

Fields of Finnish Folk High School

Finnish popular adult education in comparison – avoin seminaari ja keskustelutilaisuus

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Liberal Adult Education Act:

Liberal adult education organisations are licenced to educate from own ideological background.

Liberal adult education organizations are free to organize education and training on the basis of the principle of lifelong learning, the integrity of society, gender equality and active citizenship supporting education.

The aim of organized liberal adult education is to promote the diversification of human development, well-being and the realization of democracy, pluralism, sustainable development, multiculturalism and internationalism. Liberal education is emphasized self-motivated learning, and community involvement.

In the Finnish educational system, the role of the folk high schools is to provide adult education and non-formal adult education. The teaching in folk high schools is mainly general education, but initial and further vocational training is also offered. There are 86 folk high school campuses and 76 licence holder (owners) in Finland. Folk high schools are typically characterized by being residential and by having an ideological and pedagogical freedom.

Most of FHS are private owned by organisations, folk movements, christian movements, labour movement and. About one third of FHS are owned by special support organisations.

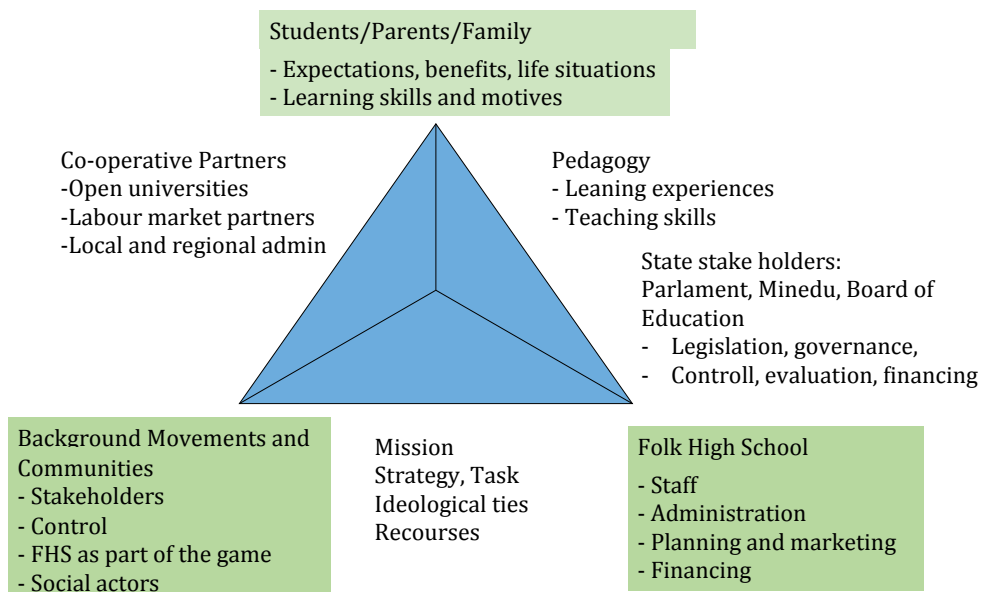
Murikka- working life folk high school

Mission is to maintain and develop the agreement based society

www.murikka.fi/english

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Social Field of Folk High School



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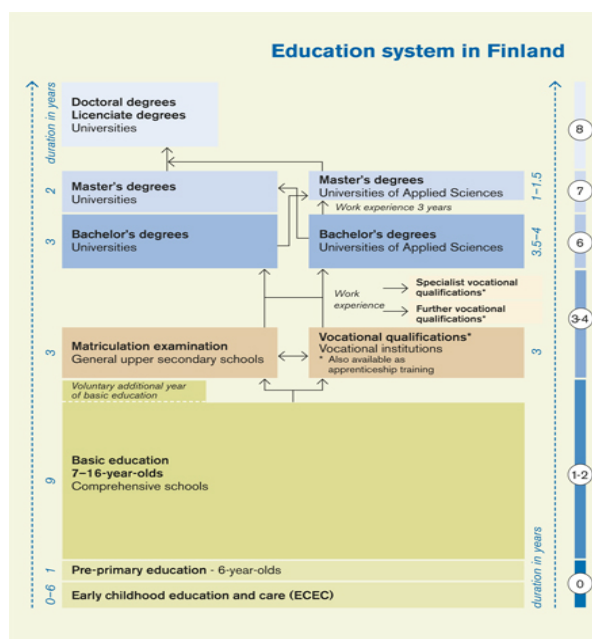
A central form of activity for folk high schools is the so-called long course. In practice, this period is divided into different study lines which on the average last from 30 to 36 workweeks. Teaching on the long courses tends to concentrate on social and humanistic subjects, art subjects and languages.

