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Education for all: The Nordic Model

I Creating a nation (1860 –

- one nation, one language (Finland between Russia and Sweden)
- school in every village (1898 school district law)
- small one-teacher schools in rural areas, all pupils in the same class
- practical curriculum
- teacher seminars control the correctness of language

II Creating a democracy (1921-

- Civil War 1917-18

- one nation, one democracy

- every child must go to school (compulsory education, school attendance law)

- was realized in rural areas only after the Second World War

- parallel routes after four years (grammar - and vocational schools)

- Swedish-speaking population has their own schools

- over half of the age group went to grammar school in the 1960`s

III Deepening the democracy (1970-

- equality as leading principle
- comprehensive school system
- in principle every child was nine years in the same school with the same classmates (no tracking)
- equality despite of
 - a) social background; no school fees
 - b) area; schools in the whole country have the same standards
 - c) gender; no gender biased classes or schools
 - d) pupils` personal capacities; all pupils have the right to go to the nearest school (integration)
- teacher education in university
- part-time special education especially in the lower classes

IV Neoliberalism and schooling (1990-

- quality as the leading principle
- competition as a means of high standards
- school choice
- deregulation
- a)market forms; the best school gets the best pupils
- b)management; the principal as manager
- c)performativity; ranking-lists

If the schools are becoming very different, how long will we have the comprehensive school system in Finland ?