

Implementation plan for the National Child Strategy

Government Resolution

PUBLICATIONS OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT 2022:38

vn.fi/en



FINNISH
GOVERNMENT

Publications of the Finnish Government 2022:38

Implementation plan for the National Child Strategy

Government Resolution

Finnish Government, Helsinki 2022

Publication sale

**Online bookstore
of the Finnish
Government**

vnjulkaisumyynti.fi

Publication distribution

**Institutional Repository
for the Government
of Finland Valto**

julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi

Finnish Government
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

This publication is copyrighted. You may download, display and print it for Your own personal use.
Commercial use is prohibited.

ISBN pdf: 978-952-383-823-9
ISSN pdf: 2490-0966

Layout: Government Administration Department, Publications

Helsinki 2022 Finland

Implementation plan for the National Child Strategy Government resolution

Publications of the Finnish Government 2022:38**Publisher** Finnish Government**Language** English**Pages**

80

Abstract

Finland's first National Child Strategy was prepared through parliamentary cooperation and published on 23 February 2021 (Government publications 2021:8). The National Child Strategy aims to create a child- and family-friendly Finland that respects the rights of the child. The Strategy is based on the knowledge base concerning the status of children, young people and families and on Finland's fundamental and human rights obligations.

Each new Government is tasked with preparing and implementing a detailed implementation plan for promoting the policy guidelines of the Strategy during its term of office. In the light of the guidelines issued by the parliamentary committee that was appointed to prepare the Strategy, the implementation plan must also include a set of indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the Strategy's policy guidelines and selected measures during each government term. The progress made in implementing the Strategy must also be monitored regularly, and reports must be prepared on the effectiveness of implementation during each government term.

This publication is the first implementation plan for the Strategy, and it will be put into effect during the term of Prime Minister Marin's Government. The resolution on the implementation plan was adopted at the government plenary session on 7 October 2021. The plan takes into account the ongoing measures and projects that promote the policy guidelines of the Strategy. The plan also sets out 30 measures. The plan ends with a section on the follow-up and assessment of the implementation of the Strategy.

Keywords

Child Strategy, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child's Time — Towards a National Strategy for Children 2040, European Child Guarantee, Finland for all children, United Nations, rights of the child, Council of Europe, wellbeing, fundamental rights, human rights

ISBN PDF 978-952-383-823-9**ISSN PDF**

2490-0966

URN address <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-823-9>

Kansallisen lapsistrategian toimeenpanosuunnitelma Valtioneuvoston periaatepäätös

Valtioneuvoston julkaisu 2022:38

Julkaisija Valtioneuvosto

Kieli Englanti

Sivumäärä 80

Tiivistelmä

Suomen ensimmäinen kansallinen lapsistrategia valmisteltiin parlamentarisessa yhteistyössä ja julkaistiin 23.2.2021 (Valtioneuvoston julkaisu 2021:8). Lapsistrategialla luodaan lapsen oikeuksia kunnioittava, lapsi- ja perhemyönteinen Suomi. Strategia perustuu lasten, nuorten ja perheiden asemaa koskevaan tietopohjaan sekä Suomen perus- ja ihmisoikeusvelvoitteisiin.

Kunkin hallituksen tehtävänä on laatia ja toteuttaa tarkempi toimeenpanosuunnitelma strategian linjausten edistämiseksi hallituskaudellaan. Parlamentarisen komitean linjausten valossa toimeenpanosuunnitelman tulee lisäksi sisältää indikaattorit, joilla strategian linjausten ja valittujen toimenpiteiden vaikuttavuutta seurataan hallituskaudella. Toimeenpanon etenemistä tulee myös seurata säännöllisesti ja hallituskausittaisen toimeenpanon vaikuttavuudesta tulee tehdä selkoa.

Tämä julkaisu muodostaa strategian ensimmäisen toimeenpanosuunnitelman, jota toteutetaan Marinin hallituksen hallituskauden ajan. Periaatepäätös toimeenpanosuunnitelmasta tehtiin valtioneuvoston yleisistunnossa 7.10.2021. Suunnitelmassa on huomioitu ne jo käynnissä olevat toimenpiteet ja hankkeet, jotka edistävät osaltaan strategian linjauksia. Lisäksi suunnitelmassa asetetaan 30 toimenpidettä. Suunnitelma päättyy strategian toteutumisen seurantaan ja arviointia koskevaan jaksoon.

Asiasanat

Lapsistrategia, hyvinvointi, lapsen oikeudet, perusoikeudet, ihmisoikeudet, lapsen oikeuksien sopimus, YK, Euroopan neuvosto, eurooppalainen lapsitakuu, Lapsen aika 2040, kaikkien lasten Suomi

ISBN PDF 978-952-383-823-9

ISSN PDF 2490-0966

Julkaisun osoite <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-823-9>

Planen för genomförandet av den nationella barnstrategin Statsrådets principbeslut

Statsrådets publikationer 2022:38**Utgivare** Statsrådet**Språk** Engelska**Sidantal**

80

Referat

Finlands första nationella barnstrategi bereddes i parlamentariskt samarbete och publicerades den 23 februari 2021 (Statsrådets publikationer 2021:8). Genom barnstrategin skapas ett barn- och familjevänligt Finland som respekterar barns rättigheter. Strategin är baserad på kunskapsunderlaget om barns, ungas och familjers ställning samt på Finlands förpliktelser i fråga om de grundläggande och mänskliga rättigheterna.

Varje regering har till uppgift att göra upp och genomföra en noggrannare plan för genomförande för att främja riktlinjerna i strategin under sin regeringsperiod. I ljuset av den parlamentariska kommitténs riktlinjer ska genomförandeplanen dessutom innehålla indikatorer för att följa effekterna av riktlinjerna i strategin och de valda åtgärderna under regeringsperioden. Man bör även regelbundet kontrollera hur genomförandet fortskrider och redogöra för vilka effekter genomförandet får under de olika regeringsperioderna.

Denna publikation utgör den första planen för genomförandet av strategin som ska genomföras under Marins regeringsperiod. Principbeslutet om genomförandeplanen fattades vid statsrådets allmänna sammanträde den 7 oktober 2021. I planen har man beaktat de åtgärder och projekt som redan pågår och som för sin del främjar riktlinjerna i strategin. I planen fastställs dessutom 30 åtgärder. I slutet av planen finns ett avsnitt om uppföljning och utvärdering av genomförandet av strategin.

Nyckelord

barnstrategin, konventionen om barnets rättigheter, Barnets tid 2040, Europeiska barngarantin, Ett Finland för alla barn, FN, barnens rättigheter, Europarådet, välbefinnande, grundläggande rättigheter, mänskliga rättigheter

ISBN PDF 978-952-383-823-9**ISSN PDF**

2490-0966

URN-adress <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-823-9>

Contents

BACKGROUND	7
1 Introduction	7
1.1 What strategy?.....	7
1.2 Strategy implementation.....	8
1.3 Preparation of the implementation plan	8
1.4 Structure of the implementation plan	9
2 General principles in the implementation of the child strategy	11
FINLAND FOR ALL CHILDREN	13
3 Children, young people and the coronavirus crisis	13
4 Combating discrimination and inequality	16
5 Safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children	21
6 Protecting children from violence	26
THRIVING AND COMPETENT CHILDREN	30
7 Healthcare and social welfare services for children and families	30
8 Education and early childhood education and care	36
9 Adequate income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	41
10 Children’s relationships with family, friends and peers	45
11 Children’s leisure time and hobbies	49
CHILDREN’S INCLUSION IN SOCIETY	53
12 Child impact assessment and child budgeting	53
13 Children’s right to be heard and informed	57
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY	62
14 Monitoring and assessment of the strategy	62
Appendices	65

BACKGROUND

1 Introduction

1.1 What strategy?

Finland's first National Child Strategy was published on 23 February 2021 (Government publications 2021:8). The preparation of the National Child Strategy began in 2018, when the Parliament required that the Government prepare a national child strategy (EK 34/2018 VP). The strategy published in spring 2021 was based on the Child's Time 2040 work launched around that time, which involved compiling an extensive knowledge base on the wellbeing of children and young people, and examining scenarios for the development of wellbeing.

The preparation of the National Child Strategy was continued in 2019 in line with Finland's fundamental and human rights obligations and, in particular, the consideration of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A parliamentary committee was appointed on 5 March 2020, and against this background, it outlined the policy objectives and policies for safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people as well as implementing the human rights obligations concerning children in Finland.

The parliamentary committee defined the content of the strategy according to three main ideas.

1. The strategy will create a genuinely child and family friendly Finland where the rights of the child are respected.
2. Children's rights and status will be mainstreamed, ensuring that children are consistently taken into consideration in all policies and activities alongside with other members of society and that they are informed of their rights.
3. The status of vulnerable children will be secured, and their needs will be recognised better.

The Committee outlined that the National Child Strategy will apply to all children under the age of 18 in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additionally, the families in which children live as well as young adults in the transitional stage between childhood and adulthood will be taken into consideration extensively in the strategy and its implementation.

1.2 Strategy implementation

The strategy must be implemented and monitored systematically and effectively over the long term. The present National Child Strategy will ensure the goal-oriented and consistent implementation of fundamental and human rights obligations concerning children extending across government terms.

The strategy has a long time span. Indeed, after the completion of the strategy, various societal and social changes may affect the status of children, young people and families in ways that have not been fully taken into account in the preparation of the strategy. The implementation of the strategy must be sensitive to the situation and based on sufficient and up-to-date information on the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

Each new Government is tasked with preparing and implementing a detailed implementation plan for carrying out the policy guidelines of the Strategy during its term of office. According to the policies by the parliamentary committee, the preparation, execution and monitoring of the implementation plan must be linked to carefully selected indicators used to monitor the effectiveness of the policies laid down in the strategy on the one hand, and the measures implemented during each government term on the other. The progress of strategy implementation must also be monitored regularly, and reports must be prepared on its effectiveness during each government term.

This publication is the first implementation plan for the Strategy, and it will be put into effect during the term of Prime Minister Marin's Government. A government resolution on the implementation plan was made at the government plenary session of 7 October 2021. The plan takes into account the ongoing measures and projects that promote the policy guidelines of the Strategy. In addition, 30 measures are set out in the plan. The proposed measures have focused on measures that complement ongoing activities and are likely to strengthen structures and knowledge base for long-term and systematic child and family policy.

1.3 Preparation of the implementation plan

The preparation of the implementation plan was launched as official work as soon as the committee completed its process. After the end of the committee's term, the official duties have been monitored by the Ministerial Working Group on Child and Youth Policy, which has discussed the matter in its meetings on 7 May 2021 and 10 September 2021.

