

Multidisciplinary cooperation at a national level in Finland

Taina Riski (THL)
4 November

NAPE

Committee for combating
violence against women
and domestic violence

Finnish participants in Riga

Representing three levels of cross-sectional/multi-disciplinary co-operation:

Taina Riski – governmental co-operation (NAPE Committee)

Elisa Niklander – national level co-ordination and support for regional/local authorities (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare)

Lotta Hällström – municipal level co-operation (City of Vantaa)

National reform of social and health care and rescue services

- Until now, municipal authorities have been responsible for social and health care services, including services on preventing interpersonal and domestic violence
- As of January 2023, 21 self-governing regional social and health authorities (Welfare Services Counties) will be responsible for providing these services instead of municipalities.

NEW: Guideline on violence prevention

- Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL) has published a [guideline](#) on setting up structures for coordination and service pathways in the area of domestic violence

National set-up to implement the Istanbul Convention in Finland – NAPE Committee

- The Istanbul Convention entered into force in respect of Finland on 1 August 2015
- *Committee for combating violence against women and domestic violence* was established in 2016 in response to Article 10 of the IC (government decree)
- Established in affiliation with MSAH
- Main tasks:
 - Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of measures and policies contained in the Istanbul Convention
 - Drawing up a plan to implement the Istanbul Convention in Finland
 - NAPE and National Rapporteur on VAW – shared responsibilities arising from Art. 10 of the IC

Structure of NAPE Committee

- Representatives across government and affiliated entities:
 - ✓ MSAH, MoJ, MoI, MoEC, MoEAE, MoF, MoFA
 - ✓ Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, National Police Board, Finnish National Agency for Education, National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health, Office of the Prosecutor General
 - ✓ Statistics Finland, Government Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
 - ✓ Representation of non-governmental organisations (NAPE subgroup)

Structure of NAPE Committee

- Permanent observers: Non-discrimination ombudsman, Equality Ombudsman, Government Gender Equality Unit, Human Rights Centre
- Permanent sub-group under NAPE consisting of non-governmental organisations (JÄTY)
- Both NAPE and permanent subgroup of NGOs hold 6 meetings a year

Second implementation plan of the Istanbul Convention in Finland

Second implementation plan of the Istanbul Convention 2022-2025 (ongoing)

- Three cross-cutting objectives aim at strengthening:
 - ✓ gender perspective and intersectionality in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention
 - ✓ reinforcing intersectoral and multiprofessional cooperation
 - ✓ improving both the identification of violence against women and domestic violence and intervention in them
- Monitoring framework - work in progress

Examples of measures related to cross-sectional co-operation

1.10. Consolidate knowledge and competence among public authorities in the different forms of violence against women in broad terms and in practical intersectoral cooperation, increasing joint training, for example. (*Ministry of the Interior/National Police Board, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health/Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Ministry of Justice/Office of the Prosecutor General, National Courts Administration, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities - in cooperation with NGOs*)

3.2. Promote the conduct of systematic risk assessments, paying attention to multiprofessional cooperation. (*Ministry of Social Affairs and Health/Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Ministry of the Interior/National Police Board*)

Examples of measures related to cross-sectional co-operation

4.3. Promote systematic collection of data on the needs for support or assistance relating to violence in the information systems of healthcare and social welfare authorities (*Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare*)

4.4. Promote systematic collection of data on violence against women and domestic violence in the information systems of law-enforcement and judicial authorities (VITJA and AIPA projects). (*Ministry of the Interior/National Police Board, Office of the Prosecutor General, National Courts Administration 2022–2023*)

4.6. Supplement the existing guidelines on the rights to access information for professionals involved in violence prevention work in order to promote multidisciplinary co-operation and examine potential legislative development needs in terms of the rights of access to information. (*Ministry of Social Affairs and Health/Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Ministry of the Interior/National Police Board, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and culture*)

Other information related to exchange of data

- Guideline on the exchange of information between the Police and Health authorities ”Ohje terveydenhuollon ja poliisin väliseen tiedonvaihtoon” ([Finnish](#), [Swedish](#))
- [Legal Review of Finnish legislation concerning child sexual exploitation and abuse cases](#) (available in Finnish and English)
- Government proposal (pending in the Parliament) regarding processing client data within the healthcare and social welfare authorities

Thank you.

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Competence cluster for violence prevention work

Elisa Niklander

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Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

- THL is an expert and research institute that provides reliable information for decision-making and activities in the field of health and welfare. Our goal is to promote the welfare, health and safety of the population.
- We operate in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and our main funding sources include funding from the state budget, co-funded activities and services subject to a fee.
- The Department of Government Services guides, organises and provides government services in the fields of social welfare, health care and forensic sciences and is responsible for official duties in its fields of activity.
 - Special Services Unit: Competence cluster for child protection, Competence cluster for violence prevention work

Competence cluster for violence prevention work is part of the Special Services unit

- The competence cluster has a lot of responsibilities, for example:
 - responsibility for the guidance, assessment, development and nationwide coordination of shelter services for the victims of domestic violence and 24/7 helpline Nollalinja, acts as the state aid authority, and annually produces the national statistics for shelter services.
 - responsibility for the national coordination and dissemination of the multi-professional MARAC operating model
 - responsibility for the national coordination and the centralisation of competence in the prevention of honour-based violence, which includes genital mutilation of girls and women.
 - develops and coordinates the national Seri support centre network of support units for those who have suffered sexual violence
 - responsibility for the embedding of the Barnahus standards
 - responsibility for national support for the development of anti-violence activities assigned to the municipal level and for supporting the implementation of international obligations to combat violence.
 - read more in English: <https://thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en/about-us/organisation/departments-and-units/government-services/special-services>

Links to some of our violence related pages

- Violence: [Väkivalta – THL](#) (in Finnish)
- Violence prevention: [Väkivallan ehkäisy – THL](#) (in Finnish)
- Sexual violence: [Seksuaaliväkivalta – THL](#) (in Finnish)
- Helpline Nollalinja: <https://nollalinja.fi/en/> (in English, also some info on the shelters)
- Shelters: [Shelters for victims of domestic violence – THL](#) (in English)
- Honour-related violence: [Kunniaan liittyvä väkivalta – THL](#) (in Finnish)
- FGM: [Prevention of female genital mutilation \(FGM\) – THL](#) (in English)
- Violent radicalization & extremism: [Radikalisoituminen ja ekstremismi – THL](#) (In Finnish)



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