

# Annual Report

Itla Children's Foundation

# 2019

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*Itla was established in 1987. The Itla Children's Foundation was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Central Union for Child Welfare when Finland was celebrating its 70th year of independence. In December 2017, the Finnish Parliament decided to donate EUR 50 million in capital to Itla and to appoint a delegation for Itla consisting of Members of Parliament. The Act on the Appointment of the Itla Children's Foundation's Delegation and the Foundation's Capitalisation (1004/2017) was issued on 5 December 2017 in a plenary session celebrating the centenary of Finland's independence.*



# Foreword from the Chairperson of the delegation

“There is no isolated child policy. The child point of view must penetrate all areas of public policy, which is why our operations focus on promoting child and, in general, human impact assessments. There must exist equal opportunities for the wellbeing of children and families regardless of where they live. Children and families must receive help at the correct time. The foundation’s operations are based on the UN’s Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as research information based on children’s wellbeing: we collect, analyse and distribute information about interventions, experiments and services where children and families are the actors.”

**THIS IS HOW THE PURPOSE OF ITLA CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION** is described in its strategy, which was approved in September 2019. The strategy guides the foundation’s operations during the budget planning period of 2019–2022. Itla’s task as a promoter of children’s rights is socially significant, and the significance of the foundation’s work is highlighted, above all, in the lives of the children and families who have a hopeful future full of opportunities as a consequence of Itla’s work.

**AFTER THE FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING OF 2019**, the promotion of the wellbeing of children, adolescents, and families moved in the desired direction. Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s Government Programme contains policies that are important for the creation of a child-friendly Finland and support various types of families. Parental leaves and the social security system will be renewed, poverty in families with children is being prevented and the Programme to Address Reform in Child and Family Services continues alongside the social welfare and health care reform. Itla has its role in this development work as, for example, a creator of a knowledge base of child policies and a promoter of child policy innovation activities.

**MARIN’S GOVERNMENT IS ALSO COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN.** The benchmarking that Itla carried out in 2019 on the drafting and monitoring of child strategies, as well as child impact assessments, is also speeding up the work of the child strategy committee. Comparison material collected from New Zealand, Scotland

and Sweden is an excellent example of the international cooperation Itla has carried out that offers an opportunity for peer development and the implementation of the best practices in Finland.

**BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON, THE WELLBEING OF FINNISH CHILDREN IS MAINLY EXCELLENT** but, at the same time, the public debate is overshadowed by various questions related to the wellbeing of children and families, such as intergenerational marginalisation and the inequality of regions. Climate change and declining biodiversity are some of the greatest challenges of our time, the impact of which will reach far into the future. The prevention of climate change must be an integral part of child policy. It is our duty to ensure that even future generations have the chance to breathe fresh air and swim in clean water. We must ensure the well-being of future generations.

**IN 2019, ITLA CONTINUED ITS STRONG ADVOCACY WORK AND PRODUCED INDEPENDENT INFORMATION FOR SOCIETY TO PROMOTE CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING.** As the new Chairperson of Itla’s delegation, I have had the pleasure to follow the foundation’s determined and solution-focused work as a creator of child positivity. This important work must continue in wide-scale cooperation to ensure that tomorrow looks better than yesterday for every child.

**Mirka Soinikoski**  
Chairperson of the delegation



# Strategy 2019–2022

## Principles

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ethicality, equality
- partnership, dialogue
- research-based knowledge
- internationality

## Methods

- A children's point of view penetrates all areas of public policy.
- Equal opportunity for the wellbeing of children, adolescents, and families regardless of where they live.
- Speeding up a systematic reform of the service system for children and families.

## Objective

Finland is the best place in the world for children.



