AGENDA

Regional peer-learning workshop on Teaching Excellence – Empowering Educators, 17–20 September 2024

HELSINKI, FINLAND

Background and Rationale

The regional peer-learning workshop on Teaching Excellence – Empowering Educators is jointly organised by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia and the European Training Foundation (ETF) under the EU-funded Regional Programme supporting Education Reforms & Skills in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region.

The peer-learning workshop will focus on sharing practices and experiences and discussing challenges on teachers and educators as key actors of education systems and reforms.

Logic and Content

The peer-learning event aims to:

- share and learn from good practices of Finland and Estonia in teacher education and professional development at all levels of education and teacher system management and policies;
- share experiences and discuss ongoing reform initiatives on teacher education and system management in the EaP countries;
- identify key take-aways for policy agenda and priorities on modernising the teaching profession and making it attractive and sustainable for education systems in the EaP countries

The peer-learning event will cover e.g. the following topics:

- **Governance, financing and legal framework**: including institutional setting and coordination for effective teacher management and policies;
- **Teaching profession**: including qualification requirements, teacher education, recruitment and pre-requisites for becoming an educator at different levels of education systems and attractiveness of profession;
- **Career paths and professional development of teachers**: including in-service training and professional development, various roles of teachers and mobility opportunities in profession and in education sector as a whole;
- **Pedagogical aspects and delivery of curriculum**: including autonomy of educators in classroom, digitalisation of teaching & learning process and assessment of students' learning outcomes and teachers' competences;
- **Vision:** including expectations of society vis-a-vis teachers and educators, their changing role in organising and managing a learning process in modern school as well as enabling factors and policies to support teaching profession in the future

Participants

Participants of the peer learning event include:

- representatives of the Ministries of Education, their agencies and institutions responsible for teacher management and policies as well as teacher education and professional development in Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova), the ETF programme team and the hosting organisations – Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland and Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia.

The working language of the event will be English.

The delegation will be joined for the visits by

- Mr Jouni Kangasniemi, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland: Jouni.kangasniemi@gov.fi, tel. +358 40 517 9222
- Ms Sessi Trapnowski, Secretary for International Relations, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland: sessi.trapnowski@gov.fi, tel. +358 50 436 0359

The ETF contact person:

- Ms Liia Kaarlõp, Project Officer: Liia.Kaarlop@etf.europa.eu, tel +39 337 104 6366

DAY 1 - TUESDAY 17 September 2024

	Venues: House of Science and Letters and Viikki Teacher Training School of University of Helsinki Address: Kirkkokatu 6, 00170 Helsinki
08:40 – 09:00	Walking from the hotel to the venue (House of Science and Letters)
09:00 – 10:00	**Expert session: the vision of Finnish teacher education** Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland and Teacher Education Forum: - Dr Marjo Vesalainen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Department for Higher Education and Science Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland - Prof. Auli Toom, President of the Teacher Education Forum & Vice-Dean in charge of research in the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki *(coffee/refreshment station available)*
10:00 – 10:30	**Q&A, discussions**
10:30 – 11:00	*Transfer to Viikki by bus.* Address: Kevätkatu 2, 00790 Helsinki
11:00 – 13:30	Learning visit to **Viikki Teacher Training School of University of Helsinki** with a focus on teacher education at the comprehensive school level - Ilkka Laasonen, Principal of Basic Education - Pekka Hurskainen, New Principal of the General Upper Secondary School - Hanna Pyykönen, German Teacher, Coordinator for International Affairs - Martti Mery, University Training School Union Steward - Erja Schunk, Spanish Teacher, Former Coordinator for International Affairs 11.00-12.15 Welcome, presentation of the school, teacher education in Finland, guided tour in the school building 12.15-12.45 ***School lunch*** 12.45-13.30 Final discussion
13:30 – 14:00	*Transfer to the centre of Helsinki (House of Science and Letters).* Address: Kirkkokatu 6, 00170 Helsinki

14:00 – 15:00	**Expert session: teacher recruitment, teacher's work and career paths** The City of Helsinki Education Division: Ms Laura Damski, Personnel Planning Manager Ms Maiju Väntti, Senior HR Partner *(coffee/refreshment station available)*
15:00 – 15:30	**Q&A, discussions**
15:30 – 16:10	Briefing of participants on the peer-learning agenda and arrangements
17:00 – 19:30 (17:00 – 18:00 18:00 – 19:30)	***Welcome reception hosted* by *the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland*** *Guided tour at Oodi Central Library* *Welcome reception at Oodi* Persons present from MoEC Finland: - **Ms. Jaana Palojärvi, Director for International Relations** - Mr. Jouni Kangasniemi, Senior Ministerial Adviser - Ms. Sessi Trapnowski, Secretary for International Relations

