

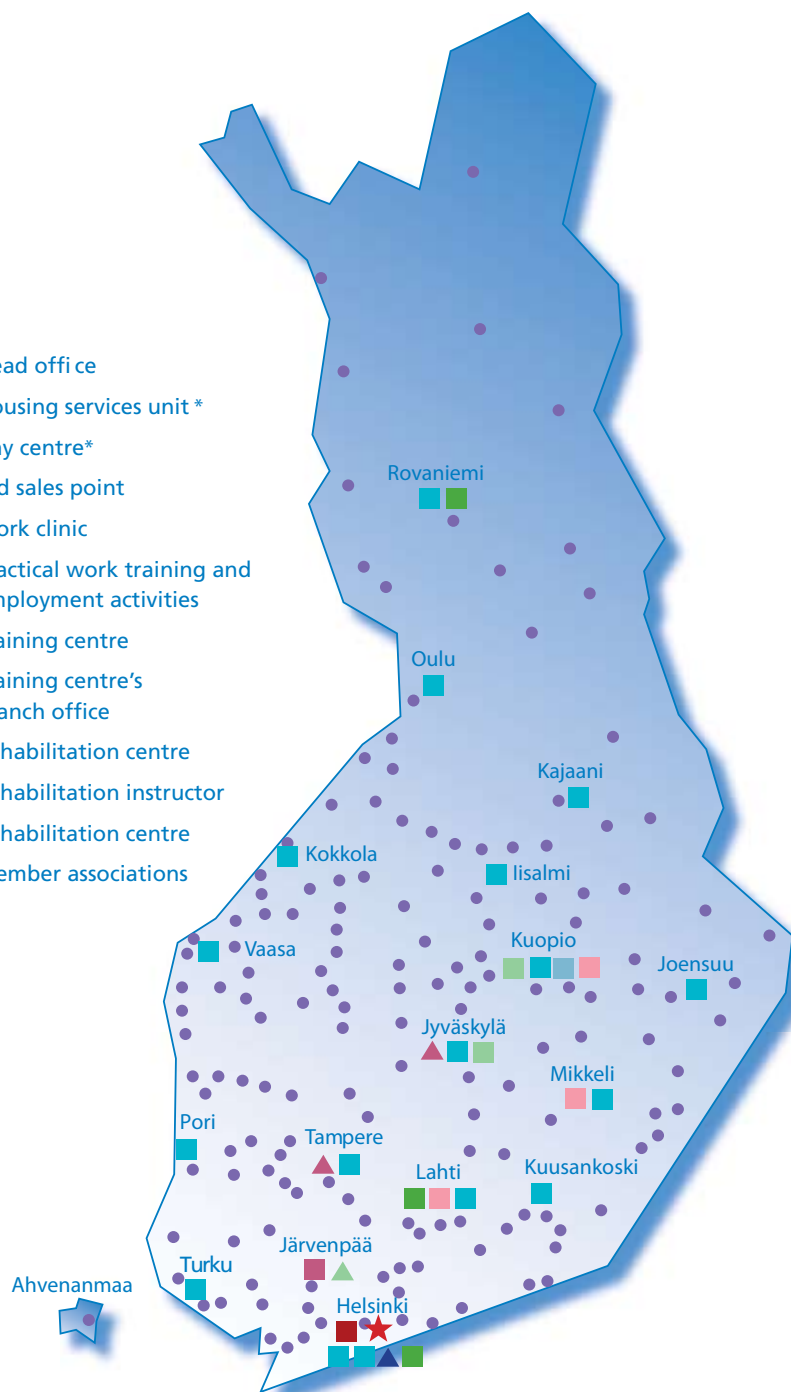


Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities

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*Housing services (Invalidiliiton Asumispalvelut Oy)