We are creating a foundation  
for a child-positive Finland

Information about  
the wellbeing of  
children and families

Innovations and  
anticipation







Leadership  
training

Communication  
and social debate


Long-term and  
systematic asset  
management


**itla**  
Children's  
Foundation

# 2019 in a nutshell


-  **SURVEYS**
-  **COOPERATION PROJECTS**
-  **EDUCATION**
-  **REWARDS**
-  **DONATIONS**
-  **METHOD HOME BASE ACTIVITIES**


-  **Survey on child impact assessments**  
The survey examined the current state and development needs of child impact assessments in statute drafting and political decision-making in the government and municipalities.


-  **Jakkara award to Turku**  
Itla's Early Intervention editorial team granted the 2019 Jakkara award to a joint operating model of the school health care in the City of Turku and Adolescent Psychiatry at Turku University Hospital which promotes an evidence-based working method and provides help for adolescents with mental health problems at school.


-  **Childhood Builders — a place of future action for leaders**  
The Childhood Builders leadership training began in early 2020. It provides a platform for future work with multiple perspectives where new ideas can be tested, refined, and implemented in practice together and alone. The training was planned in 2019.

-  **Kaakkuri pilot was awarded as the best Finnish "Icelandic model"**  
First place in Itla's challenge competition went to the City of Oulu's Kaakkuri pilot. The Kaakkuri model's purpose is to organise free time activities for children and adolescents with a new kind of cooperation based on the children's and families' needs. In addition, the model includes family-specific collective activities for times when a child and family need multidisciplinary support. The model is based on the Let's Talk about Children service model and is combined with research as one way of solving problems.


-  **Children SIB**  
Tampere University and Itla signed a cooperation agreement to produce information about the changes made by Social Impact Bonds (SIB) in the operation of cities. The survey includes opinions from actors about the impact of the SIB operating model on the city's operations. It also highlights barriers and opportunities for applying the SIB model.


-  **Digitalisation of the Child-Friendly Cities model**  
Itla supports the digitalisation of UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities model. Digitalisation improves the utilisation of the model in municipalities and increases, for example, children's and adolescents' participation possibilities and strengthens child impact assessments.

-  **International survey on child strategies and child impact assessments**  
The objective was to examine what kind of child strategies the comparison countries have, how they have been drafted, and how they are implemented. The aim was to identify practices and lessons that Finland could utilise.

-  **Two sponsored professorships for the area of interventions and implementation research**  
The professorships were donated to the University of Turku and the University of Oulu, which will appoint the professors during spring 2020. The sponsored professorships are related to cooperation in terms of both knowledge and innovation.

-  **Strengthening children's and adolescents' participation with the help of a collective impact model**  
Itla Children's Foundation and Lastenmaailma ry launched a cooperation project where they experiment with and analyse the applicability of the Collective Impact approach in the inclusion of children in urban planning.

-  **What can we do about the increase in adolescents' emergency placements?**  
Itla and the National Institute for Health and Welfare started a survey regarding the working methods of adolescent foster care. By May 2020, the survey will highlight the methods that have been developed for demanding situations and what kind of methods seem to make an impact.

-  **The distribution of evidence-based methods continued**  
Early Intervention work continued in 2019. The work covers the assessment and distribution of psychosocial methods. The foundation distributes methods that we have strong or moderate evidence of and that respond to key public health challenges. Itla has been distributing the methods in cooperation with Mieli ry. In 2019, Itla's financial contribution was EUR 305,900. In addition, the management of child and family services has been offered implementation support as part of the Programme to Address Reform in Child and Family Services in five separate events during 2019.

-  **Itla established a national foresight network for child and family policy**  
What will our world look like in 20 years? What does it mean for the living environment of children and families? What kind of competence should we strengthen in our society to increase the future wellbeing of children, adolescents, and families? The national foresight network for child and family policy that Itla coordinates forecasts the future, especially in terms of children and families with children.



Birth rate and household disposable income decreased more in Finland than in the other Nordic countries. The household disposable income decreased by almost half of the Finnish municipalities, which deviates from the general development in the Nordic countries.

