

DEVELOPING MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY LEVEL CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN FINLAND: FIRST EXPERIENCES

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Climate change is a topical and challenging issue in today's society. It will need actions in all fields of society, both local and global level. To face the challenge knowledge and education are important. We have held for the first time at the university level a new kind of course on the basics of climate change, which offers students the possibility to deepen their understanding on the subject which most of them will face in their future work.

Here we discuss the first experiences from introductory climate change courses held at Aalto University in 2014 and 2015, and at University of Helsinki in 2016. All courses have been multidisciplinary, targeted to all students of Aalto University and University of Helsinki, respectively. The latter course held at University of Helsinki was based on a new online learning material and course concept *Climate.Now* [1, 2]. The new course concept involves many novel educational methods: extensive self-study in groups, discussing contact sessions instead of traditional lectures, group project work and lecture diary.

We study the students' opinions and reflections based on course feedback and learning diaries. In total about 90 students attended the Aalto University courses and about 90 the University of Helsinki course. The students wrote that the course was interesting, gave new perspectives, and challenged them to think about climate change in various perspectives and more deeply than before. Multidisciplinarity was found to be a challenge both in lectures and group works, but it was also found rewarding and interesting to communicate with people from different backgrounds. A clear need for this kind of course was shown in students' feedback. Analyzing the feedback gives valuable information for further development of the courses.

[1] Climate.Now/Ilmasto.Nyt -learning material www.climatenow.fi www.ilmastonyt.fi

[2] Riuttanen, L., et al., Climate.Now – Online learning material about climate change for higher education, Proceedings of the Finnish Physical Society, 2017.