

# Advanced Practice Nursing development in Finland

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## Background

Over the past two decades, Finland has developed advanced practice nursing (APN) roles, notably clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners. In 2013, the Finnish Nurses Association (FNA) formed an expert group to describe the APN phenomenon. This work has been updated, with recommendations released to advance APN implementation in the coming years.

## Methods

This evidence-informed policy update process aimed to re-evaluate current APN roles in Finnish healthcare. The framework utilized multiple methods, including a scoping review, key informant interviews, and expert group roundtable discussions from 2021 to 2022.

## Results

The successful development and implementation of APN roles necessitate robust political, organizational, and managerial support, continuous evaluation, and effective interprofessional collaboration. Additionally, a clearer framework is essential to integrate the education, health, and regulatory systems, driven by population health needs and shaped by legal, social, political, economic, and technological contexts.

Based on FNA expert panel work, recommendations for APN roles for the coming years include:

1. The roles and education of advanced practice nurses are defined by a national ministerial-level advisory board.

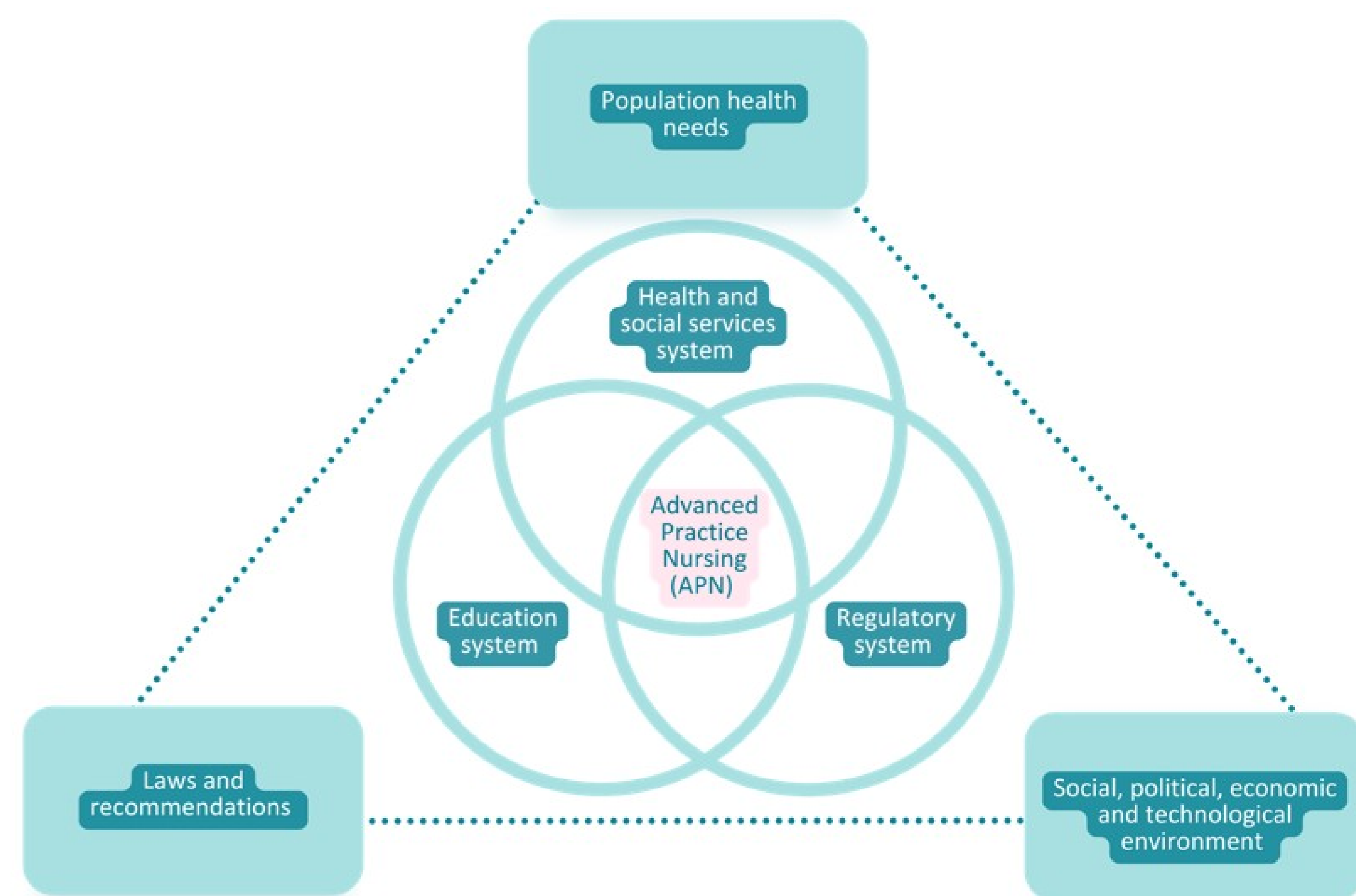


Figure 1: Context of APN in Finland

2. There is close collaboration between the education system and the workforce.
3. Wellbeing services counties systematically utilize and expand APN positions.
4. APNs participate in the social and health services development committees.
5. Organizations generate and analyze effectiveness assessment data of APN.

## Conclusion

The projected benefits of systematically integrating APN roles align with Finland's social and health system reform goals. Furthermore, the contributions of this expert panel's work are crucial for the Health Care Professional Act renewal (2024-2026). Nevertheless, additional national research is required to evaluate the effectiveness of APN roles in Finland.

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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Työsuojelurahasto  
Arbetskyddsfonden  
The Finnish Work Environment Fund

Finnish Nurses  
Association