



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
FINLAND

# EMN National seminar

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# Inclusion of migrant children in the Finnish education system

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# Some words about Finland

- A republic in North Europe
- History between Sweden and Russia, independent since 1917
- Official languages are Finnish and Swedish
- The only indigenous people in EU exists in Finland (Sapmi)
- Not wide immigration before 1990's

# Finnish Education System

- Early Childhood Education and care 1-6
- Pre-Primary Education 6
- Basic Education 7-15
- General Upper Secondary Education / Vocational Training 16-19
- Mandatory Education until 18
- Universities and Universities of Applied Science

# Early Childhood Education and care

# Early Childhood Education and Care

- Of Children aged 1-6 75% were in ECEC. Ten years before 62%
- Of Children aged 0-2 35% (30% in 2015)
- Of Children aged 3-5 87% (79% in 2015)
- 230 000 children in 2021
- 26 000 as other Language than Fi & SE
- National core curriculum for ECEC

# Early Childhood Education and Care

- Right to ECEC
- Good environment to learn Finnish or Swedish in interaction with another Children
- Increasing segregation challenges this assumption
- State need-based funding for municipalities
- No comprehensive Finnish/Swedish as second language "education"
- The fees have been reduced

# Basic Education





# Pre-Primary Education

- Pre-primary Education one year before Basic Education
- Free for all Children
- About 20 hours per week so many children are also in ECEC

# Preparatory Education for Basic Education

- Funding for one year / nine months
- To improve Finnish/Swedish and Studying Skills
- Integration to Basic Education
- Personal plan
- Different ways of local organising
- Flexibility

# Basic Education

- 624 000 pupils in Pre-Primary and Basic Education
- 521 000 Finnish
- 32 000 Swedish
- 70 000 Other languages
- Segregation / Need Based Funding

# Basic Education

- State Funding for additional instruction in Finnish or Swedish as Second language, other support, and the teaching of pupil's own language
- 43 000 pupils are in Finnish as Second language –syllabus
- 900 pupils are in Swedish as Second language –syllabus
- 534 000 pupils in Basic Education

**After Basic Education**



# After Basic Education

- Preparatory Education for Upper Secondary Education
- Basic Education for adults
- Liberal Adult Education

# Ukrainian Children and families



# Ukrainians

- Temporary protection
- After one year people with Temporary protection can apply to be added to the registers and get an official registered municipality where they live.
- Every child has right to pre-primary and Basic Education
- Children with registered municipality have full right to ECEC
- Others only if in need



# Challenges



# Preparatory Instruction

- Integration to Finnish/Swedish speaking children promotes integration and learning language
- Good co-operation between the teachers and school personnel, having enough resources and functioning procedures are important.
- Not having enough personnel and dealing with pupils individually is a problem.
- Some of the providers or education don't have knowledge about the funding of the preparatory instruction.

# Finnish/Swedish as second language

- The school personnel has acquirements to tackle the individual needs of the pupils.
- There needs to be more in-service training and resources.
- Some pupils/parents don't want a pupil to get Finnish/Swedish as second language –education.
- Some pupils might be in the education when they could be in Mother tongue instruction.
- Specific needs for pupils arriving in the secondary education age.

# The Governmental programme



# In general

- For adults migrating to Finland, more responsibilities in integration
- More language tests to get better social security and citizenship
- Possible preparatory education for two years
- Evaluation of Finnish/Swedish as second language education



# Thank you!

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