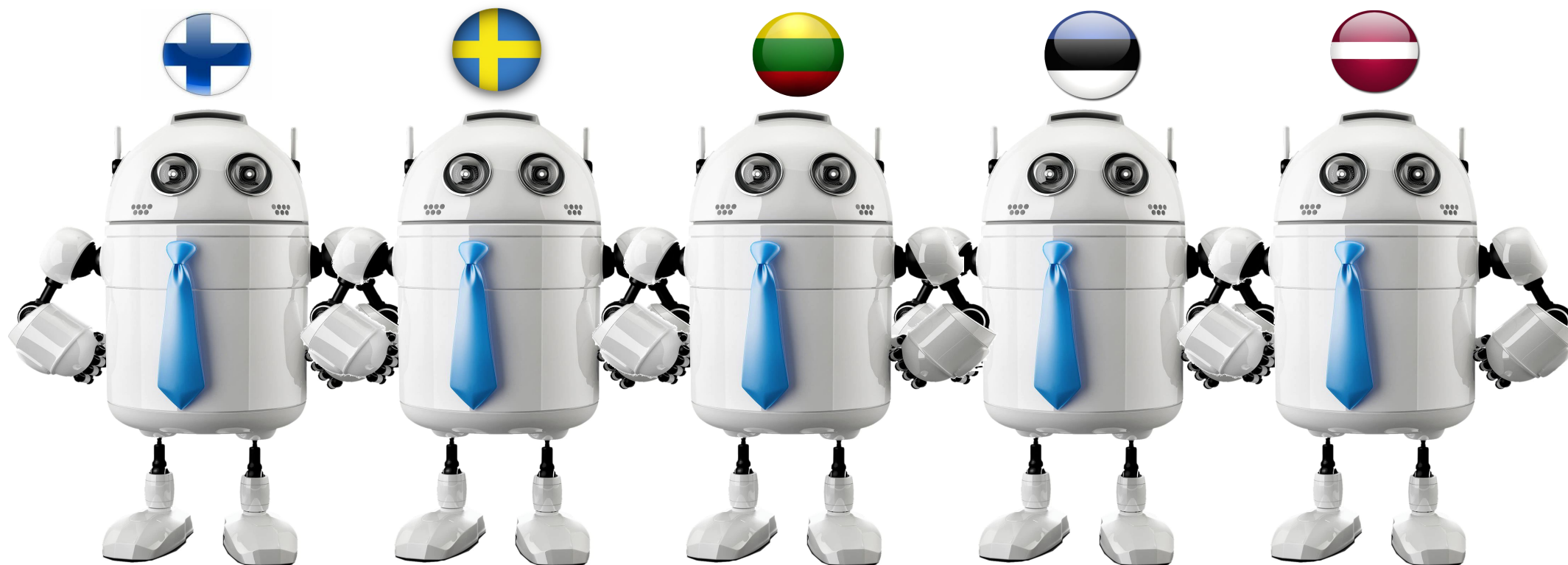


# Informatics curricula in Nordic and Baltic countries



Pia Niemelä, Tampere University, Finland  
Valentina Dagiene, Vilnius University, Lithuania  
(Arnold Pears, Uppsala University, Sweden)

