

How to do it together

Multiprofessional cooperation and coordination in service provision

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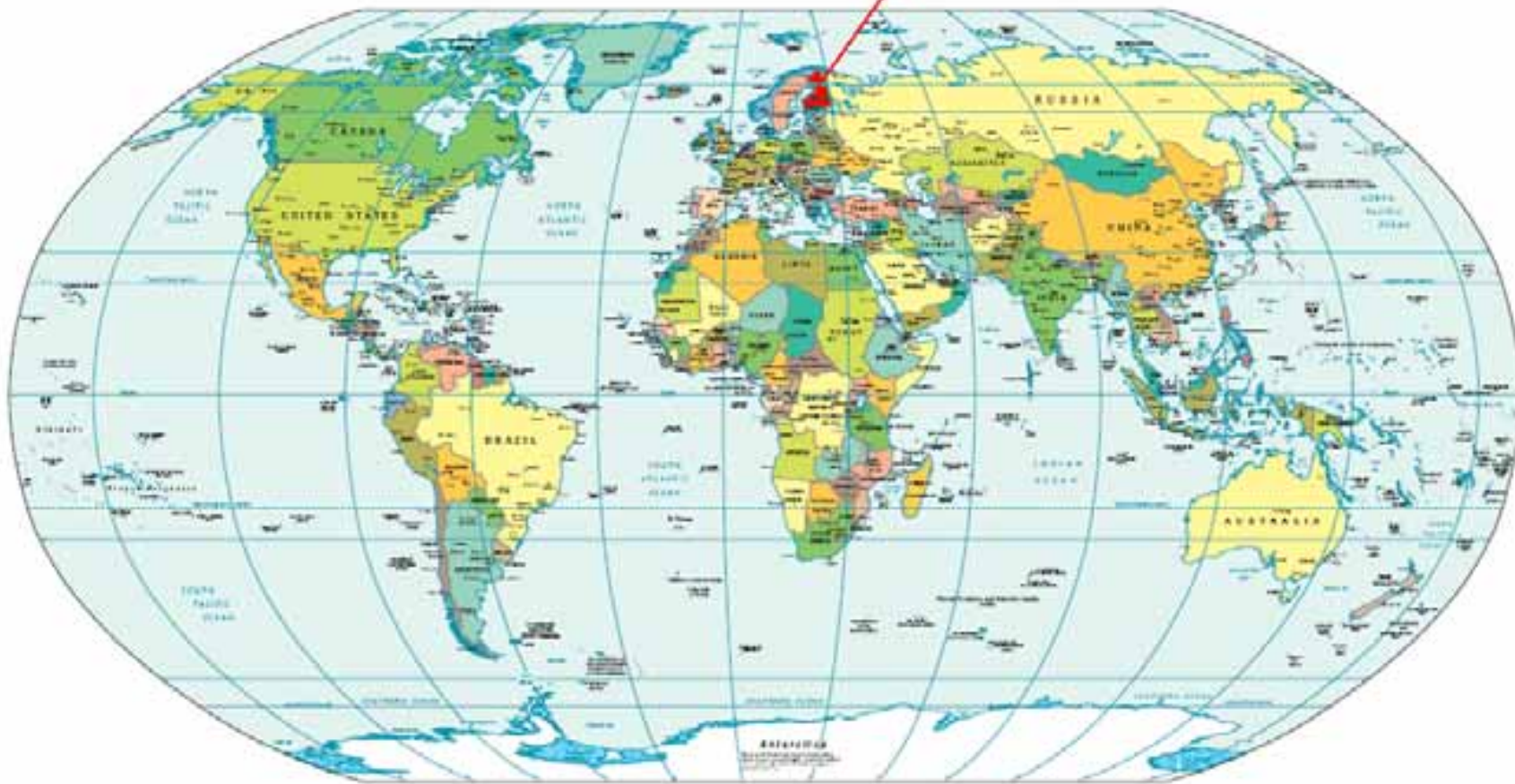
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Facts about Finland

