

Toteemi – A nation-wide development and research project on combining work and higher education in Finland

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Coordinated by Haaga-Helia UAS



Three development areas

- **Flexibly at work** → individualized, life-long learning paths across studies and careers
- **Competence from and to work**
→ synergy and added value; entrepreneurship; co-creation; alumni networks
- **Well-being in learning at work**
→ guidance, counselling and tutoring

Background

- A high percentage of Finnish HE students work in job positions matching their education already during their studies (Eurostudent survey: 53 %)
 - Wide opportunities for life-long learning across part-time degree programmes in Finland
- Both full and part time students are involved in the labour market, yet this is not fully embraced at HEI (+)
- Challenges occur in coordination of work and related HE studies (-)

Additional incentives for HEI :

New funding mechanism

Digitalization

Competence-based curricula

Objectives

Three guiding questions articulate the entire project:

1. How could organisations and companies make direct use of their experts' studies in related fields in HE?
2. How could HEI utilize students' competences as part of curriculum studies, and advance their graduation?
3. How does digitalization enhance ubiquitous and life-long learning?



Participants: 16 Universities of Applied Sciences and two research universities



A pragmatic and a research-oriented approach

UAS institutions

- Development of tools, approaches, policies, cooperation strategies, documentation, networking, applications...

Research universities

1. *University of Jyväskylä* (Flexibly at work)
 - Literature review on work-integrated learning
 - Repertoire of best pedagogical practices and solutions of UAS institutions in work-integrated learning
2. *University of Helsinki* (Digitalization in contexts of HE pedagogy)
 - Opportunities provided by digitalization in higher education: enhanced learning and alleviation of learning hindrances
 - Expectations for lecturers and staff related to digitalization
3. *Haaga-Helia UAS* (national follow-up and dissemination)
 - Statistical data on HEI students at work

Results and findings (1)

Results from the UAS institutions

- www.amktoteemi.fi
- Twenty sets of pragmatic toolkits to approach challenges of integration of work and HE studies
 - Pilot programmes, evaluation and follow-up tools, procedures of validation, documentation, apps...
 - Example from Haaga-Helia UAS: Demonstration Days as a validation tool in Work & Study process



Identified development areas

- Enhanced information needed from counterparts
- Engagement of companies and organisations
- Integration of curricula to develop work

Results and findings (2)

University of Jyväskylä

- Extensive study modules are most functional in integration of work and studies, facilitating motivation and validation
- Co-creation methods should be emphasized (HEI & world of work)
- Project-oriented learning and cross-sectional approaches support efficiently these processes.

University of Helsinki

- Conceptualization of digital approaches using C-map Tools, with lecturers
- Unfolding of professional competences of students in teacher education programmes, required in the 21st century
- Journal articles.



Results and findings (3)

Haaga-Helia UAS

- Extensive statistical data on students at work on national and international scales
- Findings and results of all partners are coordinated, enabling further development and dissemination
 - 1) Integration of work and HE studies
 - 2) Well-being of students at work and in studies
 - 3) Situational and contextual variation in wellbeing (young/mature students)
 - 4) Experiences of UAS graduates for competences required at work.
- Publications.



References

Eurostudent Thematic Review:

http://www.amktoteemi.fi/sites/amktoteemi/files/TR_paid_jobs.pdf

Project website:

<http://www.amktoteemi.fi/en>

Journal articles and conference proceedings related to the project: see Toteemi website.



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Thank you!

