

EUROMET Symposium Helsinki 20.-22.9.2017

Discovering best local practices when working with challenging youngsters – learning from each other

Tuesday 19.9.

19:00 Dinner
Restaurant Factory Kamppi

Guided walk from the Hotel Helka to the restaurant
18:45

Wednesday 20.9.

Place: Kilta-hall

Lapinrinne 1, Helsinki

Guided walk from Hotel to the Kilta hall
8.45
11.45

9:00-11:30 Board meeting

12:00-13:00 Registration and lunch

13:00-13:30 Opening ceremony

13:30-14:30 **Protecting the Troubled Youth - the Finnish Case**

Elina Pekkarinen, PhD (SocSc) Postdoctoral researcher, Finnish Youth Research Network

14:30-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-16:00 **Mainstreaming children's collective participation in child protection work – Mission (im)possible**

Mikko Oranen, Development Director, Friends of the Young

16:00-16:20 Instructions for the evening

17:00-18:00 1st group tram sightseeing

18:00-19:00 2nd group tram sightseeing

Guided walk from the hotel to the restaurant at 19:00.

19:30 Dinner
Restaurant Perho

Guided walk straight from the tram to the restaurant Perho at 19:00.

Thursday 21.9.

Place: Kilta-hall

9:00-9:15	Introduction to the day's program
9:15-9:30	Jamboree connection*
9:30-10:30	Workshop
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Workshop
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-16:30	Excursions Back at the hotel

Guided walk from the hotel to the Kilta-hall
8:45

18:30	Dinner Allas Sea Pool
21:00-23:00	Sauna and swimming Place: Allas Sea Pool

Transportation from the hotel to the Allas Sea Pool 18.00

Transportation back to the hotel
22.00 or
23.00

Friday 22.9.

Place: Kilta-hall

9:00-9:15	Introduction to the day's program
9:15-9:45	Processing visits and preparing a brief presentation
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:20	Presentations of the visits
11:20-11:40	Jamboree connection*
11:40-12:00	Closing of the Symposium
12:00-13:00	Lunch

*News from the Jamboree in Pikku-Syöte.
Facebook: "Nature is the Future" Youth exchange 2017

Location of the Symposium

Kilta-hall

<http://kiltasali.fi/>

Lapinrinne 1 | FI-00180 Helsinki, Finland

Hotel

Hotel Helka

Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 23 | FI-00100 Helsinki, Finland



Lectures

"Protecting the Troubled Youth - the Finnish Case"

In Finland, child welfare is responsible for not only safeguarding the small children, but for young people with disruptive behavior as well. For the past decades, the number of young people that are taken into out-of-home care by child welfare agencies has increased dramatically. Reasons for the need of child protection are diverse, but often difficult family circumstances are interlinked with the child's problems at school, psychiatric symptoms, and norm breaking behavior. In Finland, seven reform schools have traditionally taken care of young people with these multiple challenges.

In 2016 European Commission founded a project, 'FACT FOR MINORS – Fostering Alternative Care for Troubled Minors' that addresses children with psychological, psychiatric or personality disorders, hosted by alternative care communities as a consequence of penal measures. The project intends to reinforce the capacity of alternative care communities in five European Union (EU) countries -Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. The Finnish analysis focuses particularly on the special care units that provide combined psychiatric and socio-educational support in two of the reform schools. In this presentation, the outline of the Finnish practices is presented together with the primary results found in the project.

Dr. Elina Pekkarinen works as a research manager in Finnish Youth Research Network. She is a social worker in her background, and her research interests include child welfare and issues of marginalization. She serves as a child welfare expert in the Administrative Court of Helsinki, and she is the president of the Finnish Society for Childhood Studies.

