

# Meeting of the National Commission for Social Inclusion, Romania

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# **Social Protection and Inclusion Strategy and its Monitoring in Finland**

- **Some background information on Finland**
- **Basic ideas**
- **Organisation - general and for SPI strategy**

# Some characteristics of Finland

- **Over 330 000 sqkm territory, 5.2 million people**
- **Regional government system complicated - no federalism**
- **Municipal autonomy since 1868 - approx 430 municipalities**
- **Traditional problem: regional disparities**
- **Transparent compensation system between municipalities through transfers of the central government based on a complex set of indicators**

# Social protection and inclusion in Finland

- **1960s-70s: strong development of social protection legislation**
- **1980s: development of information basis - who is poor, how many people are poor, what other problems are linked with that - unemployment research**
- **1990s: increased research due to economic crisis**
- **1995: Finland become a Member of the EU**

# The role of regional or local governments

- **Local governments implement social protection and inclusion in practice incl. data collection (cf. France, Russia)**
- **Negotiating mechanism through the Association of Finnish Municipalities**
- **NB: e.g. employment administration centrally organised**
- **Steering mechanisms: normative, financial and information**
- **Normative steering only will not work > the rule of law must be observed**

# Poverty & social inclusion policy - some general principles

- **Finnish social protection is based on governing various social risks (cf. e.g. UK)**
- **Not a separate field of policy-making**
- **Wide support from population**
- **Stakeholders include social partners and NGOs**
- **BASED ON NATIONAL INTERESTS**
- **European social protection and inclusion programme gives instruments to improve the national policy - all countries in the same boat**

# **BASIC IDEA OF MONITORING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION POLICY**

**FOR GOOD POLICY-MAKING WE NEED TO  
KNOW**

- **THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS AND HOW THEY DEVELOP (TIME SERIES)**
- **WHAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SOCIETY TOWARDS THESE NEEDS IS**
- **CONCEPTS FOR EVALUATION:  
COVERAGE, LEAKAGE, ADEQUACY,  
QUALITY**

