



Invitation to INEPS' 21st congress in Helsinki, Finland 4.-9.5.2009

Helsinki, 12.1.2009

Dear Madam, dear Sir,
Dear colleagues, dear friends,

on behalf of the International Network of Productive Learning Projects and Schools (INEPS), City of Helsinki, Network of My Own Career- and Jopo -educators in Southern Finland and Frölunda Gymnasium (Gothenburg) we invite you to participate in *INEPS'* 21st congress which will take place in Helsinki, Finland from 4th to 9th of May, 2009. This congress is supported by The Finnish National Board of Education.

The topic of the congress will be:

Exploring innovative environments for Productive Learning

The world around us is changing at an accelerating pace. The amount of information available is increasing at the same rate. What is the fundamental task of the school in this change? Should the school emphasise teaching young people skills rather than information: information processing skills, social interactivity skills, learning to learn skills etc. And what would be a sustainable value base for the development of a school and the school's role as a mediator of common values?

Of course a school can no longer be a closed social environment. How can it open up to ever more concentrated interaction with the surrounding community? How could change in the world be concretely incorporated in daily school life?

Learning can pretty much happen wherever, whenever. Almost any environment outside the school too can function as a learning environment. What kind of change in a school's operating culture is needed?

In Productive Learning, workplaces in particular function as real life learning environments. What other kinds of active learning environments would be available in the town where contextual or situational learning would be possible? Is it not the job of the school to teach our young people the information and skills needed in real life? Then why can't a young person learn them in real life?

What kind of role does a pedagogue have in facilitating this kind of learning? And are we ready to learn what is needed to be ready for this new role? Or do we just want to hold on to the illusion of control in the “safe” environment of the classroom?

Isn't the job of the school today to produce and support a sense of community: in a spirit of mutual respect and communication? Are new groups of employees and multi-profession cooperation needed to implement this task in school? How could it work in practice in the daily life of a school? What kind of advantages could be achieved?

In the INEPS' 21st congress we will take a voyage of discovery to the wonderful world of learning environments outside the school. Overarching themes are life skills, technology, the media, art and the environment. We will work in small groups in workshops on these themes, reflect on experience and develop and innovate possible (and impossible) learning paths and processes together. The results will be posted on the World Wide Web for everybody to marvel at.

On the first working day there will be a presentation market of Productive Learning from all participating countries. We expect participants to prepare and bring with them material (preferably in digital form: powerpoints or similar) presenting their their own work. Further information and instructions later on. Be prepared!

On behalf of the organising team,

Petri Hänninen, Kari Rajaorko and Hely Salmi
Educators of My Own Career in Alppila Comprehensive School

Do you recognise these well known Finns on the school bench:

1. This restless boy was often put under the table by his teacher as a punishment.
2. This restless and difficult madcap had his fists up during every break.
3. This girl was scared and bored by school. She got into trouble with the teacher for drawing a caricature of her. She left school at 15.
It had become a symbol of everything that was horrible for her.
4. This boy got a four (scale from four to ten) in Swedish and his report was full of fives. He also had to repeat a year.

1. Jean Sibelius, composer
2. Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor, composer
3. Tove Jansson, writer and artist
4. Martti Ahtisaari, President, Nobel Peace Prize laureate 2008

