



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

# Equality in Education

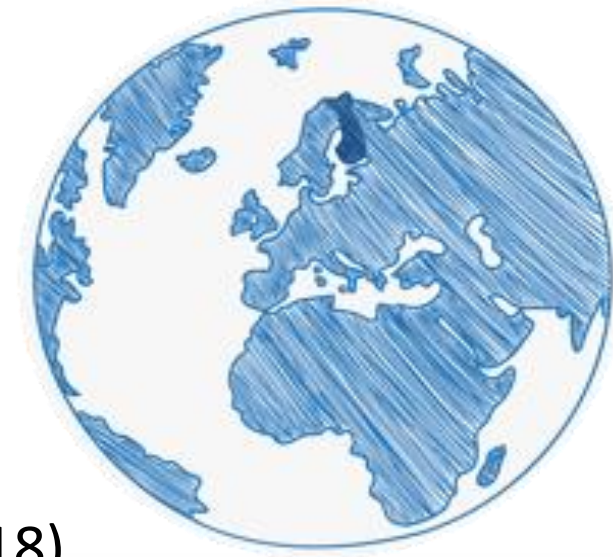
2.–3.11.2022 Global HR Forum, Korea  
Redesigning Educational Governance

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Head of Unit  
Finnish National Agency for Education*



# Finland in brief

- Population 5.6 million (18 inhabitants / sq. km)
- Two official languages
  - Finnish (87.6 %, 2018) and Swedish (5.2 %, 2018)
- Persons with foreign background:  
8 % of the population



# Education in Finland

[Education Finland – YouTube](#)







# Underlying educational understanding is based on equity



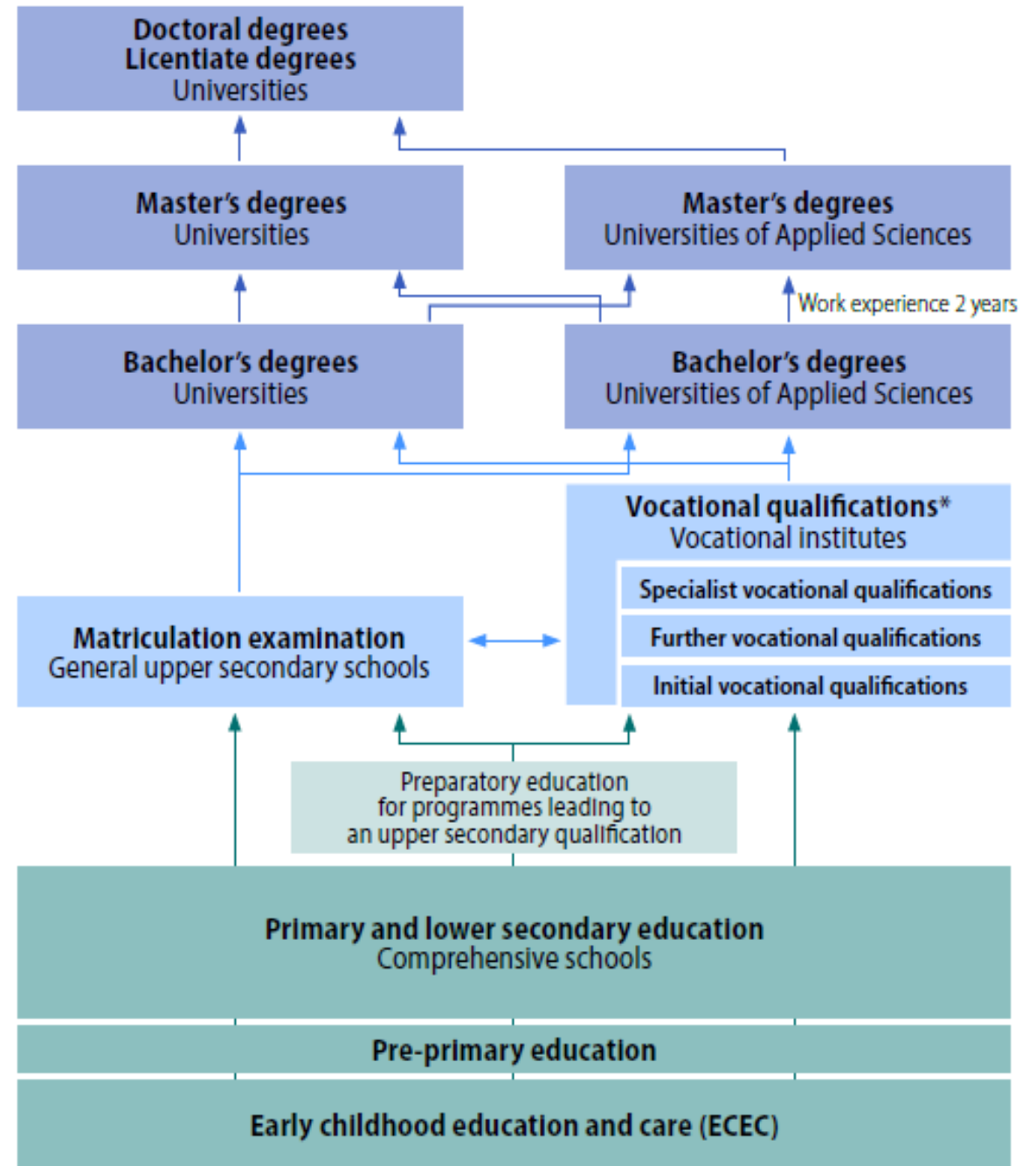
*Everyone has the right to basic education free of charge.*

