

LASTA form

A tool for pre-trial investigation and risk assessment

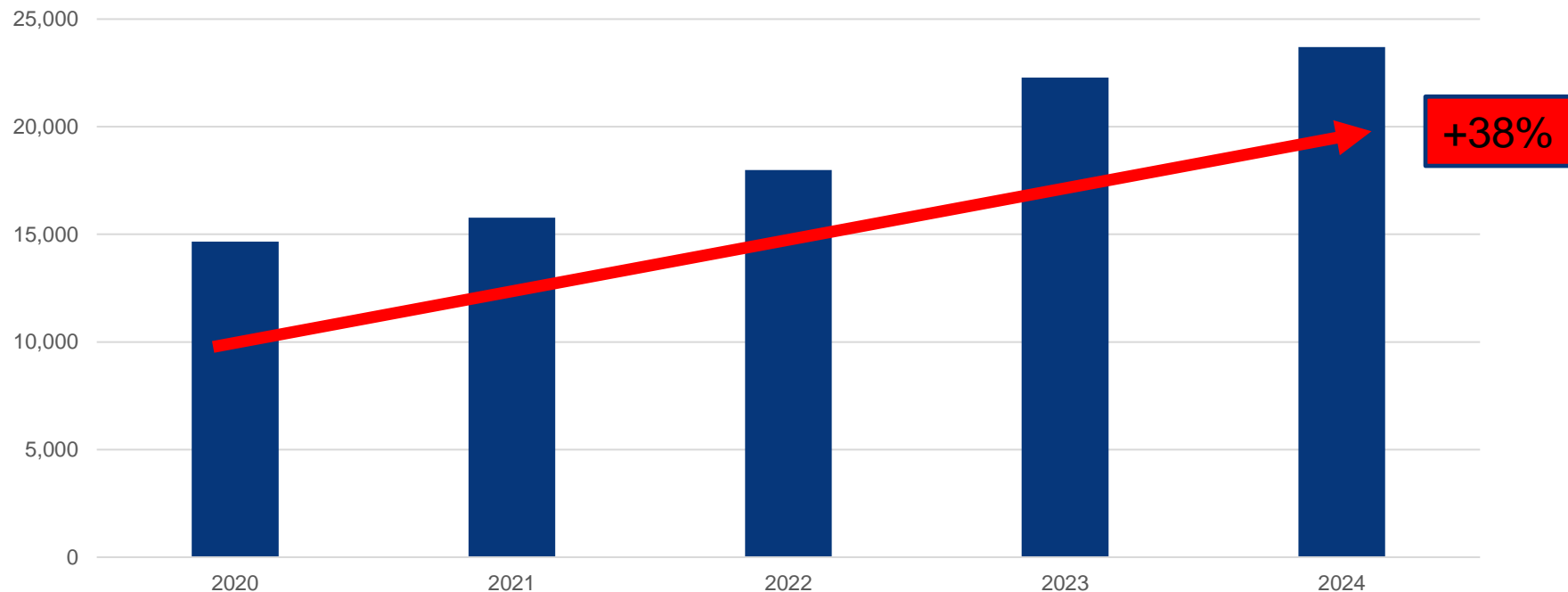
Superintendent Saara Asmundela, National Police Board (Barnahus), Finland



