



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

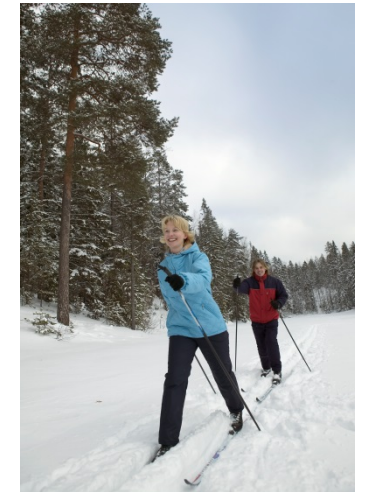
# The basic fundamentals and challenges of Finnish education

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Seminar at the Scottish Parliament, 4 March 2020



# Finland in brief

- population 5.5 million (18 inhabitants / sq. km)
- two official languages: Finnish and Swedish
- persons with foreign background : 6.2 % of the population
- education level of the working age population:
  - 11 % basic education
  - 44 % upper secondary education
  - 45 % tertiary education



**The Best Basic Education  
in the World**

WEF, The Global Competitiveness Report  
2016-17

**World's Best in Press  
Freedom**

Press Freedom Index 2016

**Top-Ranking Country in PISA**

OECD PISA

**The Safest State**

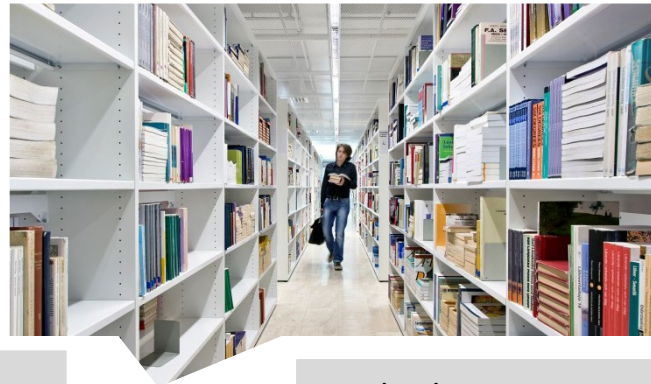
WEF, Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report  
2015

**World's Least Failed State**

Fund for Peace Failed States Index, 2016

**Second best performing  
Higher Education graduates**

OECD Education at Glance 2016



**World's Second Least Corrupt  
Country**

Corruption Perceptions Index, 2014

**Greatest amount of Human  
Capital**

WEF, The Human Capital Report 2016

**Third Best in Innovation**

WEF, The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17

**The Best Public  
Administration**

Lagatum Institute, The Lagatum Prosperity Index  
2016

**World's Third Best in Gender  
Equality**

WEF, Global Gender Gap Report 2015

**World's Second Best Place to  
Be a Mother**

Save the Children's annual State of the World's  
Mothers report 2015

Photo: Tuomas Uusheimo / Helsingin yliopisto

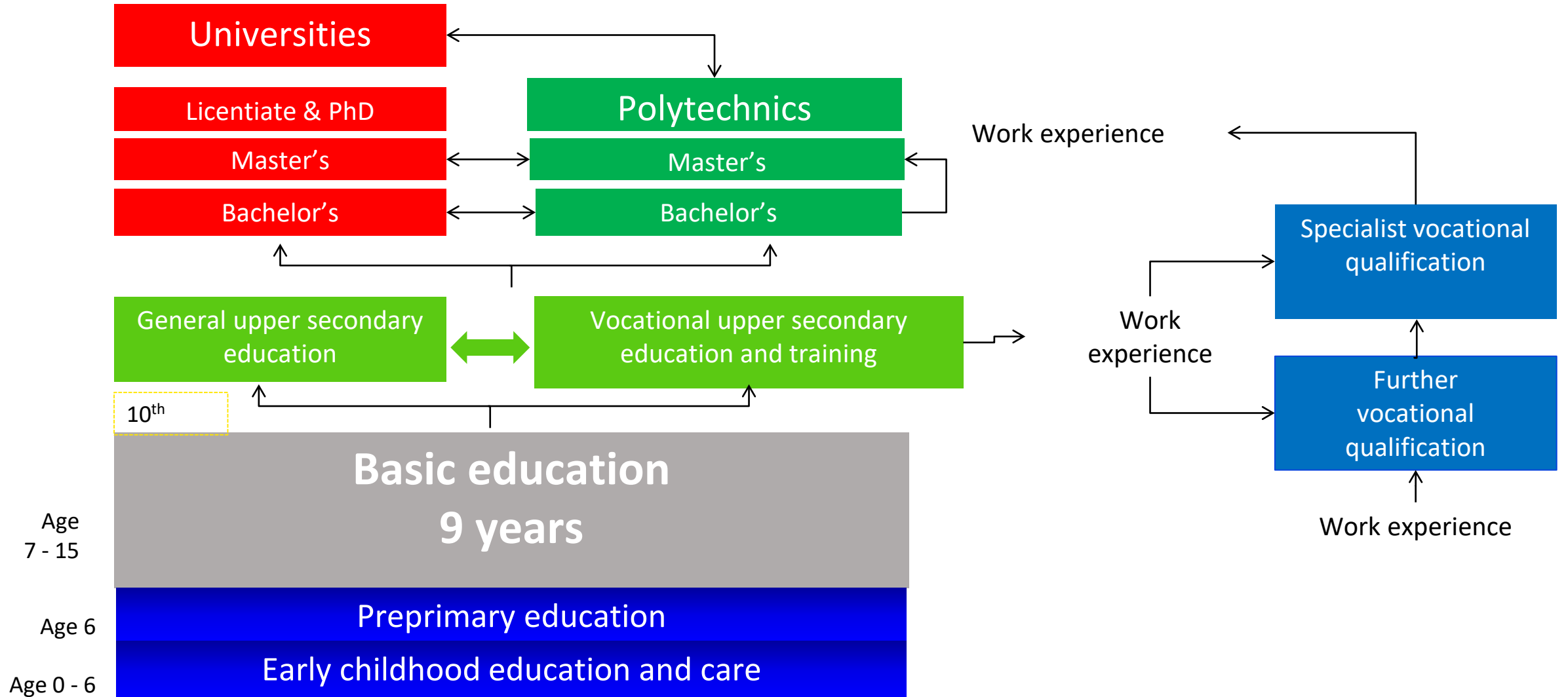
# Underlying educational understanding is based on equity

