



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Ministère de l'Éducation

First results of OECD Pisa 2006

4.12.2007

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

- An OECD programme that produces information about the state of education in an international frame of reference.
- Measures how 15-year-old students master:
 - key skills essential for full participation in future society, for the development of working life and for the quality of life, and
 - what kind of factors influence these skills and how the skills evolve over time.
- At three-year intervals measures learning outcomes in:
 - reading (PISA 2000)
 - mathematics (PISA 2003) and
 - **science (PISA 2006)**

PISA ...

- In science, PISA studied:
 - Students' ability to use scientific knowledge and skills in different theme areas and in different everyday situations
 - Students' approaches to learning science and their attitudes to scientific issues and to scientific thinking and reasoning
 - Students' responsibility for sustainable development and chances of influencing it

Pisa 2006 - first results

- Finnish students' knowledge is excellent and uniform in all the sectors studied:
 - Finnish students scored highest among the OECD countries in science and second highest in mathematics and reading ??
 - The proportion of poor performers is small and the number of high performers good
 - The differences in performance between regions and schools are very small in Finland.

Learning outcomes in science

- The results for Finland are significantly better than for any other country participating in PISA 2006, and the score was the highest ever achieved in the PISA surveys
- Finnish students have a high level of knowledge in all the aspects of science assessed
- Students appreciate science because:
 - Progress in science and technology improve people's living conditions and
 - help us understand the world around us.
- Finnish students have a more positive attitude towards science than students in the OECD countries on average.

Reading and mathematics

- Finnish students' reading skills are still of the highest order.
 - Girls have significantly better reading skills than boys. This gender difference is still large - the second largest among the OECD countries.
- Finnish students' mathematics skills are also among the best in the world.
 - The mean performance in mathematics has risen from 2003.
 - Boys are still better in mathematics than girls. The difference between boys' and girls' mathematics skills has grown from the previous PISA (?)

Background to Finland's success

- Education system:
 - Guarantees equal opportunities for basic education to all children and young people irrespective of their socio-economical standing, gender and ethnic background
 - The main responsibility for providing education close to pupils and their families
- Free education and extensive benefits
 - pupil welfare services
 - school meals
 - school travel benefits
- Teachers have high-level qualifications, which
 - makes for quality teaching
 - inspires confidence in education
 - makes it possible for schools and teachers to have considerable latitude in implementing education
 - highlights cooperation (home-school cooperation and multi-professional cooperation between authorities)

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT IN BASIC EDUCATION

- According to the Government Programme, the resources freed as a result of decreasing age groups will be used to develop the quality of education.
- The aim is:
 - *to reduce group sizes*
 - *to strengthen remedial teaching and special education*
 - *to develop guidance counselling and pupil welfare services*
 - *to invest in school clubs and*
 - *to promote cooperation between parents and the school*
- *During the term of the current Government, a total of 80 million euros will be allocated to quality enhancement in basic education ("POP programme")*
- *In 2008 and 2009 the priority is on the development of teaching, supportive action and guidance counselling for pupils with special educational needs (€ 18 million)*