

Finland - Development Programme of sustainable development and green transition in Vocational Education and Training

Title of inspiring practice	Development programme of sustainable development and green transition in Vocational Education and Training (<i>Ammatillisen koulutuksen kestävän kehityksen ja vihreään siirtymän kehittämisohjelma</i>)
Geographical area	Finland The practice is implemented at national level.
Period of implementation	The project started on 1 October 2022 until 31 December 2023.
Rationale	<p>The development programme is a national programme that comprehensively supports the transition of Vocational Education and Training towards a sustainable and green future. The development activities apply to all vocational education activities; including management, teaching and pedagogy, teachers' skills and competences, working life cooperation, carbon footprint calculation.</p> <p>The development programme is a unique practice in Finland as it focuses on all aspects of Vocational Education and Training, and the goal is to bring about permanent changes among all education providers. Therefore, the development project has a significant impact on creating a more sustainable future. The programme also produces new know-how and skills for working life, which are a powerful example for other green VET initiatives. For instance, the students are trained as "responsibility agents" who have a competence of green transition and sustainable development in their own study field.</p>
Scope of the practice	Combination of Initial Vocational Education and Training and Continued Vocational Education and Training.
Educational level	NQF 4 and 5, EQF 4 and 5
Introduction and context	<p>The development programme is implemented by the education providers in cooperation with working life, students and the administration. The steering group includes different stakeholders; Ministry of Education, national agency, business life, non-governmental organisations, education providers and research.</p> <p>The aim of the development programme is to support the realisation of the global Agenda 2030 goals in vocational education and to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and nature loss in the operations and operating culture of vocational educational institutions. In particular, the goal is to strengthen the sustainable footprint of vocational education.</p> <p>The work focuses on the development of the vocational education sustainability roadmap and the education organisers' sustainable development programmes. Another theme is the development of practical solutions for the promotion of sustainable development and the green transition in the functions of vocational education using an experimental approach.</p> <p>In practice, the development programme is implemented through ten projects, the largest of which is an extensive joint project of 61 educational institutions.</p> <p>The budget allocated to this initiative is EUR 3.5 million.</p>

Key activities and outcomes	<p>The core of the vocational education sustainable development and green transition development programme is the preparation of the national sustainability road map for vocational education and local sustainable development programmes based on it, as well as other promotion of the green transition. The national road map frames the definition of local goals and measures.</p> <p>The project also develops the skills of management and teachers to ensure that sufficient capabilities for the green transition of the educational institution's operation and teaching is developed, as well as the measurement of the carbon and environmental footprint of education. Some of the projects focus on sector-specific measures, such as the development of on-the-job learning in mobile sectors, sector-specific virtual information packages, horse industry learning environmental and climate responsibility in sports.</p> <p>The development project produces many practical tools to be used, for instance, in the sustainable development programme work. In addition, the project will produce a carbon footprint calculator, material for teaching and learning sustainable development, and material to be used in developing the skills of teachers and workplace supervisors. All of these tools and materials will be shared openly on the website (vaski.info).</p> <p>The key output of the development programme is a national sustainability road map of vocational education until 2030. The road map presents a common goal and gives practical guidelines and examples towards a green transition and sustainable future.</p> <p>The development programme has started in the spring of 2022 and will last until the end of 2023, so the actual results will be available later. The rationale of the development programme is national, and therefore, it has a potential to transform comprehensively the Finnish Vocational Education and Training. The possible obstacle to comprehensive change might derive from the lack of will or ability of the educational institutions to change their operations consistently with the green transition. In addition, if the teachers do not have sufficient knowledge of sustainable development solutions in their own field, e.g. new technologies, then it prevents or at least slows down a comprehensive change in Vocational Education and Training.</p>
Other information	<p>In Finland, vocational education providers take care of teaching and the development of their operations, activities and learning environments. National development funding supports the targeting of development activities to important and relevant themes.</p>
Contacts and sources	<p>Finnish National Agency for Education https://www.oph.fi/en</p>
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