Teaching democratic values in a Finnish school

Helsingin ranskalais-suomalainen koulu
Lycée franco-finlandais d'Helsinki

Five Nations Network conference, 1-2 February 2020, Belfast

PhD Kari Kivinen

Finnish 2016 curriculum supports development of participative culture, critical thinking, citizenship education and democratic values

“The schools should support the students’ growth into active, responsible, and enterprising citizens.”

How to activate students to take part in election discussion and follow-up empowered with critical thinking and media literacy skills to resist mis- and disinformation?

Students are involved in the school life in many ways

- Decision making
  - Student committees, representation in the decision making bodies
- Planning
  - Local curriculum, courses offered, multidisciplinary projects, actions..
- Organization
  - student led activities, student welfare, various school activities, canteen committee, green committee, parties,..
- Evaluation
  - Surveys, meetings, feedback, follow-up, questionnaires, etc.
- School development
  - proposals, working groups, consultations …

Canteen committee: ”It is a crime to have pea soup without pancakes”

Creating oppoturnities to take shared responsability of the community well-being

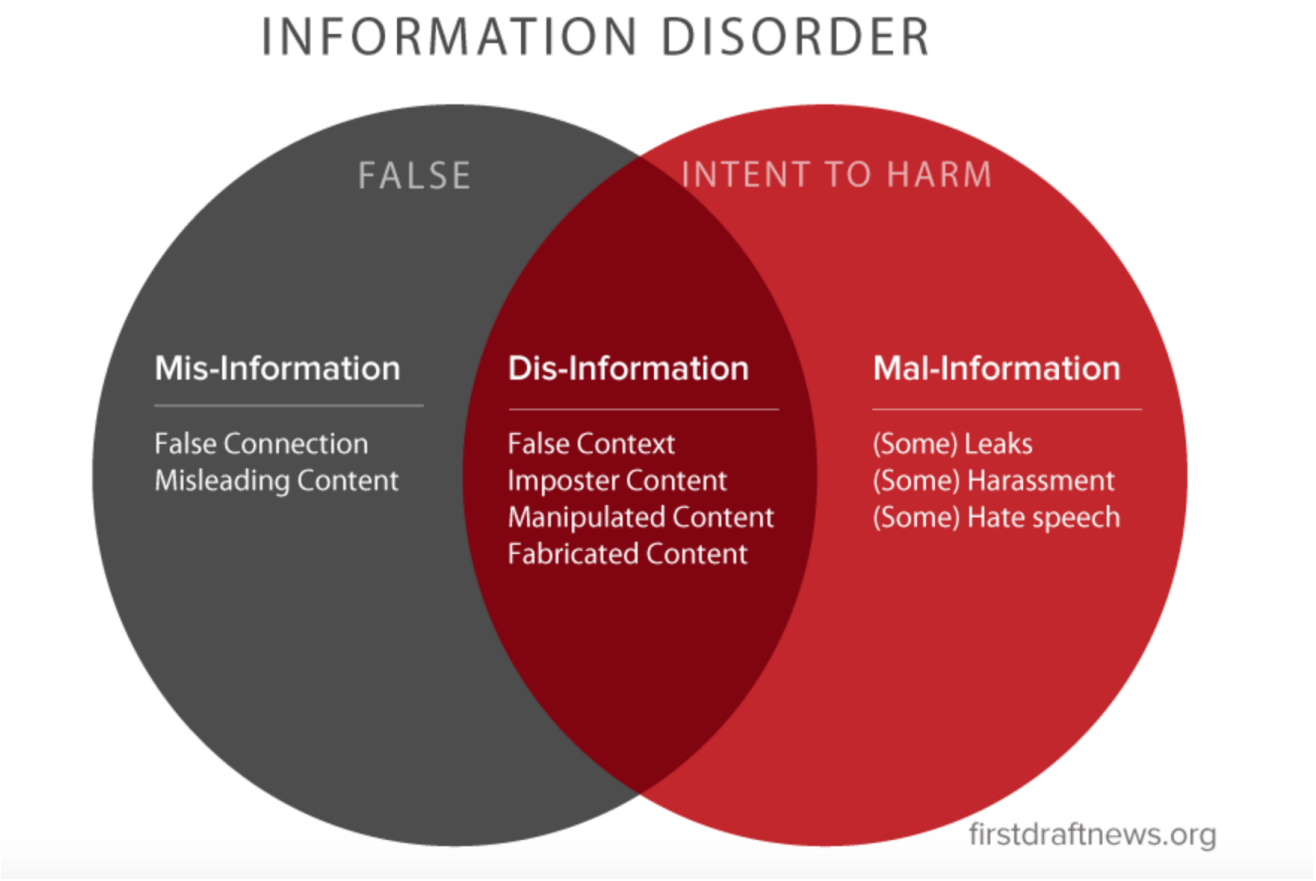
- mentoring
- peer support
- actions

Dealing with issues which are interesting for youngsters

Here legal rights in social media.

Giving tools to deal with social media information overflow

Description of mis-, dis- and mal-information



Mis-information - false information is shared, but no harm is meant.

Dis-information - false information is knowingly shared to cause harm.

Mal-information - genuine information is shared to cause harm, often by moving information designed to stay private into the public sphere.

Collaboration with experts, NGOs and organisations
Invite journalists, visit redactions, make your own publications etc.

Listen their views

Let students students to explore party programs from their own perspective.

Let them to produce their own election materials and campaigns

Organise discussion and debate panels in the school

Let them interact with the real politiciens

Include youngsters in the debate

Questions of today

- Should 16 year olds have voting rights?
- Are the views of young people listened to enough in your country ?
- Should climate change be taken into consideration in politics?
- Should school obligation be prolonged from 16 to 18 years?
- Should there be a strict immigration policy?