A key part of the preparation of the plan consists of data collection and the coordination of currently ongoing projects and measures by various administrative branches. In accordance with the committee's policies, preparatory work has been promoted through

stakeholder efforts involving various actors, and in March 2021, a request for information on possible connections with projects and measures specific to the administrative sector was sent to the ministries. The information received is summarised on a table in Appendix 1. The implementation plan has also utilised separate reports on topical issues concerning the wellbeing of children and young people.

A round of opinions and consultations has been organised in connection with the preparation of the implementation plan. This involved asking for views on the content of the implementation plan and particularly the new measures set by it.

In addition to this consultation round, children, young people and adults have been included in the preparation of the plan. The preparation of the implementation plan has continued to utilise the information gathered through workshops for children and young people and an electronic survey for children, young people and adults carried out in autumn 2020 (for more information, see Publications of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 2020:27, 2020:39 and 2021:19). The implementation plan includes a reserve for measures to be determined during the implementation in cooperation with children and young people.

1.4 Structure of the implementation plan

Similarly as the National Child Strategy, this plan covers various areas of the wellbeing of children, young people and families. The plan begins with this **introduction** (Chapter 1), which provides information about the background of the plan, its integration in the strategy and the process of preparing the plan, and the **general principles** concerning the implementation of the plan (Chapter 2).

After the introduction and a description of the general principles of implementation, the publication contains **content sections** (Chapters 3-13). The first of these sections evaluates the measures required in the post-crisis management succeeding the coronavirus epidemic, and each of the remaining sections is concerned with one area of the strategy.

Each of the content sections contains five parts. First, each section presents the guidelines of the National Child Strategy regarding the topic. Second, each section provides a brief explanation of how ongoing projects and measures are related to the strategy: the text first describes the measures of the Government's action plan and subsequently presents other projects used to promote the implementation of the Government Programme and other work currently under way. Third, the section defines what new measures based on the National Child Strategy will be introduced to implement the policies of the strategy during the government term. Fourth, the section summarises the aspects that should

be taken into account in the implementation and objectives of the policies as a result of the measures taken during the government term. Fifth, at the end of each section, a presentation of the measures and the main areas of focus and objectives of their implementation has been compiled in a table format.

After the content sections, the implementation plan is concluded with a section concerning **monitoring and assessment** (Chapter 14). The section specifies how the monitoring and assessment of the strategy and the implementation plan will be carried out as a whole, and sets general measures that aim at establishing the structures of the child strategy.

The appendices section contains more detailed information on the preparation of the plan and its interfaces with projects promoting the Government Programme and other ongoing work.

2 General principles in the implementation of the child strategy

The National Child Strategy aims to create a child and family friendly Finland that respects the rights of the child. In order to achieve the objectives of the strategy, it is essential that the implementation plan used to put the strategy into action and the measures taken under it during each government term are consistent with the vision of the strategy and the fundamental and human rights obligations that lay the foundation for the strategy. As a result, the implementation plan should be read alongside the National Child Strategy and its legal basis.

The implementation of a strategy is a cross-administrative task using a network-like approach and involves developing cooperation structures. This implementation process is used to ensure that the parties involved in the implementation of measures are committed to using approaches that are consistent with the objectives of the strategy.

- The measures of the implementation plan must ensure the inclusion of children and young people, and their right to be heard and receive information. In many of the measures, the implementation of this right requires that linguistic rights be taken into account and special attention be paid to the inclusion of children and young people who are often excluded.
- The measures of the implementation plan must support the equality of children and young people, and prevent exclusion and inequality. Children and young people may experience discrimination or unequal treatment for various reasons, including skin colour or origin of birth, health status, disability or illness, language, religion, conviction or opinion, sexual orientation or gender, family relationships or family situation. The measures presented in the implementation plan must be committed to safeguarding the rights of all children.
- The measures of the implementation plan must be based on the best available information and assessment of impacts on children. The measures must be implemented in a manner that helps strengthening the realisation of the rights of children involved in the activities and takes into account any research ethical aspects that may apply to the measures. The measures

in the implementation plan must commit to appropriate monitoring and assessment that can be justified from the perspective of the rights of the child.

Some of the measures set out in the implementation plan are aimed at developing structures and establishing good practices, while others are aimed at investigating and modelling new opportunities. The measures supplement the extensive work already carried out to promote the rights of the child in different sectors of society. Indeed, in implementing the measures, it is important to aim for strong cooperation between different agents to ensure that the implementation can genuinely achieve the objectives of the strategy.

FINLAND FOR ALL CHILDREN

3 Children, young people and the coronavirus crisis

In its work, the parliamentary committee that drew up the National Child Strategy has paid attention to the meaning of the COVID-19 epidemic for the wellbeing of children, young people and families. The committee outlined that a strong and resilient society plays an essential role in responding to changes, crises and exceptional circumstances. In the Finland that respects the rights of the child, the resources and crisis resilience of children, families and communities will be supported, and the rights of the child will also be safeguarded when the circumstances are extremely difficult.

For the implementation of the National Child Strategy, it is essential that children, young people and families are supported in the aftercare and reconstruction process following the coronavirus epidemic.

Ongoing activities

The management of the coronavirus crisis has required major efforts from public authority since the beginning of the crisis. A significant amount of information on the crisis and its impacts on wellbeing has been compiled in different sectors of society, and various measures have been taken to address these impacts in different administrative sectors. At the same time, it is clear that the post-crisis management and reconstruction require measures targeted at the welfare of children and young people. For example, the coronavirus working group assembled in connection with the National Child Strategy noted that the consequences of the crisis should be monitored over the long term. The impacts on children and young people must be taken into account comprehensively, and sufficient resources must be ensured to safeguard the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

In the government mid-term and spending limits discussions held in spring 2021, the Government decided to start broad-based preparation for a multidisciplinary set of measures aimed at children, young people and families. According to the plan,

preparatory work coordinated by the Ministerial Working Group on Child and Youth Policy will include effective and long-term reform and support measures for post-crisis recovery. The set of measures will be coordinated with other work promoting recovery from the coronavirus crisis and the implementation of the National Child Strategy.

Measures set in this plan

1. Promoting the implementation of the National Child Strategy together with a multidisciplinary set of measures aimed at children, young people and families.

The coronavirus crisis has had a profound impact on the situation of children, young people and families. It is essential to promote implementation of the National Child Strategy in cooperation with the strategic work concerning post-crisis management and reconstruction, particularly from a viewpoint that takes the status of children and families into account.

2. A training package on child impact assessment, child-oriented budgeting and children's inclusion, and support material for municipalities and regions.

Municipalities play an important role in post-crisis management, and the coronavirus crisis has also contributed to emphasising the importance of child impact assessment, child-oriented budgeting and children's inclusion. Promoting this work as part of the implementation of the National Child Strategy will help binding it into the activities under way in central government and strengthening the establishment of existing cooperation structures and good practices at different levels of government.

3. Preparing a report on the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic on the maintenance of children's close relationships and the protection of family life.

The coronavirus epidemic and the restrictive measures required by it have had a significant impact on the maintenance of children's close relationships and the realisation of the protection of family life. This exceptional situation may have undermined, among other things, the realisation of the right of access to a child, contact accordance with the Child Welfare Act, the right of children whose parents are in prison to meet their parents, and the status of children living in institutional conditions for various reasons. The report will be used to investigate and assess the problem areas that have emerged and to outline further measures to support parenthood and strengthen the protection of children's family life in post-crisis management measures.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The aim of the measures set in this plan is to complement the activities of the multidisciplinary set of measures targeting children, young people and families, and to strengthen resources in the post-crisis management, especially at the regional level. The coronavirus crisis has had a profound impact on the wellbeing of children and young people, and the negative effects are particularly pronounced in the children and young people whose status was already poorer prior to the crisis. This makes it essential to address the identified challenges in the post-crisis management measurements. The success of the measures will result in establishing structures for decision-making and activities that pay more attention to the rights of the child and therefore also ensure better crisis tolerance in the future.

Table 1. Children, young people and the coronavirus crisis; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
1. Promoting the implementation of the National Child Strategy together with a multidisciplinary set of measures aimed at children, young people and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency cooperation and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the implementation of the rights of the child in the post-crisis management
2. A training package on child impact assessment, child-oriented budgeting and children's inclusion, and support material for municipalities and regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of the Child Strategy Unit • Interagency cooperation and coordination • Acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting decision-making in municipalities and regions in the context of post-crisis management in a manner that ensures that the rights of the child are taken into account • Strengthening the preconditions for further work promoting the rights of the child
3. Preparing a report on the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic on the maintenance of children's close relationships and the protection of family life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of the Child Strategy Unit • Acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of close relationships and the protection of family life during the COVID-19 epidemic • Proposing further measures for supporting parenthood and protecting the family life of children in the context of post-crisis management

4 Combating discrimination and inequality

Strategic policies

Children's equality will be promoted through systematic measures. Data on wellbeing gaps and their causes will be collected and utilised, and measures that are as effective as possible and respect the rights of the child will be taken to narrow these gaps.

Equal and non-discriminatory access to different services, forms of support and channels of participation will be ensured for all children. Accessibility and different forms of information society practices will be developed with a child-centred approach and taking the diversity of children into account.

Ongoing activities

Combating discrimination and inequality are cross-cutting themes in the government programme and they are part of many measures in the Government action plan.

- Of the measures under the **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing policy** section, the reform of the Climate Change Act and the Healthy Premises 2028 programme, among others, pay attention to combating discrimination and inequality, and the measures related to the housing policy and the prevention of homelessness help preventing inequality.
- The **Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world** section included the Youth, Peace and Security (2250) action plan, which is focused on discrimination, inequality and vulnerable young people.
- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section is relevant to the National Child Strategy in areas such as the policies included in the suburban development programme and the Programme for Promoting Walking and Cycling.
- In the **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section, the policies of the National Child Strategy are present in various ways, including

in the content of the action plan on integration measures and the measures used to prevent unemployment among your people.

- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section promotes, among other things, the National Democracy Programme 2025, and involves drawing up the third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, and the action programme against racism and for good relations. The work against human trafficking and for the promotion of linguistic rights are also relevant to the objectives of the National Child Strategy in many parts.
- Of the measures included in the **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section, the areas relevant to the policies discussed in this plan include particularly the development of the services for children and families, the work of the programme to address child and family services, and the development of the health and social services centres of the future.
- In many parts of the **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section, the significance of education and early childhood education and care is highlighted in preventing discrimination and inequality. One of the objectives of the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme, for example, is to strengthen equality. The Right to Learn and Oikeus osata (“Right to know how”) development programmes are used to combat discrimination and inequality in many ways and promote equality and non-discrimination in education.

In addition to the Government action plan projects related to combating discrimination and inequality, many other projects are also related to the administrative branches of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Justice.

- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the significance of regional equality is taken into accounts in many areas, such as regional development and through these various questions connected to the daily lives of children and young people.
- The language policy programme under preparation at the Ministry of Justice is likely to strengthen the status of children and young people belonging to minority language groups.
- The administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture is working extensively to take into account diversity and promote equality between children and young people, for example in the Poiju and Reimari development networks as well as the Lukuliike (“Reading Movement”)

activities, and the quality and accessibility programme for general upper secondary education.

