

Questions to Finland - September 25-28 2016

In our preparation for our study visit, the participants created many questions; we tried to organise them with a focus on three groups:

- **Students**

- What are your dreams for the future?
 - *How do you achieve those dreams? (Who, what, when)*
- *What do you like about the way your favorite teachers teach/ behave?*
- *What motivates you to learn?*
- *If you struggle with your schoolwork, what can you do? What are your goals for the next few years? What support do you experience in school to success in these goals?*
- *How does a regular school week look like for you? How is your schedule formed? How is your progress monitored? And what are your lessons like?*
- *How often do you get instruction and how often do you work independently? What do you think of this?*

- **Teachers**

- **Progress of learning**
 - *How do you measure the individual progress of the student?*
 - *How can parents, students and colleagues take notice of that.*
 - *Do you also measure the progress of the group?*
 - *How do you secure the maximum personal growth and the students' needs when learning takes place under individuals with different kinds of competencies and personalities?*
- **Learning materials**
 - *What resources are used for course material (for instance: publisher, open source, created by teacher..)*
 - *Do / to what extent do students find their own course material?*
- **Curriculum (development)**
 - *If the curriculum is arranged in themes or modules, how do teachers of different subjects organise this?*
 - *What is the teacher's responsibility in curriculum development in your school? And what are the key aspects in the development of this curriculum? When and how does the process of changing takes place?*
 - *Does each pupil attend the same subjects or does he/she have a choice?*
 - *How many foreign languages does the school offer?*
- **Assessment of learning versus assessment as learning**
 - *In what way are students assessed and how does this add to personalised learning? How do assessments contribute to the*

development of positive self-image, personal growth, with students with different kinds of skills and learning abilities?

- *Are students evaluated after each semester? Is that on the basis of established criteria? Is it about descriptions? Who sets the descriptions?*

○ **Personalised learning**

- *In what ways is diversity in students' abilities, personalities and orientations taken into account, when crafting a working environment and choosing pedagogical methods? And how do you ensure that you get the best out of talented children?*
- *Which (digital) tools contribute to personalised learning/differentiation? What is your experience with them? What types of differentiation are used? (for instance level, personal interest)*
- *Which systematic systems are used in your school for addressing and solving problems in student growth or personal problems, such as a learning disability?*
- *Do students actively participate in setting the learning goals for a Semester/ class?*
- *How do the pupils work in class? In other words: How is the course material differentiated amongst the pupils? Do they like this way of working?*
- *How do the teachers facilitate the course material for each student (e.g. using certain apps or tools) In other words: how is the lesson material structured for each and every pupil and how do they know where to find that material. What is the role of the teacher in this process?*
- *Can a pupil reach different levels for each single school subject? Does he / she receive some sort of document / qualification comparable to our school diploma?*

○ **Counseling, coaching and well being**

- *How do you ensure that home backgrounds/diversity have little effect on differences in individual educational outcomes?*
- *In what way is coaching, career guidance and counseling organised?*
- *What aspects/activities of your teaching contributes to meaningful learning/learning around personal goals?*
- *Is there a structure in the day-to-day guidance pupils receive to get through the curriculum? How does this structure look like?*

- **School/principal**

- **School organisation**

- *How many teachers do you have in your school?*
- *How are the meetings of teachers organized? Within the teams? What is the frequency of meetings?*
- *How many contact hours does a student have with a teachers for school related activities?*
- *How, where and with whom do professionals in school conversate about “getting a little bit better every day”?*
- *Do students have influence on their individual learning schedule / rosters? How are changes made in your school? Do you need permission from groups within the school (parents, teachers, students)?*
- *Do you have an organizational flow chart of the school?*
- *Less class time and little homework and still a good result. Is there really so little homework?*
- *Since there is no form of educational inspection, how do you know whether the school’s results is up to standard?*
- *Apparently, your education is currently in a process of renewal or improvement. In what ways does the school’s management prepare its teaching staff and how are teachers facilitated in this?*
- *Do they use the results of scientific educational research? (if yes, Please specify)*
- *Is education similar to the thoughts of the Swedish Kunskapsskolan?*
- *Is the vision of the school a stable factor for teachers throughout their career at the school?*
- *What does management do to let everybody live the same educational vision?*
- *Which requirements does a school set its teachers?*

- **Exams**

- *How are matriculation exams organized?*
- *How is contact with further / higher education organized?*
- *Are there final exams and are there sets of criteria pupils need to achieve before they graduate?*

- **Education in Finland**

- *At what age do students follow a particular type of education in Finland?*
- *What do Finns themselves see as advantages/disadvantages of their own educational system?*
- *Is it possible that students pass a school year, or that they have to redo their whole school year?*
- *What trends do you see in education (in Finland) in the last couple of years? What is your opinion about this development?*