

**REFORMING THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION IN FINLAND:
PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR EUROPE**

Keynote

Scheinin, Patrik

University of Helsinki

Changes in the number of students in upper secondary education, in the number of subjects tested, as well as digitalization, have brought about major reforms in the Finnish Matriculation Examination.

The original purpose of the Matriculation Examination was student selection for higher education. This *raison d'être* was brought back with vigor as Finnish students recently have used an inordinate amount of time and money to prepare for entrance examinations, which are expensive and time consuming for the universities.

The alignment of curriculum, instruction, examination, and student selection to higher education is a powerful system. Changes in the knowledge level of, as well as numbers of students taking tests in different subjects are rapidly changing. This has implications for individuals, but also for the national economy.

A European Matriculation Examination would need to be digital, adaptive, and in several languages. Many questions remain, but the savings in student selection would be great. The main result could be major brain gain for an aging Europe.