



# Finland – Inclusion in Education

Opening topics for working groups



# About Equality and Inclusion

- ▶ The basis of Finnish education is equality:
  - ▶ meaning the same educational opportunities for everyone, irrespective for example of their ethnic origin, wealth, gender or where they live.
- ▶ The ideology of special needs education is the philosophy of inclusion
- ▶ Nearly half of the pupils with special educational needs are integrated into mainstream education
- ▶ Also special groups in ordinary schools and special schools (in special schools less than 1 per cent of basic education pupils)



# Special Needs Education

- Education is organized in cooperation with the guardians
- The pupil or the guardian may not refuse to accept support prescribed in the Basic Education Act
- The three levels on support in the Basic Education Act:
  1. General support
  2. Intensified / enhanced support
  3. Special support
- Pupils are supported individually
- Earliest possible support, "step by step at three levels"



Pedagogical Examination  
+ Learning Plan

Special Support

Intensified /  
Enhanced Support

Pedagogical Assessment  
+ Learning Plan

General Support

The strongest possible support: the main purpose is to ensure with systematic help that pupils are able to complete compulsory education and are eligible for upper secondary education

A pupil who needs regular support measures or several forms of support at the same time is entitled to enhanced support

Everyone is entitled to general support, meaning high-quality education, guidance and support.



# Financing of the special education system

- ▶ Education is free at all levels
- ▶ System of funding is based on the principle of lump-sum per pupil from the state
- ▶ No extra subsidy for special education in mainstream schools