

Nordiska utmaningar och möjligheten

Finland

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Immigrants in Finland



- ▶ In 1997, people whose first language was not among the main official languages (Finnish, Swedish) or the official minority languages (Finnish sign language, Sami languages, and Romani language) was 1.5% of the inhabitants (Official Statistics of Finland (OSF) 2018).
- ▶ In 2017, the percentage was 6.8% (still small but increasing) (ibid.)
- ▶ The most recent estimation from 2014 suggests that approximately 3% of all the adult immigrants living in Finland had then maximum of 2–3 years of schooling from their childhood (Nieminen et al. (2015)
 - ▶ The part of actual non-literates was unknown
 - ▶ Now the percentage is higher as the percentage of immigrants is higher in general



PIAAC and Finland

- ▶ PIAAC shows that in Finland, about 11% of the adults have insufficient literacy skills, 13% are struggling with numeracy, and 30% have great difficulties with ICT-based problem-solving. Many of these adults have immigrant background. (Malin et al. 2013)
- ▶ According to PIAAC, basic skills (reading, writing, numeracy, ICT-based problem-solving) are connected to physical and mental health and active citizenship which are an important part of well-being.
 - ▶ E.g., about 80% of immigrants who had lived in Finland for 5 years or less reached only the lowest levels (0-2 when the highest level was 5) in literacy.
 - ▶ 1/3 of the participants who succeeded most poorly in literacy and numeracy felt their health was poor or satisfactory. At the same time, only 10% of them who succeeded best felt the same way.

(Reder 2015; OECD 2013; Malin et al. 2013.)



Networking of literacy teachers

- ▶ Literacy network for teachers (volunteers and paid) of Finnish literacy skills (Lukutaitoverkosto in Finnish)
- ▶ Active in Facebook
 - ▶ Closed group of 264 members
- ▶ Web-site under the site of L2 Finnish teachers <https://www.s2opettajat.fi/lukutaitosivut>
- ▶ Face-to-face meetings/seminars twice a year in different organisations
- ▶ Coordinator Anna Nylund



In-service teacher training for literacy teachers

- ▶ A great need for in-service teacher training
- ▶ Training offered by e.g.,
 - ▶ Helsingin aikuisopisto April-October 2019, 12 ECTS; funded by Finnish National Agency for Education
 - ▶ Getting a grip on basic skills (2017-2020) funded by ESF (more to come later in the afternoon)



Call for papers



- ▶ The Finnish Network for Language Education Policies – Kieliverkosto – publishes a freely available web journal called Kieli, koulutus ja yhteiskunta (Language, Education and Society) for short articles on research results and teaching experiments, interviews, policy columns etc.
- ▶ In October 2019, a thematic issue on reading and writing skills
- ▶ If you would like to submit an article to the journal (non-academic/non-scientific but peer-reviewed)
 - ▶ A) from the participant's point of view OR
 - ▶ B) based on your presentation/workshop in this conference

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References

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- ▶ Reder, S. 2015. Digital Inclusion and Digital Literacy in the United States: A Portrait from PIAAC's Survey of Adult Skills. Commissioned paper. Available at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51bb74b8e4b0139570ddf020/t/551c3e82e4b0d2fed6481f9/1427914370277/Reder_PIAAC.pdf