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY **18 September 2024**

Time	***Venue: Public Sector Pension House and Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).*** Address: Unioninkatu 43, 00170 Helsinki
09:00 – 10:00	**Expert session: Curriculum Development and Teachers' Autonomy in the Finnish Education System - venue Public Sector Pension House** - Ms Marjo Rissanen, Counsellor of Education, EDUFI (National Agency for Education) *(coffee/refreshment station available)*
10:00 – 10:30	**Q&A, discussions**
10:30 – 11:00	*Transfer in 2 groups to the schools*
11:00 – 13:00	**Parallel visits to a general upper secondary school and a vocational school** **Group 1: Visit to Omnia Vocational College (**visit to start at **11.15** due to the longer drive) Address: Kirkkokatu 16, 02770 Espoo **Group 2: Visit to Alppila Upper Secondary School** (visit to start at **11.00**) Address: Viipurinkatu 21, 00510 Helsinki
13:30 – 14:30	*Lunch and debriefing on the school visits at EDUFI.* Address: Hakaniemenranta 6, 00530 Helsinki
14:30 – 15:30	**Expert session: Quality Assurance in Finnish Education** by representative from the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) - Mr Harri Peltoniemi, Director of FINEEC - Ms Helka Luodelahti Head of Higher Education and Liberal Adult Education Unit *(coffee/refreshment station available)*
15:30 – 16:00	Q&A, discussions
19.00 – 21.00	*Official dinner – Restaurant Meripaviljonki, Säästöpankinranta 3, Helsinki*

DAY 3 - THURSDAY 19 September 2024

Time	Venue: Helsinki-Tallinn ferry and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia
06.20 - 06.45	*Transfer by bus from hotel Radisson to the harbour and check-in & boarding*
07:30 – 08:15	*Breakfast onboard of the ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn*
08:15 – 09:15	Thematic discussions and preparation for the visit to the Ministry (onboard of the ferry)
10:00 – 11:30	**Visit to the Ministry of Education and Research, a brief overview of the Estonian Education system and current topics** Ms Ülly Enn, Director of Communication and International Cooperation Ms Anu Vau, Chief Expert, Educational Leadership and Teachers' Policy
11:45 – 13:15	**Site visit to an educational institution** (State Gymnasium) in Tallinn – discussions with principals and teachers: **Pelgulinna State Gymnasium** (www.perg.ee) Address: Kolde pst 67a, Tallinn Mr Indrek Lillemägi, Headmaster
13:15 – 14:00	*Networking lunch at the* Pelgulinna State Gymnasium
14:30 – 16:00	**Site visits to educational institutions in Tallinn** – discussions with principals and teachers **Group 1**: Tabasalu State Gymnasium https://tbg.edu.ee/ Address: Nooruse 6, Tabasalu Ms Grete-Stina Haaristo. Headmaster **Group 2**: Tabasalu School (Primary School Building) Address: Kooli 9, Tabasalu Ms Olga Saikovskaja, Headmaster **Group 3:** School of Educational Sciences of Tallinn University https://www.tlu.ee/en Address: Narva mnt 25/Uus-Sadama 5a Ms Kristi Klaasmägi, Vice-Rector for Educational Innovation A visit to the Innovation Lab (https://edulabs.ee/english/
17:00 – 18.30	*Guided tour in Tallinn*
18:45	*Departure from Tallinn harbour – check-in and boarding*
19:00 – 20.00 20:15 – 21:15	*Dinner onboard of the ferry* Conclusions, drawing lessons and take-aways from Day 3 on the ferry from Tallinn to Helsinki

DAY 4 - FRIDAY 20 September 2024

Time	Venue: Trade Union of Education in Finland (OAJ) Address: Kellosilta 7, (on pedestrian level), meeting room: Valopiha
09:00 – 10:30	**Expert Meeting: Teachers' Role and Perspective in Education Systems and Reforms** Trade Union of Education in Finland (OAJ): - Opening – **Katarina Murto**, President - Advocacy for Teachers' Working Conditions and Well-being, Sara Simberg, Special Advisor - Challenges in Teacher Recruitment and Retention, Laura Nurminen, Development Manager - Professional Development and Career Progression, Päivi Lyhykäinen, Special Advisor Teacher shortages, attractiveness of teaching profession, career development and working conditions of teachers at all levels of education, lessons learned
10:30 – 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 – 12:30	**Results of the Online Survey and Key Data on Teachers – Main take-aways by country delegations**

12:30 – 13:00	**Conclusions and next steps**
13:00 – 14:15	*Farewell Lunch at OAJ*
14:30 – 16:00	*Guided tour in Helsinki*