



# WELCOME TO HELSINKI!

Helsinki visit 15 – 19.11.2021, day 1

Finland meeting 15.11.2021, for project 2020-1-RO01-KA201-080061 Erasmus+ O-Ed!  
Equalizing the chances of success in life of pre-university students through a Quality digital education  
Authors: Bianca Biro, Mihaela Nyssönen, Alexandra Vorobjeff



# #HelsinkiLearns





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IN FINLAND

PROJECTS  
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# **Programme of the week**

## **15.11.2021 – 19.11.2021**



# Programme of the week in Helsinki

## Monday Valo 15.11

**9.00 – 10.00**

Welcome event, Valo

**10.00–10.50**

### Training session

Myths and Realities  
in Finnish education

**11.00–11.50**

### Training session

Finnish curriculum and  
new pedagogy

**12.00 – 13.00** Lunch Valo

**14.30–19.00**

Opinmäki school visit

## Tuesday Oodi 16.11

**9.00 – 10.00**

### Workshop session

Guide for Modern  
Pedagogy review

**10.00 – 11.00**

### Oodi Library visit

**11.00 – 12.00**

### Workshop session

Learning by doing

**12.00 – 13.00** Lunch Oodi

**14.00–15.00**

Romanian Embassy visit

**15.30–17.00**

Rock Church visit

## Wednesday Valo 17.11

**9.00 – 10.20**

### Workshop session part 1

Digital literacy tests  
creation

**10.30 – 11.50**

### Workshop session part 2

Digital literacy tests  
creation

**12:00 – 13:00** Lunch Valo

**13.30–16.00**

Helsinki City Center and  
City Museum

One small group:  
kindergarten visit

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# Programme of the week in Helsinki

## Thursday Oodi 18.11

**10.00 – 11.00**

Christmas is coming...

**11.00 – 12.00**

### Workshop session

Digital literacy tests

**12.00 – 13.00** Lunch City Hall

**14.00 – 16.00**

Digital material publisher  
Otava visit

Digital authoring  
publisher Cloubi visit

**19.00 – 21.00 Dinner**

## Friday Oodi 19.11

**9.00 – 11.30**

### Workshop session

Digital literacy tests

Visit wrap-up

**12.00 – 13.00** Lunch Factory

**13.30–15.00**

ELLI Early Learning shop,  
educational materials

**15.00–17.00**

Kalasatama and  
Korkeasaari visit

## Saturday 20.11

**Free time**

Check suggestions sent  
by Alexandra



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# Today's agenda, Monday 15.11.2021

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>9.00 – 10.00</b>  | Welcome event in Valo   |
| <b>10.00–10.50</b>   | <b>Training session</b><br>Myths and Realities in Finnish education |
| <b>11.00–11.50</b>   | <b>Training session</b><br>Finnish curriculum and new pedagogy      |
| <b>12.00 – 13.00</b> | Lunch in Valo   |
| <b>14.00–15.00</b>   | Small walk to center  |
| <b>16.00–19.00</b>   | <b>Opinmäki school visit</b>  |



# Let's get to know each other...

Switch your place next to someone  
you do not know very well.

**Next...**

At your table, your group needs to find 3 things  
you all have in common. Write them down on  
your paper and present them to the others.  
**(5 minutes)**





# Warm-up exercise...

1. What do you know about Finland?
2. What do you know about Finnish education?
3. What do you want to learn this week?

**( 5 minutes, write or draw... )**



# Myths and realities in Finnish education

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**“Each pupil is unique and valuable just as he or she is. Each pupil has the right to **grow into his or her full potential** as a human being and a **member of the society.**”**

**(Finnish National Core Curriculum  
for Basic Education, 2014, 15)**

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# Myth #1

**In Finland  
students do not  
have homework.**

# Reality #1

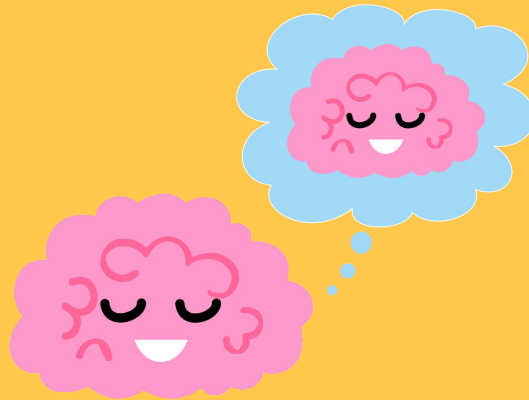
**In Finland  
students do have  
homework.**

