Physiotherapy in Finland

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Katri Partanen
Senior Specialist
Finnish Association of Physiotherapists
- Established 1943
- The Journal of Physiotherapy (Fysioterapia -lehti) since 1953. Seven issues per year.
- Office: 6 staff members and full-time president.
- 14 member associations (9 regional and 5 national special interest groups) and individual membership
- Co-operation with other special interest groups (5)
- www.suomenfysioterapeuteut.fi
Physiotherapists in Finland

- Licenced pt’s: **17 376** totally, **15 345** (< 63 years)
- Men **18.1%** (3137)
- PT’s **3.8%** from all licenced/authorised health care professionals
  (National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health, Valvira 31.12.2015) (Note: not all licenced work as a pt’s)

- Yearly about **500** new qualified pt’s (15 Universities of Applied Sciences)
- Unemployment raising
- Retirement rate steady and low
- Average salary for pt in public sector **2400 €/month**
Members

- 8,606 (15.2.2016)
- Students 9%
- Employees 54%
- Private practitioners 25%
- Retired 7%
- Others: unemployed, maternity leave etc. 5%
Professional issues:

1. Core competence project:
   • Collaboration project to describe the core areas

2. Advanced scope of practice in MSD
   • The goal is to make it nationwide. Also supplementary prescribing rights for PTs

3. New areas of further education:
   • Pain, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer
Greatest challenges

1) Organizational change

- From professional association to trade union.
- Umbrella organization with occupational therapists: Finnish Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (Akava, the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff).
- New infrastructure (office, ICT, membership register, financial administration etc.)
- What members will do?
2) Social welfare and Healthcare reform (SOTE-reform)

- Responsibility for public health and social services from the municipalities (320) to the counties (18) on 1.1.2019.
- Service integration at all levels to form customer-oriented entities.
- Multisource financing will be simplified and customers will have more freedom of choice in the services.
- The objective is to reduce inequities in wellbeing and health between people, and to manage costs.
3) Reform of rehabilitation services:
   • Problem: fragmented and multifinanced system. Reform linked to SOTE-reform.

4) Reform of rehabilitation education:
   • Pt, occupational therapy, podiatry, osteopathy, naphrapathy, assistive technology and rehabilitation counselor, 210 ECTS.
   • To find equalities within programs and integrate education.
5) KanTa:
  • Electronic patient record archive, electronic prescription
  • Structured dokumentation
Regulation: What can pt’s do

- Licenced healt care professional
- No re-registration
- Doctors and dentists: diagnosis, prescribing
- Direct access to pt: counselling in public sector, self referral in private sector
- Doctor’s referral needed for reimbursement (about 6 %) in private sector
- No VAT in health care services, incl. Pt
- Documentation by law
Working in Finland: Licensing, (EU)

- In order to work as a physiotherapist, you must submit an application to the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) for the right to practice.
- Valvira grants a license to practice.
- All licensed professionals are in the Central Register of Health Care Professionals (Terhikki).
- The application is by form / free-form. Language: Finnish, Swedish or English.
- Decisions will be given in Finnish or Swedish,
- Decision fee on licensing (qualification by EU country): EUR 400, also rejected applications will be charged
• Valvira may verify the language skills, if professional training or general education is in other language than Finnish or Swedish. Sufficient spoken and written language skills needed.

• A certificate of language proficiency to prove language skills: Civil Service Language Proficiency Certificate / National Certificate of Language Proficiency.

• Authenticated and translated copies of documents.
• Aptitude test or adaptation period for demonstrating professional qualification can be required.

• Valvira may commission expert opinions from universities and other educational institutions in support of its decision-making. Expert opinions are subject to a fee (200-600 €)

Thank you!