- The cross-administrative anchor activities developed under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior help prevent crimes, promote the wellbeing of young people and establish structures for multiprofessional work.
- The administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health coordinates the work to combat violence, including the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children and the expansion of the Barnahus model also supports the prevention of discrimination and inequality.
- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare is currently carrying out several research and development projects that strengthen the knowledge base for combating discrimination and inequality, and promoting equal treatment.

Measures set in this plan

4. Preparing a report and assessment of the regulation concerning the right to self-determination, inclusion and decision-making in social welfare and health care.

Social welfare and health care services play an important role in ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people. However, especially those children and young people who need a lot of services may face unequal treatment, and the regulation on the right to decision-making and inclusion of minors is partly fragmented and contradictory. The implementation of the National Child Strategy must involve systematic investigation of the legal status of children and young people as well as guardians or other persons participating in decision-making in social welfare and health care. In addition to analysing the current state of regulation, the report must assess the functioning and shortcomings of regulation, and make proposals for the development of regulation in a manner that safeguards the legal status, participation and decision-making rights of the service users.

5. Preparing a report on the realisation of the welfare and rights of Sámi and Roma children in Finland.

Different human rights bodies have made a recommendation for Finland to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the rights of Sámi children

and Roma children, and to improve the children's right to the provision of education and services in their own language.

The rights of Sámi children and Roma children are currently not realised equally with the rights of children belonging to other population groups, and the information available on their wellbeing is inadequate. The measure is used to investigate the implementation of the rights of Sámi and Roma children, and compile up-to-date information on wellbeing to support decision-making. This work must be implemented together with stakeholders, and children and young people.

6. Preparing a training package on sexual orientation and gender diversity and LGBT families for professionals.

Children and young people belonging to a sexual or gender minority often experience more bullying and discrimination than others, and the professionals working with children and young people play an important role in their wellbeing. At the moment, however, professionals do not always have sufficient knowledge of the status of children and young people belonging to a sexual or gender minority. The measure includes preparing a training package on the topic for use by professionals working with children and young people.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The aim of the measures set in this plan is to strengthen the knowledge base for the long-term prevention of discrimination and inequality to ensure that Finland can better fulfil its fundamental and human rights obligations in the future. The measures also help integrating the fight against discrimination and inequality in international strategy work and the so-called European Child Guarantee by compiling an up-to-date picture of the situation of different groups of children. When they succeed, the measures will promote the realisation of children's rights at different levels of activities and strengthen informed decision-making.

Table 2. Combating discrimination and inequality; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
4. Preparing a report and estimate of the regulation of children's and young people's right to self-determination, inclusion and decision-making in social welfare and health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigating the functioning of current regulation and possible shortcomings from the perspective of children and young people • proposing measures necessary for the development of regulation to launch preparations for a regulatory reform
5. Preparing a report on the realisation of the welfare and rights of Sámi and Roma children in Finland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination • cooperation with civil society • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognising current shortcomings in the wellbeing and implementation of rights of Sámi children and Roma children • strengthening the implementation of the rights of Sámi children and Roma children in accordance with international human rights obligations
6. Preparing a training package on sexual orientation and gender diversity and LGBT families for professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation with civil society • acquiring expert work • acquiring technical implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting children's wellbeing in an equal and regionally comprehensive manner • strengthening the competence and capabilities of professionals working with children in services for encountering LGBT children and young people

5 Safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children

Strategic policies

Vulnerability will be addressed comprehensively in preventive work, corrective measures and services, and legal protection systems. Preventive work will be stepped up, and more early support and interventions will be offered.

More measures aiming to realise the rights of children who are in a particularly vulnerable position will be put in place. Methods of multiprofessional work and cooperation structures will be reinforced, addressing children's and families' individual needs. When supporting families, the status and rights of children who live in these families or are close to them will be taken into consideration more systematically.

Ways of recognising and addressing both the impacts of structural discrimination and situation-specific vulnerability in the status of children will be developed. Different factors in a child's circumstances that exacerbate vulnerability and the accumulation of such factors will be recognised.

Ongoing activities

The rights of vulnerable children are closely linked to the fight against discrimination and inequality, and to several other content sections of the National Child Strategy. In the light of the strategy's policies, vulnerability should be considered as a cross-cutting phenomenon that requires comprehensive action in different administrative sectors. In fact, in the Government's action plan, vulnerability is related to measures in several different sections.

- The **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing policy** section includes a partnership programme for cutting homelessness by 50 per cent, which also applies to children, young people and families.
- The **Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world** section included preparing the Youth, Peace and Security (2250) action plan, which pays attention to discrimination, inequality and vulnerable young people in a cross-cutting matter.

- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section is connected to the status of vulnerable children in many ways. For example, the third national action plan on fundamental and human rights, the prevention of over-indebtedness and the action plan for combating violence against women also address the position of vulnerable children for various reasons.
- The **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section involves drawing up an action plan on integration measures, which applies to many vulnerable people. The work carried out alongside this includes a reform of the integration act.
- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section covers, among other things, the preparation of a mental health strategy and the promotion of the programme to address child and family services (LAPE), and can therefore promote the identification of the needs of vulnerable children, for example in social and health care services.
- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section includes a measure for strengthening student welfare services, which helps vulnerable children and young people, and the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO) is also essential for the rights of vulnerable children.

In addition to the Government action plan, the rights of vulnerable children are also increasingly recognised in the work carried out in other administrative branches. Indeed, vulnerability should be taken into consideration throughout the activities instead of as individual questions. Vulnerability can occur in many forms and, alongside structural factors, it can also be caused by situation-specific factors.

- The Finnish Immigration Service plans to develop regular consultations with minors in the asylum procedure.
- The Ministry of Justice is investigating the income limits set for legal aid, which will promote legal protection, and the Crime Prevention project develops services for young people whose symptoms emerge as criminal activity and aims to promote young people's access to normal services and rehabilitative services.
- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the network of demanding special support is developing, in a multidisciplinary manner, demanding special support for the learning and school attendance as well as preventive and early support for children and young people. The

Ministry's work to reform teacher education also indirectly helps professionals to take vulnerability into account, for example, in special education.

- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, many anti-violence projects, such as the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, the expansion of the Barnahus model and the implementation of the Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children contribute to safeguarding the status of particularly vulnerable children.
- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare collects data on the economic impact of the coronavirus epidemic on different population groups, and strengthens the participation of vulnerable children in research and development activities.

Measures set in this plan

7. Preparing a national operational programme for the prevention of unauthorised departure from a substitute care facility, for activities during an unauthorised absence and for aftercare measures.

Young people who have left child welfare institutions without authorisation are at high risk of becoming victims of human trafficking or other exploitation. Reports have also shown that young runaways are susceptible to ending up as victims of crime or to commit crimes themselves. Solving this complicated problem requires work across sectoral boundaries and close cooperation between different professionals and authorities, as well as between young people and their families. Therefore, there is good reason for preparing a national operational programme that will bring together the ongoing work to clarify operating practices and provide clear and harmonious operating instructions for the activities of different authorities.

8. Preparing an up-to-date report on the abuse occurring in substitute care.

Substitute care is responsible for ensuring that the child's growth environment is non-violent. Abuse in foster care has been investigated as a phenomenon that has occurred in the past, and similar information is needed on the current situation. An up-to-date knowledge base can be used to strengthen the wellbeing of children living in substitute care and to ensure that substitute care does not lead to more experiences of abuse and violence. The report should analyse abuse as a phenomenon in substitute

care at the present time and model substitute care with knowledge of trauma and violence. The study should be linked to ongoing work against violence, such as the implementation of the Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Barnahus work.

9. Creating a Handbook for Child Protection for children and young people.

Major shortcomings have been detected in child welfare in some places, and children are not always aware of their rights or the available legal protection measures. This measure involves planning and creating a website particularly aimed at young people who are child welfare clients. The content will be available in the Handbook for Child Protection website of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. The content of the planned website is based on information contained in the Handbook for Child Protection and the provided information will be worded and presented on the website in a way that suits young people, particularly those of upper comprehensive school age. The website will be marketed in the channels used by children and young people and in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and other agents.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The set measures emphasise the identification of vulnerabilities and the development of competence. The aim of the measures is to strengthen the preparedness of the authorities for safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children and young people and for encountering children and young people. This will promote genuinely encountering children and young people and contribute to the wellbeing at work of the professionals working with children and young people. The measures must also take into account the participation and right to information of vulnerable children so that vulnerability is not perceived as a factor that single-handedly determines the child or young person. When successful, the measures will establish working methods for identifying vulnerabilities and taking them into account in a manner that promotes the rights of the child.

Table 3. Safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
7. Preparing a national operational programme for the prevention of unauthorised departure from a substitute care facility, for activities during an unauthorised absence and for aftercare measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • cooperation with various agents • steering group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that the rights of children and young people rights are safeguarded as well as possible in connection with leaving substitute care without authorization • strengthening the competence of professionals in particularly difficult child welfare situations
8. Preparing an up-to-date report on the abuse occurring in substitute care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation with various agents • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying abuse occurring in substitute care and analysing the methods for preventing it • strengthening the implementation of the rights of children with previous experience of abuse
9. Creating a Handbook for Child Protection for children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • cooperation with various agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing children and young people with age-appropriate information about child welfare and their rights • raising awareness among children and young people who are clients of child welfare services of the legal protection measures used in child welfare

6 Protecting children from violence

Strategic policies

Every child has an unalienable right to life and protection from all forms of violence.

The work to combat violence against children will be continued. Parenting skills and support for parenting will be strengthened to find genuine alternatives that respect children's rights and special status to methods of upbringing that harm the child.

Working methods for the prevention of and early intervention in violence and harassment will be mainstreamed. Special attention will be paid to violence and harassment in the digital environment and to violent material spreading in it. Models of upbringing and instruction that reinforce safety awareness and digital skills will be developed.

Systematic measures will be taken to improve services for children who have experienced violence or harassment, and efforts to combat child trafficking and other forms of human trafficking will be stepped up across different administrative branches.

Methods for recognising violence and abuse as early as possible will be developed, ensuring that the child can access support services as soon as a need for them arises. The threat of violence against children will be combated, and capabilities for intervening in different situations involving violence and abuse will be developed.

Effective, multiprofessional and interdisciplinary methods will be sought for preventing violent behaviour in children. Child welfare services' possibilities of delivering challenging substitute care will be secured, and families will be involved and supported in the work to help children.

Ongoing activities

Protecting children from violence requires multidisciplinary and multiprofessional work, and is related to several areas of the Government action plan.

