



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
*Ministère de l'Éducation*

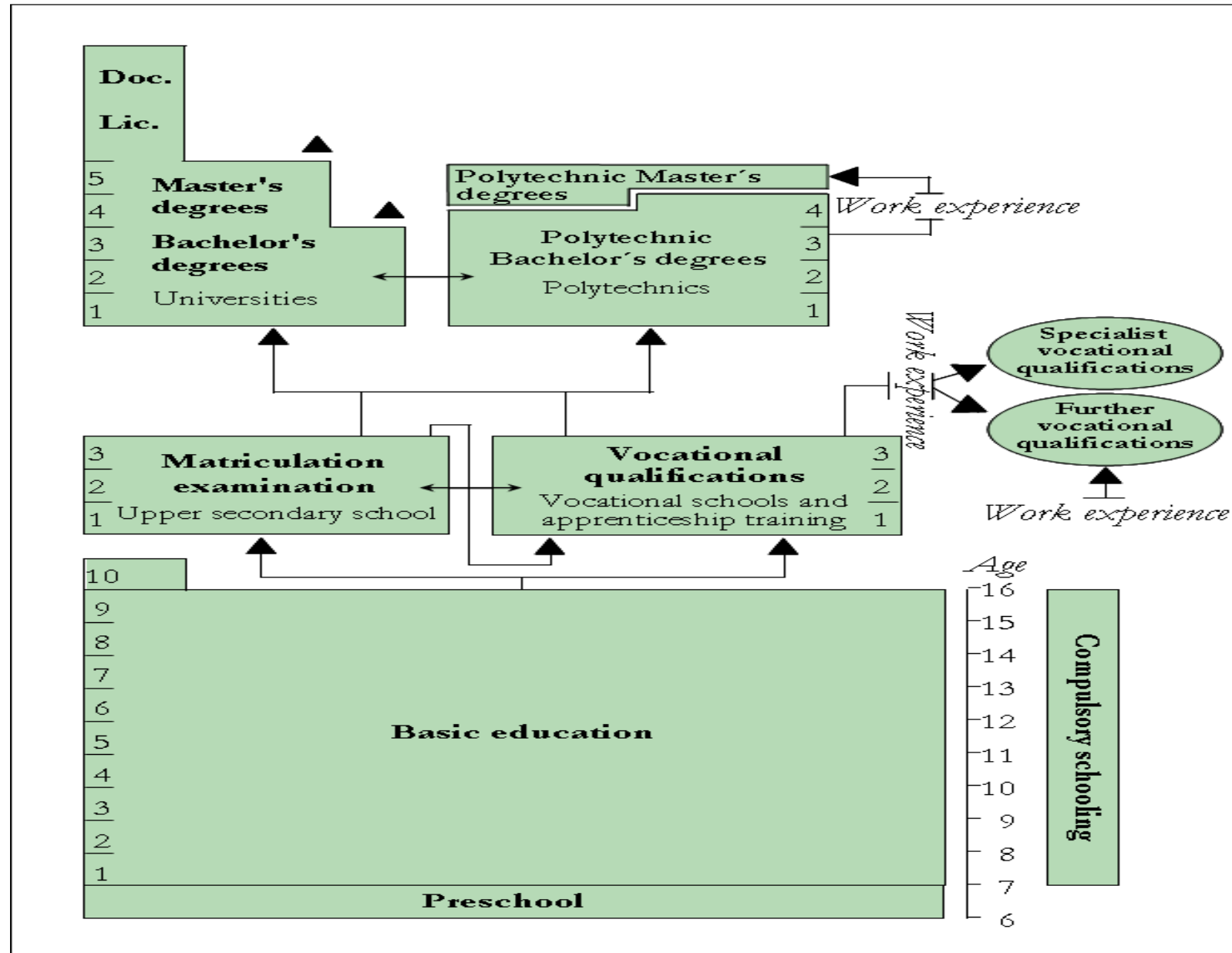
**Reform of Higher Education in Finland**

"Conference on Reforms of Higher Education in Europe"

