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Alcohol Education & Drug Prevention Sections

**FACTORS HAMPERING AND
PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF A LOCAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION STRATEGY**

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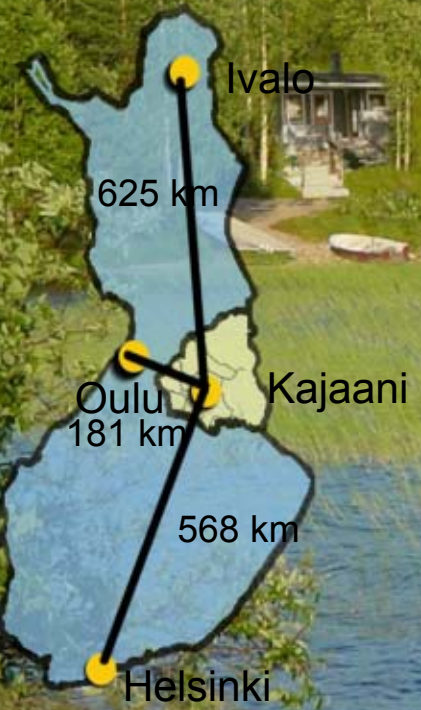
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- A study* which analyses the implementation of a regional (comprising nine municipalities) substance abuse prevention strategy (action programme) one year after the programme had been made public.
- The study is based on the interviews (18) of the officials who participated in drafting and implementing the programme, and their superiors.
- Interviewees' views were divided into factors promoting the implementation and factors hampering the implementation of the programme

* Mustalampi, Saini : "Rajat ovat rakkautta" Stakes, Aiheita 5/2001



KAINUU



Municipalities, population



Kajaani	35 713
Sotkamo	10 715
Kuhmo	10 630
Suomussalmi	10 376
Paltamo	4 220
Puolanka	3 560
Hyrynsalmi	3 212
Vuolijoki	2 632
Ristimäki	1 686

Kainuu	86 573
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Resources

Promoting

Hampering

- working hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working hours - overwork and fatigue - no opportunities to prioritise
- active support from the management	- short term approaches
-administrative authorities prioritise + resource activities	- difficulty in combining sector specific resources
- funded projects support basic work in municipalities	- unconnected, short time activities are funded

Actors

Promoting

Hampering

- co-ordination and responsibilities clear	- co-ordination and responsibilities not specified
- target-oriented multiprofessional substance abuse prevention group	- group has no clear task-definition
- all main actors included in the group	- too few people and insular

Actors... continue

Promoting

Hampering

- adequate participation of all parties	- all parties concerned have not been consulted
- adequate involvement of the resource managers	- activities detached from the decision-making level
- delegation of implementation to the frontline staff	- no clear administrative decision concerning responsibilities and implementation

Contents of activities

Promoting

Hampering

- substance abuse prevention regarded as important	- difficult to prove the results of the work/ to provide evidence
- justifications can be given to prevention	- prevention is not understood
- willingness to develop activities	-resistance to change
- programme is realistic	- programme is not realistic

Contents of activities ... continue

Promoting

Hampering

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the implementation is based on priority setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementation is based on unconnected, short-time measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continuous evaluation and feedback system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no attention paid to evaluation and feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activities are linked with other municipal planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the implementation of the programme takes place in isolation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drafting and implementation closely interrelated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activities aimed only at publishing the programme

The flow of information

Promoting

Hampering

- good interaction	- inadequate interaction
- effective information provision and interaction within and with regard to different actors	- only a few have access to information
- systematic information provision	- no information provision or it is not systematic

Conclusions

- Being aware of “promoting and hampering factors” can be useful in planning and following up the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects.

Local substance abuse prevention efforts benefit from programme/strategy work particularly as far as

- the coordination of activities,
- structuring of content and
- setting of priorities for action are concerned.

A successful implementation of the action programme can promote interaction between officials, elected officials and local inhabitants.