- The **Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world** section prepared the Youth, Peace and Security (2250) action plan, which is focused on protecting people against violence and the prevention of violence.
- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section contains several extensive projects that are focused on the prevention of violence. The currently prepared Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women also contributes to safeguarding the rights of children, and the work to combat human trafficking and the reform of the legislation on sexual offences affect the status of particularly vulnerable children.
- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section includes developing the services aimed at children and families and continuing the programme to address child and family services, which contribute to the development of parenting skills.
- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section involves the preparation of the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO), which also aims to intervene in violence.

The work to combat violence has also been taken into account in other projects implemented under the government programme, and several development projects concerning the structures of the work are under way.

- The Right to Learn programme of the Ministry of Education and Culture has involved preparing an extensive action plan focusing on preventing bullying in early childhood education and care, schools and educational institutions, and a coordination project is under way in the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO) to prevent grooming on social media targeting young people.
- Cross-administrative anchor activities are currently being developed under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and have a focus on early measures for promoting the wellbeing of young people and preventing crime, and help establishing the structures for multiprofessional work.

- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is preparing a national implementation plan for the Lanzarote Convention with NGOs to prevent sexual violence against children and to ensure services for those who have been subjected to it. The expansion of the Barnahus model is useful in improving the status of children who have experienced violence or sexual exploitation, and developing the best practices for investigating suspected offences against children.

Measures set in this plan

10. Carrying out a child victim survey.

Protecting children from violence requires knowledge about their experiences of violence. The most recent actual child victim survey was conducted in 2013, and has been subsequently investigated as part of the School Health Promotion Study of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. The violence experienced by children and young people has partly changed as a result of the coronavirus crisis, which makes it important to carry out an actual child victim study to form an overall picture of the phenomenon. The implementation of the study requires cooperation with various agents.

11. Preparing a guide and training package on acrimonious divorces and post-divorce violence.

The parliamentary committee emphasised the importance of early identification of and intervention in violence in the National Child Strategy policies. Experiencing and witnessing domestic violence has a significant impact on the child's development, and the violence often also continues after the parents' divorce. Acrimonious divorces are also harmful in themselves to the wellbeing of children. Useful working approaches have been identified in the work to combat violence and it is essential that they are made available as widely as possible. As a result, there is reason to prepare a guide and a training package to enhance the skills and capabilities of the professionals encountering children in their work.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The measures set in this plan aim to improve the preconditions for identifying and intervening in violence. The aim is to supplement the ongoing efforts to combat violence and to particularly help addressing the topical phenomena caused by the coronavirus crisis. Successfully implemented measures will strengthen the preconditions for identifying and addressing violence and help target the work against violence to possible gaps.

Table 4. Protecting children from violence; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
10. Carrying out a child victim survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forming a comprehensive overview of violence experienced by children and young people • identifying the effects of the coronavirus crisis on violence experienced by children and young people
11. Preparing a guide and training package on acrimonious divorces and post-divorce violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation with various agents • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting professionals in encountering acrimonious divorces in a manner that takes the rights of the child into account • strengthening the identification and consideration of violence in divorces • increasing understanding of the impacts of violence and witnessing violence on the child's wellbeing and development

THRIVING AND COMPETENT CHILDREN

7 Healthcare and social welfare services for children and families

Strategic policies

The child and family centredness and accessibility of services and low-threshold operating methods will be developed, for example based on the family centre model. The possibilities of developing proactive and preventive operating forms will be identified, and services will be strengthened relying on evidence, needs and individual service paths. The competence, wellbeing and low turnover of personnel will be supported.

A safe growth environment and other prerequisites for good mental health will be secured for each child. Mental health services and, in a broader sense, work methods and practices that promote good mental health will be developed.

Social welfare and healthcare services will be extensively linked to education services and different services, activities and communities that promote wellbeing and health. The prerequisites of the third sector to support children and families, complementing the service system, will be improved.

The service needs of vulnerable persons, including children in need of special support, will be addressed. The quality of child welfare and the capacity of the stakeholders to fully realise the rights of the child will be improved. The development of good practices in different operating environments of child welfare will be supported.

In services provided to adults, the status and rights of the children close to them will be observed more systematically. Children's different family situations will be recognised, and the diversity of families and family forms will be understood better.

Ongoing activities

The improvement of social welfare and healthcare services is constantly present in the entries made in the government programme and in the Government action plan used to implement the government programme.

- The **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing** policy section includes the Healthy Premises 2028 programme that pays attention to care paths and the impact of indoor air quality on health.
- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section includes preparing the Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women and developing financial and debt counselling.
- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section includes implementing the suburban development programme and the Sustainable City Programme, which are also connected to the implementation of the services for children and families.
- The **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section contains a family leave reform, which aims to pay attention to the diversity of families and develop services.
- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section projects continue the development of child and family services and implement the programme to address child and family services. The status of children will also be taken into account in concrete terms in the work carried out under the National Child Strategy and the National Mental Health Strategy, and indirectly in the clarification of multi-channel funding and as part of the health and social services reform and the Future Social and Health Centre Programme.
- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section includes carrying out the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO), which emphasises the significance of supporting young people's mental health, and the strengthening of student welfare services helps children and young people.

Social welfare and healthcare services for children and families are also essential for the implementation of projects other than those included in the Government action plan.

- A cooperation project between early childhood education and care and child health clinics carried out under the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will improve effectiveness and cooperation practices in various ways.
- The administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is currently implementing the Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children, drafting the national implementation plan for the Lanzarote Convention, and extending the Barnahus model. All these projects play a part in helping the service system to better address violence against children. The administrative sector also has other ongoing structural reforms in social welfare and healthcare services, such as a reform of rehabilitation service
- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare implements and develops the monitoring of the health and wellbeing of children and young people, thus strengthening the planning and decision-making related to services.

Measures set in this plan

12. Preparing an action plan for supporting children and young people who abuse substances as a symptom of their problems.

The harm caused by substance abuse is increasingly accumulated in a small part of children and young people, and the services for children and young people are organised nationally in a very fragmented manner. For instance, those working in youth centres, child welfare services, student welfare and outreach youth work encounter young people who abuse substances as a symptom of their problems. However, there is often a complete lack of systematic, child-centred support and rehabilitation paths for children and young people who engage in severe substance abuse as a symptom of their problems. The guidelines of the renewed Substance Use and Addiction Strategy should be extended as effectively as possible to support children and young people to ensure that the right to necessary support of children and young people whose problems are reflected as substance abuse is realised in a high-quality, systematic and regionally equal manner.

13. Increasing the effectiveness of mental health work for children and young people by investigating their development needs, and supporting good practices and competence.

Currently, there is a lack of clarity in the mental health work and mental health services available for children and young people. The current social welfare and health care legislation does not specify who is responsible for the services and care and their coordination at the basic level. Promoting the wellbeing of children and halting the inequality of wellbeing requires clarifying mental health work as a whole and the job descriptions and cooperation in social welfare. The measure identifies and compiles information on the development and specification needs related to social welfare and health care legislation, job descriptions and resourcing emerging in services, and supports the implementation of recognised good practices and the maintenance of competence in the newly established counties.

14. Implementing a development project on the availability of services for children and young people.

The accessibility of services is essential for ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people. However, there is need to compile the available information and fill any gaps in information to ensure that the experiences of children and young people of services, their accessibility and quality can

be taken into account in the development of services in the near future. At the same time, it is important to ensure that children and young people receive concrete information about different services and possible channels for seeking help. Based on the report, problems related to the accessibility and quality of services are identified from the perspective of children and young people, and a communication package for children and young people is developed in cooperation with various actors.

15. Preparing a uniform operating model for the provision of initial information.

Initial information refers to information given to a family when family members encounter an illness, disability or a bodily anomaly of their child or foetus. Research has indicated that the way in which initial information is provided has major impact on the relationship between parents and their child in the early interaction. Parents need information about their child's disability, illness or bodily variation and how best to support their child's development. The foundation for the cooperation between the family and professionals is laid in connection with the provision of initial information. There is a need for introducing a uniform, nationwide model for providing initial information so that families can receive help and support on an equal basis when facing an unexpected and challenging life situation. Coordinating the services for children and families and integrating them into a service package that brings genuine benefits to the child and family will strengthen children and families' own resources, life management, and experiences of inclusion and being encountered.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The social welfare and healthcare services for children and families are connected to the ongoing extensive reforms, which is why the content of the measures set in this plan must be considered over the long term. Special attention must be paid to the availability and accessibility of services for children and young people whose situations vary. The aim of the measures is to identify any problem areas in the service system from the perspective of children and young people, and to provide information to different agents on how these could be solved. At the same time, the aim is to model the use of data to facilitate the access to services of children and young people. When successful, the measures will help solving key shortcomings in the service system for children and young people in a particularly vulnerable position.

Table 5. Social welfare and healthcare services for children and families; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
12. Preparing an action plan for supporting children and young people who abuse substances as a symptom of their problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • cooperation with various agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supplementing the Substance Use and Addiction Strategy to pay attention to the special status of children and young people whose problems are reflected as substance abuse • strengthening the coordination of services for children and young people whose problems are reflected as substance abuse and clarifying service paths
13. Increasing the effectiveness of mental health work for children and young people by investigating their development needs, and supporting good practices and competence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • cooperation with various agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognising challenges in the effectiveness of the mental health work for children and young people and the continuity of care • supporting the implementation of service chains and packages in a manner that ensures consideration of the rights of the child
14. Implementing a development project on the availability of services for children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities of the Child Strategy Unit • acquiring expert work • acquiring technical implementation and communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compiling the problems concerning the availability and accessibility of services from the perspective of children and young people • ensuring that children and young people are informed about the service system in a targeted manner that also takes vulnerable children and young people into account
15. Preparing a uniform operating model for the provision of initial information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • cooperation with various agents • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the encounters of children, youth and families in the services • harmonising the operating models for the provision of initial information at the national level

8 Education and early childhood education and care

Strategic policies

The downward trend in learning outcomes will be turned, and inequalities will be reduced through systematic and goal-oriented measures. Sufficient resources will be provided for education and early childhood education and care. For each child, opportunities for education and training that meet their individual needs as well as for holistic learning and competence development will be guaranteed. The status of different groups of children will be safeguarded, and vulnerabilities will be taken into account by reinforcing a communal and participatory operating culture as well as by ensuring effective inclusion and individual learning paths.

The importance of early childhood education and care as part of the education system will be recognised. The participation rate in early childhood education and care will be increased by highlighting more extensively its significance for the individual and society, by systematically reducing client fees, and by expanding free early childhood education and care. The long-term goal is free early childhood education and care. The quality of early childhood education and care will be improved, among other things by securing the availability of adequate and highly trained personnel and by evaluating and developing the activities diversely. Early learning of basic skills and the stability of interactive relationships will be promoted by developing pre-primary education and the initial stage of basic education as a whole. Morning and afternoon activities and club activities will be integrated more closely into the school day, and the quality of the activities will be invested in.

