



Effective Pedagogy for 21st Century Learning

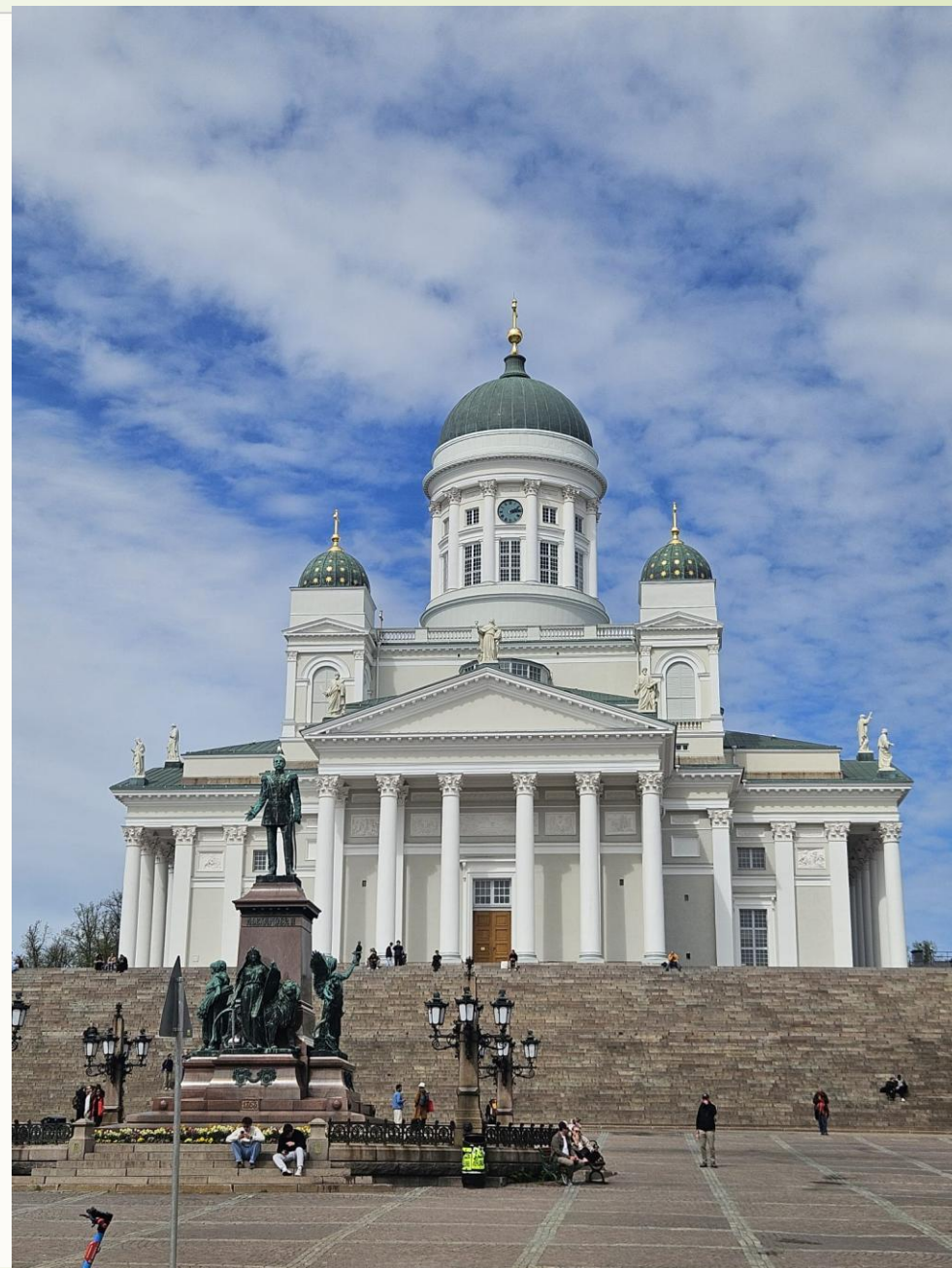
Europass Teacher Academy – Helsinki, Finland · 18–23 May 2026

