

NPLD-Coppieters Campus 2023

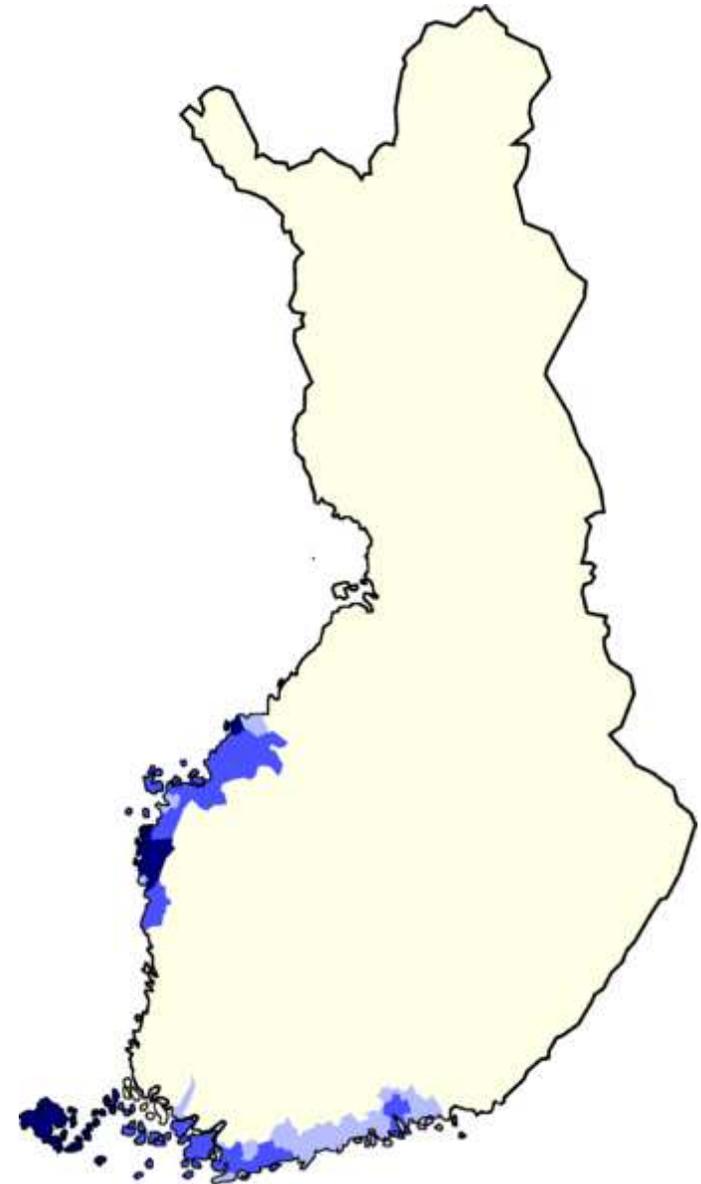
Managing languages in the field of Health and
Social Care in Multilingual Societies

Hanaholmen, Esbo 27-28.9 2023

Swedish in Finland and the work of Folktinget

Swedish in Finland

- There are two national languages in Finland: Finnish and Swedish. The population is 5.5 million and Swedish is the mother tongue of about 290,000 people.



Official languages in Finland

Main official languages (National languages)

- Finnish 85,9%
- Swedish 5,2%

Official minority languages

- Three variants of Sami
- Romani
- Karelian
- Finnish and Swedish (Finland's variant) Sign languages

Examples of structures that support the Swedish language in Finland

- Cultural autonomy within the sectors of education and culture
- Swedish and Finnish are compulsory subjects in school
- There are both unilingual and bilingual universities
- The national TV and radio broadcasting company YLE has a Swedish unit consisting of two radio channels in Swedish and a TV channel partly in Swedish
- Swedish-speakers can choose to do their military service in the Swedish-speaking garrison of Dragsvik at the Brigade of Nyland
- Broad range of Swedish-speaking associations in the civil society.

Folktinget- the Swedish Assembly of Finland

- The duties of the Swedish Assembly of Finland are laid down in an Act (1331/2003)
- Works to improve the cultural and societal conditions of the Swedish-speaking population and to promote the status of the Swedish language in Finland
- Its tasks include supporting and developing the Swedish-language culture in Finland.

Folktinget

- Has a council with 75 members representing political parties and the Åland Islands and an office with a personnel of 9
- Recognized referral body and impacts the drafting of legislation and reforms concerning the Swedish-speaking population and linguistic rights
- Informs and raises awareness about the Swedish language and culture in Finland.

Welcome to Finland
Välkommen till Finland
Tervetuloa Suomeen