Elderly Care in Finland

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The Finnish Union of Practical Nurses SuPer (founded 1948)

• 83 000 members
• SuPer-members are practical nurses and practical nurse students
• 70 % in public sector, 30 % in private sector
• Negotiate collective agreements and salaries
• Great influence on social and health care
• Active influence on curriculas etc
• Reports and researches about elderly care
• Theses for elderly care
Staff in elderly care

- Practical nurses (upper secondary education)
- Nurses
- Bachelors of Health Care and Social Work (Elderly Care)
- Social workers
- Doctors
- Care assistants (training 9 months, not exam)
Training of practical nursing

• 120 grades
• European level 3 of th EC classification
• Core subjects (20 credits)
• Vocational studies (90 credits)
  (Support and guidance of growth, Nursing and care, Rehabilitation support)
• 10 studyprogrammes (30+10 credits): Care for the elderly
The amount of elderly people (over 65 years)

- 2010: 17.4%
- 2015: 20.5%
- 2020: 22.9%
- 2025: 24.7%
- 2030: 26.3%
Elderly care

- Home care
- Hospitals
- Health centres
- Home for elderly people
- Servicehouse for elderly
Producing and financing elderly care

- Municipalities
- Private sector (expanding)
- Voluntary organisations very rare (sc. Third sector)

- Municipalities and state (taxes, debths)
- Payments from patients and clients
Goals for over 75 years old

- 91-92 % are living at home independently or supported
- 13-14 % gets home care services
- 5-6 % gets support from close relative
- Only 3 % is living in homes for elderly (now 10%)
Challenges in Finnish society

- The amount of elderly people is growing rapidly
- Elderly people are living alone
- The situation of economics (Finland vs EU)
- Illnesses of memory
- Lack of trained nurses
- Lack of interest to study or work in elderly care
- (18,000 practical nurse work elsewhere)
- Early retirement of nurses
Improving elderly care

- Recommendations of quality
- Law of elderly care (July 2013)
- Minimistandards of staff (not in law)
- Control of authorities
- Discussion of ethics
- Citizen movements
- Happenings