**10 minutes in 1st grade  
20 minutes in 2nd grade  
60 minutes in 6th grade**





**International studies  
show that there is no connection between  
the volume of homework and the learning  
outcomes. Finnish education emphasizes the  
development of the competence  
to learn how to learn.**





## Myth #2

**In Finland  
students no longer  
learn to write by  
hand.**

## Reality #2

**The latest curriculum was  
launched in August 2016. In  
Finland, students continue  
to write by hand, but  
learning to type and the use  
of technology learning  
objectives starting with 1st  
grade.**



**Digital skills are important in themselves, but also as a part of the multiple literacy competence. In Finland, digital skills are a goal and a learning tool.**





## **Myth #3**

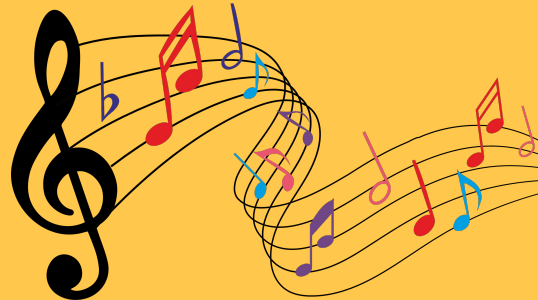
**In Finland there  
are no  
school subjects.**

## **Reality #3**

**In Finland, students  
continue to study by  
subjects, but the new  
curriculum requires each  
school to introduce at least  
one week of  
transdisciplinary study per  
school year.**



**A study by the Finnish Confederation of Industries, shows that in the future, the work will resemble a jazz improvisation, in which each member completes the group with his own strengths; each member has an own voice but retains an individual note.**







## **Myth #4**

**In Finland there  
are no private  
schools.**

## **Reality #4**

**The collection of fees in  
elementary education in  
Finland is prohibited. Only a  
small percentage of  
schools are private, they  
are funded by the state.  
Equity in education is  
essential.**



**Education in Finland is based on equal opportunities, regardless of the social environment from which the children come. The nearest school from home is always the best school. 42% of students live less than a kilometer away from school, and 90% of students live less than 5 km away.**





## **Myth #5**

**In Finland  
textbooks are no  
longer used.**

## **Reality #5**

**Finnish teachers have the highest level of training in the world (master's degree is mandatory). They have total autonomy in choosing the teaching material, the way they teach and evaluate their students.**



**The double role of the teacher is to pass on the knowledge and skills defined by the curriculum and at the same time to be an agent of change through innovative methods of pedagogy, leadership and co-creation.**





## **Myth #6**

**In Finland there are no tests.**

## **Reality #6**

**There are no standardized tests that are of major importance except at the end of the upper secondary cycle (Baccalaureate) and at the entrance to the faculty. Instead, each teacher chooses how to evaluate their students.**





**Assessment in Finland is summative and formative through classroom tests, projects, portfolios, digital projects, discussions with parents, self-assessments. It is a tool for developing the student's knowledge and skills.**





## Myth #7

**PISA results are declining due to major changes in education.**

## Reality #7

**Finland's ranking in PISA 2018 is not necessarily statistically relevant, but it indicates what educational policies need to be corrected: the major difference between girls and boys in literacy. The boys don't read!**



**In the PISA 2018 tests, Finland was the only country in the world that had a high score both in terms of literacy and students' satisfaction with school life.**





# **Finnish curriculum and modern pedagogy**

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**Finland implements educational reform every ten years through its national curriculum. Education reforms since 1990 focused mainly on promoting teacher autonomy and student-centred approach at all education levels.**



