



Laste ja perede
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2012 - 2020

Challenges in promoting positive parenting: Estonian experience

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Structure of the presentation

1. Estonia - overview
2. Current child welfare system
3. Development plan for Children and Families 2012-2020
4. Planned reforms
5. Focus on preventive work
6. Evidence based interventions
7. Supporting the evaluation of practices among practitioners
8. Conclusion



Administratively divided into:

15 counties and 226 local authorities (33 cities, 193 rural municipalities)

Population (2011):

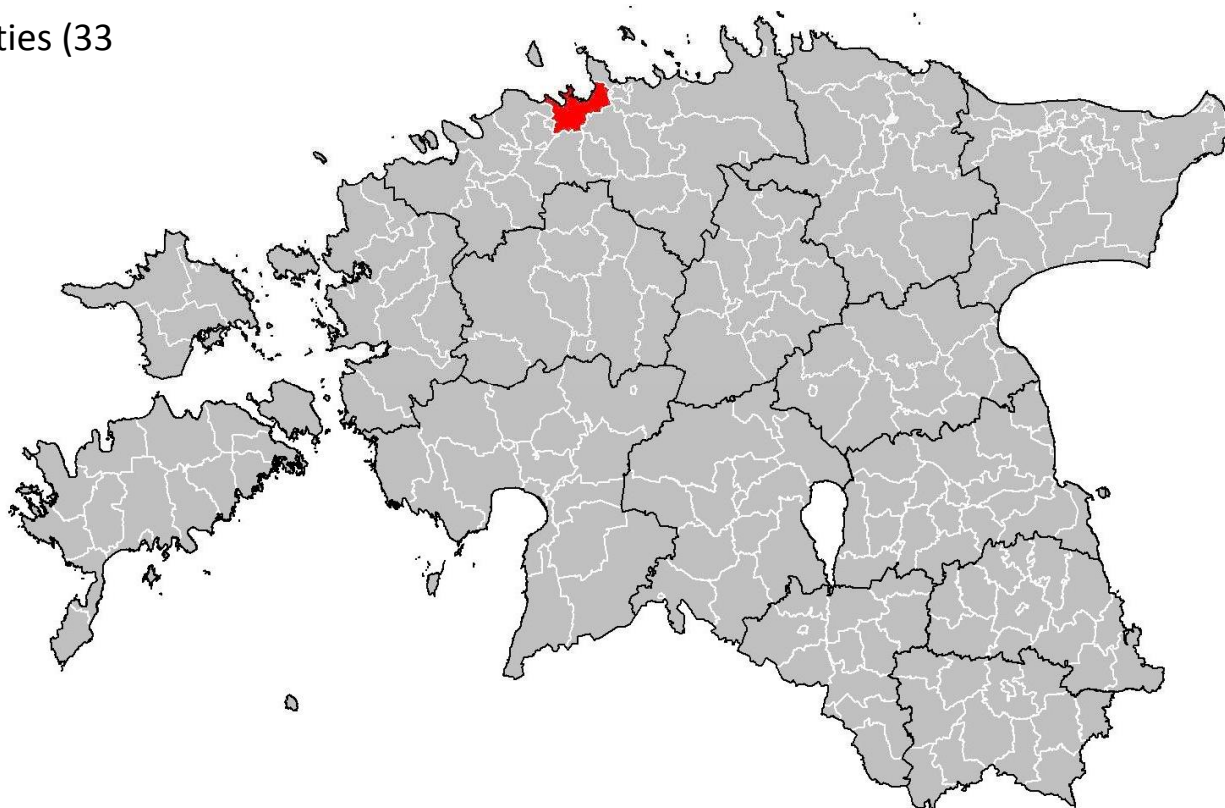
1 340 194 inhabitants;
245 985 children aged 0-17

Ethnic groups (2011):

69% Estonians;
25,5% Russians;
5,5% others

Child welfare (2010):

