

Learning Language through a MOOC about Culture and Society

Sofia Sevón, Riina Uusikulku, Taija Votkin

Innovation in Language Learning, Florence, November 10, 2023



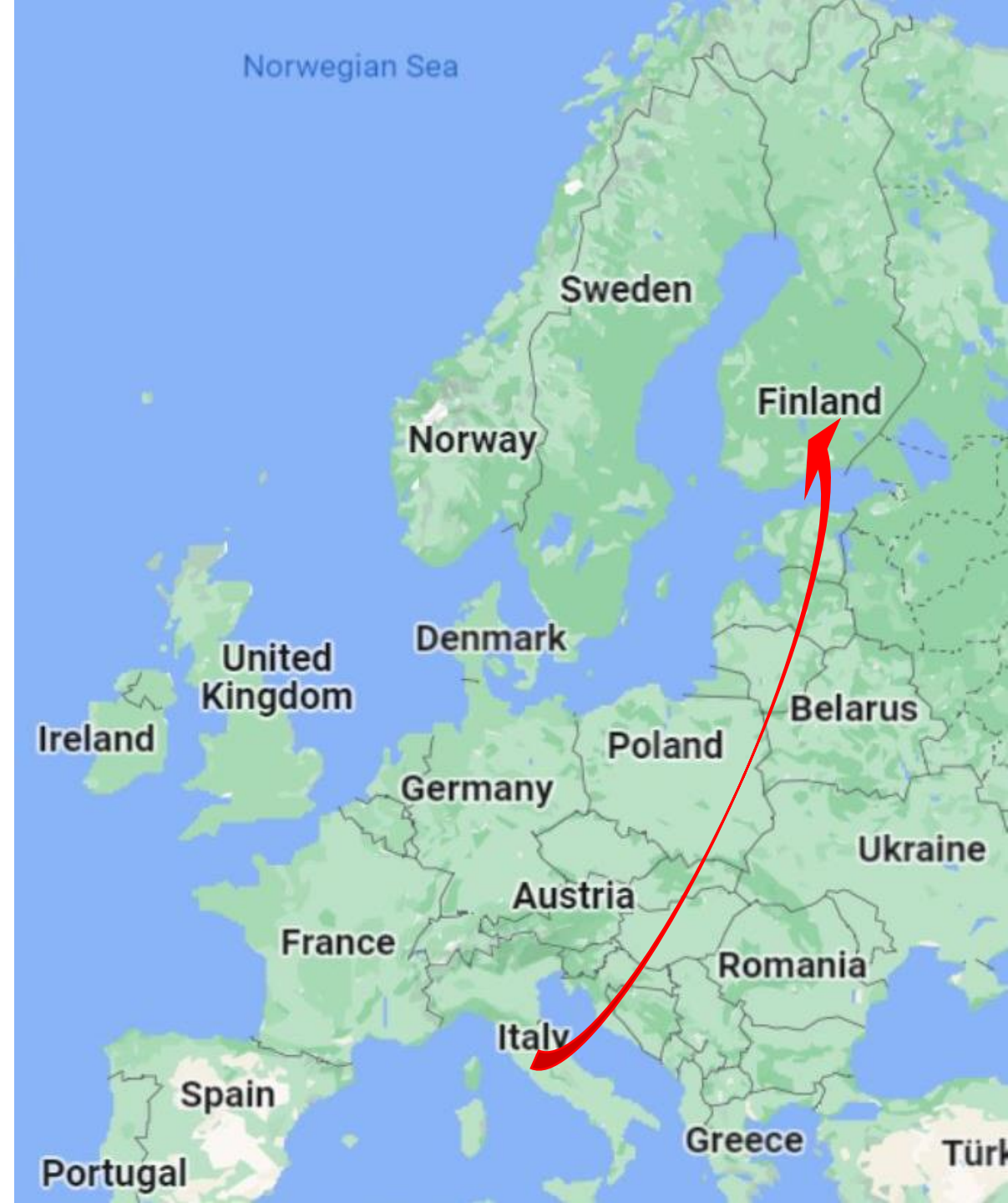
Structure of the presentation

Why is this
MOOC
needed?

