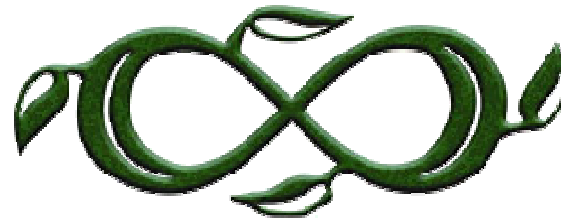


Sustainable development criteria and certification system for educational establishments in Finland



*EGS International Forum
Järvenpää, March 8th, 2010*

Planning Manager Erkka Laininen



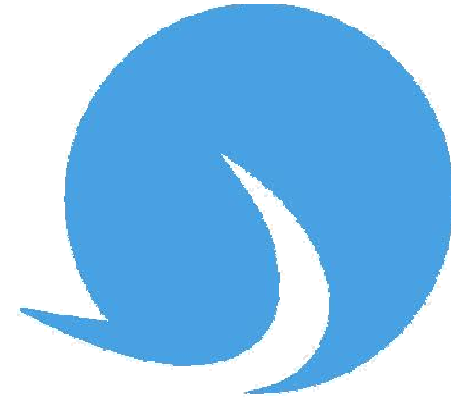
OKKA

*The OKKA Foundation for teaching,
education and personal development*

Finland

The OKKA Foundation

- Is a foundation for training, teaching and personal development supporting the educational sector.



OKKA

- Is founded by the Trade Union of Education in Finland OAJ and associations of teachers in vocational education.
- Is responsible for the Environmental Certification of Educational Establishments Finland.

Background



Environmental Criteria and Certification 2004

- Initiative: **Trade Union of Education in Finland** (2000)
- EU Life Environment project "ENVEDU" 2001-2004
- Target groups: Schools and educational establishments in Basic education, General and Vocational Upper Secondary Education

Sustainable development criteria and Certification 2009-2010

NATIONAL TARGETS, Strategies of Education for Sustainable Development (Finnish National Commission on SD, Ministry of Education, 2006):

- All schools and educational establishments have sustainable development programs by 2010
- 15% of schools and educational establishments have been certified for their sustainability work by 2014

Finnish Environmental Certification of Educational establishments (2004 ->)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

1. Environmental management
2. Teaching and learning
3. Maintenance activities

Update to SD criteria 2009

Certification management:

- The OKKA Foundation for teaching, education and personal development



Cooperation partners:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Environment
- National Board of Education
- Trade Union of Education in Finland
- Co-operative Eco-One
- Sykli Environmental School of Finland
- Finnish Association for Environmental Education
- Universities and polytechnics

TRAINING COURSES

- Construction of SD programs
- **2002-2009: about 750 teachers**

MATERIALS

- Manual
- Evaluation tools
- www-pages

AUDITOR NETWORK

- 80 auditors
- External audits
- Development of certification

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

- Integration of SD in teaching and school culture
- Promotion of wellbeing of students and teachers
- **Certificates (2004 – 12/2009: 28)**

