



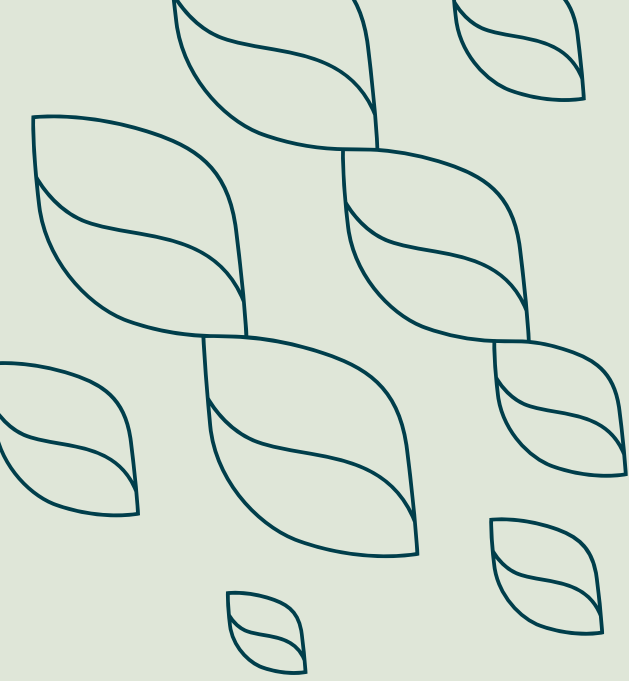
From structures to everyday life – and back

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Kommenttipuheenvuoro
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“Well, I think that sense of safety comes about when a relationship of trust develops between the young person and the adult.”

Young Advisor living in Alternative Care 2025



Why Structures and everyday life together?

- Welfare state was made for children and families.
- Structures shape the everyday life of people, who shape the structures of the welfare state.
- Structures create the framework, but everyday life reveals whether it works.

The Idea – and the Reality

- Universality and equality – a shared promise.
- Structures provide security, but also rigidity.
- Resources, governance, bureaucracy, and boundaries – who makes the decisions, why, and where?

"When everyone is responsible, no one is present."



