Finnish adult education and Tampere Adult Vocational Education Centre - TAKK

Tampere Homegroup
Crosslife Workshop in London
29.10. - 3.11.2007

History of Finnish Education

• Influenced by
  – different wars and occupations
  – west and east
  – Christianity and the church

• The improvement in conditions of travel increased international comparison
  – proposals for reforms
The Finnish education system

Adult Education and VET in Finland

- Adult Education is provided in work places and in educational institutions
- VET is intended both for young people and for adults already active in working life
- VET is available in vocational institutions and in the form of apprenticeship training
Main providers of Adult Education and VET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal adult education</th>
<th>Number of institutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult education centres</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folk high schools</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study centres</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer universities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education centres</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General adult education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper secondary schools for adults</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocational training (upper secondary level)</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial vocational education providers</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialised vocational institutions</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational adult education centres</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tertiary education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polytechnics</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aims, Changes and Challenges

- Aims: Support lifelong learning and ensure competent workforce
- Environmental changes (i.e. globalisation and fast changes in technology)
- Changes creates challenges (i.e. cooperation between institutes and working life)
- Trends in Adult Education and VET
TAKK
- Tampereen Aikuiskoulutuskeskus /
  Tampere Vocational Adult Education Centre

Facts and Figures about TAKK

- TAKK was founded 1962, second biggest
- Private institute owned by Tampere Adult Education Foundation
- TAKK sales its trainings; receives no money from the state
- Clients: Adults, Organisations & Companies, Authorities
- Turnover in 2006 approximately 21 million €
- 11,120 students in 2006
- Staff: approximately 300 persons
Sectors of TAKK

- **Metal Work and Automation**: Metal Technology, Automation, House Construction, Maintenance, Vehicles, Logistics, etc.
- **Construction**: Construction Technology (e.g.: bricklayer, painter)
- **Business and Information Services**: Information and Communications Technology, Business Economics, Management and Entrepreneurship, Languages, etc.
- **Service Sector**: Tourism & Catering, Social and Health Care, Cleaning Services, etc.

Students according to types of education (2006)

- Number of students 11,120
- 41% female students
- Average age of students: 36 years
Conception of learning at TAKK

- Values: client centredness, interdisciplinarity, (cost)effectiveness
- Important principles: Quality, equality, justice, personalizing and appropriate education
- Curriculum: based on socioconstructivistic and transformative learning
- Learning and teaching model: PBL (Problem Based Learning)

Curriculum

- General part: Consists of core subjects
- Special part: Specialised vocational studies of each study programme
- Personalizing – a central principle in their pedagogical process:
  - Individual study plan
  - Individual plan for completing competence based qualifications
  - Individual learning plan
Education and training

- Three phases: Orientation, Demonstration of Skills and Training
  - Orientation: competence tests
  - Education and training: preparatory training to complement existing vocational skills (theory and practise)
  - Vocational Skills demonstration

Learning and teaching

- Blended learning: Distance and contact learning, ICT
- Learning:
  - Groupwork, workshops
  - On the job training
- Teaching:
  - Responsible instructor
  - Teachers
  - Workplace instructor
  - Teaching and counselling for special needs
### ICT in TAKK

- Online learning is included in almost all of the educational programmes decreased the amount of face-to-face teaching.
- The form of online learning: mainly some material + assignments, sometimes discussion.
- 1-2 days of face-to-face training for virtual learning-environment and some distance assignments.
- In an orientation phase each student's competencies and skills are recognized and trained.
- Online learning is rather instructor-led.
- Most students are positive, some drop during the course.

### Cross-culturality and immigrant training in TAKK

- More than 10% of the students are immigrants from 40-50 nations and from illiterate to academic background.
- Almost all teaching is in Finnish.
- About 30 trainers.
- Finnish language, culture and educational culture.
- Liaison interpreter training.
- Training for multiculturalism is arranged for enterprises, work places and organizations.