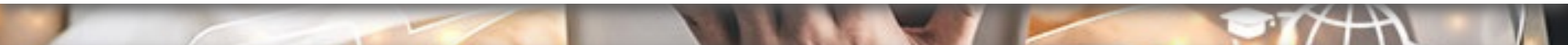




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Finnish Basic Education

Basic Education in a Nutshell

Simo Pokki

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FINLAND IN FACTS

5.5 million



(1.5 million inhabitants in Helsinki metropolitan area)

Life expectancy



78



84

Official languages are **FINNISH**...
(spoken by 87.9%)

...and **SWEDISH**
(spoken by 5.2%)

SÁMI is the mother tongue of about 1,900 people.



Christianity;
70.9% **LUTHERAN**
and about
1.1% **ORTHODOX**



GDP per capita (2019)

43,485 €

Currency unit:
EURO

REPUBLIC, parliamentary democracy;
200-member, unicameral parliament

Independence Day
DECEMBER 6

1917



1995



1955



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INTRODUCTION TO FINNISH BASIC EDUCATION

This presentation is focused on primary education (grades 1-6)

Themes:

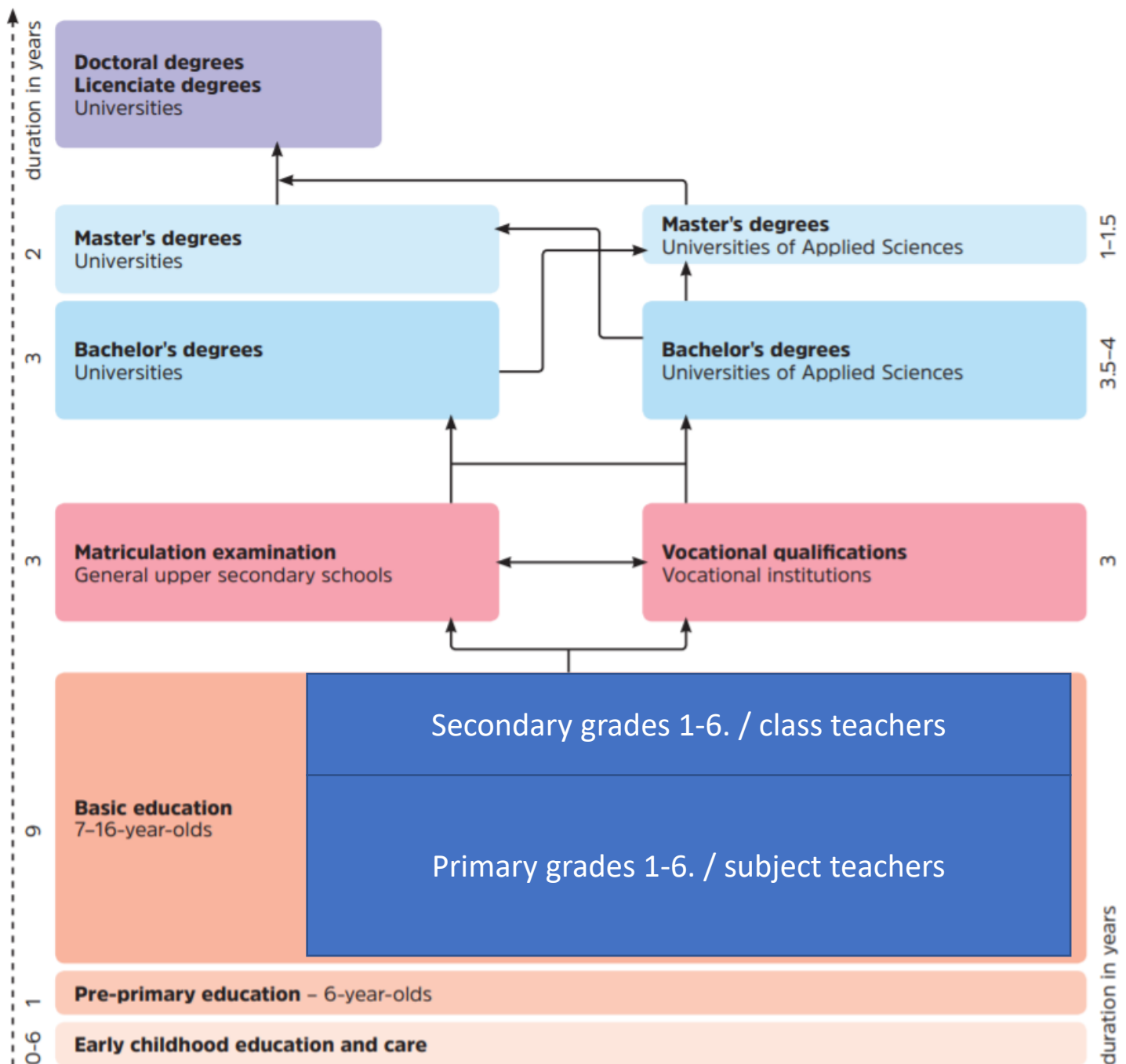
- Joy of learning
- The universal system of finnish basic education
- Curriculum as the foundation
- Finnish teachers - highly trusted and qualified