Child Welfare: The Interface of Structure and Humanity

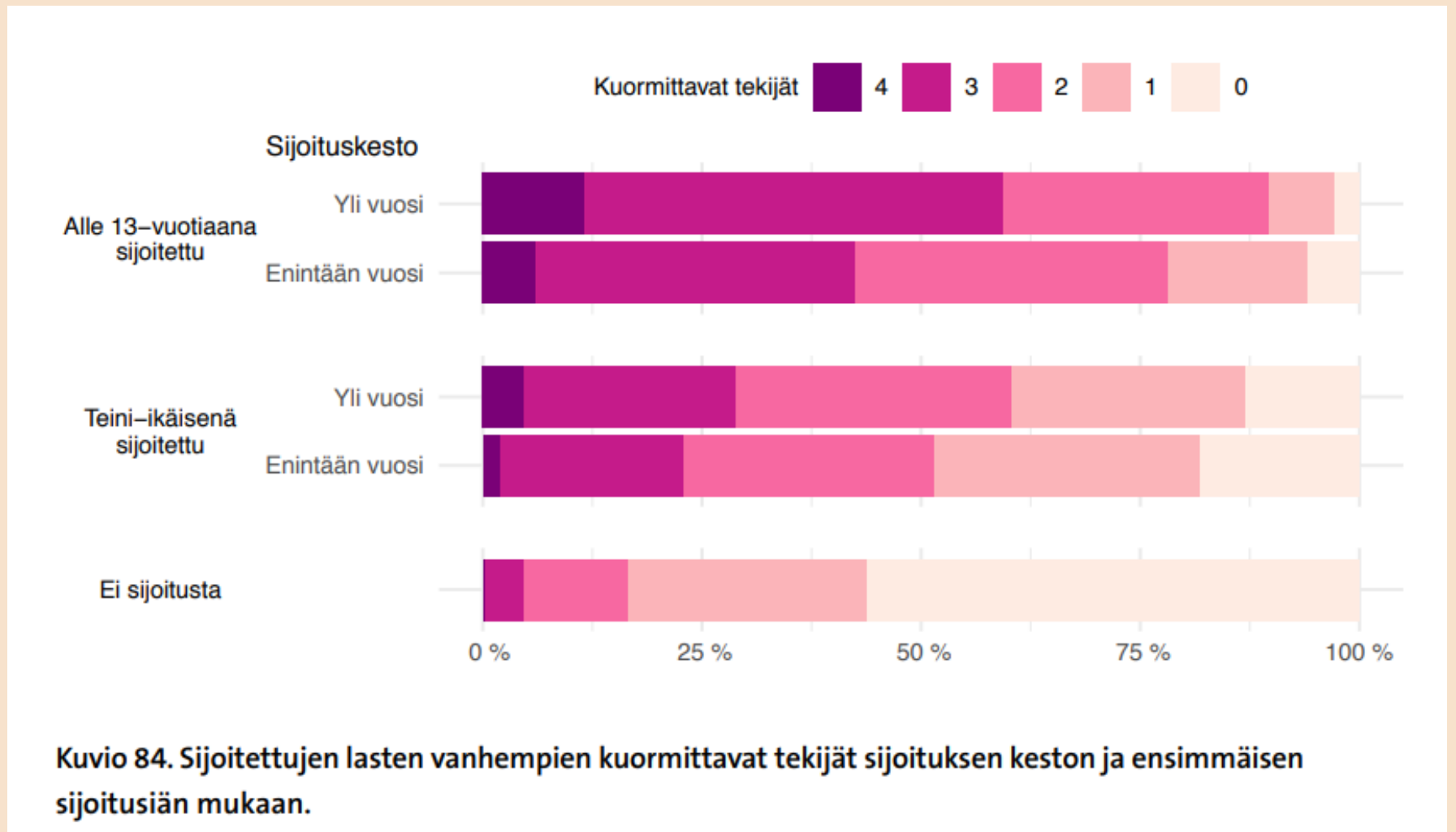
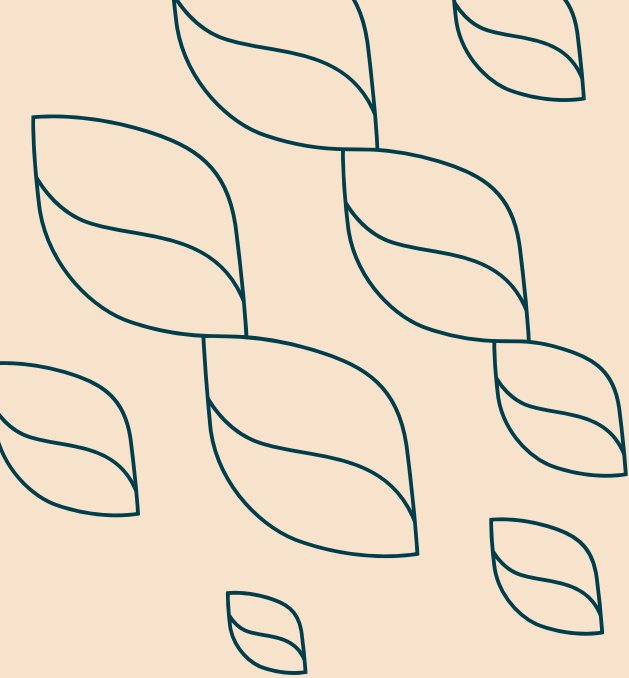
- Legislation, funding, and organisations guide the work – encounters matter.
- Professionals are the sensory system of the welfare state – how are they doing at the moment?
- Structures don't carry the child – people do.





