

MARAC

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

The Finnish experience



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, FINLAND





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)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=alje4zJOHlw

Aim of MARAC

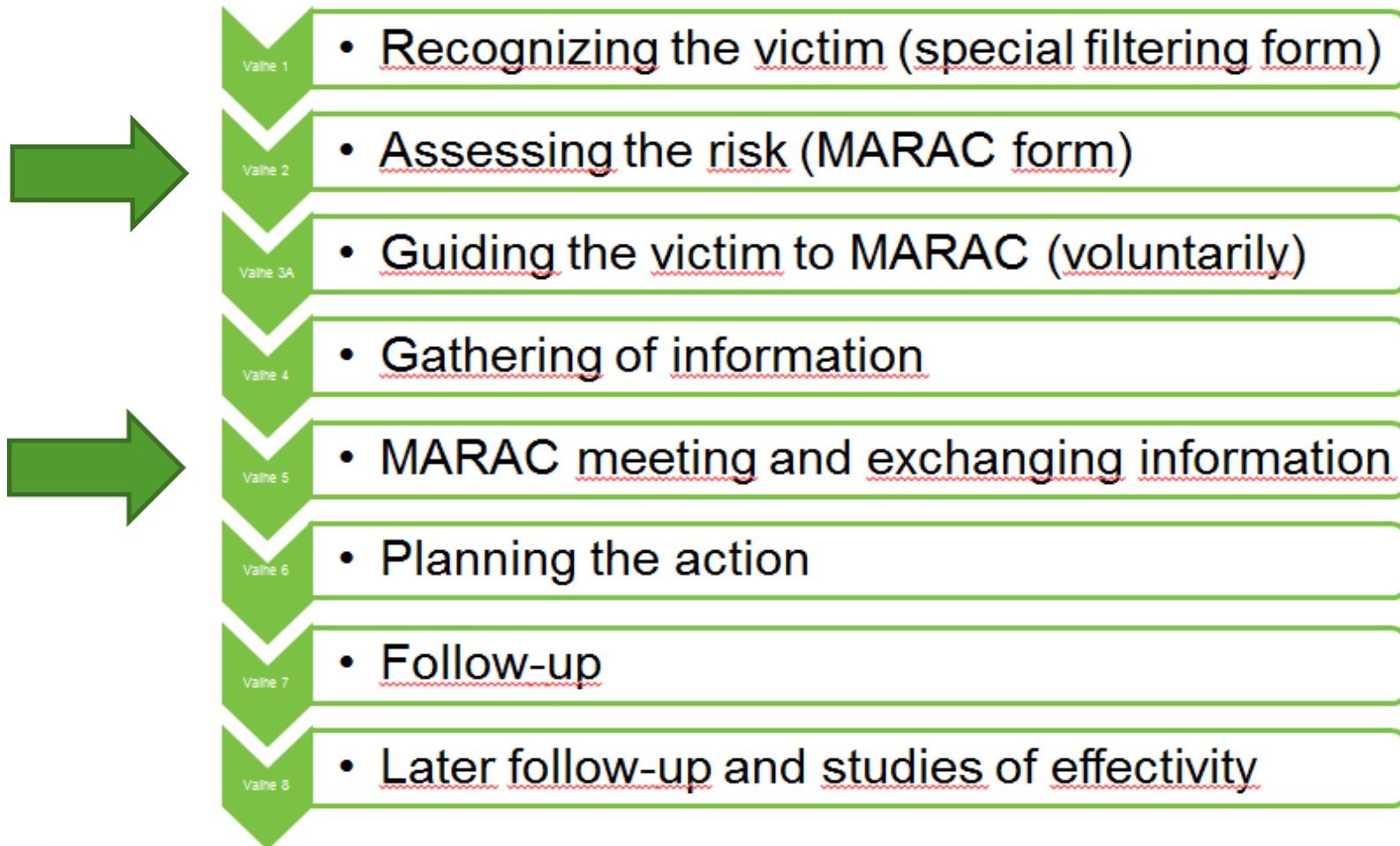
For the authorities/agencies:

- **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
<p>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the <u>first</u> injury.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>2. Are you very frightened?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>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).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>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?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)...) within the past year?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<p>7. Is there conflict over child contact?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

Results of the model

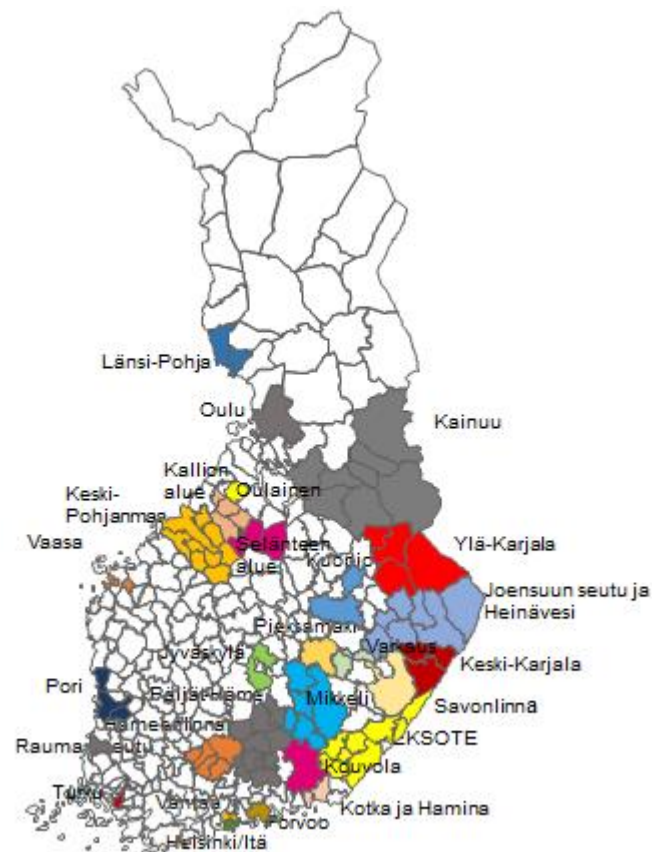
- UK police: MARAC decreased reoccurring of domestic violence cases by 2/3 (2004)
- In Cardiff: 60 % of victims handled by MARAC did not face reoccurrence of violence in the following 6 months (2004, 2009)
- In Finland, after 6 months of entering MARAC, 15 % of victims had faced reoccurrence of domestic violence (when 6 months prior to entering, likelihood of reoccurrence was at 60% level), MARAC reduced reoccurring crime offence reports by over 70 % (2013)

Milestones of adaptation to Finland

- Formulated in Wales, UK, in function since 2003
- Entered to Finland in 2010 as a 1-year-pilot in three locations
- Continued as a project aiming at spreading the model, funded by different ministries, ends at 2015
- Currently it is being operated in Finland in over 84 Municipalities by 28 local MARACs

MARAC in Finland in 2015

- Covers over 2,2 million inhabitants (population 5,4 million)
- 28 MARACs functioning
- Over 84 municipalities



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

- 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. (recognizes also male victims)
- 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.

Thank you!

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www.thl.fi/marak (mostly in Finnish)

www.safelives.org.uk (MARAC info/UK)