



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE
FINLAND

Public Health Institutes of the World

IANPHI

**2014 Annual Meeting
Marrakech, Morocco**

Networking to address global health challenges

RATIONALE, VALUE AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE EVALUATION OF THL

Juhani Eskola, Director General

National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

Finland

BACKGROUND

- ▶ The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) started its operations in 2009 (after merger of earlier institutions KTL and STAKES)
- ▶ THL is a research and development institute under the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH)
- ▶ In 2013, the Government made two important decisions concerning THL
 - ▶ In March, a special budget cut was decided by the Government, concerning research activities in the institutions under MSAH
 - ▶ In September, the Government launched the reform of governmental research institutions. The reform included a significant transfer of funds from the institutions to new research funding instruments to be started in 2014.
- ▶ The MSAH initiated the evaluation process in 2013 to be done in parallel with the evaluation of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH)



MAIN TASKS

- ▶ The MSAH invited an International Evaluation Group (IEG) to conduct the evaluation
- ▶ The MSAH's assignment for the IEG was to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of THL's activities:
 - ▶ Does THL's work address the key issues in its field with regard to its role as a national institute in the area?
 - ▶ Are THL's objectives and results relevant in this respect with regard to co-operation between research institutes and universities?
 - ▶ Is THL's approach effective?
- ▶ The evaluation covered the years 2009-2013 and the future perspective extending until 2020



EVALUATION PROCESS

Public Health Institutes of the World

IANPHI

2014 Annual Meeting
Marrakech, Morocco

Networking to address global health challenges

- ▶ The IEG consisted of following members:
 - ▶ Jeffrey Koplan, Emory University, Chair (USA)
 - ▶ Anneli Eteläpelto, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)
 - ▶ Josep Figueras, European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies (Belgium)
 - ▶ Johan Fritzell, Centre for Health Equity Studies (Sweden)
 - ▶ Johan Giesecke, ECDC (EU/Sweden)
- ▶ THL provided the group with background material
- ▶ The IEG had two face-to-face meetings in Helsinki, and met with the staff of THL, its stakeholders, collaborators and customers
- ▶ The report and recommendations of the IEG was published in May 2014
- ▶ In June 2014 MSAH aligned how the recommendations must be executed



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE
FINLAND

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Despite the budget cuts, minimize damage to the institute's effectiveness and value
- ▶ Upgrade management processes and organization at THL to contemporary levels of performance and expectations
- ▶ Performance measurements should be instituted for professional staff and operational units
- ▶ Improve the coordination of external requests of MSAH and other Ministries in order to better estimate and control the workload and guarantee the quality of the performance
- ▶ Improve the cooperation with the stakeholders
- ▶ Consider early dissemination of and access to THL large data sets as a priority responsibility to the broader academic community