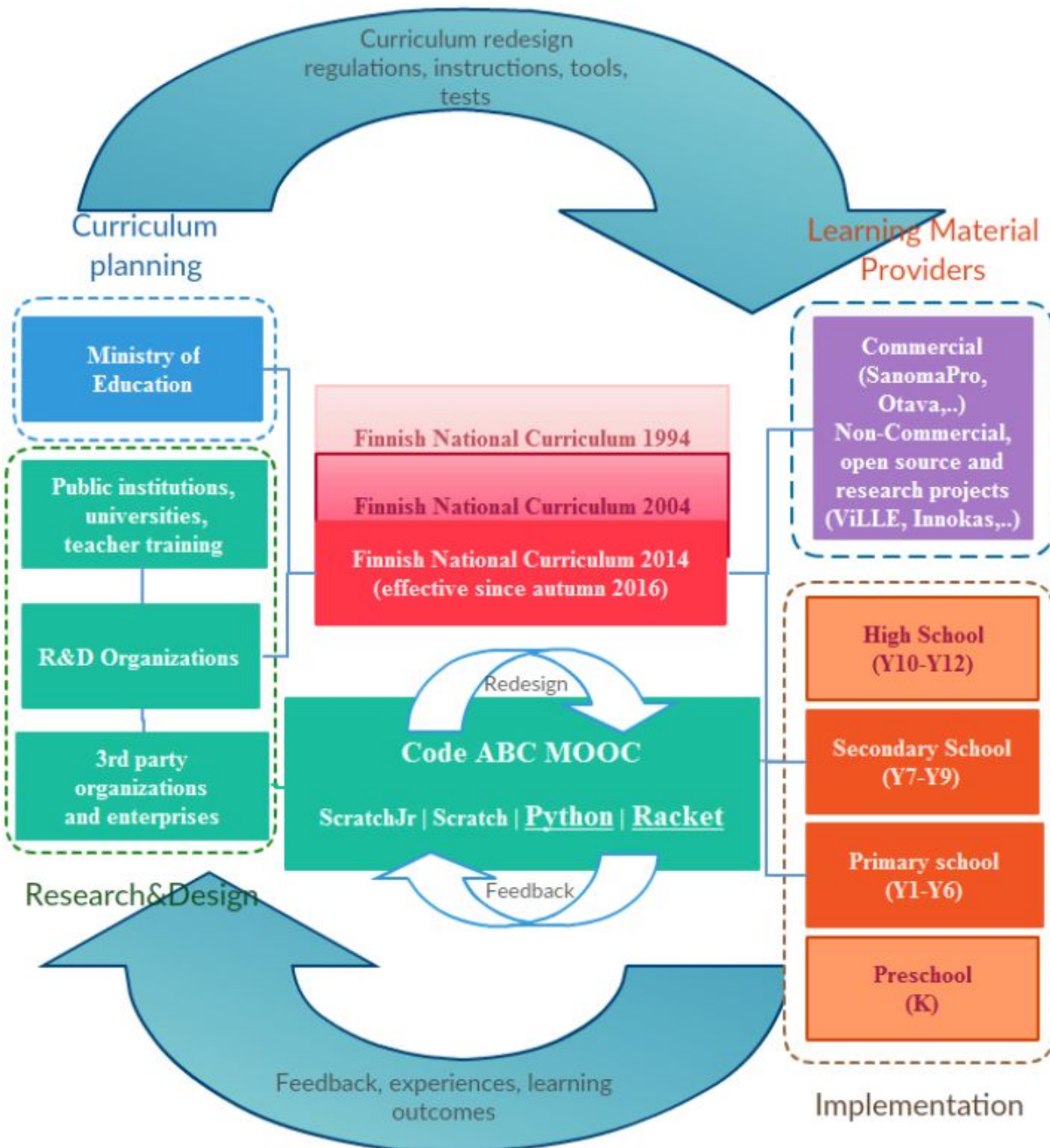




# FINLAND

Computational thinking in the Finnish National Curriculum 2014





# Curriculum development in 10 year cycles 1994-2004-2014

**Emerging new technologies,**

**e.g:**

Machine learning

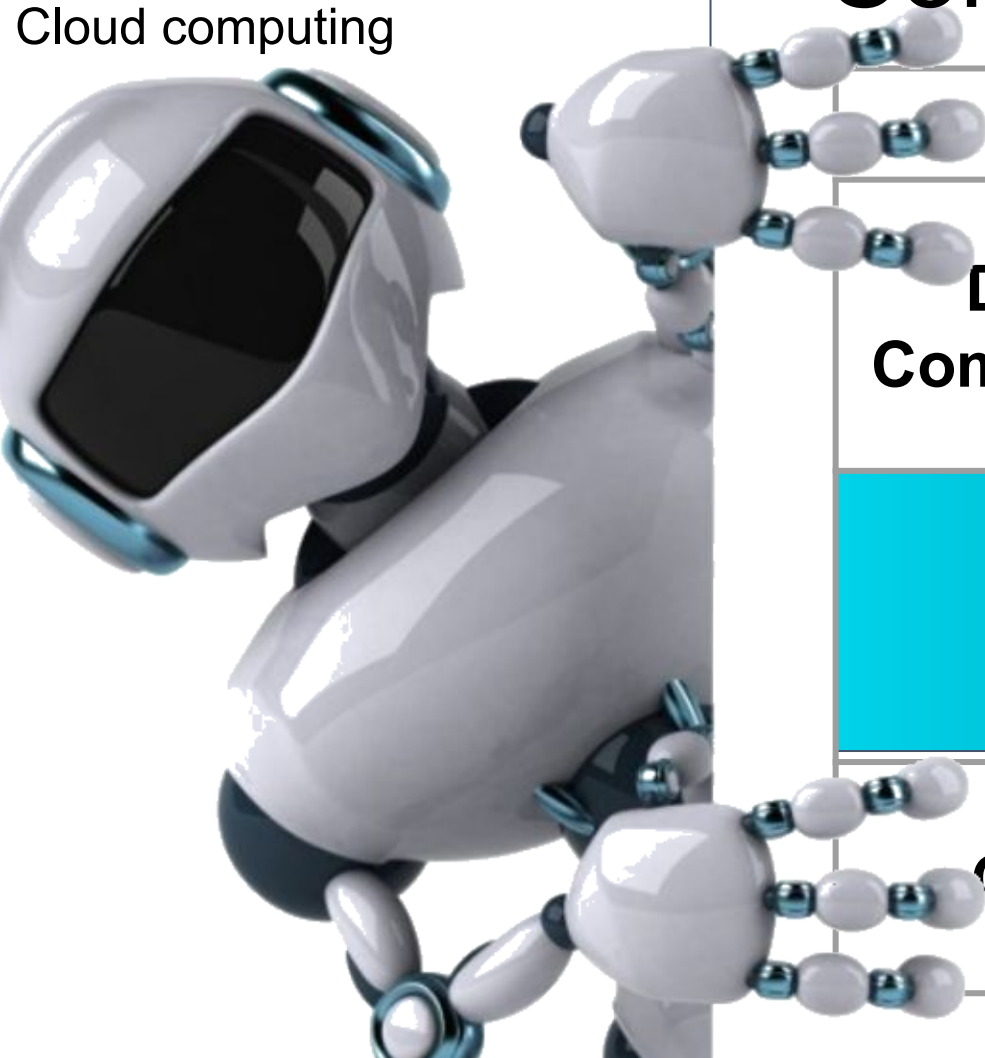
Artificial intelligence

Internet of Things

Robotics

Cloud computing

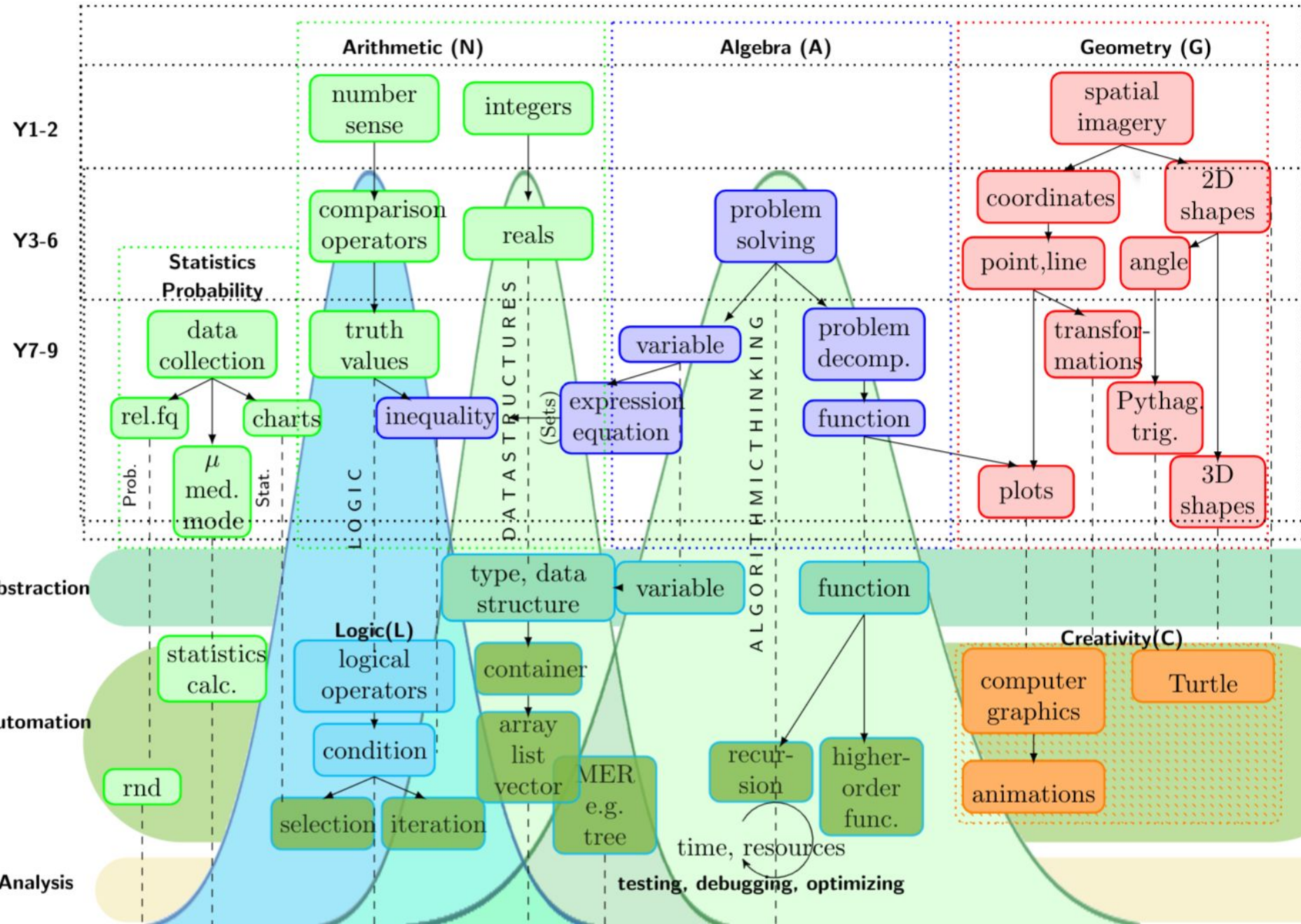
# Digital Skills Gap and 2014 Finnish National Curriculum (FNC) with Computational thinking



	Years 1-2	Years 3-6	Years 7-9
Digital Competence	Using digital media	Noticing impacts of computer science	Integrating computer science in other subjects
Math	Step-by-step instructions	Visual programming	Logic + algorithms, good programming conventions
Crafts		Robots, automation	Embedded systems, own artifacts

Elem.math

Computational thinking



2014 FNC Math and learning trajectories of:

**Logic**

- Equations, inequalities, truth values

**Data structures:**

- Different kinds of numeric data, such as integers and floats
- Sets and tables

**Algorithms**

- Problems solving by decomposition
- functions as building blocks

# Programming in School books

## Scratch in primary/Python in secondary

**s a n o m a** pro

40-50% of students get their material from SanomaPro  
In primary, Kymppi with Scratch  
In secondary, Kuutio/Muuttuja with Python

otavamedia

30-40%  
In primary, Tuhattaituri and Oivaltaja with Scratch  
In secondary, Pii with Excel, HTML, and Geogebra