*The public authorities shall guarantee for everyone equal opportunity to receive other educational services in accordance with their ability and special needs, as well as the opportunity to develop themselves without being prevented by economic hardship.*

*Constitution of Finland*

# Education system in Finland

- Flexible education model
- No dead ends – learning can always proceed to an upper level of education



# Two-tier national administration

## Ministry of Education and Culture

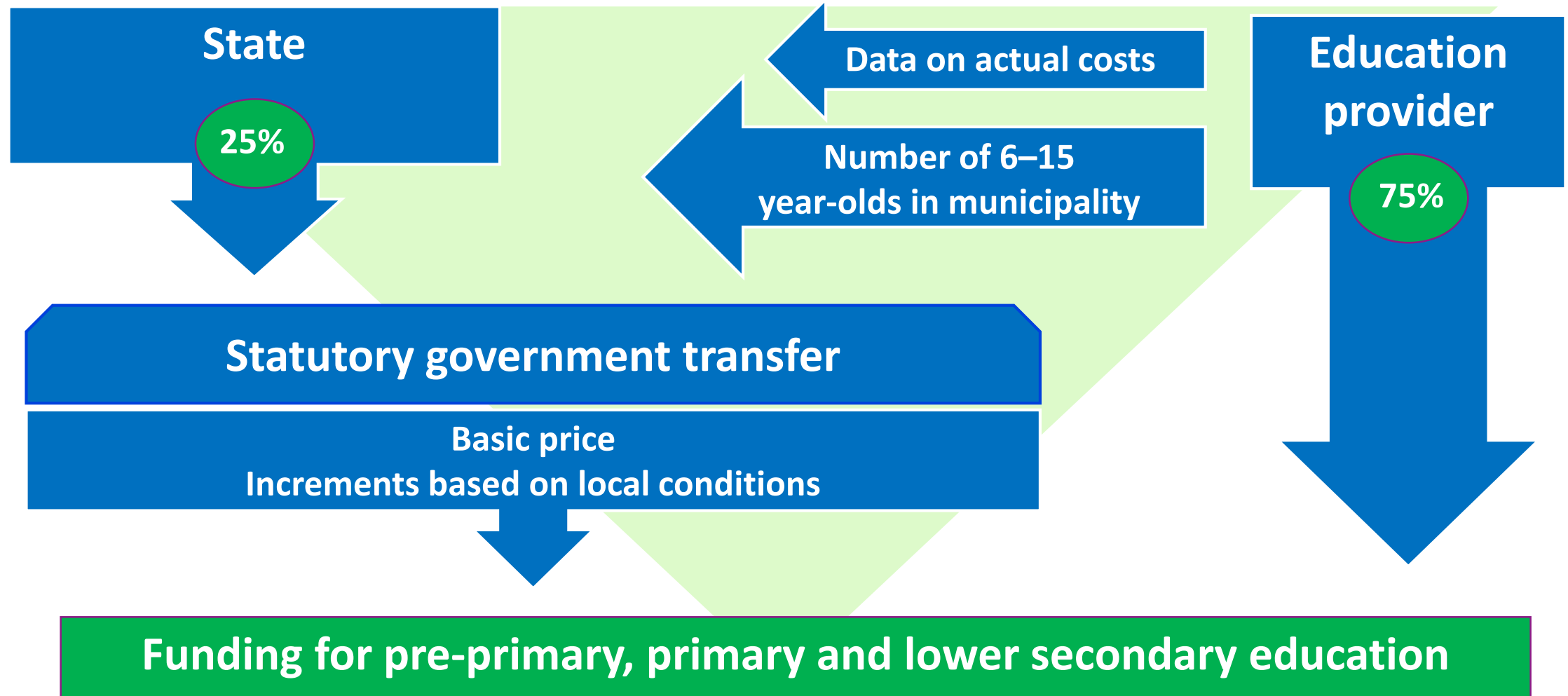
- Education policy
- Preparation of legislation
- State funding