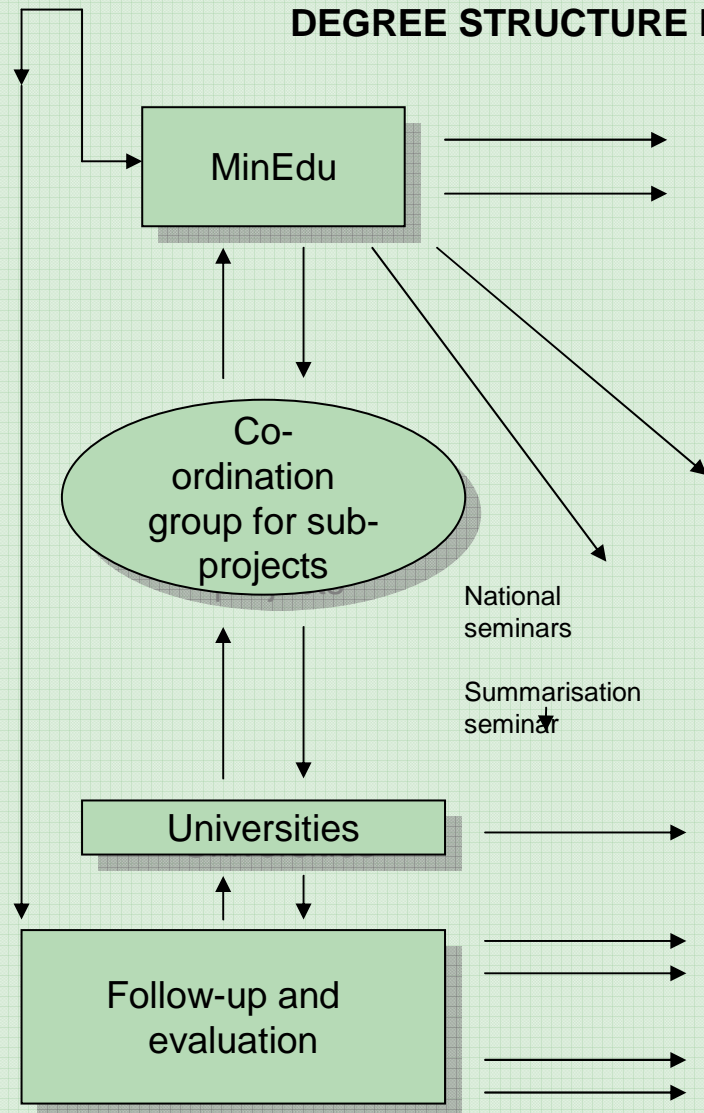
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Warsaw



## DEGREE STRUCTURE REFORM



### Legislative groundwork autumn 2003

### Project funding for universities 2004-2006:

- graduation in five years : 12 universities (Oulu, Kuopio) sub-projects: individual study plan, extent of degrees, student guidance, Master's programmes, core subject analysis, all universities involved, total c. 5 mill. euros/year

### Project funding for national field-specific coordination groups 2003-2004:

- humanities (Turku)
- maths-sciences (Jyväskylä)
- soc. sc. (Tampere), soc. work (Lappeenranta/Helsinki)
- econ. & bus. (Econ. & Bus.Adm. Turku)
- education/teacher training (Helsinki)
- tech. (Techn. Helsinki)
- law (Helsinki)
- psychol. Jyväskylä

### Curriculum reform 2003-2004

degree requirements, extent of studies, Master's Degree programmes

- **FinHEEC: evaluation 2010**
- **Materials:** data collection during implementation 2003-2009, material collected in projects, incl. theses
- **Field-specific Deans' meetings**
- **Intl. follow-up** (Bologna process, Tuning, ECTS, joint degrees)

## Structural development

- Based on the dual model
- Quality enhancement through internal restructuring of education and research
- Clearer profiles and clearer institutional missions
- Reviewed labour needs
- Increased efficiency: more resources to education and research

### **Action programme for structural development 2008-2011**

- The Ministry's view of the development needs in the higher education system
- Higher education institutions can also find other solutions
- The new higher education structures projected to be in use in 2012
- International review of the reform in 2020

## Structural development

### Vision 2020

- **No more than 18 polytechnics**
  - Intake in youth education 22 500
  - Flexible and profiled higher education units and structures
  - Strong and dynamic interaction with the region and with the world of work
  - Well-established, high-quality R&D in priority areas
- **No more than 15 universities**
  - Intake 17 500
  - Strong units and profiles; clear priorities in research
  - Internationalisation and world-class research
- **Four to five strategic university-polytechnic alliances**
  - Secured access to education and diverse education provision in the area
  - Joint R&D and stronger (regional) impact

## University reform

- In order to give the universities a stronger financial and administrative status, they will be made independent legal persons and supplied with sufficient capital.
- As legal persons, the universities will be better equipped to respond to their own needs and to the expectations of society than as State accounting offices.
- As legal persons, the universities will be better able to operate with the surrounding society.
- Having their own capital, the universities will have more scope for operating based on their own decisions
- Universities will be able to pursue their own human resources policies, geared to their specific features, independently of government hr-policy
- Efforts will be made to gain the commitment of other actors in society to supporting the universities' mission.
- Measures will be taken to ensure continued international competitiveness for the university system.

## University reform in a nutshell

### **Status as legal persons**

- The universities are legal persons separate from the State, either as corporations under public law or foundations under the Foundations Act.
- Corporation under public law (**public university**)
  - A legal person under the Universities Act whose organs and their functions are laid down in legislation.
- Foundation under private law (**foundation university**)
  - A legal person under the Foundations Act which is assigned the university mission in the Universities Act.

## University reform in a nutshell (2)

### University organs - public university

- The statutory organs of a university under public law are the board, rector and university collegiate body.
- Half of the **board** members are elected from amongst three different groups in the university: 1) professors, 2) other teaching and research staff and other personnel, and 3) students
- Half of the board members must be persons external to the university elected by the university collegiate body. The chairperson of the board is elected from amongst the external members .
- The **rector** is elected by the board.
- The **university collegiate body** is an organ composed of the university community as a whole.
- The university collegiate body determines the number of members in the board to be appointed and its term of office; elects the external board members and approves the board members elected by the university community; relieves a board member from his/her duties; selects the university auditors; approves the financial accounts of the university; and decides on the board members' and the rector's freedom from liability.



