



Some reflections on Finnish schools and teacher education. The role of project based learning.

Prof Kirsti Lonka

Twitter/IG @kirstilonka

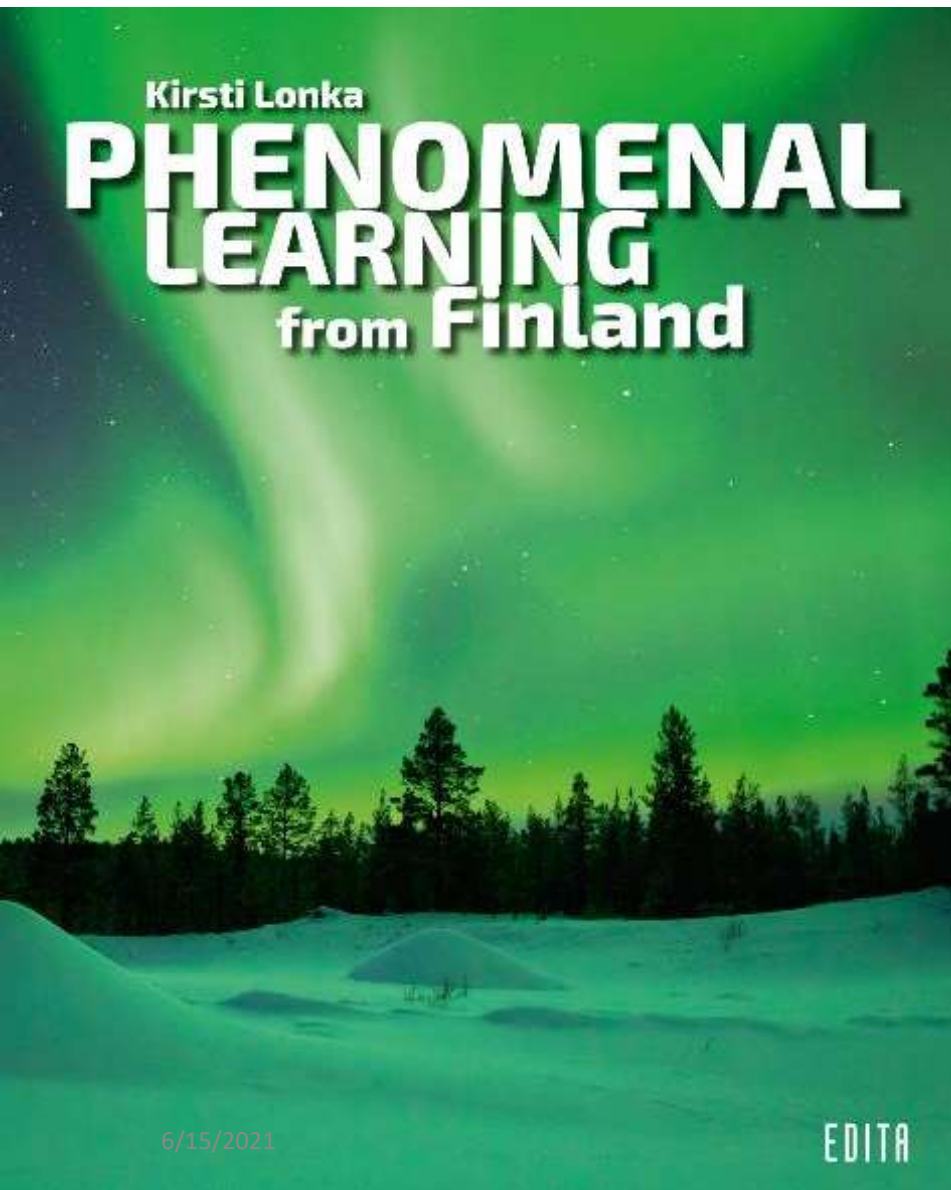
kirstilonka.fi



Professor Kirsti Lonka

Working globally for better education

- Kirsti Lonka is Professor of Educational Psychology at University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2005. She is Director of [Research Group of Educational Psychology](#).
- You may see her citations on [her Google Scholar profile](#) and Web of Sciences
- Professional teacher trainer and a PhD in psychology. Founding member of Teachers' Academy (UH)
- Extraordinary Professor, Optentia Research Unit, North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus, South Africa (2016-2022)
- Advisory Board Member of Graduate Institute of Digital Learning and Education, NTUST, Taipei (2015-)
- Current projects: [digiconsumers.fi](#) and [growingmind.fi](#)
- A popular keynote speaker around the world
- Author of *Phenomenal Learning from Finland* (Edita Publishing 2018), translated in many languages in 2020: Croatian, Korean, Thai, Spanish (Latin American Edition). Coming soon:
- Previously a Professor of Medical Education in Karolinska Institutet, Sweden and Honorary J.H. Bijtel professor of University Medical Centre Groningen, The Netherlands
- Member of United Nations Technology and Innovation Laboratory (UNTIL) Advisory Board, Education Sector in 2020-



BY PROFESSOR
KIRSTI LONKA!



THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH 2018.
Translated into many languages in 2020-2021, e.g.
Spanish, Croatian, Korean, Thai, Chinese, Russian, Hindi



<http://edita.editapublishing.fi/phenomenallearning>



EDITA₃

SUMMARY OF SOME BASIC FEATURES OF FINNISH TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATION

- The level (MA) of teacher education has been highest in the world since 1970s, we are constantly developing our practices
- Attractive job: autonomous teachers, short school days, long holidays, relatively good salary, teachers are usually well-liked and respected
- The whole system is based on trust on the teachers and their high-quality education (no school inspections, schools put the national curriculum in practice)
- It is really difficult to get in, especially to class teacher programmes: 1500-2200 apply and only 120 are admitted in University of Helsinki (Ed Psych gets the best 20).
- Research-based teacher education: high-quality international research during the last 25 years -> Our Faculty of Education (Univ. of Helsinki) is now 22. in the world, and best in EU after Brexit (QS2021)
 - > Many PhD candidates have a teacher education background
- Life long professional development
- TALIS2018: the problem in Finland that teachers are otherwise very good, but not very collaborative

Move from traditional learning towards "Starbucks" culture.

Teachers and students of 21st Century have adopted digital technology and collaboration as a part of their own mental and social system. In the work place, people work in projects. Traditional spaces and practices are not longer serving their needs.



VS



What has happened during the last 25 years? From knowledge transmission into collaborative knowledge building.

VIERASKYNY HS 7.6.96

Opiskelijoita käytetään kopiokoneina

Luento on alkamassa. Opettaja asettaa kalvon piirustettiin. Opiskelijoiden silmät lasittuvat, he lakkaavat kuuntelemasta ja alkavat kopioida. Kehotit lentää heidän kättänsä yllä. Kun viiminen kalvo on piirustettu, ritaaukko on täynnä. Opettaja on saanut tiedon jaetaksi, ja opiskelijat ovat käyttäneet sen muistia. Mutta onko kukaan oppinut mitään?

Kivastua lauseita voitaisiin nimittää vaikkapa "kalvovaikeiksi". Se heijastaa yhteiskunnassamme vallitsevaa käsitystä oppimisesta tiedon kopiointina. Tämä käsitys juontaa juotonsuoran kiertämisestä. Kun oli vain yksi kirja, esitelmän oli silti luettava ja kuulijoiden painava asiaat mieleensä mahdollisimman saattavasti.

Yliopisto-opetuksella on nyt valtavia haasteita: tiedon määrä kasvaa jatkuvasti, samalla kun on koulutettava yhä suurempia määriä opiskelijoita. Ratkaisuna ei voi olla yhä laajennettua tutkintovaihtumista, vaan opiskelua pitää kehittää niin, että tietoa osataan tuottaa ja soveltaa eniten joustavasti. Esimerkiksi Helsingin yliopiston lääketieteellinen tiedekunta onkin vastannut haasteeseen ottamalla käyttöön ns. ongelmaoppimisen oppimisen, jossa opiskelijat alusta asti ratkaisevat lääketieteellisiä ongelmia.

Yliopisto-lehden (9/96) suuren opiskelijakyselyn perusteella vaikuttaa siltä, että "kalvovaikeudet" ovat vielä hyvin tyypillisiä yliopisto-opetuksessa. Opiskelijat olivat muuten melko tyytyväisiä, mutta kritisoivat yksipuolista opetusmenetelmää ja opettajan pedagogista taitoja sekä opiskelijoiden ja opettajan vuorovaikutuksen laadua.

Tiedon jakaminen ja kopiointiin tähtäävät opetuskäytännöt eivät ole oppimisen kannalta tehokkaita. Viikologiasa osoittaa, että valmiiksi ja-sennetty tieto vie toon parhaassa tapauksessa liian vähän ajankäyttöä. Onnellisempaa ongelmanratkaisua. Valitka tiedämme jokin asia, se ei merkitse mitään.

Sovellusoppiminen on sitä, että opettaa ratkaisemaan tilanteita, jossa kukaan ei tiedä vastauksia. Opetuksen tehtävä onkin valitka

della huomattavasti. On hyvä, että opetusasioiden päivittyminen perustuu on viime aikoina kiinnitetty yhä enemmän huomioon.

Jos vain tutkimusta pidetään luovana toimintana, opetus nähdään valmiiden tulosten siirtämisenä opiskelijoille. Mutta jos opiskelijatkin nähdään tiedon tuottajina, opettaminenkin on tällöin luovaa toimintaa, jossa kehitellään jatkuvasti parhaita mahdollisia pedagogisia ratkaisuja. Monet yliopiston opettajat ovatkin huomauttaneet tästä oivalluksesta ja pyrkivät aktiivisesti kehittämään opetus-taitojaan.

