

UK NORDIC BALTIC SUMMIT: 19-20 JANUARY 2011



THEME: Jobs, Family & Gender Equality

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

Horizontal work to combat social exclusion of youth

Synopsis:

Finland has applied a whole-of-government approach to address the well-being of children, youth and families. Out-reach youth work and amendments to the Youth Act are presented as a case, 69% of youth reached in 2009 were guided into positive measures. Early prevention of social exclusion requires new indicators for well-being.

Presenter:

Programme Director Mr Georg Henrik Wrede,
Finnish Government Policy programme for the well-being of children, youth and families

Short Biography:

M.Pol.Sc. (1992) Åbo Akademi University (www.abo.fi), Turku, Finland. Professional experience record include, CEO at The Swedish Centre of Expertise on Social Welfare (www.fskc.fi), Programme director at The Mannerheim League for Child Welfare (www.mll.fi), Manager for health promotion, at Folkhälsan (www.folkhalsan.fi)

Structure of the Government policy programme for Children, Youth and Families

Prime Minister Ms Mari Kiviniemi's Cabinet

Ministerial group (8 ministers of 20 in Cabinet)

Minister coordinating the programme

Minister of Culture and Sport Mr Stefan Wallin

Steering group (civil servants)

Three thematic working groups with members from Universities, NGO's, Ministries:

Usage of existing structures:

Advisory Council of
Children's ombudsman

Advisory Council on Youth Affairs

Advisory Council for Health

Child centred society

Prevention of social exclusion

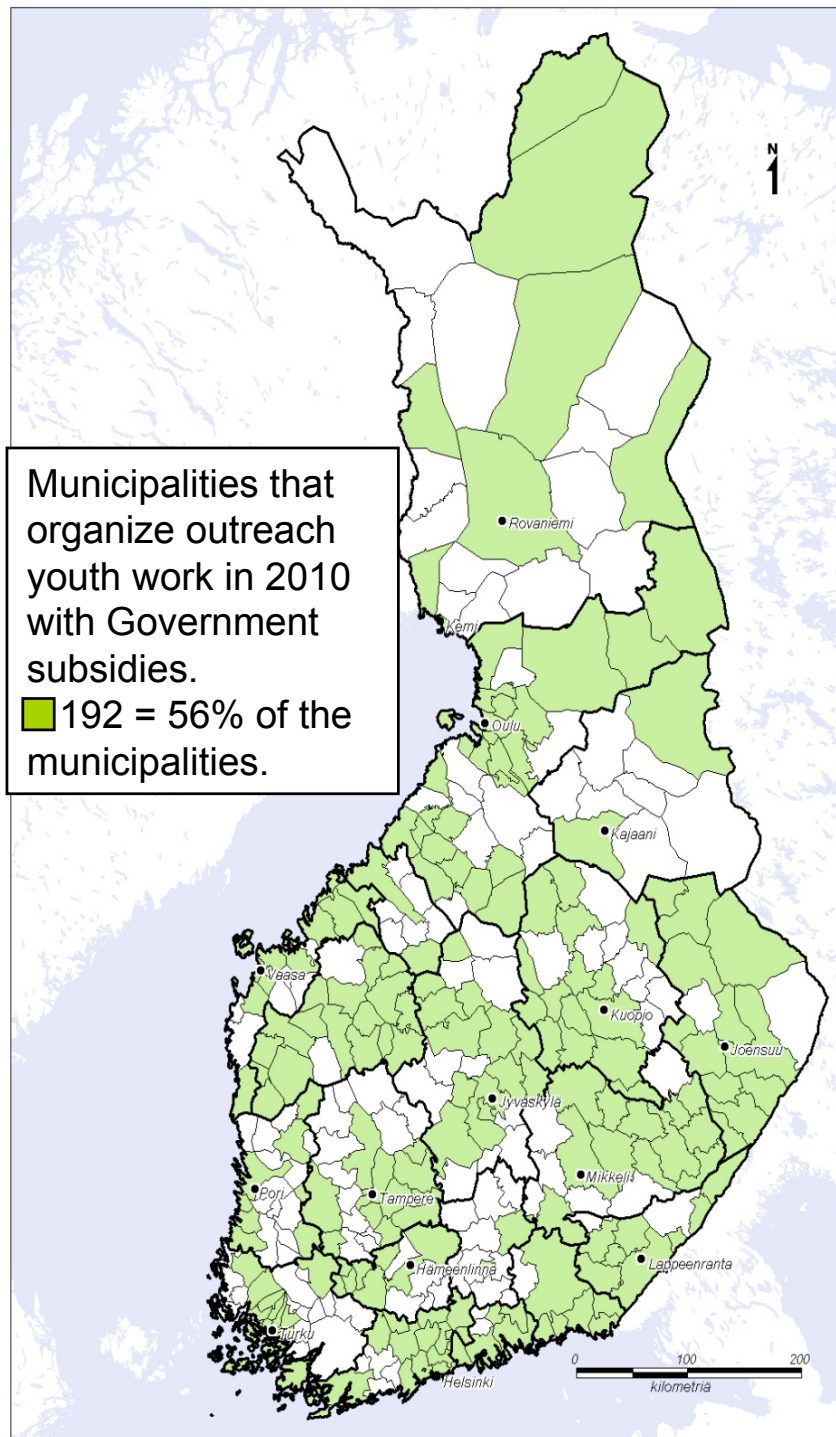
Wellbeing of families

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Amendments to the Youth Act

- The Act lays down provisions on procedures aiming to develop multidisciplinary cooperation between local authorities and with actors of the state coming into force by the beginning of 2011.
- Municipalities should have a youth counselling and service network, which would include representatives of the sectors most important to young people, these are;
 - local: education, social and health services, youth work
 - state: labour administration and the police force.
- Other authorities, such as the defence administration, can also be included in the network, if required. The network can interact with non-governmental organisations that provide youth services.
- A provision on the right to disclose information for outreach youth work would be included in the Act on the Student Selection Register and the Matriculation Examination Register.



