

# Finnish schools: Implementing safety culture

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# Safety pedagogics

Safety pedagogics should be considered as a dynamic, ongoing and sustainable process of acts rather than a stable condition of plans or programs.

Special focus should be in implementation.



# Finland has a strong tradition of target programs and strategies

For Instance:

- A pupil participating in education shall be entitled to a safe learning environment.” Read more of the Basic Education Act: <http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/1998/en19980628.pdf>
- The Target Programme for Prevention of Home and Leisure Accident Injuries 2014–2020
- Internal Security programs and strategy
- Local Safety Planning process

# The Developing Network of Safety Culture in Schools (OPTUKE)

- The point of view is **Safety pedagogics**
- The network was established 2010 to advance a wide, systematic and open safety culture in schools.
- Especially school, youth and fire authorities as well as social care workers, NGO's and researchers are welcome to join this open network.
- The strength of the network comes from it's multi-agency and multi science co-operation.

# The Developing Network of Safety Culture in Schools (OPTUKE)

- during the past few years the incidents of extreme violence, the increase of depression, bullying, loneliness and helplessness create situations where new, innovative safety procedures are needed.
- wants to support the process of making safety culture more visible from elementary school to university, so that everyone who works or studies may enjoy wellbeing and safety.
- develops and researches educational modules and develops a learning environment as well as organizes and co-ordinates its activities nationwide and internationally.

# The renewal process of National Core Curriculum

- Partnership-based and transparent planning process
- The core curriculum is outlined by multidisciplinary working groups supported by online consultation groups
- Education providers are asked to provide feedback; the National Board of Education website to have open consultations three times during the process
- Key stakeholders were providing their official opinions on the new national core curriculum

# The renewal of the national core curriculum for basic education (beginning autumn 2016)

## Broad-based competence

- Thinking and learning
- Cultural competence, interaction
- Looking after oneself, managing daily activities, safety
- ICT competence
- Competence required for working life and entrepreneurship
- Participation, empowerment and responsibility



# The Finnish teacher education in nutshell

- Teachers in Finland are highly trained.
- In general education all teachers are required a Master's degree (4–6 study years).
- Each year about 2000 teachers are graduated from the university (770 elementary teachers, 1100 subject teachers)
- The high level of training is seen necessary as teachers in Finland are very autonomous professionally. For instance there are no school inspections any more.



# The Finnish teacher education in nutshell

- The Finnish system is based on trust in teacher education.
- Teacher education offered at universities provides the teacher students with capabilities, skills and knowledge to guide the learning of students.
- The objective is to produce teachers with a research-orientation.

# University of Turku

- The second largest university in Finland
- Totally over 20,000 students are currently enrolled
- Main campus is in Turku, in Southwest Finland
- The university was established in 1920

## Teacher Education Unit in Rauma

- one of ten units in Finland
- Each year around 2000 teachers graduate from the university

# A study of the teacher education curricula

- Teacher job is very practical by it's nature, but the activity builds upon deeper understanding

Results:

- The expertise is shared – group work and social skills are needed

What was in the teacher education curricula?

- Focus on social skills, empowerment and co-operation
- Lack of other safety skills: first aid, traffic safety, fire safety

# The renewal of teacher education curricula in Turku university, Rauma unit

Also the curricula of the Teacher Education in Rauma unit are currently renewed.

The new teacher curriculum will contain safety and security issues divided in basic safety competence and school subject orientated safety as well as safety in practical training.

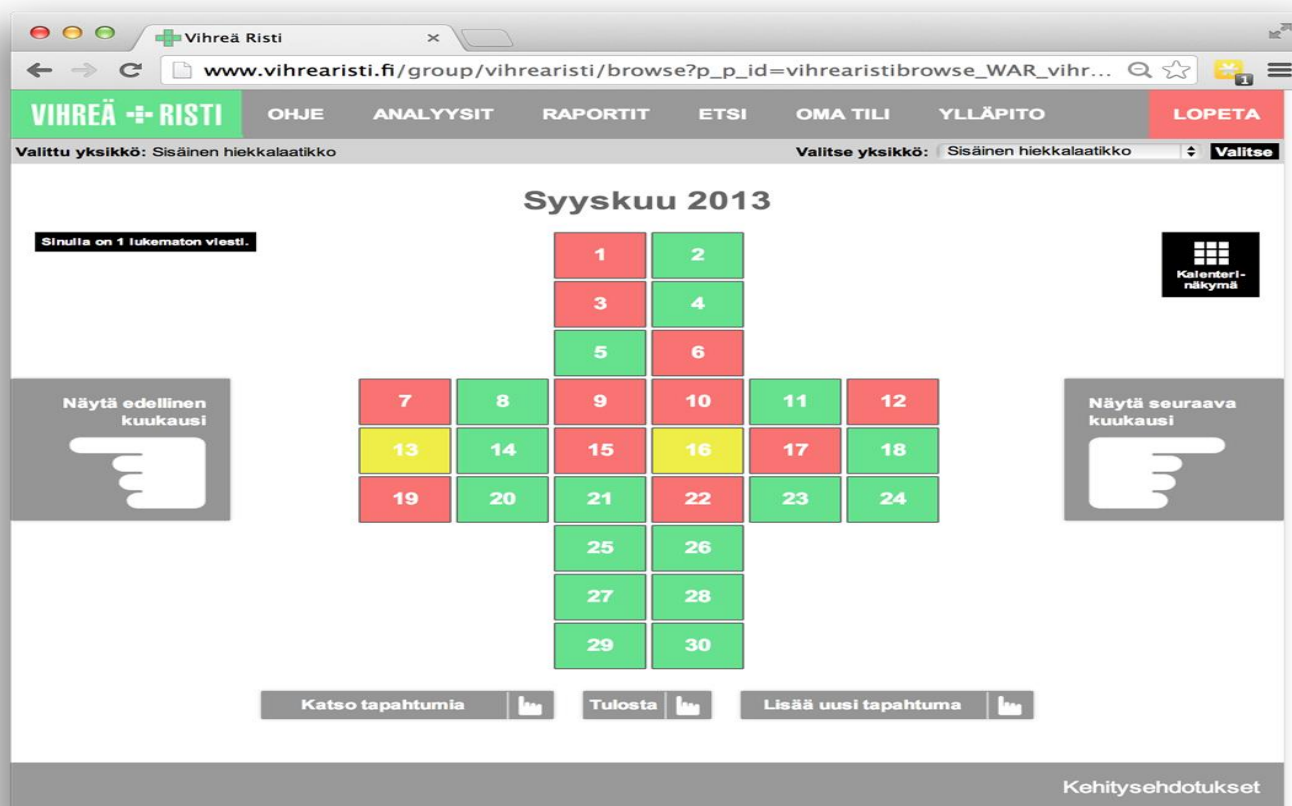


# The renewed teacher education curricula in Rauma unit

The new teacher curriculum includes safety and security issues:

- basic safety competence (safety walk)
- cross-curricular themes, one of them Safety and well-being
- school subject orientated safety (for instance crafts education → safe working environment)
- safety in practical studies, training

# Case: The Green Cross injury reporting tool for schools



- If you want to increase curiosity, allow questioning
- If you want to increase understanding, combine knowledge and skills from different subjects
- If you want to raise citizens who will develop society, promote participation and facilitate critical thinking
- If you want to strengthen learners' self-confidence, give constructive and honest feedback.
- Never humiliate or put down a learner!