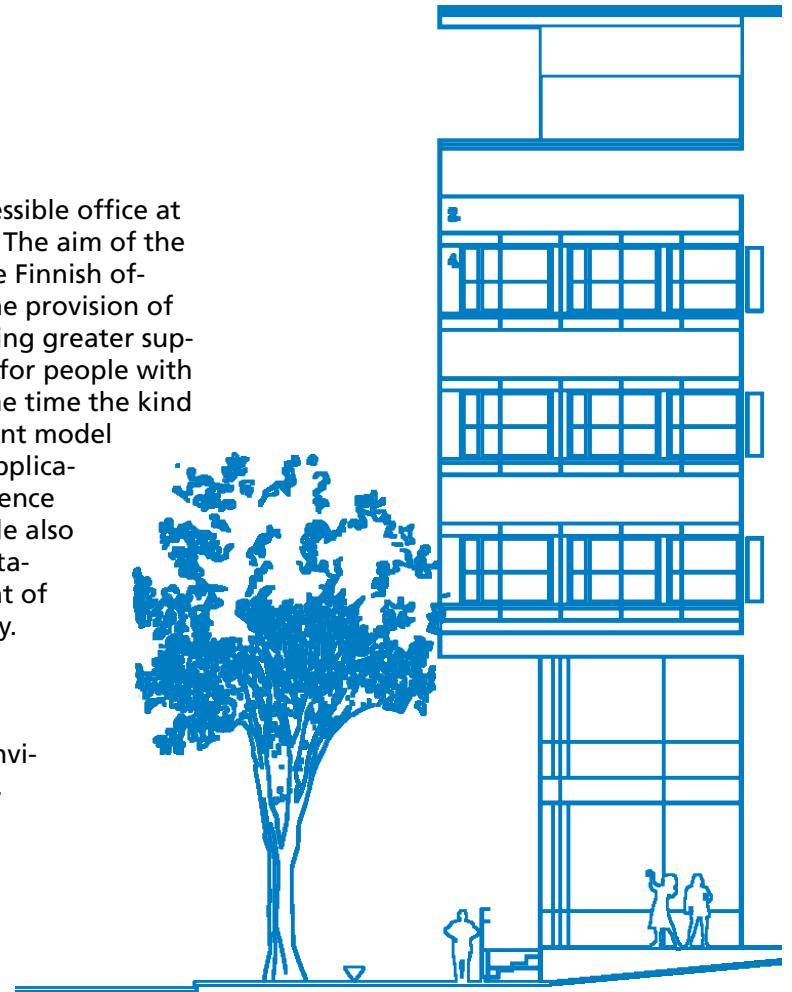
Established in 1938, the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities is a diversified nationwide organization representing the interests of, and providing services for, people with musculoskeletal disabilities. The FPD comprises 165 member associations made up of 34,000 individual members.

The FPD functions within the community in such a way as to enable everyday life to be independent and fulfilling for people with musculoskeletal disabilities. The FPD's basic values are human dignity, dependability, courage and fairness.

The FPD runs many kinds of development projects, the most notable of which has been the construc-

tion in 2007 of an accessible office at Ruskeasuo in Helsinki. The aim of the project is to encourage Finnish office culture towards the provision of structural spaces offering greater support in the workplace for people with a disability. At the same time the kind of working environment model is created which has application as a general reference in office planning while also serving to remove obstacles to the employment of people with a disability.

An office constructed for accessibility provides a good working environment for everyone.





STARTING POINTS FOR ACTIVITIES

- FPD Rules
- Policies of the General Council
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

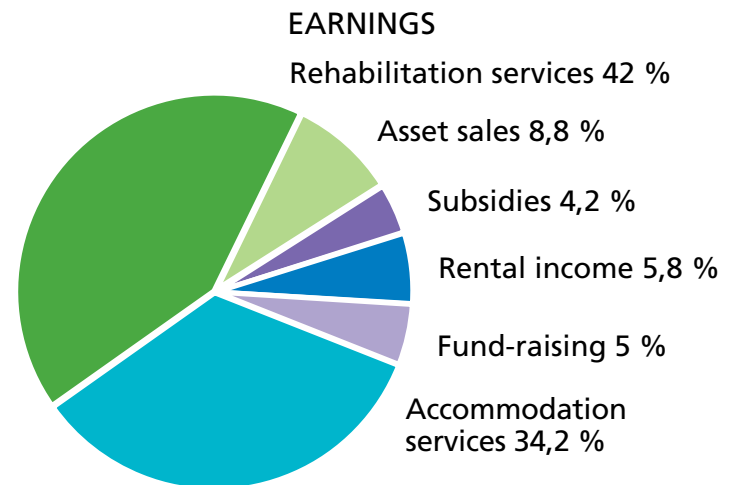
DECISION-MAKING BODIES

The highest power of decision in the FPD is held by the General Council, which has 56 members. The General Council is elected by a vote of the Association which is held every four years. The election is conducted by postal vote.

The General Council elects the Board of the FPD, comprising the Chair (Chair of the FPD), two Vice-chairs and ten members.

FINANCES

Financing of FPD activities is primarily based on grants from the Finnish Slot Machine Association and on the support of businesses and private individuals. Service operation earnings are used to cover related costs. Earnings derive from service charges received from municipalities, hospital districts, the Social Insurance Institution and insurance companies.