EDITA

Säde series for secondary math, uses both Scratch and Python

 **OPPI**

Digital material especially for enhancing secondary math with Processing programming <https://www.e-oppi.fi/sarja/ohjelmointia-matematiikkaan/>

 **VILLA**

All-contained Learning Management System (LMS) with scaffolded math and programming exercises, Python programming language for 17 weeks to complete (two 45min lessons per week); Computational thinking is a new emerging area

... "Tie koodariksi", Python courses of LUMATIKKA, MAOL programming materials  
University of Helsinki Java course for primary school students. Aalto University MOOC course for high school students



# Sweden

Computational thinking in the

[Swedish National Curriculum, published 2011, revised 2018](#)

# The curriculum revision in 2018

- Available since 2017, mandatory since August 2018
- teachers should enable students to
  - make use of digital tools
  - enhance students' knowledge and skills in programming
    - Y1-3, unplugged activities, step-wise instructions, in technology, controlling tangible objects via programming
    - Y4-6, visual programming, e.g., in mathematics
    - Y7-9, different programming environments for algorithms in mathematical problem-solving

A new national strategy and action plan for the digitalisation under construction: the vision for 2022 is that all children will develop adequate digital skills.



# Focus of the revised 2018 curriculum

The new curriculum stipulates 4 main goals for students' digital competence:

1. to understand the digital transformation of society and how it affects us
2. to be able to use digital tools and media
3. to be critical and develop a responsible approach to digital technology
4. to learn to put one's own creative ideas into action and learn how to solve problems.

# Sex lektioner för Matematik och Teknik årskurs 7-9



## Programmera ett övergångsställe

I lektionen programmeras en algoritm för att styra trafikljus i en korsning. Eleverna får skapa en praktisk applikation och lära sig att skapa och modifiera algoritmer.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **MATEMATIK** **PROGRAMMERING**  
**TEKNIK**



## Tekniska lösningar inom kommunikations- och informationsteknik för utbyte av information

I lektionen lär sig eleverna om internet och andra tekniska globala kommunikationssystem och verktyg.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **PROGRAMMERING** **TEKNIK**



## Slump och statistik med Scratch

I lektionen simuleras hundratals tärningskast på kort tid. Eleverna får skapa en statistikapplikation och lära sig att skapa och modifiera algoritmer.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **MATEMATIK** **PROGRAMMERING**



## Programmera ett dörrlarm

Lektionen handlar om att låta eleverna programmera algoritmer för att de ska lära sig styra tekniska system och öva på programmering i teknik.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **PROGRAMMERING** **TEKNIK**



## Programmera ett kärnkraftverk

I lektionen programmeras en algoritm för att styra processen i en reaktor i ett kärnkraftverk. Eleverna får skapa en praktisk applikation och lära sig att skapa och modifiera algoritmer.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **MATEMATIK** **PROGRAMMERING**  
**TEKNIK**



## Algoritmer för geometriska uträkningar och mönster

Lektionen ska ge eleverna ökad förståelse för algoritmiska mönster och geometri inom matematiken genom att öva på programmering.

Av: Måns Jonasson

ÅK 7-9 **MATEMATIK** **PROGRAMMERING**

# Digital competence includes also

- Aspects of digital literacy,
  - such as the importance of
  - source criticism (käll kritik) and fact checking
- Safe use of Internet
  - By being aware of security threats as well as the attempts of manipulation and propaganda
- Technological fluency
  - With digital devices and applications

