

# REFLECTION ON MY DEVELOPMENT DURING THE FINNISH PROGRAMME

## REFLECTIVE JOURNAL Véronique DELACOSTE

**Date: Sunday – 31/03/2019**

As soon as we arrive in Finland, we have a feeling of serenity, especially among children. People do not speak loudly, they are confident and respectful, we see self-service “trotinettes” everywhere, without degradation, Finns often leave their bike without padlock in the street.



I became acquainted with Finnish history and culture. It is a country that has often been invaded and shared between Sweden and Russia. I noticed that the Finns had a great sense of humor with the video in response to Trump.

**Date: Monday – 01/04/2019 Field project and seminar**

I retained the national values: justice, work, education and peace. They are found in the Finnish education system which is completely free for children from primary to high school. (school material, meals, transport)

The state trusts teachers, there is a common national curriculum, which is adapted to the needs.

We went to the library. It is a beautiful place, very open, bright, where all generations meet. You can eat, read, discuss, work alone or in a group. Even if people move a lot, there is little noise. It's a place where you feel good.



**Date: Tuesday – 02/04/2019 visit to Nittykumpu school in Espoo**



It is a school that offers many different devices, such as Montessori classes, bilingual classes, which best meet the needs of children.

Everything is organized around the trust and responsibility of pupils. They move alone to eat or break. Children can offer and organize workshops during breaks. Adults are everywhere, but they observe rather than direct. Students learn by doing, there are few lessons.

We ended the day with the traditional sauna and the bath in the Baltic Sea, very cold but so cool.

**Date: Wednesday – 03/04/2019 - Visit to Lintulaakso school in Espoo**

There are many adults, in the pre-elementary classes there are 1 teacher and 2 nurses. Children do a lot of manipulative activities, they are tested and prepared for 1st grade.

For each grade, there is a class for students with special needs with 2 teachers.

The number of school hours increases with the age of the children.

After the sport, we teach the children to wash, this does not exist in France.



**Date: Thursday – 04/04/2019 - Visit to Sorrila school in Valkeakoski**

In Finland, one can learn throughout one's life, the university offers courses for adults and seniors.

In this school, all students in the same grade do the same disciplines at the same time, teachers can do groups of levels.

In France mobile phones are forbidden, here students can use them to do research, adults trust children.

In all schools we see rooms with sewing machines, workshops to make wooden objects, teachers teach children to use machines like circular saws, it is impossible in France.



We took advantage of the beautiful Helsinki library to share our impressions of our visits and work on our powerpoint.

**Date: Friday – 05/04/2019 – Field project : Tallinn**

Cultural and historical tour of Tallinn, which allowed me to realize that Finland has built strong links with its neighbor Estonia.

**Date: Saturday – 06/04/2019 Discussing dissemination strategies**

Last day, last exchanges on our experience of the week.

It is interesting to listen to the conclusions and the points of view of the other groups.

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

Very enriching stay that makes reflect on our teaching profession, on our relations with students, on the organization of apprentissages.

We have planned to report to our colleagues to propose some ways to work:

- to mix our classes, to make groups of need in French and in mathematics.
- to organize the work, to put the pupils in activity quickly, to observe them, to allow them to move more, to have more responsibility.