



GET TO KNOW FINLAND

Friday 12.2.
10.15-11.45



FINNISH SOCIETY AND EDUCATION

- 1) Finland – a (happy) welfare system
- 2) Finnish education

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Presentations next week – choose and write your topic in “Assignment 1: presentation” in the course page, if you haven’t yet!

Assignment 2: city tour is due 19.2.

Assignment 3: cultural journal is due 26.2.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me. 😊

Finland - A welfare system

"In Finland, the social security system aims to safeguard sufficient economic security in all life situations." (*Kela.fi*)

FINLAND: THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

Video: *Is Finland really the happiest country in the world?*

According to the two videos (How to measure happiness and this one), discuss:

What makes a happy country?

What seem to be the key elements of happiness?

Then share your findings about overall prosperity and compare you country to Finland. What did you find out?

FINLAND: THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

United Nations World Happiness Report 2020: Finland is the happiest country in the world for the 3rd year in a row

Happy or just content?

Trust in society: social trust, trust in the government

Welfare system

Safe environments

Healthy life

FINLAND: THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

Finnish institute for health and welfare (Sep 5, 2018): “Alcohol consumption in Finland has decreased, but over half a million are still at risk from excessive drinking.”

Suicide rates by country 2019: Finland 23rd in the listing

FINNISH EDUCATION, PART 1

Video: ABC News (Australia): Why Finland's schools outperform most others across the developed world



FINNISH EDUCATION

According to the UNIFEC Office of Research (2016), Finland is the 2nd fairest country to children

Education is free from pre-primary to higher education

Teacher education: all teachers hold a Master's degree (except for Early childhood teachers to whom a Bachelor's degree is sufficient)

Teacher education is competitive: Last year (2020) appr. 8 % of the applicants were accepted into the teacher education at the University of Helsinki

OECD: PISA (PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT IN READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE)

Finnish children performed 7th best in the latest Pisa study (2018)

Results have however lowered in natural sciences as well as in mathematics throughout the 21st century

Finnish children's literacy is among the best in the OECD countries, but differences in literacy skills between boys and girls is growing

Finnish children are both knowledgeable and **happy** according to the latest study (which is rare compared to other OECD countries)

→ "There is more to life than school" (*Non scholae sed vitae discimus*)

FINNISH EDUCATION

Video: What can we learn from Finnish education system?

→ At the heart of the Finnish education system is equal opportunities for all

EXTENSION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Compulsory education is extended starting in August 2021 – meaning that the minimum school leaving age is then 18

The aim is that all students gain upper secondary qualification

In addition to already free teaching and school meals, study materials (such as books) will be free of charge as well

LET'S DISCUSS!

Discuss:

See the PDF file “About Finnish education system” and compare the Finnish education system to the one in your home country. Concentrate on the topics that interest you the most!

Also discuss:

How much homework do you have – for how long do students do their homework after school?

How long are the school days?

Do students take standardized tests? At what point?

Do you have private schools?

Do parents look for the “best school” for their children?

PRE-TASKS FOR LESSON 5

1) Presentations

40 minutes in groups of 4 → 10 min per presentation

You can use slides, pictures etc. Make it interesting and relatable to your audience!

2) Finland Toolbox: Creative Finland. Skim through the **brochure on creative industries in Finland**. Concentrate on what interests you the most and take a few notes:

What did you find especially interesting? Why?

What kind of an image does it give of creative industries in Finland?

What is your relationship to different forms of art?