



Työsuojelurahasto
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The Finnish Work Environment Fund

eDASA+APP in Finland: is there any impact on nurses' attitudes towards violence risk assessment?

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**UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU**

Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa in Finland

- Catchment area 2.2 million citizens
- 26 mental health inpatient units for adults, both general and forensic



Aim of our study

- Adapt eDASA+APP to our local needs
- To help nurses to prevent violence and coercion
- Standardize use of short-term risk assessment methods (DASA)
- Increase service user involvement in violence risk assessment and management

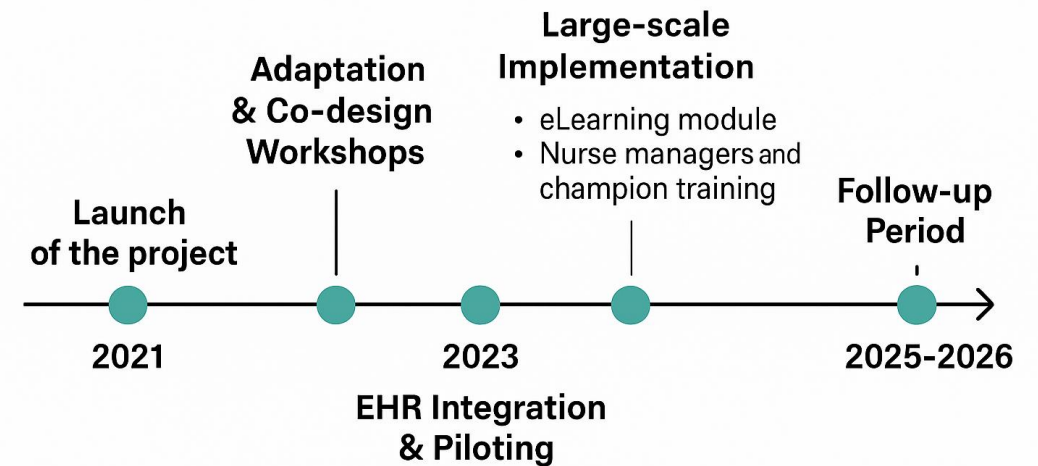


Methods used in the Finnish eDASA+APP study

- A mixed-method implementation study guided by the CFIR

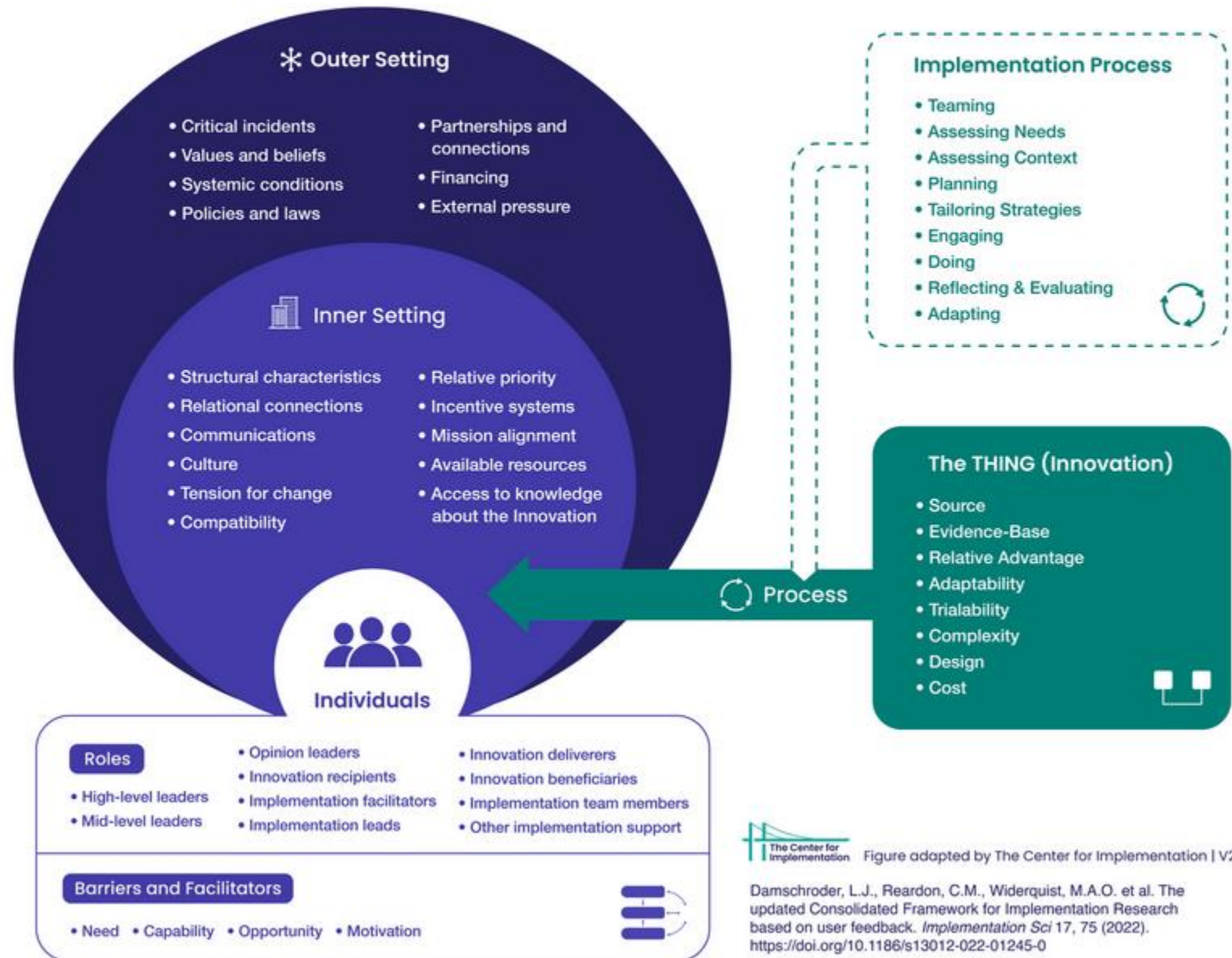
- Key elements:

