

# MARAC

## Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

### The Finnish experiences since 2010



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, FINLAND



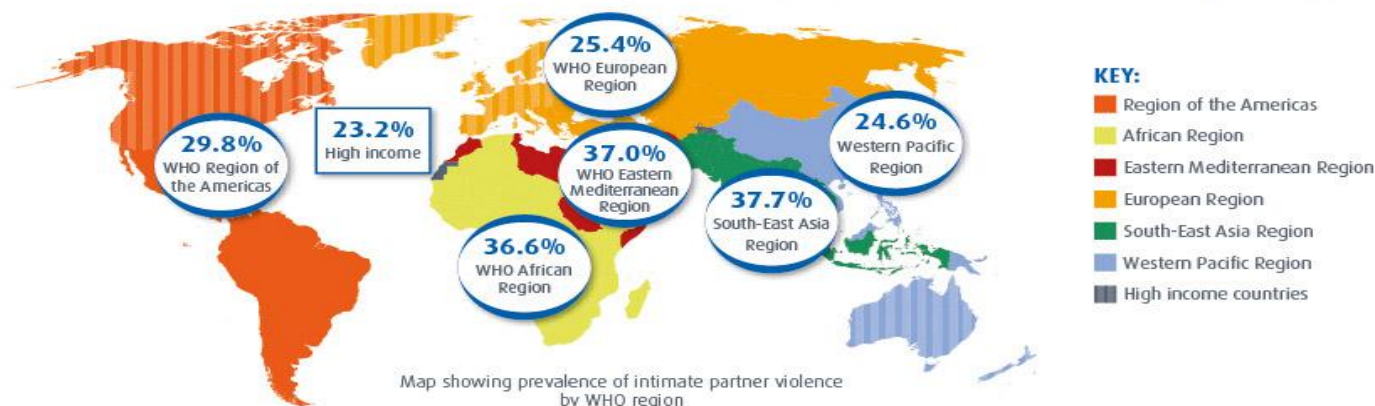
# Structure of the presentation

- **Why:** Prevalence and impact of violence against women and domestic violence in Europe
- **What** is MARAC
- **How** MARAC works and our experiences of its effectivity

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: PREVALENCE

**1 in 3 women**

throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



All statistics can be found in the report entitled Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, by the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the South African Medical Research Council, found here:

