

REFLECTION ON MY DEVELOPMENT DURING THIS PROGRAMME

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL

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Date: 8/10/2017

Just arrived. I went to the auditorium (the meeting place) I found a motivating atmosphere: the organizer of the meeting on the stage inciting to clap any time a group has been introduced. Very marketing but nice. This time was dedicated to knowing each other and illustrating the week program. Friendly.

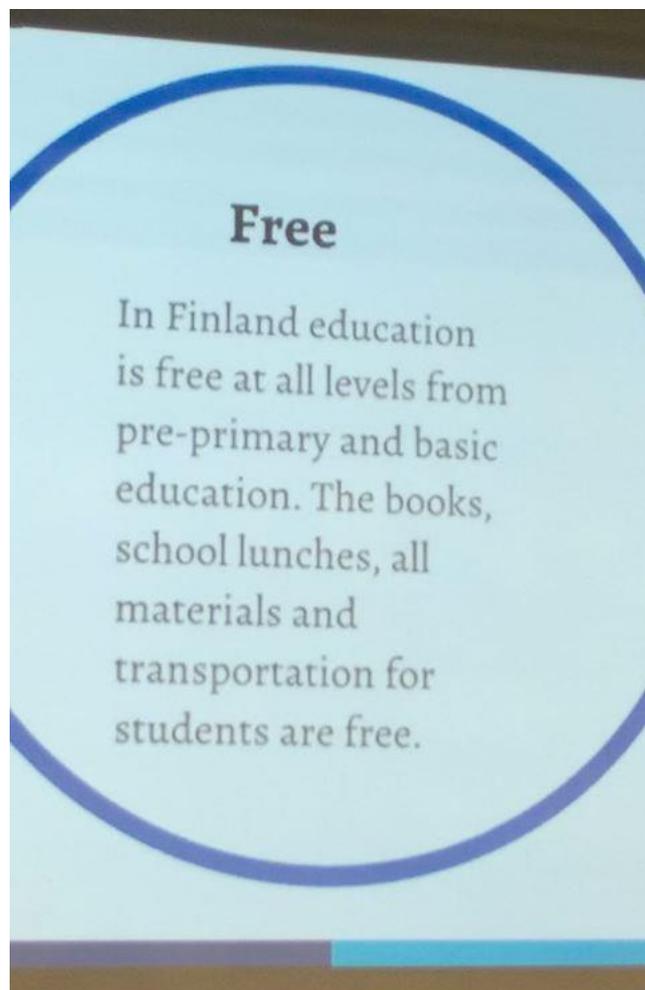


Date: 9/10/2017

Unfortunately the weather is not good: it is raining and probably for the all period will do; so we start visiting the city wet and under the umbrella with our guide. The centre of Helsinki is small and the most exciting places are in front of the see and inside the new buildings, beautiful examples of post-modern design. Especially notable is the habit to stay outside with any kind of weather: even kids of kindergarten are playing under the rain.

In the afternoon lessons about Finnish school system and Finnish History and culture. As regards the school system the most I appreciate is the structure because there are two different possibilities after 16th one more practical oriented to job and the other one looking at sciences and professions, but not as a choice without any chance of review because there is a way for both the choices to access one to the other.

Nevertheless in the presentation I still felt the taste of “marketing”, and not only me, as I heard from others participants: the Finnish school System is the best and not a word if there is some problem. Probably is more flexible of the others and this is especially appropriate for the nowadays society, but I had the feeling of not a deep educational knowledge .Tomorrow we start to visit the schools and I'll try to understand more.



Date: 10/10/2017

First visit to a comprehensive school, just out Helsinki, almost in the first country side out the city: about 800 students from 1 to 9 class (7- 16). The assistant of Principal come to make a presentation of the school and then two students of

the last year made us visiting the many different parts and answering to our questions.

As I already saw in Denmark, schools are really beautiful and built for staying comfortably and having a lot of opportunity to experiment different subjects, not only theory but practice too. The really big differences are in all these organized spaces and in the great freedom of teachers and students to move as they like. A lot of flexibility and simplicity in the organization. All the kids since are 7 go to school by their own and are used to be responsible. They can take and look on their smart phone and even if they are not following the lessons the teachers don't say anything, but they know they have to reach goals, so if they waste time at school they have to make homework: this is what the boy who guided us around the school said to us. I think it is very interesting because it makes them responsible of their own learning and they don't feel to be forced. Lights and shadow anyway (more lights is the sensation).



Date: 11/10/2017

At North 200 km. from Helsinki, visiting an excellent upper secondary school, in an educational centre. Really beautiful: 350 students and quite all appear very interested in studying and very motivated. I dream a school like this. I still have something going up and down in my mind about the course of Philosophy, very next to the course of Religion and specially centered on Ethic in a very summarized way. Probably students are more involved than ours in discussions about problems, but how much have they the instruments to go deeper?



Date: 12/10/2017

Another Gymnasium today, few bus stops from Helsinki. I attended two lessons very near to my teaching: orientation and guidance and Theory of knowledge, both very interesting and stimulating. I decided to propose to introduce in the Social Sciences teachings a lesson for one hour a week for the first two months in the third class and to use the methodology that I have seen especially the reflection on how to reach their own aims and about their own way of being (as is tested in the the "orientatest" we somministrare at the end of the fourth year to help students in orientation). The second lessons I attended, was a Philosophy lesson, or better, the name of the course is " Theory of the knowledge". I attended a lessons about the difference between a bias and a believing, and from this how we can say "we know", and then a space of 10 minutes to discuss each other about something This could also be the method to use for introducing Philosophy since the first year of secondary school: desks put in circle and a guided lessons about a problem. The lesson was 75 minutes and the 15 minutes break, if there is a 90 minutes lesson the break would be half an hour and during this time students talk, relax, study and do what they like. There are a lot of relaxing places with sofas, armchairs, cushions and every class has a place for coffee or tea and to wash the cups. The teacher's private space has a kitchen and in a room besides 10 computers. Student don't know what means not going to school because prefer to rest or not to have a test. This is the school of my dreams.



Date: 13/10/2017

Visit to Tallin in Estonia. Maybe I'm too tired to appreciate and it is also very cold but fortunately it doesn't rain, as every day before. The centre of Tallinn is very nice, but living in Italy I'm used to an historical, medieval centre. The prisons of KGB interesting but they need to include more witnesses. Anyway an interesting trip.

A final overview of my experience in this European training programme:

The last morning all together for the presentation of our Portfolio. I felt enthusiastic people and more or less we made the same reflections. What else? It has not been an holiday but a very intensive, learning and formative week. Thanks to Edoardo for the organization. Now My purpose is to continue to do my best with a new consciousness and new ideas.