

# SPRING

## SPRING IDEA COMPETITION TEACHER'S MATERIAL

The Spring Idea Competition's Teacher Material allows you to organize a Spring-brainstorming session, also known as a Spring-sprint session, with your students in the classroom. During the session, you and your students will outline problems, identify opportunities, brainstorm solutions, and create applications for students to participate in the Spring Idea Competition. The Spring Sprint will cover two 45-minute lessons. The material can be delivered either in one lesson or in smaller chunks. The material is suitable for use with any group of secondary school students. Attached to this guide is a PDF presentation that you can use as a guide when teaching the Spring Sprint to your students.

### What is Spring?

Spring is an idea competition for young people aged 15-19. In Spring, teams of young people develop ideas to change the world for the better. Ideas can be big or small. You can also enter with a preliminary idea.

### What is happening in Spring?

#### ***Application phase***

Young people form teams of 3-5 people and develop an idea of how they want to change the world for the better. Teams apply to the competition with their joint idea on the Spring website ([thisisspring.fi](http://thisisspring.fi)). The application period is 2.9.2024-31.1.2025.

#### ***Pre-qualification***

The Spring jury will select 12 teams to go through to the Idea Weekend. The selection criteria are:

- Identifying the problem
- Purposefulness of the idea
- Insightfulness of the idea
- Scalability of the idea
- Composition and motivation of the team

The teams advancing to the next stage of the competition will be published after the application period has ended.

#### ***Idea Weekend***

The shortlisted teams (12 teams) will be invited to an idea weekend in Helsinki on 11-13 April 2025, where they will receive support to further develop their ideas. At the end of the weekend, the Spring jury will select six (6) teams to advance to the next stage of the competition.

The Spring-winners are decided by popular vote. Every young person in Finland has the opportunity to vote for their favorite-idea, and the winners will be announced by 1.5.2025.

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## **Summer job**

Members of the winning Spring teams will be rewarded with summer jobs. During the summer jobs, the teams will take their ideas forward and make them a reality. The summer job lasts four weeks and pays €1,500 per person. The Children and Youth Foundation is responsible for the implementation of the summer work and for supporting the young people during the summer work.

## **Study trip**

Summer jobs include a study trip to learn from inspiring international examples. The Children and Youth Foundation is responsible for organizing the trip and supporting the young people during the trip.

## **Why take part in the Spring Idea Competition?**

Research shows that young people's faith in the future of the world is being tested, and the events of recent years have not helped. There is already a rush to stop climate change. During the pandemic, everyday life changed in many ways, and life still doesn't feel quite the same. And the world order seems to be in turmoil - it is now that we need peace the most.

We believe in young people and their ability to think in new ways. That's why we now want to invite young people to take part in the Spring Ideas Competition, which seeks ideas to improve the world and offers opportunities for young people to be part of creating a better future.

An idea to enter the competition could be a solution to an everyday challenge or a major international issue - perhaps something that makes a previous solution even better. You can also enter the competition with a preliminary idea.

## **During a Spring-sprint students will**

- address today's pressing issues through a creative, solution-focused approach
- strengthen their belief in the future and practice problem-solving and teamwork skills.
- promote their employability skills and get a link to the world of work through a summer job opportunity for competition winners.

## **How can you, as a teacher, support young people to participate in Spring?**

Young people can apply for the Spring Idea Competition from 2.9.2024-31.1.2025. During this period, you can organize a brainstorming session with your group, which allows students to submit applications for the Competition. Organizing a sprint does not oblige you to participate in any other Spring Idea Competition-related activities.

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## Presentation of the Spring-sprint material

The PDF material consists of an introduction to Spring Idea Competition and two substantive parts. Each section is accompanied by a more detailed description of the implementation.

Preparations and accessories:

- Computer with sound system
- Spring-sprint PDF material
- Print the attached inspiration cards or browse the cards at [thisisspring.fi](http://thisisspring.fi).
- A clock to keep track of when 5 minutes are up.
- If you want paper and pens for brainstorming

### SLIDES 1-7 PRESENTATION OF THE SPRING IDEA COMPETITION (10 minutes)

- Presentation of the Spring Idea Competition
- Presentation of the Spring-sprint content

A video is shown at the beginning of the lesson to convey the atmosphere of the competition. The video can be found at [thisisspring.fi](http://thisisspring.fi).

### SLIDES 8-11 PART 1. UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS (35 minutes)

- Presentation and selection of inspiration cards
- Identifying the problems

The aim of the first part is to break up into teams, look at the inspiration cards and identify the problems involved. We recommend that you divide the young people into teams as you wish. After the sprint, young people can compete independently, which is why teams of their own choice work best.

There are many inspiration cards, and the idea is for young people to find a theme that interests them and identify different problems. The cards help to focus and narrow down ideas, making it easier to come up with solutions. During the brainstorming phase, it is important to be open-minded. There are no right or wrong answers. Quantity is more important than quality, and ideas can be small or large, from the personal to the global.

The tasks in the section, which can also be found in the presentation:

#### TASK 1.

- Divide into teams of 3–5 people
- All together as a class, go through the titles of the inspiration cards (below)

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- Each team chooses the most interesting title for itself.
- Each team will have a closer look at this inspiration card (printable or at [thisisspring.fi](https://thisisspring.fi))

## TASK 2.

- Once you have selected and explored your inspiration card, it is time to think about the problems or challenges associated with the phenomenon in question.
- In your team, come up with at least 10 problems or challenges related to your chosen inspiration card.
- Write them down on a piece of paper or, for example, in your phone notes.

You have 5 minutes to complete the task.

Start your sentence with the words: **I think the problem is that...**

## SLIDES 12-24 PART 2. IDEAS FOR SOLUTIONS (45min)

- Problem screening and selection
- Brainstorming solutions
- Filling in the application form

The aim of the second part is to start looking for solutions, formulate your own proposal and fill in an application form for the Spring Idea Competition at [thisisspring.fi](https://thisisspring.fi). It is recommended to fill in the application form during the lesson.

Start by reviewing what happened in the previous section, i.e., which inspiration card the teams chose and what problems they came up with in relation to the theme of the card. From the problems they came up with, the team chooses one to develop a solution to. To support the development, there is a competition application form.

The tasks in the section, which can also be found in the presentation:

## TASK 1.

- Each team presents the inspiration card they chose to the whole class and explains why they chose it.
- Please also indicate which ten (or more) card-related problems you identified.
- Give each other feedback and tell us which problem you think is the most important.

## TASK 2:

- The teams choose one problem they want to brainstorm a solution to.
- The idea is formulated by answering the questions on the Spring application form.
- A guide to the different stages of the application process to help students visualise their idea further.
- Fill in and send your application at [thisisspring.fi](https://thisisspring.fi)

## FINAL

- Let's work together to see how the competition will evolve during 2024-2025.