

VTKL - The Finnish Association for the Welfare of Older People is the largest umbrella organisation for associations working with older people in Finland. We have 330 member associations, about 200 of which produce services for older people.

VTKL's members include both local and nationwide associations. The member association activities include e.g. home services and sheltered housing around the country. They also provide other services, volunteer work and arrange various day activities for older people. Members of VTKL also include national organisations for pensioners and other associations that arrange, among other things, recreational and voluntary activities.

Our work

Influencing policies on older people

- Increasing participation and sense of security among older people.
- Creating new positive culture for older people.
- Developing services for older people and facilitating independent living in one's own home.
- Guaranteeing the human and fundamental rights of older people.

Ways to influence policies on older people

- VTKL has been invited to participate in legally mandated advisory boards and various ministries' committees for preparing legislation and strategy.
- Nationally significant expertise and influence in the field and as a representative for our many member associations.

- Our stakeholder relations are not limited to other associations.
- Great visibility in media around the country.
- Partner in campaigns and other activities arranged by various organisations.
- Frequent initiatives and statements in collaboration with other organisations.

Supporting the member associations and promoting our joint interests

- Communication, information and upholding general awareness.
- Education.
- Building networks and a strong community.
- Encouraging cooperation between member organisations.
- Support for developing the work of the associations.
- Advice and guidance, spreading experiencebased knowledge.

Providing guidance and support for older people

- Home repair advice available nationwide. Around 15 regional home repair experts who help veterans and other older people in assessing and planning house renovation and applying for repair allowances.
- Circle of Friends – training for professionals and volunteers as well as group activities for older people suffering from loneliness.
- Group and volunteer activities for senior citizens in the Metropolitan Region. In addition, training for volunteers around the country. VAHVIKE, an online database with resources for entertainment and group activities.

Developing effective models for nationwide implementation

- Coordination of *Active Age*, a programme of STEA (Funding centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations) 2012–2017 encompassing 30 practice development projects for increasing participation and wellbeing among older people.
- *The Home Safety* Project 2015–2017, facilitating adoption of technology by older people, pilot project in Mikkeli.
- *The SeniorSurf* Project 2014–2016, providing older people with computer skills using peers as instructors.

The Day and Week of Older People

- Finland has celebrated The Day of the Older People since 1954. The Day takes place on the first Sunday of October and the following week is The Week of the Older People. VTKL selects a theme for the week and produces a poster and a journal as inspirational material.
- Festivities and events are arranged during the week around the country focusing on ageing well.

Participation in other projects

- The national Palliative Care Project
- Key projects of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: *Developing Home Care for the Elderly and Strengthening Caregiving for Patients of All Ages (coordination group)* and *Promoting Health and Well-being and Reducing Inequality (expert group)*.
- Security Strategy for Society
- Advisory Board for the Finland 100 Years Project.



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