



YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND AND THE KANUUNA NETWORK

**Annina Lehtiö-Vainio, Director of Youth Services, City
of Turku**

3.11.2015

THE YOUTH ACT

- provides for the improvement of young people's living conditions and youth services
- the purpose is to support young people's growth and independence, to promote young people's active citizenship and empowerment and to improve young people's growth and living conditions
- the implementation of the purpose is based on communality, solidarity, equity and equality, multiculturalism and internationalism, healthy life styles, and respect of life and the environment.
- *young people* means those under 29 years of age



YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- *Young people under 29 years of age constitute 34% of the population of Finland.*
- *Youth services in Finland are provided by the Government and local authorities. The role of the Government is to create a favourable environment for the youth work.*



YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- The Ministry allocates government transfers to local authorities for youth work based on the number of young residents under 29 years of age.
- The implementation of youth work is the responsibility of local authorities, youth associations and other organisations doing youth work. Youth services may also be produced by local authorities in cooperation.



LOCAL YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- Local youth work and youth policy is the responsibility of *municipalities*.
- According to the Youth Act, local youth work and youth policy comprises the following:
 - **educational guidance of young people**
 - **facilities and hobby opportunities**
 - **information and counselling services**
 - **support to youth associations and other youth groups**



LOCAL YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- **sportive, cultural, international and multicultural youth activities**
- **young people's environmental education and youth workshop services or other forms of activity suited to the local circumstances and needs**
- **The municipalities can decide for themselves how and to what extent they organize their local youth work services, but they must have cross-sectoral cooperation and cooperation with young people and NGOs**



LOCAL YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- According to the Youth Act, the municipalities must have *a multisectoral network* for promoting guidance and services for young people
- The tasks of the network is to
 - collect knowledge on the living conditions of young people for supporting local planning and decision making
 - promote and coordinate services targeted for young people
 - exchange information and good practices in order to make it easier for young people to access the services and moving from one service to another



LOCAL YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- The Youth Act also obliges municipalities to ensure that young people under 29 years of age have the *opportunities to participate* in handling matters concerning local youth work and youth policy and that *they are heard in matters concerning them*
- This can be achieved through youth councils and similar bodies, web based channels and through structures established in schools and youth facilities



SOCIAL GUARANTEE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- The Youth Guarantee will offer everyone under the age of 25, as well as recent graduates under 30, a job, on-the-job training, a study place or rehabilitation within three months of becoming unemployed
- The Youth Guarantee consists of various elements: a guarantee of employment, one of education or training, a young adults' skills programme, a youth workshop, and outreach youth work
- The cross-administrative Youth Guarantee took effect from the start of 2013



OUTREACH YOUTH WORK IN FINLAND

- The purpose is to help those under 29-year-old young people who are outside education or labour market, and who need support to reach public sector services or who are at risk of social exclusion
- Methods of the outreach youth work can be e.g. street work, detached youth work, mobile youth work or outreach youth work depending on target groups and environments



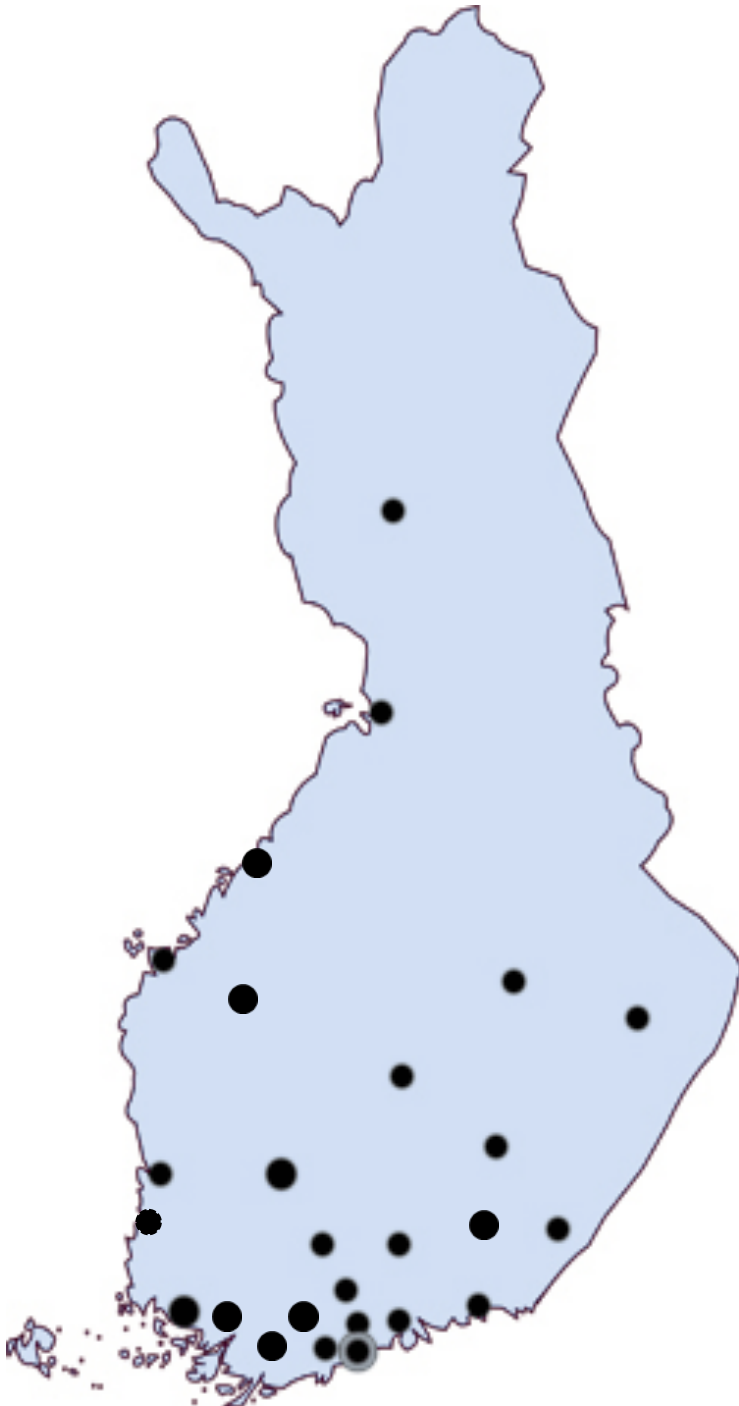
YOUTH WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth workshops offer training and work practice to unemployed young people under 25 years of age
- The workshops offer a place for young people to learn life skills, grow into adulthood and get hands-on experience of work, encouraging and helping them to seek further training. A workshop offers the youth an opportunity for guided and supported work, and a tailored path to education, finishing education in co-operation with the education provider, or becoming employed in the open labour market



