



Expertise and insight

for the future

Welfare across the life span in Finland

Social protection in Finland

- The constitution of Finland guarantees the basic economic, social and educational rights of all people living in the country.
- Social protection is made up of preventive social and healthcare, social welfare and health services, and sickness, disability, unemployment, old age and other benefits.
- The Finnish social protection system is structured in line with the principles of the Nordic welfare model.

The main features of the Nordic welfare state are:

- the principle of universality (the right of all to a basic level of social protection regardless of where they live, their profession or economic position)
- earnings-related benefits for employed persons
- a strong public sector
- a system based on tax funding and contributions
- equal treatment

<https://www.julkari.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79913/facts2010.pdf?sequence=1>



Kela



Kela was founded in 1937 and it was initially a pension institution, its sole responsibility to provide basic state pensions. Since then, Kela's operations have been expanded.

KELA

- Kela has evolved into an institution offering social protection for all. It is now a provider of cradle-to-grave social protection.
- Kela cover such areas of social security as family benefits, health insurance, rehabilitation, basic unemployment security, housing benefits, financial aid for students and basic pensions. In addition, Kela provides disability benefits, conscripts' allowances and assistance for immigrants.
- <http://www.kela.fi/web/en>



Maternity grant (or package)



- The Finnish maternity package has for several decades been the only one of its kind worldwide
- The maternity package contains children's clothes and other necessary items, such as bedding, cloth nappies, gauze towels and child-care products.
- Mothers have a choice between taking the package or a cash grant (140euros).
- Expectant mothers, covered by the Finnish social security scheme, can apply for the package either online or through a Kela office.

Services for families with children



KUVA: Minna Heiskanen

- A wide range of services are provided for families with children.
- The goal is to support families in their everyday lives and the development of children with the help of the families' own resources. The means to the goal are discussion, guidance and joint activities.
- Home help services and family work -recognize, prevent and ease problems faced by children, young people and families at the earliest possible stage.
- Child and family guidance
- Family mediation



Maternity and child health clinics



- Maternity guidance is provided by public health nurses and physicians.
- The aim is to promote the health of expectant mothers, foetuses and newborn babies and to foster and maintain the health and wellness of the entire family.
- A public health nurse and a physician monitor the progress of pregnancy by means of regular check-ups.
- The number of visits to the maternity clinic and of home visits depends on the individual needs and requirements of the mother and the family.
- Attending a maternity clinic is one of the preconditions for eligibility for maternity benefit.

- Finnish child health clinics goal is to secure the child's health and support parents so that every child would have good conditions for wholesome growth, development and well-being.
- Child health clinics keep track of height, weight, hearing, vision, and examine the child's growth and development.
- Public health nurses discuss with parents family health habits and questions that are on parents' minds.
- They also give vaccinations which are according to national vaccination programs.
- In recent years it has become more common that fathers take more care of the child's visit to the child health clinics.



Early childhood education and care in Finland



KUVA: Krisse Stenman

- Municipalities provide child day care services in day care centres, in family day care and in group family day care. It is available on a full-time basis and on a part-time basis. Private service providers, parishes and non-governmental organizations offer alternative opportunities for child care.
- The fees for municipal child day care are based on the family's size and income and depend on the requested hours of day care. Charges in private day care are determined by the service provider, but it is possible to receive private care allowance for these expenses.

<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/varhaiskasvatus/?lang=en>

- The staff of day care centres primarily consists of kindergarten teachers and child care workers. At least one qualified individual for every seven over 3-year-old or four under 3-year-old children must provide care and education services at a day care centre.
- In part-time day care, there can be up to 13 children over the age of three for every individual providing care and education services. Day care centres also employ kitchen, cleaning and other assisting staff.
- Preschool education is provided for children in the year preceding their compulsory education, which is provided free of charge. The preschool day is 4 hours during the regular school year.

Evening and round-the-clock care



- Round-the-clock care refers to care provided between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am and at weekends in addition to regular daycare. Round-the-clock care is available to parents who have a regular need for it due to their work or studies.
- Round-the-clock daycare centres are open at all hours of the day every day of the week.
- Evening care is provided in certain daycare centres until 10:00 pm.

