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## *English Summary*

### ***Heikki Suhonen: Alkoholproblemen och arbetslivet – den problematiska lekmanrollen (Alcohol problems in working environment – the role of the layman)***

Treatment recommendation systems for employees with drinking problems are not mere concrete measures to be taken; they represent a more extensive approach to social and alcohol policy. Drinking and attitudes towards it are clearly social issues not to be separated from their cultural context. Reconciliation of expert and lay opinion is one aspect in the process of making drinking problems a social issue.

In actual treatment recommendation situations, a number of different angles must be taken into account, for the various constituents tend to measure their own status in the community in that particular situation. Generally speaking, professional and lay views clash. Reconciliation of these differing viewpoints is made problematic by the fact that the treatment recommendation models, procedure guidelines, etc., which form the foundation of the entire system, are based on simpli-

fication of the dynamics and the comprehensive nature of drinking problems. The rules applied in the working environment and its day-to-day routines tend to simplify and rationalize a problem that even experts, scientists and the treatment system itself find too complex for definitive comment.

In actual working environment situations the terms "treatment", "treatment recommendation" and "helping" imply control, exercise of power and competition between people. When the various constituents of the work place deal with the problem it "becomes alive" in a new system framework. The coming together of the views of laymen, experts and the subject himself produces a completely new logic and completely new dynamics at the level of actual measures to be taken, with solutions being guided rather by the official and unofficial rules of the game between the parties than by the actual nature of the problem at hand and by realistic expectations. This is why the mechanisms of reconciling professional and lay views and their new contents should be given much greater attention in research.