**The purpose of the steering of education is to ensure the equality and high quality of education and to create favourable conditions for the pupils' growth, development and learning.**

## Finnish National Agency for Education

- National development agency
- National Core Curriculum & qualification requirements
- Support for evidence-based policy-making
- Support for reform and development
- Services for educators and learners
- Supporting internationalisation

# Funding of pre-primary and primary and lower secondary education in a nutshell





# The curriculum system in Finland

**Basic Education Act and Decree  
General National Objectives and Distribution of  
Lesson Hours**

Ministry of Education

- Time allocation between different subjects
- School subjects
- General goals for education

**National Core Curriculum**

Finnish National Agency for Education

- National regulation
- General framework for providing and organising education
- Enhances equality in education throughout the country
- Objectives and content areas of each subject

**Local Curricula**

Education providers and schools

- Local decisions basing on the national core curriculum
- Local needs, resources and emphasises

**School's Annual Plan**

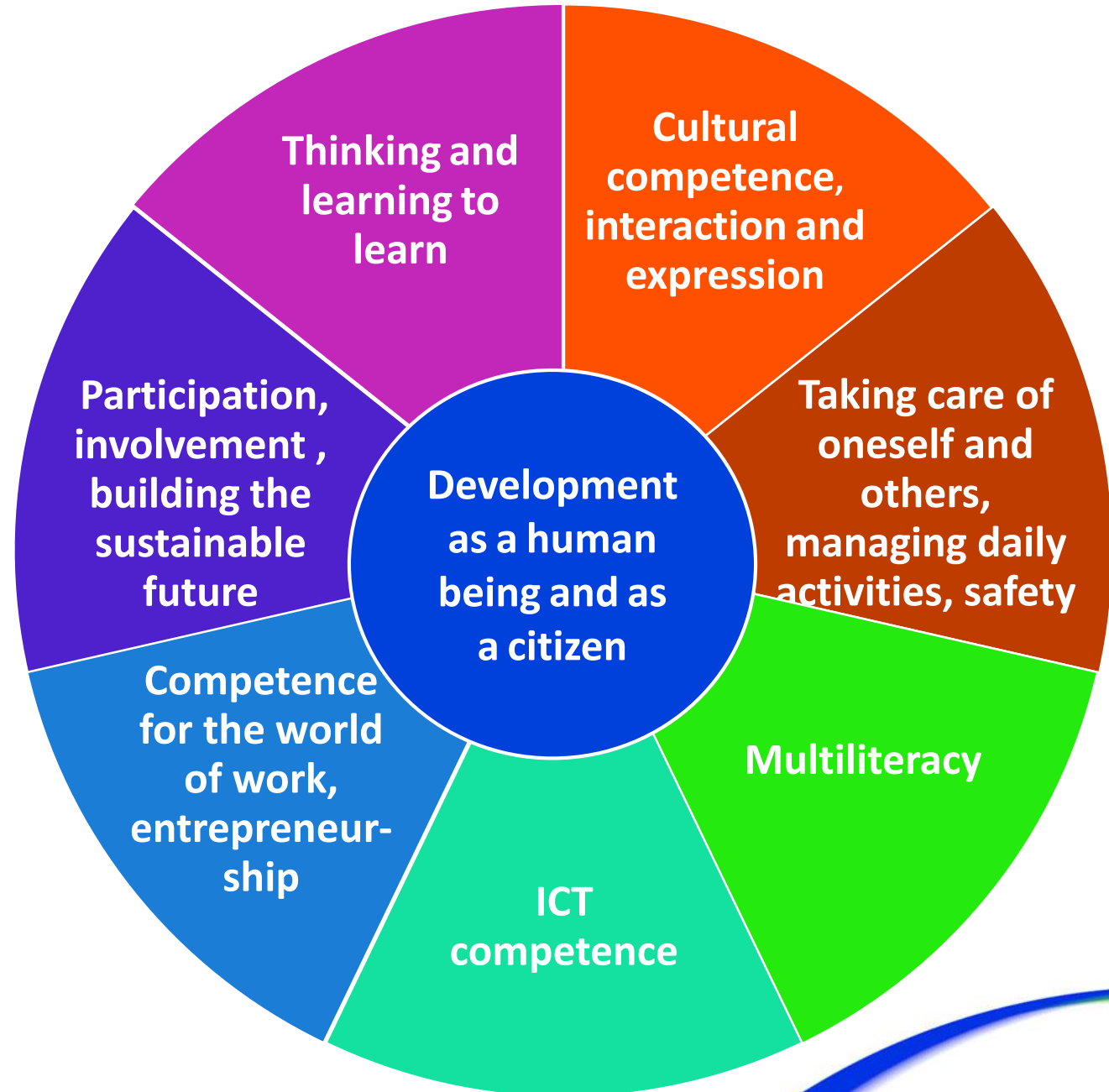
Schools

- Realization of local curriculum
- More precise definitions of daily school work