- <http://areena.yle.fi/1-3149439>



KUVA: Krisse Stenman

Education



- In Finland education is free at all levels from pre-primary to higher education (including instruction, school materials, school meals, health care, dental care, commuting, special needs education and remedial teaching).
- The run-up to each PISA announcement also sees some speculation about how Finland stacks up against the other elite-tier countries in the survey, the number of which has continued expanding since its inception in 2000.

School meals



- Free school meals is a Finnish innovation. It was introduced to Finnish schools as early as 1948. Regular meals are important to children's well being, learning ability and their healthy growth and development.
- Finnish legislation guarantees pupils and students the right to free meals during school days from pre-primary and basic education until the completion of upper secondary education.

Meal subsidy for higher education students

- Kela provides meal subsidy for higher education students in subsidized restaurants. Kela pays the difference between the full price and the discount price to the operator of the restaurant.



In the picture Christmas meal with 2,60 euros with a meal subsidy card

The Education Fund

- The Education Fund is a fund administered by the social partners of the Finnish labour market.
- Its purpose is to support employees' vocational studies by granting them financial assistance (**Adult Education Allowance**) and to support the development of the vocational qualification system by granting scholarships for competence-based qualifications (Scholarship for Qualified Employee).
- The Education Fund is financed by the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the state, and its operations are supervised by the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA).

Adult Education Allowance

- The purpose of the adult education allowance is to support employees' and self-employed persons' voluntary vocational studies.
- To qualify for the allowance, the applicant must participate in studies leading to a degree, or in vocational further or continuation training organised by a Finnish educational institution under public supervision.
- The applicant must live permanently in Finland, and his or her full-time employment relationship with the same employer or pension-insured entrepreneurship must have lasted for at least one year.

- In addition, the applicant must have been employed by a Finnish employer or have worked as a self-employed person in Finland for at least eight years.
- The maximum allowance period is 19 months if the applicant has a working history of at least eight years.
- The amount of the allowance is equal to the amount of the earnings-related unemployment allowance, without increases. The adult education allowance is taxable income.
- <http://www.koulutusrahasto.fi/en/education-fund>

Social Services for disabled



- Social Services for disabled in Finland are social work, health and rehabilitation services, work and day activities, supported employment and education, housing services, institutional services and services to support independent living and short-term care.
- The municipality must provide reasonable transport to most disabled persons (including the relevant escort services) if a person needs service necessarily because of disability or illness to cope with everyday life (work going, studying, errands, social participation, recreation, etc.). A disabled person pays for the service same price as public transport would cost.
- Transport services can also be granted under the Social Welfare Act to those who are not able to independently use public transportation because of the sickness or injury (Social Welfare Act).

Social Services for disabled



- It is possible to get personal assistance under the Disability services act. Personal assistance can be granted to daily activities, work / education, leisure activities, social participation, as well as the maintenance of social interaction. The service is provided free of charge to the disabled.
- It is possible to get modifications and facilities to your apartment under the Disability services act. Modifications are, for example widening of doors, building ramps and lighting modifications. Facilities includes lifting equipment and various alarm systems for example. The service is provided free of charge to disabled.

Social Services for disabled





People with intellectual disabilities have the right to short term care. Service supports well-being for families who have a child with intellectual disability. The service fee may be charged.



Morning and afternoon care and holiday-term care for children with intellectual disabilities allows their parents to work. The service fee may be charged.