Where the System Becomes Real

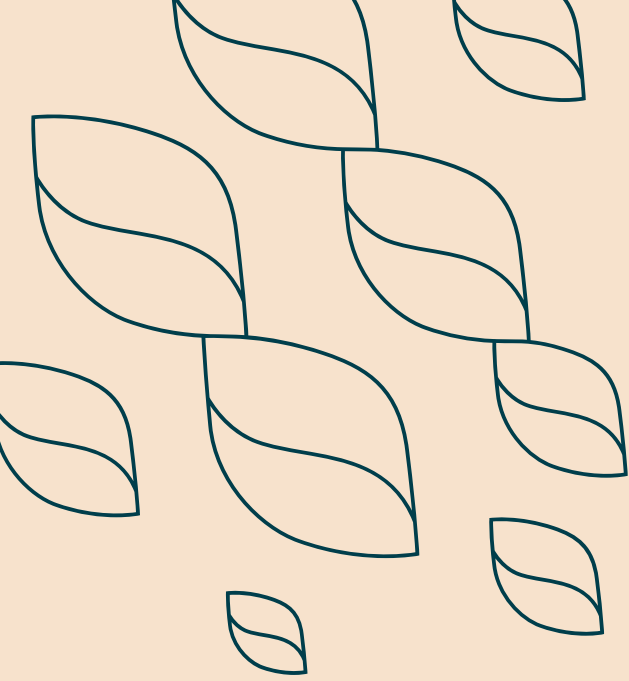
- Too little resources – too little adults.
- Too little adults – too much chaos.
- Too many adults – too little continuity.
- The accumulation of problems in child welfare.



How Do We Make Everyday Visible to the Structures?

- Listening to children and ensuring the right to participate.
- Learning from professionals experiences – knowledge beyond statistics and registers.
- Need for structural hearing – the ability to listen to weak signals from daily life.





The Structure of the Future?

- What kind of structure enables humanity?
- Fewer silos, more shared responsibility.
- Flexibility and trust in professionals.
- Enough time for the children and the families.
- Understanding everyday life as the compass of the system.

From Structures to Everyday life – and Back

- Each of us can be a bridge builder.
- The welfare state lives only if its promise lives in people's everyday lives.
- Structures must exist for people – not the other way around.



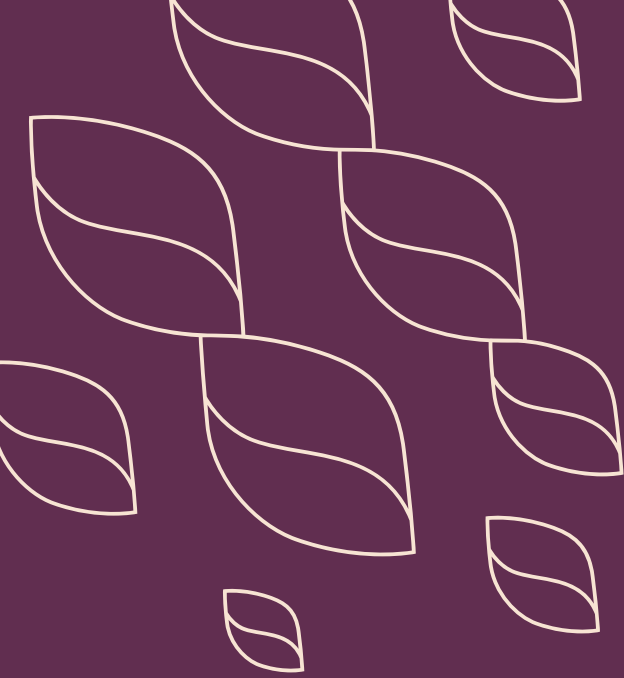


*It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men.*

Frederick Douglass

A person wearing a beanie and a backpack is seen from behind, looking towards a large, multi-story building. The image has a dark, teal overlay.

Thank you!



LAPSIASIAVALTUUTETTU
BARNOMBUDSMANNEN