

New models to support unemployed people in rural enterprises using Green Care

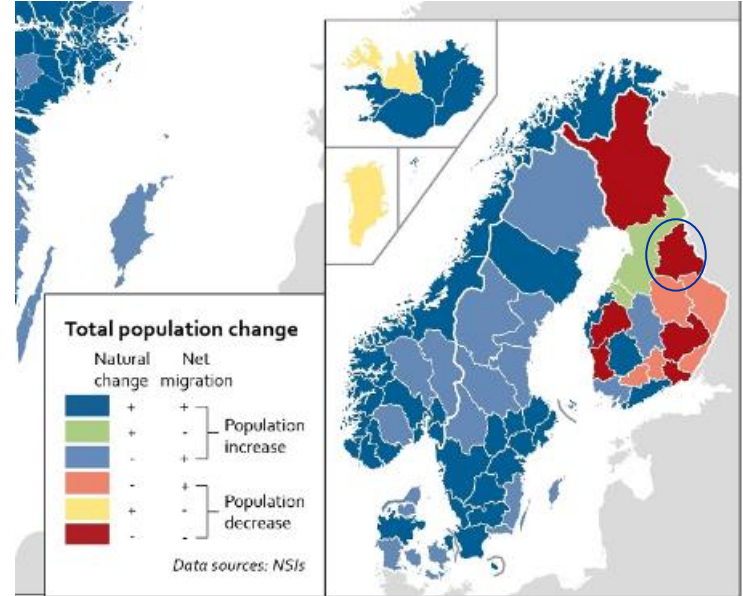
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Project: From farm to work, 2021-23, European social fund

- In a changing security environment, the self-sufficiency rate of Finnish food production has become an important issue.
- Finnish labor is needed on the farms, especially at the corona pandemic time. Shortage of skilled labour at the farms.
- At the same time many, especially men, are facing challenges in labor market in Kainuu.
- Half of the unemployed in Kainuu are difficult to employ.

Effective ways of employment and retraining are needed to meet labor supply and demand.

