

Focus on Perpetrators

The Overview on the Services for Perpetrators of DV and IPV in Finland



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Normative background in Finland

How things should be...

- Istanbul Convention (in effect since 2015)
 - Art. 16(1): Parties shall take necessary legislative or other measures to set up/support programmes teaching perpetrators of DV to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent patterns.
- Social Welfare Act (1301/2014)
 - 11.5 §: Needs for support – "as a result of IPV, DV or other type of violence" (perpetrators not mentioned)

Normative background in Finland

How things are...

- Government Bill 155/2014 (Reg. ratification of I.C.):
 - ”Thus far, the preventive programs and perpetrator treatment models have been project-based, sporadic initiatives.”
 - ”Long-term, concentrated planning has not been done and initiatives from different actors have not in any way been co-ordinated.”
 - ”Treatment programs are not available nationwide, instead they are concentrated in the Southern part of Finland.”

Services available for perpetrators

1) Criminal Sanctions Agency

- Programmes are structured, clearly administrated
- Rehabilitation incl. Individual sessions, group work
- Funded by the government
- Only 6-11% attend, mostly substance abuse programs

2) NGO-based services for civilians

- Funding based on Slot Machine Association (RAY) grants
- NGO's employ 62 persons, most full-time

Mapping of the NGO-based services in Finland

- 18 NGO-based service providers were identified
- 14/18 replied the questionnaire
- 6 umbrella organizations, some serve at several locations, all represented
- Funding is well-established by Slot Machine Agency
- Discretion by law: funding is not to cover basic public services
- No charge from clients (apart from 1 service provider)



Information on the NGO-based services

- The methodology and framework for the programmes with perpetrators were diverse
- Service providers do not follow same established concepts
- The service providers have been facilitating individual and group therapy for perpetrators for several years locally, so practices have developed separately
- The reported partner contact varied. This should be further looked at and analyzed in the light of the Istanbul Convention
- Access to services varies, not nationwide
- Inconsistent referrals, mostly self-referred, mostly very late