Collaboration to promote working-life oriented open higher education

Crossing practice borders

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Education System in Finland

- **Level 1-2**: Basic education
  - 9 years
  - Compulsory
  - Pre-primary education

- **Level 3-4**: Upper secondary or vocational education
  - 3 years
  - General upper secondary schools
  - Vocational institutions

- **Level 5**: Specialist vocational qualification

- **Level 6**: Bachelor’s degree
  - Universities of applied sciences
  - 210-240 ECTS cr.

- **Level 7**: Master’s degree
  - UAS
  - 60-90 ECTS cr.

- **Level 8**: Doctoral degree
  - Licentiate degree
  - Universities

- **Open University**: Bachelor’s degree
  - Universities
  - 180-210 ECTS cr.

- **Open Studies**: Master’s degree
  - Universities
  - 120-150 ECTS cr.
# The Frame of Open Higher Education

## National politics, Ministry of Education and Culture

- Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences promote lifelong learning by continuing education or by open studies
- Council of State decree: students can be charged max 15 euros / 1 ECTS cr. study fee on open studies
  - The objective is to offer everyone opportunities to develop their competences, to raise the level of education and to receive retraining
- Funding: 1) Ministry, based on results, 2) study fees

## Open studies in Finland

- Available to everyone
- Provided by 14 Universities and 24 University of Applied Sciences
- Open studies are integral parts of universities and they can also operate regionally (partner institutions)
- Studies follow the curricula of degree programmes
- Mainly studies in bachelor’s level: single courses or extensive study modules

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AVOT = working-life oriented open higher education

• Aim: to create a sustainable and agile operating model, in which the open HEIs organize open studies based on the needs of working life – as a cooperation network and in cooperation with partners in the world of work

• Competence modules for employed and unemployed experts of various fields are created based on the nationwide open studies offering of HEIs.

• Partners: 3 universities of applied sciences, 5 universities and 1 enterprise. The project also cooperates with other HEIs, central labor market organizations, local companies and public sector organizations.

• Three growth sectors facing structural change: 1) ICT, 2) social services and health care, and 3) bioeconomy and the environment)
Crossing borders 1: Cooperation among higher education institutions

- Cooperation forums
- Planning and implementing new competence modules together
- Agreement on cooperation:
  - division of tasks, responsibilities and resources
  - practices and processes
  - flexible pedagogical solutions
  - informing and marketing
  - student administration
- Evaluation
Crossing borders 2: Cooperation between higher education institutions and working life

- Recognition and accreditation of competence modules
- Future labour market needs
- Implementing open studies
- Developing curricula
Summary: open collaboration benefits everyone

- To meet the rapidly changing needs of working life there is substantial demand to develop agile new competence based education models in HEI’s
- There is a need of regular and transparent cooperation among HEIs and between HEIs and working life
- *Crossing borders through lifelong learning enhances quality and equity both in higher education and in the working life.*
Thank you!

Examples and experiences of good practices?