What are the
themes and
the structure of
the course?

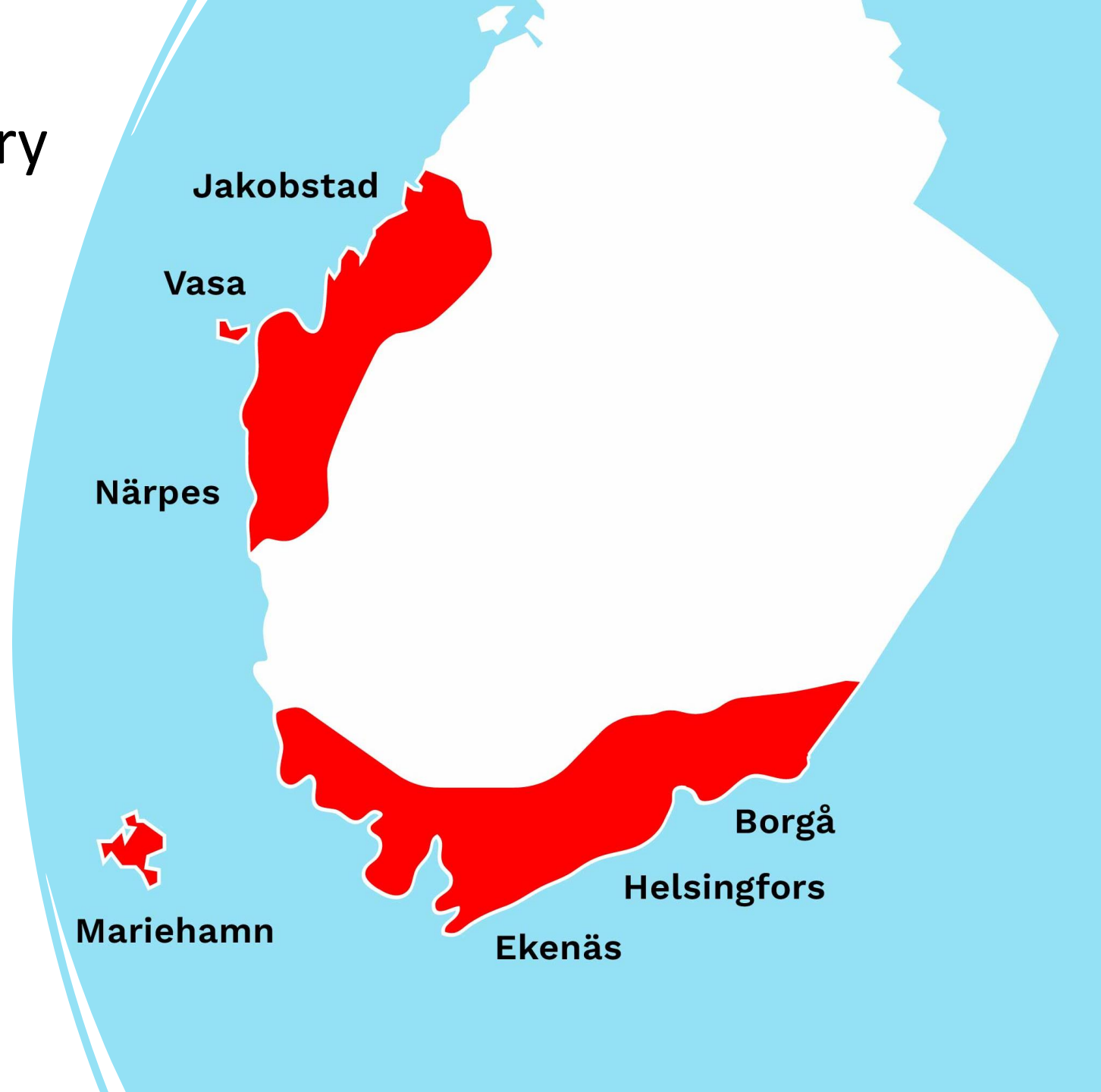
What are the
benefits of
using 360°
environments?

Reflections



Finland is a bilingual country

- Two equal national languages and you can choose your own official language
- Swedish is a minority language, 5 % of the Finnish population
- Also newcomers in Finland can choose which language to integrate in, and Swedish can be a favorable option.



