **3.2 meals** in both scenarios.
 - > **Tie or scarf, cotton bag, notebook and pen** were assumed to be traditional presidency gifts.
- > Emission factors were not available in all cases or the factors were only estimates
 - > For example, the emission factor for game meat was not available or the hotel sustainability certificates could not be taken into account

EU2019.FI