



Project Results

– New model of intervention, strengths and weaknesses, prospects for the future

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Finnish Youth Research Network

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Content of the Presentation

- Outline of the project in Finland
- Findings taken to the field
- Responses from the field
- Prospects for the future

Outline of the project in Finland

- In Finland the project aimed at identifying the practices in two Reform school units, their strengths and weaknesses, and at making suggestions for the better
- Thus, a "new model of intervention" has not explicitly been invented, but the "old model of intervention" has been given its credit and critics
- These findings have been taken to the field – and being a target of an intensive interest by the field.

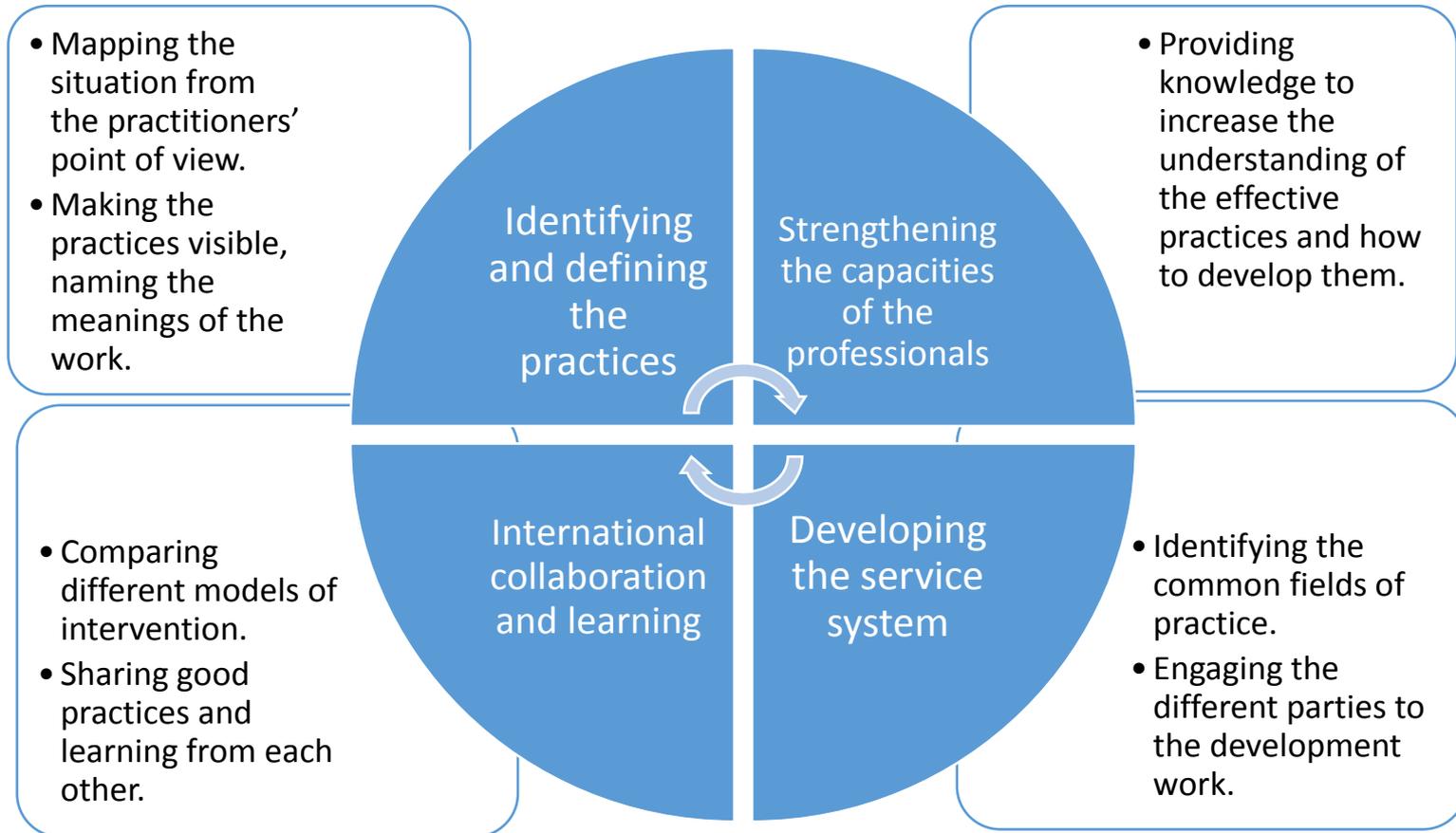
Reform Schools in Finland

- Finland has seven reform schools, of which five are owned by the State, and two by NGO's
- Together they offer 249 places for minors aged 13 – 17 years of age that have
 - Substance abuse
 - Running away
 - Violent behavior
 - Problems at home
 - Problems at school
- A majority of the students have psychiatric problems, especially
 - Conduct disorders
 - Substance related disorders
 - Scholastic disorders
 - Depression and anxiety disorders
- Two units were chosen as the sites of FfM-project
 - Sairila
 - Lauste