TRAINER: MIA TORTTILA

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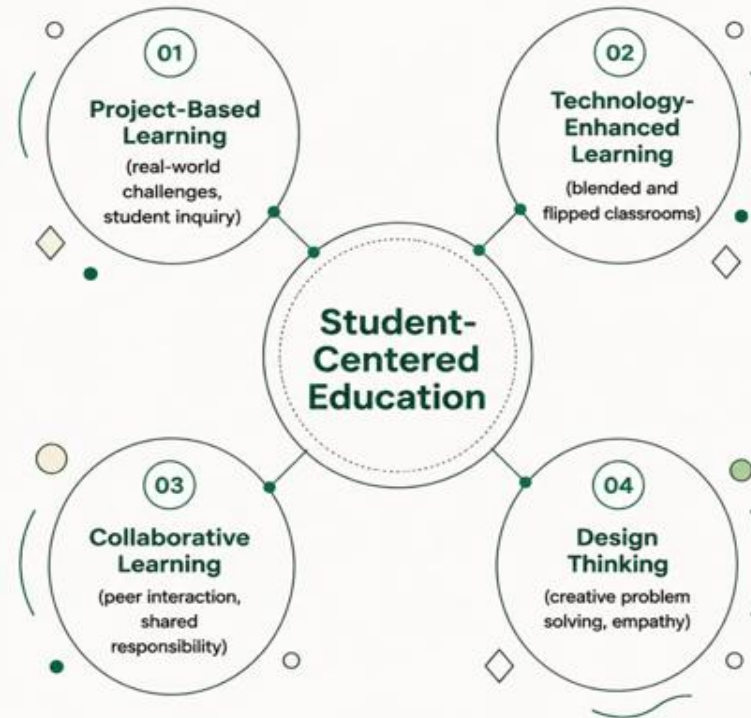


Four Student-Centred Pedagogies



Interconnected approaches to transform everyday teaching practice.

The course explores four methodologies that place the student at the centre of the learning process, fostering autonomy, motivation and the development of real competencies.