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/en/index.html>

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: HEALTH IMPACT


Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

## Mental Health

**TWICE**   
as likely to experience depression

**ALMOST TWICE**   
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

## Sexual and Reproductive Health

**16%**   
more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

**1.5 TIMES**   
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

## Death and Injury

**42%**   
of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

**38%**   
of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners

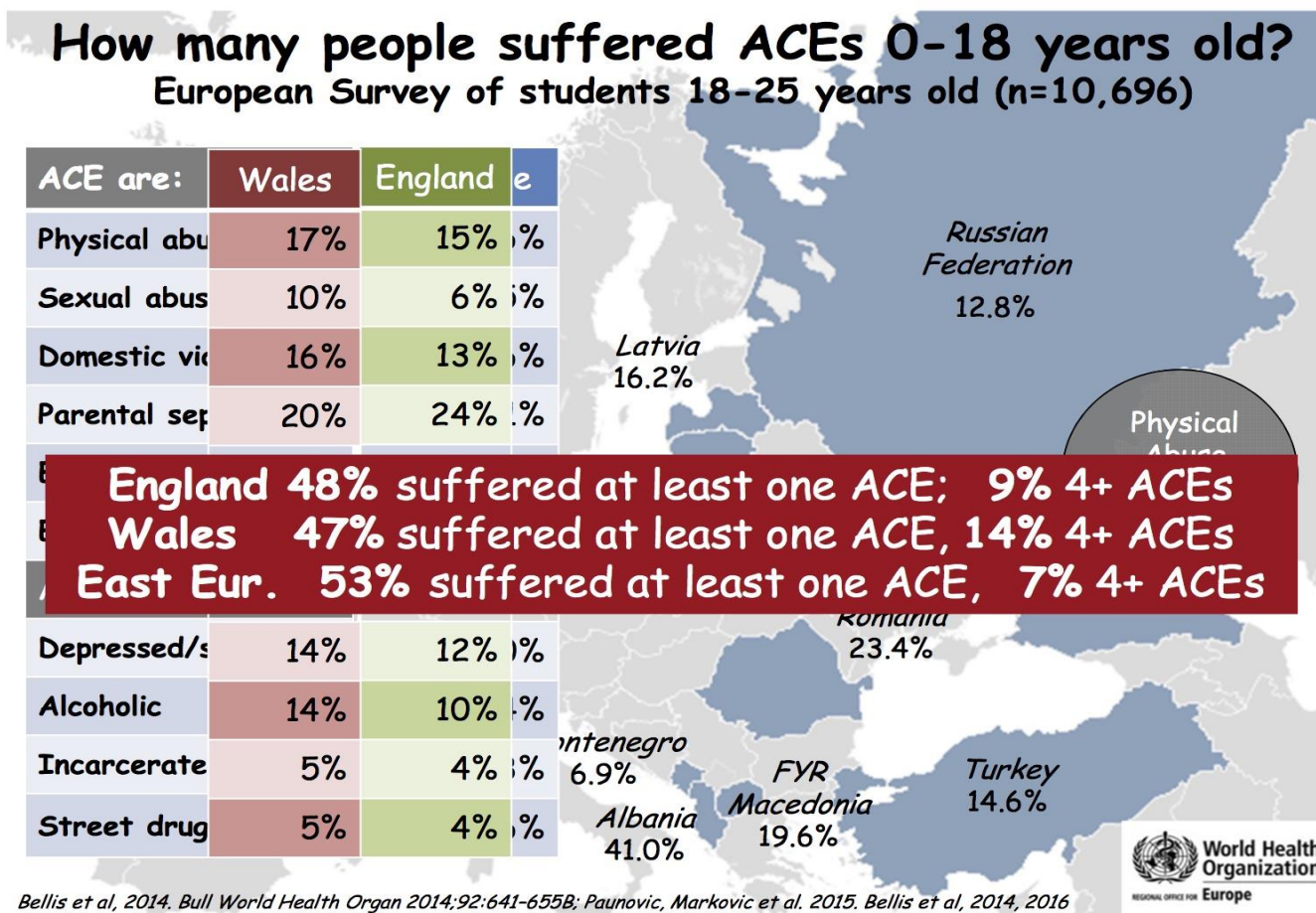
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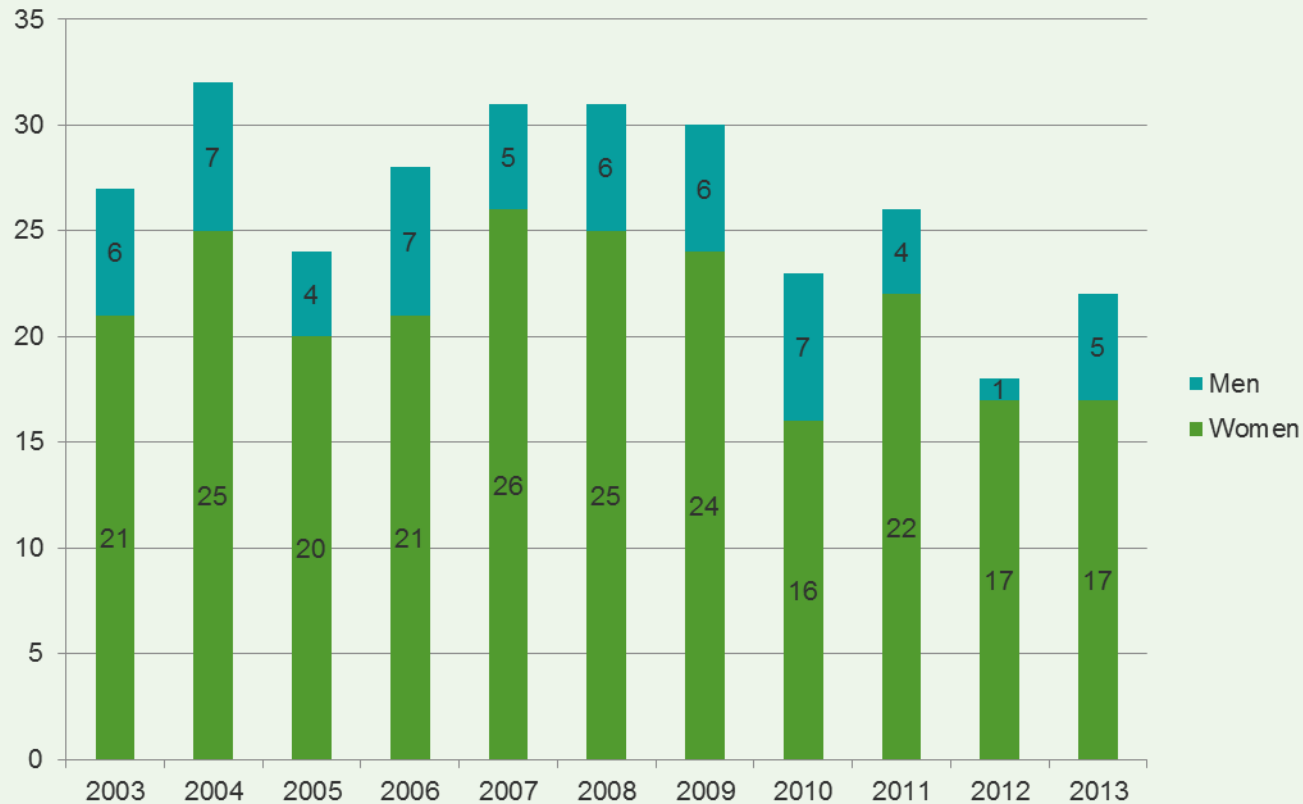




