

PUSHING FOR A YOUTH HOUSING GUARANTEE

Pushing for a youth housing guarantee to facilitate access to employment and training for vulnerable youth

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NAL

FINNISH YOUTH HOUSING ASSOCIATION IN BRIEF



Finnish Youth Housing Association (NAL)

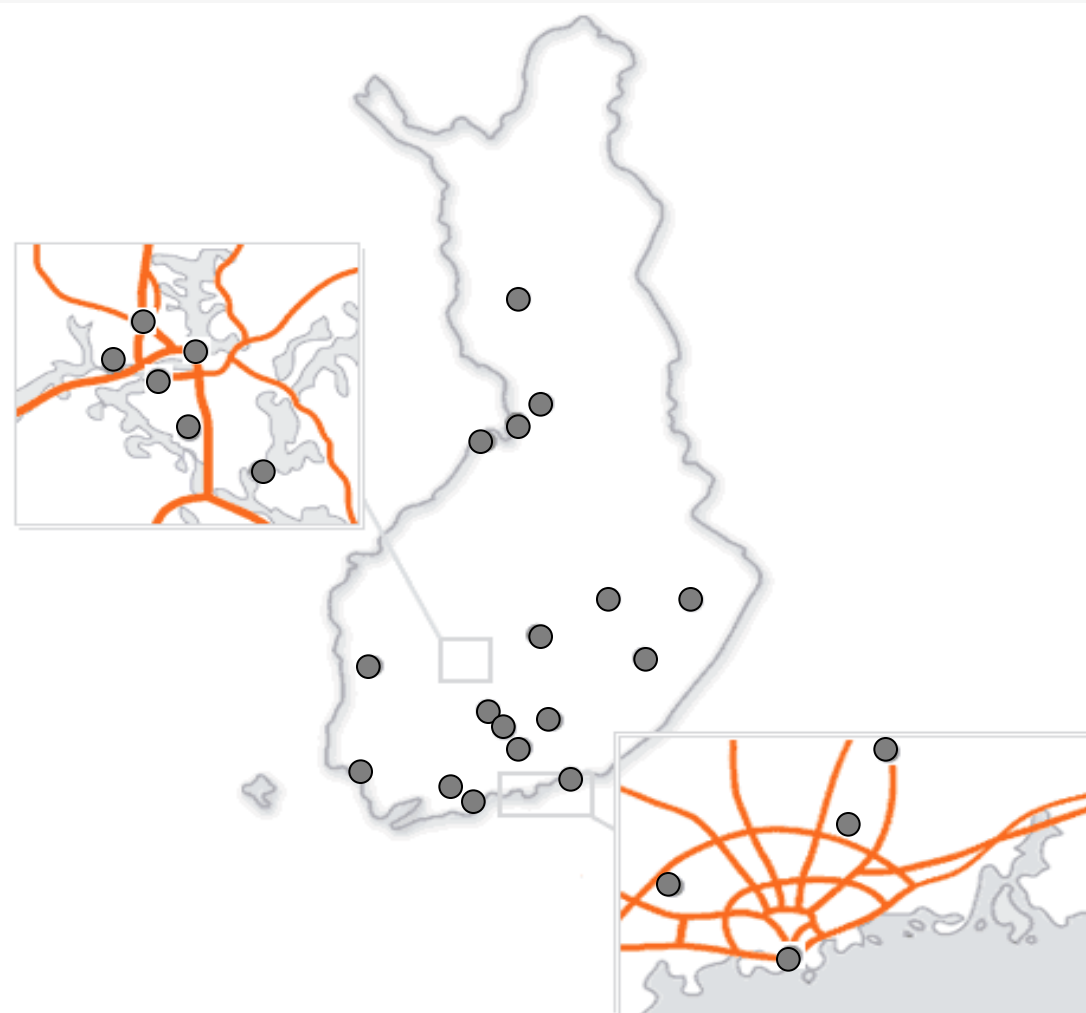


- Non-governmental, non-profit organisation independent of any political and denominational affiliation
- 7 national member organisations (4 political youth organisations, the Finnish Association of People with Mobility Disabilities, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and the Finnish Central Association for Mental Health) and 26 independent local youth housing associations
- Funded by the Finland's Slot Machine Association that has an exclusive right in Finland to operate slot machines and casinos for raising funds for health and welfare organisations

