

InnovationEngage

**A THREE COUNTRY AUDIT
OF EDC/HRE IN LOWER SECONDARY
EDUCATION CURRICULA IN FINLAND,
FRANCE AND IRELAND
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CONTENT

1. The 3 country audit in brief
2. Why Finland, France and Ireland?
3. Some observations about the challenges
4. Five proven practices to build on
5. Five pointers for future

THE THREE COUNTRY AUDIT IN BRIEF

Focus on the Total Learning Experience: syllabus, learning methods, operational culture of schools

Review of
curricula
against
Charter
principles

Identification
of 5 proven
practices

Identification
of
development
needs

Pointers for
the future

Design of
self-
assessment
material

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IRELAND

Population 4.5 million

180 000 students aged 12-15
+ an optional transition year

3-year "junior cycle"

FRANCE

Population 65.6 million

3.2 million students aged 11-15
(2.5 million in public schools)

4-year "collèges"

FINLAND

Population 5.4 million

181 000 students aged 13-16

A 3-year lower secondary/basic
education, grades 7-9.
+ optional 10th grade for improving skills

Education is provided by municipalities

The three country audit is timely because all three countries are reforming their curricula

WHY FINLAND, FRANCE & IRELAND?

The 3 country audit and experience can inspire EDC/HRE policy development:

- in these countries
- across Europe

- FINLAND has a decentralised system
- FRANCE has a centralised system
- IRELAND moving towards a semi-centralised system

Three different education systems



EDC/HRE IN LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE THREE COUNTRIES

FIN: Important part of compulsory social studies and cross-curricula learning

- Delivered also through entire learning experience
- Broad goals and criteria for final assessment in the national core curricula

