

An excerpt from:

Better Health & Social Care: How are Co-ops & Mutuals Boosting Innovation & Access Worldwide?

An International survey of co-ops and mutuals at work in the health and social care sector (CMHSC14)

Volume 2: National Cases

Copyright © 2014 LPS Productions

Montréal, Québec, Canada

For the research framework, the analysis of the national cases, and other research components, including a description of the research team members, refer to Volume 1: Report.

For information regarding reproduction and distribution of the contents contact the editor and research leader:

Jean-Pierre Girard

LPS Productions

205 Chemin de la Côte Sainte-Catherine, #902

Montréal, Québec H2V 2A9

Canada

info@productionslps.com

URL <http://www.productionslps.com>

HEALTH SYSTEM

Little information was found about Finnish health care cooperatives. In the 1990s, a large number of cooperatives started in Finland in response to the depression and the high employment rate in the country.² The cooperatives that emerged from that period were called “new wave cooperatives.” In 2010, a total of 92 new social, health and welfare new cooperatives was reported by the Finnish National Board of Patents and Registration, and PELLERVO Confederation of Finnish Cooperatives,³ which represents 0.3% of Finnish new cooperatives.

Some new wave cooperatives, established as producer cooperatives, were created by people with mental or psychiatric disabilities in an attempt to foster rehabilitation through work and promote employment for people with disabilities.⁴

According to the Finnish Report for the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012, several talks and presentations were held in Finland in 2012 to discuss health care cooperatives as “one solution worthy of consideration in the structural renewal of the Finnish health care system.”⁵

No quantitative data was found during the course of the study, due to the lack of resources available in English. Only one second-level health care cooperative was found: Taltioni. In 2010, the Finnish Innovation Fund started a project to establish a Personal Health Record platform and ecosystem in Finland. Taltioni was established in 2010 to operate the technical platform and form the business ecosystem. The cooperative mode was chosen because it enables easy access for companies to join/resign from the ecosystem. Taltioni is thus a user cooperative and aims at providing “citizens with a personal health account which will be available to the user throughout their lives.”⁶ It had 27 founding members and currently has 63 members. All members are companies from the health IT sector, both private and public. Taltioni has three employees, outsources lot of its operations, and works with a great many partners.⁷

SOURCES

¹ We would like to thank Pekka Turunen for their collaboration.

² Karhu, Sami. 2013. “Finnish Cooperation, new Cooperative Act and learning supports Cooperatives”. Pellervo. Retrieved June 12, 2014 (http://some.lappia.fi/blogs/conventus/files/2013/10/2_Finnish-cooperative-act-Karhu.pdf).

³ Karhu 2013.

⁴ Pättiniemi, Pekka. 2003. “Finland: Labour co-operatives as innovative response to unemployment.” Pp. 82-99 in *The Emergence of Social Enterprise*, edited by Carlo Borzaga and Jacques Defourny. New York: Routledge. Retrieved June 12, 2014 (<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/Social%20Economy%20PDFs/THE%20EMERGENCE%20OF%20SOCIAL%20ENTERPRISE/TEOSE-4.pdf>).

⁵ Santamäk, Anne, Tenaw, Shimelles, Henry, Hagen, et al. 2013. “Report.” Finnish Committee for IYC 2012. Retrieved June 12, 2014 (http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/media_items/Evaluation%20of%20the%20United%20Nations%20International%20Year%20of%20Cooperatives%202012%20-%20Finland_0.pdf).

⁶ Liaison. 2013. “Liaison Technologies joins the Taltioni health cooperative in Finland.” May 13. Retrieved June 9, 2014 (<http://liaison.com/about-liaison/in-the-news/news/2013/05/13/liaison-technologies-joins-the-taltioni-health-cooperative-in-finland>).

⁷ All the information about Taltioni was provided by email on June 17, 2014 by Pekka Turunen, who works for the cooperative.

Population (in thousands): 5,408

Population median age (years): 42.24

Population under 15 (%): 16.42

Population over 60 (%): 25.9

Total expenditure on health as a % of Gross Domestic Product: 9.2

General government expenditure on health as a % of total government expenditure: 12.3

Private expenditure on health as a % of total expenditure: 24.6