



# Disability policy and current activities in Finland

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# Disability policy in Finland

## Basis

- Fundamental and human rights
- Constitution of Finland
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

# Disability policy in Finland

## Core principles

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Inclusion in society
- Participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations
- Self-determination
- Independent living
- Individual services and support

# National implementation of the CRPD

- Finland ratified the CRPD and the optional protocol in 2016
- National structures
  - **Focal points:** Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
  - **Coordination system:** Advisory Board for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities VANE
  - **Independent mechanism:** Parliamentary Ombudsman, Human Rights Centre and its Human Rights Delegation

**VANE**

Advisory Board for the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities

## Tasks

- To promote and coordinate national implementation of the CRPD and to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities in **all administrative sectors**
- Draw up **an action plan** for its terms of office: defining the national objectives for the implementation of the UNCRPD

Representatives from ministries, disability organisations, labour market organisations, local and regional authorities and other stakeholders



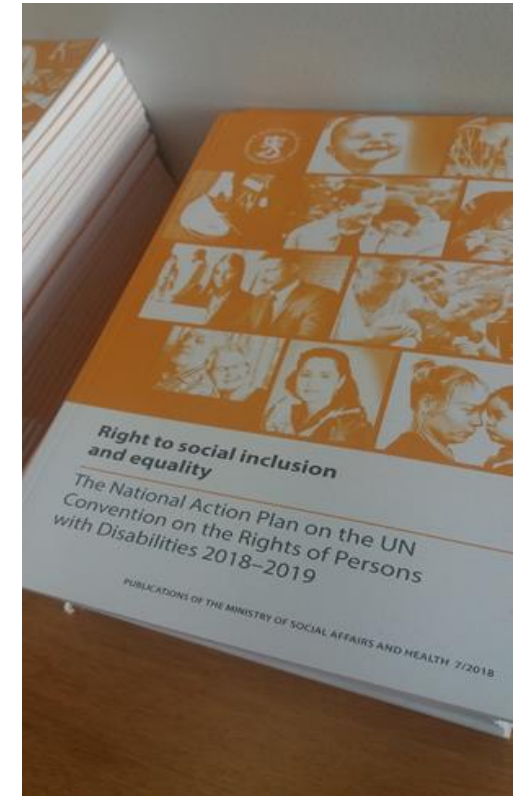
**VANE**

Advisory Board for the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities

- Working methods
  - National Action Plan
  - Statements
  - Meetings
  - Trainings and seminars for national and local actors
  - Awareness raising
- Disability organisations are involved in all activities
- Contact
  - Secretary General Merja Heikkonen
  - Deputy Secretary General Tea Hoffrén

# National Action Plan on the UNCRPD

- Determines the measures that will be taken to promote the implementation of the CRPD
- The Action Plan comprises 110 measures
- Different Ministries have committed themselves to their implementation.
- The Action Plan for years 2021-2023 [Right to social inclusion and equality](#) is Finland's second.



# National action plan of the UNCRPD

- VANE was responsible for drawing up the Action Plan.
- Disability organisations and other stakeholders have been consulted to obtain information.
- There is a responsible party or parties indicated for each measure in the Action Plan.
- The implementation of the measures will be monitored during the action plan period and assessed at the end of the period.



# National Action Plan on the UNCRPD (2020-2023)

## Content areas (13)

- Participation
- Equality and Non-Discrimination
- Raising Awareness and building a knowledge base
- Accessibility
- Safety and emergency situations
- Independent living and inclusion
- Movement and mobility
- Education
- Health and rehabilitation
- Work and employment
- Adequate standard of living and social protection
- Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
- International cooperation

# National Action Plan on the UNCRPD (2020-2023)

The Action Plan emphasises

- the importance of social inclusion of persons with disability in the changing operating environment
- the importance of accessibility as precondition for implementing other rights
- increasing awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming these rights



# Current activities in Finland



# Current activities in Finland

- The organisation of public healthcare, social services and rescue services in Finland will be reformed. ([Sote-uudistus](#))
  - The responsibility for organising these services will be transferred from municipalities to wellbeing services counties from 2023.
  - The key objective of the reform is to improve the availability and quality of basic public services throughout Finland.
- Legislation on disability services is being reformed
- A proposal is given on the transposition of the EAA into Finnish law
- A partial reform of the Non-Discrimination Act



**Thank you for your attention!**