

19.10.2017

TAGUNG

2007 **10** 2017
Jahre
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*Nun sag,
wie hast du's mit der
religiösen Vielfalt?*

Zwischen Konflikt und Kompetenz
in Kindergärten, Schulen und Jugendarbeit

FORUM 3

The 'Religions in Finland' Project

The Religions in Finland project was initiated in 2003 and was published as a website (www.uskonnot.fi) in 2005. It is the main source of information on religious organisations in Finland. The Religion in Finland Project aims to collect a systematically structured database of all religious organisations currently operating in Finland. The principle goal is to provide systematically organised and comparable sets of information from as many communities as possible. To achieve these aims the project is founded on a set of principles and guidelines.

The definition of religion and other conceptual distinctions are based upon academic usage. From the point of view of scientific study, religion consists of explanations which are based on supernatural assumptions and which provide answers to the basic existential questions stemming from the human condition. The term "supernatural" denotes powers, beings and modes of existence that are beyond human comprehension or perception and which can suspend or alter the regularities observed in nature.

This definition will have the consequence that groups and organisations shall be included in the database that either (a) are not religions according to the self-understanding of the organisations themselves, and (b) are not regarded as religions under the current Finnish law. Furthermore, (c) the database includes some groups that do not fulfil the above definition, but are included for the reason that they derive a part of their concepts and practices from some of the great religious traditions of the world.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Religions in Finland Project, its successes and challenges as well as the current contents of the website.

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