Yliopisto-lehden opiskelijakyselyn perusteella asetettiin eri yliopistojen tiedekunta "paremmuusjärjestykseen". Omien tutkimusteni mukaan eri laisuuksilla valitsevat eritaset kulttuurit, jolloin samon väestönopettajien eri asenteiden opiskelijatle eri asioita. Lisäksi hyvin menestyvät opiskelijat esittivät ennen sekä positiivisia että negatiivisia arvioita laitoskansa opetukselta. Tällöin parhaat laitokset saavat suoraan negatiivisimmat arvot. Joissain oppiaineissa kritiikki suoraan kuuluu opiskelijan tuloenkuvaa.

Opetuksen arviointi ei ole tietenkään turha. Kyselyiden tekeminen panee opiskelijat ja opettajat miettimään opetusta ja tehostamaan toimintansa. Jokaisen yksikön pitäisi kehittää omaa laatu- ja -tuloenkuvaa, mitä heidän opiskelijoidensa pitäisi tietää ja osata valmistuttuaan. Näitä asioita voidaan sitten pyrkiä mittaamaan.

Huiketta näkymiä opiskelijoiden ajatteluun

Joskus juhlalpuheet saattavat antaa kipeän vaikutuksen. Helsingin yliopiston rehtori Risto Ihanuolla viitattiin syksyllä 1994 yliopiston avajaispuheessaan usko tyhjän oppimisen tarpeeseen. Vielä tänä aikanayksityy, jossa psykologian ja filosofian laitokset yhdessä suunnittelivat kaikkialle yliopiston ja opiskelijoille opitokoneisuuden, jonka tavoitena oli opettaa tiedon tuottamiseen ja arvioimiseen taitoja.

Docentti Esa Saareen kanssa ko-



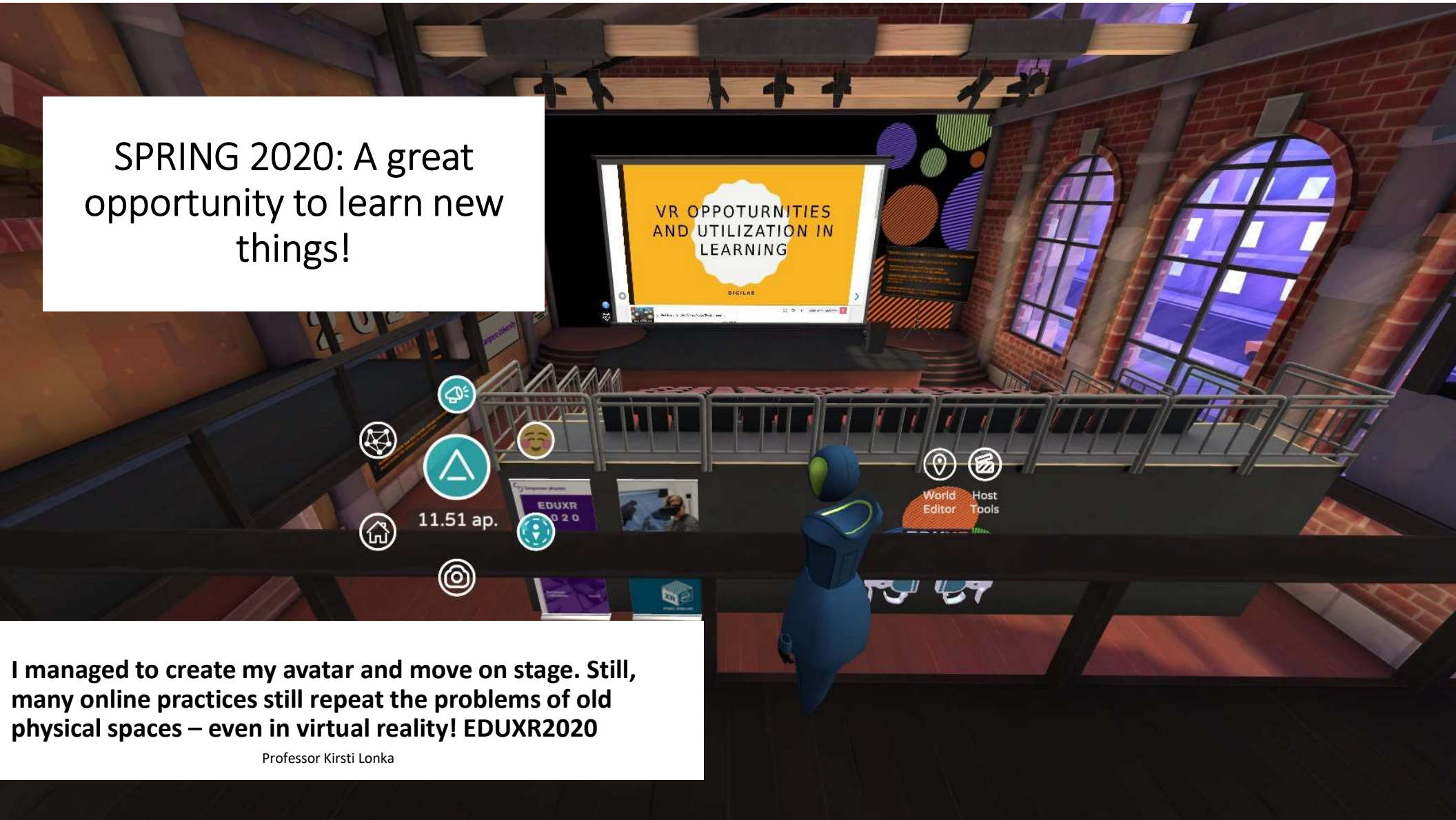
Professor Kirsti Lonka

Finnish schools?

