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Presentation title: Effects of multi-professional anchor work on youth delinquency and social inclusion

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The multi-professional Anchor work by the Finnish Ministry of the Interior has received international attention as a promising practice in the prevention of youth crime and radicalization. In addition to crime and radicalization prevention, the aim of the work form is to promote social inclusion and well-being among targeted young people. Anchor work is based on multi-professional teams consisting of police, social work, health care, and youth work professionals and aim to provide comprehensive support to the youths and their families to address cumulative risk factors. The work is targeted at children and young people under the age of 18. So far, very little research has been done on anchor work or similar multi-professional approaches and their effectiveness in crime prevention. For this study, we identified 524 individuals associated with criminal cases targeted by Anchor work between 2005 and 2016 based on police reports in the Police of Finland information database. We analyze the effect of Anchor work on future offending and social inclusion (e.g. NEET status) among these adolescents using quasi-experimental designs and data collected from administrative registers. In addition, we present results from the interviews of 36 Anchor work professionals to analyze the systematicity and local variation of the Anchor work implementation. Anchor work and other forms of multi-professional work have been seen as a promising approach in crime prevention. Our research provides information both on the effects of the prevention work and on the challenges and opportunities related to local-level implementation of the multi-professional and cross-administrative work forms.