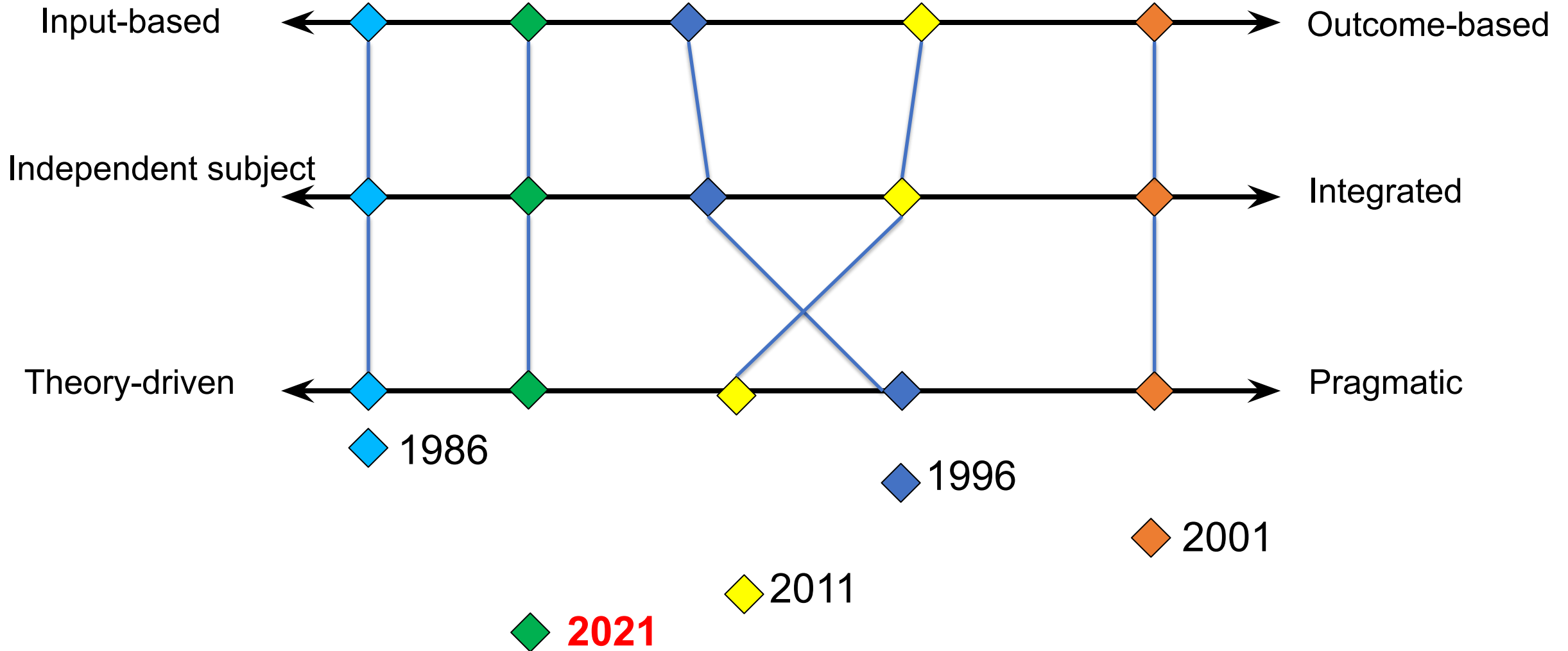


# Baltic countries

- All three countries started to reform Informatics education
  - shift from IT to Informatics



# Informatics curriculum change dimensions: the pendulum





# Informatics Education in Lithuania



## Reformed Informatics curriculum in schools in Lithuania:

- Integrated in grades 1-4
- Mandatory in grades 5-10 (approx. 1 h per week)
- Selected in grades 11-12

## Six areas of Informatics achievements (aligned to DigComp)





# Informatics Education in Lithuania

<b>Algorithms &amp; programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the benefits of an algorithm, a program, recognize and use informatics concepts</li><li>• Apply programming commands, logical operations and call programming interfaces (APIs)</li><li>• Create (code) and execute programs</li><li>• Detect bugs, test and improve programs. Use IDEs</li></ul>
<b>Data mining &amp; information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the importance of data and information, make data analyses</li><li>• Perform various actions with data: collect, store, group, search, visualize</li><li>• Evaluate relevance and reliability of information</li></ul>
<b>Digital content creation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Know various digital content for learning, recognize concepts</li><li>• Create various digital content: draw, write, compose, record, film, create mind maps, tables, diagrams</li><li>• Evaluate and improve, shares digital content</li></ul>





# Informatics Education in Lithuania

<b>Technical problem solving</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate hardware, see problems arising from the use of digital technologies, use properly technical concepts</li><li>• Select and combine various digital technologies</li><li>• Self-educate and self-evaluate own digital skills</li></ul>
<b>Virtual communication &amp; collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate, share experiences and resources, communicate using digital technologies</li><li>• Assess the dangers of virtual communication, protects software and hardware</li></ul>
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect health and environment</li><li>• Behave safely in virtual space</li></ul>

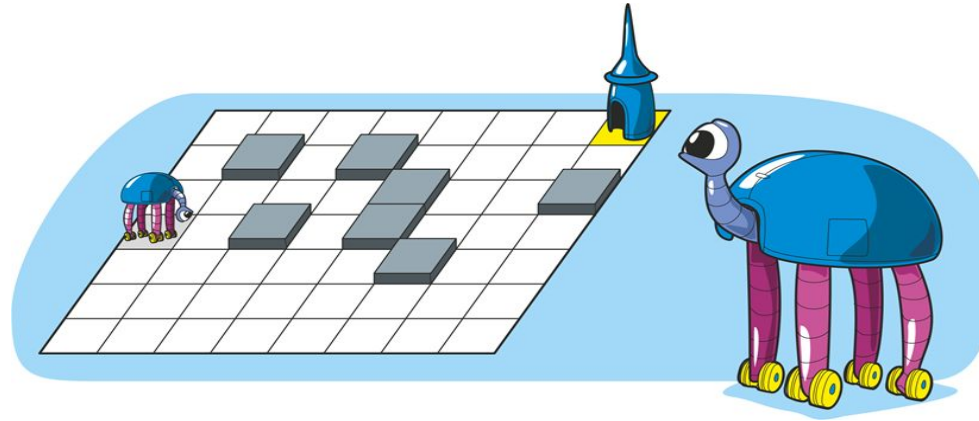






# Informatics Education in Lithuania

Robot should reach the Tower by walking from square to square.



The programmer has made a program out of movement direction commands marked by arrows:



However, he made a mistake. The program can be corrected by rotating one of the arrows. Fix it.