The preconditions for children's learning and development as well as support for school attendance, the work of educational and teaching staff, and pupil and student welfare services will be secured. The realisation of multidisciplinary cooperation must be ensured in order to provide adequate holistic support for children and families. Existing means will be used, and new ones will be sought with a multidisciplinary approach, to prevent dropping out and social exclusion. Attention will be paid particularly to the transition phases of education. The possibility of completing at least a secondary level qualification following basic education will be secured for each child.

Expertise will be developed and resources will be increased to support children's wellbeing in early childhood education and care, at school and in other everyday communities. Prevention of bullying and efforts to promote a peaceful working atmosphere must be systematic and consist of continuous everyday activities. Emotional and interaction skills will be strengthened in early childhood education and care and at schools. The effectiveness of operating models for intervening in bullying and preventing violence will be evaluated, proven practices will be disseminated, and new ones will be created to meet the identified needs.

Ongoing activities

The policies of the parliamentary committee extensively cover early childhood education and care and also emphasise the significance of early childhood education and care, schools and upper secondary education institutions as communities. Education and early childhood education and care are intertwined in children's everyday lives and environments in many of the measures included in the Government's action plan.

- The **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing policy** section includes continuing the Healthy Premises 2028 programme, which will also improve indoor air quality in schools and educational institutions.
- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section contains a revision of the Strategy for the National Languages of Finland, which will contribute to ensuring equality in education and early childhood education and care.
- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section contains the suburban development programme and the Sustainable City Programme, which pay attention to the significance of the early childhood education and care and school environment.
- The **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section includes the preparation of an action plan on integration measures and a family leave reform that are also significant for education and early childhood education and care.
- Of the **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section projects, education and early childhood education and care emerge as important dimensions of alternating parenting and the mental health strategy.

- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section includes a wide range of projects that implement the strategy policies both under the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VaNUPO) as well as in connection with the opportunities for leisure activities offered in connection with school days and the sports policy report.

Several other projects are also linked to the strategy, especially in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture, but also in other ministries.

- The significance of language for equality will be taken into account, for example, in a comprehensive report on the development needs of education provided in Swedish drawn up under the Ministry of Education and Culture and in the language policy programme prepared by the Ministry of Justice.
- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, food and nutrition education included in teaching will be promoted in accordance with the objectives of the Food Policy Report, and the provision of tasty and healthy food in schools and early childhood education and care also promotes the wellbeing of children.
- The Right to Learn development programme implemented by the Ministry of Education and Culture improves the quality and equality of early childhood education and care and basic education, and extensively strengthens the rights of the child through approximately 100 different measures. Meanwhile, the Oikeus osata ("Right to know how") development programme and the quality and accessibility programme for general upper secondary education will improve the quality, equality and equity of vocational education and training and general upper secondary education.
- The development of the competence of teachers and teacher educators lays at the heart of the implementation of the Teacher Education Forum and the teacher education development programme, and a report on the teacher register strengthens the knowledge base for teaching. Basic education in the arts will be developed in a child-oriented and youth-oriented manner.
- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the implementation of the Non-Violent Childhoods action plan will help intervening in bullying.
- The reform of the Nature Conservation Act, currently under preparation at the Ministry of the Environment, will strengthen nature education as part of the duties of the authorities under the Nature Conservation Act.

Measures set in this plan

16. Preparing up-to-date lesson packages on the National Child Strategy and the rights of children for schools and early childhood education and care.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges the state to ensure that children and young people are informed of their rights, and organisational actors have done excellent work to provide educational materials for children and young people representing different age groups. Now is a good time to make sure that learning materials are up-to-date and comprehensive in order to fully implement the obligation laid down in the convention. The guidelines and objectives of the National Child Strategy should also be included in the material, and the accessibility and suitability of the material for children of different ages should be ensured

17. Implementing a pilot project on democracy and human rights education.

A pilot project on democracy and human rights education, currently under preparation at the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Culture, will help implementing the policies of the National Child Strategy and the vision of the strategy. Both emphasise children's participation, and democracy and human rights education that support it in terms of children's development and growth into active citizenship and full agency in society. This pilot project must be linked to the implementation of the National Child Strategy and must be adequately resourced

Implementation and objective of the measures

The measures set in this plan must take into account the different dimensions of the extensive work already under way, which is why the measures will be targeted specifically at materials and pilots concerning the rights of the child, the National Child Strategy, and democracy and human rights education. The aim is to supplement ongoing projects and contribute to the implementation of the information obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights obligations. When successful, the measures will ensure the implementation of the information obligation over the next few years and establish structures for further work.

Table 6. Education and early childhood education and care, measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
16. Preparing up-to-date lesson packages on child strategy and the rights of children for schools and early childhood education and care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and cooperation with civil society • acquiring technical implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the preconditions for education and early childhood education and care concerning the rights of the child and the National Child Strategy • ensuring that the information concerning the National Child Strategy is available in an age-appropriate and accessible manner
17. Implementing a pilot project for democracy and human rights education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a model for integrating democracy and human rights education into education and early childhood education and care

9 Adequate income for families and reconciliation of work and family life

Strategic policies

Poverty among families with children will be reduced through determined measures taken across society. Ensuring an adequate income for families with children and reducing poverty among them will be highlighted as a priority in the development of social security.

The family friendliness of working life will be improved in cooperation, and different modes of working will be identified. In the reconciliation of work, studies and family life, the diversity of families and family forms and the entire childhood period will be taken into consideration better. More flexible opportunities will be provided for families to share care responsibilities between parents and with other persons close to the family, such as grandparents. Families' possibilities to choose to care for their children at home, especially when they are young, will be safeguarded.

The diversity of families and family forms will be addressed in different support forms directly or indirectly intended for families. Support for families will be developed, not only addressing the needs of young children but also paying more attention to the entire period of childhood.

Ongoing activities

Ensuring sufficient incomes for families and the reconciliation of work and family life are simultaneously extensive issues linked to the structures of the welfare society and day-to-day challenges faced by families. These different dimensions are also reflected in the various measures of the Government action plan.

- In the **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section, the prevention of over-indebtedness and the strengthening of financial and debt counselling services help preventing income-related challenges that families face.

- In the **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section, the family leave reform that supports the welfare of families contribute to the opportunities for reconciling work and family life and promote more family-friendly working life.
- **The Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section includes both considerably extensive ongoing projects such as the social security reform pending in the parliamentary social security committee as well as reforms that explicitly promote the equality of different family types such as the promotion of equality in alternating parenting.

Similarly, families' adequate livelihoods and reconciliation of work and family life are also linked to the different levels of other ongoing work.

- the pension reform as well as the examination of the income limits set for legal aid in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Justice will help detecting the different circumstances of families.

Measures set in this plan

18. Carrying out a project to strengthen children's inclusion the preparation of the social security reform.

The aim of the pending social security reform to provide a clearer and more effective system from the viewpoint of individuals, which will enable the reconciliation of work and social security in changing life situations. The social security reform will have a significant impact on the implementation of the rights of the child, and children should be included in the preparatory work that is currently underway. This will be implemented in stages, first by means of an information package aimed at children and young people, the preparation of which takes into account accessibility and the status of children belonging to minority groups, and subsequently through an extensive round of consultations and involvement. As a whole, the project will be used to secure the realisation of children's participation in the preparation of the social security reform and ensure an adequate knowledge base to support the preparation in this context.

19. Implementing campaigns for making an impact together with private sector actors and the public sector on reconciling work and family life.

Making Finland child and family friendly requires flexible reconciliation of work and family life and a working life where attitudes towards children and families are positive. While the work already ongoing in the area of family leave reform, for instance, improves the prerequisites for reconciling work and family life, private sector actors and employers in the public sector also play an important role. The measure includes implementing impact and communication campaigns in cooperation with private sector actors and the public sector. The campaigns will be used to disseminate good practices and strengthen understanding of the diversity of families and child-friendly and family-friendly working life as a matter that is shared by society as a whole.

Implementation and objective of the measures

Alongside public actors, business life and civil society play an important role in the implementation of strategic policies. The measures set in this plan will take these interfaces into account by strengthening the knowledge base on one hand and by exerting influence on the other. The concrete objective of the measures is to ensure that children are involved in the preparation of the social security reform and to promote a family friendly working life. These measures will indirectly strengthen the understanding of the rights of the child as part of families' activities and wellbeing. When successful, the measures will help mainstreaming the rights of the child in the decision-making related to socio-economic issues and in working life.

Table 7. Adequate income for families and reconciliation of work and family life; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
18. Carrying out a project to strengthen children's inclusion the preparation of the social security reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguarding the right of children and young people to be informed and heard in the preparatory work of a reform that significantly affects their lives • ensuring that the knowledge base used in the preparation of the reform also covers the views and opinions of children and young people
19. Implementing campaigns for making an impact together with private sector actors and the public sector on reconciling work and family life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities of the Child Strategy Unit • cooperation with various agents • acquiring communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to establishing good practices and a family-friendly working life • strengthening the understanding of the rights of the child also as a working life issue

10 Children's relationships with family, friends and peers

Strategic policies

A child's right to keep in touch with their parents, siblings and other persons close to them will be safeguarded in different life situations. In keeping with the best interests of the child, the importance of adults close to a child who care for them in daily life, including the mother, the father and grandparents, will be taken into consideration.

Goal-oriented efforts will be made to develop measures which prevent children's loneliness and encourage their peer relationships. Togetherness and interaction will be supported in children's everyday life, in early childhood education and care and at school, and in leisure time and leisure activities.

The importance of the digital environment for children's close and peer relationships will be recognised, and children's media and interaction skills will be built up, also in relation to electronic communication.

Ongoing activities

Relationships with family, friends and peers are, above all, part of a person's private life. However, many of the measures included in the Government action plan help strengthening the preconditions for children's relationships with their family, friends and peers and their communities.

- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section includes implementing a suburban development programme, which has also recognised the significance of the living environment for the communities of children and young people.
- The **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section includes implementing a family leave reform and young people under 25 years of age will be guaranteed a job, traineeship or a work trial within a specified period of time from the start of unemployment. These projects help to safeguard the

wellbeing of families and the attachment of children and young people to their communities.

- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section promotes equality in alternating parenting and, through this, supports the interpersonal relationships of children and young people alternating between their parents.
- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section provides opportunities for all children and young people to engage in leisure activities and implements a sports policy report, which also promotes strengthening the peer relationships between children and young people.

In addition to the Government action plan, children's close and peer relationships are also supported by other activities and other projects under the Government Programme.

- The Ministry of Education and Culture's Right to Learn development programme includes an action plan to prevent bullying, which is also used to strengthen interaction and emotional skills. Basic education in the arts is also developed under the Ministry in a child-oriented and youth-oriented manner, which will strengthen the peer relationships between children and young people.
- The support materials produced by the Finnish National Agency for Education address friendship, communality and loneliness as well as practising friendship skills, therefore also supporting children's inclusion in their communities and peer relationships.