LASTA form

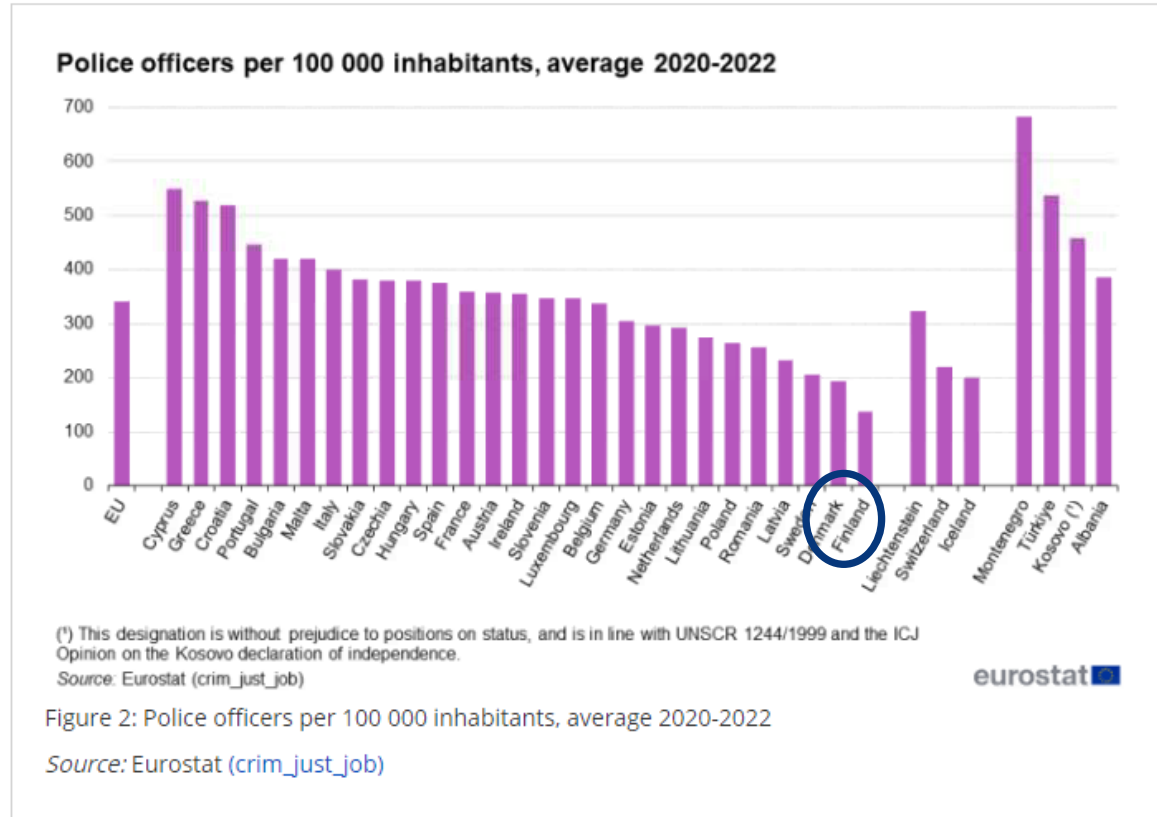
- Filled in by a professional from either social services or health care
- Filled in for the police and by a request from the police
- Evidence-based, multidisciplinary approach
- Mere facts, no interpretation in the process of filling the form (yet)
- Main goals:
 1. To gather up relevant information on the child and their circumstances
 2. To provide means for risk assessment
 3. To provide means for assessing the appropriate measures taken by the police and other officials
 4. To provide means for assessing the best interest of that particular child

