



Integrating Sustainability into Education: The Finnish Case of Sustainability Roadmap and Network

Tiina Taipale

Sykli Environmental College, Finland

Kartalla – På Kartan project

Sustainability Roadmap for VET

- Describes the essential role of Vocational Education and Training in the Sustainability Transition
- Forms a shared program different VET Schools in Finland can follow:
 - ✓ Shared Vision and Goals
 - ✓ Action Paths for 5 Focus Areas
 - ✓ Tools to measure progress
- The Roadmap was co-created with over 60 VET schools nationally.



Case Finland: National sustainability roadmap for vocational education and training



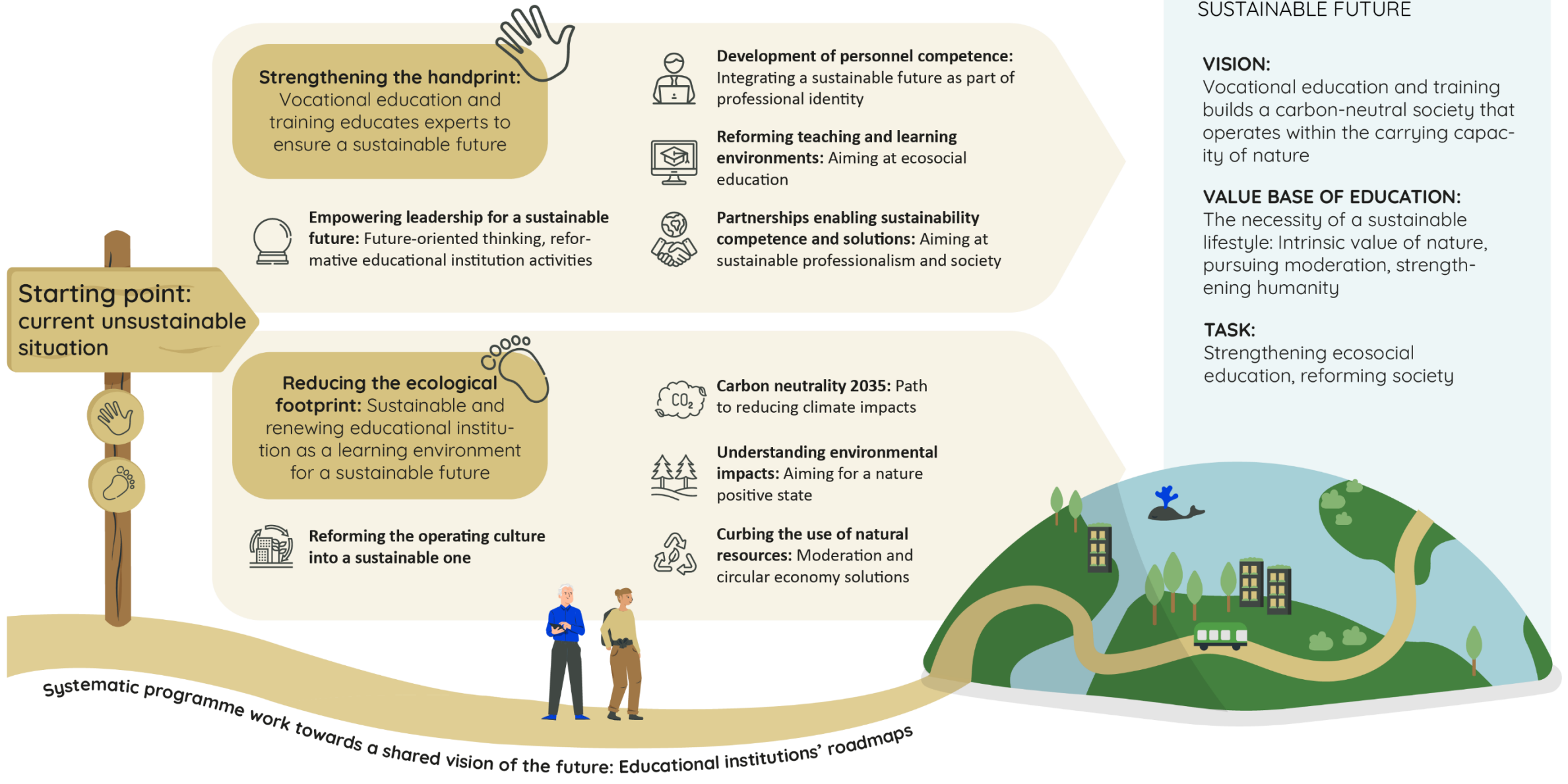
- Finland is committed to:
 - Paris Agreement on Climate Change
 - UN Convention on Biological Diversity
 - UN Agenda 2030 Goals (SDGs)
- Finland aims to be carbon neutral by 2035:
 - Creation of Roadmaps to different Sectors was on the government agenda in 2020
 - Roadmaps have been updated in 2024
- Finnish National Agency for Education's Development Programme for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in Vocational Education and Training in 2022–2023
 - Aimed at creating Sustainability Roadmap for VET to support Green Transition in Finland