26 LOCAL YOUTH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS



- ❖ Espoo
- ❖ Helsinki
- ❖ Hyvinkää
- ❖ Hämeenlinna
- ❖ Joensuu
- ❖ Jyväskylä
- ❖ Kankaanpää
- ❖ Keski-Uusimaa
- ❖ Kiiminki
- ❖ Kirkkonummi
- ❖ Kuopio
- ❖ Lahti
- ❖ Lempäälä
- ❖ Lohja
- ❖ Nokia&Pirkkala
- ❖ Oulu
- ❖ Pattijoki
- ❖ Porvoo
- ❖ Riihimäki
- ❖ Rovaniemi
- ❖ Savonlinna
- ❖ Tampere
- ❖ Turku
- ❖ Valkeakoski
- ❖ Vantaa
- ❖ Ylöjärvi



NAL youth housing as figures



- Applicants over 12 000 / year
- Active applications 2 800–3 500, application is valid for three months
- 3 800 apartments in 30 different localities (totally there are about 7200 youth housing apartments in Finland)
- Over 4 000 tenants
- In NAL and in the local youth housing associations there are about 100 professionals working.

Core activities & target group



- Building and renting out apartments for young people under 30 years of age.
- Providing supported housing
- Influencing general housing policy
- People 18-29 years old
- Young people working or looking for a job
- 5 year lease

The homeless youth in Finland



- At the end of the year 2014 there were around 1600 homeless people under 25 years of age.
 - More than 400 of them were long-term homeless
 - 63 % of them were living in three biggest cities in the capital region
 - 44 % living in Helsinki

Influencing general housing policy in Finland



- We raise the debate of young peoples housing issues.
- We influence actively nationally and locally.
- We do lobbying by meeting politicians, financiers and other housing actors. We make statements, participate in working groups and provide information.

Housing Guarantee as a part of the Youth Guarantee?



- The objective of the youth guarantee is to help young people gain access to education and employment.
- How can this work if we don't take housing into consideration?

Housing guarantee as a part of the Youth Guarantee?



- Youth Guarantee started in 2013.
- We at NAL soon realised that housing wasn't seen as a part of the youth guarantee.
- We started to talk about the matter
 - How housing could be taken into consideration?
 - We asked: If the government guarantees the young a place to study or work, should it also guarantee him/her an apartment?
 - Housing is a basic right
 - It might be impossible to guarantee an apartment for everybody but asking about housing conditions doesn't cost anything.
- Successful execution of the youth guarantee requires cooperation among national and municipal authorities, the business sector and organisations.

Things NAL have done



- Making statements to the government and for the media
- We made our own Government programme objectives
 - Bringing the matter forward
 - Sending our objectives to certain parliamentary election candidates (600) who had promised to promote young peoples issues
- We talked about it when we met politicians
- Lobbying also on municipal level, where importance of the housing is understood better

Case Miska



Case Miska



- National tv channel had youth homelessness as a theme in their new programme in the end of January
- A reporter experimented homelessness for 24 hours in Helsinki. While looking for a place to sleep she met homeless 24-year old guy named Miska at the main railway station.
- Miska was invited to the studio where programme continued with a panel discussion.

Case Miska



- Other participants in the discussion were
 - Reporter
 - Pia Viitanen, minister of housing
 - Jyrki Malinen, project manager in Finnish Youth Housing Assoc.
- Miska told his story and got lots of encouragement from the audience
- Minister Viitanen set up a working group on youth homelessness.

Minister Viitanen's list to the working group



- How housing can be taken into account in the youth guarantee?
- Could there be a single person in charge for overall situation of each homeless young?
- Can society help homeless young people with rental deposits and arrears of rent, and how?

Conclusions of the working group on youth homelessness



- Securing housing is a basic thing that ensures young people to fasten into society.
- Housing should be part of the youth guarantee
- The youth guarantee will be developed so that
 - Housing situation will be clarified when the person comes within the scope of services.
 - Homeless persons will be guided to a low-threshold services and to a secure housing path.
 - Services should be available in biggest towns as part of the One-Stop-Guidance Centers

What would it cost?



- If we could provide apartments for 2000 young people who are homeless or under a threat of homelessness, it would cost 20 Million euros / year
- This would save 15 000 €/year/young person compared to letting things get escalated (more expensive services etc.)
- Savings would be 7,5 Million euros/year if we could avoid homelessness of 500 young people

Present situation & challenges



- New government started in June
 - Government Programme focuses more on strategies than before
 - Housing isn't mentioned as a part of the youth guarantee but...
- More detailed programme for action will be written during the summer
 - NAL is making an effort to influence on the programme
- NAL has good relations with two governmental parties (out of three)

Could this be an Europeanwide goal?



- One-Stop-Guidance Center experiences
- Housing first –principle should be included in the Youth Guarantee
- We would achieve more by influencing together

Conclusions



- Youth Guarantee is too education and work oriented it doesn't take housing into consideration
- Results from Finnish One-Stop-Guidance Centers can be used in other countries
- Including Housing guarantee in the Youth Guarantee would help young homeless people

Wish I was home!

