

SCHOOLMEDIATION IN FINLAND 2009

Finnish Forum for
Mediation
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2009

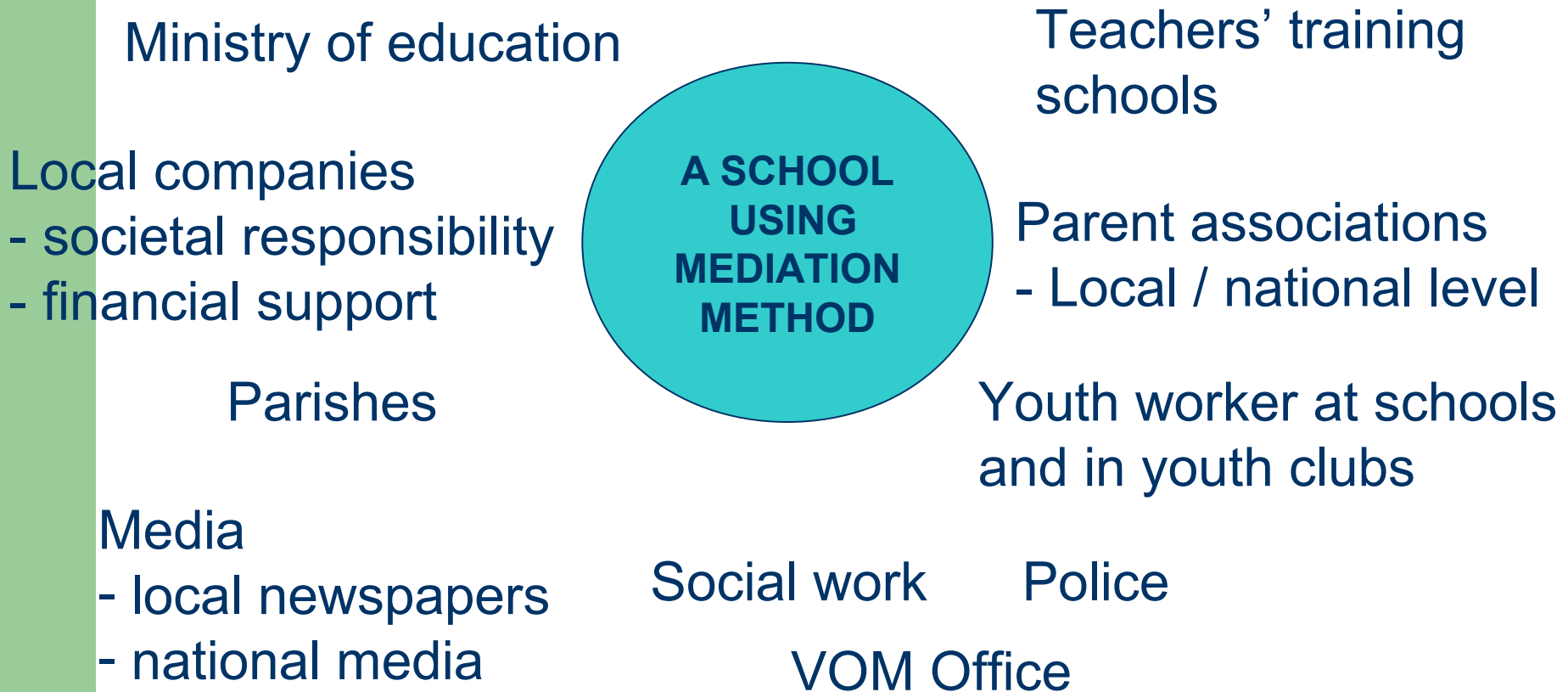
School mediation project in Finland

- Started 2000 by Finnish Red Cross, continued by Finnish forum for Mediation since 2006
- Supported by the Ministry of Education and the Finlands Slot Machine Association
- Co-operating with Teachers' Training Schools, Finnish Parent Association, local police and VOM-offices, local parishes and companies etc.
- New cooperation with UN Association of Finland
- Multi-professional steering- and development group

Situation in numbers, spring 2009

- 327 mediation schools; primary, secondary and high schools, and vocational schools
- 6800 trained peer mediators
- 1500 trained supportive adults
- over 7000 cases mediated during year 2008
- concerns 80 000 pupils and their parents

SCHOOL MEDIATION NETWORKING



Step 1: Peer Mediation

- Pupils are mediating conflicts between other pupils
- Can be used after trainings of the whole staff and selected group of mediators and supportive adults
- Information to whole school community
- Adults are supporting systemically the peer mediators of the school in every day practise
- Cases come from teachers, other staff, pupils and parents

Trainings of Peer Mediation

- A. Basic starting module
 - Part A1. Training to whole school staff
 - Part A2. Training to peer mediators and supportive adults
- B. Advanced training module
 - B1. Further training module
 - B2. Consultation module
- C. Additional training modules
 - Parent's evenings or local seminars

Step 2: Also school staff mediates

- Mediation supportive adults can also mediate when needed
- Serious bullying, social difficulties, conflicts between a teacher and a pupil, unwillingness to be at school etc.
- Facilitating when conferencing
- Cases come from school staff, parents, the head, health care etc.

Step 3: School mediation in co-operation with VOM-office

- In more serious cases a school can contact local VOM-office
 - Sometimes local police or youth worker advises parties to contact the VOM-office before starting the official criminal process
 - VOM-office workers or voluntary mediators are mediating these cases
- Cases come usually from parents or the head of the school

Step 4: Quickened process in juvenile cases

- Co-operation between local schools, health care, police, youth and social worker and WOM-office workers
- Regular network meetings to recognize and to focus the need of support
- Straight contacts possible when deciding together how to work in a specific case
- After successful mediation the police can close the case

Step 5: Criminal cases to VOM-office

- Because of first four steps of this model, mediation is well known in the whole community as a method to manage conflicts and criminal cases
- Mediation by VOM-office can be seen as an opportunity to solve serious conflicts instead starting a juridical process
- Possibility to learn still occurs

Coming in autumn 2009

- An Evaluation report by Finnish Youth Research Association on schoolmediation
- A Survey report by Finnish Forum for Mediation on schoolmediation project
- A Book about schoolmediation (FFM)
- A Book about whole mediation field in Finland (Univ. of Lapland, Dept. of Education)

Finnish Forum for Mediation, FFM

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