**V. Dagienė. THINK and CREATE**



## Pilot “Informatics in primary schools”

(2017-2022)

- 1-4 grades
- Integrated source
- Piloting in 100 schools (out of 400)
- Many schools have implemented



# Educational statistics of Estonia

Number of schools: 530, including:

- 351 basic schools (grades 1-9)
- 143+21 high schools (grades 1-12 or 10-12)

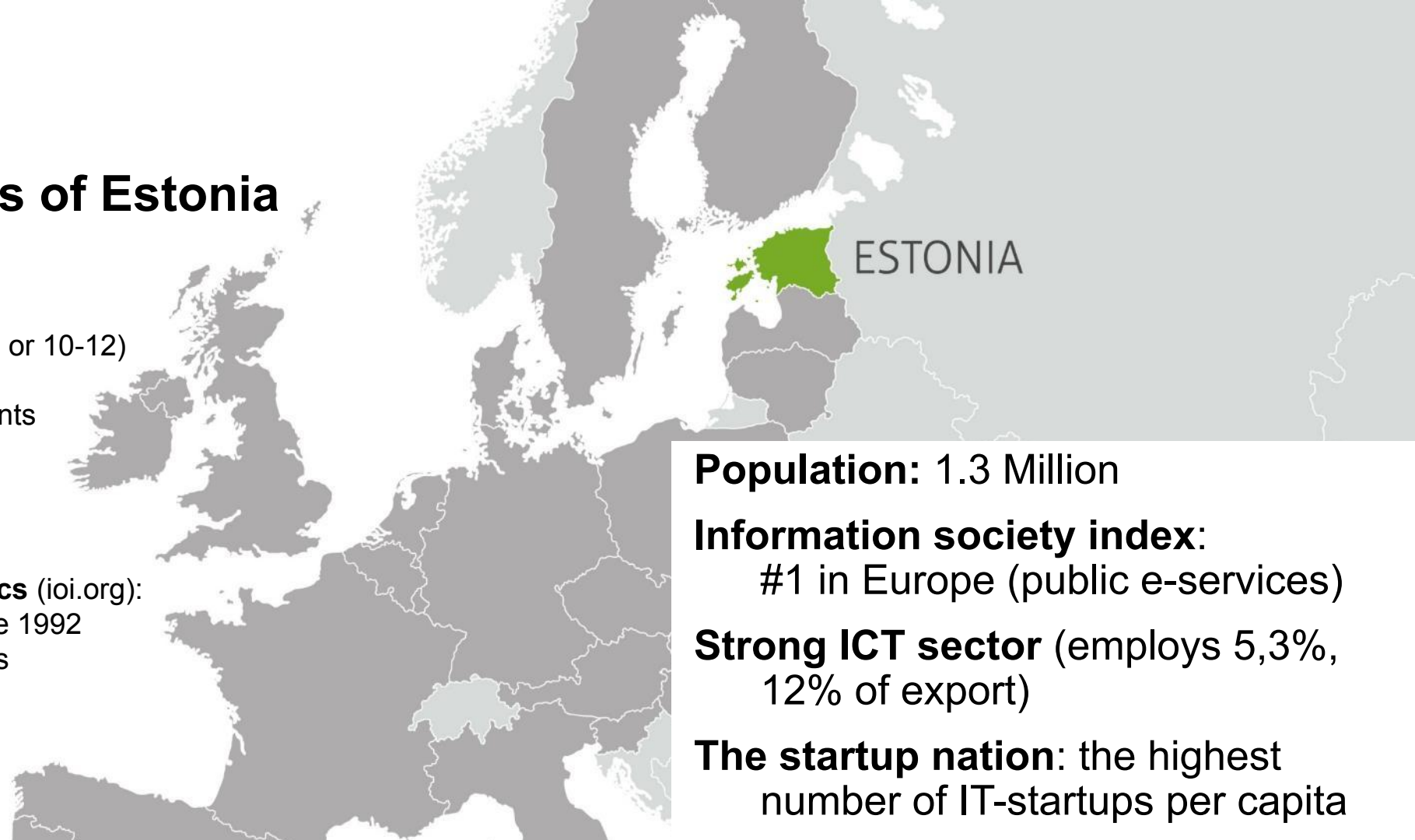
50% of high schools have <100 students

Number of students (K-12): 143 713

Number of teachers (K-12): 14 581

**International Olympiad of Informatics (ioi.org):**

- Estonia participated 26 times since 1992
- 5 gold, 19 silver, 32 bronze medals



**Population:** 1.3 Million

**Information society index:**  
#1 in Europe (public e-services)

**Strong ICT sector** (employs 5,3%,  
12% of export)

**The startup nation:** the highest  
number of IT-startups per capita

**OECD PISA 2018: #1 in Europe**

	Reading		Maths		Science	
1	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>530</b>
2	Finland	520	Holland	519	Finland	522
3	Ireland	518	Poland	516	Poland	511
4	Poland	512	Switzerland	515	Slovenia	507

