

Futures Education as part of the Finnish Education into the Future project



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For learning and competence

Futures pedagogical material for teachers

- ◆ (FNBE) identified an innovative futures pedagogy project in the field
- ◆ -> project report, while written, was developed into a hands-on guide for futures pedagogy for practitioners
- ◆ i.e. how to launch and implement futures pedagogical thinking at school level Plus pedagogical tips
- ◆ FNBE support for publishing the report (also in Engl) and launch an in-service training program for key teachers nationally

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- ◆ *Futures education does not require large scale projects - it only requires imagination, creativity and the deliberate wish to bring out the futures dimension and discuss it with the pupils.*

Irmeli Halinen



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- ◆ Project launched in 2000 with a few schools in Helsinki, Espoo and Kerava;
- ◆ Focus in basic (primary) education
- ◆ An international dimension from the beginning (Russia Sweden etc)
- ◆ Content and financial support from the National Board of Education since 2004
- ◆ no existing concept of futures pedagogy available -> drafted during the project.

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- ◆ It was realized that Futures-work would require activity and most of all pro-activity from the schools.
- ◆ The schools do not only react to changes, but they aim at promoting good things in the world by anticipating the future and by utilising the channels it has.
- ◆ Development work was connected to Finland's new curriculum-thinking <- new national core curriculum in process 2000-2004
- ◆ Futures education project was continued as multi-voiced and multi-dimensional until the end of 2006. The activities which were developed during the project live on in the schools' operational cultures even after the actual project was concluded.

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- ◆ Futures education was to affect the development of the pupils so that the abilities needed in the future society would be strengthened.
- ◆ These abilities were called future abilities. During the project it became clear that there are at least **three kinds of future abilities: abilities concerning thinking, skills and actions.**
- ◆ **Stimuli for development** were needed in order for the future abilities to develop. Thus work **methods and contents** of instruction which would best strengthen the abilities needed to be determined. Gradually it also became clear that the **operational culture of the school plays** an important role. How the school operates affects the mind, attitudes and actions of the pupils as much as actual instruction does.



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		FUTURES EDUCATION		
		↓		
METHOD		OBJECTIVE		METHOD
Stimulus for growth (working methods, contents)	→	Future abilities	←	School's operational culture
	Future thinking	Future skills	Future actions	

