

INTRODUCTION

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
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Dr. Kaija TURKKI is a Professor in Home Economics at the Department of Home Economics and Craft Science, and a Vice Dean in Societal Issues at the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences in the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her university is the leading multidisciplinary university invited to the League of European Research Universities (LERU), an association of the best research-intensive universities in Europe.

Kaija Turkki completed her Master's Degree in 1974 majoring in household technology, and with minors in nutrition, consumer (household) economics, chemistry and microbiology. Later on she continued her studies in environmental psychology, architecture and in education. She earned her Licentiate Degree in 1981 and her Ph.D. in 1985. Her dissertation focussed on the use of the microwave oven and its effects on food management and kitchen planning. After that, as a researcher of Finland's Academy, she focussed her interests on new technology emphasizing the importance of interaction between a human, household activities and the society.

In 1988, after being recruited as a professor, she took a leadership role in starting to work on restructuring the Master's Degree Programme in home economics teacher education, and established a new major - home economics. As a pioneer in her position Dr. TURKKI noticed it important to try to find the very basic core and the roots of the field of home economics at national and international levels. It was important to take a critical look how the practices used serve the society and which directions need to be taken to focus the future. These questions has been asked under the research programme: *Home Economics as a Discipline and Science* having three subtopics: Conceptual and theoretical frameworks; New approaches to the study of everyday life; and Rethinking home economics – future trends and directions. During the last ten years Kaija has shared her ideas widely at international forums and published textbooks and research articles.

Kaija TURKKI has been an IFHE Member from early 80's and has attended all World Congresses since Oslo in 1984. She joined the Research Committee in 1990 and is still an active member. Kaija was invited by the President to serve in the Think Tank

Committee to process the IFHE Position Statement for 21st Century, and finally, in 2006, she was elected as an EC Member for Europe until 2010.

Based on her international activities Kaija Turkki has been invited as an Editorial Board Member on three research Journals; International Journal of Consumer Studies, UK (Blackwell), Journal of Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE), and in 2006 Family and Consumer Sciences research Journal, USA (Sage). She has served since 1999 as an international expert in Accreditation Commissions for several universities in Baltics to evaluate home economics programmes and research.

In Finland Professor TURKKI has been an active member of The Parliamentary Support Network for Home Economics established in 1993. It is a policy forum that aims to have dialogue between the decision makers and the profession. Her expertise has been used for several years under the Advisory Board for household research at the TTS Institute. The aim of this research unit is to innovate new practices around household activities, equipment and services. Since 1992 she has been a member of a panel preparing a national framework curriculum for home economics under the National Board of Education. These three examples inform us of the close relations Finnish universities have to different sectors of society. In her present position as a Vice Dean of the Faculty has opened Professor TURKKI to new forums in which to continue and strengthen the societal discussion between the university and various stakeholders in educational and behavioural fields.