Mainstreaming children's collective participation in child protection work – Mission (im)possible

My presentation will focus on the brief history of children's participation in the evaluation ja development child protection work in Finland. Recent Finnish research looking at the history of abuse within child protection system shows that children's opinions and wishes didn't have much value or effect on professional practice. The research report covers years 1937-1983. In 1984 Finland had a new Child Welfare Act which was based on the ideas of children's rights. The Act was ahead of one's time since the Convention on the Rights of the Child was still under construction. However, it took until the end of next decade before the ideas of children's participation started to realize in child protection practice. Since then there have been a growing number of initiatives aiming at enhancing the participation of children, young people and biological parents in a role of service user. The presentation will give examples of such activities with different service user groups. It has become evident that the inclusion of service users into development of services challenges traditional professional roles and requires changes in attitudes and actions. It also urges children and parents to overcome the feelings of shame and guilt related to experience of being a child protection client. The presentation aims at outlining the discoveries made by the projects and mapping the impact they have had on the government's child protection policy and everyday practices.

Mikko Oranen
Development Director
Friends of the Young

Workshops

Please choose your workshops on the registration day on Wed 20th of September.

1. The method of co-researching

Time to Participate – Laura Sohlberg & Minna Kallio

What happens when professionals of social services and customers of child protective services start to develop and improve social services together as equal partners? Come and find out what is the method of co-researching. You also hear what kind of impact this method has on customers by a former customer of child protective services.

2. The risks and possibilities of social media when working with young people

Friends of the young and Catch22

Looking at the opportunities and threats that social media provides for institutions and organisations working with young people.

Participants are asked to fill in the form

<https://catch22survey.typeform.com/to/CPdtrr>

3. What about radicalization?

What about those youngsters who lose the normal path and go to the dark underground world. Points in the presentation are - paradigm 'we' - 'they'. This workshop is to share some politics and experiences across the different countries.

Lisselotte Lowagie, pedagogic and educational director in the community institution De Zande, leads a debate group on the topic in De Zande and has built up expertise concerning the topic. Nathalie Schouteet, pedagogic director in the community institution De Zande, works in the girls department where she's confronted with very specific challenges related to the population. Together they want to share some ideas and open the search for possible good practices.

Participants are asked to fill in the form

<https://fi.surveymonkey.com/r/FB66V9X>

4. Dealing with young sexual offenders: questions and prospects

Arpège – Joanne CESCOTTO & Géraldine BRASSELLE

ARPEGE implements restorative and educative reactions to juvenile delinquency. Among other delinquents, youth magistrates refer to our accredited NGO sexual offenders (abuses committed inside the family or outside; on younger victims or not, alone or in a group...). These adolescents are not a homogeneous group, they can have really different profiles and background.

When dealing with these youngsters, a lot of questions emerge:

- Do these youngsters need educational help? Therapy? Sanction? Restorative practice? Support?
- Should we work on the past (on what they did and why, on the harm they caused to the victim and the community) or focus on present and future (increasing wellness, preventing recidivism)?
- Can we work with a youngster who denies the facts (totally or partially)? Should we aim for admission of responsibility? Trying to increase empathy for victims?
- How can we work with all preconceptions we have about this kind of offences?
- How can we deal with such private subjects as sexuality and intimacy? What kind of instrument do we use to speak about it?
- How can we put forward a hypothesis about this type of acting out without minimizing or dramatizing?

Presentation (20'): After a brief explanation of our intervention framework and the different cases we meet, we propose to clarify our working philosophy (theoretical basis, tools...).

Discussion (40'): These elements of reflection will feed the group discussion introduced with a case study. A written presentation of this case will be sent in September, before the symposium, to the participants of this workshop. This will give the opportunity to prepare, alone or with colleagues, the debate based on these questions: "In my specific intervention framework, how could I work with the youngster?" "What kind of challenges would I face?"

