



25 000 health care professionals will go on strike on April 1st in Finland

A strike of 25 000 health care professionals working in the municipal (local and regional government) sector will begin on April 1st. This strike is designated for six hospital districts, and it will run for 14 days.

There will also be a ban on overtime work and a ban on changing of shifts for all those, who are not taking part in the strike. This ban will be from April 1st until April 15th.

There was a proposal for a deal from the National Conciliator, but the Council of Tehy and the Council of SuPer unanimously rejected the offer made. The offer was rejected because it failed to show improvements in the working conditions nor in the salaries, on the opposite, it was mostly weakening the terms and conditions of health care professionals in the municipal sector. The pay level offered was far from the level the unions are seeking. In Finland, most of the health and social care workers have not been compensated for the hard work and stress they have endured during the pandemic.

The Union of Health and Social Care Professionals in Finland – Tehy and the Finnish Union of Practical Nurses - SuPer, have proposed a rescue program to tackle the shortage of social and health care professionals and to improve the working conditions. Tehy and SuPer have proposed an extra 3.6 per cent increase annually over the next 5 years on top of the standard pay increase.

This strike had been delayed by the Minister of Labor, Mrs Haatainen by two weeks which is the right of the Minister and can be used only once if the strike endangers the vital functions of society.

There is also another strike warning issued by Tehy and SuPer. This would have started also on April 1st, but the Minister decided to delay this strike too with two weeks. This strike will include 40 000 health care professionals and it will begin in the middle of April unless there is an agreement before then.

[Read more about strike in Finnish.](#)