NO

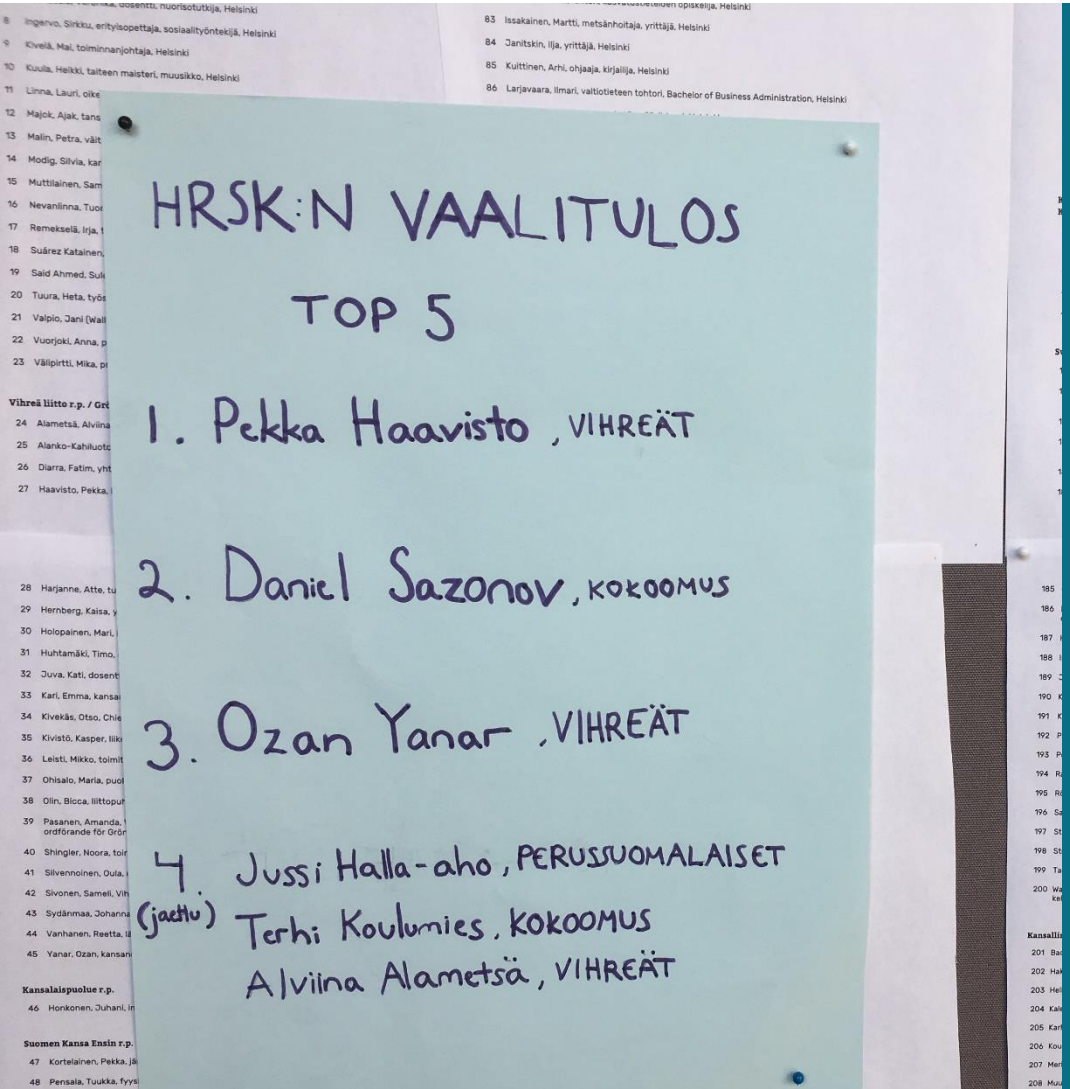
YES

Take them in the middle of media action

Use drama and music

Organise student elections and shadow elections

Share the election results: School / District



01 Helsingin vaalipiiri: läpi menneet ehdokkaat

Ehdokas	Vertailuluku	Äänimäärä
27 Pekka Haavisto VIHR	1525,00	564
45 Ozan Yanar VIHR	762,50	143
211 Matias Pajula KOK	666,00	148
2 Zahra Abdulla VAS	555,00	135
26 Fatim Diarra VIHR	508,33	115
69 Maija Li Raudaskoski PIR	426,00	81
98 Jussi Halla-aho PS	411,00	288
193 Freja Pontán RKP	408,00	81
24 Alviina Alametsä VIHR	381,25	94
230 Husu Hussein SDP	342,00	70
222 Ben Zyskowicz KOK	333,00	75
25 Outi Alanko-Kahiluoto VIHR	305,00	94
19 Suldaan Said Ahmed VAS	277,50	86
33 Emma Kari VIHR	254,17	61
218 Daniel Sazonov KOK	222,00	51
31 Timo Huhtamäki VIHR	217,86	59
55 Jonna Raillo EOP	213,00	64
116 Pertti Villo PS	205,50	20
194 Marcus Rantala RKP	204,00	81
38 Bicca Olin VIHR	190,63	51
12 Ajak Majok VAS	185,00	63
286 Joel Harkimo NYT	184,00	69

Outcomes

- A very positive feedback from students, teachers & parents
- Students took a real interest in the election follow-up
- They learned to check the sources and learned to use the tools and check-lists also in other context.
- They were able to verify if the news/claims were reliable or not – and from where to find help, if needed.

