

Blended Learning Structured Course

“Structured Educational Visit to Schools & Training Seminars in FINLAND”

Helsinki (Finland)

WHO is this course for?

Our **Blended Learning Structured course** is best suited for participants who want **greater flexibility** of time, place, and pace, due to personal, professional, or international circumstances.

This structured course is designed for **teachers, head teachers, principals and other school staff** who would like to learn about the Finnish education system within the context of Finnish culture. Although the pedagogic encounters with schools are focused on **Primary, Secondary** and **Vocational** levels, other educational sectors may also benefit from the general approach of this course.

Language of communication: **English**

Please note that this course should be included as a Structured Course in your Erasmus+ project.

COURSE description

This **Blended learning structured course** combines pedagogic encounters with schools, workshops, seminars, and field projects “Contexts4Content”.

English Matters will select educational institutions related to Primary, Secondary and Vocational levels. Participants will learn about educational organisation and management of learning and will have the opportunity to share their experience and ideas with colleagues from a variety of schools around Europe. This will support a European Dimension in Education and everyone participating in this experience will receive maximum benefit from it.

The course offers several **key activities**:

1. Pedagogic encounters with schools to learn about educational organisation and management of learning.
2. Seminars and workshops to explore specific aspects of the education system and culture of Finland.
3. Professional and cultural discussion resulting in a concluding presentation of learning.
4. Field projects “Contexts4Content” to explore places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, as a basis for the development of teaching materials to assist their students in meeting their learning goals and be aware of the socio-cultural richness of Europe.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with relevant aspects of the Finnish education system.
- Learn about examples of teaching practices in schools in Finland.
- Participate in lectures and workshops related to educational and cultural aspects of Finnish society.
- Participate in field projects “Contexts4Content” to places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, to support the development of teaching resources.
- Promote a European Dimension in education among participants and schools.



HOW does this Blended Learning Structured course work?

This **Blended Learning Structured course** provides an excellent opportunity to explore the Finnish education system in a gradual way by combining virtual live sessions with a mobility training period in **Finland**.

The course is organised in two segments: during the **virtual segment** you will learn through interactive online live training sessions conducted by tutors and experts. During the **mobility segment**, you will spend an enriching training period in Finland, where you will get first-hand experience of the Finnish education system.

The two segments of this blended course are structured in **three stages**: The efficient combination of these stages will help you build a holistic vision of education and culture in Finland from several enriching perspectives:

- The **1st stage** will be implemented during **4 interactive online live training sessions** by video conferencing seminars and workshops with tutors, experts, and course colleagues. This will help you to gain a general understanding of the Finnish education system and its historical and cultural background. To add extra flexibility to your course, you will also have access to our dedicated virtual platform for autonomous learning if you wish to review or expand on content at your own pace.
- The **2nd stage** will allow you to enjoy an enriching **4-day mobility training period in Helsinki** (Finland), where you will have the opportunity to expand your learning with closer experiences on Finnish Education and school system, as well as following cultural field projects “Contexts4Content” which will also help you to explore Finnish culture while enhancing your communication skills, adding perspective through interaction and dialogue with fellow participants and Finnish people.
- The **3rd stage** will conclude the course with a **final online live training session** for presentation of participants’ portfolios, feedback and reflection about the learning achieved, dissemination strategies and European Dimension.

A NOTE on the Finnish education system

The **Finnish education system** is regarded as one of the best in the world, especially after its good results in the Pisa Reports (triennial OECD international evaluation) during past years. Other nations all over the world are attempting to emulate Finnish structure of highly respected teachers and its focus on equity.

The success of the Finnish education system is based on family, school and socio-cultural resources that work in unison in a culture of responsibility, discipline, and effort. Families feel themselves the first responsible agents for the education of their children. The *Oodi* library in Helsinki, for example, is an excellent meeting point for many families at weekends to “*meet friends, create art, read and relax*”.

LOCATION of the course: Helsinki (FINLAND)

Finland is one of the Nordic countries located on the very border of East and West Europe. The geographical location of Finland, its history, and its social ethics, have shaped a working and egalitarian society, committed to the future of its young citizens through education.

Helsinki is the largest city in Finland and more than a million inhabitants live there. Helsinki is also a fast connection point between east and west. The sea plays an important role in the city since the Helsinki archipelago is made up of more than 300 islands, including the island fortress of Suomenlinna. Also, Tallinn (Estonia) and Stockholm (Sweden) can easily be reached from Helsinki via the Baltic Sea.



STRUCTURE of the course

In the table below, you can see the display of our **Blended Learning Structured Course** (4 Online live sessions + 4 Training days in Finland + 1 Final online live session).

**Reference programme:
Structured Course: “Structured Educational Visit to Schools & Training Seminars in Finland”
Helsinki (Finland)**

**Blended Learning Structured Course
(4 Online + 4 days in Finland + 1 Final Online)**

I. ONLINE LIVE TRAINING SESSIONS (4 sessions):

Fundamentals.
Building your Learning Portfolio.
Education System in Finland.
Guidelines for the training stage in Finland

II. MOBILITY TRAINING PERIOD IN FINLAND (4 days):

Tuesday

Educational Visit to School I: Educational organisation & management of learning.
Feedback on educational visit to school.
Field project “Contexts4Content”.

Wednesday

Culture & Society in Finland.
Field Learning “Contexts4Content”

Thursday

Educational Visit to School II: Educational organisation & management of learning.
Feedback on educational visit to school.

Friday

Itinerary A

Programmes to support education.
Field project “Contexts4Content”.

Itinerary B (optional, not included in course fee)

Field project Tallinn (Estonia) “Contexts4Content”.

III. ONLINE LIVE TRAINING SESSION ON PRESENTATION OF LEARNING & FEEDBACK (1 Final Session):

European Dimension & Dissemination strategies.
Reflection on Learning & Presentation of Portfolios.
Evaluation.

NOTE: These Reference programmes may be subject to amendment. Such amendment, if necessary, would be kept to a minimum, consistent with the quality and balance of the programme.



DATES

Blended Learning Structured Course

Duration: **4 Online live training sessions + 4 Training days in Finland + 1 Final online live training session**
Language of communication: **English**

Blended Learning courses - Dates	
Training period	4 Online sessions in September 2024 4 training days in Finland: 01-04 October 2024 1 Online final session in November 2024
Training period	4 Online sessions in February 2025 4 training days in Finland: 4-7 March 2025 1 Online final session in March 2025
Training period	4 Online sessions in September 2025 4 training days in Finland: 7-10 October 2025 1 Online final session in November 2025
<small>Note: The mobility training period in Finland may be subject to amendment, according to the information that authorities provide about the situation of Covid-19 in the country. Participants will be informed of changes in due course, if necessary.</small>	

TYPE OF CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AWARDED

Europass and Certificate of attendance with description of training content and time input (**40 hours**).