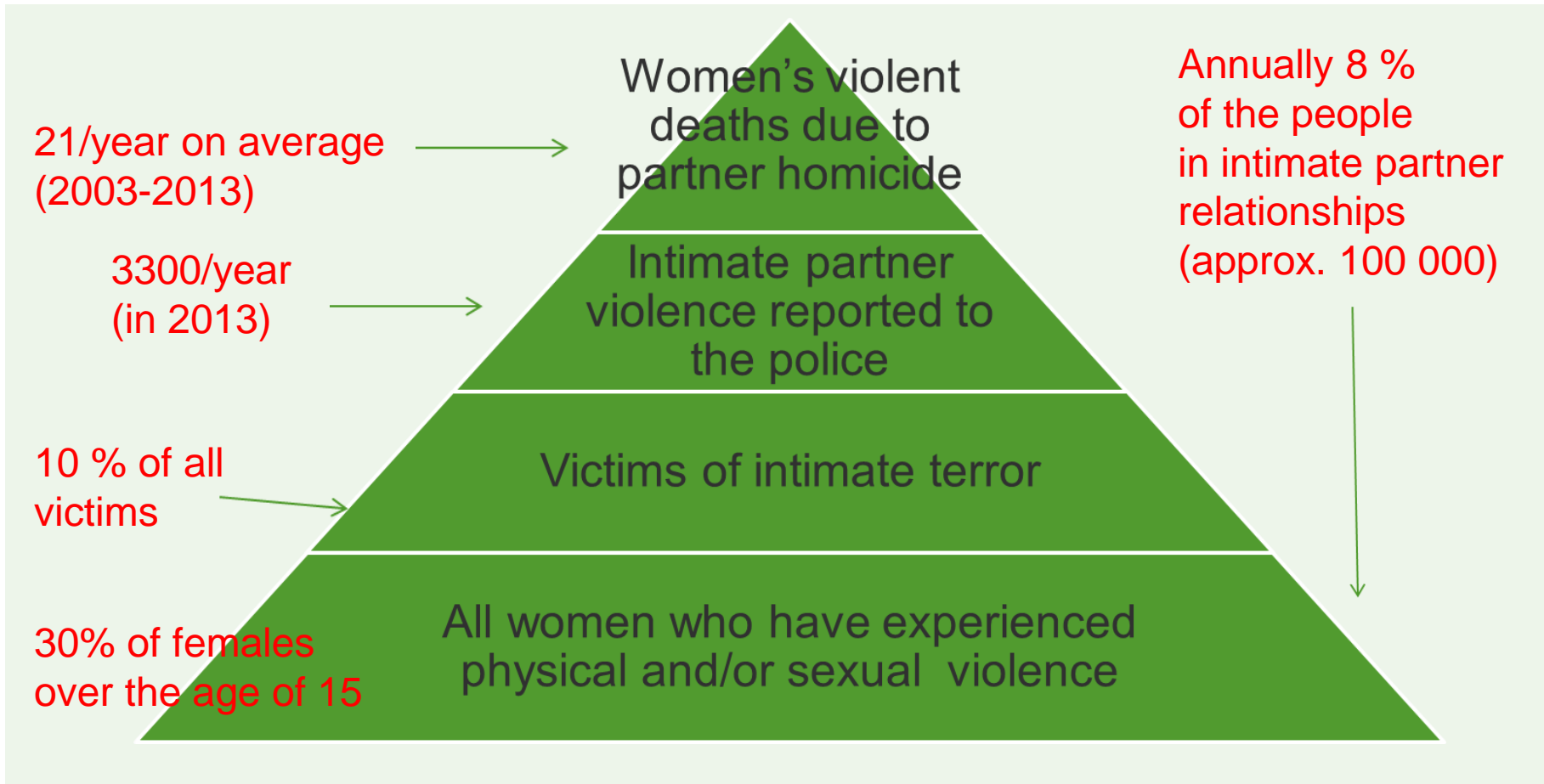
# Domestic violence (even only between parents) is an ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience)