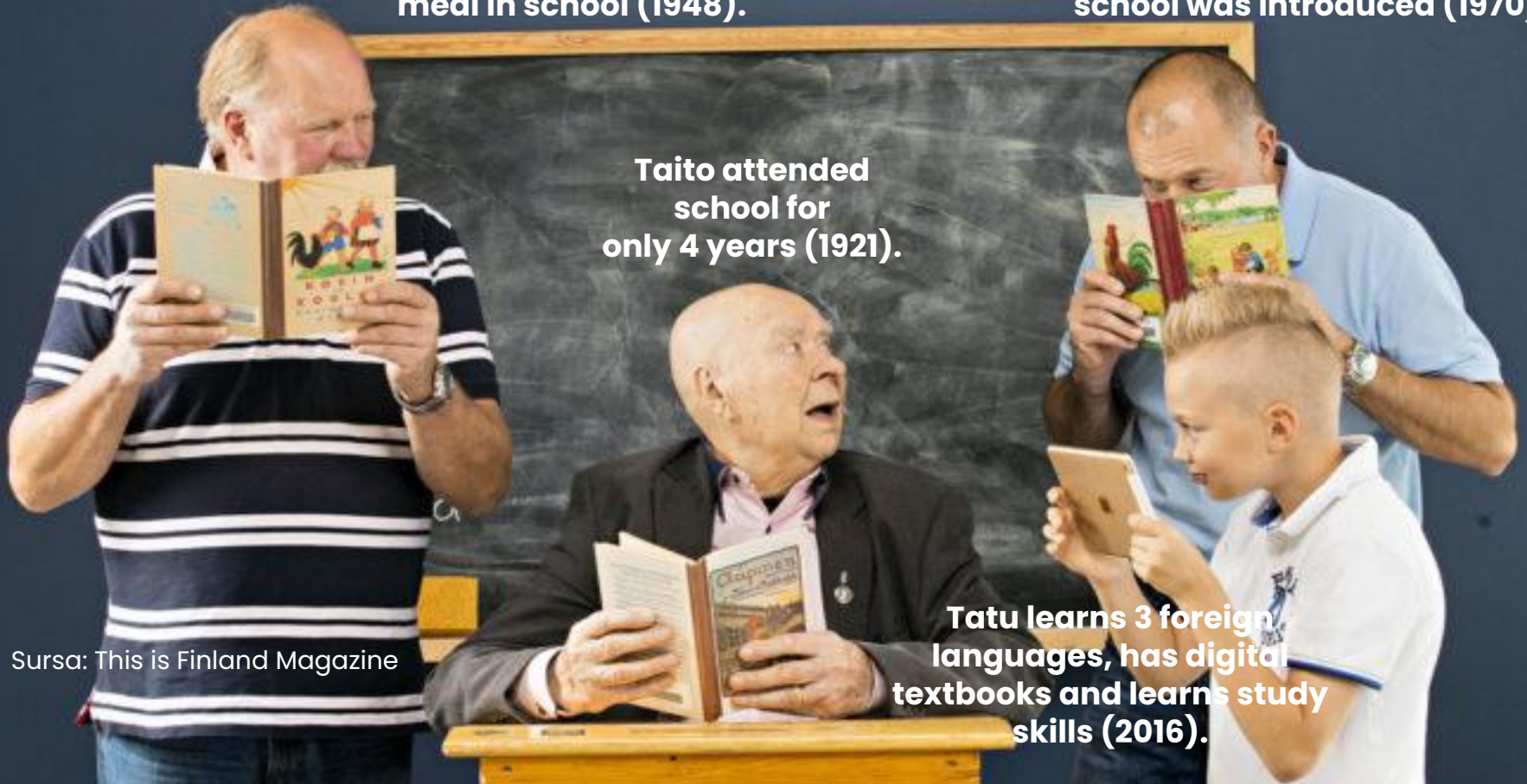
**Jarmo is part of the school generation that received a free warm meal in school (1948).**

**Jari started school when the nine-year compulsory comprehensive school was introduced (1970).**

**Taito attended school for only 4 years (1921).**

**Tatu learns 3 foreign languages, has digital textbooks and learns study skills (2016).**

Sursa: This is Finland Magazine





# Finnish curriculum in basic education

## NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM

- Distribution of lesson hours (by The Government)
- Objectives and core contents of each subject, learning environment
- Principles for guidance, support, special-needs education, pupil welfare, educational guidance, differentiation and assessment

## LOCAL (CITY) CURRICULUM

- What is emphasized locally? How is it done?

## SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- How do WE get there? Annual plan for the upcoming school year

## TEACHERS

- Autonomy to choose how they teach and the material they use



# Finnish curriculum reform 2016

- **Student-centered pedagogy:** connecting learning to the personal experiences of learners and their prior knowledge
- **Phenomenal and project-based methods,** connecting learning to the current realities of the world and its history, adapting teaching to the group and the personal needs of the group and the learners.
- **Extending learning outside the classroom:** learning and solving problems in authentic contexts, collaboration with experts in specific fields and the surrounding community
- **Use of new technologies in teaching and learning:** using different devices, programs, apps and social media.
- **Cooperative ways of working of teachers:** use of pedagogical teams, peer coaching, mentoring, teacher-training.

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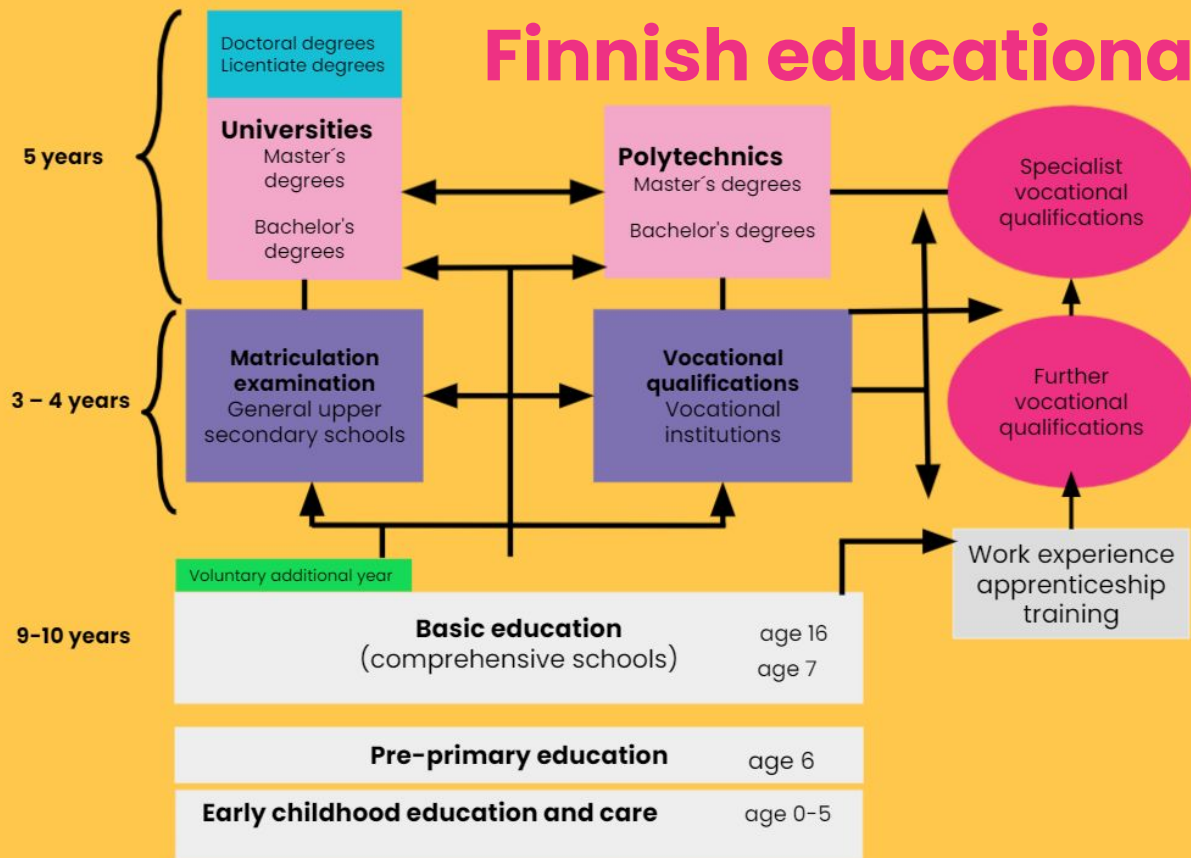
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# Finnish education and Pisa



# Finnish educational system



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# What is PISA measuring?

**PISA** – The Programme for International Student Assessment, developed by the Organization for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OECD) Is an international comparative assessment.

PISA measures **the development of basic competences of 15 year olds**, in three areas: **reading, mathematics and science**. Since 2018, 2 new optional areas have been added: **financial literacy** and **global competence**

The assessment is not only focused on content, but also competences.

