

# Round table discussions - Enhancing involvement, equality and value of the elderly in Europe

Introduction and moderation, *Ombudsman for older people in Finland, Päivi Topo*

**Participants:**

**Austria Heinz K. Becker, Finland *Filip Hamro-Drotz* and ESU *Patrick Penninckx*.**



**Vanhusasiavaltuutettu**  
Äldreombudsmannen



# The Ombudsman for Older People in Finland (Vanhusasiavaltuutettu)

The Ombudsman is an autonomous and independent authority that promotes the realisation of the rights and best interest of older people.

The work started in January 2022.



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# According to the Act, the Ombudsman for Older People:

1. monitors and assesses the position of the older people and the realisation of their rights
- 2. monitors the legislation and decision-making in the society and assesses their effects on the older people**
3. makes initiatives, states opinions and participates in social discussion
4. draws up and commissions surveys and commissions reports
- 5. disseminates information on the older people**
- 6. promotes cooperation between those who handle matters related to the older people and actors who represent the older people.**

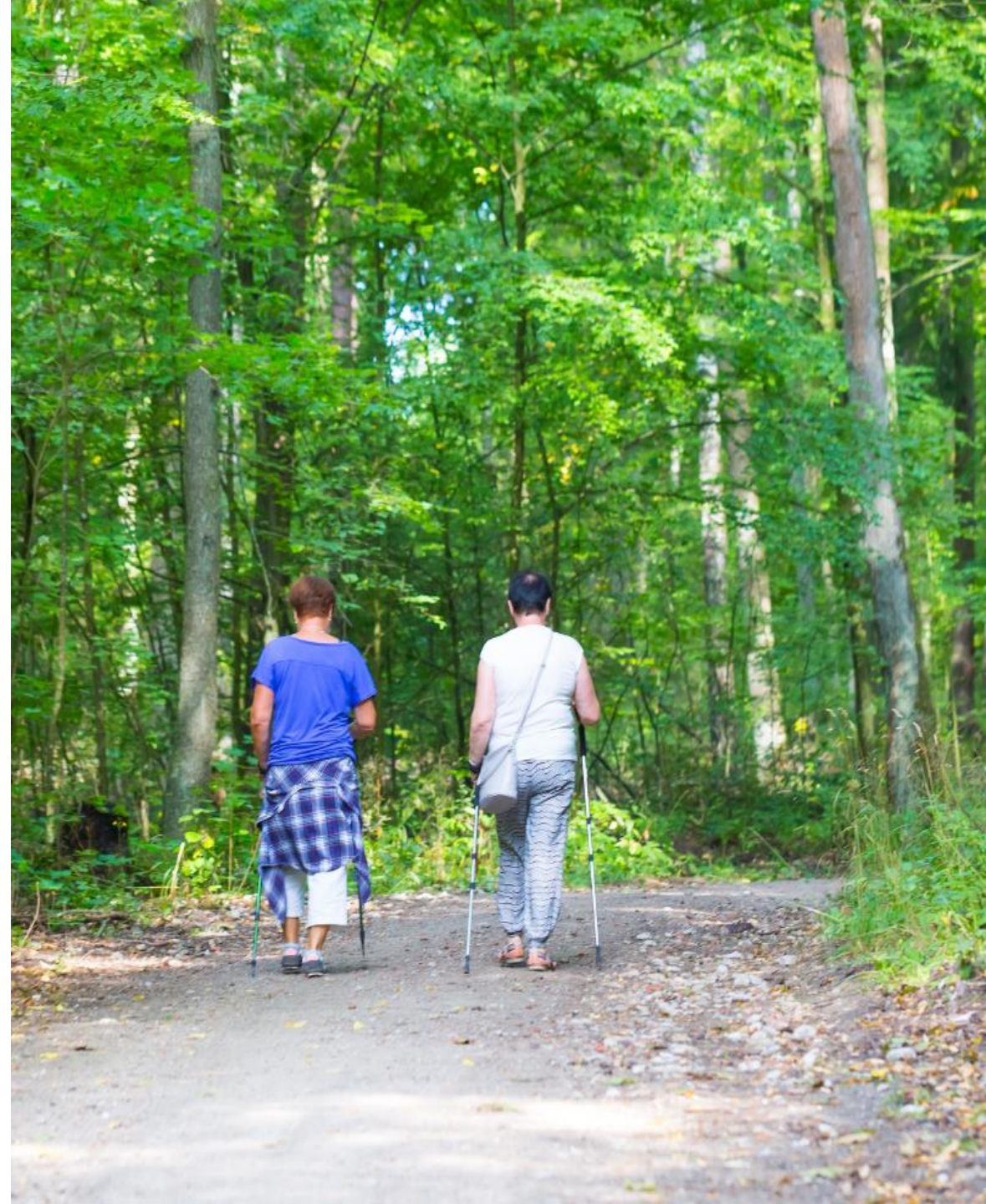


# The group of prominent senior experts who have given strategic advice during the first years of ombudsmans' work



# Goals for the first 5 year period

- To combat ageism and age discrimination of older adults
- To encourage health promotion activities
- To raise awareness about the need for further investments in elderly care
- To promote rights of older adults in digitalised society



# First years (2022- October 2024) in figures

- 135 opinions on legislation and policy programs for the Parliament and the Government.
- 19 oral hearings in the Parliament.
- 170 media interviews or mentioned in media.
- About 400 meetings with older adults, NGOs, researchers and other professionals.
- Over 1000 emails, letters and phone calls from older adults and their close ones.



# Low income and risk for poverty in Finland

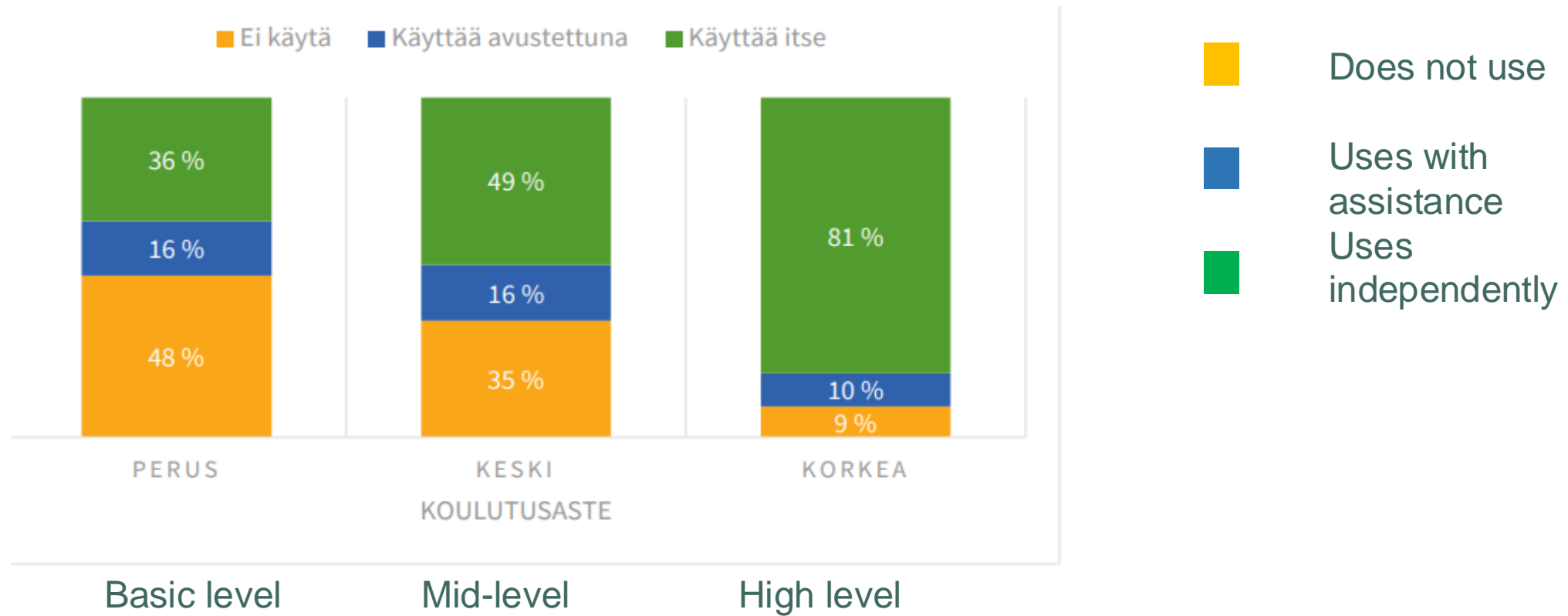
- Low income most frequent among the oldest, women and those living alone
- In 2020 among 84+ people living every third had income which was 60% or less of the median income.
- Among those living with someone the corresponding number was 6 %.

