



Erasmus+

**Structured Educational Visit
to Schools / Institutes and
Training Seminar in Finland**
held in Helsinki

from 23 to 29 April 2017



I.E.S. EL FONTANAL
LEBRIJA (Sevilla)

Objectives

- To get to know relevant aspects of the Finnish Education System.
- To observe examples of teaching practices in schools in Finland.
- To participate in lectures and workshops related to educational and cultural aspects of Finnish society.
- To participate in field projects to places of natural, historical and cultural significance.
- To discuss and plan about dissemination strategies.
- To promote a European dimension in education through networking with other participants and schools visited.

Seminars

- Seminar I: Rationale. Building Learning Portfolios. Organisation of visits to schools.
- Seminar II: Education System in Finland. Finish History, Culture and Society.
- Seminar III: Finnish Education and Day Care in a Small Town Context.
- Seminar IV: Discussing Dissemination Strategies. Presentation of Learning Portfolios. Evaluation.

Field Projects

- Field Project I: Images of Finnish Society in Helsinki.
- Field Project II: Rapola Ridge Nature and History Path.
- Field Project III: Suomenlinna.
- Optional Field Project: Tallinn (Estonia).

Education Study Visits

-School I: Mattlidens Gymnasium
(Espoo)

-School II: Tietotien lukio (Valkeakoski).

- School III: Tapiolan lukio (Espoo).

European Dimension

Germany

France

Greece

Italy

Poland

Portugal

Czech Republic

Croatia

Spain

Slovenia

Bulgaria

Belgium

Ireland

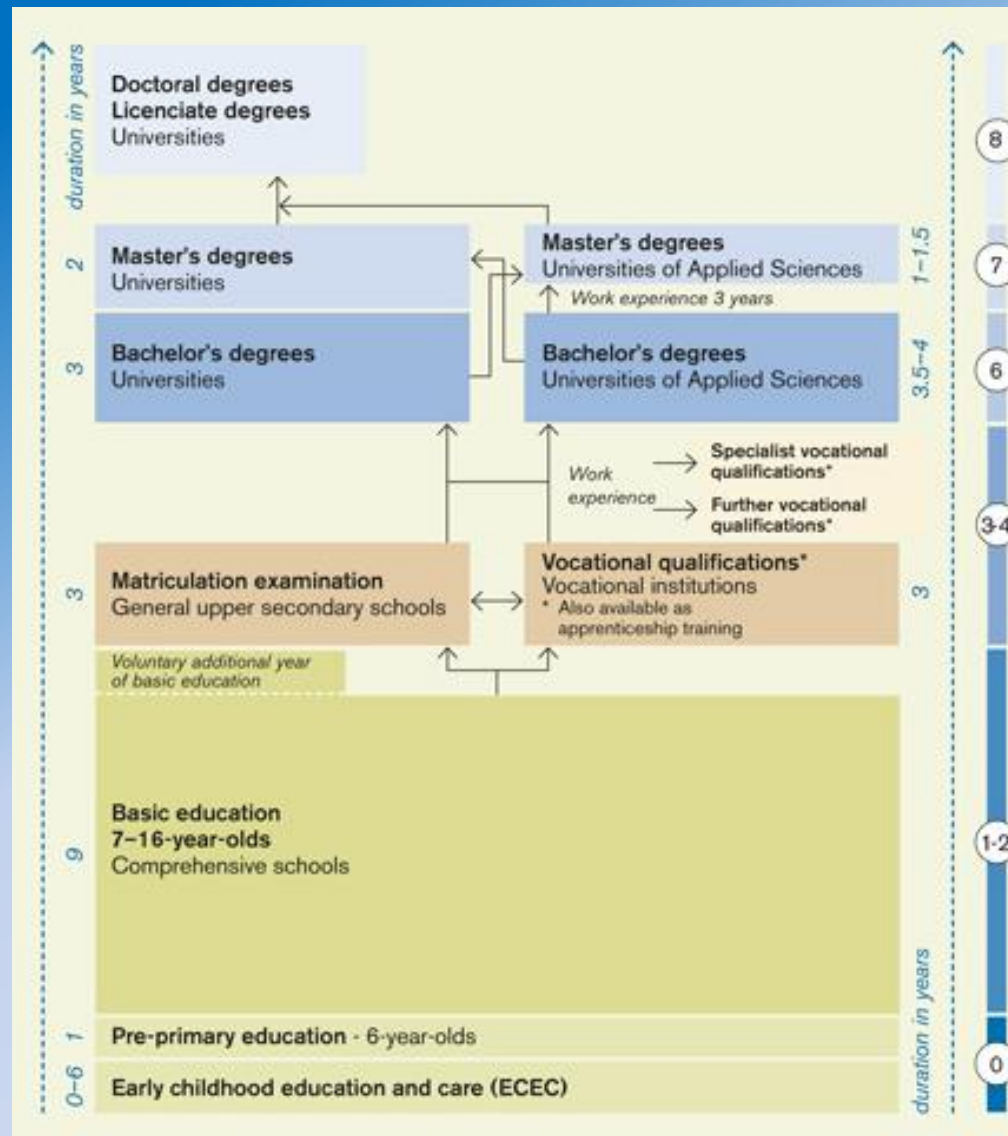
Luxembourg

Romania

Slovakia

+ Finland

Education System in Finland



This is Education in Finland

Equality in education “full service-schools”

