



LAPSIPERHEIDEN ETUJÄRJESTÖ RY

Barnfamiljernas Intresseorganisation rf



LAPE - Annual Overview 2025

Lapsiperheiden Etujärjestö ry (LAPE) is a Finnish family advocacy organisation founded in 2001. Its mission is to strengthen families' well-being by increasing parents' confidence in their role as primary caregivers and by providing a channel for influencing family policy at national and international levels.

Key Focus Areas in 2025

In 2025, LAPE's advocacy work focused on:

- declining birth rates,
- family income and economic security,
- pension rights for parents,
- recognition and value of care (including unpaid care work).

These themes reflect broader societal challenges in Finland, where demographic decline and growing economic uncertainty are directly affecting families' ability to realise their desired number of children.

Major Achievement: “Foundation for the Future” Conference

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the “**Foundation for the Future**” conference, held in September 2025 at the Finnish Parliament Annex (Pikkuparlamentti) in Helsinki.

The event:

- brought together policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and family advocates,
- was organised as a hybrid event with both in-person and online participation,
- reached hundreds of participants through livestreaming.

At the conference, LAPE published the **Care Manifesto**, which highlights:

- the societal importance of care
- the need to recognise unpaid care work
- children's right to sufficient care and presence

The event strengthened cross-sector dialogue and positioned care as a central societal and policy issue.

Advocacy and Policy Influence

Throughout 2025, LAPE actively contributed to public debate and policymaking by:

- issuing **2 formal statements (policy responses)**
- publishing **4 public position statements**
- engaging with Members of Parliament, political parties, and stakeholders
- contributing to media discussions through opinion articles in national and regional newspapers

Key advocacy topics included:

- proposed reforms to home care allowance,
- family benefits and taxation,
- structural conditions supporting family life.

Family Situation in Finland

The context for LAPE's work remains challenging:

- Fertility rate increased slightly to **1.30 children per woman**, but remains far below the desired level (approx. 2.44),
- Economic pressures on families continued due to rising living costs, unemployment, and social security reforms,
- Child poverty increased, highlighting the need for stronger family policy measures.

These developments underline the importance of long-term, trust-building family policies that support both economic security and parental agency.

International Cooperation

LAPE continued to strengthen its international engagement:

- Active participation in **FEFAC**, including representation at board level,
- Joined **ELFAC** in 2025, opening new collaboration opportunities, particularly regarding large families (3+ children).

Through these networks, LAPE contributes to European-level discussions on family policy, care, and demographic sustainability.

Visibility and Outreach

LAPE increased its visibility significantly in 2025:

- Media publications across multiple Finnish newspapers
- Growth in social media reach, particularly linked to the conference
- Launch of a YouTube channel to support knowledge sharing and event dissemination

Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, LAPE will focus on:

- developing its **Strategy 2026–2029**
- preparing a **Parliamentary Election Programme**
- strengthening cooperation with European partners, especially ELFAC
- promoting a **“3+ Family Card” initiative** as a concrete policy tool to support large families
- organising a follow-up **“Foundation for the Future II” conference**

Additionally, **2026 marks LAPE's 25th anniversary**, offering an opportunity to reflect on its impact and further strengthen its role in shaping family-friendly policies in Finland and beyond.