

Dialogue Method
– an initiative to foster sustainable
decision making and policies in
Finland

Annual conference for Latvian public sector senior level managers

23 November 2022

Riga

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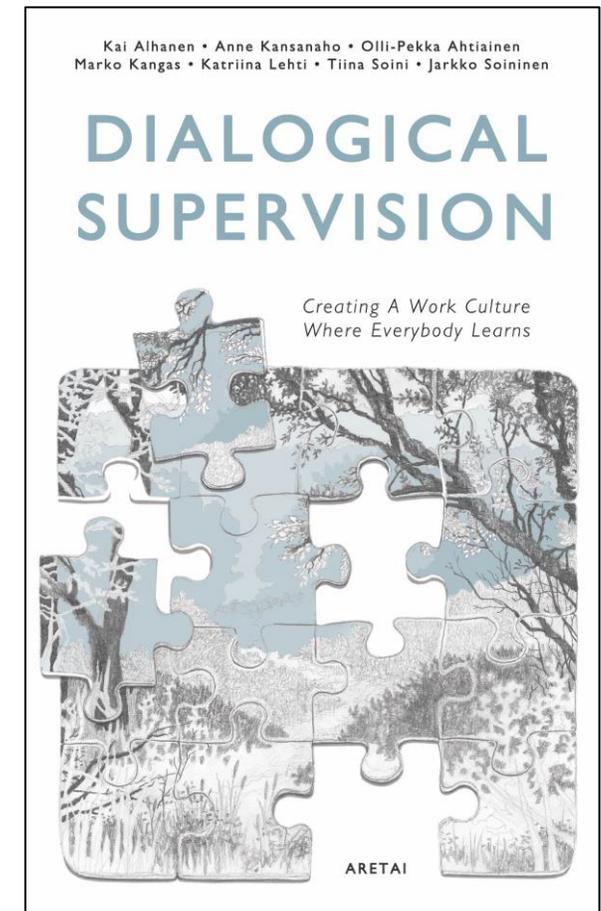
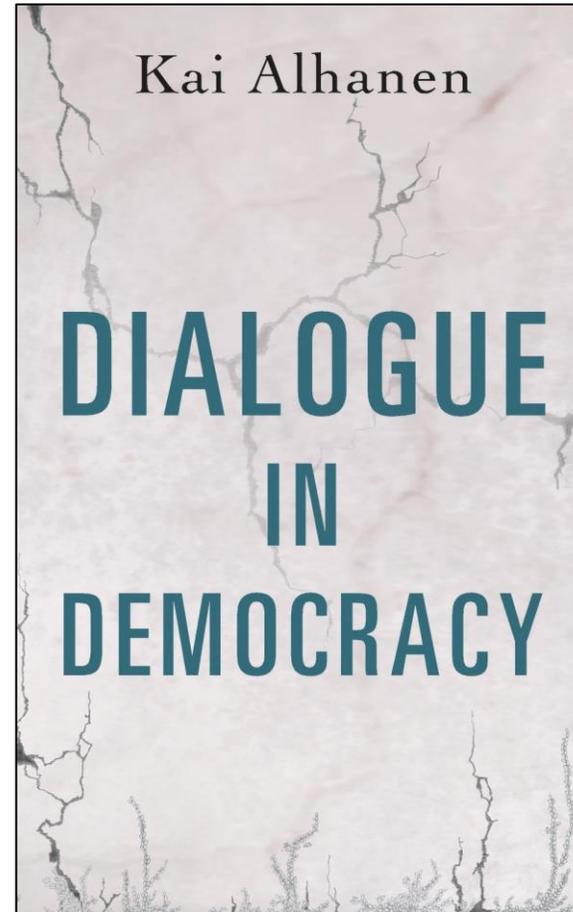
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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- **Leader** of Dialogue Academy, Aretai
- **Researcher** in political philosophy
- **Partner and advisor** in implementing dialogue on local and national decision making and policies
- **Collaborator** with Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture
- **Books** in English
 - *Dialogue in Democracy*
 - *Dialogical Supervision: Creating A Work Culture Where Everybody Learns*
 - *Timeout Trainer's Guide*



DIALOGUE

The aim of dialogue is to gain a better **understanding** of:

- the topic
- other people
- oneself

Dialogue is different from:

- Debate = finding out the best argument
- Negotiation = aiming at an agreement
- Consensus = aiming at unanimity

Dialogue also builds **trust** and enhances **creativity**



TIMEOUT

Method of constructive societal discussion



GROUND RULES OF TIMEOUT DIALOGUE

- **Listen** to the others, do not interrupt or start side discussions.
- **Join** others' talks and use everyday language.
- **Tell** about your own experience.
- **Address** the others directly and ask them about their views.
- **Be present and respect** others and the atmosphere of trust.
- **Search and build.** Work on the emerging conflicts boldly and look for what remains hidden.

Examples of Timeout dialogues connected to decision making and policies

- Climate change: what prevents us from acting? (Sitra 2019)
- Child strategy for Finland (Ministry of Education and Culture 2019)
- Future dialogues (Government Report on the Future 2019-2023)
- Dialogues on trust, regional tour (Ministry of Finance 2020)
- Elderly councils (Ministry of Finance 2020)
- National covid/lockdown dialogues (Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office, Sitra 2020-2021)
- Great Nature Dialogue (Sitra 2022)
- Democracy Defence Dialogues (Sitra, Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office 2022)
- Immigration Dialogues (Ministry of the Interior 2022)



Over 900 dialogues

Benefits of dialogue

- Equal encounter
- Offering a low threshold of engagement
- Possibility to bring together people with different backgrounds
- Deepening understanding of the topics discussed
- Engaging more extensive expertise
- Listening to voices in the margins and detecting weak signals
- Enhanced commitment to the solutions, joint objective and decision-making
- Increased empathy and trust



Dimensions of dialogical encounters

- **Government – Citizens**
 - Listening to voices not usually heard
- **Government – Civil Society Organizations**
 - Finding common agenda and creating sustainable partnerships
- **Citizens – Citizens**
 - Learning from one another
- **Government – Government**
 - New way of creating shared understanding and trust