FINNISH NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT YOUTH WORK –

KANUUNA



THE KANUUNA NETWORK

- **Network of directors of local youth services**
- **Municipalities over 40 000 inhabitants**
- **About 2/3 of youth under 29 years of age live in Kanuuna cities**
- **Established in 2007**
- **27 municipalities (1.1.2015)**
- **Over 80% of municipal youth workers work for these cities**
- **Supported by the Ministry of Culture and Education**



THE KANUUNA NETWORK

- **Main activities:**
 - Peer learning
 - R&D of youth work
 - Advocacy, lobbying
- **Themes:**
 - Youth work at school
 - Indicators
 - Quality and impact assessment
 - Agency
- **Staff: ½ co-ordinator, ½ advisor, 1 researcher**
- **Chair: city of Lahti, Jouni Kivilahti**



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - PEER LEARNING

- Kanuuna is a network of the directors of local youth work to develop youth work and youth policy through exchange and accumulation of experiences and competences
- Learning from each other, based on practice



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - PEER LEARNING

- convenes the directors of youth services in two annual 2-day meetings to discuss current issues
- runs thematic networks of youth workers specialized in (1) multicultural youth work, (2) youth work at the school and (3) quality assessment
- administers a website gathering information on meetings, seminars, reports, research, blogs and links to member youth services etc.
- gathers statistical indicators on its performance
- organizes training in quality assessment and facilitates regional peer auditing
- is in charge of research and development projects on topical youth questions



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Kanuuna network run between 2009-2011 a R&D project on “open youth work” and “multicultural youth work”
- Perspectives and practice in youth clubs - the study reminds us of the danger of the youth centers becoming hidebound. The contents, working methods and the image of a youth center must be constantly reflected and renewed. There is a tendency of the youth center to become self-sufficient and isolated from the surrounding society, community and the young people.



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- The study suggests, that
 - the centers should develop working methods to reach young people outside the youth centers; better marketing (together with young people), use of social media, the local schools, organizing events, outreaching youth work etc.
 - the centers should invest more in regional cooperation and networking; with the school staff, people working in the health, social and employment sectors, the non-profit organizations, private companies etc.



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- The study suggests, that
 - the youth centers should strengthen their knowledge base; constant quality assessment of its own activities, more systematic use of the silent and explicit knowledge of the youth workers, better information of those young people who do not visit the center, better overview on the living conditions and aspirations of local youth, better linkages to others producing knowledge on youth, etc.
 - Without these efforts the youth centers run the risk of being unable to argue for their existence: why do we need youth centers?



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- The second 3 –year project on “youth work and school” started 2012 and looks at the promises and difficulties of collaboration between two educational organizations with different educational approaches, professional backgrounds and working methods
- Despite the differences the project is set to explore the potential synergies between non-formal and formal learning



THE KANUUNA NETWORK - INDICATORS AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- Youth work has increasingly felt the pressure to prove its outcomes and its quality
- Kanuuna network has developed a set of indicators to make its youth work transparent, to assess and develop it
 - Statistical indicators on key activities (number of visits, group work activities, long-term support of youth at risk, camping activities, on-line contacts, camps, number of youth organizations and their members, etc)
 - Statistical info about the youth services of the member cities
 - Key indicators of the welfare of young people based on a large national School Health Survey (bi-annual municipal level data)
 - Quality assessment data of open youth work



THE KANUUNA NETWORK

More information:

<http://www.nuorisokanuuna.fi/what>

Contact

Jouni Kivilahti, Chair: jouni.kivilahti@lahti.fi

Lasse Siurala, Special advisor:

lasse.siurala@welho.com

Suvi Lappalainen, Coordinator:

suvi.lappalainen@lahti.fi

Thank you!

annina.lehtio-vainio@turku.fi