# **BASIC IDEA OF DATA COLLECTION**

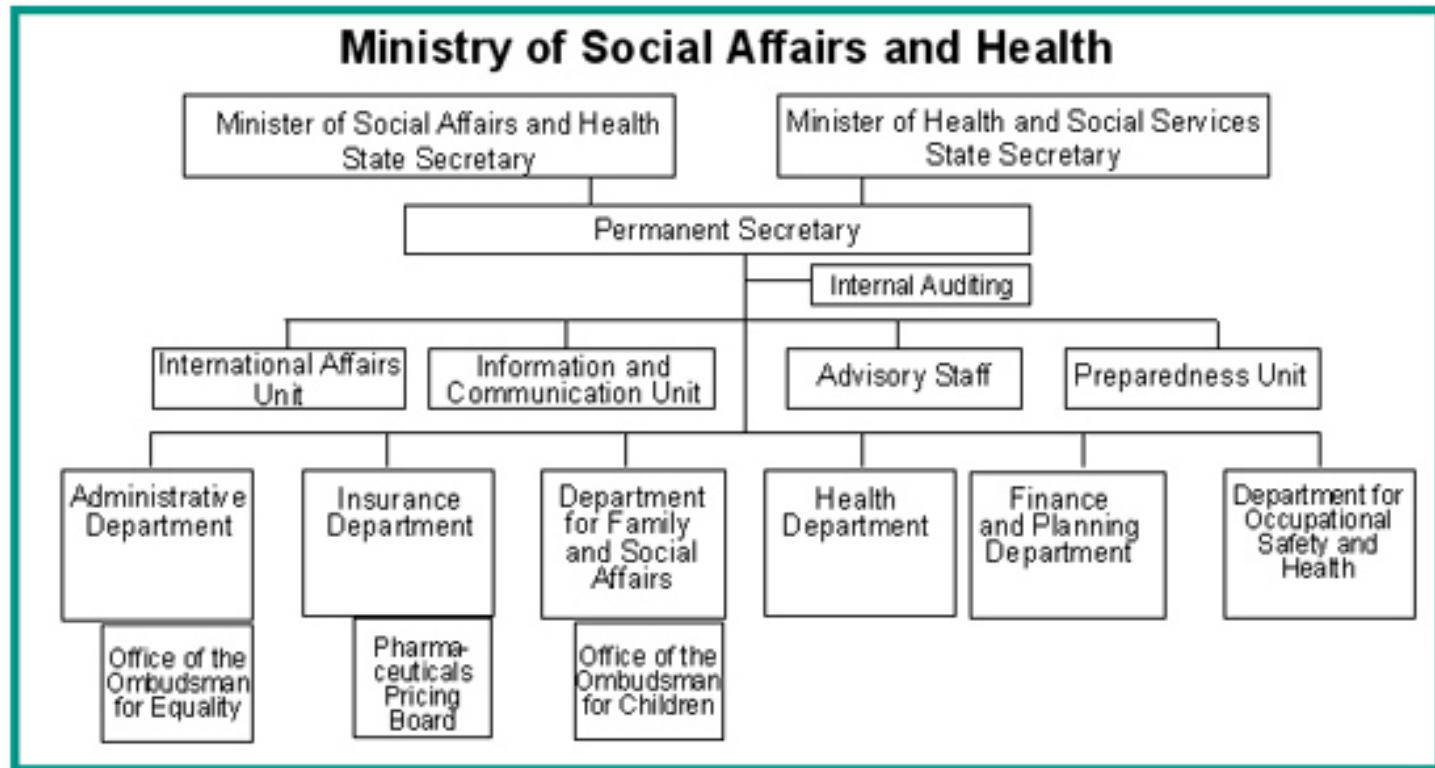
**NO USELESS INFORMATION IS COLLECTED**

- GOOD REPORTING, TRANSPARENT  
INFORMATION USE**
- FEEDBACK TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS**
- REGULATED INFORMATION USE - DATA  
PROTECTION, PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

## **Key player in the monitoring of social inclusion and protection policy**

- **Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**
- **Cf. Romanian solution - the role of employment (Romania) vs. health (Finland)**
- **Required: good cross-administrative cooperation**

# Organogramme of the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs & Health



# Key contributors of social protection and inclusion monitoring in Finland

- **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**
- **Other ministries (in particular MoL, MinFin)**
- **Social Insurance Institution**
- **Central Institute of Pension Security**
- **National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health STAKES**
- **National Public Health Institute + WG on international health statistics**

**Other relevant institutions e.g:**

- **Gov't Economic Research Institute VATT**
- **Institute of Social Policy, University of Turku**

## Other ministries and their policy fields

- **Ministry of Labour: unemployment, immigration**
- **Ministry of Education: family vs. work, education, long-term unemployment**
- **Ministry of Environment: housing**
- **Ministry of Interior: old age, indebtedness, immigration**
- **Ministry of Justice: indebtedness**
  
- **Ministry of Finance: financial data**

# SPI strategy, Gov't programmes, action plans and their supervision

- Social protection strategy: national document drafted for over 10 years by the Ministry
- The document lays the main problems to be addressed and gives an outline of solutions
- In compliance with this document each Government prepares a programme for the mandated period (4 years)
- Yearly action plans with budget implications
- These plans are split into action plans of the subordinatted institutions which are supervised by means of performance management and results based budgeting
- National process takes place in compliance with the European Programme for SPI

# Reporting of SPI to the European Union

- **Over 30 Sections for EU affairs, 6 in MSAH**
- **One of these Sections to prepare the national reporting on SPI, members: from various ministries, social partners, NGOs**
- **Drafting of documents in the MSAH**
- **Meetings of the Section: discussions and comments, also from the Committee for European Affairs (all Gov't level)**
- **Drafts to the SGs of Ministries and the Cabinet Committee for European Affairs**
- **Synchronization with the Government Programme**

## How does monitoring guide policy-making?

- **Decision-making is always a political choice**
- **The role of the Government and the Parliament**
- **Good information makes stupid choices more difficult and wise choices easier**

## **Two aims of the EU-related administrative process**

- Technical quality and coordination with EU policies**
- Political commitment inside the country**