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# What is Finland using the results for?

- The results are analyzed by Finnish researchers at a deeper level to identify statistical links among the variables to draw more relevant conclusions
- The results are used by policy makers to make decisions regarding the future of education
- Looking at the big picture

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# PISA results FINLAND

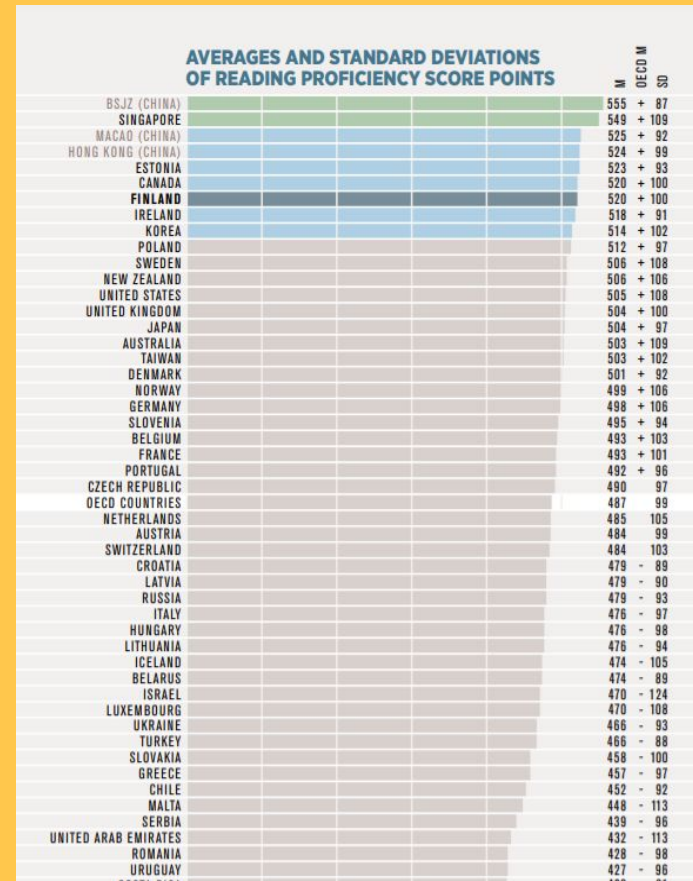
## (trends)

	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Financial literacy
2000	I	IV	III	-
2003	I	I	I	-
2006	II	I	I	-
2009	II	II	I	-
2012	III	VI	II	-
2015	II	VII	III	-
2018	I - V	VII - XIII	III - V	II-III



## Reading proficiency 2018 results

- **Finland still at the the top, despite drop in the results**
- **OECD mean has dropped as well**
- **The difference between Finland and above ranked countries was not statistically significant**
- **Wider disparities among students of the same school in 2018, low disparity among schools (7%)**
- **Difference in scoring among boys and girls**