Organizational work

The operating idea in organizational work is the empowerment of people with disabilities and the securing of opportunities for equality. Tasks include exerting social influence, safeguarding the viability of member associations, regional activities, training and counselling.

Organizational work is coordinated by the FPD's Organizational and Social Activities Department. The FPD comprises 165 member associations made up of 34,000 individual members.

Regional activities

Realization of the opportunities for equality for people with disabilities is made more efficient through regional activities in conjunction with member associations operating in the area and with other regional actors. Support is given at the same time to the region's collective membership activities.

Methods used in regional activities involve networking, discussion forums, training, dissemination of information, and joint leisure activities.

The country is divided into eight Finnish-speaking and two Swedish-speaking regions.

Member associations

A person may join as a full member of a member association if he or she has a permanent musculoskeletal disability, or is the legal guardian of a child under 15 years of age with a mobility disability.

The aims of member associations are:

- to function as a link for people with a permanent disability
- to foster opportunities for people with a disability to function as equal and empowered citizens
- to promote the fulfilment of rights for people with a disability
- to maintain and develop the functional capabilities of people with a disability

Membership provides:

- counselling and training
- opportunities for culture and creativity
- exercise and recreation
- companionship and peer support
- trips and outings
- membership benefits
- IT magazine

Member associations of the FPD also belong to the Finnish Association of Sports for the Disabled.

Organizational training

The aim of the FPD's organizational training is the improvement of the quality of life of its membership, the raising of awareness, and the upkeep and reform of the FPD's operational preparedness.

The FPD's members and other interested parties are provided with regional training days and nationwide courses, seminars and consultation days. A number of seminars are targeted at professionals and decision-makers.





Youth work

The FPD also functions as an organization for young people with mobility disabilities, providing social influences, services and companionship. The aim is to encourage young people at the earliest possible age to work for their own rights.

The youth working group INTO is responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of FPD youth work. Courses and meetings for young people form an essential part of youth work, allowing young people to socialize and exchange opinions, and bringing home to them the importance of social activities, as well as the aims of organizational activities.

INTO works in close cooperation with other actors in the field of disability and youth work. The Finnish Association of Sports for the Disabled is a natural partner of the FPD in youth work. An example of cooperation with other organizations for people with a disability is the work conducted in the Youth Cooperation Group of Organizations of the Disabled (VNY).

The youth cooperation group The Web (Seitti) is a joint project involving five associations for people with musculoskeletal disabilities (FPD, the Finnish Neuromuscular Disorders Association, the Finnish MS Society, the Finnish CP Association and the Finnish Rheumatism Association). The roles for operational design and implementation on The Web are filled by young people.
More information: www.seittiweb.org.

FPD youth are also actively involved in Allianssi. The Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi is an interest organization for youth work nationwide.

Social activities

The FPD influences planning and decision-making concerned with people with a disability, on a local, regional and national basis. The FPD keeps people with a disability abreast of important concerns and distributes information on disability and the rights of people with a disability.

Focus areas in social activities:

- safeguarding of basic and disability services
- the right of people with a disability to education, employment and an adequate income

International activities

The FPD's international work involves

- influencing the promotion of human rights and non-discrimination in international disability policies in Europe and elsewhere
- communicating topical items of international disability policy to its membership
- playing an active role in international disability organizations
- participating in European networks, joint initiatives and action programmes
- being involved in development cooperation projects in South East Africa
- fostering the internationalization of FPD member associations.

Peer support activities

Peer support is one of the central pillars of FPD activities and those of its member associations.

Peer support involves people with a disability and their close relatives being ready to assist and support others on the basis of their own experiences.

Peer support is always voluntary, reciprocal and free of charge.



Käpylä Rehabilitation Centre

The task of FPD's Käpylä Rehabilitation Centre is to complement the public service system with rehabilitation services for people who have a spine or brain injury caused through accident or illness.

Rehabilitation services comprise individual rehabilitation sessions, rehabilitation courses and programmes, and outpatient services. The nucleus of activities constituting the platform of service and expertise is knowledge of the special questions posed by persons with neurological disabilities, and multi-professional rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation methods are continually assessed and developed at the rehabilitation centre, alongside research work and the monitoring of the latest research data in the field.

Staff comprises psychiatric and neurology specialists, nurses, basic carers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists, psychologists, neuropsychologists, social workers, rehabilitation assistants, movement instructors, work therapists, leisure instructors, peer rehabilitators and support service personnel.