(Kuivalainen ym. 2022).



# Use of digital services by educational level, over 70 years old

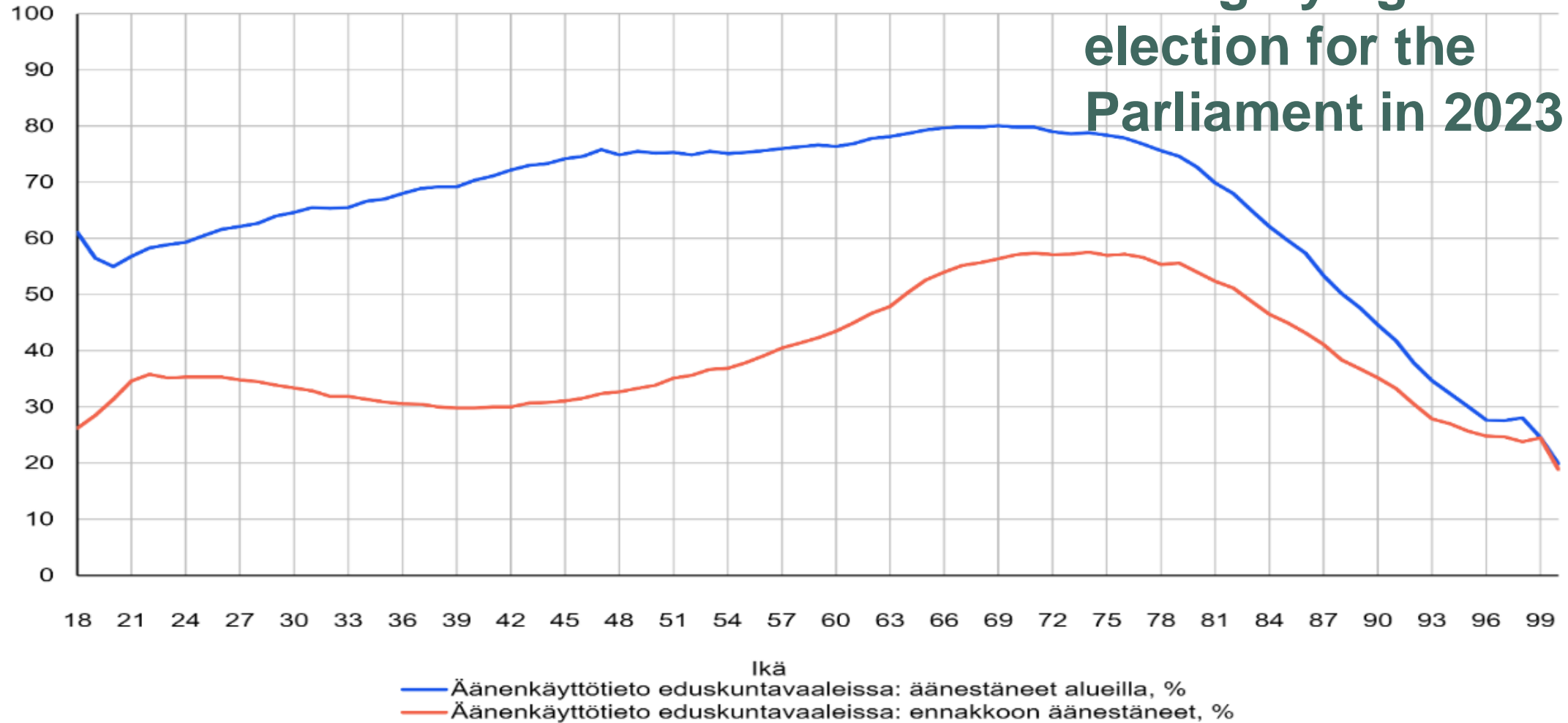
(Source: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare)