Joy of learning – The success story

- Free education, no payments
- Children are allowed to be children for as long as possible
- Joy of learning = play-based learning
- Same educational opportunities are available for all children
- Equity is core value
- Free school lunch
- Near-by-school – parents want to get their child to the nearest school
- Homogenic quality – all schools are excellent
- Encouraging assessment – no pupil level data collected
- Support for pupils with special needs



Education system

- Educational system has no dead ends
- Mandatory now from 6 to 16 years, in the near future to 18 years
- Vocational path 50 % of an age group (age 16)



Finnish teachers

- Highly qualified, valued, satisfied
- Every teacher has a master's degree in education / training schools
- In primary school they work normally with 24 pupils
- Teacher works independently and has great pedagogical freedom inside the curriculum goals



CORE CURRICULUM

The national core goals are:

- 1) Growth as a human being and membership in society
- 2) Requisite knowledge and skills
- 3) Promotion of knowledge and ability, equality and lifelong learning

In education high-quality learning and pupils' wellbeing are bound together.



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TRANSVERSAL COMPETENCES



Enables
phenomenon
based learning

GRADES	1-2	3-6	7-9	TOTAL
Mother tongue & literature	14	18	10	42
Mathematics	6	15	11	32
A language (1 st foreign language)	—	9	7	16
B language (1 st foreign language)	—	2	4	6
Environment and science	14		17	31
History & civics	5		7	12
Arts, crafts & sports				62
¹ Total annual no of lessons x 38	Total min			222

- The minimum time allocation per subject is stated by the government
- Exact and final decided locally by the boards of education in each municipality (city)
- For example mathematics on grades 1-2: 6 hours can be divided like 2+4 or 3+3 etc.
- On grades 1-2 pupils have normally 21 hours per week

National time allocation (sample)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8-9			PE	X RABBITS	X FOXES
9-10	religion / ethics	X FOXES	X	X RABBITS	X FOXES
10-11	X	X	X	X	X
11-12	X	X	X	X	X
12-13	PE	X RABBITS	(RE)	X FOXES	X RABBITS
13-14	(RE)			X FOXES	X RABBITS

- Weekly timetable is planned by the head teacher of each school together with class teachers (grades 1-6) and subject teachers (grades 7-9)
- School starts between 8 to 10 o'clock and day lasts from 3 to 6 hours on primary
- One class is divided into two smaller groups (rabbits and foxes)
- Class teacher teaches 24 hours per week
- Only PE and religion/ethics lessons are marked, otherwise the teacher can decide, when a specific subject is studied

A timetable example of a 1st grader

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8-9	Crafts (optional studies)				Crafts
9-10	English		Math	English	Crafts
10-11	Environmental studies	Math	Environmental studies	Religion	Finnish
11-12	Arts	Music	History	Environmental studies	Finnish
12-13	Math	History	Finnish	Finnish	Math
13-14	Physical education	Finnish	Crafts (optional studies)		Physical education

- On grades 3-6 there is more subject teachers, but class teachers take care of the most
- In this example 25 weekly hours
- Most pupil start English as the first foreign language (also possible German, Russian, French in some schools) on 2nd grade

A timetable example of a 5th grader



The core curriculum states: “Each pupil has the right to a good education and success in their studies. While learning, the pupils are building their identity, their understanding of humanity, worldview and philosophy of life and finding their place in their world. At the same time, they come to understand themselves, other people, the society, the environment and different cultures.”



Kiitos – Thank you!