Measures set in this plan

20. Creating a website for the work to prevent bullying, sexual harassment, violence, hate speech and discrimination against children and young people.

Bullying, sexual harassment, violence, hate speech and discrimination significantly affect the wellbeing of children and young people in their everyday lives. These phenomena are increasingly intertwined with digital environments, while help is also increasingly sought online. The measure will involve compiling available materials and drawing up new support materials for intervening in bullying and other phenomena that are harmful to children and young people. The website will be integrated into the Finnish National Agency for Education website, and it will be prepared in cooperation with other authorities. Children and young people, organisations, parents and other persons close to children as well as education and training staff will be involved in the work to develop the materials.

21. Implementing a cross-administrative research project to investigate the situation of children and young people who are disadvantaged or at risk of social exclusion.

Children and young people who are risk of social exclusion and disadvantaged may lack safety capital, which means that they do not know how to seek help or cannot receive it when facing challenges. Strengthening this safety capital enables young people to better identify and respond to different security threats: to seek and ask for help, avoid risk behaviour, know that help is available and identify problematic behaviour of adults.

This safety capital will be promoted as one of the priorities of the national cooperation group for internal security. A joint research project of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Education and Culture involves compiling research data on specific target groups and creating an approach that can be used for long-term monitoring of the wellbeing and implementation of the rights of young people at risk of social exclusion. This work is an effective way to strengthen the rights of young people in a vulnerable position at the practical level and should therefore be linked to the implementation of the National Child Strategy.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The measures set in this plan are aimed at building the preconditions for healthy communities and children's and young people's relationships with family, friends and peers in different areas of life. Civil society and other actors in society play a major role in this, and supporting these relationships should not be solely perceived as a matter of public authority. The aim of the measures is to produce and disseminate information on the significance of communities for children's and young people's relationships with family, friends and peers, and to strengthen their wellbeing both in digital environments and in other parts of day-to-day life. When successful, the measures will provide information about the rights of the child to both children and young people and those involved in their daily lives, and strengthen the wellbeing and participation of children and young people in their everyday communities.

Table 8. Children's relationships with family, friends and peers; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
20. Creating a website for the work to prevent bullying, sexual harassment, violence, hate speech and discrimination against children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and collaboration with other actors • acquiring materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compiling available materials and producing necessary new materials to combat bullying that affects children and young people, intervening in sexual harassment, violence, hate speech and discrimination • strengthening children's and young people's personal agency, and participation in a digitalising operating environment
21. Implementing a cross-administrative research project to investigate the situation of children and young people who are disadvantaged or at risk of social exclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compiling research knowledge on the status of disadvantaged children and young people and those at risk of exclusion • creating a method for assessing the wellbeing and implementation of the rights of vulnerable children and young people

11 Children's leisure time and hobbies

Strategic policies

The capacity of stakeholders in children's leisure and leisure activities to realise children's rights in their work will be improved, and the development of good practices will be supported. The pedagogical competence and knowledge of stakeholders in leisure activities related to children's development and different ages as well as the changes brought about by puberty will be built up, especially in the areas of physical and emotional development.

In leisure activities and hobbies, a stronger child-centred approach will be adopted in a cross-cutting manner. Attention will be paid to ensuring that the hobby does not have a narrow focus on high performance or set excessive demands, expectations or pressures on the child. The significance of basic education in the arts will be recognised as part of the education system and strengthened, making participation possible for an increasing number of children in different parts of the country. Children's opportunities for pursuing hobbies in the long term will be safeguarded.

Children's wellbeing will be improved by ensuring that every child has an opportunity to engage in hobbies that interest them and meaningful and diverse leisure activities. More equal and non-discriminatory opportunities for free leisure activities that children enjoy will be provided in connection with the school day. This will also make it possible for all children to have several hobbies. The importance of physical and cultural education as well as the role of voluntary work and club activities in supporting children's holistic wellbeing and development will be recognised.

Measures will be developed to safeguard children's coping, sufficient rest and free time.

Ongoing activities

Leisure time and hobbies form an important part of children's and young people's everyday lives and communities, and the Government action plan recognises their significance, for instance, from the perspective of children's and young people's living environment and equality.

- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section includes the preparation of the new Strategy for the National Languages of Finland, which will contribute to strengthening the equality of children and young people also in the context of leisure activities.
- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section includes implementing a suburban development programme, the Sustainable City Programme, and the Programme for Promoting Walking and Cycling, which will influence the opportunities available for children and young people to engage in leisure time activities and hobbies in their living environments.
- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section promotes equality in alternating parenting, which will contribute to improving the attachment of children alternately living with both parents to their leisure time and recreational communities.
- The **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section includes several pending measures that are used to widely strengthen the rights of children and young people during their leisure time and in leisure activities, for example by offering opportunities for leisure activities for all children and young people in the Finnish model of hobbies, by implementing the sports policy report and by building sports facilities. The significance of leisure time and leisure activities has also been recognised in the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VaNUPO).

The rights of children and young people during leisure time and in hobbies are also promoted by other activities both in central government and in the domains of civil society, clubs and organisations.

- The administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture develops basic education in the arts in a child-oriented and youth-oriented manner, which helps to safeguard children's and young people's opportunities for engaging in enjoyable, long-term leisure activities.

Measures set in this plan

22. Investigating the ways to increase the pedagogical competence of those organising leisure activities and their knowledge of the rights of the child, and children's development and ages.

Leisure time and hobbies are important parts of children's everyday life, and those involved in organising leisure activities play an important role in promoting children's rights and wellbeing. As part of the implementation of the child strategy, it is necessary to carry out a study that explores the ways to increase the pedagogical competence of the organisers and their knowledge of the rights of the child and children's development and ages. This work will be supported by communication and cooperation with the people involved in organising leisure activities.

23. A pilot project on outreach leisure activities and a cooperation model for youth work will be implemented in cooperation with municipalities in the Finnish model of hobbies.

The Finnish model of hobbies supports every child's right to a positive future and their participation in communities and society. If this model also fails to pay attention to and listen to a certain population of children, it will reduce their opportunities to engage in activities and hobbies and may result in accumulating marginalisation or engaging in criminal activity and intoxicant use as a symptom of problems. This pilot will test, strengthen and model outreach leisure activities together with a youth worker resource at the municipal level in an effort to reach a target group that may otherwise be excluded from the activities. The pilot will help examining what prevents vulnerable children from engaging in hobbies and modelling ways that would promote encouraging children and young people and strengthening them socially in the work of those organising leisure activities better than currently.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The measures set in this plan pay attention to the significance of those involved in organising leisure time activities and hobbies in children's everyday lives and for strengthening the wellbeing of children and young people. The measures reflect the policies of the parliamentary committee on child-oriented and youth-oriented leisure activities, and the importance of communities and equality. Their purpose is to strengthen children's equal opportunities for leisure activities that promote their wellbeing. When successful, the measures will contribute to strong pedagogical competence and the establishment of good practices in leisure activities and provide ways for children and young people to access to leisure activities.

Table 9. Children's leisure time and hobbies; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
22. Investigating the ways to increase the pedagogical competence of those organising leisure activities and their knowledge of the rights of the child, and children's development and ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigating strengths and development needs in the competence and knowledge of those organising leisure activities • supporting the realisation of the rights of the child in leisure activities in accordance with the guidelines of the parliamentary committee
23. A pilot project on outreach leisure activities and a cooperation model for youth work will be implemented in cooperation with municipalities in the Finnish model of hobbies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities of the Child Strategy Unit • cooperation with municipal actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finding ways to remove obstacles to engaging in hobbies • increasing equality in leisure activities for children and young people in a particularly vulnerable position

CHILDREN'S INCLUSION IN SOCIETY

12 Child impact assessment and child budgeting

Strategic policies

The assessment of impacts on children and families will be adopted as a systematic part of decision-making and activities at all levels of administration, and they will be supported in introducing and carrying out child impact assessments. This is particularly important in municipalities. The contents and significance of the impact assessments will be specified in the justifications of decisions. Impact assessment will also be extended to the drafting and monitoring of budget decisions.

Procedures and expertise related to child impact assessment and child budgeting will be developed extensively through measures that span several government terms.

Data on children will be collected consistently, and gaps in the data collection will be identified and filled in. The use and analysis of the data will be developed consistently, and the data will be exploited in decision-making and activities.

Ongoing activities

The current government programme is committed to knowledge-based policy-making and performing systematic impact assessments in all legislative drafting. The assessment of impacts on children is an important part of decision-making and legislative drafting, and its implementation is currently under development in several projects and measures, both in accordance with the Government's action plan and in other activities.

- The **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing policy** section includes the reform of the Climate Change Act and an update of the medium-term climate plan, which include long-term assessment of the impacts on children and young people.
- The **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section has investigated the combined effects on legal protection of numerous legislative amendments and application practices made to the Aliens Act.
- Under the **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section, the Programme for Promoting Walking and Cycling assesses the opportunities for utilising data in the administrative branch of transport.
- Under the **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section, the assessment of impacts on children play an important role in both extensive reform projects, such as the social security reform prepared in the Parliament as well as more precisely in individual, smaller reforms. Child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting are essential pillars in the implementation of the National Child Strategy implemented under this section.

In addition to measures carried out in accordance with the Government's action plan, the assessment of impacts on children and child-oriented budgeting are present in other work carried out under the government programme and in many other projects in different administrative branches.

- The Ministry of Justice is currently in the process of renewing the guidelines for assessing the impacts of law drafting, and this work will also take the needs for developing the assessment of the impacts on children into consideration.
- A comprehensive report on the state of education provided in Swedish has been prepared in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The aim is to create a long-term operational programme to ensure equality and to enhance the knowledge base of teaching through means such as a report on the teacher register.
- A working group operating under the Ministry of Finance has developed a model for the implementation of child-oriented budgeting in the Budget processes and assessed possibilities for promoting child budgeting in municipalities and regionally.

Measures set in this plan

24. Producing a comprehensive knowledge base for monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people.

Indicators describing the wellbeing of children and young people are needed to monitor the implementation of the National Child Strategy. The national indicators for the wellbeing of children and young people have been previously compiled in a publication by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 2011, and Statistics Finland published an anthology, *Suomalainen lapsi* [“The Finnish Child”], in 2007. While information about children and young people has been further accumulated over the past ten years, this is partly fragmented and it may be difficult to use for supporting decision-making in accordance with the objectives of the National Child Strategy.

This measure involves planning a data set to facilitate finding and using data, and monitoring the status of children in Finland, issuing a proposal on the created information portal. The measure must be implemented in cooperation with experts and authorities and stakeholders, and it must pay special attention to data concerning the wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people.

