



One-Stop Guidance Centres and e-Guidance in Finland

Overview

One-Stop Guidance Centres and integrated e-Guidance provide low-threshold support for young people in various transitions in their individual lifepath. As well as official bodies, educational institutions and workshops, social rehabilitation and health services, the Centres' wide collaborative networks include third sector organizations, voluntary organizations and other bodies that work with young people. The Centres also function as a link to the business community through local companies and trade associations and promote connections between employers and young people. The young people themselves have an active role in the design and evaluation of the Centres and are actively involved in the daily activities.

Rationale

As an integrated model with face-to-face and online services, the Centres strengthen and simplify services for young people and eliminate the duplication of activities. Development of this service is co-ordinated by a national Meeting Site project (Kohtaamo).

Key Features

The One-Stop Guidance Centres are based on the knowledge, advisory and guidance services of various organizations as well as on the complementary skills and co-operation between social and health care providers. The operating model requires strong partnerships between the various actors and will develop new operating practices and skills in multi-sector management.

One-Stop Guidance Centres (Ohjaamo) and e-Guidance

The fundamental idea of the operation of the Centre is that the professionals working at a Centre work as employees of their host organisations (e.g. municipality, career and education guidance, educational institution, the Kela benefits service, etc.), but are based at the common Centre premises. The professionals' input into a Centre's operation can vary from full-time to collaborative periodic on-duty sessions. The development of the competences of those working at the Centre is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. A long-term goal is to develop an integrated career guidance model with parallel face-to-face and multi-channelled online services.

Targeted audience

The focus is on young people below the age of 30. The Centres offer services to various groups: pupils, students, employed and unemployed.

Challenges

Lifelong guidance is a shared policy and administrative responsibility of several ministries at national and regional levels and one of the challenges for the pilot projects is the establishment of consistent co-operation model with other sectors and service providers.

Key Results or Outcomes

The first Centres were established in early 2010 before the current national project. By May 2016, there are 36 regional pilot Centres providing services for young people. The development of the regional Centres will be evaluated by the national Meeting Site -project and the first interim results will be available in 2016.

www.peda.net/veraja/keskisuomenely/ohjaamot (Finnish)

www.kohtaamo.info (in autumn 2016)

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Meeting Site (Kohtaamo in Finnish) is the project coordinating the development of low-threshold guidance services for young people (One-Stop Guidance Centres) and related web-based guidance. Its goal is to promote the employment of young people and prevent social exclusion. The project is a cooperation of various administrative branches, working life and the third sector. Meeting Site is a part of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee and it receives funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) in 2014–2020.

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