FINNISH NATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Skills competitions in FINLAND

Leena Koski

Finnish National Board of Education, NRP

SkillsFinland

Openly, honestly, wisely, rejoicing at skills and skillfully – Skills Finland

Why do skills competitions work in Finland?

- Competitions are linked with national VET policy
- Each competition has the objectives of its own
- Competition is a process, not only an event – utilisation and dissemination of results is part of the process
- Enable long term development activities - not a project, not only a skills show
- A positive, innovative and joyful way of cooperating and communicating
- All the stakeholders are involved

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Skills Finland

- Members and background organisations
  - Ministry of Education and Culture
  - Finnish National Board of Education
  - VET providers (90% of providers in Finland)
  - Labour market organisations
  - Organisations of teachers and students
  - Individual persons
- Non-profit association, founded in 1993
- Objectives
  - to improve the quality of VET
  - to promote the internationalisation of VET
  - to increase the attractiveness of VET
  - to encourage students to improve their professional and entrepreneurial skills

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How Skills Finland achieves its objectives?

- Administers and develops our national skills competition Taitaja
  - Taitaja - National skills competition for VET students
  - TaitajaPLUS for VET students with special needs
  - Taitaja9 for pupils in the upper grades of the comprehensive school
- Trains and sends Team Finland to the international skills competitions
  - WorldSkills
  - EuroSkills
  - International Abilympics
- Supporting activities
  - Training and coaching of young professionals
  - Training of competition specialists (teachers and trainers)
  - Communication
- Active co-operation in national and international networks

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Taitaja event – three in one

Taitaja
The Finnish championship in skills for students in vocational colleges

Taitaja9
for for pupils in the upper grades of the comprehensive school

TaitajaPLUS
for VET students with and special needs

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Taitaja event

- The biggest event of vocational education in Finland
  - Taitaja, national skills competition for students in initial VET, under the age of 21
  - Taitaja9 for primary school students
  - TaitajaPLUS, national skills competition for VET students with special needs.
  - Study paths: Preliminary tasks, tasks at the event and tasks after the event. A tool for students counselling / study guidance.
  - Additional events like conferencies, education expo etc.
- The event attracts 40 000–50 000 visitors every year.
- Skills Finland grants the right to the selected VET provider to host the annual Taitaja event.

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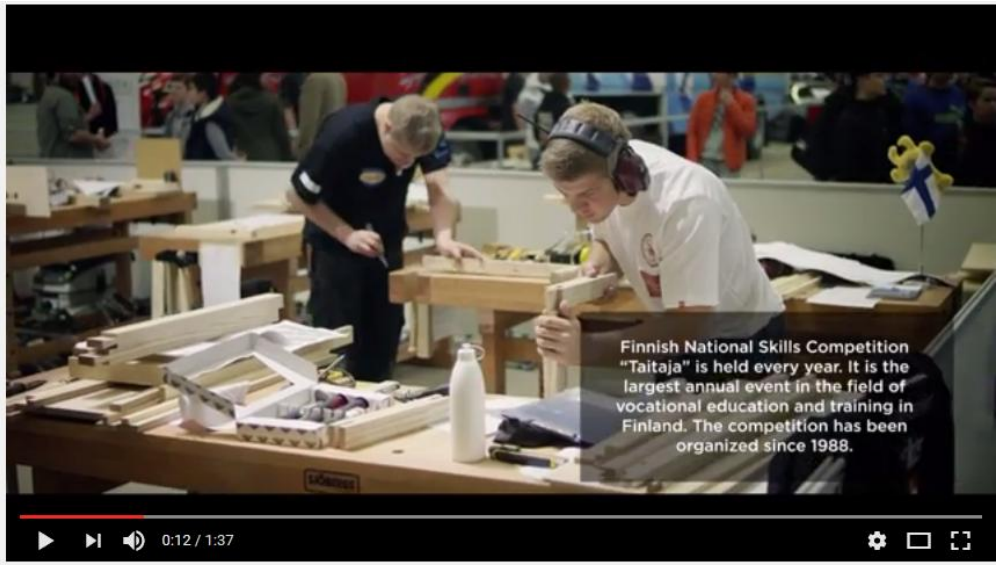
Taitaja video (1:37)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWhv3qtsuIQ

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Taitaja

- The National Skills Competition
- Intended for young people under the age of 20 who are in vocational training.
- Competition categories include 45 vocational fields.
- Approximately 400 top students in their own vocational fields compete in the finals.
- Semifinals are organised throughout the country in order to select the competitors for finals. More than 1,500 young people take part.
- Dozens of international guest competitors also take part in the competition.

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What is the purpose of the competition?

- Developing vocational training
- Promoting professional excellence and increasing people's appreciation of different vocations.
- For teachers, opportunities to network and improve their professional skills.
- For students, an opportunity to meet others and compare their own skills with others: working methods, tools, work environment, and comparison of learning outcomes.
- Increasing cooperation between companies and educational institutions
- Strengthening the link between working life and vocational education
- Increasing recruitment opportunities – connecting the demand for workers with the supply
- Increasing people's awareness and appreciation of various occupations and professional skills
- Presenting career opportunities

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TaitajaPLUS

- The Finnish national skills competition for students with disabilities and special needs
- Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is a prerequisite for participation.
- Held annually in connection with Taitaja.
- Participants compete in different vocational skills.
- Aims at
  - improving the vocational education of students with special needs
  - raising the awareness of vocational skills competitions for students with special needs
  - connecting the skilful competitors with each other and with potential employers.

