Learning international skills abroad and at home - non-EU support schemes in Finland

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Internationalisation in VET in Finland

• Strategic goal since already 1989-90, written into government programmes
• "International skills" also a competence highlighted in national qualification requirements for most sectors
• Internationalisation of VET interlinked with institutions own strategic development goals and the needs of the labour market
• Student mobility; learning periods abroad for better skills and careers
• Teachers mobility; developing language, vocational and intercultural skills abroad. Also networks and development projects.
• Focus on Europe, but also global aspect. Export of VET is growing

-> skill needs of the labour market and individuals
-> development, quality and attractiveness of VET
Wide perspective of internationalisation in Finnish VET

- In addition to student and staff mobility...
- **Development projects** related to qualifications, pedagogic methods, training materials, digital learning etc.
- **Quality assurance** and benchmarking
- **Cooperation around credit transfer** resulting in clearer ECVET models at European level
- **Joint and double degrees**
- Cooperation with working life and for the world work/business/sector
- **Internationalisation at home**
  - cross-border projects, eTwinning, international companies in Finland, immigrants etc.
- **Networks/consortia**
  - on country or sectoral level, often related to pedagogic approaches e.g. Workbased Learning, Projectbased Learning or Content and Language Intergrated Language Learning CLIL
The main non-EU schemes...

- **Own funding by VET providers (ca. 16% of all mobility)**
  - State/government funding, but amount and focus is decided on locally

- **State funding for Internationalisation of VET (ca. 7% of all mobility)**
  - by Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI
  - Since 2003, today nationally ca. 750 000 €/year
  - Min. 3 Finnish VET Colleges per Network

- **Student own funding and other external funding (ca. 7% of all mobility)**

- **Nordplus –programmes, mainly Junior and Voksen (ca. 1% of all mobility)**
  - Nordic Council of Ministers
State funding for internationalisation of VET

Ministry of Education

EDUFi

VET providers

Feedback

Innovations

Networks of
- VET schools
- Companies (labour market)
- Associations, NGOs

National/international networks for development of VET
Some of the networks funded by Finnish State funding for Internationalisation

- Kanada Network
- Hanako Network – cooperation with Japan
- ThaiGo Network - cooperation with Thailand
- India Network
- Korea Technet Network
- Two China Networks
- Two Russia Networks
- Network on Global Citizenship and cooperation with developing countries (Africa)
- In addition closer to 10 sector specific or thematic networks focusing on multiple regions

Some more info also in English at [www.finvet.fi](http://www.finvet.fi)
Development of staff mobility in Finnish vocational education and training 2007-2016

To Finland

From Finland
Internationalisation of the whole institution is a constant dialogue

National qualification requirements, national policy and regional strategies

Action plans

Internationalisation strategy

Qualifications/curricula

The student (in Finland personalised learning/study plans)
Added value of internationalisation?

1. Education institutes with home-based internationalisation

- Development of curricula and content
- Languages, communication and culture
- New learning and working methods
2. Educational institutes internationalising at the rate of their local working life partners

- Teacher/student contacts with major foreign employers during training
- Broader professional competence
- Better involvement of immigrants and foreign employees in VET

Added value of internationalisation?
Added value of internationalisation?

- 3. Educational institutes strongly involved in international networking process

- Internationalisation improves quality of teaching and learning

- A lot of mobility and numerous development of projects

- Internationalisation improves image

- Internationalisation plan or strategy
Added value of internationalisation?

4. International educational institutes

- Internationalisation improves quality of teaching and organisation
- Internationalisation meets the local requirements of working-life
- High quality and concrete internationalisation plan or strategy
- Long-term, permanent cooperation with other schools, companies and stakeholders
Thank you!

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