## University reform in a nutshell (3)

### University organs - foundation university

- A foundation university has a board and a rector. In its regulations the foundation can also establish other organs.
- The **board** members are elected by the organisations contributing towards the capital of the foundation. In appointing the members, the Government hears the university community and the student union.
- The **rector** directs the foundation and the university art and science community and discharges other duties assigned to him/her by the board. The board elects the rector.
- The foundation university must have a **multi-member body for the administration of the university as a whole**. Its members are elected by the university community from amongst themselves. This administrative body decides on the following academic matters, unless it has delegated them to faculties or other units

## University reform in a nutshell (4)

### **University core funding**

- The government will continue to be responsible for funding the public duties of the universities even though the universities are no longer within the State budget economy.
- The Ministry of Education will grant formula-based core funding to the universities for the execution of their statutory public duties according to the extent, quality and impact of the activities and education and science policy objectives.
- The government funding will be increased according to the rise in cost level (university index)

## University reform in a nutshell (5)

### Other university funding

- The universities will continue to be able to apply for **competed public funding** (Academy of Finland and TEKES) and EU funding.
- The universities can conduct **jointly funded research**.
- The universities may receive **donated capital** and use it or income from it to finance their operations.
- The universities will be provided with capital and they can use the **return on that capital** for their operations.
- The universities can use **business revenue** for their operations (extension education, contracted research, other commercial activities).

## University reform in a nutshell (6)

### Students and education

- The students in the university form a self-governing **student union**.
  - automatic membership in the union remains.
  - the student union has the special task of appointing student representatives to the university organs
- Degree education continues to be **free of charge**.
- Universities can, however, arrange **made-to-order degree education** to citizens of non-EU/EEA countries.
- In addition, there will be a **fixed-term trial of charging tuition fees** to citizens of non-EU/EEA countries in master's programmes taught in foreign languages.
  - provisions concerning degree programmes will be enacted by a Ministry of Education Decree.
  - tuition fees are conditional on a scholarship scheme.
- With a view to more efficient student admission and uniform selection timetables and practices, the admissions will be based on electronic joint application system (to degree studies)

## University reform in a nutshell (7)

### University personnel – change in employment relations

- As before, the personnel, together with the students, form the university community
- With the separation of the universities from the State body corporate, the **posts and tenures** in the universities will come **under legislation on labour contracts** instead of civil service regulations. The personnel will become employees of the new universities.
- The new universities will assume the right to negotiate/ assume the employer's collective bargaining rights.
- Because of their public duties, the personnel will continue to have **criminal liability as public officials**.
- The personnel's qualification requirements are set out in the university regulations.

## Timetable

- The Government has submitted its Bill to Parliament in February 2009.
- The reform is projected to take effect on 1 August 2009.
- After this, the public universities may organise and set up the new organs of the legal person.
- The current operations of universities as state accounting offices will stop on 31 December 2009.
- **The personnel and students transfer to the new universities on 1 January 2010.**

## Internationalisation strategy for higher education institutions 2009-2015

- Internationalisation is part of the reform of the public research, innovation and higher education system in Finland.
- The strategy sets five primary aims for internationalisation:
  - A genuinely international higher education community
  - Increasing the quality and attractiveness of higher education institutions
  - Promoting the export of competence
  - Supporting a multicultural society
  - Promoting global responsibility

## A genuinely international HE community in numbers

- By 2015, the number of non-Finnish teachers, researchers and degree students will have risen considerably
  - The number of degree students in HEIs 20 000 (2007:11 300)
  - The share of non-Finnish students in graduate schools 20 % (2007: 15,8 %)
  - Teacher and researcher mobility in universities  
incoming 4 000 (2007: 1 730)  
outgoing 4 000 (2007: 1 220)
  - Teacher and expert mobility in polytechnics  
incoming 3 000 (2007: 1 690)  
outgoing 4 000 (2007: 3 250)
  - Student and trainee mobility in universities  
incoming 8 000 (2007: 5 210)  
outgoing 8 000 (2007: 5 270)
  - Student and trainee mobility in polytechnics  
incoming 8 000 (2007: 4 420)  
outgoing 8 000 (2007: 7 180)



## Implementation of the internationalisation strategy

- On the basis of the aims of the national strategy HEIs define the focus areas of their international activities as part of their overall strategies.
  - The forms and means of internationalisation to vary according to the fields of education and research
  - Polytechnics and universities to have a slightly different internationalisation profile

## More information

- The university reform:  
[www.minedu.fi](http://www.minedu.fi) > Education > Education Policy > University reform
- The internationalisation strategy:  
[www.kansainvalistymisstrategia.fi](http://www.kansainvalistymisstrategia.fi)