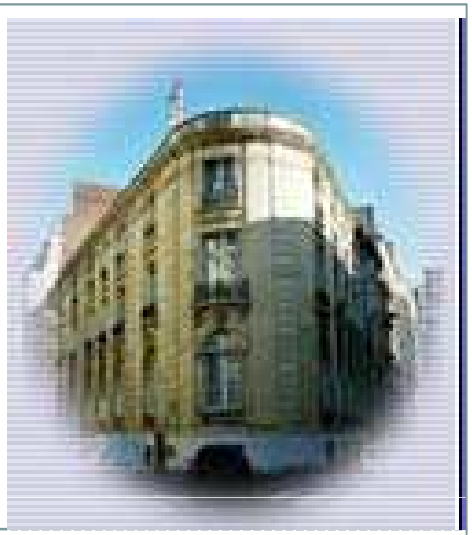
Suomen pysyvä edustusto OECD:ssä
Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD



# Health, social integration and wellbeing for Children in Finland

ANTERO KIVINIEMI

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# Some Basics on Finland

- A Nordic Country
- Member of the European Union and Euro zone
- 5.4 million inhabitants
- Very homogeneous population
- Sparely populated regions
- Performs well in international (UN, OECD, EU) comparisons on well-being and equality

# Starting points of health care and wellbeing policies

- Equal treatment of all inhabitants
- A comprehensive wellbeing concept
- Universal (public) welfare services, including child and health care (for children)
- Heterogeneous municipalities responsible for providing adequate services, including for child wellbeing
- Wellbeing a continuous process impacted by multiple factors
- Importance of early intervention and preventive measures: regular medical checks, vaccinations and monitoring
- Central Government, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: set obligations, guidelines and monitor

# Health services for children and their parents

- Free of charges, all families
- Maternity and health clinics/family and wellbeing centers generally up to school age; school health care up to the end compulsory education.
- Protection of health and wellbeing of every child starts during pregnancy and continue to the adulthood through early childhood structures and schools
- Always regular health checks, comprehensive checks of wellbeing, home visits, health counseling and appropriate vaccinations.
- Both parents are involved.
- Need for appropriate supplementary measures identified through regular measures.

# Guidelines from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

- Addressed in particular to Municipal Authorities
- Demand from Municipalities
- Contents:
  - Methods and actions to be included
  - Organisation and management
- Promotion of wellbeing of children and families
  - Efficient use of resources; examples: recommendation max 340 children/nurse, max 2400 children/MD
  - Building of comprehensive peer amd family networks
  - Support life  in couples and families
  - Regular checks: how to organise
  - Screenings
  - Early intervention: Special targeting and actions  takenwhen needed: use of resources
  - Multidisciplinary support, team building and co-operation between dofferent services
- Quality monitoring, collect of statistics

# Results and conclusions

- Child wellbeing, Maternity and child health clinics an international success strory, as are the high vaccination rates.
- Services reach all the children.
- Finnish children relatively healthy and wellbeing, no differences on the basis of social background.
- Infant and child mortality very low.
- Other basic services needed too; they function well.
- Challenges still exist, linked to the life (Finnish) styles :
  - Obesity, disruptive behavior, inequalities in healthy life styles, increasing need for out-patient care
- Next steps: Seamless service chain and family counseling to be enhanced : on-going reform

# Thank you!