Sustainable development criteria & certification, planning 2007-2010

2007 - 2008

- Development and testing of the criteria

2/2009

- Approval and introduction of the criteria

2008 - 2009

- Development and testing of evaluation tools

10/2009 - 3/2010

- Development of the certification website

10/2009 - 3/2010

- Start of the SD certification

Planning team

- OKKA, Sykli, Eco-One



Support

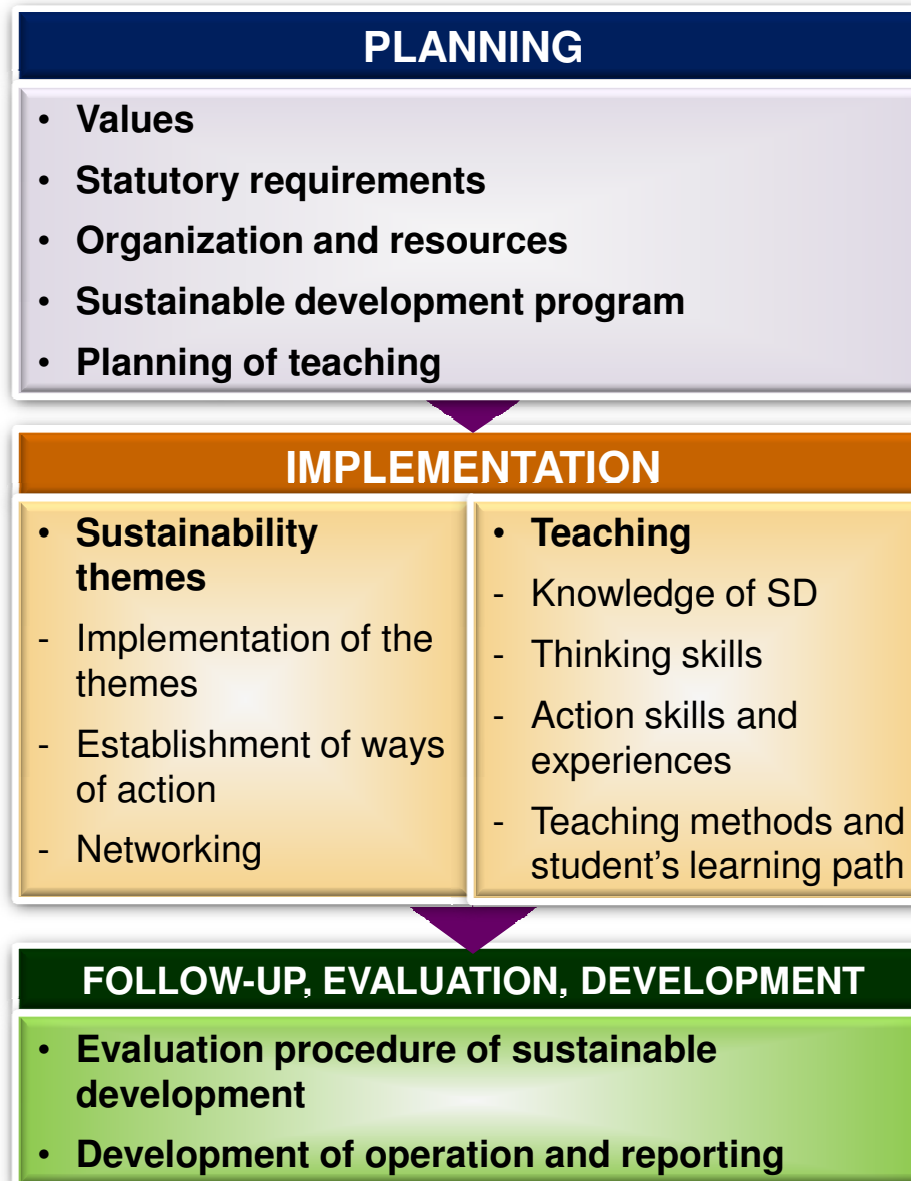
- Auditor network, teachers and educational establishments
- Pedagogical experts
- Educational authorities
- Several development projects

Finance

- The OKKA Foundation
- Ministry of Education
- National Board of Education
- Ministry of the Environment
- The Finnish Work Environment Fund
- Ålandsbanken

SD Criteria 2009: process model

- Quality approach
- Tool for self-evaluation and development
- All aspects of SD included
- Cover management, teaching and learning environment
- Pedagogical model used for the criteria of teaching
- Provide a possibility for certification



SYKLI



OKKA

Criteria for teaching, background

ESD model used in the criteria (general education)

Knowledge of SD

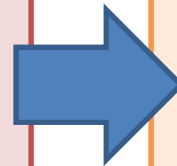
- ecological, economic, social and cultural environment, SD issues

Thinking skills

- holistic, critical and future thinking

Action skills and experiences

- use of different learning environments
- practicing of sustainable ways of action
- practicing of skills of participation and influencing



Criteria for vocational education are based on the structure of national core qualifications (evaluation of vocational skills)

- **Mastering of work process, working practices, tools and materials**
- **Mastering of basic knowledge of the work**
- **Key skills of lifelong learning (sustainable development)**