Day activities for the elderly

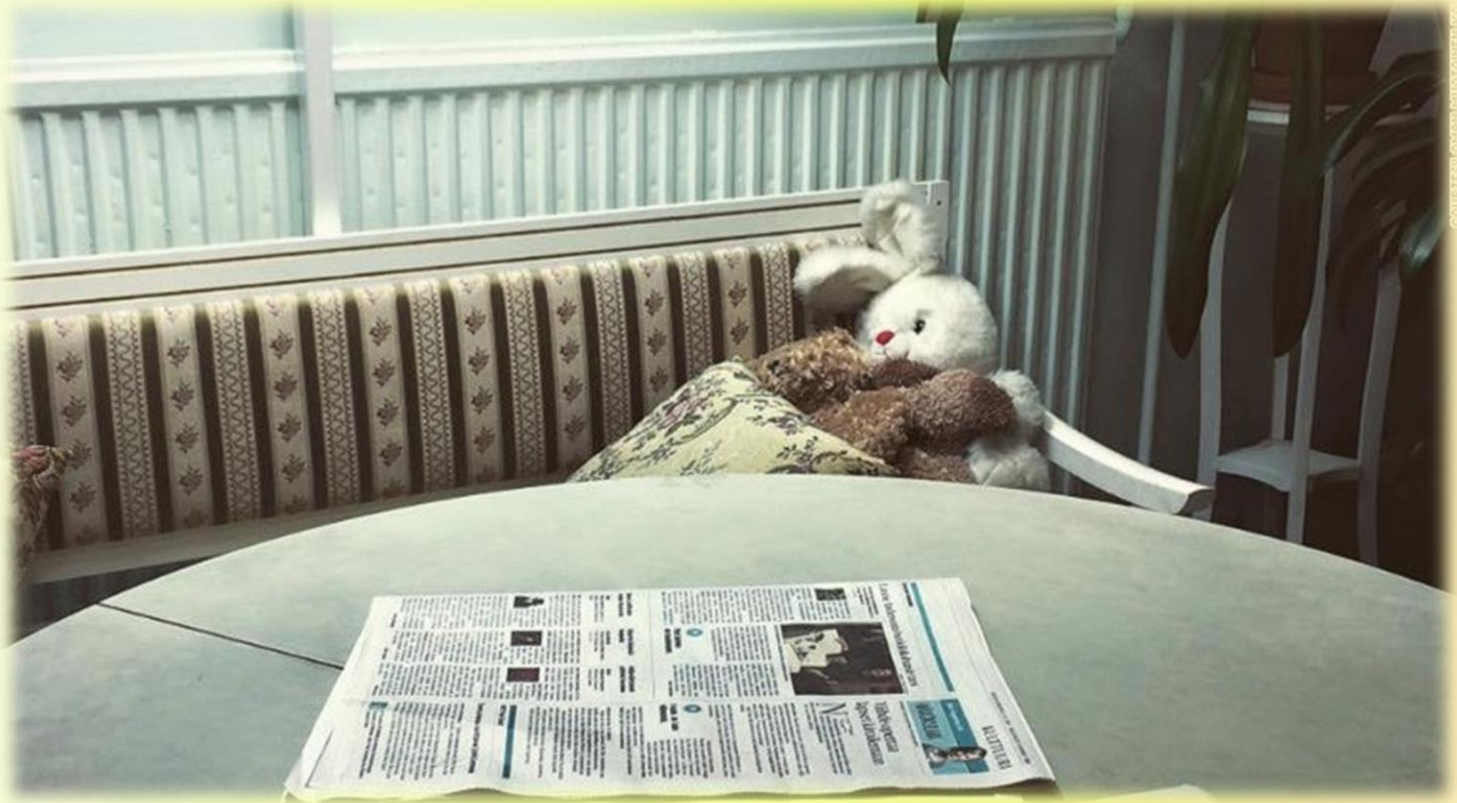


- Day activities are preventative activities that also support rehabilitation and promote the functional abilities, mental agility and social relationships of the elderly.
- The primary purpose of the day activities is to support clients with memory disorders and/ or are in informal care, in order to enable living at home, to maintain their independence and remain independent or have supported functionality. In addition, the day activities contribute to the well-being of the customer's relatives and caretakers.

- Day activities are goal-oriented and, therefore, a personal care and service plan is made for each customer. The functional abilities of the customer are maintained through daily exercise, outdoor activities and socio-cultural activities.