- Co-design workshops for local adaptation (f=6, n=42 nurses, nurse managers, psychologists, people with lived experience)
- Learning modules for clinicians, and managers & champions
- Quantitative pre-post data (EHR, surveys)
- Focus group interviews (adaptation & implementation evaluation)



Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) 2.0

In this project, we focus on making implementation sustainable – that's why we started with individuals




FEATURE ARTICLE

Implementing the Dynamic Appraisal of Situational Aggression in Mental Health Units

Lantta, Tella MNSc, RN; Daffern, Michael PhD, MPsych (Clin), BSc(Psych), GCHE; Kontio, Raija PhD, RN; Välimäki, Maritta PhD, RN

[Author Information](#) ✓

Clinical Nurse Specialist 29(4):p 230-243, July/August 2015. | DOI: 10.1097/NUR.0000000000000140



After 10 years...Are
nurses still favouring
their clinical
judgement?

Attitude survey – a pre-post design

- "Mental health nurses' attitudes towards risk assessment, risk assessment tools, and positive risk" (Downes et al. 2016)
- 13 statements, Likert- scale
- 26 adult psychiatry inpatient units pre, 23 units post
- Nurses and nurse managers
- Statistical analysis methods





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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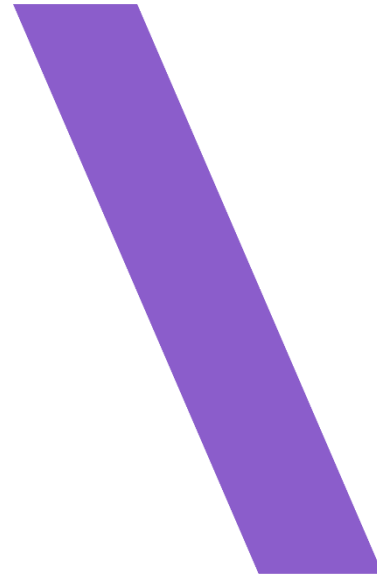


Attitudes of nurses and nurse managers towards violence risk assessment and management: A cross-sectional study in psychiatric inpatient settings

Jaakko Varpula, Maria Ameen, Tella Lantta 

First published: 07 June 2024 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm.13069>

Participants



- Pre: n=111 (response rate 24%) – Apr-May 2023
- Post: n=132 (25%) – Nov-Dec 2024
- 57%/64% women
- 47%/46% registered nurses, 13/12% managers
- Work experience in the field of mental health on average 13/14 years

What did the pre-survey tell us?

1. Almost all felt that risk assessment was their responsibility and that risk management plans were important
2. 1/4 felt that the assessment is the responsibility of the doctor
3. More than half preferred their own assessment over validated scales or had not formed an opinion
4. A similar distribution when asked whether scales are effective in identifying those at risk
5. Older respondents and nurse managers had more positive attitudes vs younger respondents and staff nurses



	Pre % (n=111)	Post % (n=132)
Validated risk assessment tools do not identify effectively people in risk		
Strongly agree	1,8 (2)	3,0 (4)
Agree	12,6 (14)	12,1 (16)
Not sure	41,4 (46)	31,1 (41)
Disagree	33,3 (37)	37,9 (50)
Strongly disagree	10,8 (12)	15,9 (21)
My own clinical judgement is superior over the validated scales		
Strongly agree	3,6 (4)	2,3 (3)
Agree	12,6 (14)	18,2 (24)
Not sure	36,0 (40)	35,6 (47)
Disagree	40,5 (45)	34,1 (45)
Strongly disagree	7,2 (8)	9,8 (13)

Validated risk assessment tools do not identify effectively people in risk

	Practical nurses		Registered nurses		Nurse managers	
	Pre % (n=36)	Post % (n=56)	Pre % (n=60)	Post % (n=60)	Pre % (n=15)	Post % (n=16)
Agree	11,1 (4)	21,4 (12)	18,3 (11)	11,7 (7)	6,7 (1)	6,3 (1)
Not sure	47,2 (17)	35,7 (20)	41,7 (25)	33,3 (20)	26,7 (4)	6,3 (1)
Disagree	41,7 (15)	42,9 (24)	40,0 (24)	55,0 (33)	66,7 (10)	87,5 (14)

Reflections on the results



- eDASA+APP FI implementation
→ positive impact on nurses attitudes towards use of validated tools for violence risk assessment, especially among RN's and nurse managers
- We need to pay more attention to training given to nurses with less education (practical nurses) and identify their learning needs

Only 5 years to go!





Medical News & Perspectives


It Takes an Average of 17 Years for Evidence to Change Practice—the Burgeoning Field of Implementation Science Seeks to Speed Things Up

Rita Rubin, MA

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 JAMA Medical News

JAMA

Published Online: April 5, 2023

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Implementation of DASA started
12 years ago in Finland

-

We can see attitudes changing
eDASA+APP is working when fully
implemented



Full implementation needs a
culture change in a attitudinal
level & organizational
commitment



Thank you for your attention!

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