



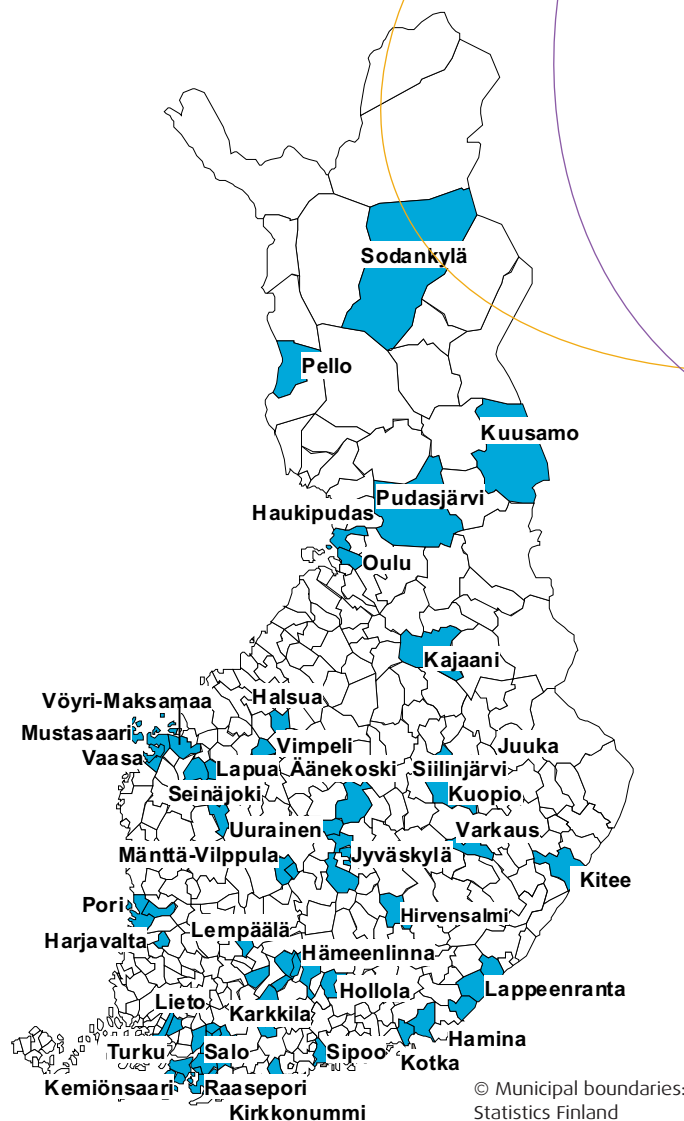
Evaluation Research Programme ARTTU

 Local and Regional
Government Finland



Participating local authorities

Altogether 40 local authorities are participating in the evaluation research programme. Those selected for the programme include local authorities that have undergone a merger or are pursuing cooperation with other local authorities; local authorities in urban areas and other local authorities. The participants represent different types of local authorities and vary, for instance, as to their size, geographic location and type of rural area.



1. Halsua
2. Hamina
3. Harjavalta
4. Haukipudas
5. Hirvensalmi
6. Hollola
7. Hämeenlinna
8. Juuka
9. Jyväskylä
10. Kajaani
11. Karkkila
12. Kemiönsaari
13. Kirkkonummi
14. Kitee
15. Kotka
16. Kuopio
17. Kuusamo
18. Lappeenranta
19. Lapua
20. Lempäälä
21. Lieto
22. Mustasaari
23. Mänttä-Vilppula
24. Oulu
25. Pello
26. Pori
27. Pudasjärvi
28. Raasepori
29. Salo
30. Seinäjoki
31. Siilinjärvi
32. Sipoo
33. Sodankylä
34. Turku
35. Uurainen
36. Vaasa
37. Varkaus
38. Vimpeli
39. Vöyri-Maksamaa
40. Äänekoski

Evaluation Research Programme ARTTU

The goal of the evaluation research programme is to provide systematic and comparable information on the change process taking place in connection with the project to restructure local government and services (PARAS) and on the impacts of the change from the perspective of different types of local authorities and actors during the period 2008–2012.

The five-year research programme, launched in 2008 and to be implemented in cooperation between several actors, examines the impacts of the reform on

- municipal finances and local economy
- democracy and leadership
- local government services
- personnel and
- structural functionality of urban regions.

Besides the above areas of research, the programme includes evaluation studies, implemented as separately financed projects, on the linguistic implications and gender impact of the PARAS reform. A separate project on the planning stage of the implementation of the project has ended.

Period of implementation:

2008–2012. The research programme has been divided into two periods: 2008–2009 and 2010–2012.