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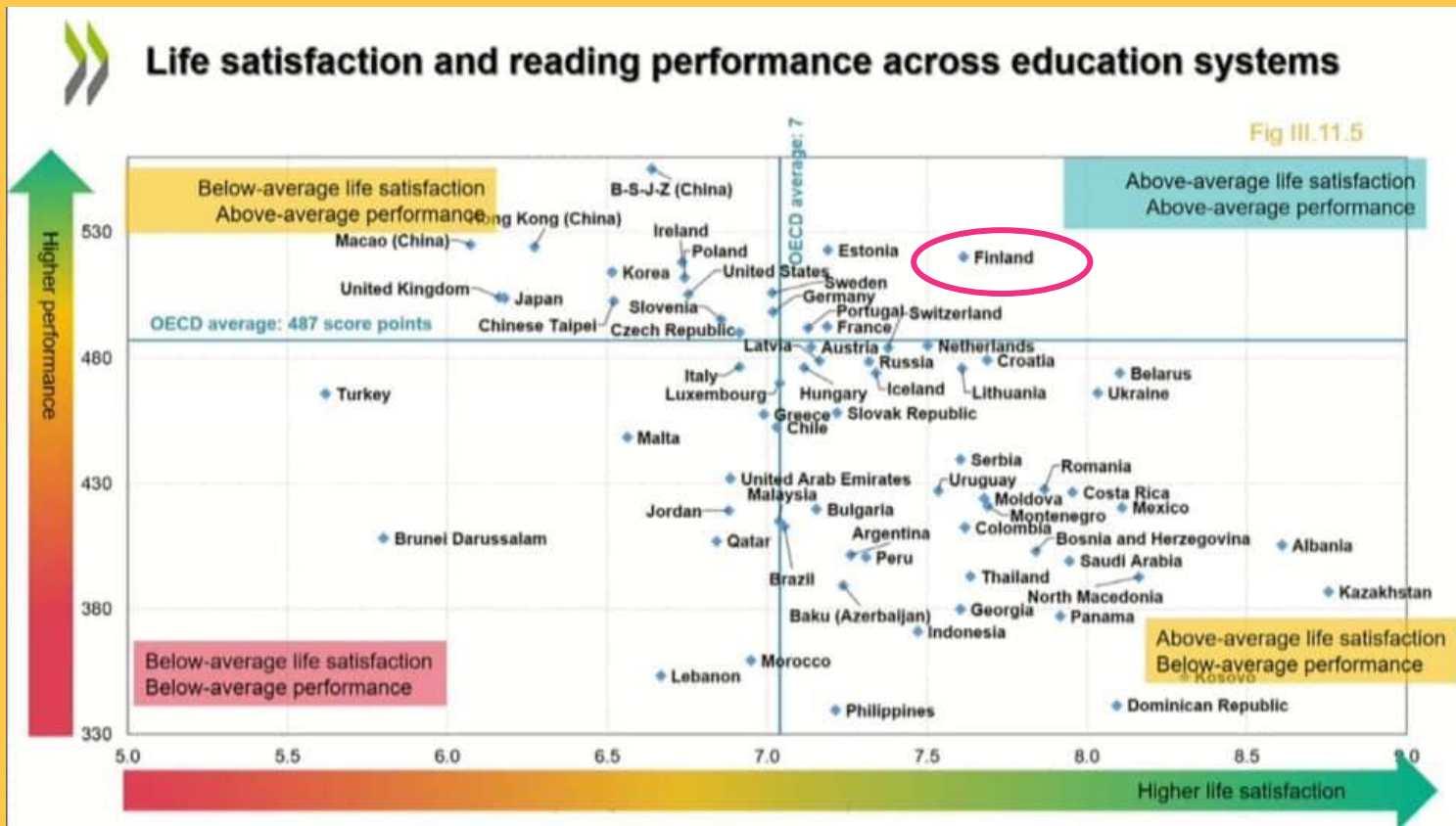
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**In PISA tests 2018,  
Finland was the only country who  
scored high at the level of reading  
literacy and life satisfaction**





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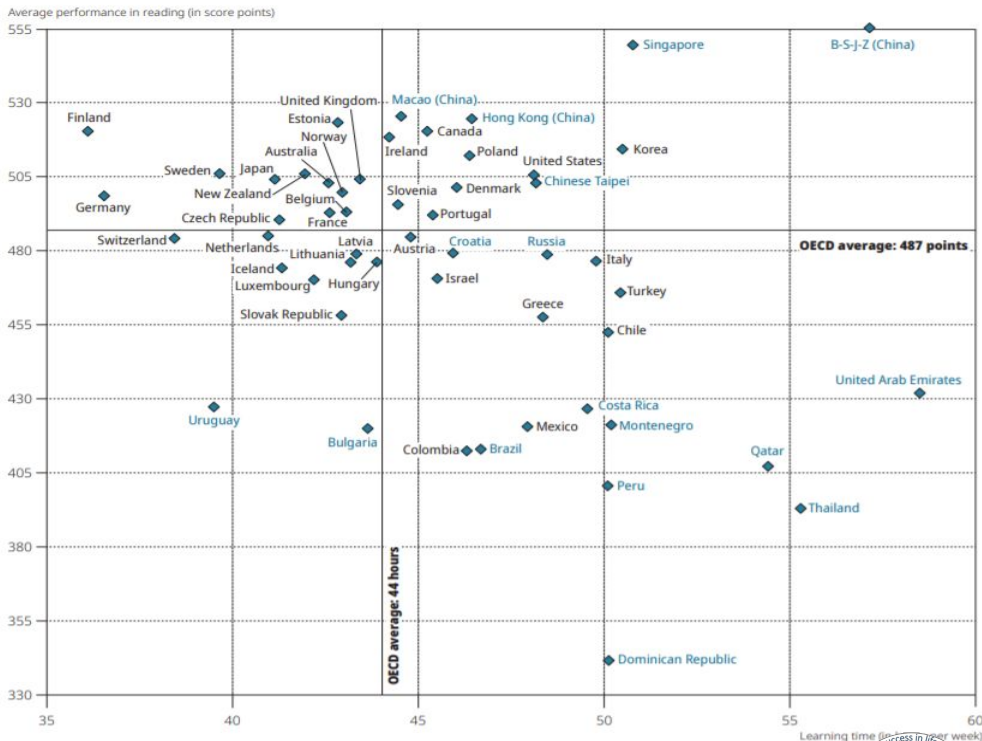
# Reading performance and total learning time per week