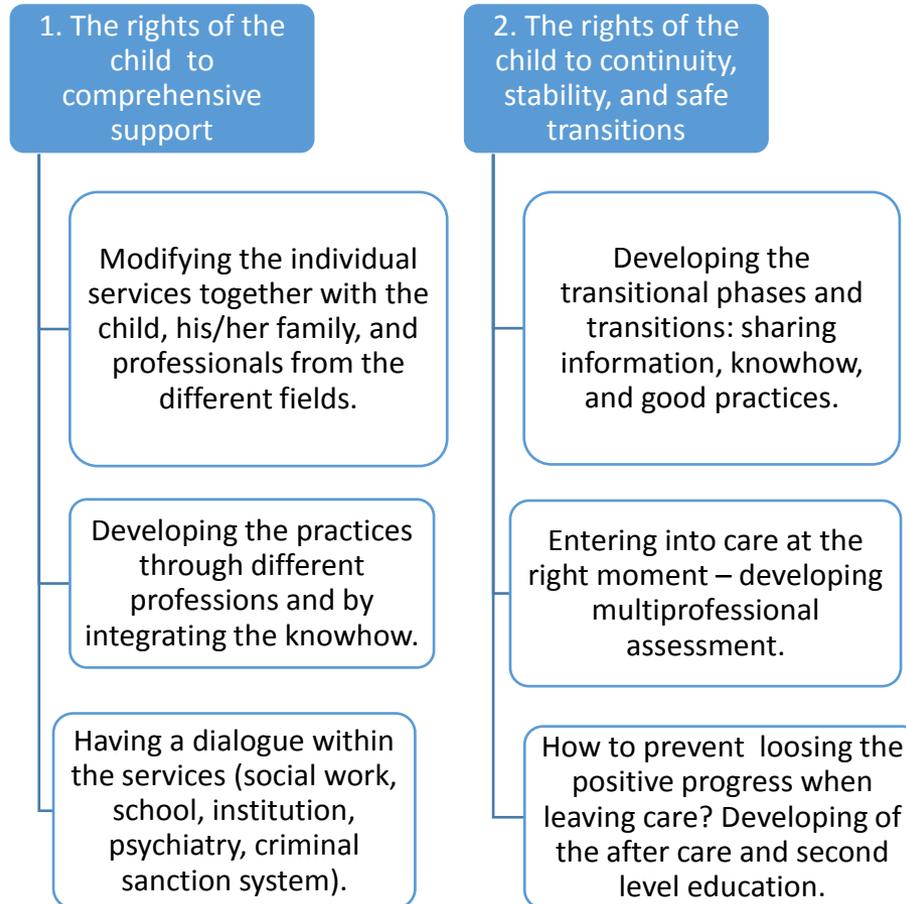


Proceeding of the project in Finland





Development needs in the care process





Optional ways of arranging support in the reform schools

Integrating the services to the units

- **Specialization and centralized services.**
- Increasing psychiatric knowhow in the unit particularly by providing medical care.
- Integrating psychiatric support in the every-day life of the units.
- Developing the treatment models inside the unit, utilizing the peer relations.
- **Secures the intensive support.**

Constructing networks outside the units

- **Collaboration and decentralizing the services**
- Having forums for discussions and keeping in touch.
- Sharing responsibilities between the institutions and the health services.
- Supporting the relations outside the institutions – hobbies and rehabilitative services.
- **Secures the continuity.**



Learning from the partner countries: differences

- In other countries, the care order and it's length are typically decided by the court.
- The parties that are responsible for the care process, differ from country to anohter: health care / social services / juvenile justice system.
- The structures of the juvenile institutions and the education of the care workers are different in different countries.
- The participation of the families in the care process is surprisingly small in many countries.
- The person responsible for the cordination and decision making is a problem in many of the partner countries – what about in Finland?
 - What are the positions of the key workers and the social workers? Who is the responsible person, and who knows the young person personally? Who is the key worker from the young persons' point of view?



Learning from the partner countries: similarities

- The young people and their challenges are very similar in different countries.
 - Including the porportion of them from the general population.
- The theoretical frameworks of the care are very similar
 - Systemic & ecological theories, attachment theory
- The practices are quite similar
 - Psychoanalytical therapy, cognitive-behavioural therapy, medication, multi-professional team.
- The challenges and the needs for development are quite similar.
 - Lack of time, lack of common language and dialogue, lack of trust, lack of encounters.
- The new models invented in the process are different in partner countries, but focus quite a lot on naming the person responsible for the process, and increasing dialogue.
- Criticism: do all these models and processes just sustain the old model or really create something new and alternative?
 - Taking care of these young people at home is not an option in many cases.



Responses from the field

- The results have been announced both for the large audience, and the specific groups of professionals
- In Mikkeli 13th of February 2018, app. 40 participants, and in Turku 21st of March 2018, app. 90 participants participated in a seminar – including the ones that were interviewed
- The discussions following the seminars included
 - Messages from the criminal sanction systems: they felt as not being integrated in the processes
 - Supporting the idea of the both lines of psychiatric support – inside the unit as well as outside the unit
 - Asking for more dialogue with the different professionals, but also time for this dialogue (i.e. resources)
 - High expectations for the reform in social and health services (SOTE) with high suspicions of their success in the current situation
- In a presentation for the managers and the Directory of the Finnish Reform Schools and Prisons' Family Unit, National Institute for Health and Welfare in 4th of April 2018, results from the international comparison raised a lot of discussion.
 - How is it possible that the situations, such as the number of these young people, are so similar in different countries ? Why does the welfare state fail?



Prospects for the Future

- The Prime Minister's office funded a new research project on young offenders and preventing recidivism for FYRN
- Ministry of Justice has called for a committee that aims at creating a model for working with young offenders that should be implemented on a national level
- Opening of new units in the State owned reform schools
- Continuing research collaboration with the reform schools
- Taking the results to the bigger audience
 - Two articles already published in the journal Haaste – a journal published by the criminal prevention committee
 - Book article in August
 - Conference key note and a work shop in Reykjavik, Iceland, in the Nordic Child Protection Conference in September with app. 500 participants
- Participating and influencing in the reform on health and social welfare in Finland (SOTE), and particularly it's program on child and family services (LAPE)
- More collaboration with the professionals in psychiatry
 - A three hour lecture in the Helsinki University Hospital on 21st of June, 2018
- Aiming at collaboration with our international colleagues
- And last, but not least, aiming at listening to the youth.
- Thank you!



For more information

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