THE FINNISH UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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THE STRUCTURE OF THE UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- a three-year syllabus
- 18 obligatory subjects
- 2/3 (50) obligatory courses
- nongraded system
MULTILAYERED STEERING OF EDUCATION

- parliament – General Upper Secondary Schools Act: subjects and study modules; some subjects and study modules; other regulations
- government – aims and distribution of lesson hours
- Finnish National Board of Education – the national curriculum
- (local authority as education provider – political and administrative steering)
- education provider – curriculum
- schools - implementation
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

- national final examination
- minimum of four exams, often additional exams
- subject based
THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REFORM UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

WHY?
PROBLEMS OF UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

• less attractive
• the number of graduations has diminished
• upper secondary education has to meet with versatile needs
• less foreign languages
• less mathematics
• transition to next level takes more time
• courses are fragmented, each course consists of 38 lessons
• students get exhausted
UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION REFORM

aims of the reform

• to add attractiveness
• to add studying of mathematics and languages and deepen their knowledge
• to decrease fragmentation, add cross-curricular studies, larger entities
• to decrease students’ exhaustion
• to accelerate transition to the next level

means (November 2017)

• General Upper Secondary Schools Act will be reformed
• subjects into study modules (e.g. science subjects, humanistic and social subjects, languages, mother tongue, arts and physical education
• division of subjects into courses vanishes
• cross-cultural study units
• essential: who decides the formation of study units? Finnish National Board of Education >> education providers locally
SCHEDULE OF THE REFORM

- the project 2017 07 01 – 2018 12 31; preparing regulation
- writing a new national curriculum will start in autumn 2018
- introduction of new curricula 2020 08 01