



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

# *14th International Metropolis Conference*

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*Building a safe and diverse Finland*

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# Developments

- Finland - a country of emigration till 1980's
- Refugee reception at the 1980's
- Government decisions to compensate reception coast for municipalities, 1989
- First government migration policy programme in 1997: focus on humanitarian reception policy
- Integration Law in 1999
- Government migration policy programme 2007: focus on labour migration



# A good intention, but a failure

- Holistic Framework Programme on Integration based on Government Policy Programme (2007), including e.g.
  - National targets and indicators for every policy sector
  - General needs and most vulnerable groups were identified
  - Local level targets, indicators and quality criteria at every policy sector
  - National level actions and resources
  - Recommendations for local authorities
  - Distribution of best practices



# Pearls from the ashes

- Ideas retested during the present integration law renewal process
- Holistic monitoring programme
  - Indicators for all policy sectors
  - Integration barometer
  - Identification of research needs
- Dialogue between government policy programmes on integration related issues
  - Migrant Health and Wellbeing -study (MAAMU)



# MAAMU -study 2009-2001 (maili.malin@thl.fi)

- Population based study
- Results comparable with Development of Child Health Monitoring System -data from 2007-2008
- Study sample adults (18-64), children and adolescence of Russian, Somali and Kurdish origin in 6 largest migrant cities
- Interviews and health checks
- Health and wellbeing in different life spheres (home, neighbourhood, day care, school, vocational training), care and service experiences + mechanisms + recognising most vulnerable, unmet health needs, service system weak points



## At the same time funding for national development work:

- National programmes, e.g. KASTE (national development plan for social and health services), RAY (Finland's Slot Machine Association)
- Development work with ESF- and other EU-programme funding
- But, a need for systematic evaluation, identifying and distribution at nation level



# Risks - strengths: how do you see it?

- Risks:
  - Culturally homogeneous population, homogeneous services
  - Economic regression:
    - health care services facing funding difficulties
    - NGO's and other service providers facing funding challenges
    - negative attitudes are increasing: contradictory policy signals
  - Health care services facing structural challenges
    - Identification and argumentation of the need for special services
- Strengths
  - Broad consensus on the equality and non-discrimination principles, as well as the need to support most vulnerable
  - Still political will to promote holistic and two-way integration policy, as well as taking into account the needs of most vulnerable
  - Family and children's issues have high political value in different national political agendas