

KEYCOLAB

University of Turku

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Finland in a nutshell



- Population about 5,4 million
- Area 130 596 sq. (10% water)
- Finland is the eighth largest country in Europe and the most sparsely populated country in the EU
- Parliamentary Republic
- Capital city: Helsinki
- Official languages: Finnish (89,33%) and Swedish (5,34%) and recognised regional language Sami (0,03%)
- Religion: Lutheranism, Eastern Orthodoxy
- Independence: December 6th, 1917

EDUCATION IN FINLAND

Population of Finland	5.4 million
Foreigners	0.3 million

The need for workforce will be higher than the age group

- EU free movement

Population (2009)	With HE degree	With PhD
- of 25-64 year olds	22%	1%
- of 30 year olds	39%	0.6%

Good student potential

- Finland's PISA success each year among the top

Key issues in Finnish Education

- School network is regionally extensive
- Basic education, free of charge are e.g.
 - Instruction
 - School materials
 - School meals
 - Health care including dental care
 - Special needs education
 - Remedial teaching

Key issues in Finnish Education

- Finnish general age group size is about 60 000 children.
- Finland provides equal learning opportunities for all regardless of the child's
 - Gender
 - Socio-economic status
 - Linguistic or cultural background
 - Domicile

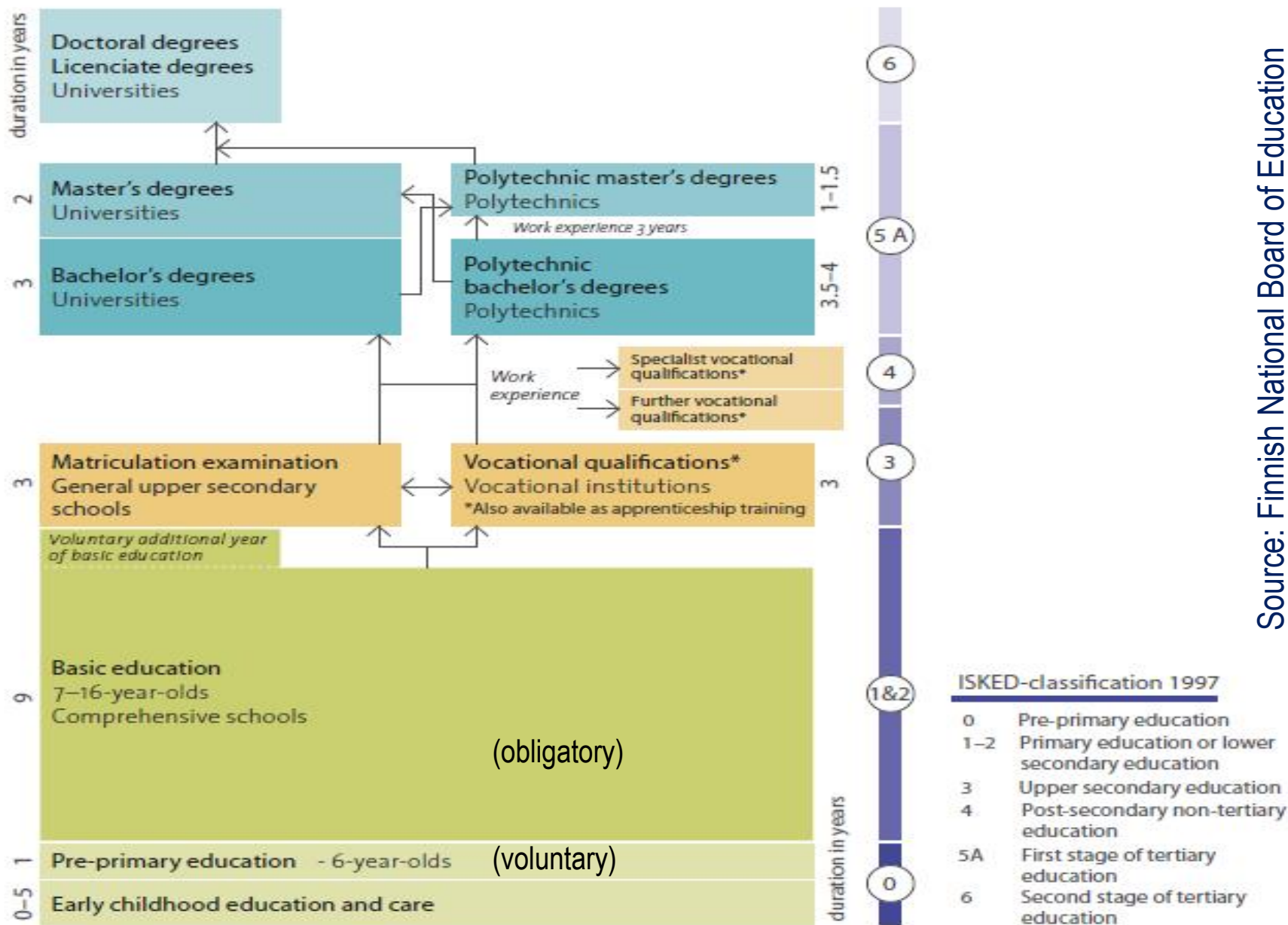
Key issues in Finnish Education

- Education system is flexible
 - There is no need to make binding decisions about the child's future at an early stage
- The gap between the top performing school and the lowest performing school is one of the narrowest in the world
- The road to tertiary education is untracked, there are no paths leading to dead-ends.
- Academically qualified professional teachers at all levels of education support and encourage pupils to succeed in school.

Key issues in Finnish Education

- There is no compulsory school attendance in Finland
- The guardian of a child of compulsory education age is responsible for ensuring that the pupil's compulsory education is completed
- Almost all children (99.7%) complete the basic education syllabus

Education system in Finland



Source: Finnish National Board of Education

The case of Finnish teacher education is unique in Europe

- In Finland in 1970's teacher education was transferred to universities and faculties of education were established
 - Kindergarten teachers programme (3 years)
 - Class teacher programme (5 years)
 - Subject teacher programme (6-7 years)
- Teacher's job is among the top three in Finland: doctors, lawyers and teachers.
- All qualified teachers hold a master's degree except kindergarten teachers with bachelor's degree.
