



TUKENA is a project coordinated by the Uusimaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) and implemented together with the project partner SOS Children's Villages. The purpose of TUKENA project is to support integration in the whole Uusimaa region. The project is financed by the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (**AMIF**). It started in May 2018 and will continue until 29 February 2020.

The ELY Centres are responsible for the regional implementation and development tasks of the central government. Finland has a total of 15 ELY Centres, which are tasked with promoting regional competitiveness, well-being and sustainable development and curbing climate change. ELY Centres have three areas of responsibility:

- Business and industry, labour force, competence and cultural activities
- Transport and infrastructure
- Environment and natural resources

The supervision, guidance, and financing of the family group homes intended for minors, who have arrived unaccompanied and received a residence permit, is assigned to the ELY Centre by the law. In addition to these tasks stipulated by the law, the Uusimaa ELY Centre coordinates the TUKENA project supporting the work of the family group homes in the area. The project partner SOS Children's Villages has, besides diverse work promoting the well-being of children and families, experience in running a reception centre for minor asylum seekers, family group homes, and aftercare activities in Finland.

The general objective of the project is to develop an operations model, which would provide additional support for taking care of traumatized children in residential units in the Uusimaa region. Furthermore, participatory functions are being developed by means of individual and group-based activities that enhance the children's psychosocial well-being, and the cooperation between residential units and municipalities is advanced.

The beneficiaries of the project are minors who, having arrived in the country without a guardian and received a residence permit, are living in family group homes or supported residential units. In addition, the target group of the project includes young persons who, having arrived unaccompanied, during the project period have reached majority and moved on to aftercare. Aftercare is additional support provided for young adults who have arrived as minors without a guardian, and it can be received until the young person reaches the age of 21. Furthermore, the project benefits persons working with minors, such as municipal employees and staff in units intended for minors. We also try to reach other persons associated with the said target group, for example, teaching staff, health care operators, and youth workers.

The project employs altogether four persons: a project coordinator in the Uusimaa ELY Centre, and a psychologist, psychiatric nurse and social work expert employed by SOS Children's Villages.

TUKENA project

- ◆ Together with municipalities and family group homes, provides solutions for increasing the comprehensive well-being of children and young persons and for preventing social exclusion and radicalisation.
- ◆ Plans and carries out the implementation of individual and group-based methods that enhance the psychosocial well-being of the minors living in family group homes
- ◆ Seeks to develop timely treatment paths together with the operators responsible for the youth mental health services of the different municipalities in the Uusimaa region
- ◆ Engages young persons living in family group homes and supported residential units in the planning of operations by way of, for example, client panel activities for young persons, collection and exploitation of feedback, as well as joint development of employees and young persons.
- ◆ Produces information for use and trains the operators working with unaccompanied minors in the area.

The project includes, for instance, the following actions:

QUESTIONNAIRES	for young persons, unit employees, and municipal social workers provide an up-to-date view of the current state and development needs
VOICE OF THE YOUTH	is heard in the client panels which meet four times during the project period
CONSULTATIONS and WORK SHOPS	serve as forums where professionals can discuss, develop the work, and receive support for their work
TRAINING	on interesting and topical themes provides additional information to support the work of professionals working with minors in the area
TOOLS and METHODS	related to, for example, individual and group-based work are shared for the use of all units
GOOD PRACTICES	in the Uusimaa region are collected, documented, and shared at a nationwide level