The Language Boost Project

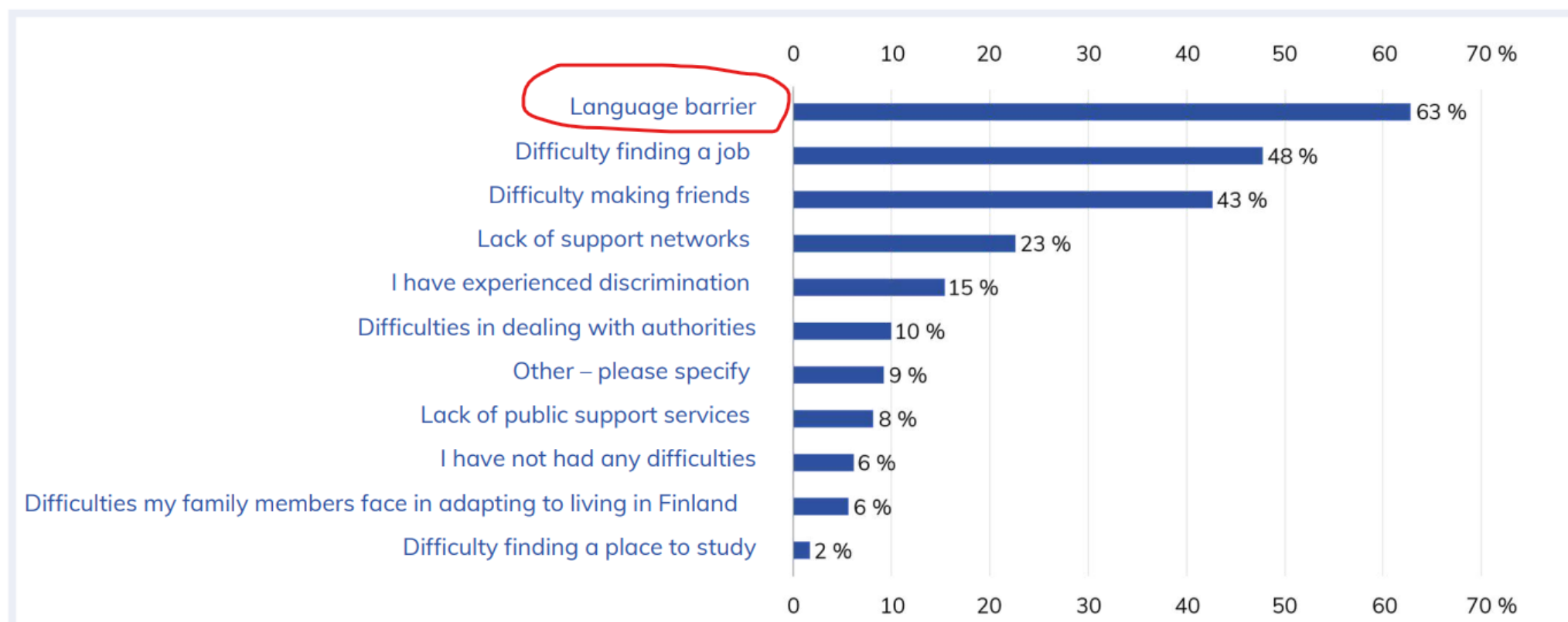


- Goal: improve foreigners' integration and advancement in career through better proficiency in the domestic languages.
- Target groups
 - international degree students
 - international talents working in Finland
 - language teachers
 - companies employing international talents
 - career counsellors

