



Finland

Population 5,5 million

Languages: Finnish 89%, Swedish 5,3% , Russian 1,3%

Sovereign parliamentary since 1917

Autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland 1809 – 1917

Eastern part of Swedish kingdom ca 1100 – 1809



Education in Finland

- teacher's profession - high esteem
- university master's degree -> qualified teachers, "scientists"
- autonomous teacher, chooses methods, learning materials etc
- no inspection – so far!
- municipalities are responsible to organize basic education
 - ➔ 95% of schools run by municipalities
 - ➔ 3,7% of schools run by independent schools
 - ➔ 1,3% of schools run e.G by the state, universities
- same legislation, same national core curriculum
- PISA?



Late 19th Century: Chartering private schools

- Finland was an autonomous grand duchy 1809-1917, part of imperial Russia
- Autonomy gave good opportunities to develop national institutions: legislation, currency, mail, and education
- Individuals established associations to maintain a school.
- Ideas of co-educational schools stranded from US



Independent Finland 1917: Education for everyone

- Secondary education run by state or private associations
- School network expanded; More schools established during 1920's – 1950's
- School reform late 1960's, early 1970's: Peruskoulu - Comprehensive school

Municipalities responsibility to arrange basic education:
school years 1 – 9



Independent school in Finland today

- a state subsidied school, run by a foundation or association
- operates usually as a part of a municipal school network
- usually owns the school premises
- promotes free school choice
- guarantees diversity in Finnish school system
- autonomous and efficient
- benefits from strong network of other independent schools



Education is not a business

- Permit to provide education is given by the government
- State subsidy is the main financial source
- Subsidy directly from the state (€ per capita)
- Subsidy covers all school functions – premises, education, school books and accessoires, meals, pupil welfare, etc.
- Schools do not carry any school fees
- Schools do not strive for profit



Association of Finnish Independent schools

- 54 member schools
- ca 22 000 pupils and students study in member schools
- ca 60% of the pupils and students study in a co-educational, general educational school
- 11% in schools of alternative pedagogy – Rudolf Steiner, Freinet
- 11% in upper secondary schools for adults
- 8% in language schools – english, german, jewish
- 8% in christian schools



Current issues

Student welfare, new curriculum, further training for teachers, further training for principals, school co-operation, interschool teacherrelations, IT in education,...