# Homicides in Intimate partner relationships in Finland



# Violence against women in intimate partner relations – the whole picture







# What is MARAC?

- MARAC is a local, multi agency victim-focused meeting
- The risk assessment process is for **adult victims** of **serious** domestic violence/abuse
- In the meetings information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies
- In Finland, MARAC procedures and standards for operating MARAC meetings are coordinated by THL (National Institute for Health and Welfare)
- [Video:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alje4zJOHlw)

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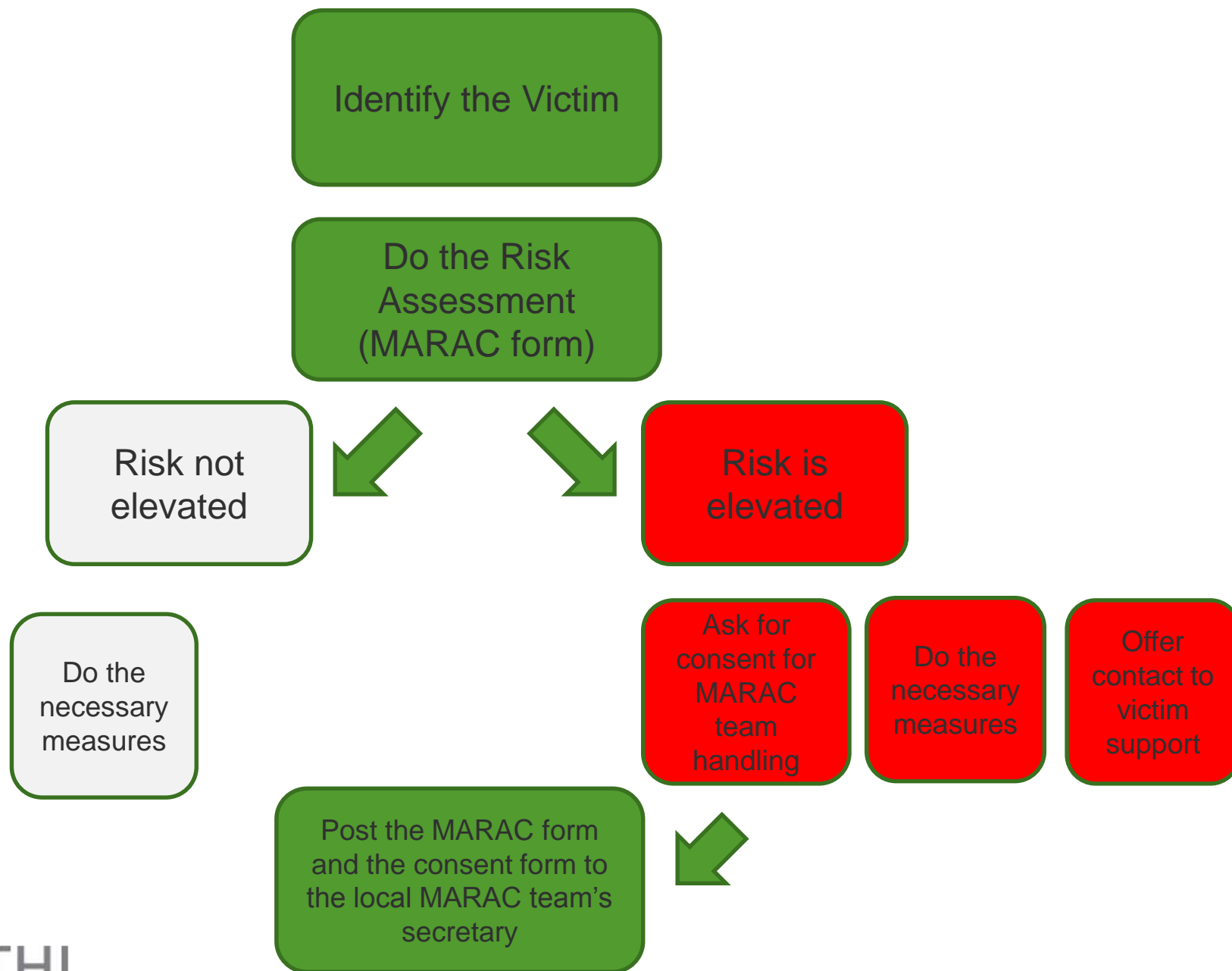
# Aims of MARAC