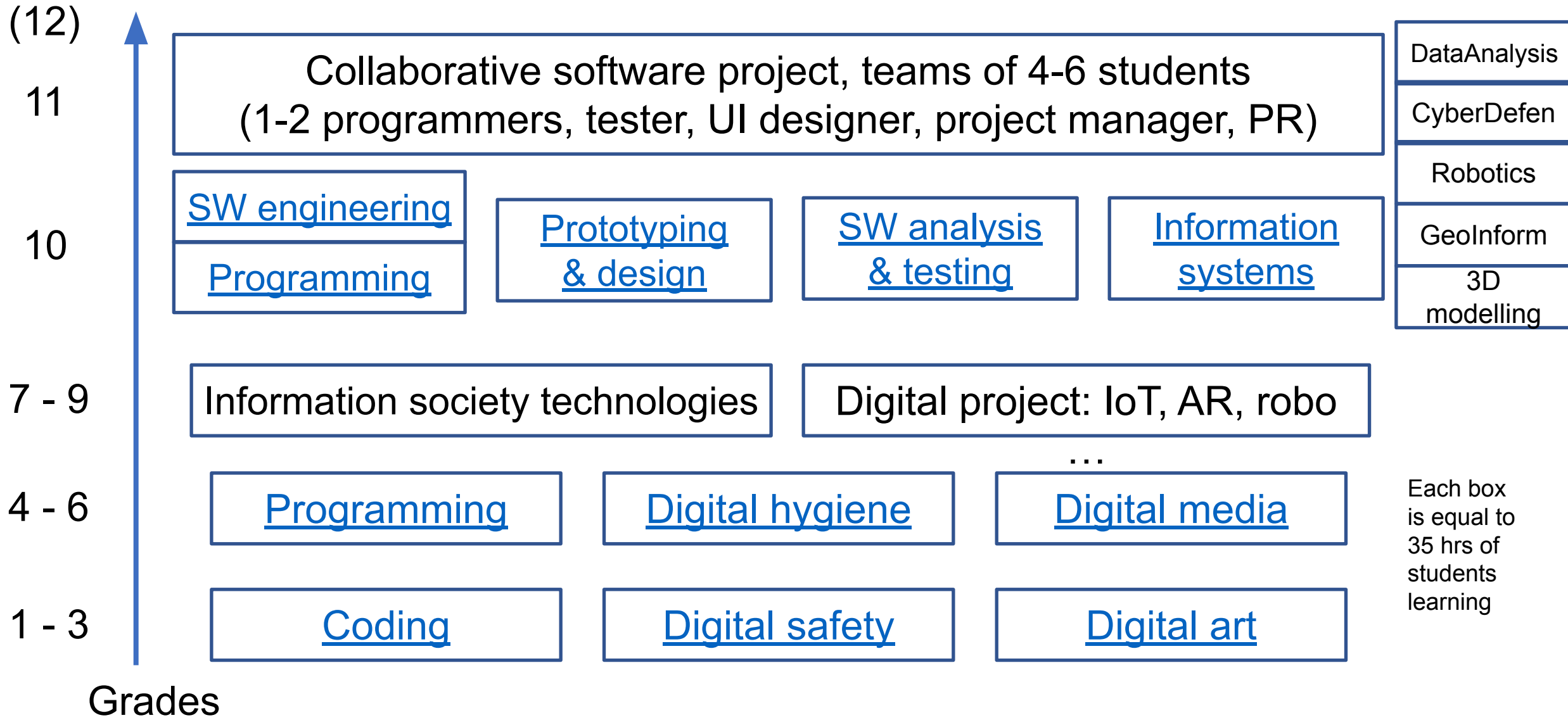
Thanks to Dr Mart Laanpere, Tallinn University



# School informatics in the independent Estonia

- **1991-1996:** no curriculum, complete freedom, many schools continued to teach programming, some tried new ideas (web, multimedia)
- **National curriculum 1996:** informatics as an optional subject in grades 10-11, 4 courses (text, spreadsheet, database, internet); IT as cross-curricular theme
- **National curriculum 2001:** no separate subject of informatics, IT and media as cross-curricular theme, national test on ICT skills in Grade 9
- **National curriculum 2011:**
  - 2 **optional** informatics courses (35h) with standardised curriculum in grades 5 and 8;
  - 5 **optional** courses in grades 10-12 (data analysis, coding, robotics, geoinformatics, 3D)
  - cross-curricular themes “Technology & Innovation” and “Knowledge environment”
- **Proposed changes in 2023:** turn towards computer science
  - Coding, robotics, digital safety, digital media topics in Grades 1 - 6
  - Software project in Grade 11, preceded in Grade 10 by 1-2 optional courses (Coding 1&2, Software analysis and testing, Prototyping and design, Information systems)