Project-Based Learning
Enquiry into authentic, real-world problems

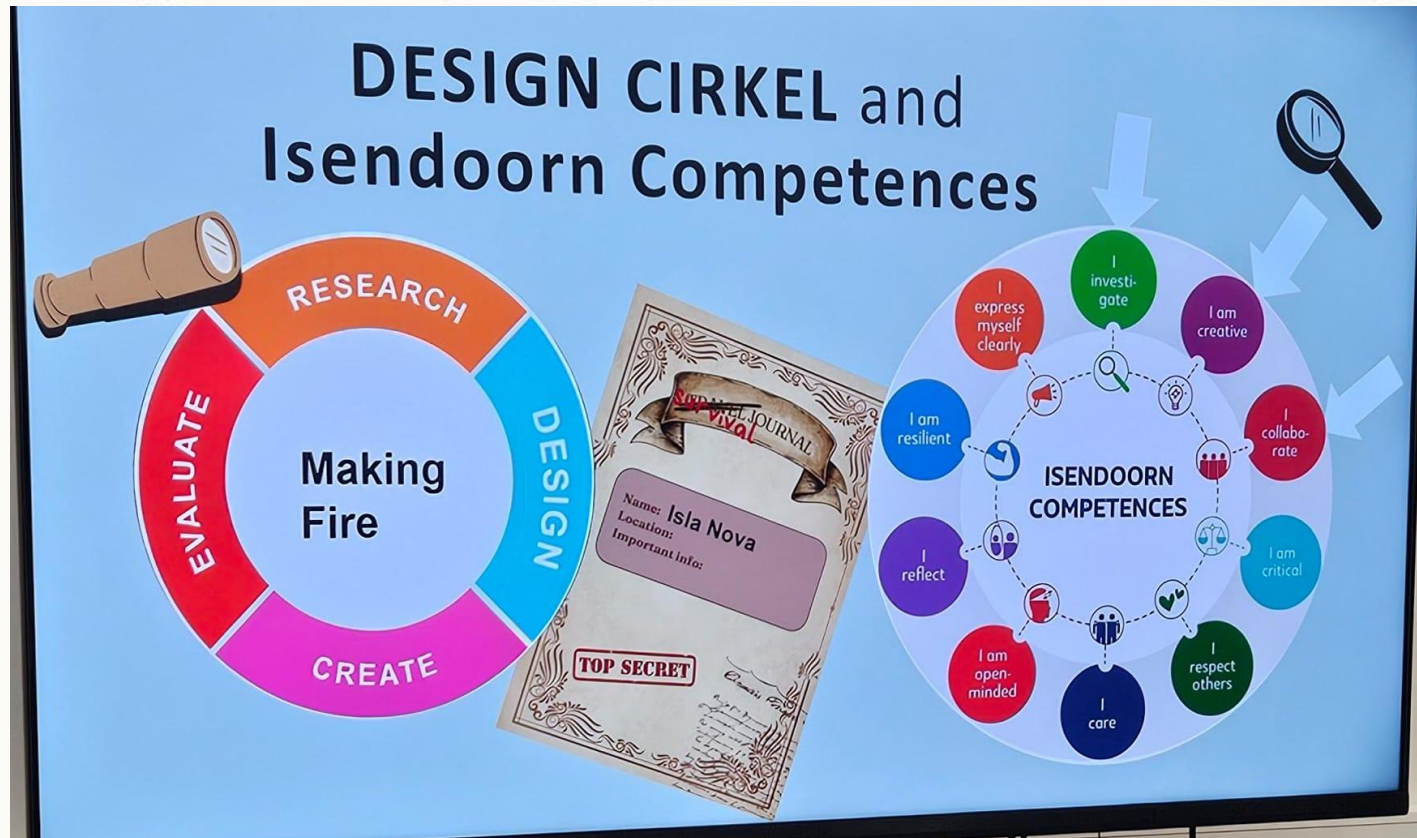
Technology-Enhanced Learning
Blended learning and flipped classrooms

Collaborative Learning
Shared responsibility and peer learning

Design Thinking
Creative problem solving in 5 stages

Building a Competency-Based Education

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The 21st-century competency framework is structured around three interdependent levels that guide the design of personalised and meaningful learning pathways.

Foundational Literacies

Literacy, numeracy, digital and basic scientific competencies

Competencies

Critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication

Character Qualities

Adaptability, initiative, leadership and lifelong learning

Project-Based Learning: Learning from Real Challenges

PBL transforms students into active researchers. The teacher becomes a facilitator, not a transmitter of content.

1

Authentic Question

Start from a real and meaningful challenge

2

Enquiry

Research, exploration and gathering of information

3

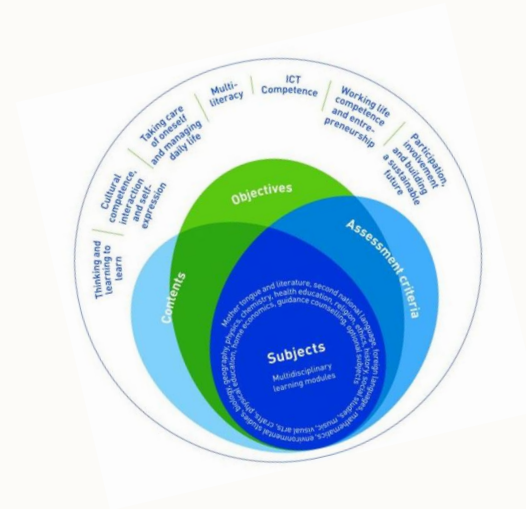
Creation

A concrete and tangible final product

4

Reflection

Evaluation of the process and outcomes



Practical example: "How can we plan and prepare a meal to nourish our community?"

Hybrid Classes and Flipped Classroom

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Technology enhances learning when it is integrated with pedagogical intention. The flipped model reverses traditional roles.

Hybrid Learning

Balanced integration of in-person and digital moments

Flipped Classroom

Content at home, practice and discussion in class

Differentiated Learning

Each student progresses at their own pace and style

Collaborative Learning: Learning Together

Structured collaboration builds essential social skills and shared responsibility throughout the educational journey.

