Rising demand for Russian speakers

Although English is becoming more important in Finnish-Russian trade, Russian language skills are still in demand from businesses and the attention turns to schools.

Despite the current economic climate Finland’s trade with Russia continues to grow, but only a fraction of Finns can speak Russian. Only five per cent of upper-secondary school pupils have studied Russian in the last decade. Even fewer pupils chose to take Russian in their final exams, and of these, only a fraction of Finns can speak Russian. Only five per cent of upper-secondary school pupils have studied Russian, because Finnish companies are still hiring Russians to keep their Russian business tight and negotiate is high, which can sometimes be difficult.

The need for Russian language skills is increased further by Finnish companies wanting to invest in Russia. Establishing a factory in Russia requires the need to nurture local stakeholder relationships, which can rarely be done in English. It is also important to liaise with local Russian officials and employees. Face-to-face negotiation is highly important because Russia is still a relationship-based rather than a rule-based society. This is why Finnish companies are increasingly hiring Russians as local managers, who then report to Finnish area managers or director generals – sometimes in an amalgam of English, Russian and Finnish.

Although the importance of English is on the rise in Finnish-Russian trade, Russian language skills are still in demand from businesses and the attention turns to schools. Russian is not offered in many schools, or minimum group sizes are not filled. In the age of the EU it seems that Finns are still interested in learning Russian. The popularity of Russian could be increased by allowing smaller study groups, thus increasing the number of pupils studying the language and creating a snowball effect strengthening its position among other languages. This would also strengthen knowledge in an important area for future employment opportunities.

The English School

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At our High School (lukio) you can:

- study and prepare for the Finnish matriculation examinations bilingually and effectively in small groups,
- take the internationally recognized PSAT, SAT and AP examinations,
- complete general upper secondary school diploma (lukidiplomi) in Music, Visual Arts, Finnish, etc.
- gain a solid command of the English language,
- prepare to study abroad.

Applications:


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