- No school fees
- Free school transport
- Free school material
- Free hot school meal since 1948
- Health and dental services
- Psychological counselling
- Inclusion
- Religion with respect to family values
- 20 universities
- 28 polytechnics

Corner Stones in Finnish Education System:

Promoting democratic values and practices

- Education is free at all levels (collecting of payments is not allowed).
- Equal opportunities for all the children for schooling
- Special needs education is generally provided in conjunction with mainstream education
- Efforts to support language minorities and migrants
- Life-long learning in focus
- Sharing, using, developing **existing best practices**
- National core curriculum leaves room for local variations

" Tell me and I'll forget;
Show me and I may remember;
Involve me and I'll understand. "

Chinese proverb



FINNISH NATIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Maximising potential: every child is unique



Global vs Finnish

Global Educational Reform Movement

COMPETITION

STANDARDISATION

TEST-BASED
ACCOUNTABILITY

CHOICE

HUMAN CAPITAL



The Finnish Way

COLLABORATION

PERSONALIZATION

TRUST-BASED
RESPONSIBILITY

EQUITY

PROFESSIONAL CAPITAL

Lessons from Finland

- More collaboration, less competition
- Prevention is cheaper than repair
- School readiness: “School ready for children, not children ready for school”.
- Enhanced equity improves quality.

Being a Teacher in Finland

- Teaching is very popular and highly valued.
- Teachers are autonomous professionals, respected for making a difference to young people's lives.
- Teachers get a great deal of freedom to meet students' needs: the national curriculum is very short and non-prescriptive.
- There is no supervising, but self assessment.
- There is no competition between teachers.

- Most teachers are required a master's degree.
- Teacher practise is included in teacher training.



- Salary is not the reason to become a teacher.

Teacher and principal salaries in Finland

(permanent contract, average gross salaries per month 2014)

kindergarten teacher	2,600 €
class teacher, primary education	3,500 €
subject teacher, lower secondary	3,900 €
subject teacher, general upper secondary	4,500 €
principal, lower secondary education	5,500 €
principal, general upper secondary	5,800 €

Average salary in the municipal sector in Finland 2014:
3,094 € (men 3,652 €, women 2,952 €)

Source: Statistics Finland

Statistics Finland



Teachers feel valued

- 90% are satisfied with their job.
- 70% would choose teaching again.
- 60% think that their work is valued in society.

Finland has a short school day rich with school-sponsored extracurriculars, because Finns believe important learning happens outside the classroom.

Less is More

- Late start (age 7) allows you to play longer.
- Short school term (max. 190 days) lets you learn also in nature.
- Short school days let you learn independently.
- Short hours (45 min.) let you play with school friends.
- There is a time limit after which there is no use to stay in the school any longer.
- Low stress culture.

- Finns have a deep respect for teachers and their academic accomplishments.
- Teachers in Finland teach 600 hours a year, spending the rest of time in professional development.
- 1/3 of working hours are non-permanent.