Nordregio 2021



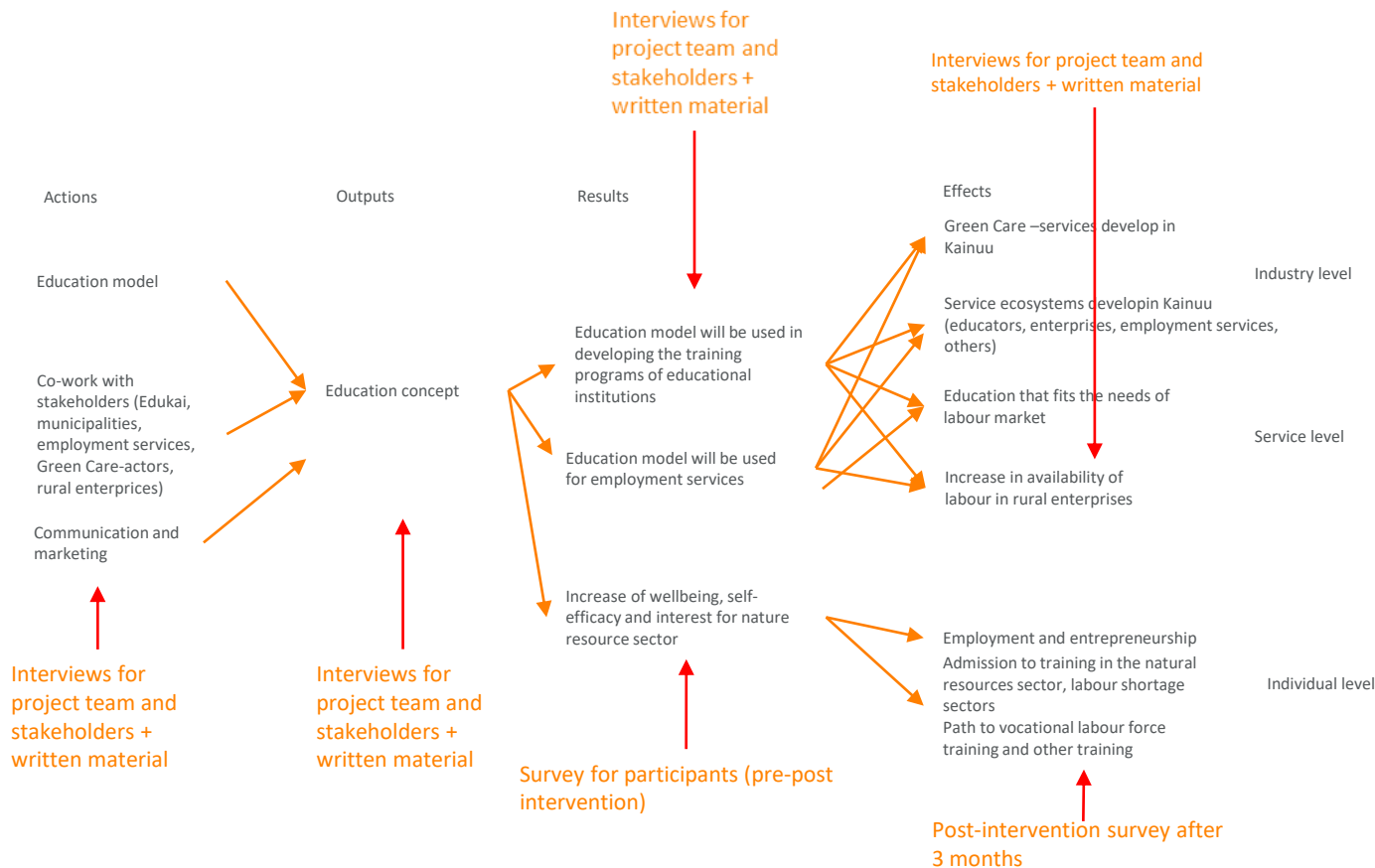
Area: 22 687 km²
Population: 73 959

Project aims



- The project aims to use Green Care as a framework to
 - develop new services for rural enterprises
 - help them to hire outside labor
 - decrease the unemployment rate developing new types of employment services

Data collection plan to evaluate the results



Policy brief

Luke Policy Brief 3/2022:

Eläinavusteisuus vastuullisesti käyttöön
hyvinvointialueiden ja kuntien palveluihin (**How
to implement animal-assisted methods in
responsible way in public sector**)

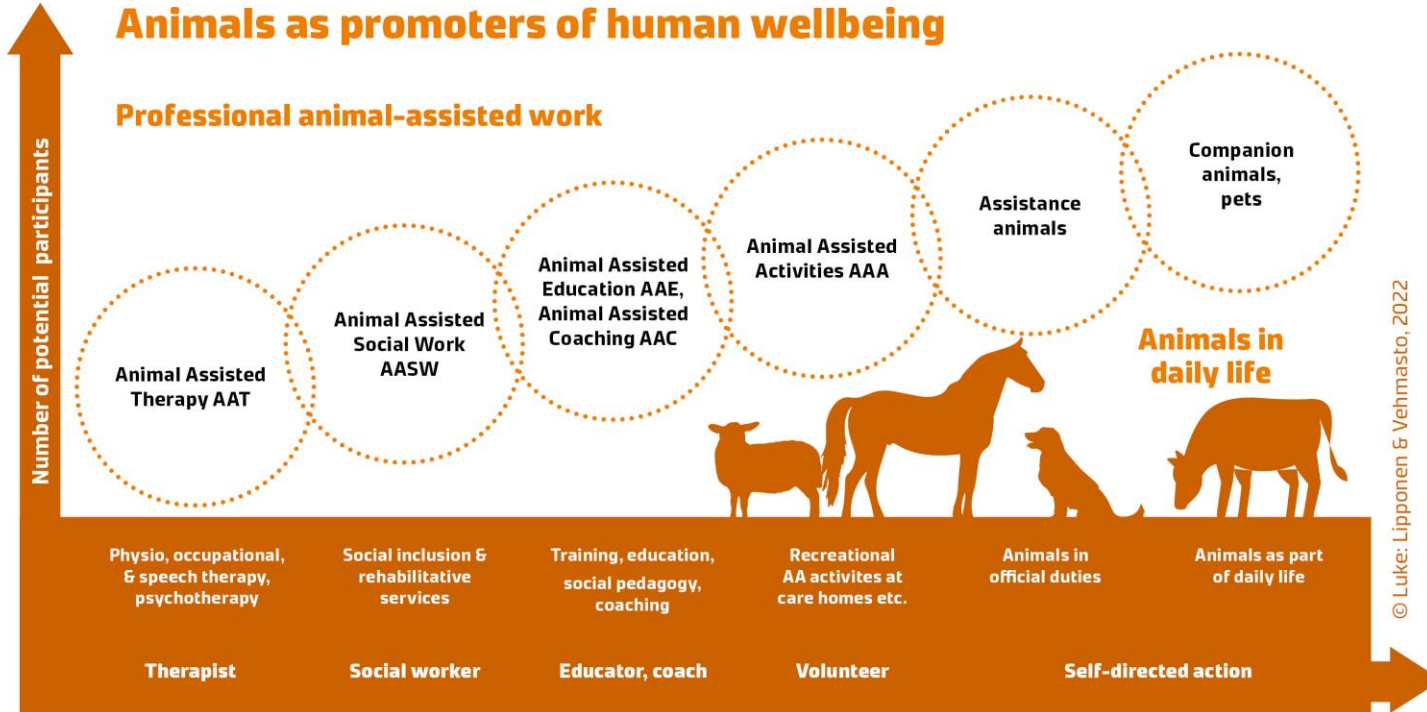
Lipponen, Maija; Vehmasto, Elina; Lilja, Taina;
Raussi, Satu; Kauppinen, Tiina; Niemi, Jarkko;
Ovaska, Ulla