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)



# No dead-ends in the education system

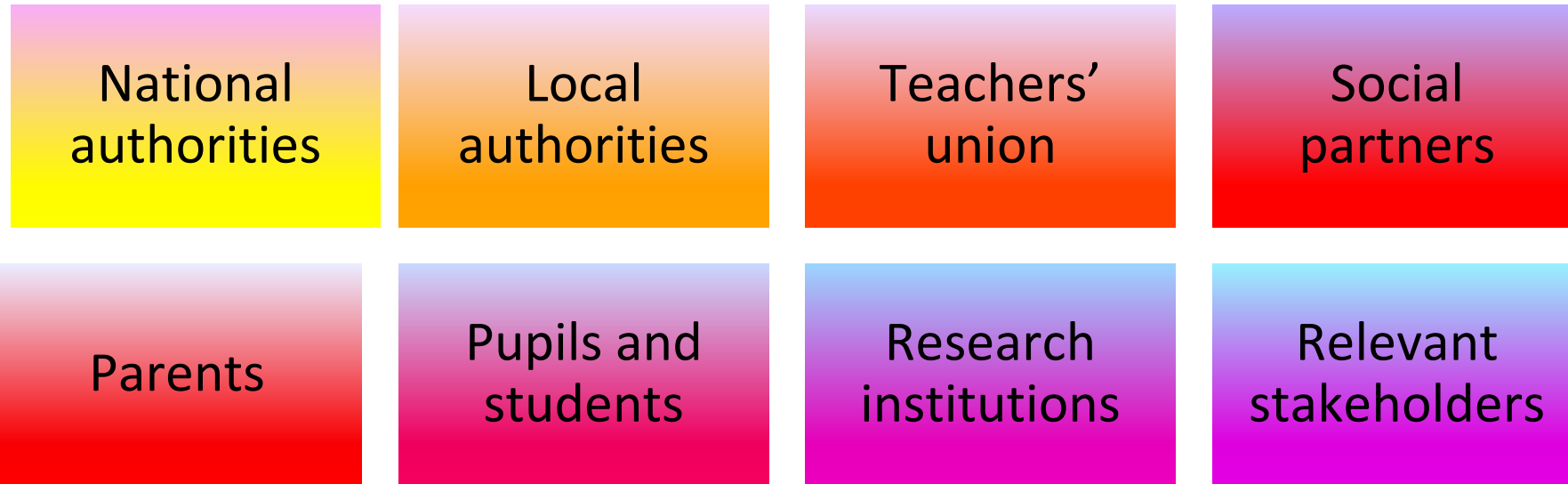




# Characteristics of the Finnish Education System

- **Finnish culture: trust for education**
- **Education policy**
  - Educational equality and equity
  - Delegating decision power and responsibility from central administration to the local levels
- **Comprehensive school (= basic education)**
  - Core curriculum
  - Headteachers as pedagogical directors
  - School practices: several subjects, small groups, high quality equipment
- **Teacher education**
  - Teaching seen as an academic profession
  - Highly-qualified teachers
  - Excellent students

# Education developed in partnership



# How to educate and train in an uncertain and complex world for a future we can't predict?





# Rethinking transversal competences

National goals for basic education and transversal competences

- knowledge
- skills
- values
- attitudes
- will



# FINNISH BASIC EDUCATION

## - Excellence through equity for all

*prioritised goals*

1

### **EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Developing the school leadership system towards collaborating and constantly learning expert organisation.