According to estimates, each biological woman had 1.35 children, whereas the corresponding number was 1.4 children in 2018. The total fertility rate was the lowest ever measured. In a Nordic comparison, Finland has the lowest birth rate and the lowest portion of persons born abroad. Also, Finland has overtaken Sweden as the Nordic country with the oldest population.

According to a school health survey, more than half of children and adolescents liked going to school; in particular, children in 4th and 5th forms and boys in vocational school. School exhaustion was experienced mostly by girls in 8th and 9th forms and upper secondary school; every fifth girl had experienced exhaustion.

Every 14th child in the 4th and 5th forms felt that they were bullied at school at least once a week. Bullying experiences were less frequent with children in secondary school, upper secondary school, and vocational schools.

# *What did the world of children and families look like in Finland in*

# *2019?*

Children and adolescents are mainly satisfied with their lives. Most of them had good dialogue with their parents. Communication has improved, in particular, with boys in 8th and 9th forms, upper secondary school and vocational school when compared to previous years.

The amount of exercise that makes you feel out of breath that adolescents do in their free time has increased somewhat, even though the share of overweight children has remained the same as in 2017.

The number of adolescents who drink alcohol to get drunk has decreased in the past decade, in particular among those adolescents who are studying for a profession. 27 percent of adolescents in vocational schools, 18 per cent of upper secondary school students and 10 per cent of 8th and 9th formers were heavily intoxicated at least once a month, boys more often than girls.

The minimum amount of parenthood allowance and special care allowance increased. Family benefits improved for mothers who take care of a child alone and for fathers of multiple-birth families. Their period of parental allowance was extended.



# *The Foundation's **purpose** and summary of operations*

The Itla Children's Foundation promotes and supports the wellbeing, equality and position of children and families with children living in Finland, and contributes to building a good future for them. The Foundation also promotes and supports parenting and the living conditions and raising of children.

For its purpose, the Foundation builds bridges, brings different operators together, and synthesises information between decision-makers, research communities, and professionals working in the field of children's wellbeing and succeeds together with its partners.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MUST HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES** for wellbeing regardless of where they live. Children and families must also get help at the right time. The Foundation's objective is to speed up a systematic change in the service system of children and families so that the children and families get the help they need.

**THE FOUNDATION'S OPERATIONS ARE BASED** on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, research data on the wellbeing of children, and the Foundation's independent position under the Parliament. The Foundation acts in cooperation with international operators.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH DATA** is not self-evident in society. The Foundation's operations are based on scientific research data, the improved utilisation of such data and, thereby, the more efficient use of data in decision-making and the development of services. The Foundation conducts research itself, orders studies and shares research information.

**ACCORDING TO THE STRATEGY APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER 2019**, the Foundation's key operating areas are information related to child policies, innovation, and management training. New initiatives have been started in all of these sectors in 2019.

- **Knowledge related to child policy** means the building, maintenance, and sharing of an objective knowledge base about actions promoting and affecting the wellbeing of children and families. Actions promoting wellbeing may include work methods, programmes, experiments, and services.
- The Foundation promotes **child policy innovations** related to actions aimed at children and families in Finland (identification, analysis, refinement, and distribution of promising practices).
- **Child policy management training** aims at reinforcing the management competencies supporting the wellbeing and growth of children and families utilising training aimed at child



policy decision-makers and establishing evidence-based operating methods using training and consultation provided to professionals.

**COMMUNICATIONS ARE ALSO A SIGNIFICANT** part of the Foundation's activities. We communicate our operations and information about the wellbeing of children and families in different channels and participate in the social dialogue in matters that the Foundation is involved in.