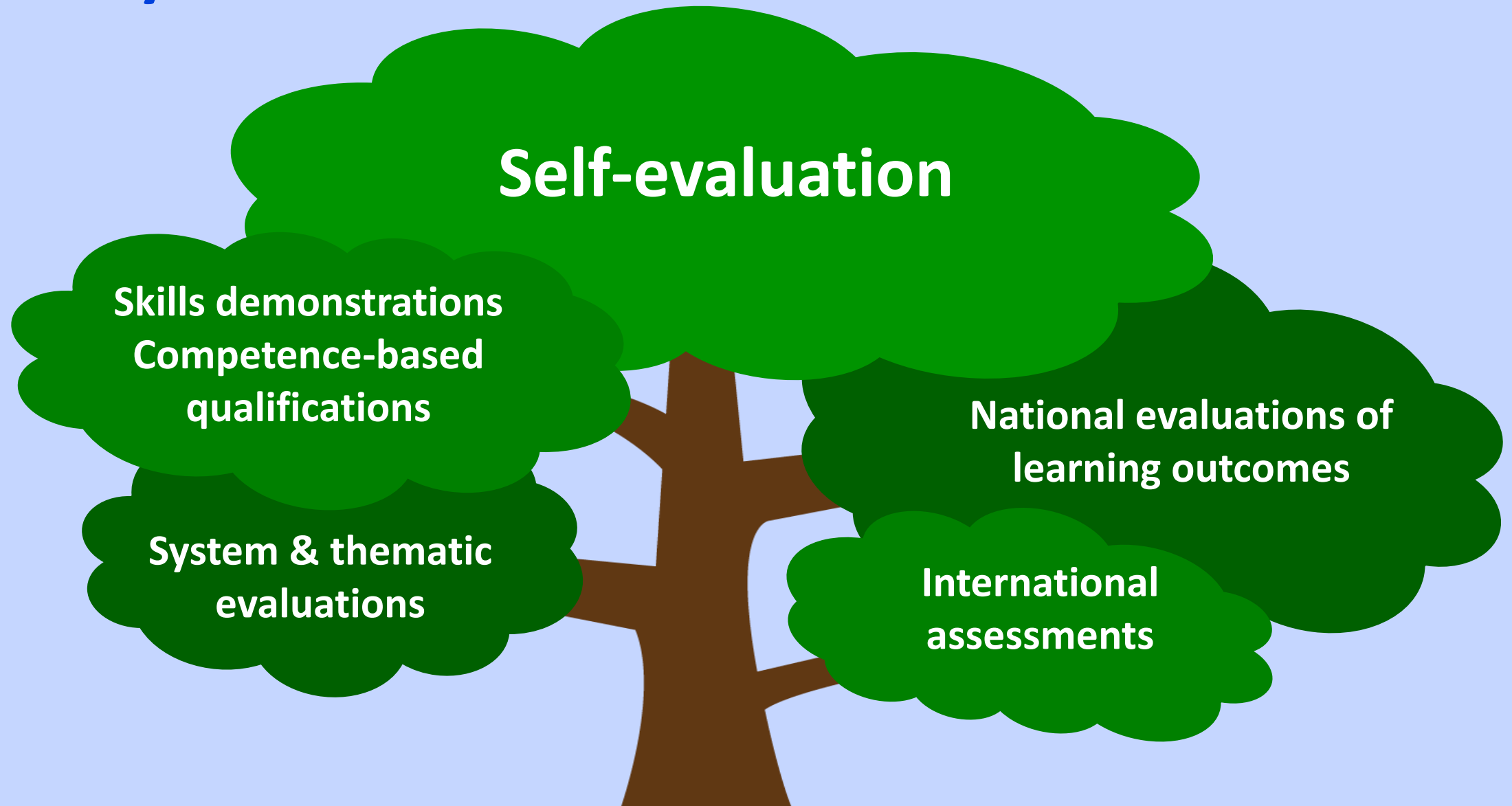
# Transversal competences

## National goals for education and Transversal Competences

- knowledge
- skills
- values
- attitudes
- will



# Education providers have main responsibility for quality



# Education is an investment in equality

*“Education is an investment. It is an investment in equality and peaceful, democratic and resilient societies. Education is a necessary building block for any prosperous society. It is not a luxury you can only afford after crises have passed. In Finland, we have invested in education even during the most difficult times. This has been our recipe for a better future.”*

