

Supervisor's contact details

- Name: Eila LINDFORS
- E-mail: eila.lindfors@utu.fi
- Department: Department of Teacher Education

Title of the project

Success in school safety

MSCA-PF Research Panel

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

Description of the project

The Success in School Safety -project is a R and D project funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. The project aims to provide comprehensive schools with practical, research-based and nationally applicable solutions to evaluate, uphold and develop school safety. The project runs until March, 2024 and is made up of two major components, namely the development of school safety in the 15 pilot schools of the project and research on school safety in all 20 schools which partake in the project.

The research component of the project fulfills three aims. Firstly, it studies the factors of comprehensive school safety in order to construct criteria which can be used to evaluate and identify the level of a school's safety culture. Secondly, the project identifies the level of school safety culture at the start of the project in 2022, subsequently creating a safety snapshot of Finnish comprehensive schools' safety culture in the early part of the 2020s. Thirdly, the project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the development measures in the pilot schools.

The research component of the project comprises studies which contribute to creating the safety culture snapshot at the beginning and end of the project. The studies examine schools' self-initiated contingency planning as well as the safety competence of the school staff and safety climate in all 20 schools. Focus group interviews on safety management, the self-assessment of school safety development and the planning of safety measures are

held twice in the pilot schools and once, in the control schools. The project also analyses safety incidents which take place during the project. Lastly, the research component includes a review study on the elements of successful school-based interventions.

Role of the research fellow would be acting as a member of the research team and execute research in collaboration with the team. The team will continue its work also after the project is formally finished.

Research objectives or research questions of the project

- What is the current status of comprehensive schools safety culture?
- Which areas of safety culture and in what extent does the current safety management system of comprehensive schools cover and what are the areas to develop? What changes have taken place in the comprehensive schools safety management during the safety intervention within project schools and on the level of the entire project?
- What features of interventions effectively reduce bullying, violence and harassment in school contexts?
- Knowledge of safety incidents: What is the quality and quantity of safety incidents that occur on the level of pilot schools and the entire project?
- Charting the safety competence of school staff: What is the level and extent of comprehensive schools' staff to enact the safety culture that guarantees students the safe learning environment as prescribed in the Basic Education Act?