- Student-centred approach, well-being, soft skills, teachers talk less than the students
- Low hierarchy (power distance) in schools
- More process-oriented than product/performance oriented – *No constant testing! No high stakes exams before the end of high school*
- No dead ends during the academic career from preschool to university (no academic vs. vocational track)
- Schools increasingly look like public spaces, they will be “cool” or homelike environments
- Trend: Ubiquitous digitalisation integrated to every aspect of space and all spaces can be modified on daily basis
- Schools differ from each other depending on the philosophy of each learning community



SPRING 2020: A great opportunity to learn new things!



I managed to create my avatar and move on stage. Still, many online practices still repeat the problems of old physical spaces – even in virtual reality! EDUXR2020

Professor Kirsti Lonka



6/15/2021

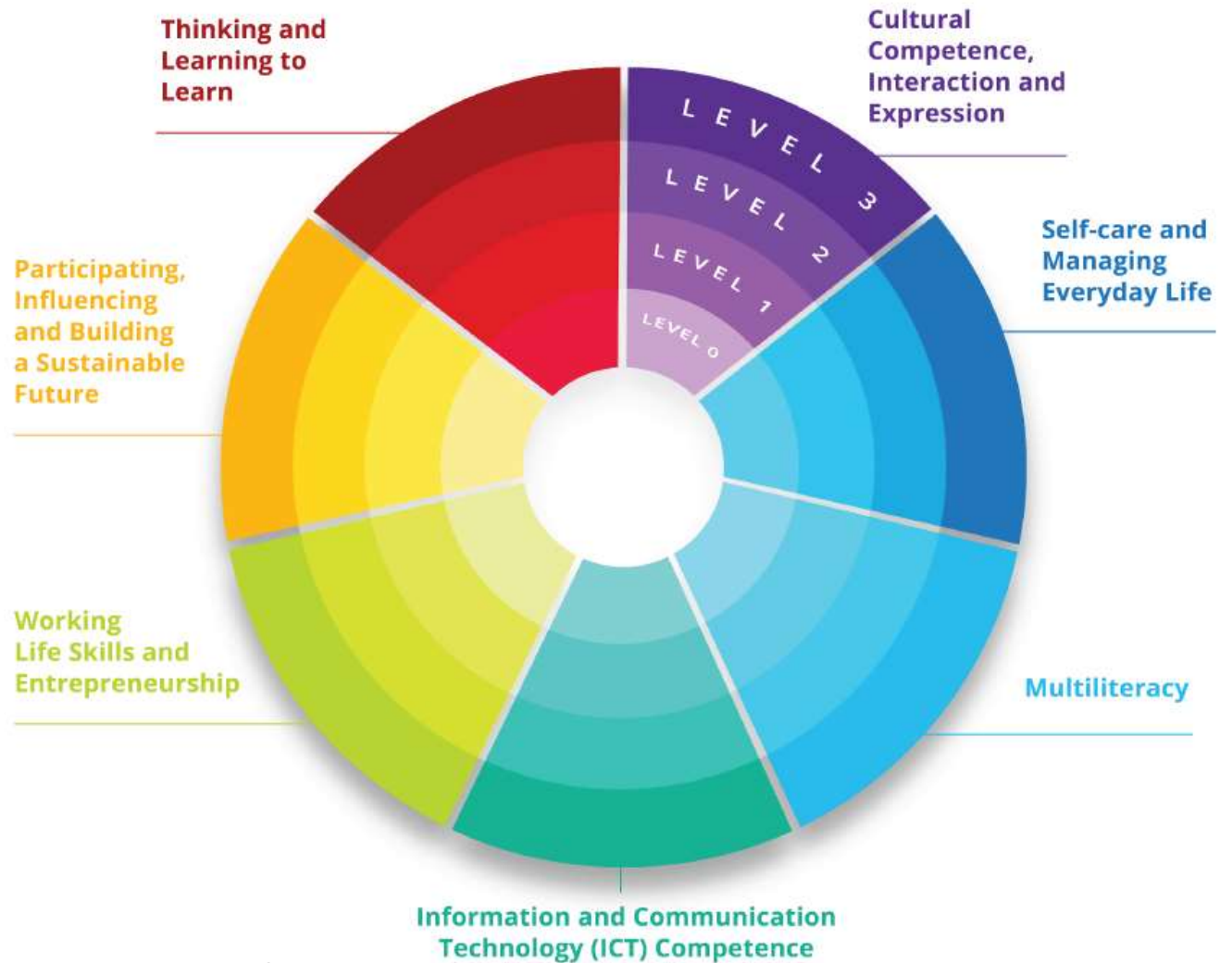


Or can we move into new virtual/augmented worlds?