DEFINING FUTURE ABILITIES

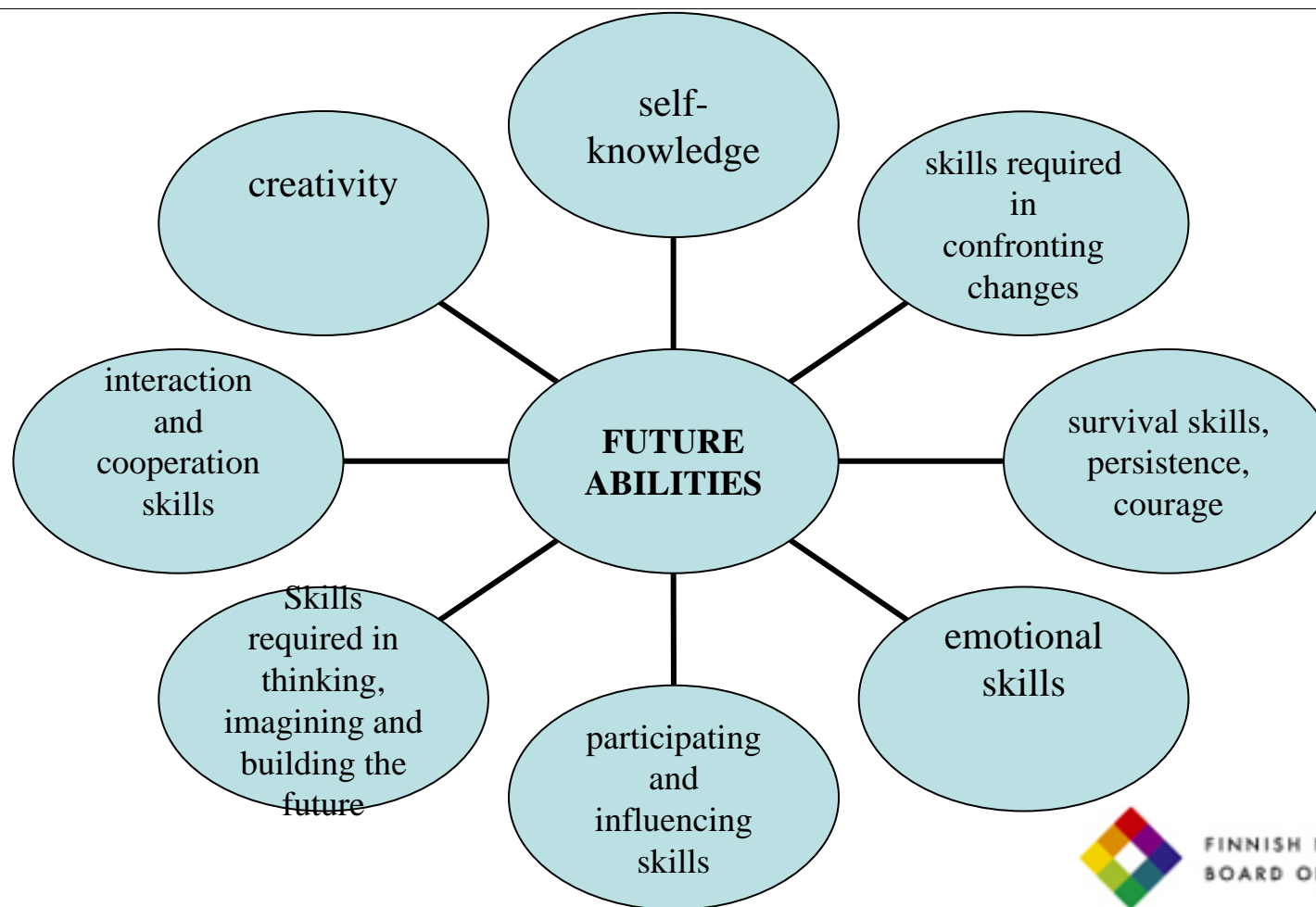
The aim would be to support pupils' growth so that

- 1) their future-oriented thinking will develop
- 2) they will comprehend the world as a whole
- 3) they will understand that the actions they make today influence their future
- 4) they will become aware of the values concerning nature, environment, humane life and societal development
- 5) their interaction, cooperation and negotiation skills will develop
- 6) their abilities of using information and communications technology in communication and in searching, modifying, producing and transmitting information will strengthen, and
- 7) they will be encouraged to participatory and active citizenship



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The participants in the project defined the following abilities as future abilities:



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- ◆ The methods of futures education can be divided into two groups.
- ◆ Firstly, they concern the working methods used in teaching learning and
- ◆ secondly, they concern the characteristics of the school's operational culture.

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- ◆ Future drama and role play; what if – exercises
- ◆ Film as a stimulus
- ◆ Life Game
- ◆ Weak signals and their recognition
- ◆ Letter to oneself in the future; questions for people in the future/past
- ◆ Mind maps; writing opinions to newspapers; own family history
- ◆ News broadcast in the future; tales, survival track; designing future spaces (installations)



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Futures Education as part of the Finnish Education into the Future project



- ◆ As part of the Finnish Futures project we will now start training key teachers from all Finland into futures pedagogues
- ◆ Launch in late November 2007 + at least three more sessions and plenty of hands-on exercises in the meantime
- ◆ The project report to be published in Finnish and in English late 2007 to provide a tool for all interested
- ◆ Training to be designed and carried out by those who did it →



Who did it:

Head teacher Anneli Rautiainen, Helsinki

Head teacher Martti Hellström, Espoo

Head of Basic Education Unit Irmeli Halinen,
FNBE

with planning officer Seija Salminen, Espoo;
planning officer Ritva Järvinen and
"financer" Paula Mattila, FNBE



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