Available:

<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-380-448-7>

Kuvat: Jari Lindeman, Olli Leino, Pentti Potkonen





Research about animal-assisted methods

- Animals are frequently used in physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Promising results also in psychotherapy, neurological and social rehabilitation.
- Animals promote good mood, decrease stress and help to improve social skills. Animals strengthen the relationship between client and therapist.
 - Animals motivate and commit to the therapy process!
- **Problem:** No Finnish research about animal-assisted methods

Recommendation 1: Ministries involve animal-assisted methods in the national pilot projects to gather research data from Finnish practices.

Education

- Animal-assisted work is based on the professional background of the instructor or therapist. Only therapist can do therapy.
- Moreover, know-how on animal-assisted method is needed to make the animal-assisted work safe for both the human and the animal.
- **Problem:** In Finland there is no degree aiming for animal-assisted work. Further training courses (5-30 credits) are provided by several public and private educators, some of them are held in co-operation with a university. The content and quality of the courses varies.



Recommendation 2: Training courses are coordinated and made more even. Knowledge of nature-based and animal-assisted methods are included in degree programs of social and health care and pedagogy.

Service markets

- Public sector may use animals in their own services (school dogs, elderly care home animals etc.) or buy services from local service providers (farm visits, riding therapy etc.)..
- **Problem:** Professionals see the animal-assisted methods effective but buying services for clients is challenging due to lack of money or other resources.

Recommendation 3: New Health and social services counties in Finland should take in use animal-assisted service prescription, personal budgeting or other tools to provide more freedom of choice for clients.

Communication

- Animal-assisted service market is increasing in Finland.
- There are service providers all over Finland.
- **Problem:** Politicians, service buyers and officers are not familiar with these kind of new services. The practises in handling of permissions to produce social or health care services with animals varies in different parts of Finland.

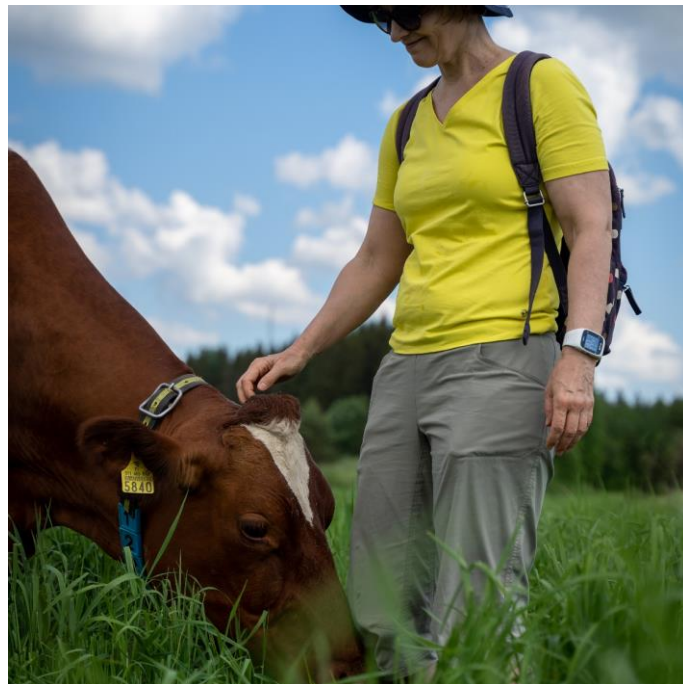
Recommendation 4: Potential of animals is regognized in national and regional strategies that links to health and well-being.

Recommendation 5: Health and social services counties (Hyvinvointialueet), Regional State Administrative Agencies (Aluehallintovirastot) and National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) are informed about animal-assisted work.

Quality of services

- Professional animal-assisted work needs a lot of knowledge about working with the humans but also skills to choose, train and handle the animal and take care of its well-being.
- **Problem:** Not all animal-assisted services have quality criteria. There is no monitoring or coordination of the animal-assisted services.

Recommendation 6: Quality criteria for AA services is set. The criteria includes both human and animal well-being indicators.



References

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More reading:

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Kiitos!