Indicator 22: Curriculum

Figure: Activities and background material on the subject of biodiversity for primary school classes. The Board of Education has compiled examples of appropriate assignments for classes of different grades on the topic of biodiversity in the edu.fi web-based service. This service aids teachers in the planning of their teaching. (Figure: The Board of Education’s edu.fi web-based service for teachers).

Status:

Content on the topic of biodiversity are part of a national curriculum for all primary school levels. In the national curriculum it is stated that the objective is to develop pupils’ environmental awareness and desire to conserve biodiversity. In the national criteria for awarding a grade of 8 or good (on a scale of 4-10) in biology, the following knowledge and skills regarding biodiversity are required:

- The pupil is capable of describing the significance of biodiversity for ecosystem function and to consider the significance of the sustainable use of forests for organisms and people.
- The pupil is able to recognize typical species of their local environment and understand their significance for biodiversity.
- The pupil is able to describe how life and biodiversity have developed on earth as a result of evolution.
- The pupil is able, by means of examples, to explain how to act sustainably and in a way that conserves biodiversity, in nature.

The national curriculum controls the curricula prepared at municipal and school levels.

1 The Basics of the curriculum for primary education 2014, Board of Education

Updated: 3/2015, Milja Heikkinen
Score:

Inclusion of biodiversity in curriculum:

0 points: not included
1 point: under consideration
2 points: planned
3 points: being incorporated
4 points: included 2014

Monitoring:

This indicator is monitored in conjunction with the revision of school curricula. The result for this indicator is excellent and the objective is to ensure that the level does not fall. Currently it seems unlikely that biodiversity would be removed from school curricula. Additional city-specific objectives could be considered for this indicator.

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