# Äänestäneet alueilla ja ennakkoon äänestäneet iän mukaan eduskuntavaaleissa 2023, %

## Voting by age in the election for the Parliament in 2023



Lähde: Tilastokeskus, eduskuntavaalit

# Declined skills in deferred remembering by education (FinnTerveys 2017)

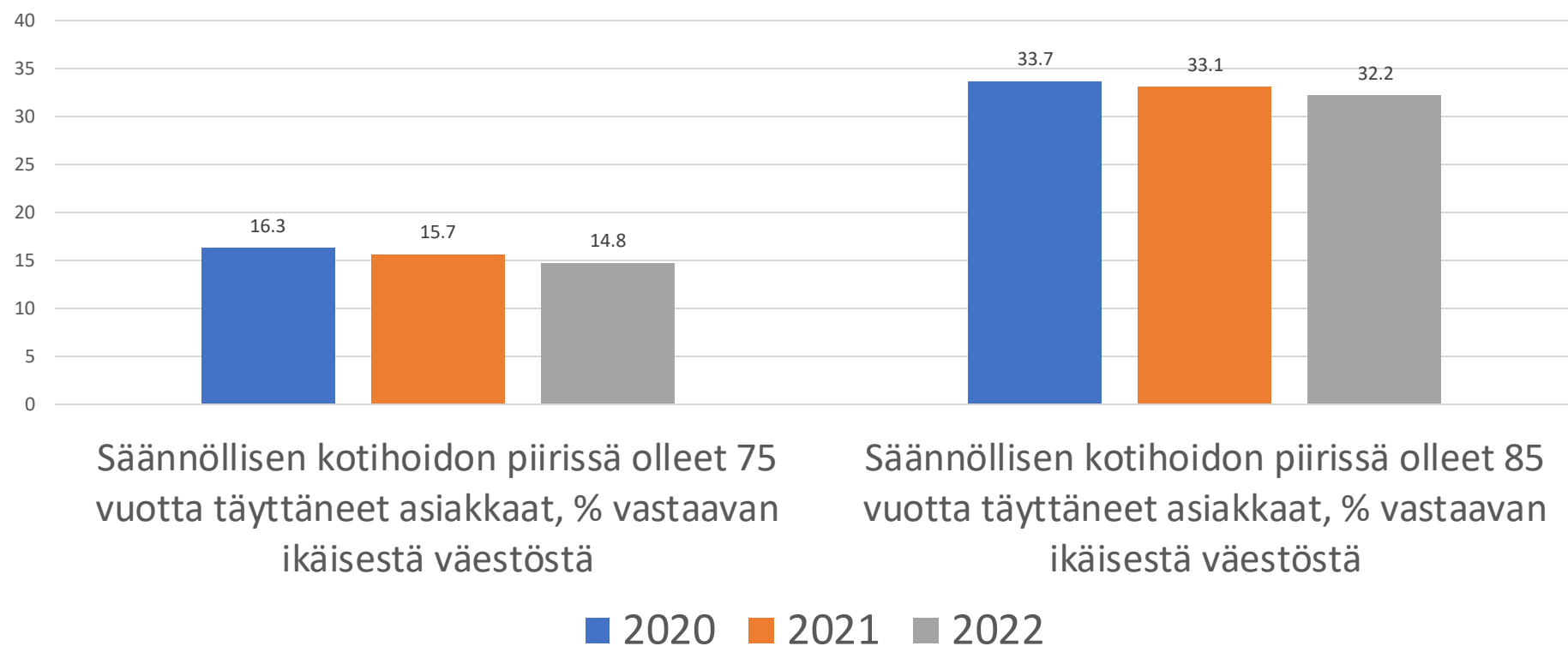
## Men +70

- Basic education 51%
- Mid-level education 32%
- High-level education 18%

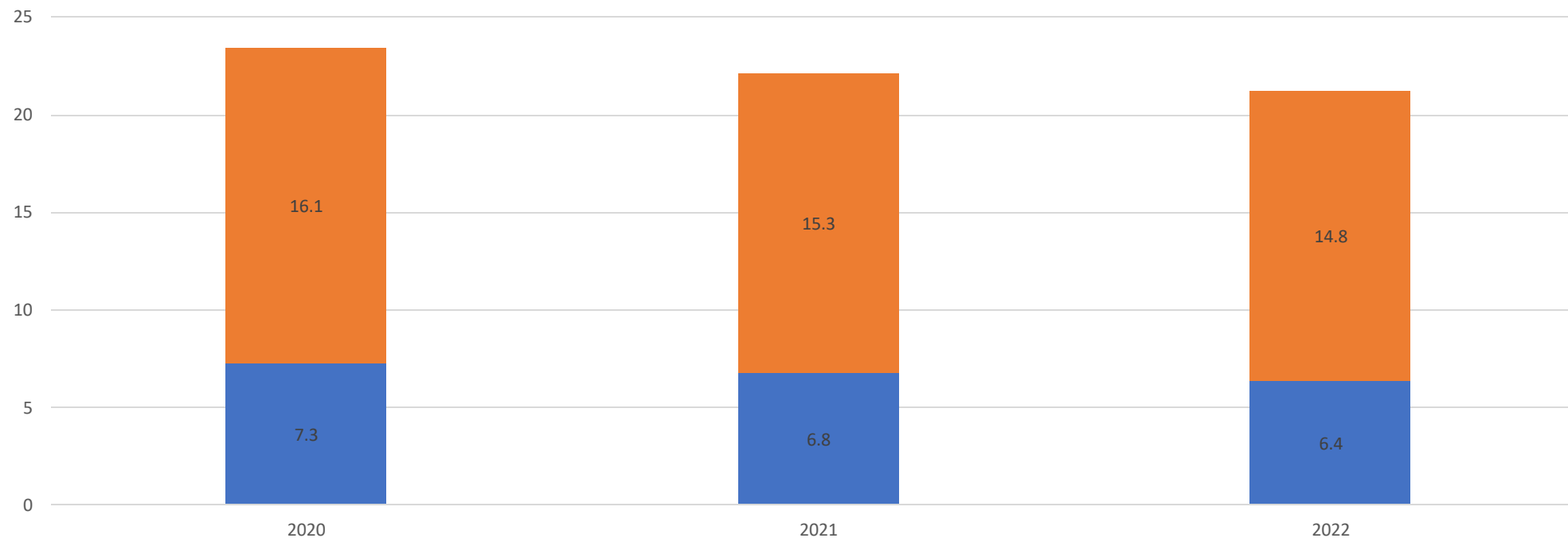
## Women +70

- Basic education 54%
- Mid-level education 44%
- High-level education 19%

# Proportion of home care clients among people +75 and +85 years of age



# Assisted living among people +75 (blue) and +85 (orange) years of age (THL Sotkanet)



- Ikäntyneiden tehostetun palveluasumisen 85 vuotta täyttäneet asiakkaat 31.12., % vastaavan ikäisestä väestöstä
- Ikäntyneiden tehostetun palveluasumisen 75 vuotta täyttäneet asiakkaat 31.12., % vastaavan ikäisestä väestöstä

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