Co-operation partners:

Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, local authorities participating in the programme, Local Government Pensions Institution, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of the Environment.

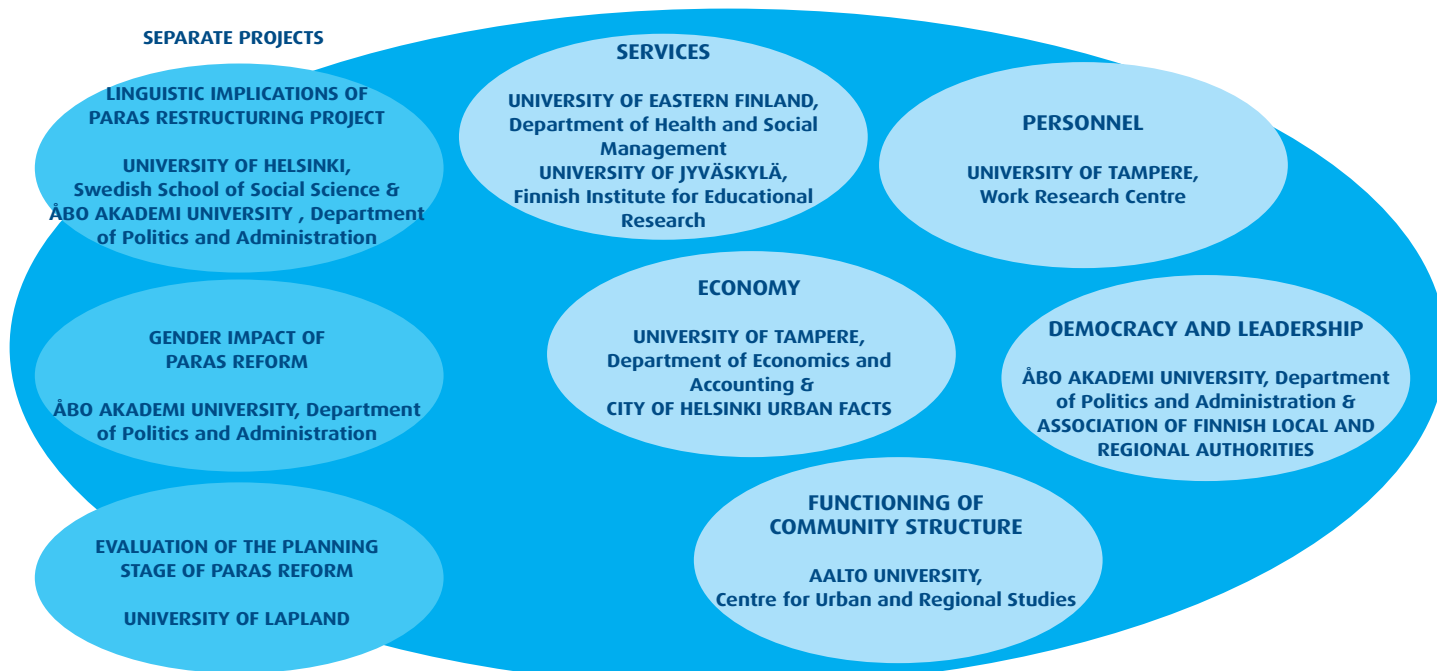
Research organisations:

Aalto University, Universities of Helsinki, Eastern Finland, Jyväskylä, Lapland and Tampere; Åbo Akademi University and City of Helsinki Urban Facts.

Research programme management:

- Ms Marianne Pekola-Sjöblom, Head of Research, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, marianne.pekola-sjoblom@kuntaliitto.fi, tel. +358 9 771 2504, mobile +358 50 337 5634
- Ms Kaija Majoinen, Director of Development, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, kaija.majoinen@kuntaliitto.fi, tel. +358 9 771 2512
- Professor Emeritus Mr Pentti Meklin, University of Tampere pentti.meklin@uta.fi, tel. +358 50 564 2595

Research framework



Research on municipal finances and local economy

This research module examines how the PARAS reform affects municipal and regional organisations. It looks at the impacts of the reform on the development of municipal finances and local economy, the economy and efficiency of local government functions, service costs and the economic viability and attractiveness of local authorities and regions.

Organisations responsible for research:

University of Tampere, Department of Economics and Accounting
City of Helsinki Urban Facts (financial statement analysis)

Persons responsible:

- Mr Jarmo Vakkuri, Professor, jarmo.vakkuri@uta.fi, tel. +358 3 2156 771
- Mr Heikki Helin, Senior Researcher, helin.heikki@phnet.fi, tel. +358 40 516 5976



Research on democracy and leadership

This research module looks at how restructuring alters the structures of local democracy and leadership and analyses the effects that decisions taken by local authorities have on the functioning of representative democracy, participation of citizens and citizen views on local government services and decision-making.

