

International ELINET Symposium 2018
“Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity”.

July 23-24, 2018, Cologne, Germany



Good Practice Session II: Improving the quality of teaching

Chair: Christine Garbe, University of Cologne, Germany

Tuesday, July 24, at 10.00–11.00

Location: Seminar Building / Room S 21

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

A literacy project for Northern Finland

Presenter:

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Abstract:

The skills of reading and writing are very significant. They have a crucial effect on success in basic and secondary education, progress in studies and later employment. Research results have shown an unexpected deterioration in the literacy of Finnish youth. It is an alarming trend also attracting public attention. The worsening reading and writing skills concern the northern Finnish boys in particular.

It is important to intervene in this situation, because it is crucial to improve the equity and equality of education, especially for the boys, and to help them in the transition period to secondary level.

The main aim of the project is to enhance the poor literacy skills of the adolescents by using better pedagogical methods and increase reading motivation. The second aim is to develop school-specific models for improving reading and writing skills.

To enhance reading and writing skills, various pedagogical approaches and well-founded practices will be developed and experimented in the four northern Finnish pilot schools. The interventions comprise reading motivation, reading fluency and spelling, executive functions and self-regulation, reading and writing strategies, genre pedagogy, digital tools and online reading. The Lapland Education Centre REDU and the Oulu Vocational College will also be involved in the literacy activities. The third aim, a virtual Literacy Support Centre, will be developed and piloted in northern Finland, offering expert assistance to the students, parents and teachers. As a result of the project a guide in the field of reading and writing will be published. Further, the results of the project will provide applied knowledge and practical experience for teacher education.

Bio Note:

Leila Kairaluoma, Dr. is university lecturer in special education at the University of Oulu, Finland. Before the university career she worked many years as a special education teacher. She completed the doctoral thesis concerning reading fluency in 2014 at the University of Jyväskylä: “Towards fluent reading. From reading assessment to evidence-based interventions”. Among the publications is her

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journal article “The nature of and factors related to reading difficulties among adolescents in a transparent orthography”. She has taken part in developing the reading and writing assessment method for testing the dyslexia of adolescents and adults. The guide book of reading and writing support was published for teachers. After this, she has participated in the project of adolescents’ school motivation at secondary school. The main aim of that project “Motivoimaa” was to enhance adolescents’ low motivation of school attendance and prevent drop outs with the motivation and learning difficulties intervention program in vocational school. She worked at that time in Niilo Mäki Institute in Finland. The new Literacy Project for Northern Finland got the funding from EU (ESR) in April. The two-year project started quite recently in cooperation between the Universities of Oulu and Lapland. Dr. Kairaluoma works at this project as a project manager.