**Total learning time per week refers to:**

- Time spent in school
- Time spent outside school (homework)
- Finland scores lowest at both
- Homework time increases with age in Finland (max 10 min in the first grade)

PISA 2018: Insights and Interpretations

Figure 10 • Reading performance and total learning time per week



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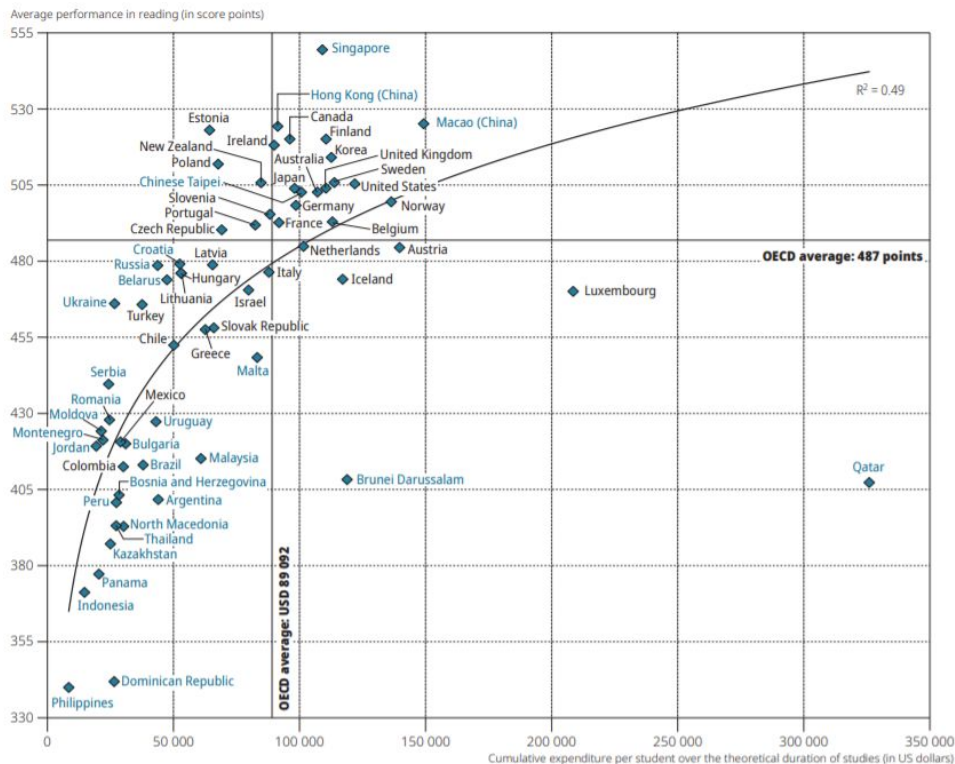


## Reading performance and spending on education

### Spending refers to:

- Material resources
- Staff resources
- Aligning the resources according to the needs of the students and schools-> equity
- Ratio between highly qualified/highly experienced teachers and the school in disadvantaged areas (Singapore is a leader)