FINLAND
population 5,321,481
area 338,145 km²



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN FINLAND

- The surveys were carried out in autumn 1997 and 2005
- Postal inquiry
- Response rates: 70 % in 1997, 62 % in 2005
- Women aged 18 to 74
- 4,995 responses in 1997, 4,464 responses 2005
- 3,495 married or cohabiting women in 1997, 3,172 in 2005
- Men's violence against women asked
- Men classified as partners, ex-partners, other

Violence in current partnership

(life-time prevalence)

	1997	2005	
Total	22.2	19.6	*
Threats	9.0	7.6	
Physical violence	20.0	17.6	
Sexual violence and threatening behaviour	5.9	4.3	*
(n=women in a partnership)	3,495	3,172	

- results differ at 95 % confidence level
- prevalence since the beginning of the partnership

New questions on sexual violence are not included in 2005 results. Adding them increases the prevalence to 5.3 per cent (23 % increase), total victimization to 19.9 per cent.

Where women sought help to solve partner violence?

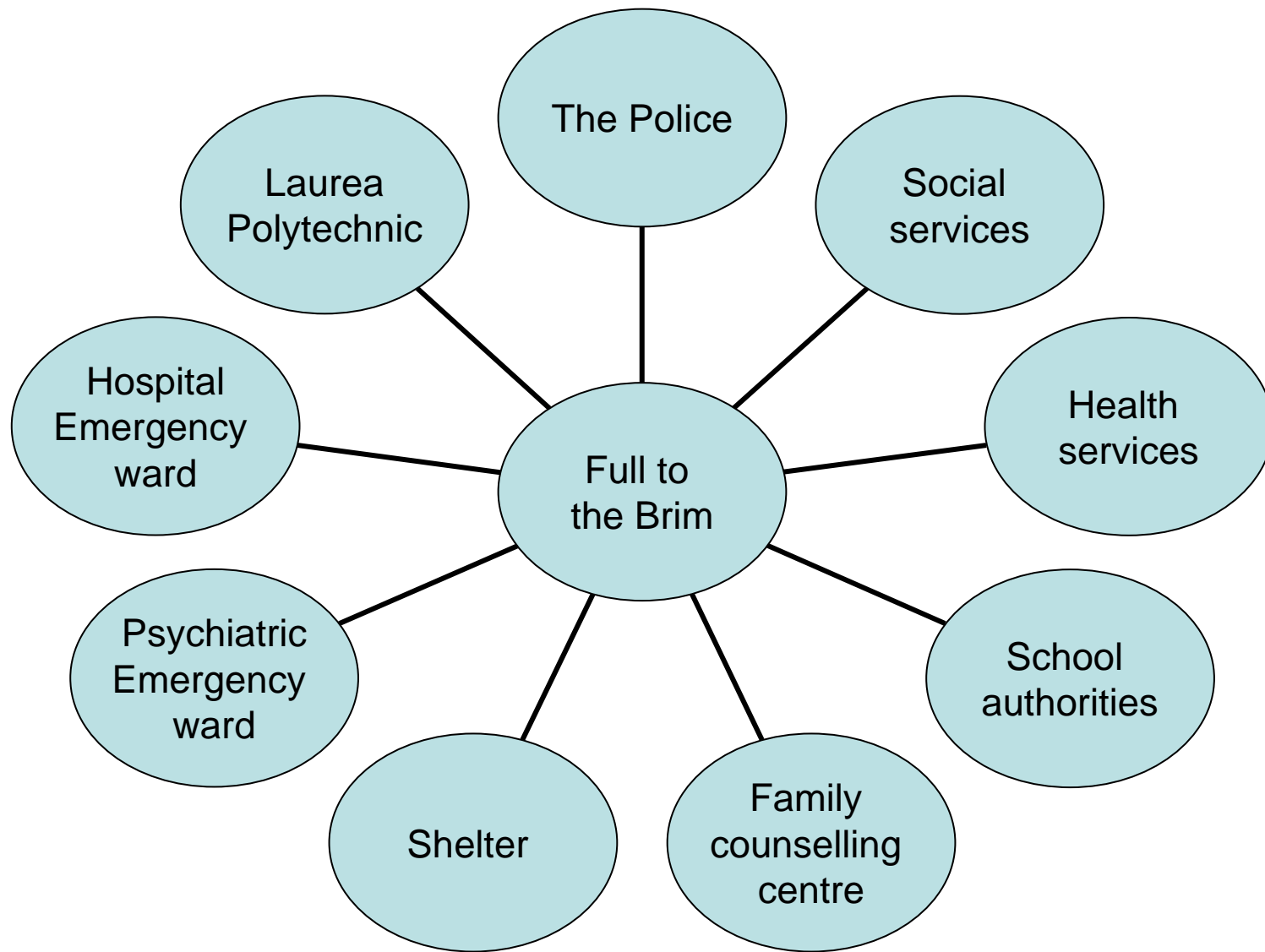
- Informal social support
 - 65 % talked about partner violence (56 % in 1997)
- Official support
 - 31 % sought help from official body or other helping agencies (26 % in 1997)
- The most serious case of violence
 - 10,1 % of the cases reported to police (9,4 % in 1997)
 - 13,7 % of women sought medical care (12,3 % in 1997)