Strategic Groups

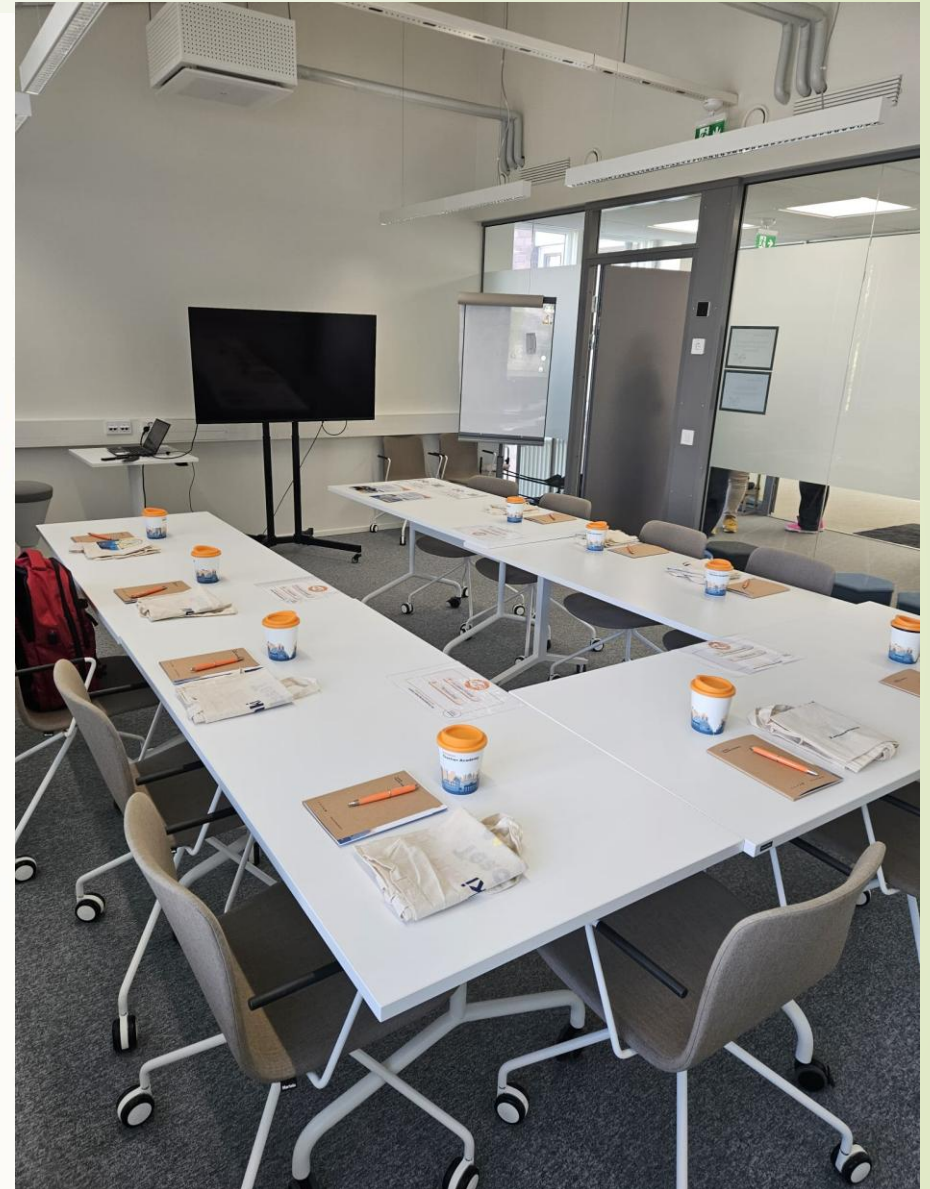
Heterogeneous composition to maximise exchange and dialogue

