

## **VISIO Festival proposes a law initiative for more liberal alcohol consumption regulations, and sets up a bar area following non-profit principles for the festival.**

A team comprised of VISIO ry. members has proposed a citizen initiative for the removal of 85 § of the Alcohol Act, and sets up a bar area following non-profit principles for the festival.

VISIO Festival 2019 was planning to allow visitors to bring their own drinks to the festival area, but that was unfortunately not allowed due to Finnish Alcohol Act 85 §, which unambiguously prohibits the consumption of alcohol in public events. We were pressured by authorities, that the event could be cancelled if the guests were allowed to bring their own drinks to the event. We then decided to set up a bar area following non-profit principles with prices that are easy on the pocket, removing the need to carry warm beer during hot summer nights.

VISIO Festival 2019 alcohol serving will be arranged via non-profit principles, offering high quality products for an affordable price. Beer for 2,5 €, wine & sparkling for 3 €, along with other inexpensive products. As festival organizers, we want to ensure that everyone can enjoy the event regardless of their financial situation. The new bar concept for VISIO Festival 2019 is planned in co-operation possible by our partners Vingruppen, Crafters Premium Gin, Kraken Rum, Galipette Cider, Nudist Drinks & others.

Individual freedom and accessibility are core values for VISIO. We haven't felt the need to force people into a bar area, but rather let them enjoy the event freely and leisurely, even while enjoying alcoholic beverages. Every year we work toward creating an equal opportunity for everyone to attend the event, and the first batch of festival ticket prices are set as low as possible, so that anyone willing may purchase. For this reason we felt the need to allow the audience to bring their own drinks. From the festival's side we hope for continuity, which in this case means taking all stakeholders into consideration.

Along with the new bar concept, a team comprised of VISIO ry. members has proposed a citizen initiative for the removal of 85 § of the Alcohol Act. The team and initiative supporting VISIO ry. find no justifiable reason for keeping Alcohol Act 85 § in the Finnish law. It is seen as a detriment to individual freedom, and preventing the realization of new service concepts, as well as an opposing force to the mission to reduce standardization, which has been a common theme in recent societal discourse. For more information you can read the copy of our Citizen initiative from [www.visiofestival.com/citizen\\_initiative.pdf](http://www.visiofestival.com/citizen_initiative.pdf)

Unfortunately our website had a mention of BYOB ("Bring your own booze") during the first days after the festival was announced. This part was removed immediately after we were contacted by authorities, and were pressured by cancellation of the event. If you are displeased of our new bar arrangement, you can contact Tiketti to have your ticket refunded.