

**RT 3.4 – UNIVERSITY OF  
HELSINKI**  
POLICIES FOR MULTILINGUALISM IN  
UNIVERSITIES AT STATE LEVEL  
– THE CASE OF FINLAND AND  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

---

This second report from RT 3.4 (University of Helsinki) presents preliminary observations from one of a series of policy research case studies currently carried out in Northern Europe. The case study evolves around the University of Helsinki, which recently has adopted a language policy. It covers ground from Finnish national and regional level policies to university level policies. The theoretical and methodological frame of the case study is a basic input, output, outcome policy analysis model. A preliminary contextualisation of the study in the broader perspective on the research carried out so far leads us to ask whether there are emerging and similar strives among speakers of unique national languages in small countries to defend these languages against a felt threat from English, whilst speakers of lesser used languages within these same nations appear to signal a need to reach out internationally through English.

The study also presents a show case demonstration of the methodology used to bridge policy analysis and focus group based outcome analysis. This show case raises questions regarding differing ambivalences in students' appreciation of the quality of language use at the University. Concerns among speakers of the lesser used national language (Swedish) about the factual support for this language appears in parallel with a concern among speakers of the majority language (Finnish) regarding the usefulness of the Swedish and the quality of the English education that is available. This does however not necessarily encompass the field of research evaluation etc. These observations have lead the UHE team to focus more on the position of English and to somewhat alter its selection of cases.