The upside

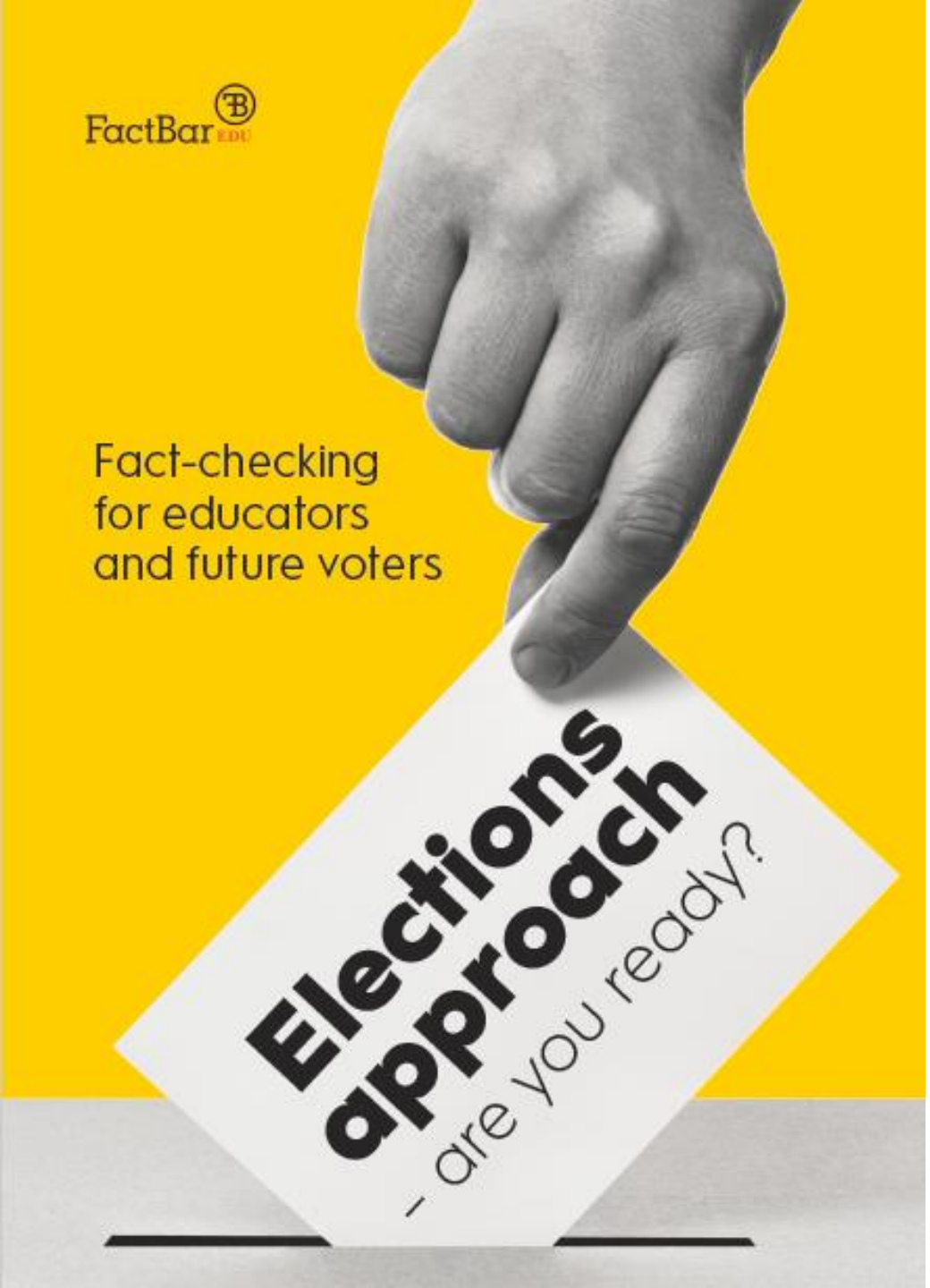
How Finland starts its fight against fake news in primary schools

Country on frontline of information war teaches everyone from school pupils to politicians how to spot slippery information

Jon Henley *in Helsinki*

@jonhenley

Wed 29 Jan 2020 12.16 GMT



Voter literacy tools for teachers

Our project brought together fact checking, media and voter literacy experts and organisations in order to create a voter literacy program to activate students – the future voters – to take part in election discussion and follow-up empowered with critical thinking and media literacy skills to resist mis- and disinformation.

