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#doALLVET: Strategic Alliances for Quality Dual VET and International Mobilities

PEER-LEARNING ACTIVITY C4: VET in Finland and follow-up on the Road Map for establishing strategic alliances for international mobilities



Peer Learning Activity C4 of the doALLVET project was organised by SAMledu Vocational College and was focused on the VET system in Finland and its recent reform, and the experience of its implementation at SAMledu. An important place was also reserved to virtual and internationalisation activities in SAMledu.

SAMledu is a public VET provider located in Savonlinna, in the East region of Finland. Every year they have nearly 1,600 students and 180 staff members distributed in their three campuses. It provides more than 50 different qualifications, including vocational upper secondary qualifications, further qualifications, and specialist qualifications. It is recognised as a high-quality centre and it has received four times the National Quality Award of Finland.

In the first session, Anne-Mari Behm and Päivi Uusitalo from Samiedu Vocational College, guided partners and participant centres from Castilla y León and Portugal in a virtual tour through SAMledu School. This visit was prepared by SAMledu as a tool for virtual internationalisation, in which they can give a first-hand experience to virtual visitors, show them their facilities, and introduce them their teachers, courses and key activities. The session included a rich discussion with many questions from participant centres of Castilla y Leon and Portugal.



The second day started with a presentation by Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen, President of the City Council, who introduced partners to the City of Savonlinna and presented the educational environment of the city and the main projects in which the city is currently involved, like the development of the Technology Park Noheva.

Timo Welsby presented the key elements of the VET system in Finland and the purpose of the reform that took place in 2018. Some of these elements are the continuous admission of students throughout the year and the flexible length of studies; an evaluation system based on skills demonstrations; a strong grant system to support students during their study years; and a funding system of centres that relies greatly on performance and effectiveness-based funding. Finally, it is also significant the high involvement of adults on VET courses and life-long learning activities.

Other key elements developed by Hanne Liukko and Jonna Kokkonen were the development of a personal competence plan for each student, the assessment of skills, and the quality management system, with the remarkable feature that there is no national inspection system in place, as local autonomy in education is extensive in Finland. Finally, Sanna Laukkarinen presented the eLearning projects that they are developing at SAMledu and the future steps in the area.

The activity ended with a follow-up meeting between partners the third day, in which progress of the project until February 2021 was summarised and the next collaboration activities were defined, such as a virtual collaboration activity between English teachers of the countries involved or an activity co-organised with the NETINVET project for international mobilities in VET in the sectors of international commerce, logistics and vehicle maintenance.