Case Finland: Creating the Roadmap: VASKI-project 2022-2023/2024



- In the VASKI-project more than half of the Finnish VET education providers participated in the co-creation of the sustainability roadmap
 - Workshops and co-creation in 5 work packages
- The Roadmap forms a **programme paper** that vocational institutions can follow
 - Describes **shared vision** and **concrete actions paths** towards sustainable future
- The sustainability roadmap is openly accessible and usable by everyone
 - Linked tools: Carbon footprint calculator & Self-evaluation tool
 - Online ThingLink Learning Environment

Sustainability Roadmap in a Nutshell



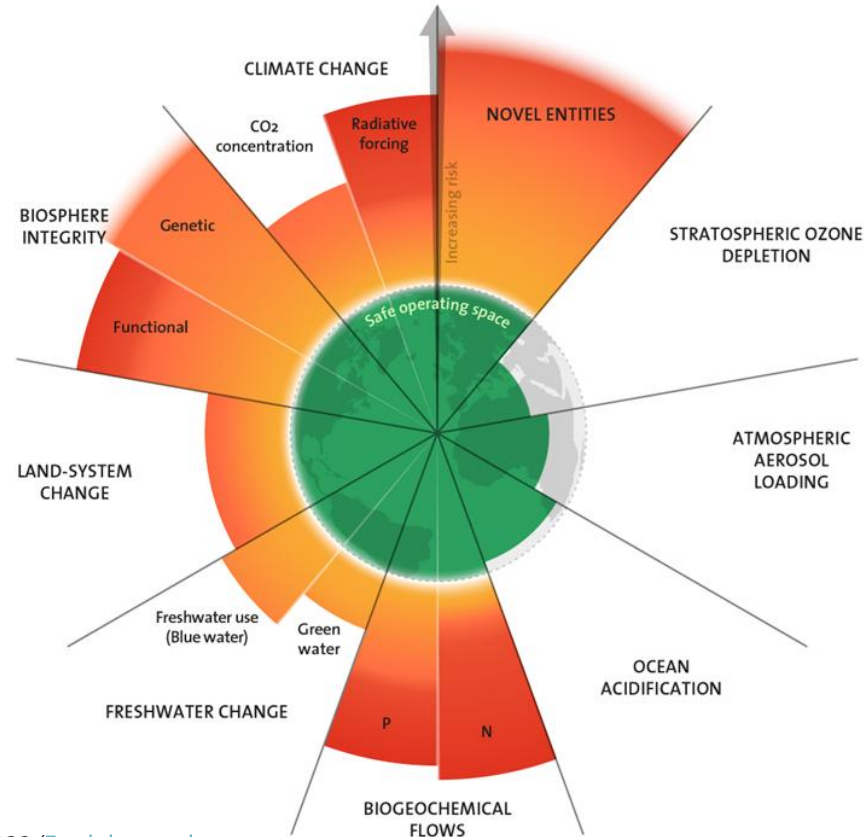
Current situation

"The average temperature in Europe has been 2,2 celsius degrees higher over the last five years than it was in the end of 19th century."