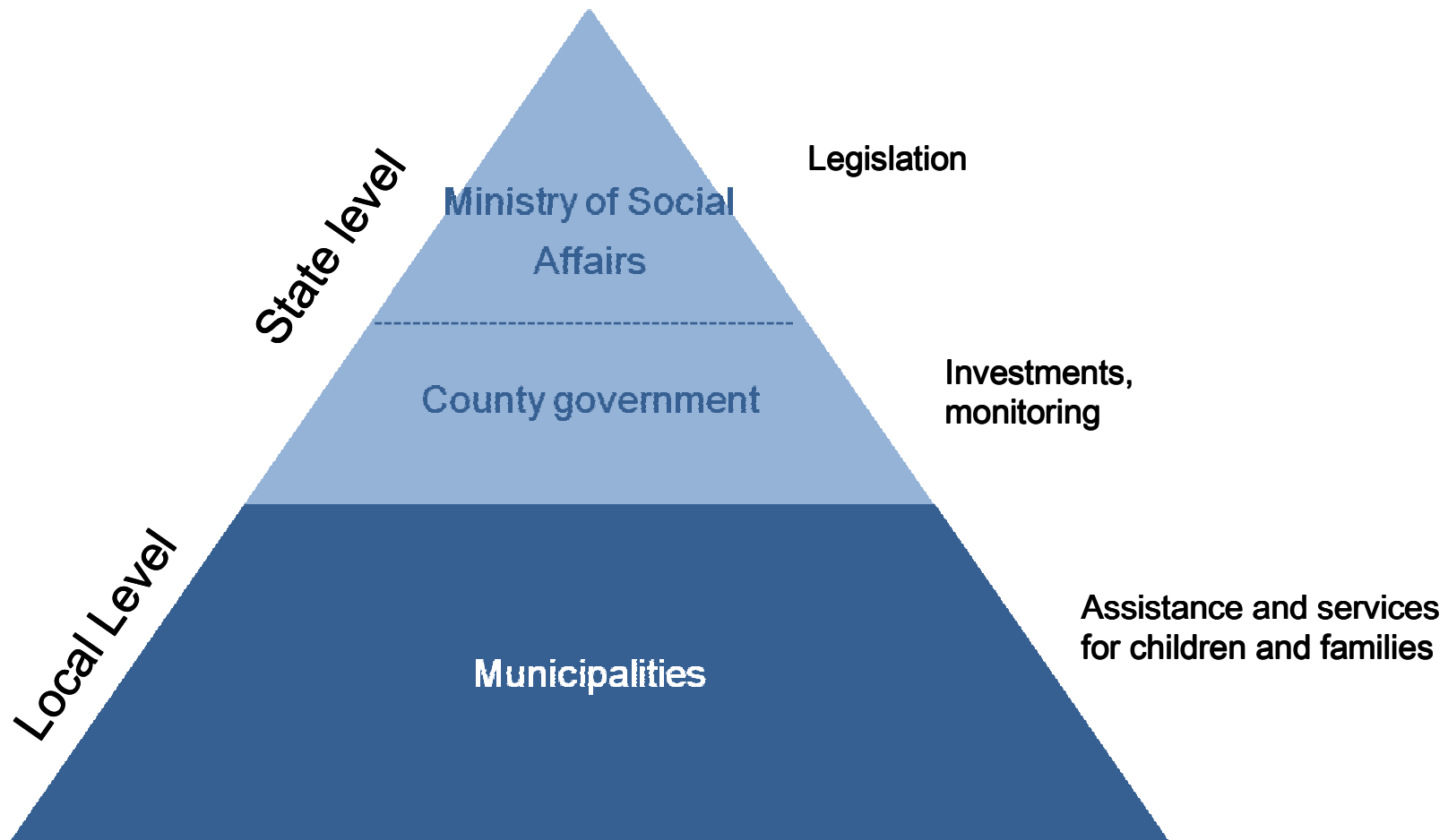
Children placed in care 720
(0.3%), incl
adoption – 131
guardianship – 242
foster families – 135
residential care – 212



Corporal punishment is accepted as one of the parenting practices by 40% of the parents (ESS 2010).



