A view from Europe:

What next for Finland

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Seven things you need to know

1. Social justice, fairness and honesty
2. Safety nets and care
3. Shared responsibility
4. Education as public good
5. Confidence in public institutions
6. Literacy is part of Finnish cultural DNA
7. Small is beautiful/Talk less/Less is more
Education system performance over time in Finland and developed nations

learning, participation, equity and efficiency
Finnish education system design in 1975

- Elementary school
- Grammar school
- Civic school
- Vocational school
- College
- General upper secondary school
- Universities

Grades
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Age
- 7
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23+

Compulsory schooling
Finnish education system design in 2010

- no dead-ends
- many second chances
- no grade repetition
- guidance and counseling
Variation in student performance in science 2006
Variation of performance within schools mostly corresponds to social inequality. Since this is a small source of variation in Finland, it suggests that schools deal with social inequalities very successfully.
Average national science PISA score and percentage of variance of student performance due to socio-economic status in 2006
Income inequality vs. Learning achievement in science

- **High** Learning achievement
- **Low** Learning achievement

Countries and their respective positions:
- **Finland (FIN)**: High income inequality, High learning achievement
- **Japan (JAP)**, **Netherlands (NED)**, **Germany (GER)**, **United States (USA)**: Low to moderate income inequality, High learning achievement
- **Canada (CAN)**, **New Zealand (NZ)**, **Australia (AUS)**, **United Kingdom (UK)**: High income inequality, Low to moderate learning achievement
- **Norway (NOR)**, **Spain (ESP)**, **Italy (ITA)**, **Portugal (POR)**: Moderate to low income inequality, Moderate learning achievement

The graph shows a negative correlation between income inequality and learning achievement in science.
Addressing inequalities in basic school

1. Teacher identifies those falling behind

2. Teacher has assistant to provide one-on-one help

3. Special education support to those in need

4. School welfare team advices teachers

5. Individual learning plans (adjusted curriculum)

6. Extended teacher-student relationships

Flexible arrangements and support
Acting before problems get serious

- Prevention
- Repair

Number of pupils with special needs

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Quality at entry
Applicants to primary school teacher education programs 2001-10 in Finnish universities (MA)
Teaching has been made the most wanted job in Finland!
Why teaching is an admired profession?

- Time for collegiality
- Support from specialists
- Voice in decision-making
- Presence of moral purpose
- Trust and respect
- Professional autonomy
- Small classes
- Absence of ‘shaming & blaming’

Why teaching is an admired profession?
What next for Finland?
Global Higher Education Rankings 2010
Affordability and Accessibility in Comparative Perspective

Affordability
1. FIN
2. NOR
3. GER
9. CAN
12. USA

Accessibility
1. FIN
2. NOR
3. USA
7. CAN
Goal: Social fairness and equality

Strategic principles
- Securing publically funded schooling
- Strengthening special education
- Advancing inclusion

Challenges ahead
- Increasing inequality
- Funding and resources
- Growing immigration
Goal:
Social fairness and equality

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Scenario 1: Third Way

Data-driven system
- Competition and support

Productivity and alternative funding
Goal: Social fairness and equality

Strategic principles:
- Strengthening special education
- Advancing inclusion
- Securing publically funded schooling

Sub-strategic principles:
- Data-informed system
- Learning and creativity
- Networking for renewal

Scenario 2: Fourth Way
Thank you!

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