Prof. Kirsti Lonka

THE FINNISH 21ST CENTURY SKILLS integrated to the national K12 curriculum in addition to interdisciplinary (phenomenon-based) projects

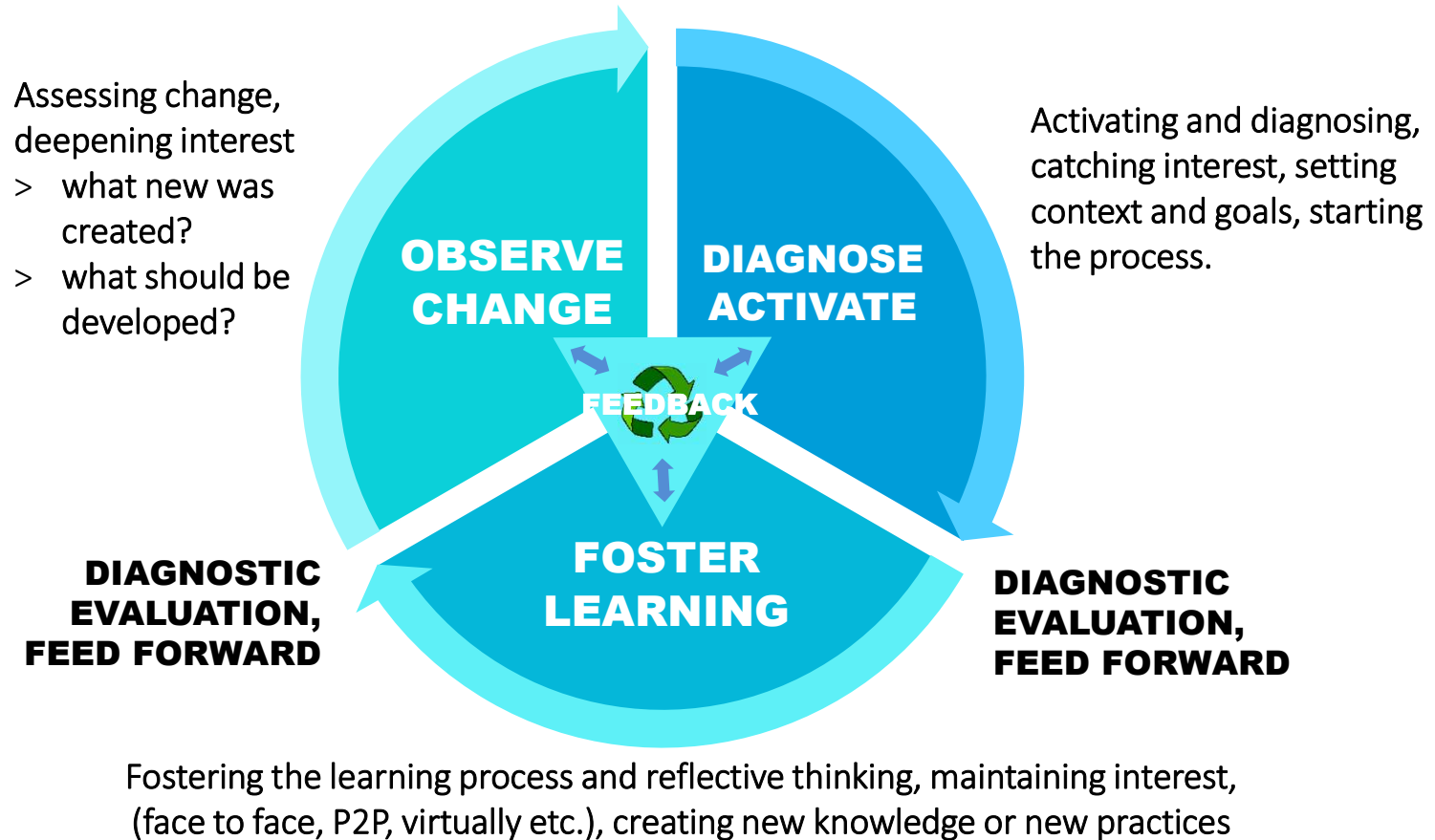
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Prof Kirsti Lonka

ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ELE) MODEL LONKA (2012; 2018) FOR PROJECT LEARNING

THE GOAL, SUMMATIVE EVALUATION



ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE TEACHERS - MINERVA PLAZA

Integrates physical, social, virtual, mobile, pedagogical, and mental spaces of learning (Lonka, 2012)