Climate change costs lives and money - Consilium

- 23.6.-2.7.2025 Heatwave caused 2300 deaths in 10 days in [12 European cities](#)
- By 19 August, about 9,670 square kilometres of land had burned across the EU this year, [almost three times the 2006-2024 average](#).
- Forest fires in average cost 2 billion each year - river flooding 5 billion each year in Europe ([Climate change costs lives and money – Consilium](#))

Crossing Planetary Boundaries: Heading towards critical Earth System tipping points



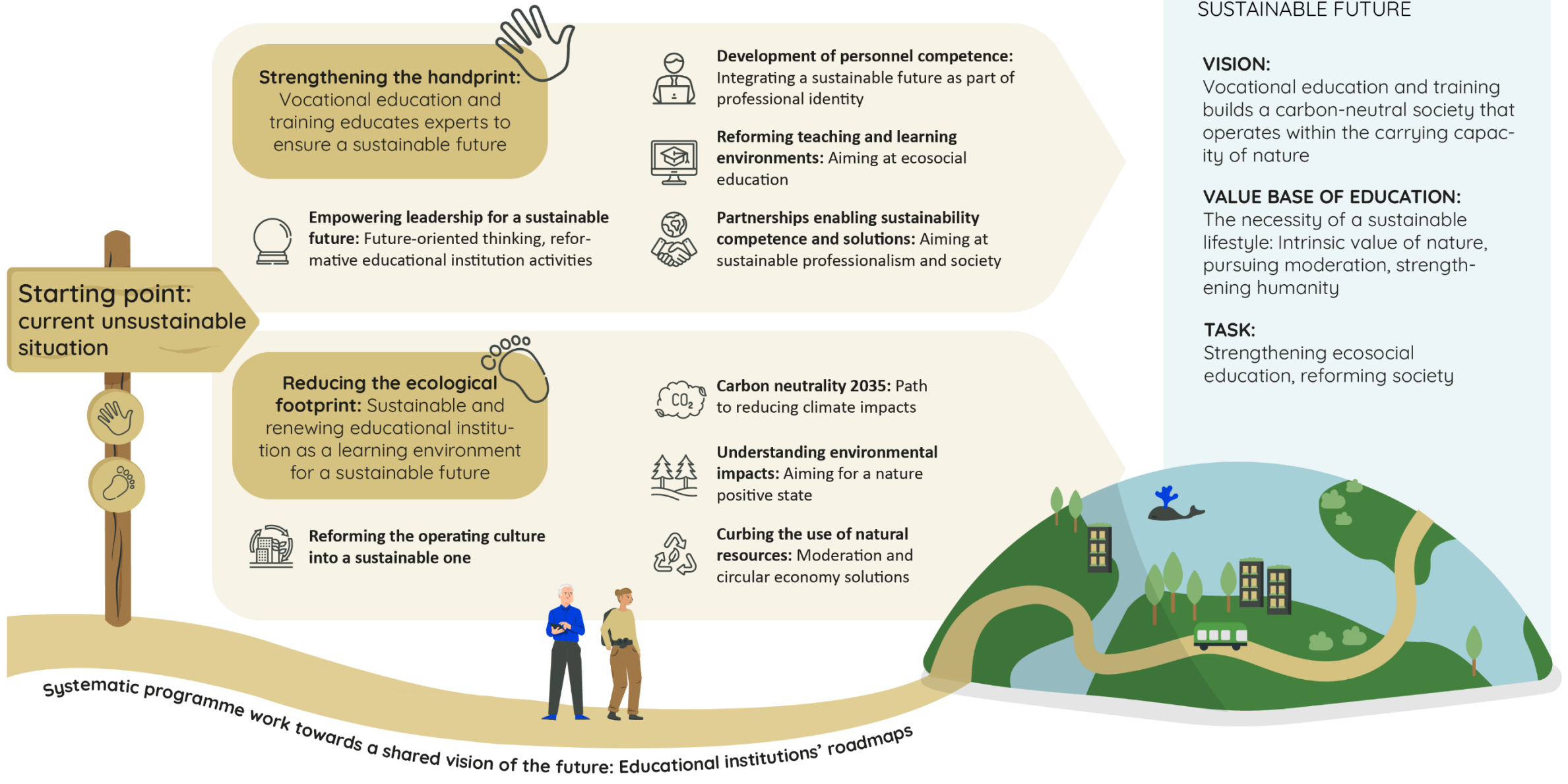
TIPPING POINTS (some of them)

