

During the time of cooperation with the Tähteenkadun Koulu school in Kuusankoski two study visits were held within the job shadowing programme. The teachers who took part in the first round of the programme (held 10-16 April 2016) were: Jadwiga Janusz-Sender and Mirosława Sabała-Podgórska and in the second (held 6-12 November 2016): Agnieszka Szaran and Anita Palimąka.

The purpose of the two visits was to observe the work at a partner school which provides education in both general education and self-contained classrooms (for children with disabilities.) The students demonstrate a disability in different categories, including orthopedic or physical impairment, autism, hearing impairment, intellectual impairment and others. There are also children who use wheelchairs, are nonverbal and use sign language or pictograms. Each student has an Individualized Education Programme. A team of teachers and specialists (counsellor, psychologist, doctor, school nurse) develops an Individual Education Programme that must be accepted by parents or guardians. The maximum number of students is 8 in a classroom. Each class is taught by one teacher and 3 or 4 assistant teachers. The classrooms are fully equipped and contain high-tech multimedia equipment, furniture tailored to children's special needs, teaching aids and all the necessary classroom resources. Life skills classes (preparing a meal and housework) play an important role. Assistant teachers assist students during breaks, in the school canteen and in a classrooms.

Taking part in classes as well as having conversations with the school principal let us learn the Finnish education system and priceless teaching strategies. Classroom observation gave us opportunity to analyze the structure of some classes and introduce new ideas inspired by our visit in Finland.