## For the authorities/agencies:

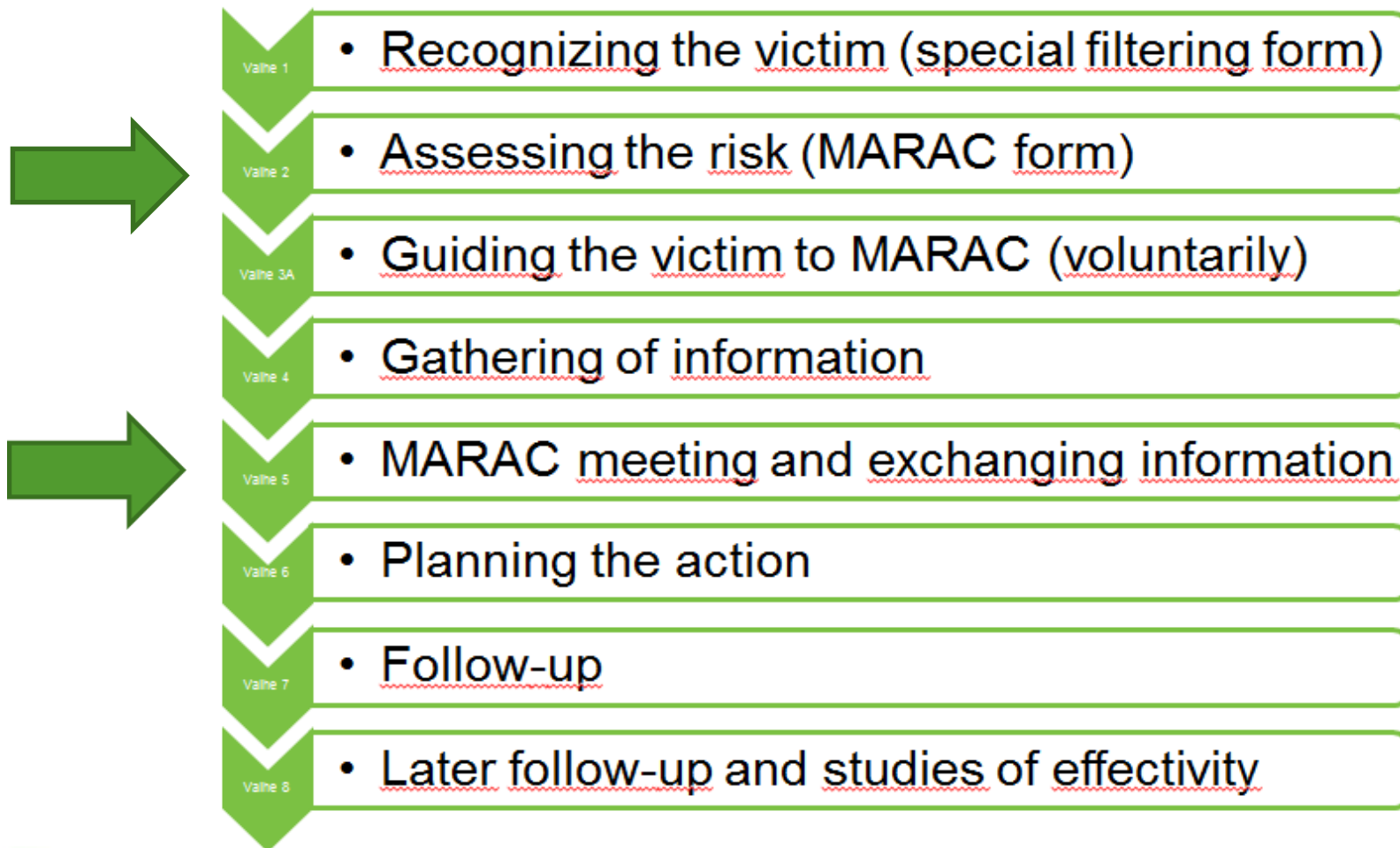
- Share information between authorities to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and their children
- **Reduce the risk of harm**, cut costs of violence, decrease unnecessary work, improve follow-up

## For the victim:

- Reduce repeat victimization/reoccurrence of violence
- **Improve the safety** of the victim of domestic violence



# The MARAC process



The risk assesment form is a tool for mapping  
violence:

Name of victim:

Date:

Register number:



<p>Explain to the client, that these questions are being asked for his/her safety.</p> <p>Mark with a tick, when the asked requirements are met. Use the comment space for further commenting if necessary, for example if the information originates from somewhere else besides the victim.</p>				
	Yes	No	Don't know	Comments
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the <u>first</u> injury.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Are you very frightened?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)...) might do and to whom, including children).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends, for example, does (name of abuser(s) ...) try to stop you from seeing friends/ family/ doctor or others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)...) within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>



# Risk Indicator Checklist

- Assailants criminal record
- Use of weapons
- Injuries inflicted
- Financial problems
- Assailant's problems with alcohol, drugs, or mental health
- Victim is pregnant
- Assailant expressing/behaving in a jealous or controlling way
- Previous/ongoing separation
- Conflict over child contact
- Threats made to kill
- Attempts made to strangle/choke
- Abuse becoming worse/happening more often
- Assailant threatens/attempts suicide
- Sexual abuse i.e. rape, indecent assault
- Stalking
- Victims own assessment

# An example of the MARAC-team's Agenda

## Agenda of the MARAC-team meeting

Time: Wednesday 15.1.2018 at 9.30

Place: Tukuma ledus halle, Stadiona iela 3, Tukums

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes of previous Meeting
4. Nomination of Chair and Secretary for 2018
5. Status of case 9/2017
6. New case TKM1/2018, presented by police
7. New case THK 2/2018, presented by social services
8. Next meeting
9. Closing of the meeting



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# Results of the model

- UK police: MARAC decreased reoccurring of domestic violence cases by 2/3 (2004)
- In Cardiff: 60 % of victims handled by MARAC did not face reoccurrence of violence in the following 6 months (2004, 2009)
- In Finland, after 6 months of entering MARAC, 15 % of victims had faced reoccurrence of domestic violence (when 6 months prior to entering, likelihood of reoccurrence was at 60% level), thus, MARAC reduced reoccurring crime offence reports by over 70 % (2015)