Figure 9 • Reading performance and spending on education



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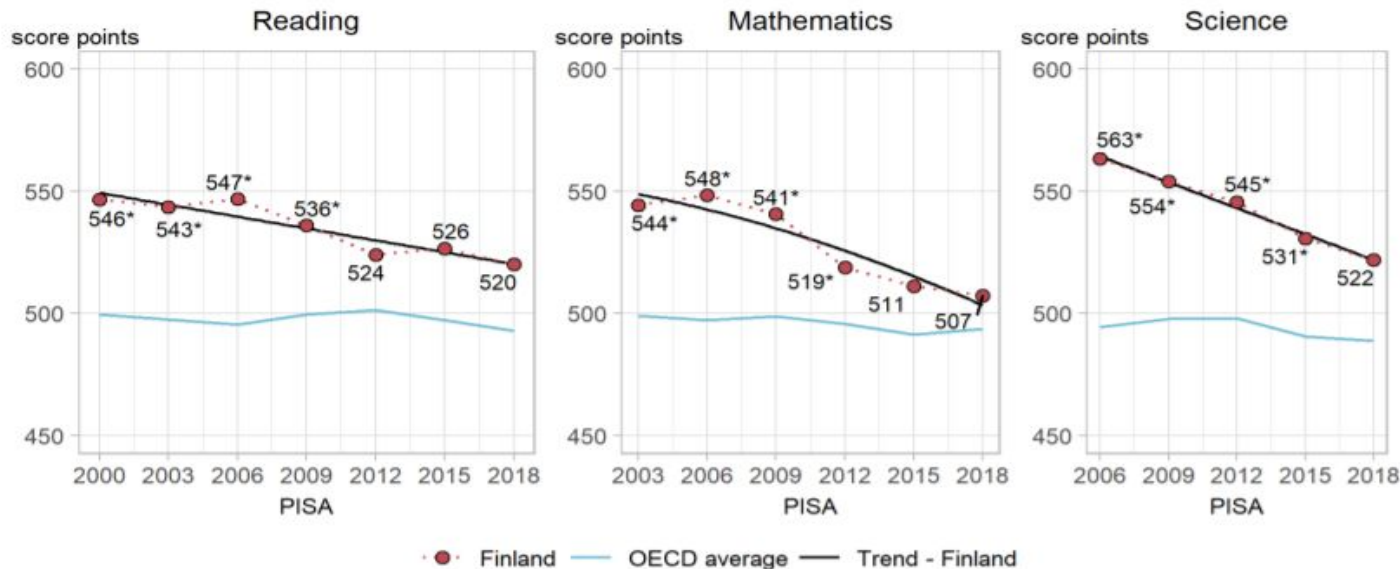


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Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science



Notes: \* indicates mean-performance estimates that are statistically significantly above or below PISA 2018 estimates for Finland. The blue line indicates the average mean performance across OECD countries with valid data in all PISA assessments. The red dotted line indicates mean performance in Finland. The black line represents a trend line for Finland (line of best fit).  
Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Tables I. B1.10, I. B1.11 and I. B1.12.

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# PISA overview

- **While decline in ranking had been trending, Finland keeps its place among the top of PISA**
- **No major measures have been taken in Finland due to these results**
- **The gender gap in scores as well as differences among Finnish students and students with immigrant background are the results that sparked most discussions in Finland**
- **The correlation between reading proficiency and life satisfaction is the highest in the world**
- **Financial literacy ranking 2-3 in the world**



# National Evaluation in Finland

- **In Finland there are**
  - **no national tests in compulsory education**
  - **no school ranking**
  - **no inspection systems**
  - **no teacher evaluation**
- **Matriculation examination is done at the end of Upper secondary school (high school) and consists of 4 tests**
- **Assessment of education is focused on quality enhancement (QE)**
- **Sample based assessment done by the Finnish National Evaluation Center**
- **International measurements (PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS, PIAAC)**

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# Presentation sources

- **\*The OECD: Teaching and Learning: International Survey TALIS 2018.**
- **\*\*Teachers and Principals in Finland 2019 –survey.**
- **\*\*\*Vipunen – Education Statistics Finland.**
- **Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Results from PISA 2018, available at:**  
<https://minedu.fi/en/pisa-20181>
- **OECD, Results from PISA 2018, Finland, available at:**  
[https://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/PISA2018\\_CN\\_FIN.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/PISA2018_CN_FIN.pdf)
- **Schleicher, A., PISA 2018 Insights and Interpretations, OECD, available at:**  
<https://www.oecd.org/pisa/PISA%202018%20Insights%20and%20Interpretations%20FINAL%20PDF.pdf>
- <https://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi/en/matriculation-examination/the-examination/structure-of-the-examination>

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