



Barnahus

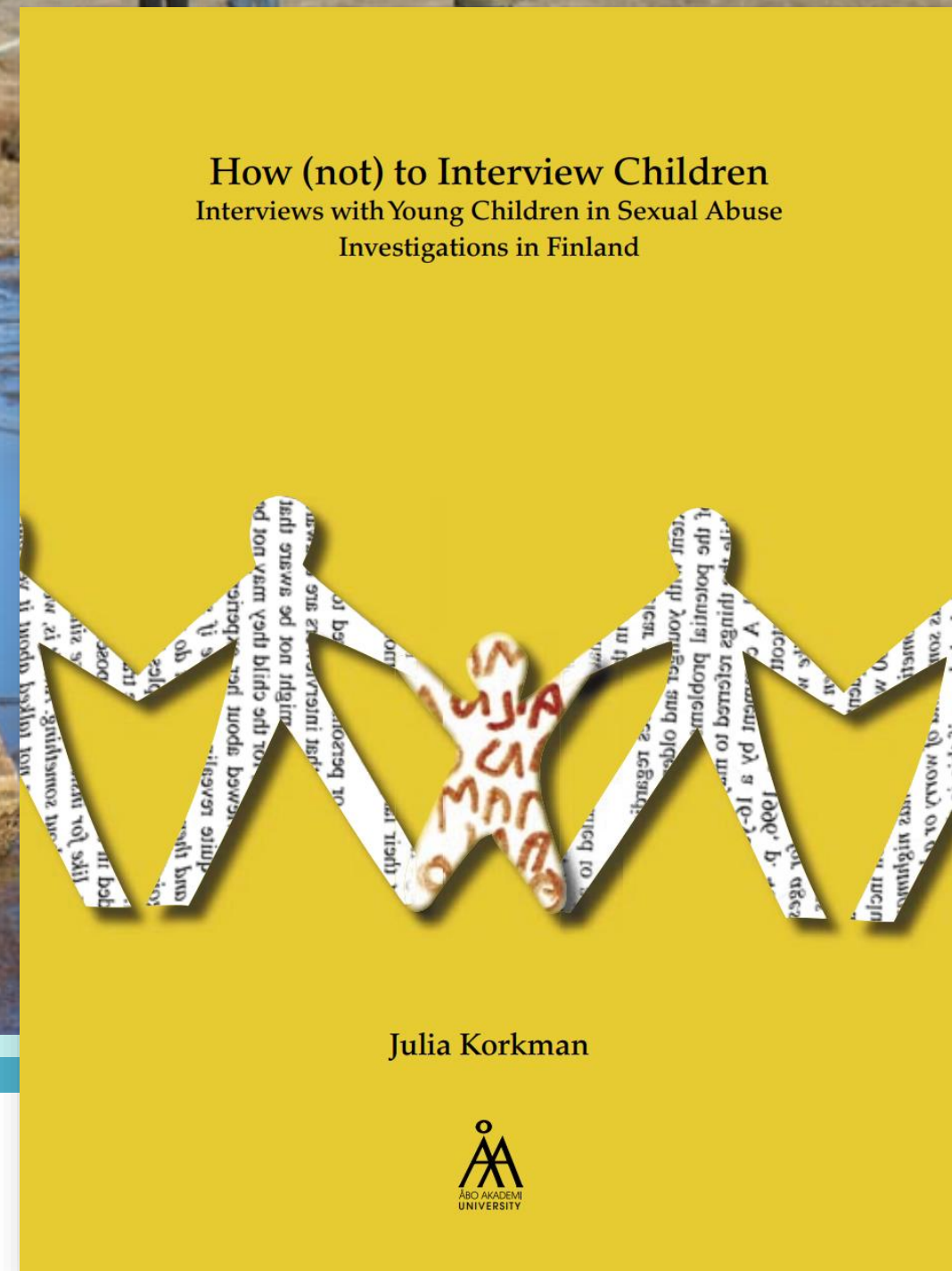
What has Finland learned in setting up the Barnahus?


Taina Laajasalo, Chief Specialist, Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare



It's been a long journey!

- First Barnahus-inspired unit opened in one of our University Central Hospitals in 2001
- Academic research related to e.g. child interviewing and decision making in CSA cases started soon after





In **Finland**, the development of the Barnahus model has been connected to pre-existing collaborative structures, the Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Units at the five university hospitals

- Units have a strong relationship to healthcare (child psychiatry)
- Interviews are conducted by forensic psychologists, but only carried out when the police request it
- Currently >1200 referrals / year

law-oriented logic

treatment-oriented logic




Balance is essential!

