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Global digital school under covid-19

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Schools have switched to remote learning for the coming months both in Finland and around the world. In Finland, the transition to remote learning has been helped by the good skills of students and teachers, as well as the technological aids available to everyone. The rest of the world cannot do the same.

According to UNESCO data, as of 31st of March, schools have been closed in 185 countries, and the COVID-19 virus affects the school attendance of some 1,850 million children. Nearly 2 billion school children will have to resort to remote education and probably hundreds of millions will be left without education. UNESCO coordinates international cooperation, as well as up-to-date monitoring of the COVID-19 virus. There are also companies from Finland involved that produce digital learning solutions.

Comprehensive information on remote learning experiences should be gathered. On the basis of this, a national digital school system could be built under the leadership of OKM (The Ministry of Education and Culture) and OPH (The Finnish National Agency for Education) in the same way as STM (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health) has built the national Social and Health Care system with its KANTA databases.

The central core of the national system would be the student database corresponding to the KANTA database and the digital Learning Materials Center, where in addition to traditional content producers and book publishers, universities, companies providing learning solutions, YLE and magazine publishers could play a key role. Book expenses in primary school, upper secondary school and vocational education are about 200 million. e / year. Of this, content producers account for less than 20%. In centralized learning material production, more could be invested in content production, as the traditional cost of publishing, printing and distributing

books would be eliminated. The inclusion of the media as part of the school system brought real-time information into the school system.

The system to be built in Finland could be a model for other countries, which would take us to the core of global development. Jyväskylä has excellent capabilities to act as a center for development work.