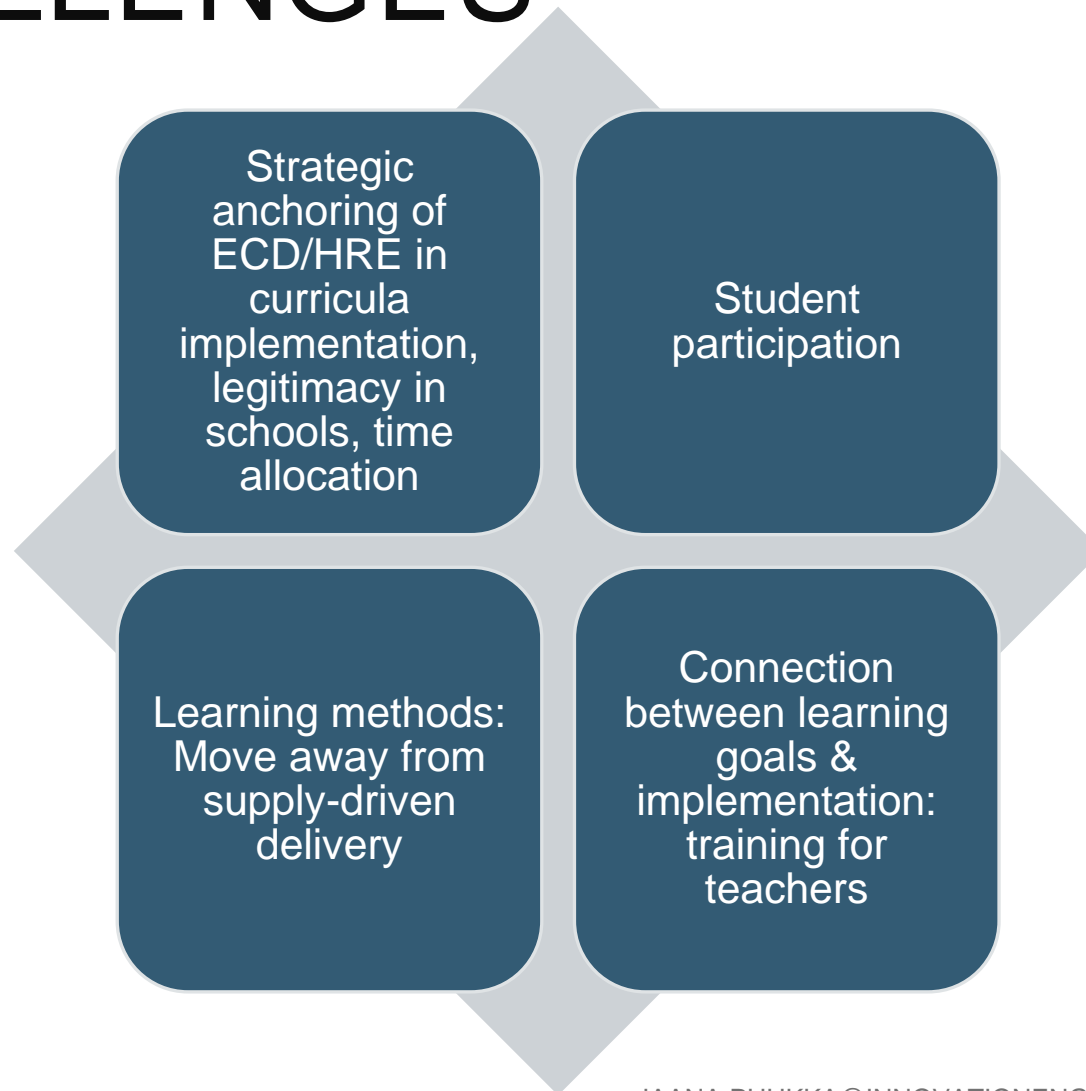
FR: Civic education

- Civics, history and geography is delivered by same teachers.
- Common base of knowledge and skills

IE: cross- and specific curricula

- Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE)
- 24 statements of learning incl. active citizenship and global awareness

CHALLENGES



FIVE PROVEN PRACTICES



Classroom instruction



Extracurricular activities
Community service & service learning



Gaming & simulations



Student participation



Actions to combat school bullying & protect students

help gain knowledge, skills & dispositions for active citizenship

PROVEN PRACTICE 1: CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

Classroom instruction is shared by nearly 3.6 million lower secondary students

Time allocation to EDC/HRE varies

Modes of learning vary

Gaps in teacher training

Assessment systems differ



PROVEN PRACTICE 2: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY SERVICE & SERVICE LEARNING

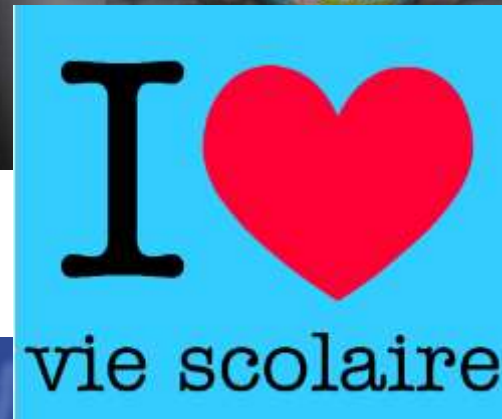
Extracurricular activities in and outside of school help build DC/HR skills and practise group interaction

Finland: Broad range of activities at school: student councils, clubs, entrepreneurship, international activities

France: La Vie scolaire, practice through national campaigns

Ireland: Worldwide Global Schools programme, Yellow Flag programme, Young Social Innovators

But only few examples of service learning that combines practical service in the community with structured preparation and reflection.



PROVEN PRACTICE 3: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Laboratories for practical experience in DC. Allows students' voice to be heard in relevant questions. Improves school environment, builds civic and transferable skills

Finland: Widespread and becoming mandatory from 2016 in lower secondary. Activities vary between schools. More efforts needed.

France: No Student Councils at lower secondary, elected students represent their peers in class councils and consultative bodies. Students feel that their views are not heard and some topics cannot be discussed

Ireland: National guidelines support the establishment of school councils, but student participation remains sporadic.



PROVEN PRACTICE 4: SIMULATIONS AND GAMING

Simulations develop public speaking, teamwork, analytical thinking, argumentation across curriculum.

Computer games and social networks are part of students' culture and daily life and should be more widely used at schools

Finland: European Parliament Simulations. Can be embedded in the curricula and for life long learning

France: Mock Trials, General Council of Students; Regional Student Councils

Ireland: Mock Trials Competition organised annually by Public Access to Law and supported by the Courts Service



PROVEN PRACTICE 5: ACTIONS TO COMBAT SCHOOL BULLYING AND PROTECT STUDENTS

Children and youth friendly systems eliminate all violence and protect vulnerable students

Finland: a portfolio of long term evidence-based programs to combat school bullying: targeted actions to the entire school community (KIVA), restorative peer mediation (VERSO) and peer supporter scheme.

France: Prevention of violence and improvement of school climate one of many priorities of in-service training in 2013, Surveys about victimisation, tools for schools

Ireland: National Policy on School Climate, EDC-curriculum, School-based actions, National Anti-Bullying Centre in Dublin City University with online resources



SOME POINTERS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Deliver & Reward

- High quality engaging instruction

Organise

- Extracurricular & service learning opportunities that address community challenges and build civic engagement

Encourage

- Student engagement with their schools and participation in school governance
- Ensure that students' views have an impact

Facilitate

- Student participation in simulations and games

Engage

- All students and staff in early resolution of conflicts

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**ANY QUESTIONS?
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