- There is a strict student selection to get into the programmes e.g. in class teacher selection, only 5% of the applicants are admitted.



Basic education syllabus

- Following subjects form the basic education syllabus:
 - mother tongue and literature (Finnish or Swedish), the other official language,
 - one foreign language
 - environmental studies
 - health education
 - religion or ethics
 - history
 - social studies
 - mathematics
 - physics
 - chemistry
 - biology, geography
 - physical education
 - music, art and crafts
 - home economics
 - Guidance counselling must also be provided for students

Core Curriculum for basic education

- The national core curriculum provides rules on such issues as special needs education, student welfare, student evaluation, and co-operation between the home and school.
 - The current guidelines for the National core curriculum for basic education were issued in 2004.
 - The new core curriculum will come into force 1.8.2016.

General skills and competences (core Curriculum2016)

- 1. Thinking and learning to learn skills
- 2. Cultural skills - interaction and expression
- 3. Everyday skills and competencies – e.g. Well-being , health, social contacts, physical activities, safety issues, economic understanding
- 4. Multi literacy (“monilukutaito”) - interpreting, producing and evaluating different kind of texts and visualizations
- 5. Digital literacy (ICT skills)
- 6. Working life skills and entrepreneurship
- 7. Democratic skills, active participation in the society, sustainable development and future challenges



Changes in evaluation culture

- Learning goal is "pupils' self evaluation"
- Interaction between teacher and pupil (discussions)
- Process evaluation
- Between home and school
- Peer evaluation
- Formative assessment
- Qualitative feedback
- Summative assessment



University of Turku Faculty of Education



University of Turku

Faculty of Education

- Departments
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Teacher Education, units in Turku and in Rauma
- University Training Schools
 - Teacher Training School in Turku (primary, lower and upper secondary levels)
 - Teacher Training School in Rauma (primary and lower secondary levels)



University of Turku

Faculty of Education

Key figures:

- Established in 1974
- Functions on two campuses in Turku and in Rauma
- Over 2000 students:
 - 1800** BA & MA students
 - 200** PhD students
- 4736 applications and 257 study places in 2015 (5 %)
- 350 employees



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Faculty of Education

Common main research themes, e.g.

- Challenges of learning and education in the digitalized world
- Learning complex science
- Research-based Teacher Training