CONGRESS PROGRAM

<p>4.5.2009</p>	<p>ARRIVAL DAY</p> <p>Arrival day of Congress participants (Registration of the congress at the hotel) 18.00 Ice breaking activities 19.00 Welcome dinner Ravintola Koskenranta</p>															
<p>5.5.2009</p>	<p>DAY OF ORIENTATION</p> <p>9.00 Registration of the congress and coffee 10.00 Congress opening Key speeches: 10.15 <i>Educational exclusion: "Dropping in" as challenge for European education policies and practices</i> 10.45 <i>Learning environments connecting school and real life</i> 11.15 <i>Omaura- and Jopo -groups as multiprofessional cooperation</i></p> <p>11.45 Market preparations 12.15 Lunch 13.15 Open learning environment: Presentation market of Productive Learning in the participating countries 14.45 Coffee 15.15 General information and orientation for the following days 16.00 INEPS General Assembly 17.00 Free time: Informal cultural program and networking <i>Offers: Football match for participants. Public sauna.</i></p>															
<p>6.5.2009</p>	<p>DAY OF ACTION</p> <p>9.00-12.00 Activities at learning sites (see below) 12.00-13.00 Lunch 13.00-15.00 Reflection of activities. Discussion and analysis of learning opportunities Innovating and developing learning paths and processes</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1534 1433 1899"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="331 1534 550 1568">Life skills</th> <th data-bbox="550 1534 769 1568">Technology</th> <th data-bbox="769 1534 987 1568">Media</th> <th data-bbox="987 1534 1206 1568">Art</th> <th data-bbox="1206 1534 1433 1568">Environment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 1568 550 1742">1. House of adventure: Adventure activities ---</td> <td data-bbox="550 1568 769 1742">3. Museum of Technology: "InnoApaja" ---</td> <td data-bbox="769 1568 987 1742">5. Youth Media Center: Talk show for TV and radio</td> <td data-bbox="987 1568 1206 1742">6. Museum of modern art Kiasma ---</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1568 1433 1742">8. Nature school "Harakka" ---</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 1742 550 1899">2. School of Peace</td> <td data-bbox="550 1742 769 1899">4. Heureka Science centre</td> <td data-bbox="769 1742 987 1899"></td> <td data-bbox="987 1742 1206 1899">7. Design museum</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1742 1433 1899">9. Various working sites</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>19.00 Reception of City of Helsinki in Bock House, The Old Town Hall Informal cultural program and networking</p>	Life skills	Technology	Media	Art	Environment	1. House of adventure: Adventure activities ---	3. Museum of Technology: "InnoApaja" ---	5. Youth Media Center: Talk show for TV and radio	6. Museum of modern art Kiasma ---	8. Nature school "Harakka" ---	2. School of Peace	4. Heureka Science centre		7. Design museum	9. Various working sites
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7.5.2009	DAY OF REFLECTION School visits in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Järvenpää (in same groups as previous day). 8.00-8.30 Departure from the hotel (depending on the group) 9.00 School starts: Presentation of the school and Omaura®- or Jopo® -classes.* 11.00 Lunch 12.00 Producing documentation and presentation of the previous day -> www. 15.00 End of the school day. FREE TIME 18.30 Excursion to Suomenlinna (www.suomenlinna.fi) Light meal.
8.5.2009	DAY OF EVALUATION 10.00 Preparations for the presentation market 10.30 Presentations of workshops as market 12.00 Lunch and coffee 13.00 INEPS plenary (elections) 15.00 Evaluation and closing of the congress 16.00 Free time 19.30 Farewell dinner in restaurant Dubrovnik
9.5.2009	Departure of participants

* The target group, aims and methods are quite similar in Omaura® (My Own Career) and Jopo® (Flexible basic education).



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Deadline March 13, 2009

Registration Form

**21st CONGRESS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PRODUCTIVE LEARNING PROJECTS AND
SCHOOLS (INEPS)
May 4 –9, 2009 in Helsinki, Finland**

“Exploring innovative environments for Productive Learning”

Name and first name of participant:

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Post Mail Address:

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E-Mail Address:

Tel./fax of school/organisation

Personal tel.:

Name of organisation:

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Position (teacher, social worker, administration, etc).....

Day and time of arrival in Helsinki:

Day and time of departure from Helsinki:

Accommodation:

We have made a pre-reservation in Hotel Helka which is situated in the centre of city.

Please book your room directly from the hotel reservation with the code word "INEPS":
reservations@helka.fi

The prices per person/ night incl. breakfast are ca:	Price single room 105€	Price double room 67€	Triple room 56€
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IMPORTANT: after the dead line 13.3.2009 the hotel will start to sell the rooms to other customers. So remember to make your congress registration and hotel reservation in time! Please ask the exact price from the hotel while booking.

HELP US by sending a short email **as soon as possible** (inepsers@gmail.com) if you **intend** to participate the congress, even if you had some uncertainty about it. This will help us a lot!

2. Congress fee

The conference fee is 250 Euro per person (incl. congress program, welcome dinner, lunches, public transportation ticket (excl. airport shuttle), excursion to Suomenlinna, farewell dinner, organisation and administration costs).

The total sum is to pay in cash at your arrival.

Please send this form back as soon as possible by email or by fax.

Email: inepsers@gmail.com

Fax: +358931084447

Send us the form also if your participation depends on getting the permission by your institution and getting financial support. In this case remark it here.

Remarks:

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place, date

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signature