

Finland - Optional Unit in initial vocational qualifications: Working with climate responsibility

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| Title of inspiring practice | Optional vocational unit in initial vocational qualifications: Working with climate responsibility, 15 cp (<i>"Valinnainen ammatillinen tutkinnon osa: Ilmastovastuullinen toiminta"</i>) |
| Geographical area | Finland The practice is implemented at national level. |
| Period of implementation | The unit is included to all national initial vocational qualifications in Finland starting from 1 August 2022. The development of the content of the new unit was done in 2021 and from then on, the students in Vocational Education and Training in Finland have an opportunity to choose a unit as part of their studies. |
| Rationale | The unit is an example how the competences needed for climate responsibility are included in vocational qualifications in different fields. The unit deals with climate responsibility from the perspective of one's own field and one's own operations. |
| Scope of the practice | The main scope of the practice includes Initial Vocational Education and Training. Most of the students in Continued Vocational Education and Training can also choose the unit. |
| Educational level | NQF 4, EQF 4 |
| Introduction and context | <p>The units of the national qualifications are prepared in extensive cooperation with stakeholders. Finnish National Agency for Education is responsible of the content of qualifications, but the representatives of the working life and teachers participate in the definition of vocational competence requirements.</p> <p>A new unit has been added to the qualifications to meet the needs of working life, so that professionals from different vocational fields will have the competence to act in a climate-responsible manner in the future. The changed competence needs of working life were driving factors for the development of the new unit "Working with climate responsibility".</p> <p>The vocational competence requirements in the unit include the examination of the background of climate change, the presentation of the impacts and solutions to climate change, and the enhancement of work with climate responsibility. The students demonstrate their competence in practical tasks on climate responsibility in their vocational field. The unit has the objective of teaching students climate-responsible activities and development needs in working life from the perspective of their own profession.</p> <p>Educational providers can organise the new educational unit as part of a degree-oriented education funded by state. Therefore, the implementation does not require any separate funding.</p> |

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| Key activities and outcomes | <p>The national vocational qualifications guide teaching and education as well as the assessment of competence. The qualifications consist of compulsory and optional units. In personalisation, it is agreed which optional parts each student completes.</p> <p>As a common unit for all qualifications, it gives huge possibilities to enhance the competences for climate responsibility in every vocational field, and as such, to add climate responsibility competences in working life in a long-term. The unit can also be completed as part of lifelong learning or as a separate course.</p> <p>As a new unit, we do not have yet any practical experience with it. In the future, the Finnish National Agency for Education will monitor the implementation of the unit through the collection of statistical data that will be used to find out how many students have completed the unit, and which fields have implemented it more actively.</p> <p>The success of the initiative relies on the support that Finnish National Agency for Education provides in understanding course content, establishing the new unit and widening its teaching scope to different vocational fields. In addition, the implementation of the new unit is supported by the funds allocated to the development projects.</p> <p>The supporting tools developed for this initiative, such as teaching material, are common to the VET providers and will be shared openly in website (aoe.fi).</p> |
| Other information | <p>Vocational Education and Training in Finland is flexible and adapted to the special needs and possibilities of each student. A personal competence development plan is drawn up for each student, as a collaboration between a teacher and a student. The plan charts and recognises the skills previously acquired by the student and outlines what kind of competences the student needs and how they will be acquired in different learning environments. In addition, it is discussed and described in the plan with a student which optional parts of the degree the student will complete.</p> |
| Contacts and sources | <p>The unit will be found in all national initial vocational qualifications, for example Vocational qualification in Hairdressing and Beauty Care:</p> <p>https://eperusteet.opintopolku.fi/#/en/ammattillinen/7823344/tutkinnonosat/8052064</p> <p>Finnish National Agency for Education</p> <p>https://www.oph.fi/en</p> |
| Date of update | <p>12 August 2022</p> |