5. Therapeutic orientation in residential care in Family Rehabilitation centre Lauste Finding new and efficient way of work

Family Rehabilitation centre Lauste – Mari Hirvonen

Special services in child welfare require new models and methods to rehabilitate children and their families. Qualifications for efficient rehabilitation and developing residential care are that we acknowledge the speciality of life situations in child welfare families. We have chosen cognitive behavioral therapeutic orientation in our residential care. It is evidence-based intervention and is carried out in close co-operation with child and family. Rehabilitation is multiprofessional and consistent based on continuous evaluation of working process. Close co-operation with the family strengthens the emotional and communicative relationship and common decision making on child's matters and supports the participation and inclusion of the family on everyday life in residential care. Whole organisation needs to be committed to therapeutic orientation from executive team to ground level workers. The aim is to enhance clients life skills and well-being.

Visit options

Please choose a pair on the registration day on Wed 20th of September.

There are six groups all together and a pair will change the places.

1st option:

Friends of the Young

NY (Nuorten Ystävät ry) was established over a 100 years ago. It is an NGO that has been working for the underprivileged as well as children, youth and families in an unprejudiced manner. Today NY consists of a non-governmental organization and a business corporation that intertwine seamlessly. This enables NY to constantly develop new and innovative policies and operating models that stem from the needs of the clientele.

NY operates in 18 districts and has over 40 places of business. NY employs over 550 professionals who handle up to 3200 clients yearly. In 2016 NY's turnover was 35 million euros. NY's services consist of child welfare, housing for special groups, social rehabilitation, schools and the Academy of Parents. NY also provides the communal services at Posio municipality.

NY encourages its employees to use their own personal strengths and skills in their work, NY also believes in continuous staff training and endorses post-graduate studies.

The unit operating in Helsinki metropolitan area offers child welfare services, mainly family work and after care. It also provides support persons ("buddying") for children. The Helsinki unit has 10 employees and 3 offices located in Helsinki, Espoo and Kerava. The Espoo and Kerava offices offer more intense support and coaching for young people who need more than the basic after care services.

You are most welcome to visit our Helsinki unit on September 21st, we will be happy to explain our services further!

Acute intensified family work

The acute intensified family work aims to prevent the need for placements outside of the home. The work begins within 24 h. The service is available to all child-protection clients in the Helsinki city area. The family's social worker can order the service by one phone call.

Counsellors work in pairs mainly in the child's own environment mainly outside office hours. Clients are between 0-17 years and working period with one family is between 2 week -2 months. The service is ordered to assess the situation and determine what kind of support is needed. Short-term, even small change can make a big impact.

Situations often involve an individual's problem that is affecting the entire family -such as an addiction, depression, or behavioral problems. The counsellors aim to help solve conflicts among family members and teach them better ways to handle problems and support the child and the family.

Tove Lönnqvist, Maria Siljander-Heinonen and Saija Möttönen

2nd option:

Tyttöjen Talo – Girls House

Girls' House is based on the values of equality, respect for differences, belief in one's own resources, sense of community and awareness of being a woman and a man. Girls house is a partner house of Kalliolan Nuoret (Kalliola's Teenagers Association), the Settlement Youth Association and the Youth Department of the city of Helsinki.

The main objective of the Girls' House is to support the growth and identity of girls and women and help them to become who they want to be in an atmosphere that respects the sense of community and womanhood. We aim at encouraging girls and young women to listen to themselves and to respect themselves and others, as well as offering them a safe and positive meeting place that appreciates girlhood. Activities at the Girls House are open groups, recreational groups, closed girls peergroups. Closed girl groups offer girls and young women an opportunity to learn to know themselves and their own life in a safe and confidential environment together with other girls and women of the same age. These groups are professional led, planned and have goals. They aim at supporting self-esteem, sense of worth and gaining control of one's own life. Girls House provides special planned support to Young Mothers, Multicultural Girls and to Victims of sexual violence.

