

# A national structure in the ICF education is beneficial as all gets the same education

## The Finnish cerebral palsy project (2011-2015)

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### EDUCATION AS A BASE FOR THE USE OF THE ICF IN PRACTICE

A national research project aimed to improve the interprofessional rehabilitation practice for children and young people with cerebral palsy. During this project professionals in the centers and hospitals participating were educated in the basis of the ICF. Additionally they were encouraged to take part in an ICF course. In Finland the ICF course is a two-day course based on the WHO and ICF Research Branch structure. In the national project we evaluated written rehabilitation plans before and after the ICF education by linking descriptions of the children's functional status to the Comprehensive ICF Core Sets for children with CP.

### IMPACT OF THE EDUCATION/USE

1. The ICF gave a better structure to the written plans
2. Professionals had started to use a ICF concept
3. Function was described broadly

### TYPES OF EDUCATION NEEDED

- More good practice examples in the education is needed to implement theory into practice more smoothly.

### TIPS

- A national consensus of the ICF education as well as a joint structure in the ICF education is beneficial.
- In Finland we have an ICF educator network, where educators can discuss and change/share experiences.
- A national center\* keeping the ICF material update support and enhance the use of the ICF.

(\*The National Institution of Health and Welfare in Finland)

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## Questions for the forum

What kind of ICF education structures and models do you have?

Do you have examples of how the ICF is used in clinical practice and how it has been implemented?