Quality in Teacher Education (QUALTE)

The research explores what are the major quality assurance methods in teacher education at national and institutional level in Finland and in certain different partner countries and how these methods should be reformed in order to ensure high quality learning in schools and society. It is part of an international comparative study with European countries (Sweden, Slovenia, Scotland), and Asian (Singapore) and American partners (Stanford, California). The application focuses on the Finnish context and provides material for the national development of quality culture in teacher education and collect data, assisted by international partners also for international comparisons.

 The objectives are to find out: (1) What are the major QA methods in teacher education at national and institutional levels? (2) What are the most important needs to improve quality and quality culture in teacher education taking into account teachers' career-long development in pre-service, induction and in-service phases? (3) What are the relationships between high quality teacher education and students' learning outcomes in certain crucial areas of education: active and self-regulative learning, collaborative learning, information literacy, intercultural understanding? The project is linked with international cooperation and has also a further objective: (4) To compare how quality of teacher education is assured and achieved in partner countries and to provide recommendations based on the best practices. The project will model relationships between teacher's competence and student learning outcomes and provide new knowledge on teachers' own learning processes in their career.

The added value of the QUALTE consortium is members' complementary expertise in research methods and experiences of national and international comparative research on quality issues and learning outcomes. The research methods are quantitative surveys of teacher educators, student teachers and students in schools. Qualitative interviews and classroom observations are used in order to have a deeper understanding of the need for quality improvements. Content analysis is applied to AQ documents. All data collected by Finnish researchers will be stored in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive. The project will provide important highlights for developing teacher education and teaching profession in the future.