Video by mikko.l.Halonen <http://vimeo.Com/60818003>

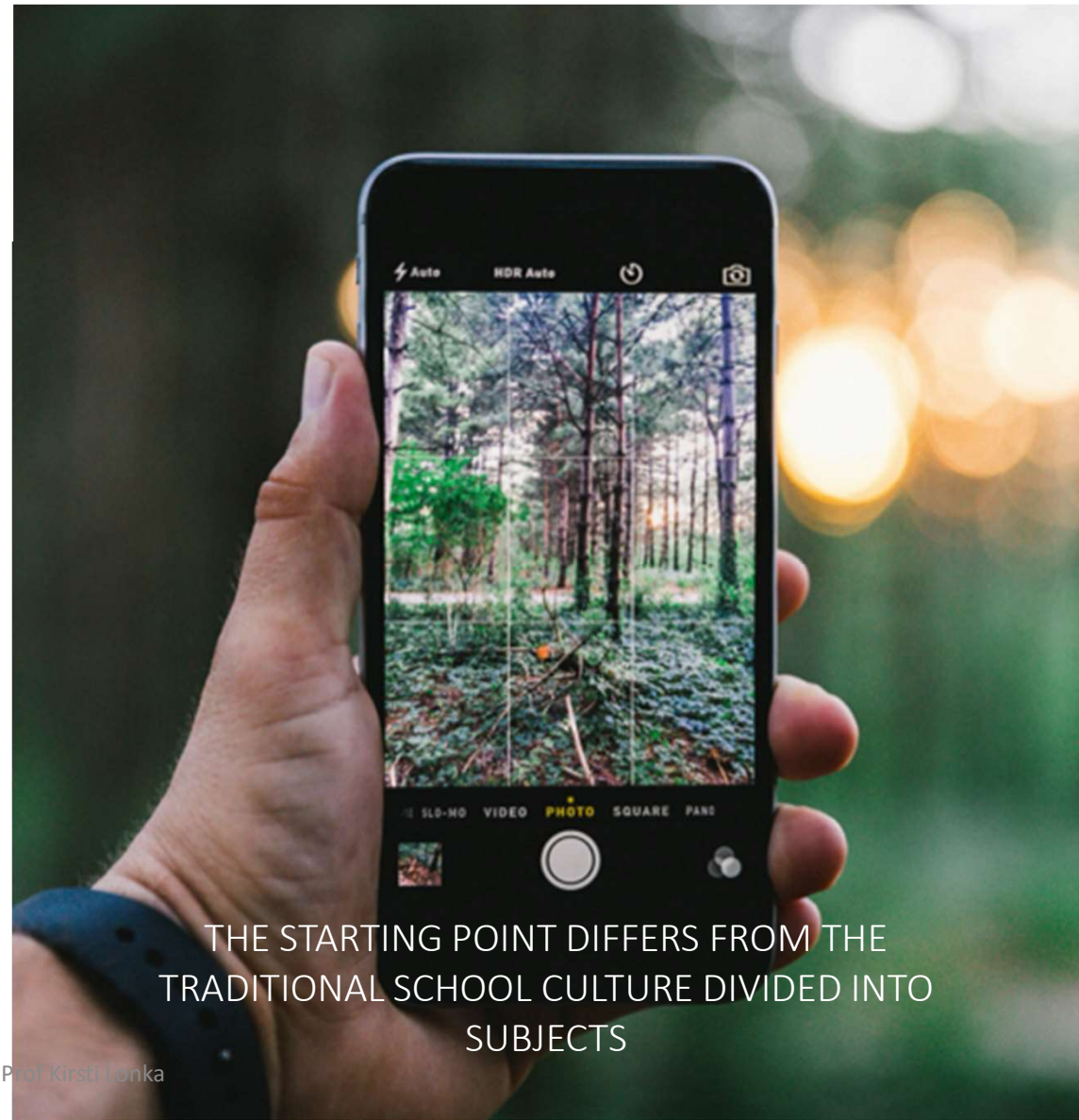


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Typical of phenomenon-based learning (interdisciplinary projects) as a part of Finnish curriculum

1. **Make use of THE NATURAL CURIOSITY of children and youth. Let them define the phenomenon.** Not starting from individual subjects. There may be a given theme in the whole school, e.g. phenomena related to “forest”
2. **IMPORTANT FOR LEARNING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS** - what broad-based skills are included?
3. **THE PHENOMENA ARE STUDIED IN A HOLISTIC WAY.** - if possible, in their real authentic context. Only 1-2 projects per year. Most teaching still subject-matter based.



Phenomenon-based, interactive and playful learning in teacher education

Arts,
Handicrafts (textile & technical)
Home economy,
Sports & physical activity
Music,
Robotics
Gamification,
Animations,
Playful learning,
Latest technologies
AR/VR



Some challenges and solutions for Finnish teachers?

Our challenges in online learning at school

Kati Sormunen defended her thesis 29/5/2020 in science education.