There has also been a great increase in the number of short courses offered by folk high schools. A majority of folk high schools now also offer open university courses with more and more being offered each year. In this work they are contracted with universities.

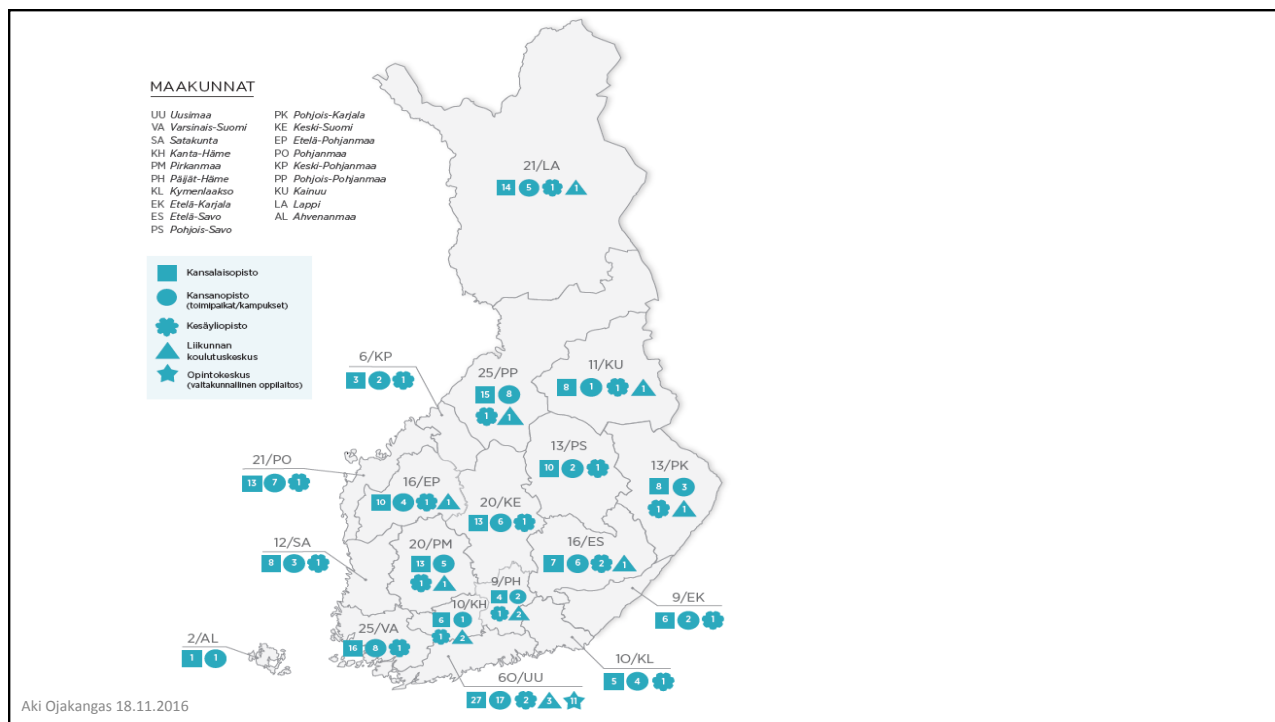
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Folk High Schools and Education System

- Open University courses – long lines
- Long lines for skills and knowledge
- Vocational qualifications up to 3 years
- General upper secondary education
- Continuing education for adults
- Basic skills courses for adults
- SO called 10-luokka after comprehensive school
- Basic skills courses for immigrants up to 3 years
- length



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The folk high school movement is characteristic of the Nordic countries. It originated in Denmark around the middle of the 19th century. First FHS in Finland was founded year 1889 in Kangasala by Sofia Hagman.

FHS finances its activities by state share, students fees and other incomes. Schools are non-profit organisations by nature.

The Finnish Folk High School Association

The Finnish Folk High School Association, which was founded in 1905, acts as a cooperating organisation for all the folk high schools in Finland.

Central areas of cooperation include lobbying, information and marketing, development, education and assessment and international issues.

The Finnish Folk High School Association is a member of [The Nordic Folk High School Council](#) which aim is to exchange experiences and ideas and to promote cooperation within the Nordic countries through seminars and meetings.