Reported incidents of suspected crimes against children in 2020 - 2024

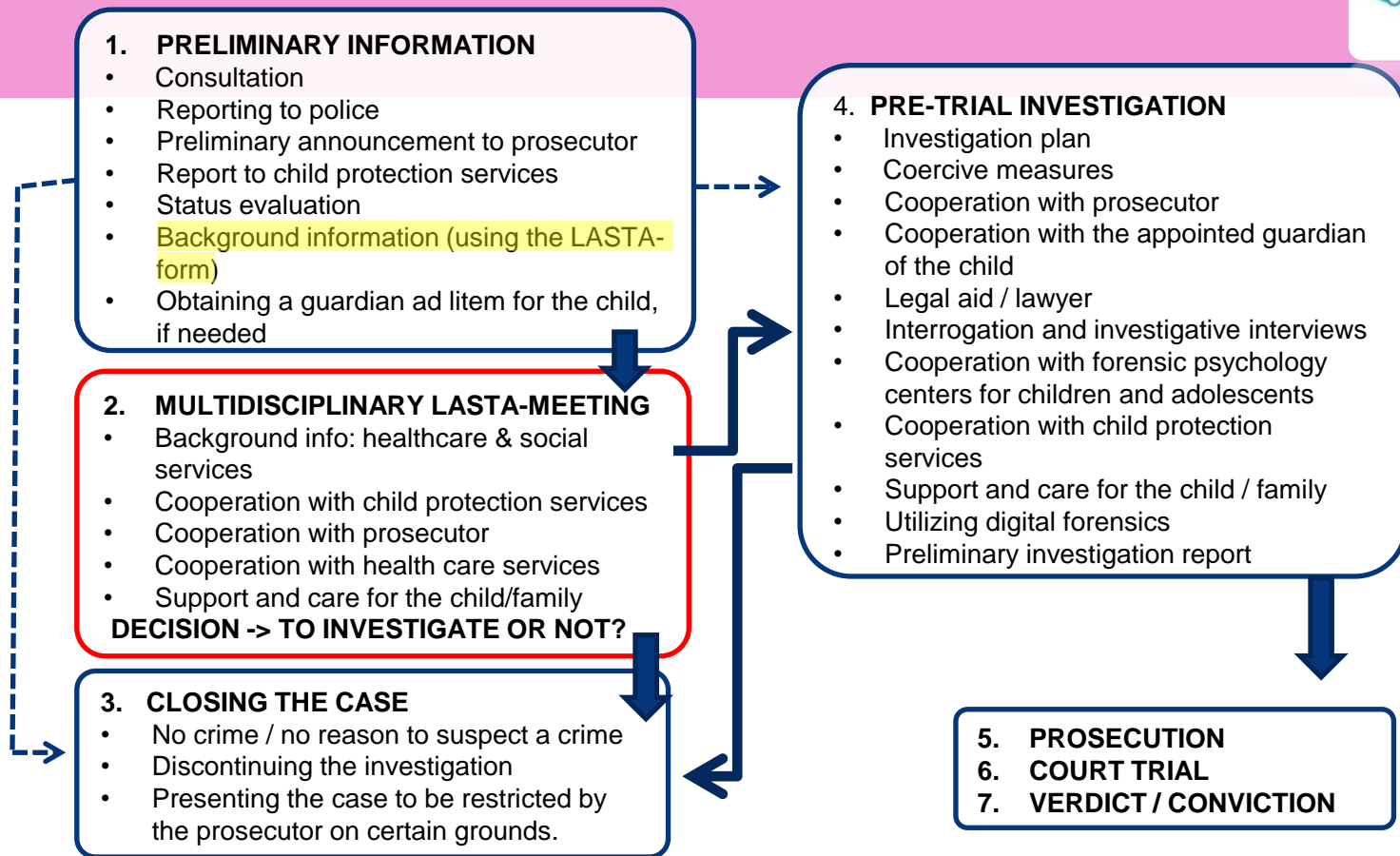


Source: Police statistics

132 police officers per 100,000 inhabitants in Finland



LASTA-model of multidisciplinary cooperation in investigations of crimes against children



The content of the revised form 1/5



- Child's personal information and gender
- Information on the suspected crime
 - Physical / sexual violence or other (define)
 - Recurrent / one-off incident
 - Internet-based (Y/N)
 - Indication of THB (Y/N)
- Time and date of the suspected crime
- Information on forensic medical examination (if conducted already)

The content of the revised form 2/5



- Does the family know about the suspicion?
 - What have the parents told about the incident
 - How have they reacted to the suspicion of crime
 - What actions has CPS taken regarding the suspicion
- Information on the child's living conditions (with whom)
- Information on the child's guardianship

The content of the revised form 3/5



- Child's mother tongue and nationality
 - Need for interpreter (+ for whom)
- Child's contacts from everyday life
 - Daycare/school
- Child's current status in CPS
 - + contact information
- Possible history with CPS
 - Previous child welfare notifications, house calls etc.

The content of the revised form 4/5



- Any additional causes for concern
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health issues
 - Parents' own history of trauma
 - Parents' impulsive behavior
 - Financial or other struggles
 - Lack of social support network
 - Lack of parenting skills
 - Negative attitude towards the child
 - Positive attitude towards corporal punishment
 - Negative attitude towards authorities
 - Child custody dispute or pathological divorce

The content of the revised form 5/5



- Child's health and development
 - Any issues concerning the child's ability to participate in a forensic interview
 - Previous unexplained injuries
 - Long-term illnesses
 - Previous traumatic experiences (such as witnessing a domestic violence event)
- + Additional information on all of the previous themes
- Finally: professional opinion of the person filling out the form