## **THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019:**

- The Foundation decided to establish two sponsored professorships in the fields of intervention and implementation studies for 2020–2022. The professorships were donated to the University of Turku and the University of Oulu. The Universities will appoint the professors in spring 2020.
- Itla has participated in the dissemination of research results concerning evidence-based methods and services in Finland by training and consulting child service professionals and their managers. We also participate in the building of the national evidence-based model.
- In 2019, the Foundation organised the first innovation competition among the services for families with children. The Foundation also founded an anticipatory network focusing on the wellbeing of children and families, child policy, and services and family policy, and initiated experiments based on research data.
- In summer 2019, the Foundation started the planning of child policy management training. The training will start at the beginning of 2020.

# 2019: a year of change

## Child policy knowledge operations

**THROUGH ITS OPERATIONS**, the Foundation supports the practices of work methods and related decision-making by evaluating, disseminating and supporting evidence-based activities in the long term: the operations seek a transfer from corrective services towards basic services and the daily life of families, children and young people. The purpose is to focus on the actions and identify the means that allow a faster and more agile transfer of knowledge into practice. The international framework is the so-called rapid learning framework which is the core of operations of the Foundation's international partner, the Canadian McMaster University's Forum+ centre.

**THE FOUNDATION BUILDS BRIDGES** between knowledge, practice, and political decision-making. In 2019, this was done by continuing the Early Intervention work that provides the framework for the assessment and dissemination of psychosocial methods. The Foundation disseminates methods that provide answers to public health challenges, supported by strong or moderate evidence, and supports the implementation and monitoring of the method by means of embedding. The Foundation has been disseminating these methods in cooperation with Mieli Mental Health Finland. Furthermore, we have offered LAPE academies (Programme to Address Reform in Child and Family Services) for child and family service managers in five events during 2019. At the beginning of 2019, the Foundation published an implementation guide to support the embedding of evidence-based work.

**THE FOUNDATION HAS ALSO PROMOTED** the establishment of national, permanent structures providing evidence-based psychosocial support by participating in the work of a working group preparing competence and support centres for the most demanding services for children and young people. This working group has been appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The decision on the appointment of the working group (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 633/2019) states that the working group shall decide on how the coordination and embedding of use of evidence-based methods should be arranged in cooperation between Itla Children's Foundation and other operators of the service system.

**THE FOUNDATION STARTED A STUDY** in the Raasepori region to localise the factors speeding up and those that might be slowing down the embedding of the Let's Talk about Children initiative. The report will be finalised in February 2020. Furthermore, the Foundation has acquired two rapid review literature reviews focusing on children as a part of the planning of the service system as well as the participation of children (AnniTech Oy) and a scoping review on the supporting of the parenthood of immigrant parents (Nursing research Foundation (HOTUS)).

**IN 2019, SIX METHOD EVALUATIONS** were carried out in the Foundation's scientific office. Furthermore, the scientific office continued the cooperation with the NordicDataPrev network coordinated by The Nordic Council of Ministers and stated to develop an online journal according to the Norwegian model.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN MCMASTER UNIVERSITY** visited the Foundation twice and presented the rapid learning model in events organised in the Parliament (2/2019) and at the Finnish institute for health and welfare (11/2019). The Foundation also works in cooperation with The Nordic Council of Ministers' and the Nordic Welfare Center's Nyanlända familjer i Norden project and The First 1000 Days in the Nordic Countries project.

**AT THE END OF THE YEAR**, the Foundation decided to grant the University of Turku financing for

the home base operations of The Incredible Years work method as a part of Itla's home base operations of evidence-based psychosocial work methods. This enables the establishment of a new kind of evidence-based, step-by-step service package in the service system for the prevention, early population-level and special-level treatment of behavioural issues. Furthermore, the Foundation decided to grant further financing for the Let's Talk about Children initiative's home base operations to Mieli Mental Health Finland ry. In Itla's operations, the support for the Let's Talk about Children method was transferred under innovation operations. The focus on research is further strengthened by the sponsored professorship linked to Itla's intervention and implementation research. The operations will begin in 2020.