25. Carrying out an investigatory project for the development of the monitoring and reporting of outcome data in municipalities and wellbeing services counties, and to promote their child-oriented budgeting efforts.

A working group that developed child-oriented budgeting in 2021 suggested that the work on child-oriented budgeting in municipalities and wellbeing services counties should be strengthened, and that the monitoring and reporting of the data depicting the actual outcomes in the municipalities’ and counties’ budgets should be improved. This work is necessary for strengthening child-oriented budgeting at different levels of the administration, and there are grounds for including it in the implementation of the National Child Strategy. A project will be used to assesses what models of implementations are needed for carrying out the working group’s proposals. It will also take into account the changes occurring in the operating environment and the transfer of responsibility for organising the activities resulting from to the reform of social welfare and health care and rescue services in 2023. As a result, the work occurs in two stages, and there will be particularly need to further promote the work related to child-oriented budgeting with a network-like approach after the transfer of responsibility for organising the activities.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The measures set in this plan will be used to allocate resources for the development and harmonisation of a cross-administrative knowledge base and the establishment of good practices. More and more attention has been paid to the assessment of impacts on children and child-oriented budgeting, and there are a lot of ongoing activities in this area. The coordination of this activity and the utilisation of accumulated data will play an essential role in establishing child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting at different levels of the administration. When successful, the measures will lay a strong foundation for establishing child impact assessments and child-oriented budgeting in the coming years.

Table 10. Education and early childhood education and care, measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
24. Producing a comprehensive knowledge base for monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forming an overall view of the monitoring of children's wellbeing and development needs connected to the related knowledge base • strengthening the utilisation of data in a manner that supports the rights of the child
25. Carrying out an investigatory project for the development of the monitoring and reporting of outcome data in municipalities and wellbeing services counties, and to promote their child-oriented budgeting efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and coordination • acquiring expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening child-oriented budgeting work in municipalities and wellbeing services counties and developing the monitoring and reporting related to their budgets • promoting the establishment of child-oriented budgeting in accordance with the final report of the working group

13 Children's right to be heard and informed

Strategic policies

Children's inclusion, right to be heard and access to information will be addressed systematically in decision-making and activities that affect them directly or indirectly. The content and significance of children's views will be detailed in the justifications of decisions.

Efforts will be made to ensure that all adults working with children have sufficient understanding and competence related to supporting children's participation and agency.

Children's inclusion, right to be heard and access to information will be further improved through cross-administrative work and by strengthening good practices in structures and as part of children's everyday lives. Special attention will be paid to those children whose views are currently overlooked.

Ongoing activities

The current government programme aims to strengthen interaction and inclusion in preparatory work and decision-making. The inclusion of children and young people is a key value in the work related to the National Child Strategy. Indeed, there are several significant points of connection between the strategy and the Government's action plan measures.

- The **Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity and housing policy** section has taken the inclusion of children and young people strongly into consideration in contexts such as the reform of the Climate Change Act and the update of the Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan.
- Under the **Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law, strengthening the rule of law and defence policy** section, the National Democracy Programme 2025 has been launched, and strengthening the inclusion of young people is one of its key sets of measures.

- The **Dynamic and thriving Finland, transport networks and agriculture** section has sought ways to strengthen the inclusion of children and young people in urban planning as part of the implementation of the Sustainable City Programme.
- Under the **Finland built on trust and labour market equality** section, people under 25 years of age will be guaranteed a job, traineeship or a work trial within a specified period of time from the start of unemployment, which contributes to ensuring inclusion in society and other elements of inclusion.
- The **Fair, equal and inclusive Finland** section includes the social security reform currently under parliamentary preparation, is based on inclusive working methods and the input of civil society.
- In the **Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation** section, the inclusion of children and young people is a strong focus area, for example, in the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VaNUPO) and in the implementation of the sports policy report. Many measures, such as the measures of the Right to Learn development programme and the provision of opportunities for recreational activities for all children and young people in accordance with the Finnish model of hobbies are suitable for extensively strengthening the preconditions of inclusion.

The inclusion of children and young people is also strengthened in many projects other than those referred to in the Government action plan, and particular attention is paid to the position of vulnerable children.

- The Ministry of Justice coordinates the international Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe (CP4Europe) project for Finland, which promotes the inclusion of children and young people, especially in central government.
- In the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture, equality and inclusion are important in areas such as an investigation of education offered in Swedish and the development of the competence of teachers and teacher trainers.
- Cross-administrative anchor activities coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior help safeguarding the wellbeing and prerequisites for inclusion of children and young people.

- The administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will strengthen the corresponding work on violence, for example by implementing the Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children and the Lanzarote Convention, which promote the opportunities for inclusion for children and young people who have experienced violence.
- In the work of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, the aim is to increase the involvement of children in research and the development of activities in a multidisciplinary manner.

Measures set in this plan

26. Creating a training package on the rights of the child and particularly children's inclusion for professionals.

Professionals working with children play an important role in supporting the inclusion and agency of children and young people, and the rights of the child can only be fully and actively implemented if professionals have competence in them. At the moment, education on the rights of the child in Finland has mainly been provided by NGOs as part of their own activities, which is not sufficient to fulfil the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The training on the rights of the child must be extended to all actors working with children and young people as well as the professionals involved in preparing and making decisions that concern children and young people. The implementation of the National Child Strategy includes creating a training package in cooperation with various professional groups to strengthen the capabilities of actors and promote the rights of the child and particularly competence related to children's inclusion in Finland.

27. Carrying out a campaign in which children and young people are asked for ideas for measures used to promote their rights.

The inclusion of children and young people is an important value in the work related to the National Child Strategy. As a result, children and young people should be given an opportunity to carry out their own ideas in the implementation. The ideas will be compiled using various forms of involvement, such as an electronic survey or workshops. The work will be used to secure children's and young people's right to information and to bring together their views on how the implementation of the rights of the

child should be promoted. Based on the received proposals, 2–6 measures will be selected, which will be carried out as part of the implementation of the National Child Strategy.

28. Developing an operating model to support children’s participation in societal decision-making using digital panels.

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Culture are developing an operating model for supporting young people’s participation in cooperation with civil society actors. The project involves building a channel for digital participation (a “digital panel”) that offers equal opportunities for participation in societal issues and increases interaction between people of different ages and those from different backgrounds.

This development project promotes the implementation of the policies of the child strategy and the vision of the strategy, and it should therefore be bound to the implementation of the National Child Strategy. The measure will particularly strengthen the development and coordination of the network and cooperation of non-governmental organisations, and the development and coordination of volunteering as well as the facilitation and communication of digital panels for people under the age of 18.

Implementation and objective of the measures

The aim of the measures set in this plan is to promote the inclusion of children and young people on a multilevel basis: by strengthening the capabilities of those operating in the field to implement inclusion, securing the right of children and young people to access information, and utilising the views of children and young people in the implementation. The implementation of the measures must ensure that these help ensuring children’s inclusion and right to information in an equal and comprehensive manner. When successful, the measures will create preconditions for children’s inclusion both at the level of society and in everyday encounters. They will also help to ensure the participation of children and young people in the implementation and to bring the views of children and young people to decision-making.

Table 11. Children’s right to be heard and informed; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
26. Creating a training package on the rights of the child and particularly children’s inclusion for professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extensive cooperation with various agents • steering group • acquiring technical implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the capabilities of professionals and others operating with children to promote the rights of the child and children’s inclusion
27. Carrying out a campaign in which children and young people are asked for ideas for measures used to promote their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities of the Child Strategy Unit • cooperation with various agents • acquiring expert work • acquiring communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • channelling the views of children and young people to decision-making • implementing the policies of the National Child Strategy in a meaningful way from the perspective of children and young people
28. Developing an operating model to support children’s participation in societal decision-making using digital panels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interagency cooperation and collaboration with various actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the opportunities for equal participation of children and young people of different ages and backgrounds in societal issues • creating structures for the long-term implementation of children’s and young people’s rights

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

14 Monitoring and assessment of the strategy

The National Child Strategy lays the foundation for long-term work to implement the rights of the child in Finland. As emphasised by the parliamentary committee that drew up the strategy, the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the strategy are essential for the accomplishment of this objective. Sufficient resources must also be secured for the implementation of the strategy.

Ongoing activities

The key tasks of the National Child Strategy include coordinating the implementation of the measures in this implementation plan, having the responsibility for the communication and training related to the strategy and its implementation, and taking care of the measures required for the monitoring and assessment of the strategy. In the period 2021–2022, the strategy will be funded by the Budget item 33.60.39.08.

Measures set in this plan

- 29. Continuing the work on the National Child Strategy until the end of the government term by carrying out the measures specified in this implementation plan and other work supporting the activities.**

The implementation of the measures set in this implementation plan constitutes the main part of the implementation of the National Child Strategy during the current government term. The implementation of the measures must be arranged in cooperation with different authorities, stakeholders and other actors. This must be supported through parliamentary cooperation, communication and advocating, and the

establishment of the structures for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the strategy.

30. Ensuring the continuity of the work related to the National Child Strategy by establishing a national Child Strategy Unit.

The parliamentary committee has emphasised the significance of continuity and a long-term approach in connection with the National Child Strategy. The implementation of the objectives and vision of the strategy and the full enforcement of Finland's human rights obligations require for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the strategy to be entrusted to a strategic unit that operates extends across government terms.

Implementation and objective of the measures

As part of the implementation of the strategy, the relevant authorities must:

- ensure parliamentary cooperation and communication, for example by organising an annual roundtable or an open discussion session on topical issues concerning the rights of the child, the next time in 2022;
- make sure that an intergovernmental body for cooperation will be set up to support the strategy work as a working group of the Child Advisory Board, initially for the period 2022–2024; and
- at the end of the government term, provide the Government with a report on the progress made in the strategic guidelines and the measures used to promote them, for the first time in 2023.

The monitoring report to be submitted at the end of the government term must contain a concise overview of changes achieved in the wellbeing of children, young people and families during the government term and a structured description of the progress of the measures set in the implementation plan and the achieved objectives. Therefore, the follow-up report will supplement the implementation of the statutory task of the Ombudsman for Children. The report will be made to include a summary of the observations by the authorities and stakeholders, and remarks made in the consultations of citizens for the purpose of preparing the follow-up report. The aim is that the follow-up

report will provide a comprehensive and up-to-date view of the effectiveness of the implementation plan for the long-term implementation of the strategy.

The tasks of the unit to be established must take into account the data collection related to the rights of the child and the utilisation of the data; training on the rights of the child; child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting; the consultation and inclusion of children and related communication; coordination of the work of the cooperation network to be established and ensuring a connection with the Parliament; and the assessment, monitoring and reporting related to the National Child Strategy. The National Child Strategy must also be connected to sectoral, municipal and regional strategies, programmes and plans. Ensuring this work requires sufficient resources for the new unit, which should be taken into account in the General Government Fiscal Plan and in the budget proposals.