"FULL TO THE BRIM"

To prevent violence against
women in Porvoo
1999-2002

HOW IT BEGUN

- The national five-year (1998-2002) project for the prevention of violence against women and prostitution made the problem visible
- No adequate services available for women affected by violence in Porvoo
- The local family counselling centre convened key organisations to a meeting. A decision was made to start a local project for prevention of violence against women



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

1. To enhance the capacity of different authorities to prevent, recognize and intervene with domestic violence
2. To give better help and support to victims and witnesses (children)
3. To refer perpetrators to seek help for ending their violence
4. To establish a network between different organisations involved
5. To create an open discussion about violence against women in the community

IMPLEMENTATION 1/4

- Training; over 20 seminars were held, approximately 1050 participated
- All authorities involved, devised own models to detect and to intervene in domestic violence
- Improved shelter services for victims of violence. Now available 24-hour service

IMPLEMENTATION 2/4

Groups

- For female victims; open groups and close groups (10 meetings once a week)
- For victims of sexual violence
- For child witnesses of domestic violence
- For men help them to stop the violence

IMPLEMENTATION 3/4

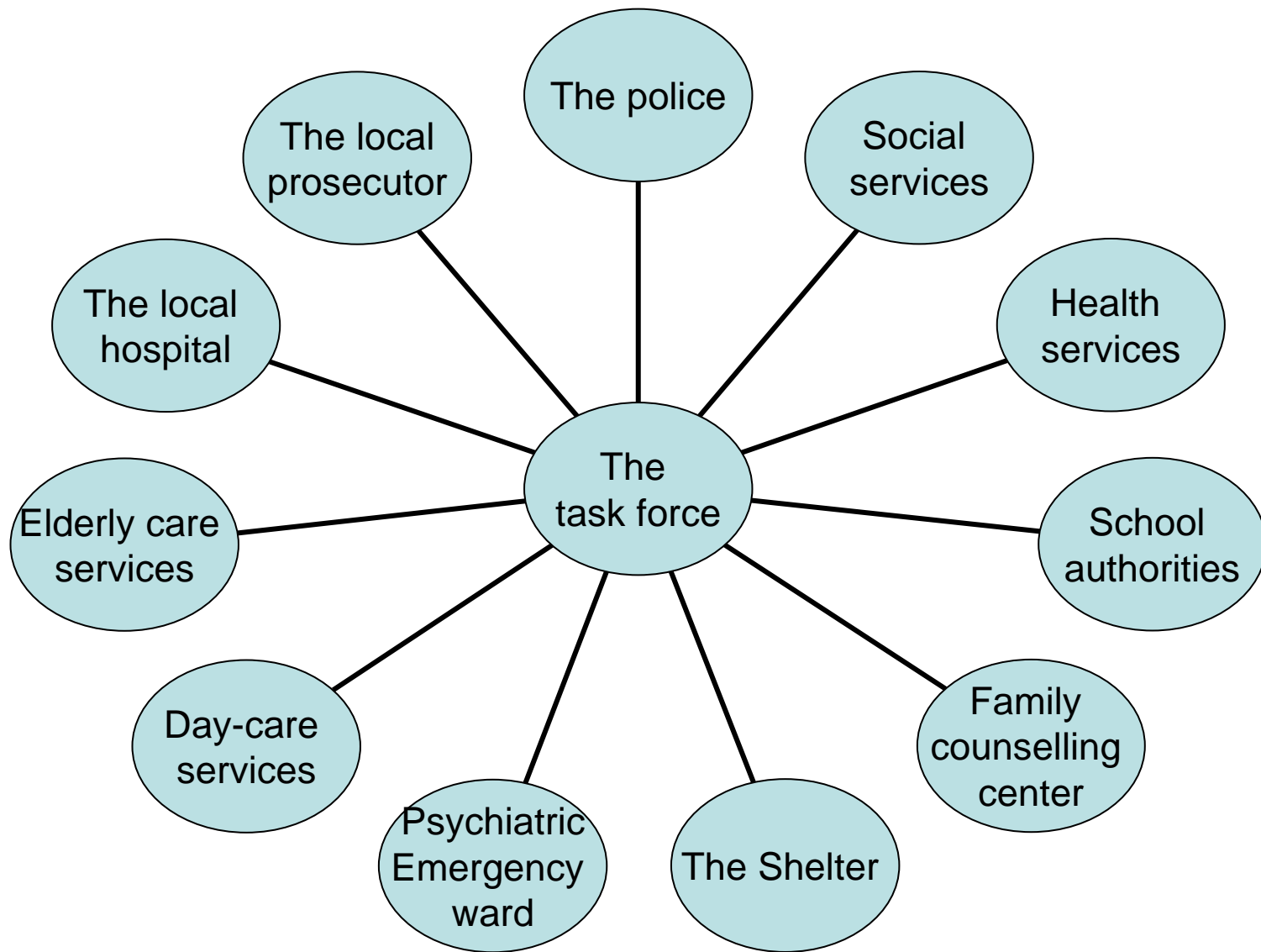
- **“Family preparing courses”**, informed about violence against women. High risk when pregnant or when the child is born
- **Referral of cases** from the police and prosecutor to the family counselling centre. A new way of working for both
- **Pamphlet**; information about violence against women and where to get help
- **The local media** informed well about the project and made the violence visible in the town of Porvoo

IMPLEMENTATION 4/4

- The City Board set up a multi-professional, cross-administrative task force to prevent violence between couples and in intimate relationships.

The purpose of the task force

- to draft a programme to prevent violence between couples and in intimate relationships,
- to monitor its implementations,
- to develop targeted services,
- to co-ordinate co-operation,
- to provide training to professionals,
- to manage information services and
- to provide expert help to various organisations.



Recommendations for the prevention of interpersonal and domestic violence. How to guide and lead local and regional activities in social and health care services

- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
- In 2008

The objectives of the recommendations

1/2

- influence public attitudes to ensure that interpersonal and domestic violence is perceived as a serious problem that needs to be addressed in order to reduce the level of violence throughout the country
- help to develop structures and procedures to discourage interpersonal and domestic violence

The Objectives 2/2

- promote coordinated and determined cooperation in municipalities
- ensure that professionally managed and coordinated assistance and services are available within the social and health care system early enough, and for a sufficiently extensive period of time:
 - for those exposed to violence,
 - children and young people living in violent families and
 - the perpetrators.