Sustainability themes in the criteria

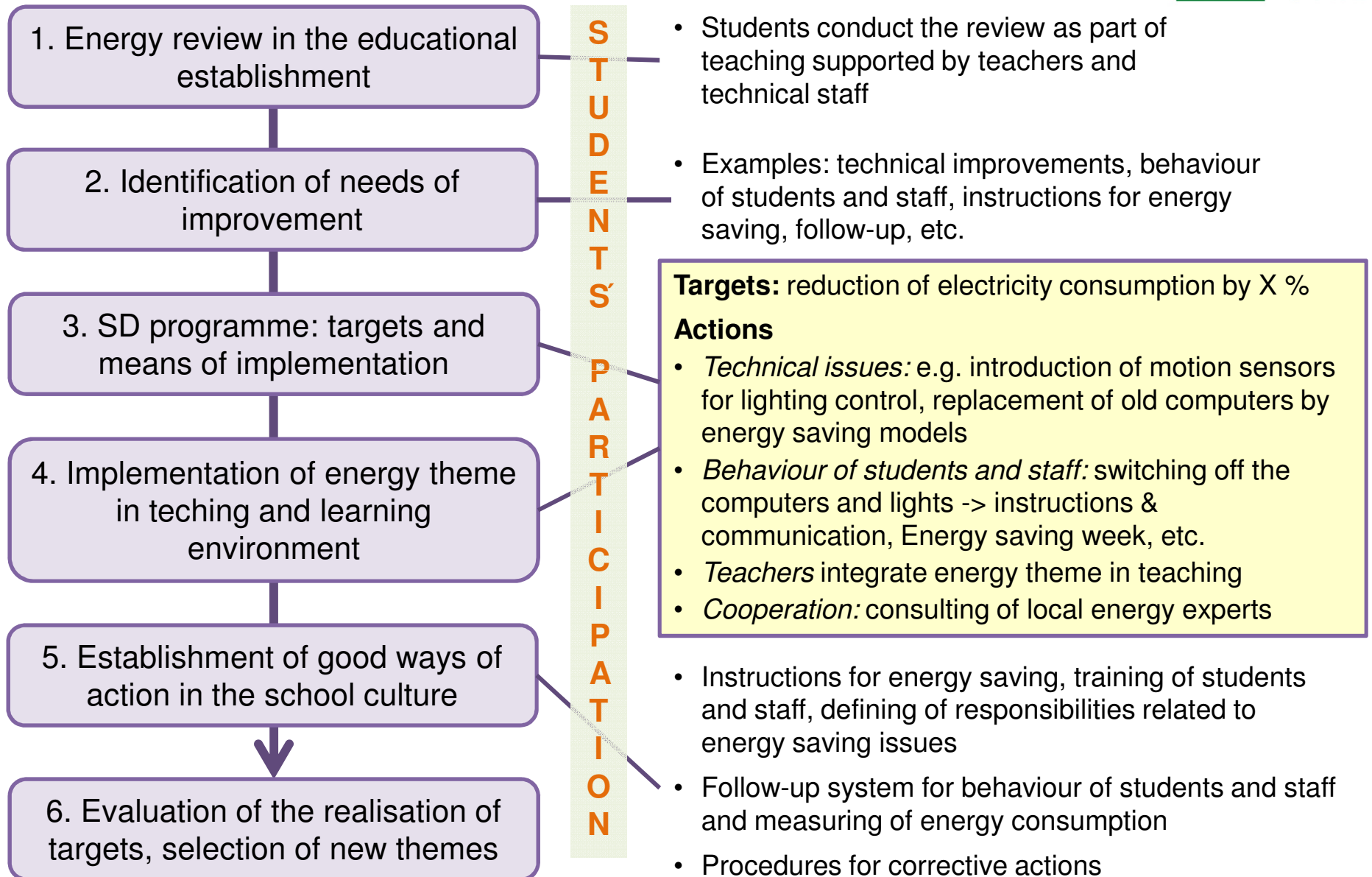
Ecological and economic sustainability	Social and cultural sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible procurements and sustainable consumption (also social and cultural sustainability) • Recycling and prevention of waste • Energy and water • Transports and traffic • Nutrition and health (also social and cultural sustainability) • Management and maintenance of the school premises and surroundings • Own theme (ecological/economic sustainability) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of the educational establishment (also ecological sustainability: chemicals) • Wellbeing of the staff and the students • Prevention of bullying and exclusion • Organization of students' support services • Cultural environment and traditions • Cultural diversity and internationality • Own theme (social/cultural sustainability)

-> **Planning of SD programme**

-> **Educational establishment can select 5 themes for evaluation when applying the certificate**



Example: Energy theme in SD programme



Supporting material (website)