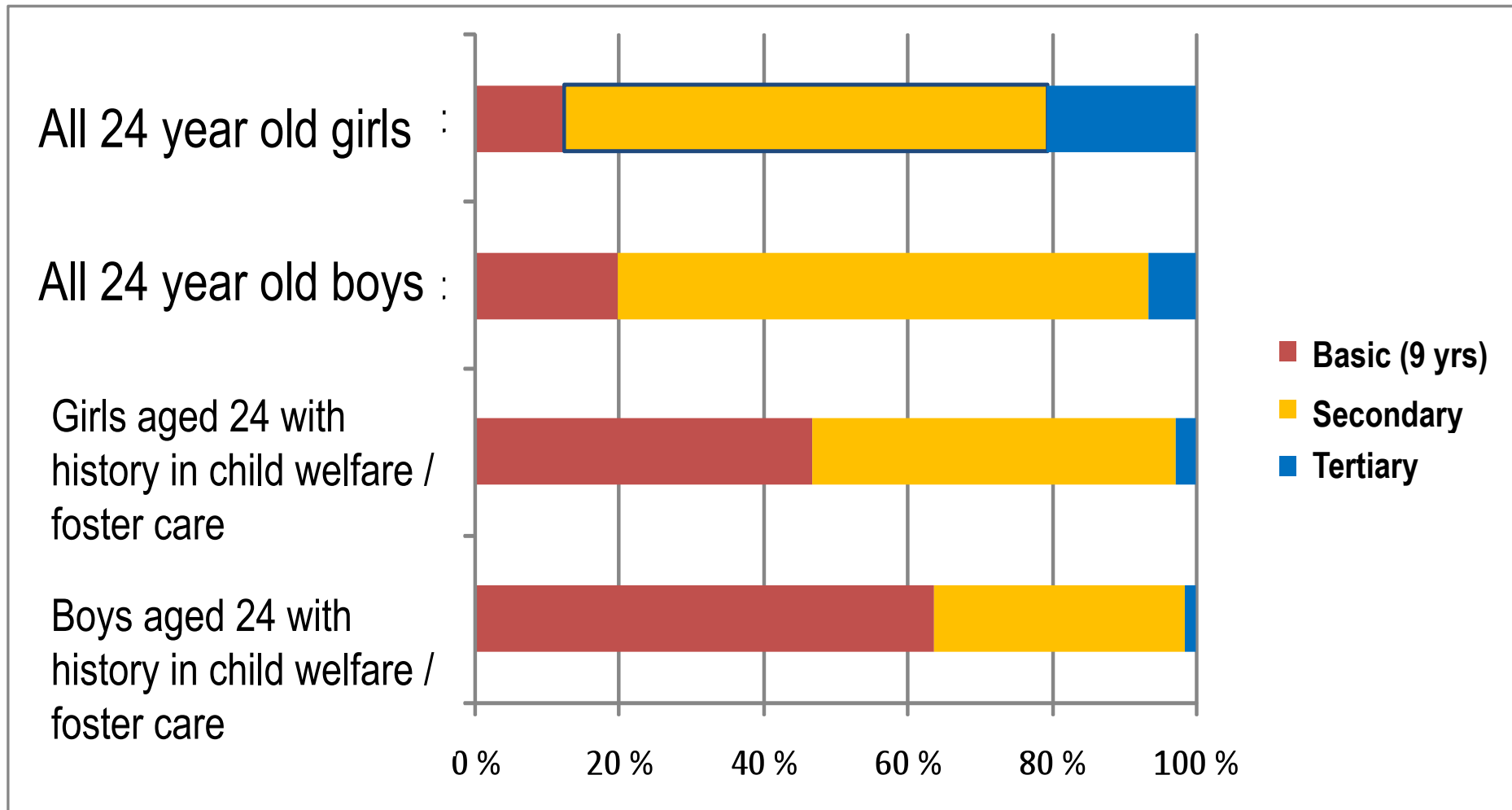
REASONS FOR PILOT

- In 2007, 96.2% of the age cohort continued into secondary level education. 10.3% of the students attending vocational schools and 4.2% of the students attending upper secondary schools dropped out.
- In 2007, 58.3% of vocational students and 86.2% of upper secondary students finished their education within the target completion period.

OUTREACH YOUTH WORK

- 3 363 young persons (age under 29 years) were contacted in 2009
- Of those 69% (2 323) were engaged in positive measures by the end of the year 2009.

Level of education of 24 year old youth



Indicators for child well-being can help in predicting risk for social exclusion

- The Government Policy Programme has worked on designing a dashboard for indicators on child well-being that would be useful for;
 - forming and reviewing Governmental policy-making
 - functioning as a benchmarking tool for municipalities
 - giving voice to children's subjective views on for them meaningful matters
 - making international comparisons
- The proposed dashboard includes 53 indicators grouped in 6 baskets;
 - Material standard for living (6), Health and well-being (9), School and learning (8), Safe growth environment (10), Participation in society (9), Protection and support offered by society (11)