Importance of knowing the local language

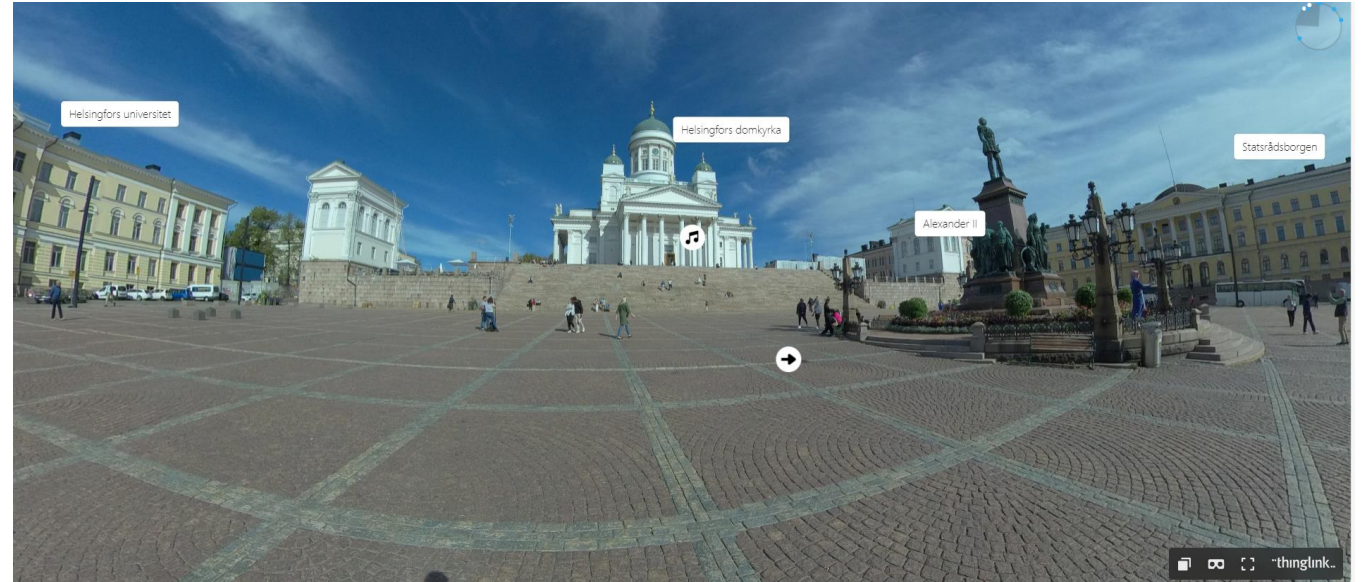
Language barrier and difficulties in finding a job or friends make it difficult to adjust

Which of the following factors made it difficult for you to adjust to life in Finland? (Please choose 1–3 most important factors) (N=753)





In this MOOC, we aim to show and tell the participants about towns and other places in Swedish speaking Finland, using 360 degree environments. [Here](#) you can get a taste of what it will look like. (Please use the arrows to proceed.)



Massive Open Online
Course (MOOC)
1 ETCS

Swedish language
through Finnish Swedish
culture

Main target group:
International experts

Multifunctional course
for different purposes

Content based language
learning

Focus on visuals and
personal stories

Modules

**Bilingualism in
practice**

Hej!

Moi!

**Integration in
Swedish**

Society



**Swedish speaking
regions**

History

Leisure



Education



Literature



**Film,
theater,
music**



**Holidays
and
events**

Massmedia

**Finnish Swedish
Language**

Personal stories as an important part of the MOOC

We have interviewed several international experts who live in Finland and have integrated in Swedish. Through their stories, the course participants will learn about Finnish Swedish culture and society.

In this short video, Eva from Catalonia, talks about work experiences in Finland.



Watch the video [here](#).

Language Learning through a MOOC about Culture and Society – reflections

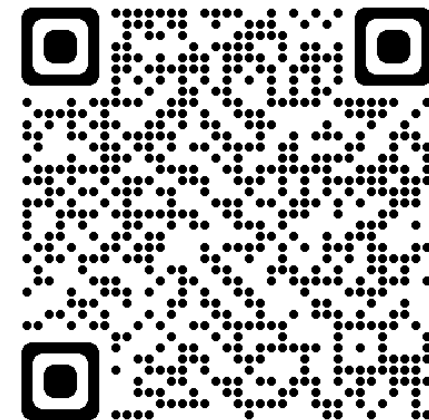
**Socio-cultural
perspective**

**Authentic
language
environment**

**Content based
language
learning**

**Ownership of
learning**

Thank You!



sofia.sevon@aalto.fi

riina.uusikulku@helsinki.fi

taija.votkin@aalto.fi