## Child policy innovation operations

**THE FOUNDATION'S INNOVATION OPERATIONS STRENGTHEN** the service system's ability to, in the rapidly changing world, renew and respond to the needs of children, young people and families especially when challenges are piling up. Global work on the utilisation of innovation, experimentation and anticipation actions to resolve social issues has been underway for a long time already. The British Nesta organisation seeks to create a systematic change through, for example, building the innovation and anticipation competences of individuals and organisations.

**THE FOUNDATION'S INNOVATION THINKING IS BASED ON THE COLLECTIVE IMPACT** model developed in the United States that utilises system-based thinking in complex issues requiring multisectoral cooperation between people and the society. The model studies the interdependencies of actors and actions.

**THE FOUNDATION'S INNOVATION OPERATIONS** have identified gaps in the service system for children and families and are charting new operating models suitable for them. In 2019, the innovation operations organised the first Childhood Builders challenge aimed at finding Finnish "Icelandic models". The models tried to find multisectoral activities based on the community impact model to strengthen the children's and families' ability to cope. The winner of the challenge was the City of Oulu's Kaakkuri model, and an honourable mention was given to the City of Heinola's "Icelandic model".

**IN 2019, SEVERAL NEW COOPERATION PROJECTS**, surveys and experiments were initiated to survey the situation, to respond to needs for knowledge and to obtain proposals for actions. The strengthening of children's and young people's participation based on the Collective Impact model in the planning of urban and cultural projects was started with Karhusaaren Lastenmaailma ry. Based on the surveys, "Lapset SIB" cooperation was started with Tampere University Foundation and Dr. Pol.Sc. Jenni Airaksinen. Furthermore, a study of difficult-to-treat young in foster care was started with Tarja Heino, Research Professor at the Finnish institute for health and welfare.

**AT THE END OF 2019**, it was confirmed that Itla would work with OECD's Opsi Anticipatory Innovation unit in a cooperation concerning urban experiments in child policy in 2020. The experiment will be conducted in two cities, Vantaa and Oulu. In Vantaa, the experiment will focus on the increasing share of young immigrants in the city's population and the related phenomena. In Oulu, the work will focus on 16-25-year-olds who are not working or going to school and on the development of services for them. At Itla, management training operations will participate in the OECD cooperation in addition to the innovations operations.

**THE DECISION WAS MADE TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL PLATFORM** for Unicef's Child-Friendly Municipality model from the innovations operations. The objective is to improve the assessment of impacts on children by utilising digitalisation. Furthermore, work towards the development of a national status room on child and family policy was planned. The status room allows development work towards a better focusing of services and financing as well as effectiveness and accessibility.

**ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES OF THE FOUNDATION'S INNOVATIONS OPERATIONS** is to consider the new kinds of operating, competences and abilities needed in the future Finland. To respond to this need, the child policy anticipation network was established in December 2019, planning its work which is to be started in 2020. The purpose is to maintain a functional anticipatory network that generates both a situational picture and future scenarios, while also increasing the future capabilities of individuals and organisations.



**FURTHERMORE, AS A PART OF THE FOUNDATION'S INNOVATIONS OPERATIONS**, an extension agreement of the home base operations of evidence-based psychosocial work methods was prepared with Mieli Mental Health Finland ry. The agreement concerns the Let's Talk about Children initiative that strengthens the capabilities of children and families as well as the development and municipal implementation of its Collective Impact model. Municipal experiments according to the Collective Impact model have also been prepared as a part of the professorship of practice donated by Itla.

## Child policy management training

**LOTS OF GOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** exist in Finland in the field of wellbeing of and services for children, young people and families, and the needs to renew the operations towards a network-based, systematic and child-centred direction have been identified. The promotion of wellbeing and service production is, however, still fragmented, discontinuous and divided in profession and sector-specific silos.

**THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTHCARE SERVICE SYSTEM REFORM** in Finland has been going on for several years already and continues during the current term of government. Regardless of the schedule of the structural reform, management is a central catalyst operation that can be used to influence the increased wellbeing of children and good service experience more permanently and durably than in the project-based framework, construct actor ecosystems anticipating future challenges and include all sectors in the joint effort to develop Finland into a more child-friendly society.

**IN 2019, THE FOUNDATION BENCHMARKED THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT COMPETENCIES** in the fields of wellbeing of and service production for children, young people and families in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the OECD's public sector innovation unit. Reference materials were collected from New Zealand, Scotland and Sweden from the perspective of the determination and monitoring of national child strategies and the assessment of impacts on children. New Zealand's child strategy mindset focusing on social wellbeing and effectiveness indicators and the Dutch community-based operating models provide excellent opportunities for peer development in Finland.

**SINCE CHILDREN DON'T LIVE INSIDE THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES** and a child-friendly society and human-driven services are created through well-functioning daily life, the Foundation launched the long-term Childhood Builders challenge management training in 2019, aimed at decision-makers from the public, private and NGO sectors. The training provides a shared learning platform for directors operating in the different sectors, promotes a good knowledge base on child and family policy and innovation, as well as a human-driven and systematic management approach with a service mindset.

**IN 2019, INTEREST IN THE CHILDHOOD BUILDERS TRAINING** has been awakened amongst top managers in the public sector, NGOs, and companies, and both groups of the course starting in spring 2020 are fully booked, with several people already signed up for the groups starting in 2021. The preliminary planning of the training included five workshops for professionals working with children, young people and families. The workshops focused on the direction and needs of management development in terms of child policy and children's wellbeing in Finland. One of the training modules will be implemented in cooperation with the youth services of the City of Amsterdam. Amsterdam's youth services are famous for their ambitious development approach and their Every Child Safe Forever operating model.

## Centralised operations

**THE FOUNDATION'S CENTRALISED** operations cover the Foundation's entire sphere of operations. In 2019, the Foundation acquired a survey of the assessment of impacts on children in Finland and an international comparison of the assessment of impacts on children and child strategies. The reference countries were Sweden, Scotland, and New Zealand. The surveys were done by Owal Group.

**THE FOUNDATION HAS DECIDED TO DONATE TWO SPONSORED PROFESSORSHIPS** in the field of intervention and implementation research. The decision about the donations was made in De-

cember of the reporting year, and the Universities will appoint the professors in spring 2020. The sponsored professorships include cooperation in terms of both knowledge and innovation.

**THE FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN THE TYÖ 2.0 LAB EXPERIMENT.** Työ 2.0 Lab is a multi-purpose workspace, remote workstation, and event space dedicated to co-development and learning. It is designed especially for workshops and other events requiring shared creation and development. The experiment includes ten operators, such as the Government, Senate Properties, the City of Helsinki, and the State Treasury.

**THE CHILDHOOD BUILDERS BRAND** was registered as a trademark in Finnish. The brand is used in management training, innovation competitions and other Foundation operations.

## Communications and events

### - Towards thought leadership in matters related to children

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FOUNDATION'S COMMUNICATIONS** is to create visibility for Itla's work, its purpose, and its operating principles. Communications are a means of not only bringing research data and new perspectives to the public, but also to interact with stakeholders, build bridges between different sectors and focus the dialogue in the society and the agenda of policies related to children towards building a child-friendly society.

**IN 2019, THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS** related to the renewal of the Foundation's communications were the renewal of the visual look, a new website, and the preparation of a stakeholder survey and communications strategy. In what follows, the communications strategy will determine the framework for how the Foundation's communications promote the strategic goals approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The communications strategy will be finalised at the beginning of 2020. The visual look was created by Hiekka Graphics, the website by Rae Design + Code, and the communications strategy by Ground Communication. Itla's principal communications channels are the Itla.fi and Kasvuntuki.fi websites, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and the newsletter.