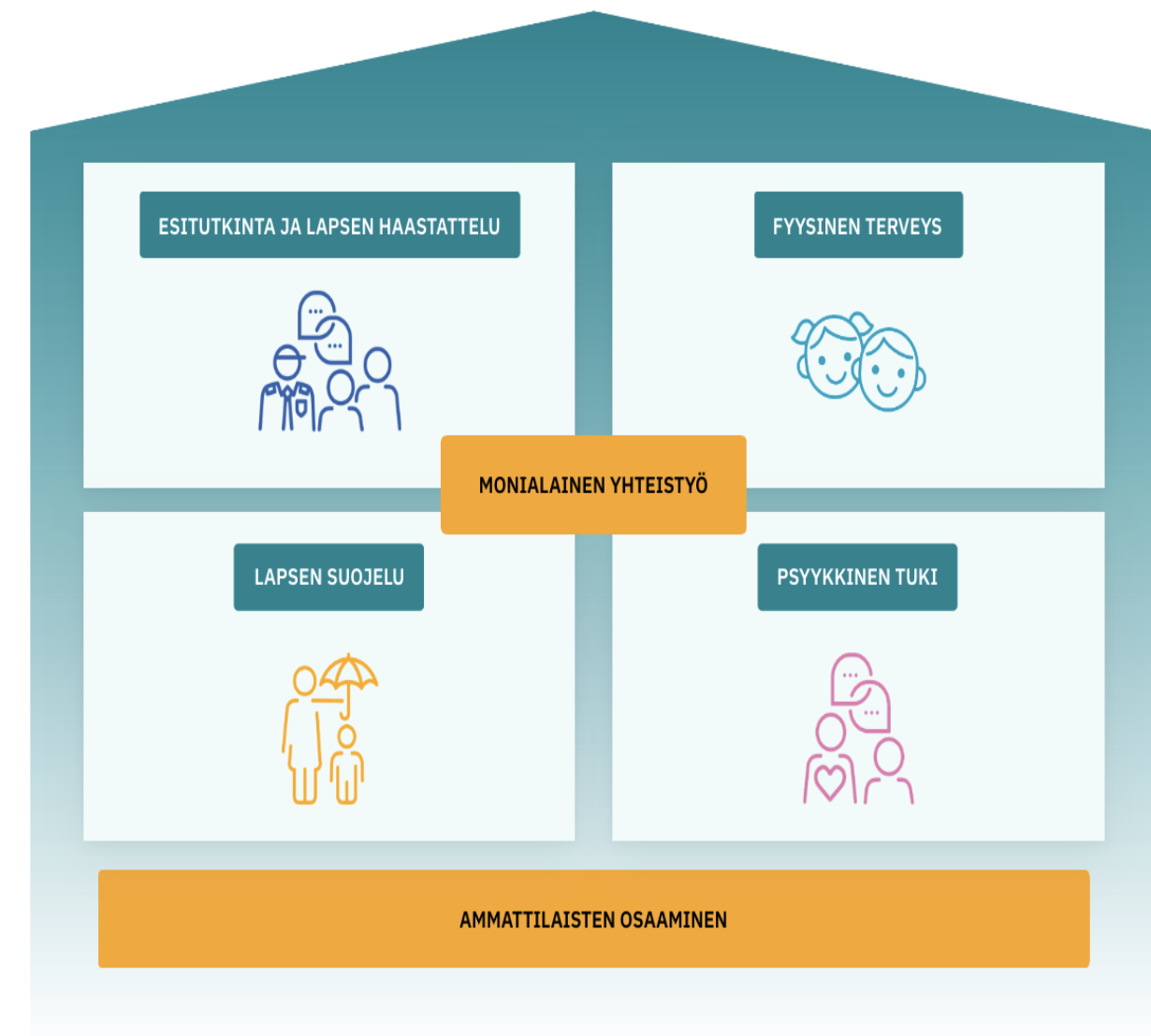
In 2019 Barnahus - project was launched by the Ministry of Social Health and Welfare in collaboration with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare.

Some of the project milestones and aims:

- Implementing evidence-based trauma-treatment methods nationally
- Free, web-based training available for all professionals encountering child maltreatment
- Aim to make interagency collaboration and information exchange **the norm** in child maltreatment cases (and adjust the law accordingly)

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Barnahus-mallissa tehostetaan lapsiin kohdistuvien väkivaltaepäilyjen selvitysprosesseja sekä väkivaltaa kokeneiden lasten tukea ja hoitoa. Suuntaviivana toimivat eurooppalaiset [Barnahus-standardit](#) .





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Ensuring child-friendly justice through the effective operation of the Barnahus-units in Finland



What is the project?

The European Union/Council of Europe Joint Project **"Barnahus in Finland - Ensuring child-friendly justice through the effective operation of the Barnahus-units in Finland"** aims to ensure that all children in Finland involved in child abuse investigations benefit from a high-quality assessment in child-friendly settings appropriate psychosocial



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**Child s... in Finland
Barnahus project**

Summary report of qualitative and quantitative research

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Challenges remain, but we are optimistic

- The most recent report indicates that criminal proceedings in offenses against children have increased in length in recent years.
- In 2022, the average duration of criminal proceedings (from reporting to court) in child sexual abuse cases was 29.5 months, nearly half a year longer than in 2019.
- Preliminary research findings suggest that **multiprofessional collaboration and risk assessment** may offer one solution: it can speed up the processes, in addition to serving the child's best interests.

Rikosprosessin kesto lapsiin kohdistuvissa seksuaalirikoksissa vuosina 2014–2022

BARNAHUS IN FINLAND – ENSURING CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE
THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE BARNAHUS-
UNITS IN FINLAND

MONICA FAGERLUND & NOORA ELLONEN

Euroopan unionin
yhteisrahoittama



EUROOPAN UNIONI

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Euroopan neuvoston
yhteisrahoittama ja toteuttama



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Thank you!