# The new informatics curriculum for K-12 (2020)





# Digital competence

# Informatics

*Almost any teacher is able to teach*

*Special, in-depth preparation is needed to teach it*

*Only qualified informatics teachers are able/allowed to teach it*

InfoLiteracy

Collaboration

Content creation

Digital safety

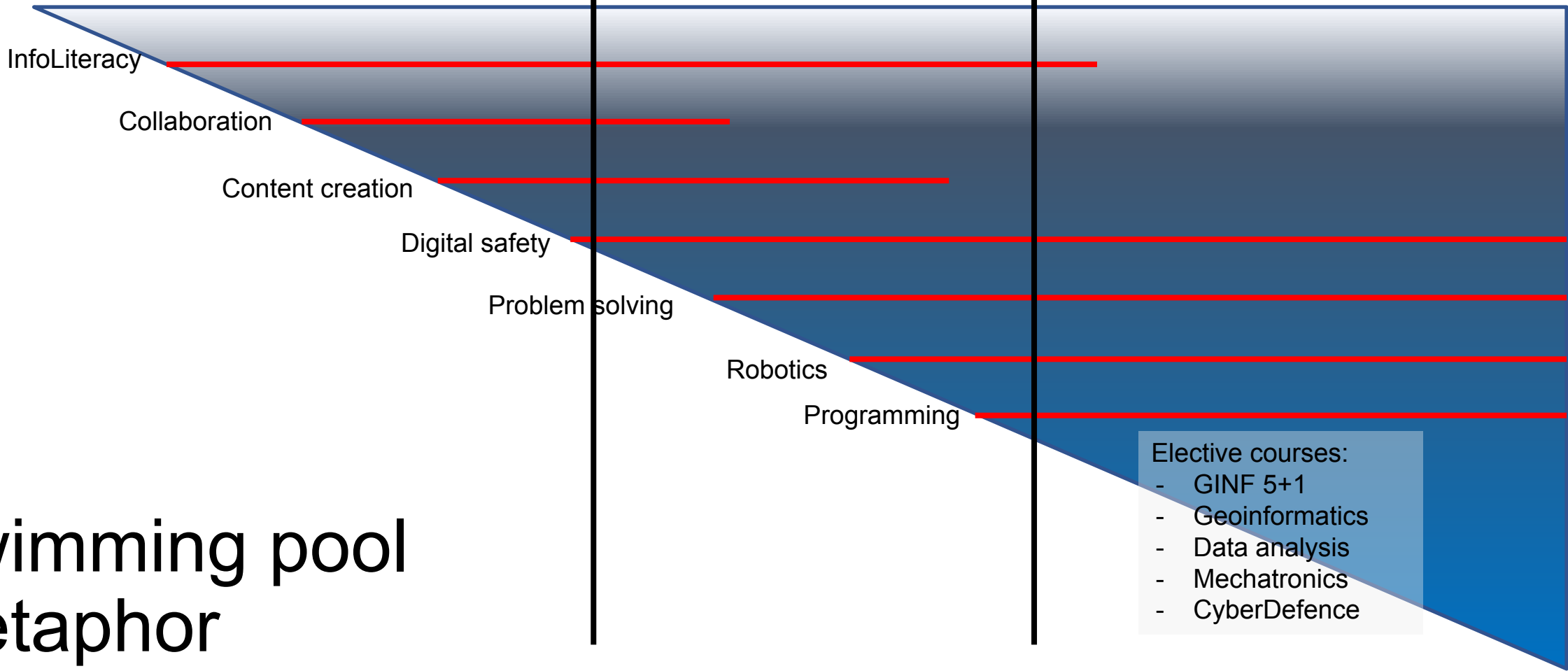
Problem solving

Robotics

Programming

- Elective courses:
- GINF 5+1
  - Geoinformatics
  - Data analysis
  - Mechatronics
  - CyberDefence

# Swimming pool metaphor





# Seven new e-textbooks in G10-11 informatics

- University of Tartu:
  - Programming: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/programmeerimine/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/programmeerimine/)
  - Software development: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/tarkvara/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/tarkvara/)
- Tallinn University:
  - User-centric design and prototyping: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/disain/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/disain/)
  - Software analysis and testing: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/testimine/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/testimine/)
  - Digital Hive (software project): [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/digitalaru/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/digitalaru/)
- TalTech:
  - Information systems: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/digiteenused/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/digiteenused/)
  - Cyber defence: [web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/kyberkaitse/](http://web.htk.tlu.ee/digitalaru/kyberkaitse/)

Platform: **Wordpress + Pressbooks plugin + H5P interactive exercises**



# Latvia: Informatics Education

From 2020, schools in Latvia gradually started introducing curricula based on the new standards of primary and secondary education

The most significant changes in **basic education**:

- ❖ a new subject - **Technology field**, which includes the following subjects:
  - Design and Technology (in grades 1-9);
  - Computer Science (in grades 1-9, including integrated Informatics in 1-3 grades);
  - Engineering (in 7th grade).

At **upper-secondary level** is an opportunity to take courses as

- ❖ Computer Science,
- ❖ Design and Technology I (basic course) and II (advanced level),
- ❖ Programming I and II.

Thanks to Viesturs Vezis, Latvia University



# Informatics is under Technology subject

Grades 1-3 - formally integrated, but in fact depends on choice and facilities of schools

Grades 4-6 separate subject *Informatics* (total – 105 hours)

Grades 7-9 separate subject *Informatics* (total – 175 hours)

Grades 10-12 *Informatics* (total – 70 hours) or school may offer:

*Programming I* incorporating the content of the object of the item (total 210 hours)

Design and *technology I* include the content of the object of the item (total – 210 hours), but the acquisition of the Computer content might be dicutable

In addition for grades 10-12 schools may offer:

*Programming II* (total 210 hours)

Robotics (total — 140 hours)

Digital design (total — 140 hours)



**Thank you!**