- **Greenland and West Antarctic Ice Sheets:** Risk of irreversible melting leading to meters of sea-level rise.
- **Arctic Sea Ice:** Rapid decline affecting global climate patterns.
- **Mountain Glaciers:** Loss of freshwater sources for millions.
- **Permafrost Thawing:** Releases large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- **Amazon Rainforest Dieback:** Deforestation and warming could turn it into a savanna, releasing vast carbon stores.
- **Coral Reef Mortality:** Warm-water coral reefs face mass bleaching and collapse.
- **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):** Slowing or collapse could disrupt weather systems globally.

Richardson ym. 2023 ([Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries | Science Advances](#))

[New research:](#) Ocean acidification has also been crossed

Sustainability Roadmap in a Nutshell



Sustainability Transition Programs: European Green Deal

Circular economy solutions

Transportation: Electrification

Energy system change: From
fossils to renewables

Changes in food systems and diets,
Regenerative agriculture

POSITIVE
TIPPING POINTS

POSITIVE
TIPPING

Positive tipping points of system change towards sustainability: [IPCC -report](#)

Focus Areas

- Leadership and operating culture
- Pedagogical solutions and learning environments
- Personnel's sustainability competences and professional identity
- Partnerships
- Carbon neutrality 2035

There are action paths for these areas in the roadmap -> Take a closer [look of all of them afterwards](#)



Implementing the sustainability roadmap

Kartalla –På Kartan project

1.7.2024-31.12.2027

- Building a network of vocational education institutions (+ partners) that are committed to the Roadmap
- The project aims to reach all (~140) vocational education institutions in Finland
- Transparency and evaluation of progress through common tools and criteria
 - Carbon footprinting calculator and report
 - Common reports about progress based on self-evaluations

The project also provides support and training for leaders and personnel



Co-operation with the Funder

- Funding from Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)
- Co-operation with EQAVET NRP Project (2023–2026)
- ✓ **Sustainability roadmap monitoring system:**
Definition of indicators and production of a situation report on educational providers' actions.



Network's digital platform:

Commitment and transparency

Commitment forms for schools and partners

YOU CAN BROWSE NETWORK MEMBERS BASED ON DIFFERENT ATTRIBUTES:

SEARCH BY NAME

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL

REGION

FIELD OF EDUCATION

Search ...

All

All

All

**KOTKAN-HAMINAN SEUDUN KOULUTUSKUNTAYHTYMÄ EKAMI**

**salpaus** KOULUTUSKESKUS SALPAUS

**TAMPEREEN AIKUISKOULUTUSKESKUS TAKK**

**SAAMELAISALUEEN KOULUTUSKESKUS**

**WINNOVA** LÄNSIRANNIKON KOULUTUS OY WINNOVA

**PAOK** PALVELUALAN OPISTO KUOPIO

**TAITOTALO** AEL-AMIEDU OY, TAITOTALO

**CAREERIA** CAREERIA OY

**SALON SEUDUN KOULUTUSKUNTAYHTYMÄ**

**EKAMI**


<https://ekami.fi/>

Kotkan-Haminan seudun koulutuskuntayhtymä EKAMI

Kotkan-Haminan seudun koulutuskuntayhtymä Ekami on Haminan, Kotkan, Miehikkälän, Pyhtään ja Virolahden vuonna 2005 perustama kuntayhtymä. Alueen ammatillisen koulutuksen juuret ulottuvat kuitenkin reilusti yli sadan vuoden taakse.

