



FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM

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WHAT IS FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM?

- Teacher Education Forum develops Finnish teacher education in broad cooperation
- All higher education institutions responsible of providing teacher education and all relevant stakeholders are involved

- Teacher Education Forum has been operating since 2016
- Until the end of the year 2023 the Forum was coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- In term 2024-2027 the coordinator is University of Helsinki, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture



THE MAIN AIM OF THE FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM

- **To strengthen Finnish research-based teacher education**, in which
 - teachers learn to be academic experts,
 - teachers build strong professional agency,
 - teachers learn competencies that are relevant to practical work, and
 - teachers learn and develop throughout their career alone and in co-operation with others.



TEACHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022-26

- Teacher Education Forum aims to implement Teacher Education Development Programme
- Central aims of the Development Programme:
 - Maintaining interest towards teacher's work through anticipating the need of teachers and developing admissions of teacher education
 - Developing teachers' expertise is research-based and continuous
 - Strengthening teacher education and continuous teacher learning through cooperation and networks
 - Pedagogical leadership in educational institutions supporting learning and developing the communities



KEY STRENGTHS OF THE FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION

- High societal respect for teacher profession and education
- Interest towards teacher profession
- Investing in quality education
- Research-based teacher education
- Coherence of teacher education programmes
- Long-term development work in co-operation with all higher education institutions
- Co-operation with versatile stakeholders



KNOWN CHALLENGES IN THE FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION

- Relevance of the teacher education in relation to society and changing world, e.g.,
 - Diversity in education, learning difficulties and responding to them
 - Pedagogical challenges in digitalization and artificial intelligence
- Continuous research-based development and renewal
- Monitoring quality and effectiveness of teacher education: what are teachers learning throughout their careers in their initial teacher education, in continuous learning contexts and in their work?
 - Clear continuum of pre-service teacher education, in-service teacher education, continuous learning, mentoring of teachers
- More reciprocal and concrete co-operation with stakeholders



OPERATING STRUCTURE OF TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM

TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM (members, president and vice presidents)

WORKING COMMITTEE (president, stakeholders)

INTER-
NATIONAL
ADVISORY
BOARD

COORDINATION SECTION
(president, vice presidents, chairpersons of the subsections, academic coordinators)

SUBSECTION 1:
Student admissions
in teacher education

SUBSECTION 2:
Teachers' expertise
development

SUBSECTION 3:
Developing teacher
education through
cooperation and
networks

SUBSECTION 4:
Pedagogical
leadership in
educational
institutions



MAIN ACTIONS FOR TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM DURING THE TERM 2024-2027

1. **Creating future scenarios through visioning teacher education**
2. Designing and implementing a research-based quality assurance framework
3. Research-based development projects
4. Research-based reports
5. National and regional seminars
6. Position statements relating to teacher education
7. Self-evaluation of Forum's activities

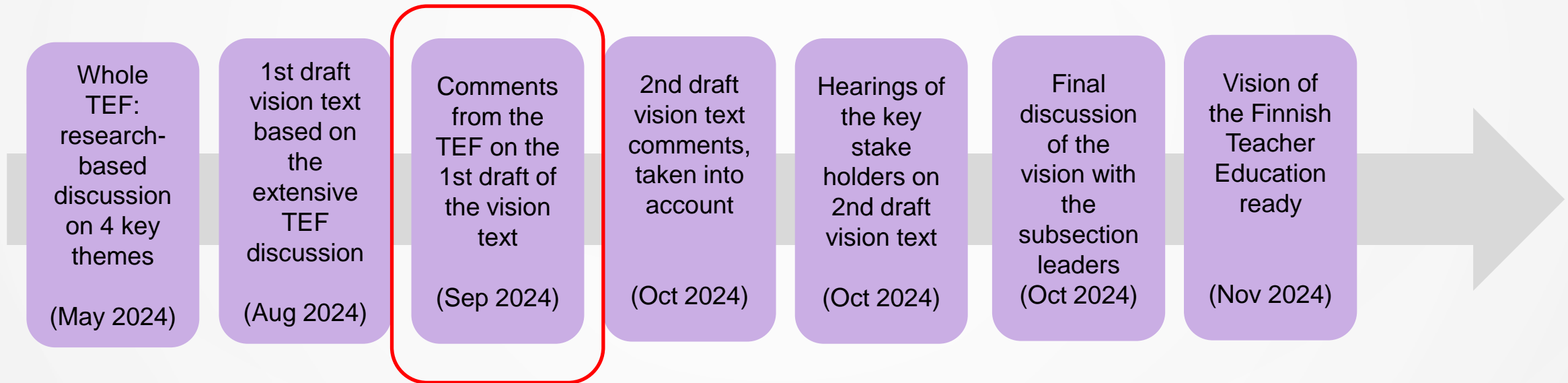


KEY THEMES IN THE VISION OF TEACHER EDUCATION – IN PROCESS AT THE MOMENT

- Emphasising the core characteristics of teacher's work: demanding academic work taking place in multiple social interactions; requires both long-time planning and quick decision making
- Academic research-based master level teacher education
- Continuum of pre-service and in-service teacher education, mentoring for early career teachers
- Teacher education as a key component of the high-quality educational system in Finland
- Attractiveness of teacher profession – responsibility of the TE institutions but also stakeholders
- Developments in collaboration with the national and local stakeholders, joint responsibilities of teachers' in-service education, mentoring, educational leadership in educational institutions



CREATING THE VISION OF TEACHER EDUCATION – PROCESS





KEY PERSONNEL

- President: Auli Toom, professor, director, vice dean, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences
- Vice president: Mirjamaija Mikkilä-Erdmann, professor, University of Turku, Faculty of Educational Sciences
- Vice president: Seija Mahlamäki-Kultanen, title of docent, Häme University of Applied Sciences
- Academic coordinator: Dr. Katri Kleemola, university lecturer, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences
- Chairpersons of the subsections: Anu Warinowski (University of Turku), Kirsi Pyhältö (University of Helsinki), Tomi Jaakkola (University of Tampere), Laura Hirsto (University of Eastern Finland)



INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FORUM

Higher education institutions

- Universities of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Eastern Finland, Oulu and Lapland + Åbo Akademi, Aalto university, Uniarts Helsinki
- Universities of Applied Sciences in Häme, Tampere, Oulu, Jyväskylä + Haaga-Helia

Stakeholders

- Association of Finnish Municipalities, association of principals (Suomen rehtorit), association of training schools (Harre), Finnish National Agency for Education, LUMA Center Finland, Ministry of Education and Culture, Regional State Administrative Agency, Teacher Student Union of Finland SOOL, and Trade Union of Teachers in Finland OAJ



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FINNISH TEACHER EDUCATION FORUM

- President Professor Auli Toom auli.toom@helsinki.fi
- Academic coordinator Katri Kleemola katri.kleemola@helsinki.fi
- <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/networks/teacher-education-forum>