# THL study of the effectivity (2010-2015)

- Data collection: Police records, victim interviews
- **382** cases have been referred to MARAC in Finland during 1.10.2010-30.3.2015 , who gave consent to use data in the study (95 % of victims are women)
- Police files were pulled six months after the MARAC was held (N= **365** )
- Interviews (n=70)

# Age of the victim referred to MARAC

Age	Frequency	%
18-24	49	13
25-34	119	31
35-44	112	29
45-54	58	15
55-64	28	7
Not specified	16	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100</b>

- Most often victims are 25-44 years old



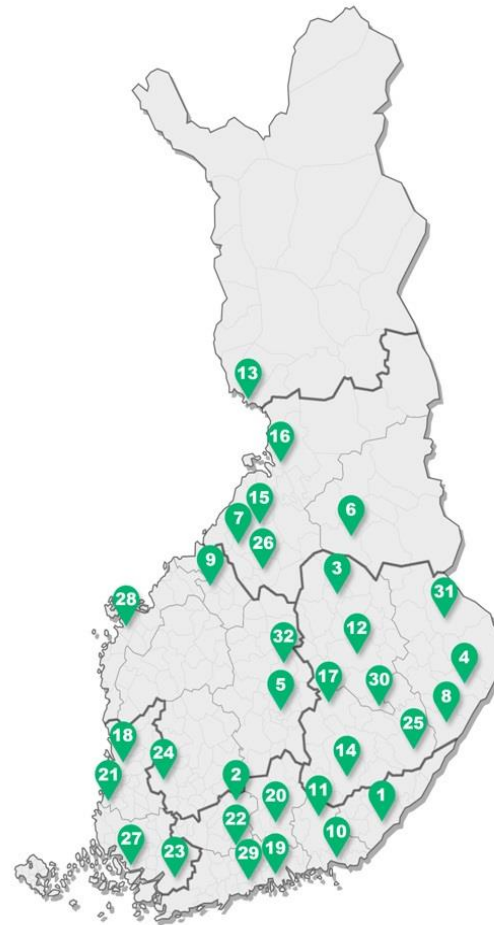
# Reoccurrence of violence and abuse (recorded before and 6 months after)

1.10.2010- 30.3.2015	N = 365	%
Crime reported to police prior to MARAC	232	64
Crime reported to police 6 months after MARAC	64	18

- Re-victimisation was reduced in more than 70 per cent of the cases

## MARAC in Finland in 2017

- Covers over 2,5 million inhabitants (population of 5,4 million)
- 34 MARAC teams functioning
- Over 100 municipalities, 1-3 in each County



1. EKSOTE
2. Hämeenlinna
3. Iisalmi
4. Joensuun seutu ja Heinävesi
5. Jyväskylä
6. Kainuu
7. Kallion alue
8. Keski-Karjala
9. Keski-Pohjanmaa
10. Kotka ja Hamina
11. Kouvola
12. Kuopio
13. Länsi-Pohja
14. Mikkelin seutu
15. Ouluinen
16. Oulu
17. Pieksämäki
18. Pori
19. Porvoo
20. Päijät-Häme
21. Rauma
22. Riihimäki
23. Salo
24. Sastamala
25. Savonlinna
26. Selänteen alue
27. Turku
28. Vaasa
29. Vantaa
30. Varkaus
31. Ylä-Karjala
32. Äänekoski

# Key factors for succeeding

## When adapting the model:

- Separate **funds**/project funds necessary for start-up/piloting
- For the model to work, asking about violence should be made **routine** in client encounters
- Systematic **training of professionals** crucial
- Winning over the hearts and minds of superior(s)

# Recent legal developments in Finland with regard to MARAC

- Finland ratified the **Istanbul Convention** (CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) in 1.8.2015
  - Obligates the state to fully address Violence against Women in all its forms and to take measures to **prevent** violence against women, **protect** its victims and **prosecute** the perpetrators.
  - Art. 18 is about **effective multi-agency collaboration**
  - Art. 51 is about **risk assessment** and risk management

