

Inari Sámi language learning for all generations

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Children under the school age

Language nest

Languag transmission in families



Schoolchildren

Mother-tongue-medium education

Language instruction: contact, distance, mother tongue, L2



Adults

Intensive language studies

Language courses

University studies

Master-Apprentice-learning

Language nest

- **Early, total immersion in Inari Sámi**
- **Nursery / pre-school group where teachers speak only Sámi from the first day on, not depending on previous language skills of the children**
- **Aim of the language nest: bilingualism of the children; restart of the intergenerational language transmission**
- **Commitment and active participation of the families**
- **Nowadays 3 Inari Sámi language nests**
 - **2 in Inari, 1 in Ivalo**
 - **Over 100 children acquired Inari Sámi language this way**
 - **In addition 7 in North Sámi, 2 in Skolt Sámi**

Mother-tongue-medium education

- Instruction of Inari Sámi since 1970s
- Inari Sámi as the main medium of education since 2000
- Basic Education Act: instruction of the Sámi speaking pupils has to be organized **mainly in the Sámi language** in the domicile area; costs of the Sámi education covered by the state
- Nowadays **Inari Sámi-medium-education** taking place in elementary schools of Inari and Ivalo
- **Instruction of Inari Sámi** much wider, partly via distance education

Intensive language studies for adults

- One year lasting intensive, full-time studies of Sámi language and culture in the Sámi Education Institute SOGSAKK
- For the lost generations of the Sámi
- For the non-Sámi who want to know the language (e.g. need in the work)
- Active language skills, active language use in work or/and at home as a goal
- Most people nowadays using Inari Sámi in their work or with their small children are graduates of these studies
- Over 100 new speakers have learnt Inari Sámi this way

Master-Apprentice language learning

- Included in the intensive language studies for adults since the year 2009
- Language masters: ordinary, usually elder mother tongue speakers of Sámi languages
- Students spend certain days in language masters' homes or they go somewhere (fishing, feeding reindeers, shopping) together
- Speaking only in Inari Sámi, Finnish totally excluded
- Often considered the most important part of the whole language studies - both from the linguistic and cultural and emotional point of view

Why has this
worked out so
well?

- **Strong basis for revitalization:**
Anarâškielâ servi
- **Collaboration:** Sámi Education Institute, Oulu University, municipality of Inari, Sámediggi, Giellatekno, Giellagáldu...
- **Inari Sámi only –ideology:** courage to create monolingual domains
- **Effective methods and strong models** of language acquisition
- **Tolerance of the speech community:** new domains, new vocabulary, diverse language skills, diverse backgrounds of the new speakers
- **Norm of speaking Inari Sámi** whenever possible

Needs and challenges for future

- Need to pay more attention on the **results** of language education, level of bilingualism, productive use of the language
- Need to educate more Inari Sámi speaking **specialists**, like educators at all levels
- Need to continue building and strengthening speech **community**, meaningful activities and materials for all generations
- Need to strengthen language rights and language use of the vast majority of the Sámi living in **urban surroundings**, outside the domicile area
- Need to establish more **permanent structures** for revitalization, instead of constant project-based thinking and funding