Shared Responsibility

Every member actively contributes to the collective outcome

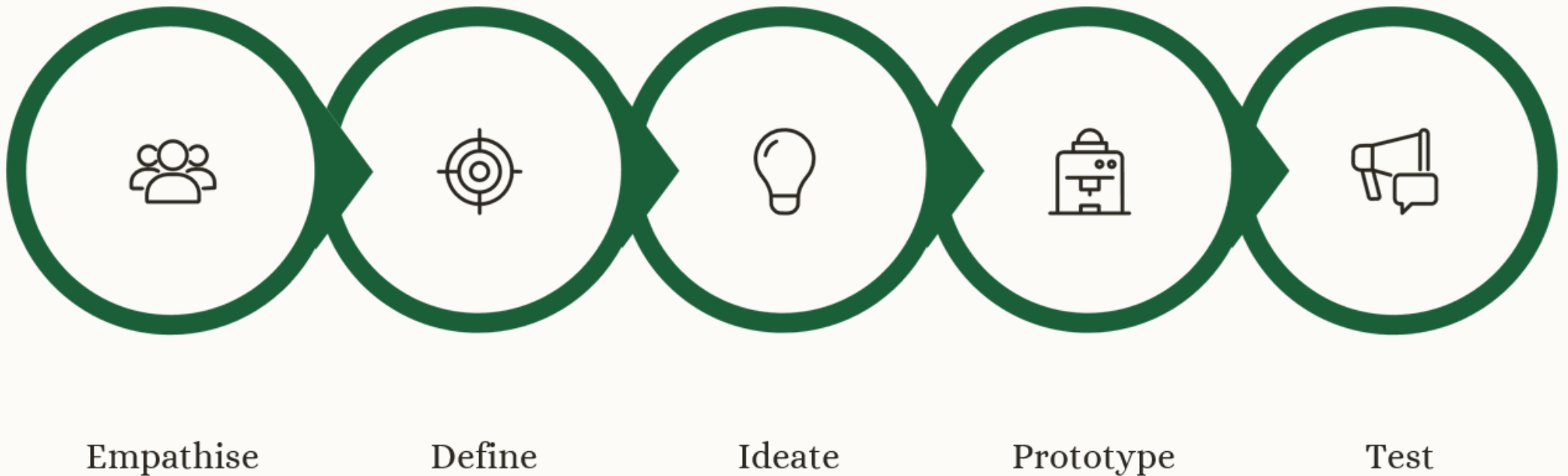
Reflection and Feedback

Peer assessment to consolidate learning



Design Thinking: Creative Problem Solving

A 5-phase model that develops empathy, innovation, and design thinking. The course includes a practical mini-workshop.



Each phase feeds into the next in an iterative cycle that places the user at the centre of the creative process.

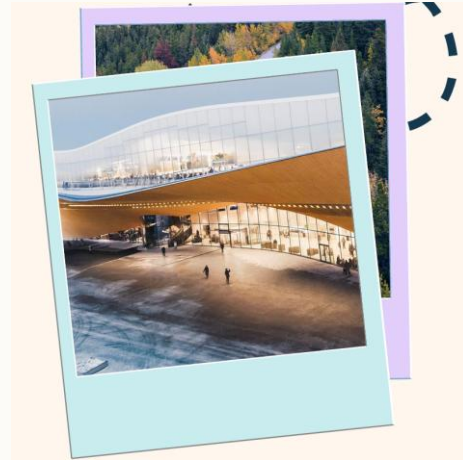
Learning Beyond the Classroom

Visits to Finnish educational institutions to discover first-hand the excellence of the Nordic school system.



Oodi Library

A symbol of Helsinki's cultural and educational innovation



Education Division

City of Helsinki – school governance and policies



Objectives Achieved

- In-depth exploration of innovative teaching methodologies such as **Project-Based Learning, Cooperative Learning, Flipped Classroom and Design Thinking**.
- Acquisition of new strategies to develop **creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking** in students.
- Improved proficiency in using **digital technologies** to make teaching more engaging and inclusive.
- Understanding of the **Finnish educational model**, based on trust, autonomy, well-being and active learning.
- Strengthened vision of a school open to Europe, sustainable, inclusive and oriented towards 21st-century skills.



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