When successful, the measures will lay a strong foundation for promoting the rights of the child and monitoring their implementation in Finland and help coordinating the work extensively between the authorities, stakeholders and other actors.

Table 12. Monitoring and assessment of the strategy; measures set in this plan

Measure	Implementation method	Goal
29. Continuing the work on the National Child Strategy until the end of the government term by carrying out the measures specified in this implementation plan and other work supporting the activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities of the Child Strategy Unit • parliamentary cooperation • communication and advocacy • required procurement and expert work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring the implementation of the measures set in this plan in accordance with the objectives of the National Child Strategy • supporting the implementation through parliamentary cooperation, communication and advocacy, and the establishment of the structures for the monitoring and assessment of the strategy
30. Ensuring the continuity of the work related to the National Child Strategy by establishing a national Child Strategy Unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government decision • interagency cooperation and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring the continuity of the strategy work with regard to the objectives of the National Child Strategy and Finland's human rights obligations

Appendices

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Regional development; operating model and regional development decision (per government term)		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	X			X					X	
Development of anchor activities. The term of the development working group is 18 June 2020–30 April 2024.		Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice	X	X	X							X
A government proposal has been issued together with the Ministry of Education and Culture on the legislative amendments related to the organisation of school social worker and psychologist services required by the transfer of the responsibility for organising health and social services to the counties. Preparations for the transfer have been launched		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture		X			X				X	

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Setting a carbon neutrality target for 2050 for the EU and an emission reduction target of at least 55% for 2030	Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world	Ministry of the Environment								X	X	X
Promoting the expansion of the Barnahus model to help children who have experienced sexual abuse and violence.		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X						
Promoting the rule of law comprehensively throughout the EU	Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world	Prime Minister's Office	X								X	X
	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ecosystem agreements		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	X								X	X
Preventing over-indebtedness and improving debt counselling services	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice		X	X	X		X				

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
<p>Parliament on amending the Basic Education Act, General Upper Secondary Schools Act, Act on Vocational Education and Training. Intervening in bullying and harassment.</p> <p>A provision on the best interests of the child will be added to the Basic Education Act. The regulation on refusal will be specified in order to make it as safe as possible for the pupil to return to education. The Act on Vocational Education and Training and the General Upper Secondary Schools Act would be made to include anti-bullying provisions in accordance with the legislative motion LA27/2020.</p> <p>Parliamentary hearing in autumn, entry into force on 1 August 2022</p>		Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X	X		X		X			X
<p>Government proposal on amending the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care: reform of the support for early childhood education and care. To the Parliament in autumn 2021 Entry into force 1 August 2022.</p>		Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X	X	X			

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Project to promote family reunification		Ministry of the Interior	X	X		X		X	X			X
Work against human trafficking	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X		X							
Continuing the ethical and secure development of the AuroraAI network	Dynamic and thriving Finland	Ministry of Finance (partly also Ministry of Social Affairs and Health)	X	X	X	X					X	X
Continuing the experiment on free early childhood education and care for 5-year-olds (4h/day) August 2020-July 2021	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X	X	X			
Continuing the Healthy Premises 2028 programme	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Prime Minister's Office	X			X	X					
Continuing the work to launch the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Concerning the Sámi People	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Prime Minister's Office	X	X								X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Substance Use and Addiction Strategy has been published and its implementation has been started. An action plan for preventive work in substance abuse and addictions has been updated and implemented. A government proposal on the Tobacco Act and the work of a tobacco and nicotine policy working group has been prepared. An assessment of the overall reform of the Alcohol Act has been prepared.		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X					X	X
Monitoring of the national urban strategy		Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	X									
Developing services for children and families and continuing the programme to address child and family services	Fair, equal and inclusive Finland	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X						

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
We will raise the minimum school leaving age to 18 years. The extension of compulsory education will enter into force on 1 August 2021 and the obligation to apply to education entered into force on 1 January 2021. The new act on compulsory education (1214/2020) will be applied for the first time to those young people of compulsory education age who will end their basic education in spring 2021. The right to free upper secondary education will enter into force for education starting in autumn 2021. The free education applies to the students who are subject to the extended compulsory education.	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X					
Amendment to the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration, raising the age limit for the aftercare measures for unaccompanied minors entering Finland		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	X	X								
Programme on funding municipal climate change solutions		Ministry of the Environment					X				X	X
Overall monitoring of municipalities - tutkikuntia.fi; data content development		Ministry of Finance	X									
Rehabilitation, incl. the principles of referring people to medical rehabilitation		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health				X						

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Launching the National Democracy Programme 2025	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice	X									X
Launching a development programme for health and social services centres	Fair, equal and inclusive Finland	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X									
Launching a partnership programme for halving homelessness	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Ministry of the Environment		X								
Drawing up a housing policy development programme	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Ministry of the Environment	X	X				X			X	
Drawing up a national 'climate food' programme	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	X				X					X
Drawing up a national urban strategy	Dynamic and thriving Finland	Ministry of Finance	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
Drawing up a national implementation programme for the implementation of Resolution 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security);	Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world	Ministry for Foreign Affairs	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Preparing a language policy programme that takes languages spoken in Finland other than the national languages, especially Sámi, Roma, Karelian and sign languages		Ministry of Justice	X				X					
Drawing up a third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice	X	X	X							
Drawing up an accessibility plan for higher education	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture										
Preparing an action plan on integration measures	Finland built on trust and labour market equality	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Preparing an education policy report	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X				X	X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Drawing up a comprehensive action plan for promoting good relations within the population and an action plan against racism and discrimination to complement the national integration programme	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Drawing up an action plan for combating violence against women	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice		X	X	X						
Drawing up a programme to reinforce the learning of the second national language at school	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture	X				X					X
Drawing up a comprehensive action plan for better regulation	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice	X								X	X
Preparing a report on the placement of minors and young prisoners in prisons.		Ministry of Justice	X	X		X						
Preparing a national implementation plan for the Lanzarote Convention in Finland in cooperation with NGOs to prevent sexual violence against children and ensure services for victims.		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X						X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Preparing an action plan for gender equality	Finland built on trust and labour market equality	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Creating a model for the reliable and individual assessment of children's ability to attend school	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X					X
Preparing a National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO)	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture (coordinator), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of the Environment	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Preparing the Government Human Rights Report	Globally influential Finland in Europe and the world	Ministry for Foreign Affairs	X	X	X						X	X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
An overall report has been prepared on the special features, challenges and development needs in education provided in Swedish (published in March 2021); creating a long-term action plan to guarantee equality.		Ministry of Education and Culture	X				X				X	X
Preparing recommendations for the coordination of services by the authorities. According to a recommendation, minor prisoners' possibilities for being placed outside a prison should be assessed in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child.		Ministry of Justice	X	X		X						
Working group on child-oriented budgeting		Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office									X	
Work on physical activity recommendations for children and young people and related implementation (all ministries)		ALL MINISTERIES					X	X	X	X		X
Promoting children's and young people's functioning and related data production: the Move! system (National Sports Council)		Ministry of Education and Culture							X	X		X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
The Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe (CP4Europe) project		Ministry of Justice										X
Increasing children's involvement in research and development of activities		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare)	X	X								X
Increasing the use of apprenticeship training to ensure that young people get their first job and as a channel for re-training and adult education. Reforming the system for determining the compensation for apprenticeship training	Finland built on trust and labour market equality	Ministry of Education and Culture	X				X					X
Increasing employment and children's participation in early childhood education and care by reducing early childhood education and care fees (1054/2020)	Finland built on trust and labour market equality	Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X	X	X			
Creating a fast track for work permits in Finland for specialists, start-up entrepreneurs and their families	Finland built on trust and labour market equality	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment						X				

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Increasing the effectiveness of restraining orders		Ministry of Justice		X	X	X						
Expert work on dismantling multi-channel funding + parliamentary work		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health				X						
Report on the teacher register		Ministry of Education and Culture					X					X
Developing the competence of teachers and teacher educators and reforming teacher education. The Teacher Education Forum and the implementation of the Teacher Education Development Programme.		Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X					X
Development programme for guidance counselling (Right to Learn programme)		Ministry of Education and Culture	X	X			X					X
Introducing a positive credit register	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Justice	X									
Improving the availability and quality of oral health care services		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X		X						
Survivors' pension reform		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health						X			X	

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Establishing a round table on climate policy	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Prime Minister's Office									X	X
Updating the climate and energy strategy	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment									X	X
Updating the medium-term climate plan	Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity	Ministry of the Environment									X	X
Building a programme for the promotion of digitalisation, which will make public services digitally available to citizens and companies	Dynamic and thriving Finland	Ministry of Finance	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Building sports facilities, reducing their repair backlog and improving energy efficiency	Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation	Ministry of Education and Culture								X		
Piloting an operating model for young people who engage in criminal activity as symptoms of their problems		Ministry of Justice	X	X	X	X					X	X
Investigating the practices related to aid granted to NGOs and government aid	Fair, equal and inclusive Finland	Ministry of Finance				X					X	

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Examining the role of municipalities as service providers	Fair, equal and inclusive Finland	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health				X					X	
Investigating the income limits set for legal aid		Ministry of Justice		X			X	X				
Investigating the joint effects of numerous legislative amendments and application practices made to the Aliens Act on legal protection (report published in 2/2021)	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of the Interior		X							X	
A report on the realisation of the educational and social rights of children in rural areas and archipelago after the closure of comprehensive schools and the impacts of the closures on the vitality of regions; as part of the implementation of archipelago and rural policy		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Culture					X	X	X	X		X
Monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic on children, young people and families		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare)	X	X								
Committing to promoting gender equality in e.g. the budget process (1) and in all key reforms (2) see also 7 Finland built on trust, Objective 2 Making Finland a global leader in gender equality	The Safe and secure Finland built on the rule of law	Ministry of Finance	X								X	X

ONGOING PROJECT OR MEASURE	Government action plan category, if any	Responsible ministries	Related to combating discrimination and inequality	Related to the rights of vulnerable children	Related to protecting children from violence	Related to social and health services for children and families	Related to education and early childhood education and care	Related to income for families and reconciliation of work and family life	Related to children's relationships with family, friends and peers	Related to children's leisure time and hobbies	Related to child impact assessment and child-oriented budgeting	Related to children's inclusion
Social security reform to be prepared by the parliamentary social security committee	Fair, equal and inclusive Finland	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	X	X				X			X	X
The Barnhus project, funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health/coordinated by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, has also allocated funds to the police. The aim is to find best practices for investigating suspected offences against children.		Ministry of Social Affairs and Health		X	X							

SNELLMANINKATU 1, HELSINKI
PO BOX 23, 00023 GOVERNMENT, FINLAND
valtioneuvosto.fi/en/
julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi

ISBN: 978-952-383-823-9 PDF
ISSN: 2490-0966 PDF