Sauli Niinistö

President of the Republic of Finland

The Transforming Education Summit in New York in September 2022





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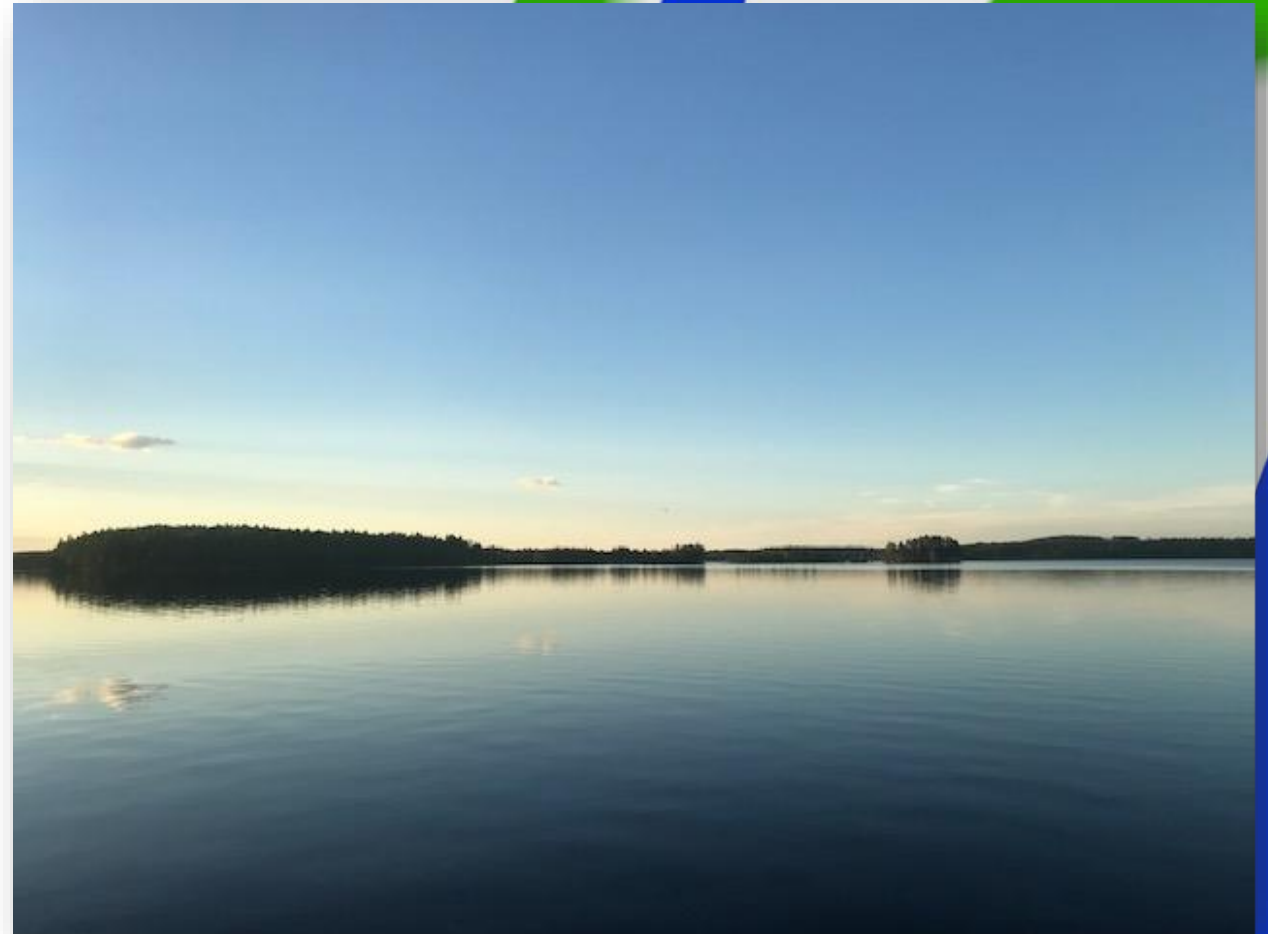
# Thank you! Kiitos!

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Photos: Marjo Rissanen