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Taitaja9 competition

- Taitaja9 is a competition in craftsmanship for 7–9th graders (13–16 years old) of primary schools students.
- The aim is to **improve the knowledge of practical subjects**, particularly on technical and textile handicrafts, in a fun and inspiring way and to **increase the cooperation** between upper secondary schools, vocational institutes and companies.
- Taitaja9 final is held yearly in connection with the Taitaja competition, the competing teams are selected by local and regional qualifying organized be vocational institutes.
- The tasks at Taitaja9 are easy, simple, affordable to implement and easy to judge. Along with handicraft skills, teamwork and **problem solving skills** are needed.

It is a great chance to get to know what vocational institutes can offer.

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Taitaja9 tasks

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Name the spices

Measure the potency of brine

Build a house

taitajamästare 2015 TURKU-ÅBO

taitaja9 mästare

Yhtälöt **Finaalierä**

Tehtävä:
Tehtävänä on täydentää annetut lausekkeet käyttäen annettuja symboleja siten, että lausekkeista tulee tosia yhtälöitä.

Tehtävässä käytössä olevat symbolit ja niiden selitykset:

+

Tämän merkin molemmilla puolilla olevat luvut lasketaan yhteen.
Esimerkiksi 2 + 3 tarkoittaa, että luvut 2 ja 3 lasketaan yhteen, jolloin summa on 5.

-

Tämän merkin vasemmalla puolella olevasta luvusta vähennetään merkin oikealla puolella oleva luku.
Esimerkiksi 5 - 3 tarkoittaa, että luvusta 5 vähennetään luku 3, jolloin erotus on 2.

•

Tämän merkin molemmilla puolilla olevat luvut kerrotaan keskenään.
Esimerkiksi 2•3 tarkoittaa, että luvulla 2 kerrotaan luku 3, jolloin tulo on 6.

:

Tämän merkin vasemmalla puolella oleva luku jaetaan oikealla puolella olevalla luvulla.
Esimerkiksi 6 : 3 tarkoittaa, että luku 6 jaetaan luvulla 3, jolloin osamäärä on 2.

$\sqrt{}$

Luvun X neliöjuuri $\sqrt{X}$ on se ei-negatiivinen luku, joka itsellään kerrottuna on X.
Esimerkiksi luvun 9 (joka on 3•3) neliöjuuri on 3. Eli yhtälönä $\sqrt{9} = 3$.

taitajamästare 2015 TURKU-ÅBO

taitaja9 mästare

Tehtävän ohje:

- Merkitkää kynällä selvästi taulussa oleviin lausekkeisiin symbolit yhtäsuuruusmerkin vasemmalle puolelle alla olevan mallin mukaisesti:

MALLI: 2 2 2 = 6

2 + 2 + 2 = 6

Tehtävän helpottamiseksi on alla kerrottu, kuinka monta symbolia tarvitaan koko tehtävän ratkaisemiseksi mukaanlukien malli.

+	−	•	:	$\sqrt{}$	
5	1	2	2	3	kpl

- Tuomarille ilmoitetaan "VALMIS", kun tehtävä on suoritettu.

Tehtävän suoritusaika:
Tehtävän suorittamiseen on käytettävissä max. 5 minuuttia.

Hyväksytyn suorituksen kriteerit ovat:
Tehtävä on suoritettu, kun kaikkia symboleja on käytetty annettu määrä ja jokainen yhtälö on ratkaistu oikein.

What punctuation marks you should use to solve the equation?

Rahanlaskenta

1. Tehtävä on laskea pöydällä olevat rahat.
2. Kun rahat on laskettu, merkitse summa tässä paperissa alapuolella olevaan tilaan.
   Loppusummaa ei saa sanoa ääneen.
3. Ajanottaja tarkastaa paperista vastauksen.
4. Jos vastaus on väärä, aloitetaan rahojen laskeminen alusta.
5. Kun vastaus on oikein, on tehtävä suoritettu.
6. Maksimisuoritusaika on 6 minuuttia.

Kirjoita tähän laskettu rahasumma:

5 €	
10 €	
20 €	
50 €	
100 €	

Count the money you have on the table, mark the result in the box.

Taitaja9 video (1:06)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Th_3LnIc_kM

SkillsFinland

Team Finland

- Skills Finland sends the Finnish team to international skills competitions WorldSkills, EuroSkills and International Abilympics.
- The members in the Finnish team are selected via try outs. Before the try -outs the candidates showcase their motivation and skills during training.
- Besides the competitors the team also includes Finnish judges (“experts”). All of them are vocational teachers wishing to develop their own competencies and education in their respective fields.
- Objective of participation is to benchmark the level of skills in other countries and to learn from the others, as well as to enhance co-operation.

SkillsFinland

Publications in English

- **Skilful workers in all areas of work - Skills training is good for everyone**
- Going to the Top - The Tools of Training for Excellence
- Mental Training Workbook
- Competitions for Everyone

www.skillsfinland.fi

Order via email: viestinta@skillsfinland.fi

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video