

Finland

Encounters (Kohtaamisia- hanke) /**Keinumäki School (Hospital School) Espoo**

This hospital school for students aged 6 to 16, is engaged in the so-called Encounters programme, which has the aim to let students take part in investigating and developing their learning environments in cooperation with stake holders, authorities, and scientists from the community. The purpose is to support education for sustainable development in cultural, social, ecological and economical areas. Implementations of innovations in this school are research-based.

Main Focus of Innovation: LEARNERS, TEACHERS, CONTENT, RESOURCES, ORGANISATION

General Information

Name of the ILE: Encounters (Kohtaamisia- hanke) /Keinumäki School (Hospital School) Espoo

Location/Address: Turuntie 150, 02740 ESPOO, FINLAND

ILE submitted by: Anna Maaria Nuutinen

Rationale

Why do you suggest that it should be included in the project? How does it respond to 21st century learning challenges?

We have participated successfully in several innovative projects both teaching and learning projects and we are very interested in continuing this process in global level. Our special needs teachers use different kinds of teaching methods in different kind of learning environments in order to find our school as a place of teaching and learning that encourage individuals lifelong learning and prepare them to the future. We are members of Encounters project which is a learning environment developing project. Learning is seen as an active process. It gives to our pupils possibilities to apply knowledge and skills by flexibly and creative way. The interaction between actors and environment is very important.

Evidence

Is there any evidence or indications showing that this initiative achieves the outcomes that it is aiming at?

I am a member of Professor Mauri Åhlber's research group of education for sustainable development in Helsinki University. My interest is to continue my studies and developed my own work as a research and teacher. For me, research is the way to monitor quality of all learning processes and the same time a tool to create innovations continually to improve these processes. Project investigation: Encounters learning environment developing project.

Learning Aims / Intended Learning Outcomes of the ILE

What are the core learning aims and which knowledge, skills or attitudes are to be acquired? (These may include outcomes related to learners' social, interpersonal, or meta-cognitive development)

The aims of the Encounters project are to develop methods and activities where our pupils in Hospital school take part in investigating and developing their learning environments in cooperation with stake holders, authorities and scientists and using also the ICT. The purpose is to support education for sustainable development and its all different aspects: cultural, social, ecological and economical. The core aim is to learn sustainable life style in schools and in homes. Pupils learn to understand their culture, history of their own environment and relationships and interactions between human beings and nature, their own personal growth and development and respective attitude for difference.

Learners

Which group(s) of learners is it aiming at? Who is eligible to take part? How many learners are there? What are their ages?

The ILE is a 'whole school approach'. All pupils from the 6 -year-olds to the 16 -year-olds take part in it.

Facilitators

Who are the teachers/facilitators? Who are the leaders? What are their professional backgrounds? What are their roles?

All members in the school community take part in the project. It means the students and all staff members . Because the learning is 'collaborate transformative learning', it concerns also the co-operators and the families. The coordinating team consists of the coordinating teacher, the principal and four teachers, but all teacher act as important actors.

Organization of the ILE

How is learning organised? How do learners and facilitators interact? What kind of pedagogy do they follow? What curriculum is used?

Learning is organised by Hospital school. The learning is based on the curriculum of Espoo city and on national curriculum. The implement plan is based on integration of research based learning, education for sustainable education and its high qualitative learning where conceptual learning, conceptual structures and meta cognition are supported, rehabilitative education ART, experimental learning, and SCIS (science curriculum improvement study).

Learning Context

In which context does learning take place? What does the physical learning environment look like? Are community resources used to facilitate learning and how?

Our school is public hospital school for children's who need special care or teaching. The teaching and learning context varies by the learning area. The school is surrounded by old historical area of Espoo. We have a little river, forests and fields which are also our learning environments. Our school is a part of great University Hospital. It means lot of cars and people around, but also have some privacy in school area. The school building is very beautiful and innovative.

History of ILE

Who initiated it? For what reasons was it started and with what purpose? Have these changed since?

The idea for this funding/project came from the ENSI coordinator working in the Department of Education. Two ENSI-schools started the project and made common plans which gave both schools freedom to develop on their own way, still learning form each other and other ENSI schools.

Funding of the ILE

How is it funded?

Funding for the ILE comes partly from the normal budget of the school. Extra resources come form the national funding from the government, which was launched funding for developing the learning environments.

Learning Outcomes

What are the learning outcomes achieved by the ILE, including academic, social, interpersonal and meta-cognitive outcomes? How is learning assessed?

The learning is assessed in a normal way, self evaluation, by school exams, observations and discussions with the teachers. Learning project Encounters is also assessd/evaluated by a teacher research . Pupils use Improved Concept Mapping, CmapTools etc. other quality tool of high quality learning.

Documentation describing or evaluating the ILE

Is there documentation on this learning environment? Is there a website? Films? Research reports or evaluations? Other forms of documentation? (please supply references or links)

www.keinumaki.fi

Other information you consider to be relevant to describe the ILE

Encounters “Teaching Packages”

1. ANCIENT ESPOO

A teaching package based on the pre-history of Espoo combines history and art in experience. With the help of this package the students will learn about history of their own surroundings, their roots. The package is produced in co-operation with the Espoo City museum and the Art House Pikku -Aurora. The package is aimed to cover cultural sustainability and it includes six active workshops.

2. MEDIEVAL ESPOO

The students will learn about medieval life, both everyday life and festivals. Ancient skills and crafts will come familiar with different activity workshops. The aim of the package is to help students to understand the changes peoples' lives and surroundings over the course of time. This will also make the students understand the foundations of modern society. The learning package will be realized in co-operation between the Espoo City Museum and the Museum Theatre of Espoo. The package is aimed to cover cultural sustainability.

3. THE NUUKSIO NATIONAL PARK

This teaching package covers the learning experience in all seasons, including instructions for observation and researching the area. The National Park is place for relaxing and calming down, which will be experienced. Special attention is given to the importance of the National Parks as Nature Preserves protecting the most valuable and natural features of Finland. The package includes advice for walks in the nature and how to arrange camp schools. The package is carried out in co-operation with the Art House Pikku –Aurora and the Nuuksio National Park. The package is aimed to cover ecological sustainability.

4. MAPPING ONE'S ENVIRONMENT

The package includes field research in the topics air, soil, water and living organisms. The students will acquire basic knowledge and understanding the functioning the eco-system and discuss the human impact on it. The learning package will be realized in co-operation between the WWF, Nature House Villa Elfik and the Environment Centrum of Espoo. The package is aimed to cover ecological and economical sustainability.

5. KEINUMÄKI SCHOOL AS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The aim of this package is to support and encourage the student's participation. The package is also aimed at educating the students to more eco-friendly as their develop into adulthood. Also providing the students with a fun learning environment where they also learn good social-emotional skills through the interaction with other students, teachers and parents.