EVALUATION TOOLS

SD Criteria

Four-step descriptions of performance level for each criteria

Self-evaluation check-lists

1. Planning, evaluation and development
2. Implementation of themes
3. Implementation of teaching

Examples: implementation of themes

INSTRUCTIONS

Construction of SD programme

Self-evaluation

Applying the certificate

Continuous improvement

Auditors' instructions

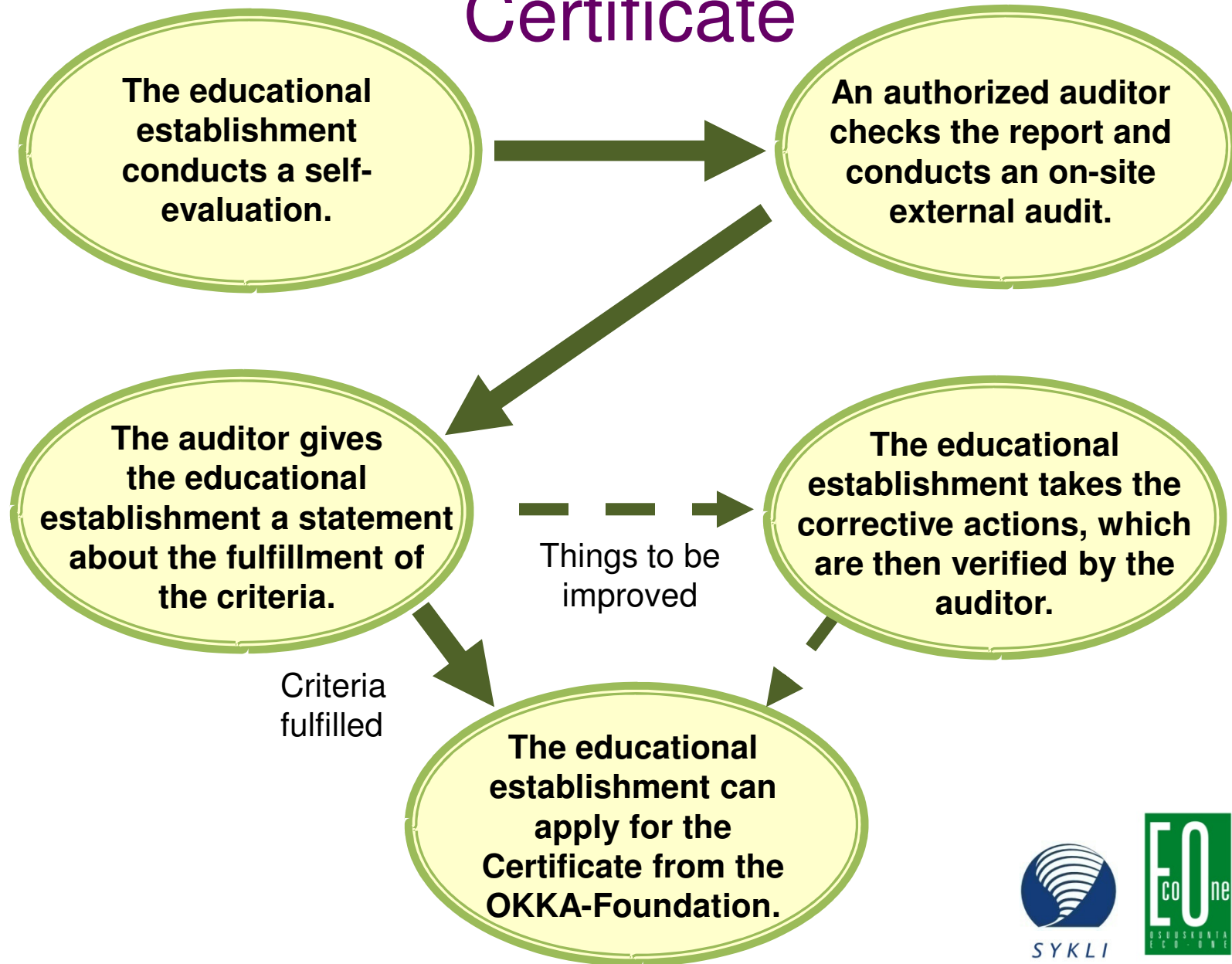
Theory: ESD model behind the criteria

Future development:

- Web-based self-evaluation system
- Case bank (certified educational establishments)
- Auditors' forum



Applying the Sustainable Development Certificate



CONTACT INFORMATION

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