



Language Teaching Project

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Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences

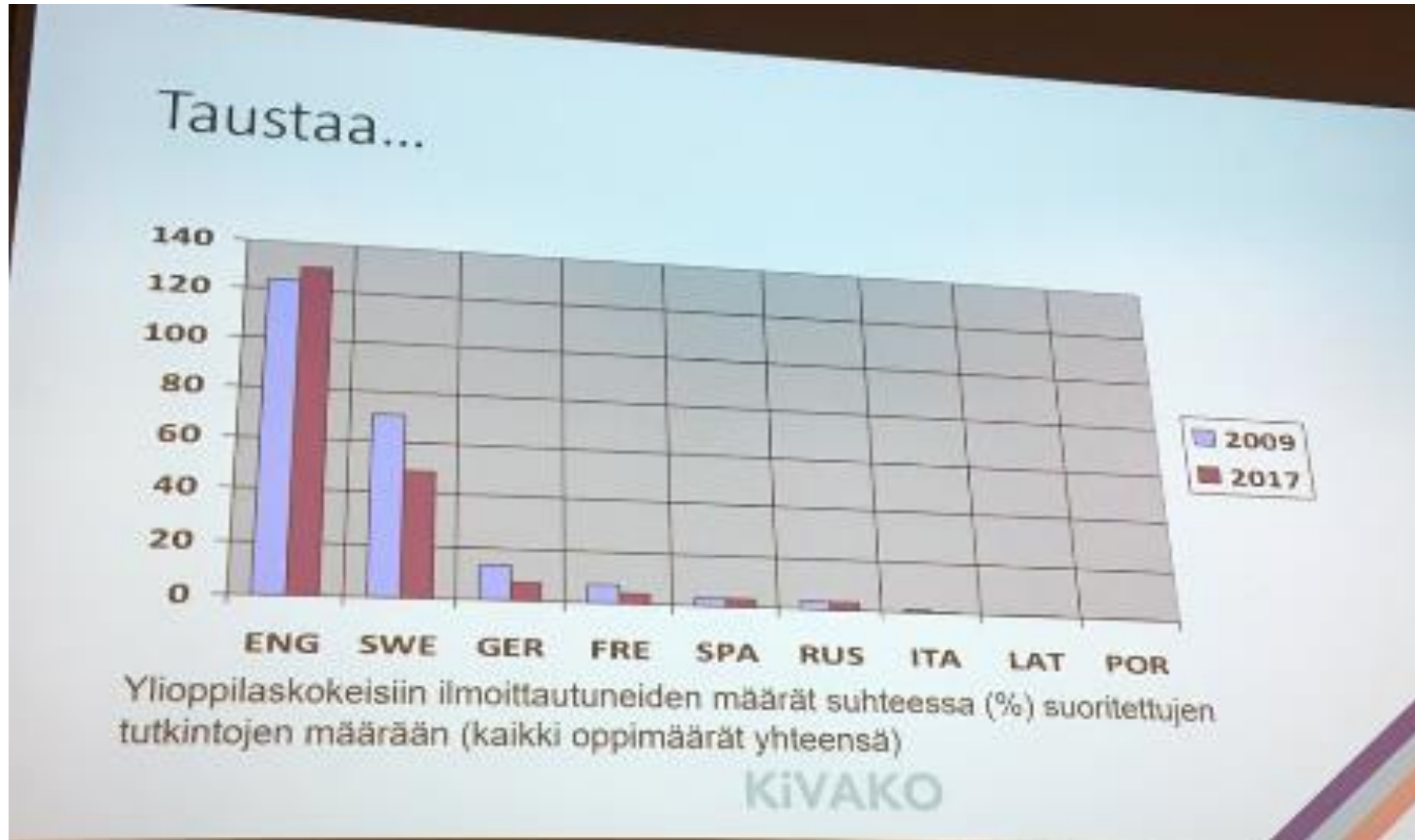




KiVAKO - Strengthening Finland's language reserve in HE

- 2018 - 2021
- A joint project of 25 Finnish universities
- Funding from the Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture
- 4,7 mil. €
- 110 teachers
- Goal: open digital learning paths from level A1 to C1 in other languages than Finnish, Swedish or English

Why KiVAKO?





Multilingualism into a strength

- Language learning has become very one-dimensional
- Confederation of Finnish Industries: “Language skills are a competitive asset in working life” (2014, 2017)
- Investigation into the current state of the language reserve, language levels and development needs

Prof. Riitta Pyykkö: *Multilingualism into a strength. A report of the status and levels of language competences in Finland.* Ministry of Education and Culture. 2017.



Some actions

- Starting language learning in the first class of comprehensive school
- Teaching immigrants their own native language
- Oral language proficiency tests as part of the language tests in the Matriculation Exams



KiVAKO online courses

- Spanish 21 cr
- Portuguese 9 cr
- French 23 cr
- German 24 cr
- Russian 21 cr
- Estonian 10 cr
- Italian 15 cr
- Japanese 12 cr
- Chinese 15 cr
- Korean 12 cr
- Sign language 6 cr
- UniTandem (each one teach one) 3 x 5 cr (<https://www.unitandem.fi/>)

Course development process

- eAMK quality criteria
<https://www.eamk.fi/en/courses-offering/quality-criteria/>
- Pedagogical script
- Cooperation with other projects
- Workshops
- Digipeda mentors
- Self and peer assessment workshops with facilitators
- Sharing good practises & ideas
- Pilot courses





How are KiVAKO courses?

- Work life oriented contents
- Online meetings and consultation hours
- Not only grammar and written exercises but also
 - interactive learning
 - discussions
 - pair work
 - gamification
 - videos
 - listening exercises (also with non-native speakers)
 - multilingual exercises: use of Swedish and English



Positive feedback from pilot courses

- Versatile exercises
- Pair work
- Webinars
- Dialogues, presentations
- Clear instructions and well functioning exercises
- Supportive teachers



Challenges

- Not possible to get quick answers to questions
- Missing traditional language class elements
- More online meetings
- Heavy work load, too many new topics
- Automatic feedback
- Submitting big files (e.g. videos)
- More interactive exercises and pronunciation

What happens after the project?



- Development of a rotation model
- Fall 2021: online courses will be offered to students in HE and open university students



References

- Confederation of Finnish Industries. 2014. Language skills are a competitive asset in working life. Available: <https://ek.fi/en/current/news/ek-labour-force-and-training-survey-language-skills-are-a-competitive-asset-in-working-life/>
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Thank you!

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