## Events

**THE FOUNDATION'S EVENTS DURING THE YEAR** consisted both of the Foundation's own productions and events organised in cooperation with partners. The purpose of Itla's events is to bring people together around current issues, both existing stakeholders and parties with a key role in the building of a child-friendly society. The events are also an important opportunity for networking and interaction.

**THE SEMINAR BROKERING KNOWLEDGE FOR SUPPORT OF CHILDREN – HOW TO SUPPORT POLICY-MAKING AND PRACTICE AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL LEVEL?** was held at the Parliament's Visitor's Centre on 12 February. The keynote speaker was Professor John Lavis from McMaster University, Canada. The seminar was arranged in cooperation with the Parliament's "Lapsen pullesta" group.

**THE FOUNDATION PARTICIPATED IN SUOMIAREENA ON 15 JULY**, discussing the combination of work and family life by immigrant women under the heading Immigrant women as parents and as taxpayers – what is true and what is false? The panel was arranged in cooperation with Moniheli ry and The Nordic Council of Ministers.

**DURING THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WEEK**, on 19 November, the Foundation organised the second Children's Rights forum in cooperation with the City of Hämeenlinna and an extensive network of partners. The theme of the ÄÄNI19 forum was communities supporting the child's growth. A declaration was given about the event and presented to the Members of Parliament on World Children's Day, 20 November. The same day was the culmination of the 30-year-anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Children taking over the Government Palace. One hundred children "took over" the Government Palace and worked in workshops with ministers and officials. The event was organised in cooperation with the communications network of the Rights of the Child coordinated by the Central Union for Child Welfare, the Prime Minister's Office and The Office of the Chancellor of Justice. The event was opened by Prime Minister Antti Rinne.



# Outlook for 2020

**IN 2020, THE FOUNDATION IMPLEMENTS THE STRATEGY** approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors in September 2019 based on the Foundation's statutes.

**THE FOUNDATION'S OPERATING ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING.** A child-friendly society has become a popular topic in politics and discussions, with varying emphases and turns of phrase. The Government's initiatives currently under preparation – the National Strategy for Children and the reform of social welfare and healthcare and the social security reform – are likely to keep discussions related to children, young people and families in the public interest throughout the year. The reduced birth rate was discussed extensively in the beginning of 2020, and it can be assumed that this will be a permanent theme. The COVID-19 pandemic will reflect in various ways in the wellbeing of children, youth and families. The concern revolves around increased mental health issues in families, but also substance abuse and domestic violence.

**THE YEAR 2020 WILL BE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE FOUNDATION'S OPERATIONS FOR TWO REASONS.** First, evidence must be obtained of the effectiveness of the actions related to the Foundation's strategy for 2019–2022. This means in practice that the Foundation participates in the construction of an evidence-based national model for operating and intervention models related to children and families, increased national demand must be found for the Foundation's role in innovations operations and the impact of the Foundation's Childhood Builders management training begins to show as a systematic change in services for children and families. On the other hand, 2020 will be significant because the Foundation is taking bold steps to increase the transparency of its operations. This is reflected in the Foundation's main partnership in Suomi-Areena 2020, for example.

**THE FOUNDATION'S OPERATIONS WILL BE FINANCED WITH THE PROFITS FROM THE INVESTED DONATED CAPITAL.** 2019 was a very successful year in terms of asset management. A more moderate return on investment is more likely in 2020 due to the annual real return target of four per cent specified in the investment strategy approved at the end of 2018. The fluctuation of the money market at the beginning of 2020, especially due to the coronavirus, is an indicator of turbulence in the money market.

**IN 2020, THE FOUNDATION'S OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES** as an organisation are related to increasing the Foundation's recognition and position in the field of actors promoting the wellbeing of children, establishing the Foundation's role as an expert, highlighting the importance of knowledge about children's wellbeing, creating international connections and improving the Foundation's communications competence



**#lapsuudenrakentajat**