Kotkan-Haminan seudun koulutuskuntayhtymä vastaa omistajakuntiensa puolesta alueen toisen asteen ammatillisen koulutuksen järjestämisestä (Etelä-Kymenlaakson ammattiopisto) sekä työpajatoiminnan ja etsivän nuorisotyön palveluista (Rannikkopajat).

Tehtävänämmä on edistää ammatillista osaamista, työelämätaitoja sekä alueen kilpailukykyä ja hyvinvointia. Koulutamme ammattiosaajia seudun elinkeinoelämän ja julkisen sektorin tarpeisiin. Toteutamme nuoriso- ja yhteisötaakua sekä nuorisolain mukaista sosiaalista vahvistamista.

Olemme ammatillisen koulutuksen järjestäjä

Opetettavat koulutusalat
Kasvatusalat,

Henkilöstömäärä
251 – 500

Alue
Kymenlaakso

What we do as a network?

- Network gatherings (in Teams): Changing news about advancing sustainability at the school level
- Training and clinics on calculating the carbon footprint
- Webinars and events for managers, teachers and developers
- Working group on developing sustainability reporting framework and platform for VET education

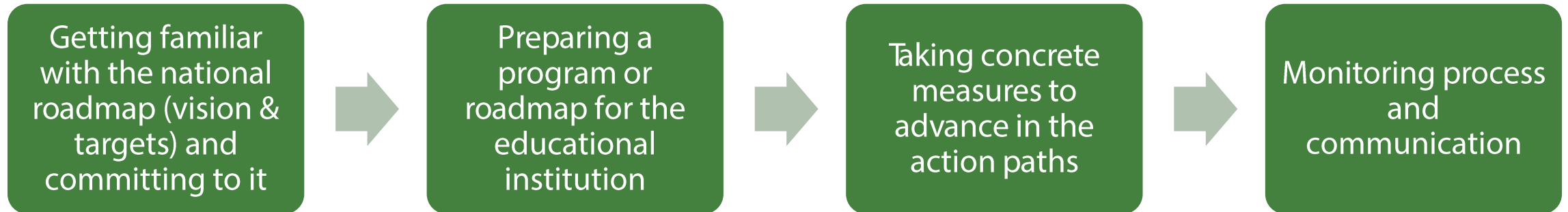
Roadmap describes a path for educational institutions to follow

Commitment to shared vision:

Network's digital platform:

www.kartallaverkosto.fi

Training and support from the Kartalla- På Kartan network



Determining the starting point:

Situation analysis tools

- Self-evaluation tool (form)
- Carbon footprint calculator

Common monitoring of progress through self-evaluation reports and carbon footprint reports.

- ✓ Eqavet indicator from 2026 onwards

Where are we right now?

- Now 60 VET institutions in Finland have committed to the roadmap and the network
- Around 50 VET institutions have completed the self-evaluation in 2024-2025

However:

- We still lack commitment from around 70 VET institutions
- Nothing obligates to advancing sustainability - Progress can be moderate



What to take home?

- Building up understanding about what sustainability means, and what is required from education, takes time → START NOW!
- Commitment to sustainability can be leveraged through creating a shared vision, program and model for commitment
- It would help to have state / funder ownership policy towards sustainability: Linking funding to achieving sustainability related goals would be a game-changer

Thank you!

- Network website: [Home - Kartalla – på Kartan -verkosto](#)
- Newsletter, mainly in Finnish: <https://uutiskirje.sykli.fi/>
- Contact me: tiina.taipale@sykli.fi or LinkedIn [Tiina Taipale | LinkedIn](#)