Child welfare system: Current situation





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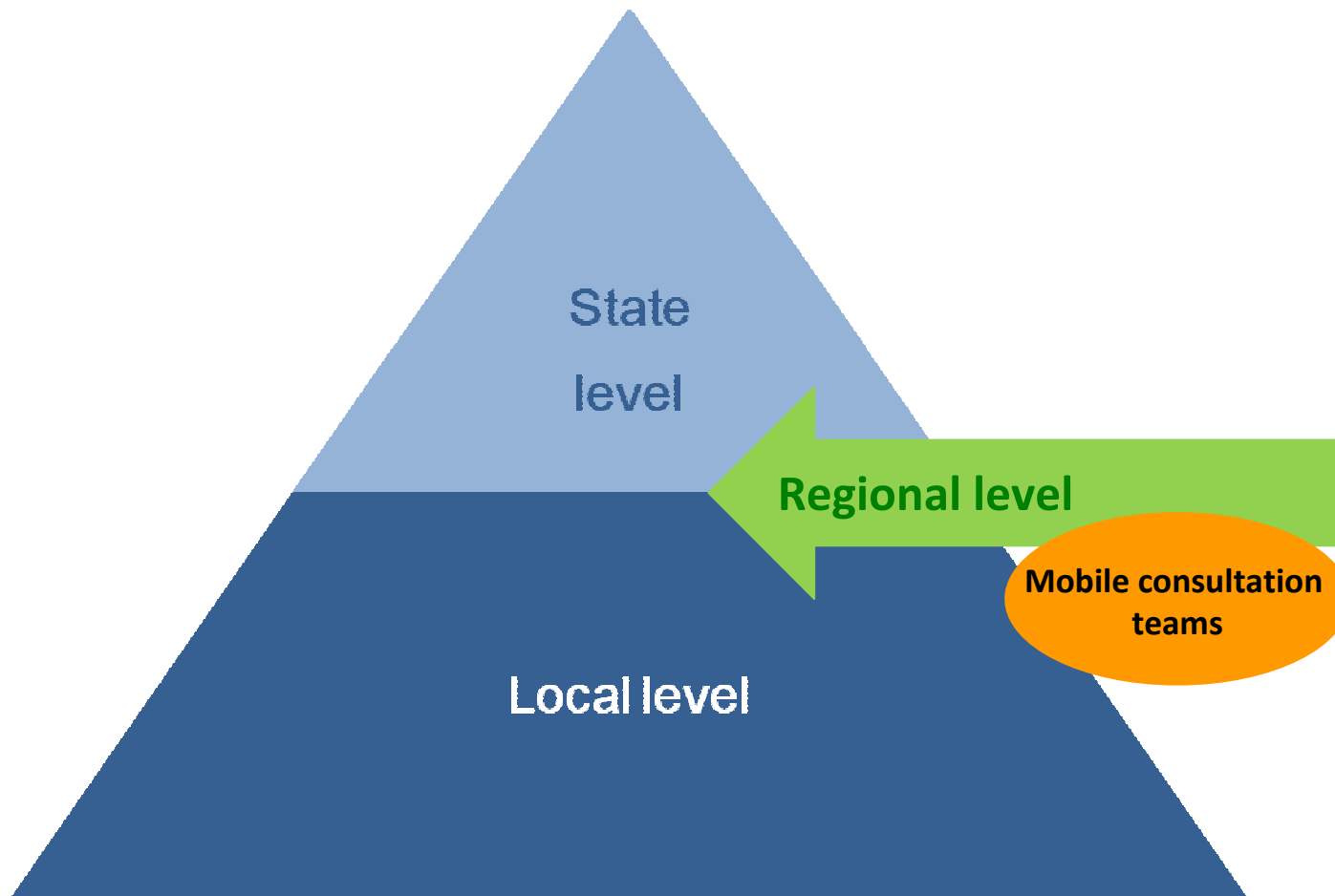
9.12.2011

Strategy on Children and Families 2012- 2020

- Adopted by the Government of Estonia 20.11.2011
- Main goal: to improve the well-being of children and families
 - Emphasis on prevention
 - Interventions: based on the best available evidence
 - Developing early interventions
 - Promoting positive parenting
 - Reforming current child welfare system
 - Family policy measures



Planned reforms





Prevention is better than cure

- Primary prevention: Intervening before damage takes place
- Avoids the later costs in both human and financial terms
- Shift to a primary prevention strategy offers substantial social and financial benefits



Evidence-based interventions: Plans

- Positive parenting programme (Triple P or Incredible Years)
 - Parents of children with behavioural problems
- Home visits (Nurse Family Partnership)
 - First-time teenage mothers with low psychological resources, in living in poverty



Evaluation of current practices

- First do no harm
- Supporting charities and other organisations to evaluate the effectiveness of existing interventions
- Promoting the culture of evaluation of daily practice
- Informing:
 - Daily practice
 - Future investment
 - Decommissioning of ineffective practice



Conclusion

- Practice as usual *versus* prevention and early intervention
- How to improve child outcomes and save money?
- Financial savings can be reinvested
- Challenges ahead
 - System readiness
 - Workforce development
 - Sustainability, etc.



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Wish us luck!