Since 2002 the rehabilitation centre has been located in new accessible office space in the Synapsia building. There are 75 rehabilitation places at the centre. Some rooms are fitted with environmental control devices.

Lahti Rehabilitation Centre

FPD's Lahti Rehabilitation Centre provides and develops the kind of rehabilitation services which support the lives of people with a disability and their close relatives in their home and living environment as equal and independent members of society. Lahti Rehabilitation Centre provides rehabilitation services at the national level. The range of services offers support for people through their entire life cycle. Service provision embraces preparation courses in rehabilitation and adaptation, individual rehabilitation, temporary care, outpatient rehabilitation and holiday activities.

The provision and development of rehabilitation services is in the hands of multi-professional rehabilitation teams. Areas of special expertise lie in overall rehabilitation concerned with people with a severe disability, families, and people belonging to rare musculoskeletal disability groups.

The basic needs of rehabilitants are catered for through rehabilitation and instruction enabling safe participation in all activities.

Accessible and controllable spaces, up-to-date equipment and an easily traversable environment permit the rehabilitant to function independently.

Rare Disabilities Unit

FPD's Rare Disability Unit at the Lahti Rehabilitation Centre is a national centre for groups of people with rare musculoskeletal disabilities and illnesses. The unit functions as part of the national Rare Diseases Network consisting of ten specialist units from different organizations.

Here the term "rare disability" or "illness" refers to an incidence of less than 100 per million inhabitants. The Rare Diseases Network particularly targets the kind of disability or illness which presents a constant impediment to many everyday activities.

Counselling and instruction, diagnostic guides, the Harava magazine, and material containing first-hand information, are all available from the FPD's Rare Disabilities Unit. The unit organizes current events, theme days, seminars, and peer and support action for people afflicted by a rare illness, their families, for experts and for service systems. The unit makes its expertise available for rehabilitation and adaptation preparation courses organized by the rehabilitation centre. The unit is also involved in cooperation with the various organizations of rare disease diagnosis groups at both national and international level.



Lapland Rehabilitation Centre

The FPD's Lapland Rehabilitation Centre functions as a provider and expert for the Lapland region regarding rehabilitation services that demand multi-professional expertise. The rehabilitation centre principally provides the rehabilitation and expert services required by the Province of Lapland and develops them according to the region's needs.

Rehabilitation services include rehabilitation both during the acute post-illness/injury stage and subsequent medical rehabilitation in order to maintain functional capacity, rehabilitation courses tailored to specific illness groups, rehabilitation for the elderly, and rehabilitation services for professionals of working age.



The content of rehabilitation activities emphasizes learning through experience and the rehabilitant's empowering approach to rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation instruction

The task of the FPD's rehabilitation instructors includes supporting the opportunity for people with a mobility disability to function independently in everyday life. The nucleus of the work is the home visit, whose purpose is the assessment of the person with a disability and his or her family in terms of the overall situation, assistance and service needs.

Rehabilitation instruction services are free of charge. The FPD has rehabilitation instructors operating in four hospital districts:

- Joint Authority for the Hospital District of Etelä-Savo
- Joint Authority for the Hospital District of Kanta-Häme
- Joint Municipal Authority for Healthcare and Social Welfare in Päijänne Tavastia
- Joint Authority for the Hospital District of Pohjois-Savo

Järvenpää Training Centre

The FPD's Järvenpää Training Centre is a vocational special education institution. The training centre provides those in need with specialist support in vocational basic education and further education in the fields of technology and transport, culture, natural sciences, and business and administration. The training centre also organizes training and instruction in preparation and rehabilitation for a diverse range of vocational study, as well as training and instruction in preparation for employment and an independent life.

The training, rehabilitation and support services and forms of study provided by the rehabilitation centre are particularly suitable for persons with a musculoskeletal disability, as well as for other young people and adults in need of special education or circumstances. A personal plan relating to the organization of study is drawn up for each student. Rehabilitation centre activities are founded on the idea of all having the opportunity for equal functioning and participation in study, employment and independent life.

The Järvenpää Training Centre also functions as a centre for development and services in special education, organizing and providing expert services such as educational experiments, specialist lectures, consultations and instruction in matters relating to special education.



Service dog activities

The FPD has been involved in service dog activities since 1994. The service dog is intended for people with a mobility disability who are active and fond of dogs. Once training — funded by the Finnish Slot Machine Association — is complete, the service dogs are handed over to their new owners free of charge. Owners need only pay for the upkeep of their dogs.