<https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/314553>

- ***In the future, we'll need to develop students' collaborative knowledge building with the help of digital devices and environments.*** Keeping up a community and socio-emotional learning is important in terms of mental health.
- ***In distance learning, the communication may be too teacher-centred or students study too much alone.*** Too often, digital devices are just add-ons, not a real part of learning. We need to develop new kind of pedagogy already in teacher training
- ***Using technology shall not change anything, if we are not developing new pedagogies and knowledge practices in teacher education.***

THE SEVEN MIRACLES OF FINNISH SCHOOLS

- I. BETTER RESULTS WITH LESS MONEY
- II. SHORT SCHOOL DAYS, LONG HOLIDAYS, AUTONOMOUS TEACHERS, PROVIDE AS GOOD RESULTS AS 12-HOUR DAYS IN EAST ASIA
- III. PLAYFUL LEARNING UNTIL THE AGE OF 7
- IV. TOP 5 RESULTS IN SCIENCE, EVEN THOUGH ARTS, MUSIC, HANDICRAFT, SPORTS AND HOME ECONOMY ARE MANDATORY
- V. INCLUSION: IN THE SAME CLASS, REFUGEES, SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS AND CHILDREN FROM ALL KINDS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS
- VI. ONLY IN FINLAND TEENAGERS ARE AMONG TOP FIVE IN BOTH SCIENCE AND LIFE SATISFACTION (OECD2018)
- VII. DIGITAL LEAP, SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS, REFUGEE CRISIS AND NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND STILL STRUGGLING WITH ALL THESE CHALLENGES!

The Finnish approach to evaluation karvi.fi (FINEEC)

<https://karvi.fi/app/uploads/2016/06/National-Plan-for-Education-Evaluations-2016-2019.pdf>

The evaluations are organised with the purpose to

1. support the local, regional and national development and decision-making with regard to both the evaluation processes and the evaluation results;
2. improve the quality of education, the learning of the pupils and students and the work of the teaching staff; and
3. promote the attainment of the goals set for the renewal of the educational system and enhance the monitoring of the development of learning results.

Here you can see that evaluation can be an engine for educational development, a dynamic tool for renewal.

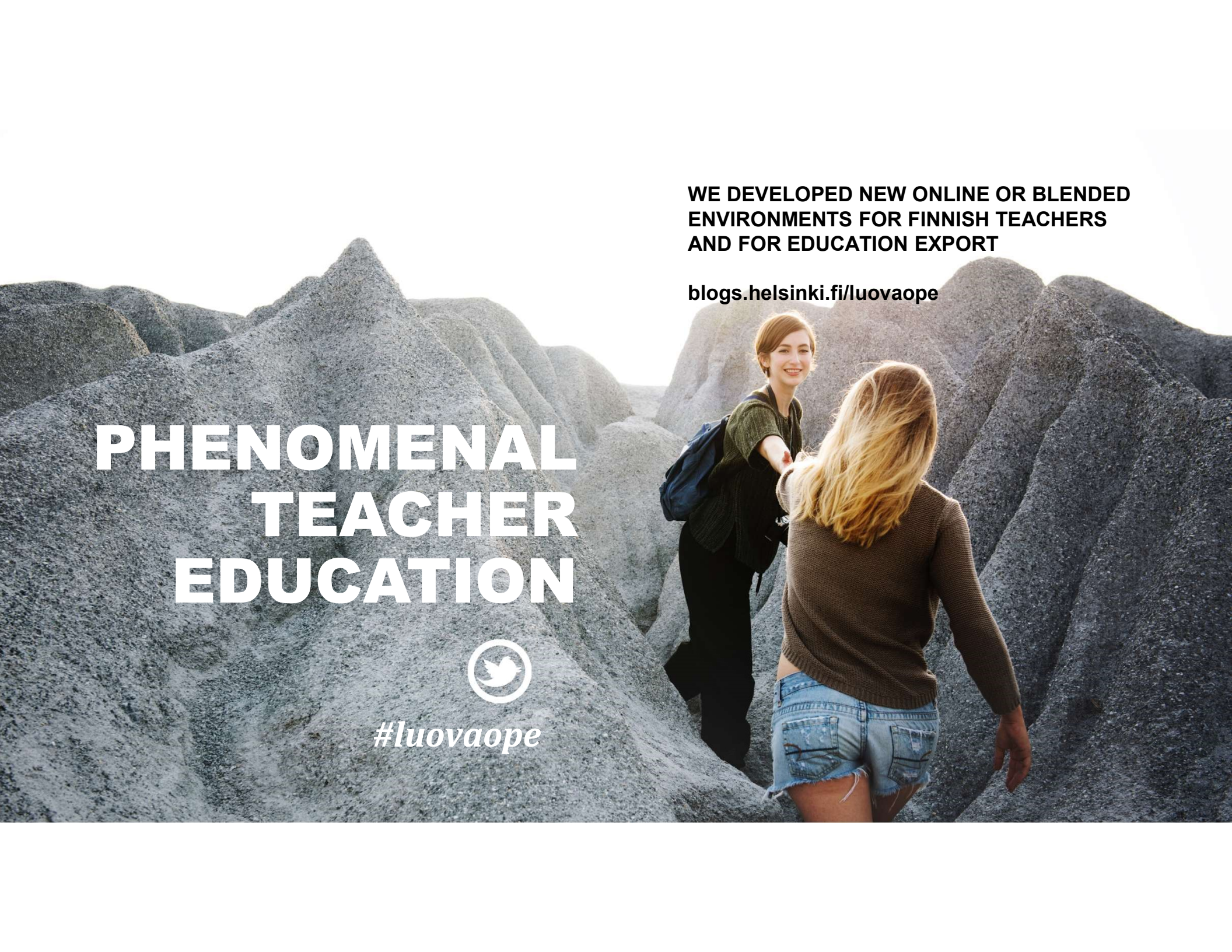
**WE DEVELOPED NEW ONLINE OR BLENDED
ENVIRONMENTS FOR FINNISH TEACHERS
AND FOR EDUCATION EXPORT**