# Recent legal developments in Finland (continues)

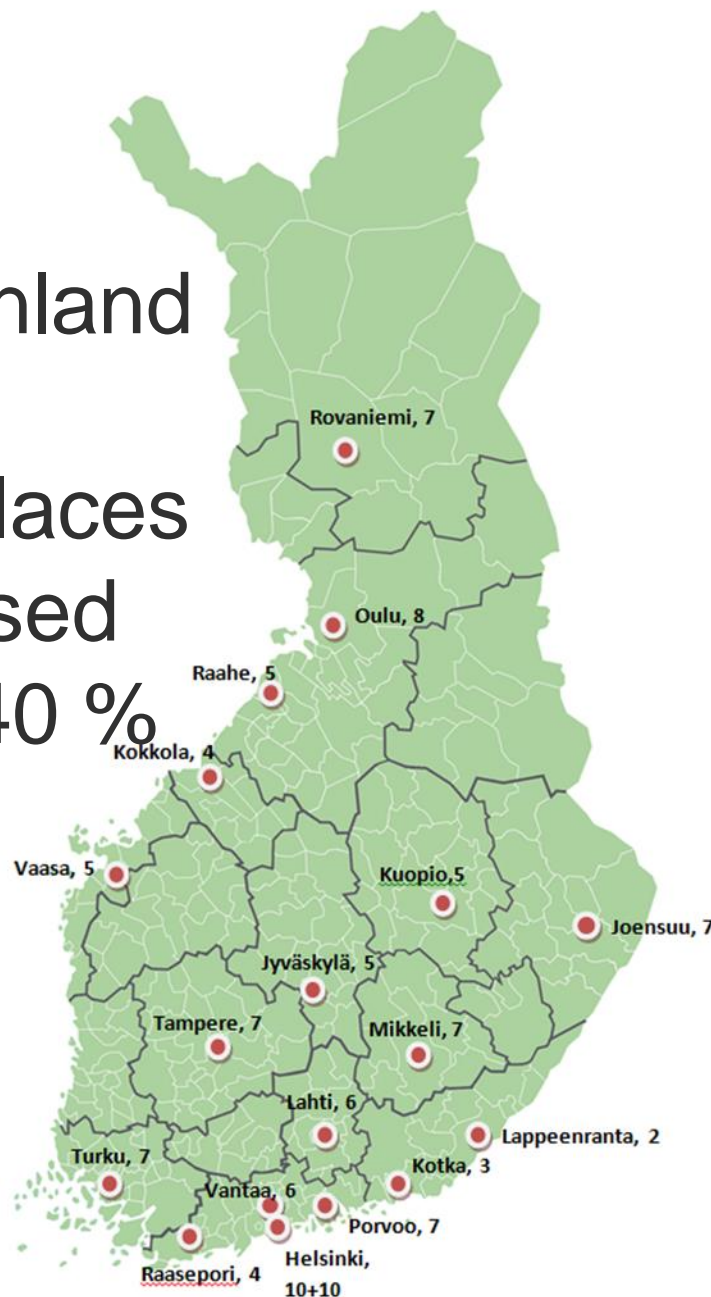
- New **Social Welfare Act** entered into force 1.4.2015.
  - Obligates the local municipalities to **provide services** to a person encountering violence, incl. Domestic and Interpersonal Violence.
- The Act on reimbursement out of State funds for providers of **shelters for victims of domestic violence** entered into force 1.1.2015.
  - The shelters financed by the state
  - **guarantees qualitative and comprehensive** services
  - The shelters are **open for anyone** – women, men and children of all ages – who have experienced acts or are threatened by acts of domestic violence. (Children usually stay in the shelter with their parent.)





# Shelters in Finland in 2017:

- Now 143 places
- T.b. Increased
- Funding +40 %



# Thank you!



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[www.thl.fi/marak](http://www.thl.fi/marak) (mostly in Finnish)

[www.safelives.org.uk](http://www.safelives.org.uk) (MARAC info/UK)