FINLAND

STRUCTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND BASIC EDUCATION

C)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		VARHAISKASVATUS Early childhood education and care					ESIOPETUS Pre-primary education				PERUSOPETUS Basic education					
	NOT COMPULSORY					COMPULSORY										



TIMELINE OF RECENT POLICY MEASURES

NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM

NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM FOR BASIC EDUCATION

The latest reforms of the national core curriculum for pre-primary education and national core curriculum for basic education. The organizers must draw up the local curricula based on the national core curriculum.

MANDATORY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Amendment 1040/2014 to the Basic Education Act made attendance of pre-primary education mandatory for the 6-year-olds, one year before the beginning of primary education. The

law came into a force in 2015.

FIRST NORMATIVE NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

The national core curriculum for ECEC became a national norm obligating both the public and the private providers of ECEC. The organizers of ECEC must draw up the local curricula based on the national core curriculum.

RESTRICTION OF THE SUBJECTIVE RIGHT TO ECEC

Amendment 108/2016 to the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care restricted the subjective right to ECEC from full-time to part-time service (20 hours per week), unless the parents worked or studied full-time, or the child had special needs.

REINSTATING THE SUBJECTIVE RIGHT TO FULL-TIME ECEC

Amendment 1395/2019 to Act on Early Childhood Education and Care abolished the restriction of access to ECEC and reinstated the subjective right to full-time ECEC for all children from August 2020.

TRIAL OF TWO-YEAR PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

The government launched a trial of twoyear pre-primary education (2021–2024), expanding it to include also the 5-year-olds. The national core curriculum for the trial of obligates the municipalities involved in the trial.

NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

The latest reform of the national core curriculum for early childhood education and care will be implemented from August 2022. The reform concerns strenghtening of the support system and inclusion in ECEC.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE



ATTENDANCE

In 2019 attendance rate of early childhood education and care (ECEC) was 35% among under 3-year-olds and 85% among 3-5-yearolds. The percentages include both center-based ECEC and family day care.



PROVISION

Municipalities are responsible of organizing the ECEC services for all o-6-year-old children. In 2019, 76% of the provision was publicly provided center-based ECEC, 6% publicly provided family day care, and 18% private provision. Private provision is publicly subsidized.



PERSONNEL

The personnel in centerbased ECEC (o-5 years old) consists of *teachers*, *social pedagogues* and *childcarers*. Special education teachers work with children either by consulting the other staff members or providing education for the children with special needs.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION / BASIC EDUCATION



ATTENDANCE

Attendance of pre-primary education (appr. 2oh/week, one year before the beginning of basic education) has been mandatory from 2015. Basic education begins in the year when the child turns 7.



FINANCE

Public ECEC and pre-primary and basic education are funded by the municipalities and supplemented with central government transfers (25% of the expenses). ECEC fees cover 13-14% of the expenses and are regulated by the law. There is no fee for low-income families. Pre-primary and basic education is free of charge.



PERSONNEL

Class teachers, teachers in ECEC and childcarers work in pre-primary education. Class teachers are qualified to work in basic education. Special education teachers work with children either by consulting the other staff members or providing education for the children with special needs.



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



2020

2022

2014

2015

2016

FINLAND: 6 CURRENT ISSUES FACING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE



<u>CHALLENGE</u>: TO SEEK EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND WELLBEING AND TO REVISE THE RISE OF INEQUALITY



<u>ECEC GOALS</u> INCREASE EQUALITY IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING PATHS STRENGTHEN THE SUPPORT OF LEARNING CREATE A MORE FLEXIBLE START FOR LEARNING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ECEC

ONGOING: FINNISH GOVERNMENT, RIGHT TO LEARN -PROGRAMME (2020-2022) ----> TARGETED FUNDING FOR THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL PROJECTS

2. INCREASING ENROLLMENT TO ECEC

CHALLENGE: ENROLMENT RATE LOWER THAN OECD AVERAGE

<u>ONGOING</u>: GOVERNMENT NATIONAL POLICIES



LOWERING OF THE FEES

EXPERIMENT FOR FREE OF CHARGE ECEC TO 5-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN (2018- 2021) TWO-YEAR PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (TRIAL, 2021-2024)

3. TWO-YEAR PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (5-6-YEARS OLD)

THE ONGOING TRIAL \longrightarrow <u>challenges</u>

FOCUS ON LEARNING OUTCOMES IN THE FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF THE TRIAL -MAY STRESS SCHOOL READINESS.

INSTITUTIONAL SPLIT BETWEEN ECEC, PRE-PRIMARY AND BASIC EDUCATION WILL BE MAINTAINED.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE TRADITIONAL MISSION OF THE FINNISH ECEC AND PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PROMOTING CHILDREN'S HOLISTIC GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.

4. SUFFICIENT TIME FOR POLICY REFORMS IMPLEMENTATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

5. SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF THE WORKFORCE IN ECEC

<u>CHALLENGE</u>: LACK OF QUALIFIED STAFF- TEACHERS AND SPECIAL \longrightarrow <u>RISKS</u> LOWER QUALITY OF ECEC EDUCATION TEACHERS

MEASURE IN PLACE: THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PRESERVICE, UNIVERSITY TRAINING OF ECEC TEACHERS TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBER.

6. GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES AND TARGET STATE EXTENDING TO THE 2040s