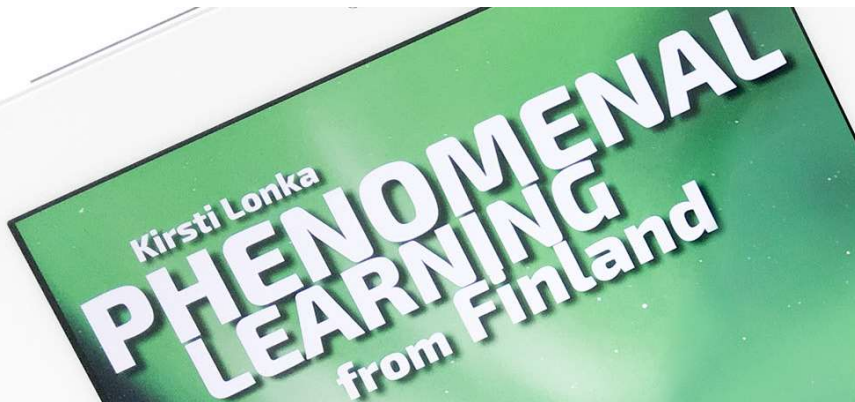
blogs.helsinki.fi/luovaope

PHENOMENAL TEACHER EDUCATION



#luovaope





We created a platform for phenomenon-based learning for Finnish teachers

UPDATED PEDAGOGY BASED ON ELE MODEL

21st CENTURY SKILLSET

We enhance teachers' understanding on what 21st century citizens need

Blogs.helsinki.fi/luovaope

(in Finnish with English

Subtitles)

WHAT WE DO...

Student teachers create a phenomenon bank together

MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We utilize most up-to-date technologies to promote hybrid learning environments.

These are available internationally!

PHENOMENAL TEACHER TRAINING

Phenomenal Teacher Training Programme focuses on teachers' professional development. Participants will learn ideas behind modern evidence-based teaching methods and how to implement them in daily teaching.

The programme consists of several learning methods, including:

- Mini-lectures by professor Kirsti Lonka with specific learning objectives
- Webinars, workshops, constant online coaching and fast expert solutions
- Collaborative online participation with other teachers
- Personal reflection and learning diary
- Designing new teaching practices and applying them with students in real life

The programme includes three online courses.

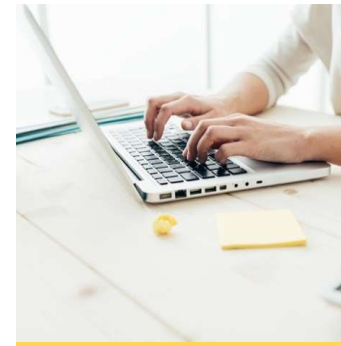
If you are interested, please contact kimmo.karpijoki@hyplus.fi



Course 1:

Student-engaging Learning Practices

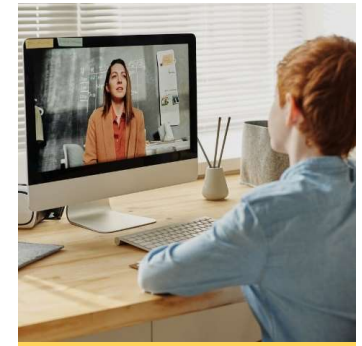
- ✓ Learn modern educational practices used by Finnish teacher trainers
- ✓ Maximise the number of interested and motivated students, who are truly engaged in learning



Course 2:

High-impact Learning

- ✓ Get the fundamental knowledge on how people learn
- ✓ Learn the essential elements of the human brain, memory, and learning that are relevant in designing high-impact instruction and teaching



Course 3:

Phenomenal Learning

- ✓ Learn what phenomenon-based learning is and how to design projects based on the idea
- ✓ Get tools on how to evaluate the readiness of implementing future skills

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