- Lähde: Helsingin kaupunki <http://www.hel.fi/www/sote/en/services/service-description?id=2942>
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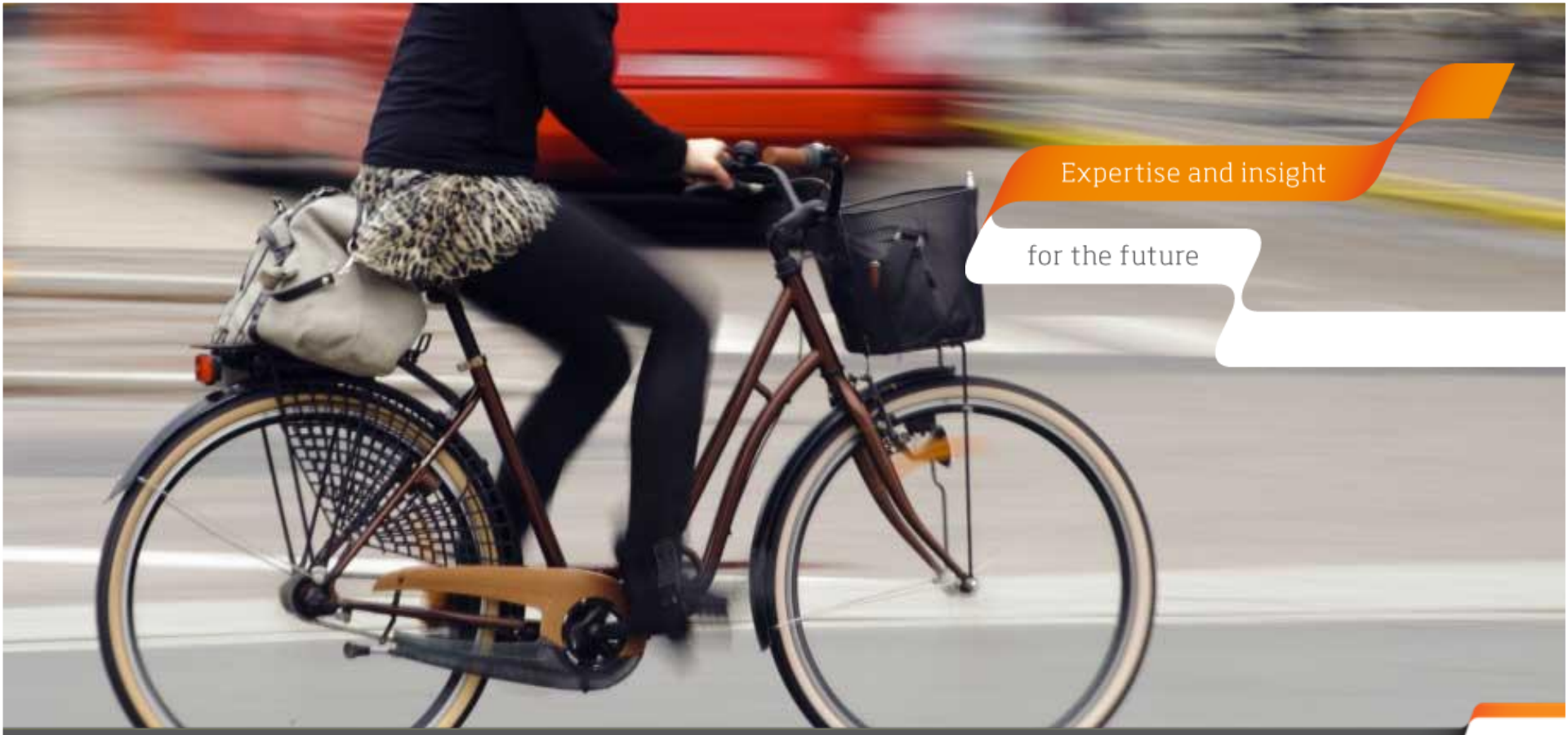
Something new



Oman Muotoinen koti - The House that Fits

- The pilot project run by the City of Helsinki began in January 2016 and sees people under the age of 25 provided with cheap accommodation inside the city's Rudolf Seniors Home for one year.
- The only proviso is that they give a minimum of between three and five hours of their time to their elderly neighbors each week.
- The idea is to prevent homelessness and help young people find their feet with reasonably priced accommodation. It also aims to bring "social benefits" to the seniors in the home.
- Oman Muotoinen Koti takes its inspiration from a similar project in the town of Deventer, in the Netherlands.





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Happy Social Work Day!

THANK YOU!