Organisations responsible for research:

Åbo Akademi University, Department of Politics and Administration
The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities,
Research and Development Unit

Persons responsible

- Ms Siv Sandberg, Researcher, siv.sandberg@abo.fi, tel. +358 2 2154 562
- Ms Marianne Pekola-Sjöblom, Head of Research, marianne.pekola-sjoblom@kuntaliitto.fi, tel. +358 9 771 2504, mobile +358 50 337 5634

Research on local government services

The starting point of this research module is the objective laid down in the framework act, which is to ensure, throughout the country, high-quality services that are accessible to citizens.

In the research module on services, the focus is on service structures, service networks and various methods of services provision that local authorities use to provide municipal services; the accessibility and use of the services and how they seem to change in the course of the PARAS restructuring project.

The responsibility for the research on services is divided between the University of Eastern Finland (social welfare and health services) and the University of Jyväskylä (education services).

Research on social welfare and health services

In this research module, municipal social welfare and health services are examined; more specifically, community health care, services for the elderly and services for children, adolescents and families.



Organisation responsible for research:

University of Eastern Finland, Department of Health and Social Management

Persons responsible:

- Ms Vuokko Niiranen, Professor, vuokko.niiranen@uef.fi
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- Mr Juha Kinnunen, Professor, juha.kinnunen@uef.fi
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Research on education services

The research on education services focuses on pre-school and basic education, upper secondary schools and vocational education and training.

Organisation responsible for research:

The University of Jyväskylä, Finnish Institute for Educational Research

Person responsible:

- Mr Jouni Välijärvi, Professor, jouni.valijarvi@jyu.fi
tel. +358 14 260 3202

Research on local government personnel

This research module addresses municipal personnel issues both at the level of strategy and organisation. The primary focus is on the same operating units that are examined in the services research module.

Organisation responsible for research:

University of Tampere, Work Research Centre

Person responsible:

- Mr Risto Nakari, Researcher, University of Tampere Work Research Centre, risto.nakari@uta.fi, tel. +358 3 3551 6047



Research on structural functionality of urban regions

This research module examines the success of local authorities in enhancing the structural functionality of urban regions in line with the objectives of the PARAS reform. It also looks at how well regions manage to organise housing, jobs and services in terms of their accessibility. The focus of research is on urban regions, and more particularly on central local authorities/surrounding local authorities.

Organisation responsible for research:

Aalto University, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies

Person responsible:

- Mr Raine Mäntysalo, Professor, Head of the Centre, raine.mantysalo@tkk.fi, tel. +358 50 5124 525

SEPARATE PROJECTS

Linguistic implications of PARAS reform

This project examines what linguistic implications the restructuring policy has had regionally and locally; what are the important factors that mainly affect changes to linguistic services and what linguistic impacts related to the reform are discernible in education and social welfare and health services.

The evaluation targets Swedish-language services in local authorities with Finnish as the majority language and Finnish-language services in local authorities with Swedish as the majority language.

The research is financed by special funding granted by the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.

Organisations responsible for research:

Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki
Åbo Akademi University, Department of Politics and Administration

Person responsible:

- Mr Stefan Sjöblom, Professor, stefan.sjoblom@helsinki.fi, tel. +358 9 191 28 414

Gender impact of PARAS reform

The impacts of the project to restructure local government and services are examined from the perspective of gender equality. The research is divided into thematic parts which cover democracy and leadership, services and personnel.

The first part looks at gender balance in municipal organs, among chairpersons and senior managing office holders. The second part examines the views of men and women on local government services, and the third part surveys the views of female and male local government personnel on the PARAS restructuring project.

The study is financed through special funding provided by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities.

Organisation responsible for research:

Åbo Akademi University, Department of Politics and Administration

Persons responsible:

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- Ms Sinikka Mikola, Senior Adviser, sinikka.mikola@kuntaliitto.fi, tel. +358 9 771 2210

Evaluation of the planning stage of PARAS reform

The evaluation targeted the planning stage of the implementation of the PARAS project particularly in 2007 and 2008. The evaluation focused on the initial effectiveness of the framework act and the progress of restructuring from a wider perspective. The project has ended and the final report was published in spring 2009 (only available in Finnish).

The study was financed through special funding provided by the Ministry of Finance.

Organisation responsible for research:

University of Lapland, Department of Social Studies.

Person responsible:

- Mr Jari Stenvall, Professor, jari.stenvall@uta.fi, tel. +358 16 341 2637



Contact information

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