2

### **LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION**

Development of basic education is founded on a long-term collaboration based on trust. There is a continuous dialogue between national and local development.

3

### **SUPPORT FOR LEARNING, PERSONALISED LEARNING PATHS AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING SOLUTIONS**

Basic education provides all students with equal opportunities for high-quality and pedagogically relevant teaching.

4

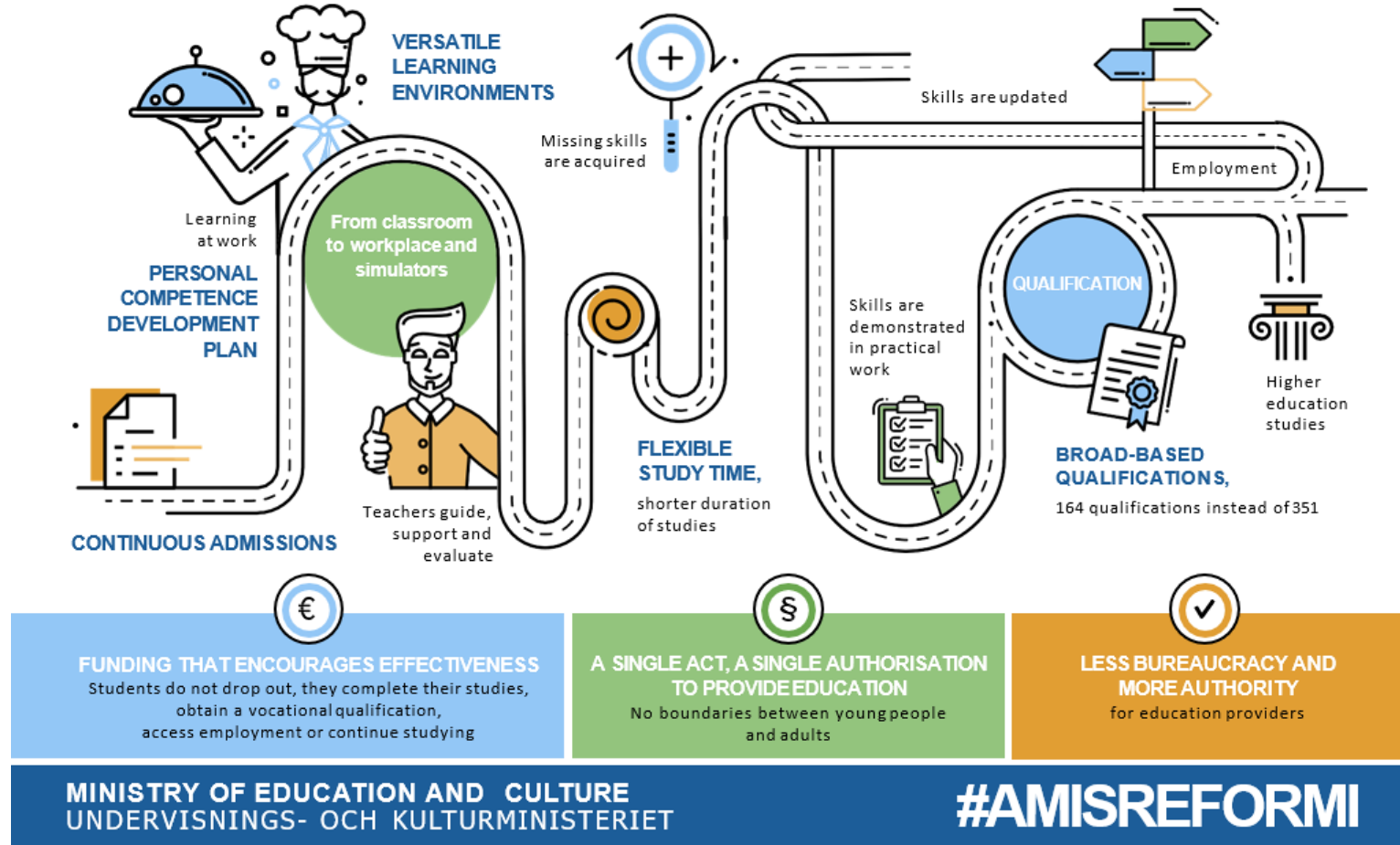
### **SCHOOLS PROMOTING WELLBEING**

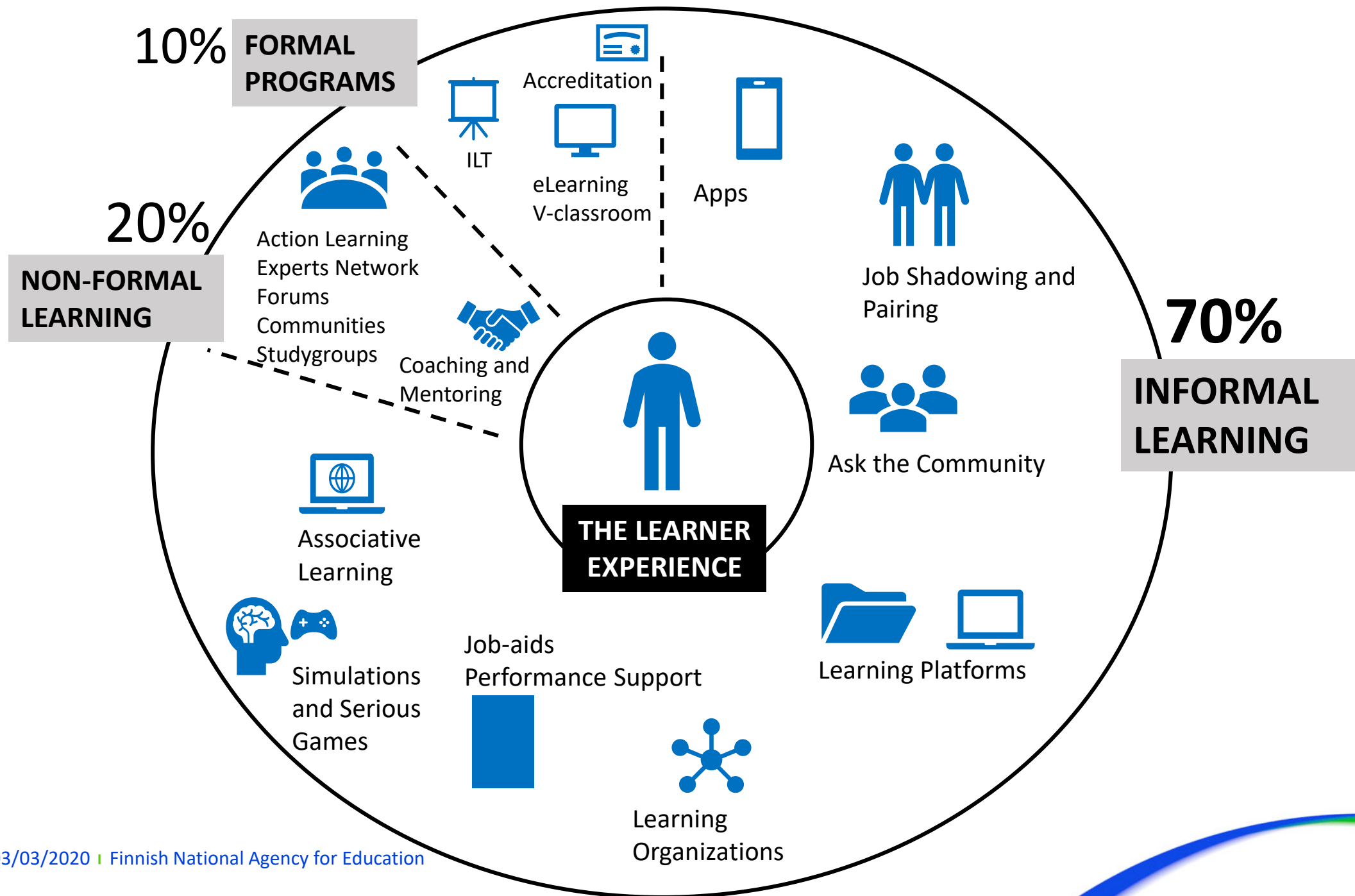
Schools are seen as an essential part of the communities.

# Implementation is the strategy

## NEW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING as of 1 January 2018

**Working life is undergoing changes.** New occupations keep on emerging and old ones disappear. Technology advances. Revenue models are renewed. Students' needs are becoming more and more individualistic. Skills need to be updated throughout careers.





# Strengthen the systemic, holistic approach

- School subjects → • Also competences, skills
- Teaching individuals → • Community capacity building, applied learning
- School-based learning → • Lifelong learning path and ubiquitous learning
- Physical, social, ethical, mental wellbeing separately → • Seeing human being as a whole, growth mindset
- Individualistic professional development of teachers → • School as a learning community
- Provider-based services → • Child- and youth- centered serviced
- National identity → • Global consciousness

# Thank you!