SEESAM Vocational Rehabilitation and SEESAM Workshop

SEESAM Vocational Rehabilitation is the FPD's vocational rehabilitation unit. The prime target group is people with a musculoskeletal disability requiring rehabilitation, whose life management and integration into the working community is supported by means of vocational rehabilitation. SEESAM Vocational Rehabilitation also organizes vocational rehabilitation for other people being directed towards working life in need of special support, such as mental health rehabilitants and the long-term unemployed.

SEESAM Workshop is an FPD unit focusing on workshop activity, operating as two departments, SEESAM Services and SEESAM Production.

- SEESAM Services comprises assembly, packaging, mailing, duplicating and printout services, as well as engraving and plastic bending services.
- SEESAM Production is the plastic seaming department which manufactures various kinds of folders, reflectors, plastic pockets and envelopes and other plastic seaming products according to the requirements of businesses and the general public.

SEESAM Workshop operates in close cooperation with SEESAM Vocational Rehabilitation in offering diversified practical training for rehabilitants and work experience trainees with the objective of preparing as many rehabilitants as possible for working life.



Work assessment clinics

The task of the work assessment clinic is to evaluate the capacity for work of people with a disability or impairment and to promote their ability to manage in working life by means of vocational rehabilitation. The FPD has work assessment clinics in Jyväskylä and Kuopio, as well as a work assessment unit at the Lapland Rehabilitation Centre. Each work assessment clinic organizes its own vocational rehabilitation. The units also provide vocational rehabilitation in the form of courses.

- The FPD Jyväskylä Work Assessment Clinic
- The FPD Kuopio Work Assessment Clinic
- The FPD Lapland Rehabilitation Centre, Work Assessment Unit

Communications

Visitors of the FPD website www.invalidiliitto.fi can obtain information, for example, about mobility disabilities and about the diverse range of activities and services the FPD provides. Experts will provide answers to your questions relating to disability services through the Ask the Experts section. FPD publications can also be ordered via the website.

The FPD implements a number of media campaigns each year, for the prevention of accidents caused by slippery conditions during the winter, for example, and for the prevention of cycle and motorcycle accidents. These campaigns, involving the preparation of supporting information material and web pages, are visible at a variety of events around the country.



Fund-raising

From the date it was founded the FPD has been funded by donations from business and private individuals.

Each year the FPD organizes a number of direct marketing and telephone collections. Support for FPD activities can also take the form of purchases of FPD products from the online shop (www.invapuoti.fi).

Fund-raising is divided into collection permit activities and product sales achieved by Invatieto Oy, a company wholly-owned by the FPD.



IT magazine

IT Magazine (Disability Work) is the FPD members' magazine and Finland's leading special interest group journal in the field of disability.

IT is a sturdy 80-page information pack for all people with a mobility disability and their immediate families, as well as for all disability professionals. There are 10 issues per year. In addition to a wealth of factual articles the magazine includes personal profiles and recreational items.

IT Magazine can also be viewed on the Internet at www.it-lehti.fi. The magazine is available as audio media for people with impaired vision or who are visually challenged.



Invalidiliiton Asumispalvelut Oy (Housing Services) is a nationwide service provider, producing and developing first-rate accommodation services for people with a disability, as well as support services fostering independence in their housing and way of life.

Service houses located in various parts of the country provide the kind of assistance that enables everyday life for its customers to run as smoothly as possible. Customers have the opportunity to avail themselves of meal and sauna services as well as communal areas. The services of an assistant are available around the clock. Accommodation trials, day and holiday activities, and other accommodation support services are also available.

The product name for services provided by Invalidiliiton Asumispalvelut Oy is Validia Services.

Validia Services

- Validia Services Iisalmi
- Validia Services Joensuu
- Validia Services Jyväskylä
- Validia Services Kajaani
- Validia Services Kokkola
- Validia Services Kuopio
- Validia Services Kuusankoski
- Validia Services Lahti
- Validia Services Mikkeli
- Validia Services Oulu
- Validia Services Pori
- Validia Services Metropolitan Region
- Validia Services Rovaniemi
- Validia Services Tampere
- Validia Services Turku
- Validia Services Vaasa



INVITA

Invita (Inva-apuväline Oy) markets a range of aids enabling customers to cope more easily with mobility, accommodation and daily activity. The extensive range covers the needs of all, from children to the elderly.

The company imports products from the world's leading manufacturers. The service includes product maintenance as well as tailoring of products to suit individual requirements.

Invalidiliiton Asumispalvelut Oy (Housing Services) and Invita belong to the FPD Group.

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Accounts Manager Kim Alm

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