Girls House also offer voluntary work that gives grown-up women an opportunity to participate in the activities of the Girls' House according to their own resources and strengths. Voluntary work includes education, leading activities and a womanhood group. (Finnish Ministry of Education). Principles of the Girls House are, Girl-centredness, Genuine encounters and interaction, Resource centredness, Social empowerment, Sense of community, Participation, Female consciousness and Feminism. Sexual counselling reception is confidential and free of charge. It offers pregnancy tests, postcoital contraception, Chlamydia control, condoms as well as individual and group support. Reception cooperate with public health care to make contacts client friendly and meaningful. Reception offers training and further education in terms of sexual abuse, sex education and humanity education. Sexual issues are treated according PLISSIT-model (Anon 1976).

Criminal Sanctions Agency (RISE) – more information [here](#)

Criminal Sanctions Agency (RISE) includes both prison and probation services in Finland. It pays particular attention to the efficiency of the operation and the influence on the reduction of recidivism. Criminal Sanctions Agency consists of Central Administration, Enforcement Unit, Training Institute, 26 prisons, 14 community sanctions offices and 3 assessment centers. Enforcement work includes assessment, planning and implementation of sentences towards gradual release. Various rehabilitation activities and interventions are used in prisons and probation services to reduce recidivism and ensure safe reintegration of perpetrators to the normal society.

Central Administration is the administrative unit of the Criminal Sanctions Agency taking care of the management, development and administration of the criminal sanctions field. Central Administration is governed by the Ministry of Justice. Your visit to the Central Administration will be focused on the topic of underaged and juvenile perpetrators and prisoners in

Finland. The presentation will be held by Pia Puolakka, Senior Specialist - rehabilitation activities, who is also former prison psychologist.”

3rd option:

Vamos, Helsingin Diakonissalaitos – more information [here](#)

Vamos is a holistic and low threshold service for youth in the risk of social exclusion. Helsinki Deaconess Institute has built a hybrid model for activation and rehabilitation which includes outreach based individual support and rehabilitative groups. The Vamos youth services are based on the needs of the youth and they complement the gaps in public services. Its main innovations are renewed professionalism and integrative way of organizing youth services.

The aim is to support 16–29-year-old youngsters, to find their way into education or working life. Many of them need intensive support to strengthen their skills of daily life and social interaction. Most of them are feeling lonely and worthless, have been bullied in school and don't trust other people.

We build everyone a unique service experience, which is voluntary for the youngster, and doesn't involve institutional power or financial components. The threshold to our services is low. Youths don't need any diagnoses or official statements. Many of them find their way to our services themselves. Also different public services, mainly from social, health and education sectors are guiding them to our services.

In 2014 Vamos reached 1400 youths at the Helsinki metropolitan area. Vamos youth services are available in various cities in Finland.

Krits – more information [here](#)

Kriminaalihuollon tukisäätiö (Krits) is a non-profit organisation working to improve the situation of offenders and their families. It's roots are in the work of the Prisoner's Association established in 1870 as well as the Probation Association. Krits does not enforce sentences, but develops the re-entry or prisoners and improves services, influences criminal policy and, promotes the interests of its target group and supports voluntary work. Most services are located in the capital area, but national services include family work, ombudsman office for offenders and coordinators for learning difficulties and housing services.

The visit will give you a brief picture of the situation of children and families of offenders; the possibilities and challenges they and their imprisoned family members face in maintaining relationships; what are the effects of incarceration for the children and what are their rights. Research says that maintaining family relationships during imprisonment helps to diminish reoffending. However, working with children of prisoners is a relatively new thing for prisons. Krits, among other things, gives support to the families, organises child peer support groups, gives advice to prisoners as well as families and tries to influence criminal policy and legislation.



Locations of the dinner places

Restaurant Factory Kamppi

Runeberginkatu 3, 00100 Helsinki

<http://www.factorykamppi.com/in-english/>

Restaurant Perho

Mechelininkatu 7, 00100 Helsinki.

<https://www.ravintolaperho.fi/?lang=en>

Allas Sea Pool

Katajanokanlaituri 2a

00100 Helsinki

<http://www.allasseapool.fi/eng>