



FUNCTIONAL HOME - INFORMATION CENTRE AND EXHIBITION OF SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE LIVING

HELSINKI

Functional Home is a unique, impartial service that gives information about the services and products available to people to make their homes safer. It is an information centre and exhibition space.

What are the objectives of the project?

The objectives are:

- to introduce solutions, technology, aids and products for an accessible and safe living environment
- to offer ideas, age-friendly adaptations and concrete solutions for homes to everyone who wants to improve the functionality and safety of where they live.

Functional Home's role is to help people live at home as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Timeline

- project plan: August-October 1994
- project: November 1996 - December 1999
- service to the public started: September 1998.

Functional Home was made a permanent service of the city of Helsinki in January 2000.

Background

The city of Helsinki's Health Centre established an information centre for safe and accessible living. The collaborate partners were the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, the Helsinki University of Technology, Research Institute for Health Care Facilities (Sotera) and the Department of Architecture.

How does the project work?

Functional Home is an exhibition space and information centre where members of the public can discover functional ideas to make their homes safer. They can also try out the products.

The Functional Home is intended for everybody interested in the accessibility, safety and functioning of homes. This includes the elderly people, family carers, people with limited physical capabilities, those building or renovating home or from a construction sector, students and professionals in the social and health care sector and organisations and project groups. Its services include:

- information and advice in person, by phone, email or via the internet
- guided groups
- trial, education and training environment
- co-operation with the third sector
- lectures outside.

The main innovation of the practice is running the exhibition in cooperation with private companies. As a municipal service it is a cost-effective way to showcase and allow visitors to test the products on offer to the exhibition visitors.

In this way, Functional Home acts as a bridge between the customers and the service producers in public, private and third sector. People can discover how and where they can purchase the equipment on show.

What are the results of the project?

Functional Home has become a nationally and internationally known and recognised practice. It is now a part of the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012 programme.

Was the project evaluated and were there any follow-up activities?

Visitors and participating companies are surveyed once or twice a year. The results have shown that visitors are very satisfied with both the services and contents of the exhibition.

What was the budget and resources allocated to the project?

The annual budget is approximately €300 000 which includes:

- 20% from participating companies' exhibition fees
- 5% from group guiding fees
- 75% from the city of Helsinki, Social Department.

Staff consists of one exhibition manager and three exhibition coordinators.

Who is the contact person for the project?

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<http://wdchelsinki2012.fi/en/program/2011-12-19/functional-home-%E2%80%93-innovative-and-safe-solutions-housing>

<http://wdchelsinki2012.fi/en/news/2012-03-01/functional-home-exhibition-introducing-accessible-and-safe-living-environment>

If you have an example of a good practice that you would like to include in the database, please send an email to caroline.greene@eurocities.eu.



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