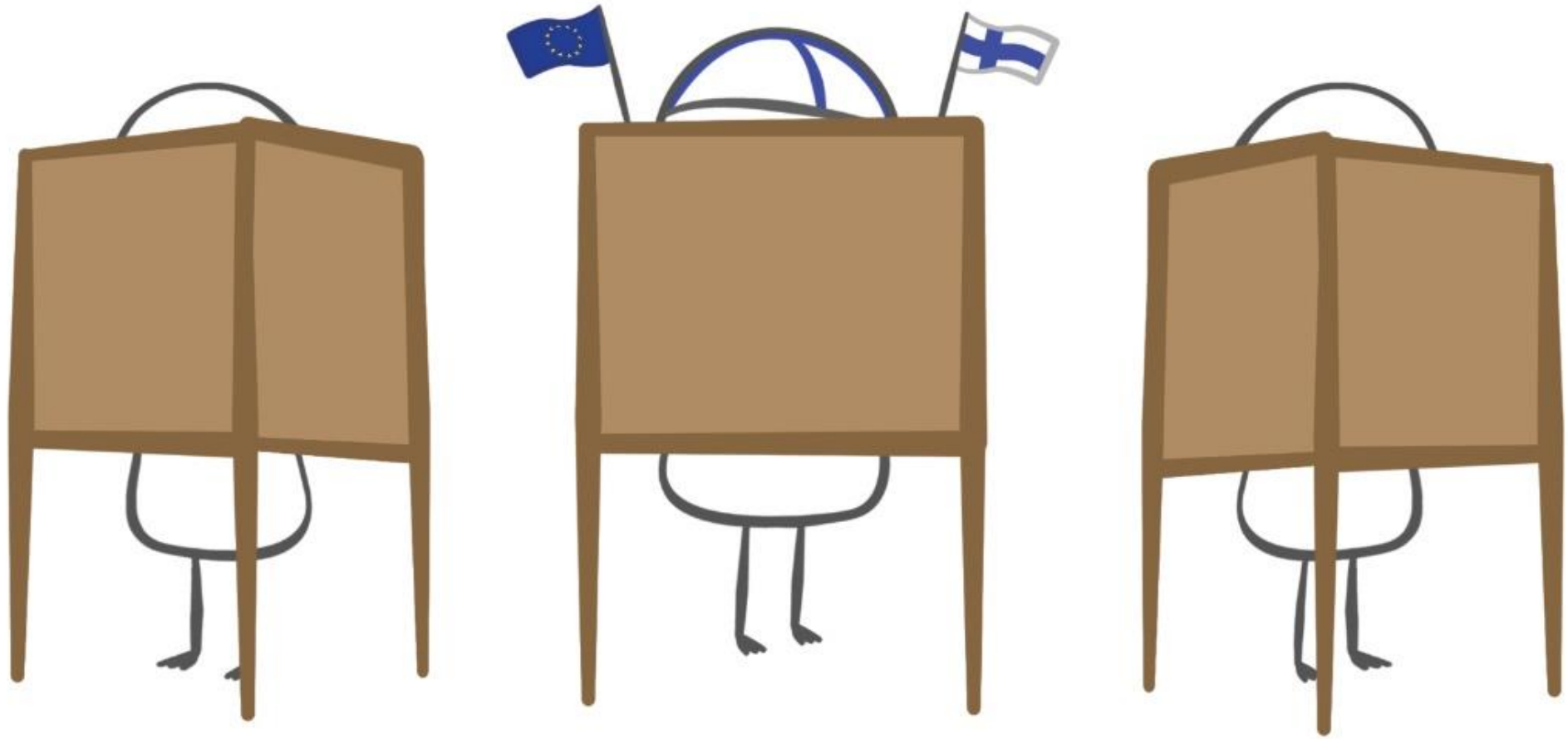
https://faktabaari.fi/assets/FactBar_EDU_Fact-checking_for_educators_and_future_voters_13112018.pdf

FaktaBaari EDU

From discussion to action…. (-:

- A delgation of 6-graders brought an address with 335 signatures to create a small football field in the school site.
- ”We have learned, that if we want something, we have to act”

THE BEST THING ABOUT VOTING:



YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK TO ANYONE