Mattlidens Gymnasium

<http://www.mattliden.fi/>



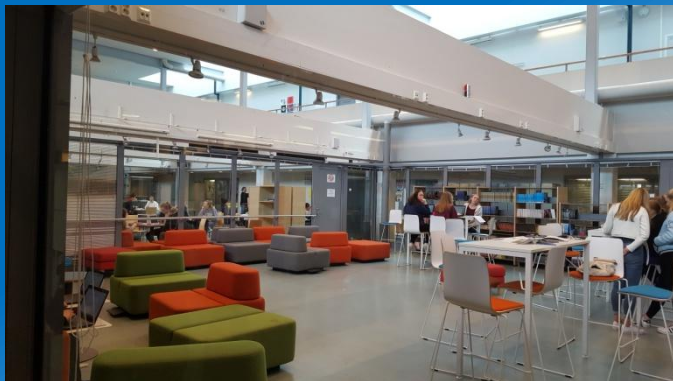
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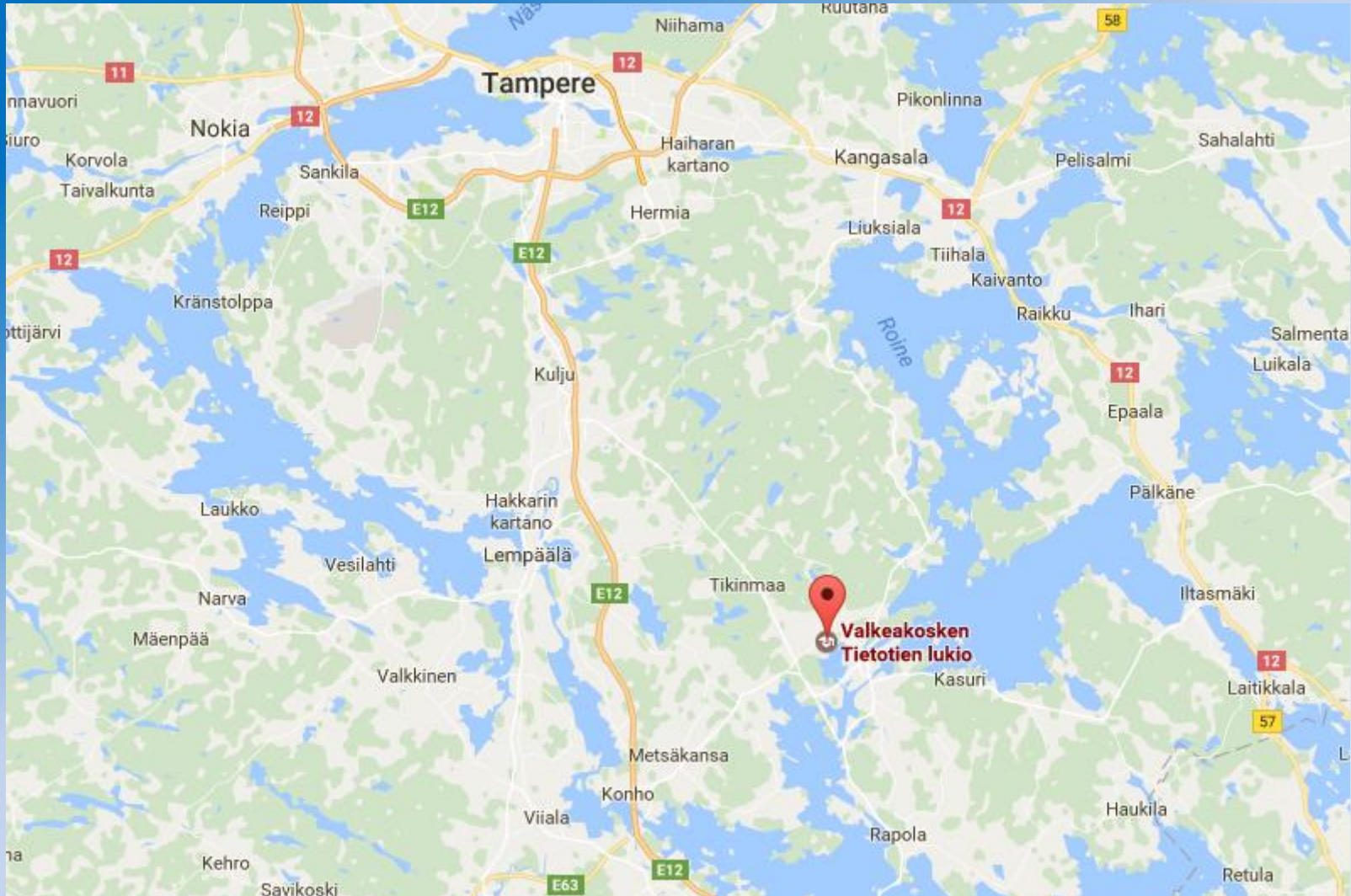
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Tietotien lukio

<http://www.valkeakoski.fi/portal/>



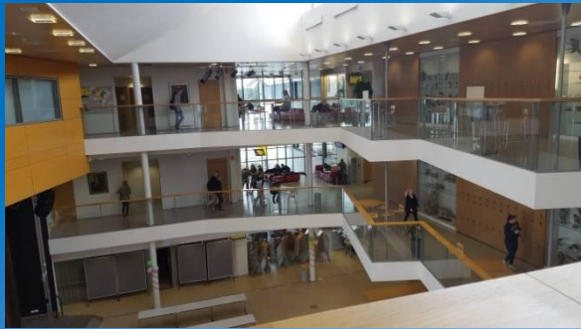
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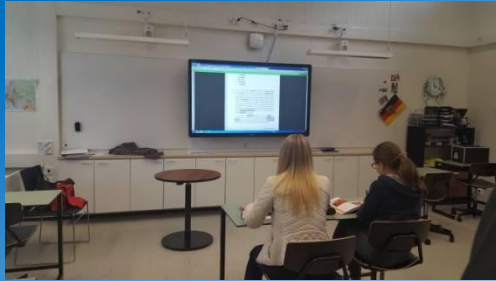
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Main Aspects Learned

- ❖ Trust in all directions
- ❖ Well-trained teachers
- ❖ Selection of teachers through interviews
- ❖ Tailor-made school facilities and furniture
- ❖ Welcoming school facilities due to the weather conditions
- ❖ Educators run the schools, not politicians
- ❖ “No child left behind”
- ❖ Relaxed school environment
- ❖ Teachers as learning facilitators
- ❖ Active role of students in school life
- ❖ Interrelated subjects
- ❖ “How can we work together to help children?”
- ❖ Hands-on approach
- ❖ Autonomous students
- ❖ Emphasis on practical skills
- ❖ Autonomous schools in many aspects
- ❖ School as a reflection of society