



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Report of the Study Visit in Finland 25.-26.10.2018

Transnational Study visits (PLA): Joint Activity,
Romania, Italy, Finland, Greece



In October 2018, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) organized a two-day peer learning activity (PLA) for colleagues from Greece, Italy, Romania and Slovenia. This included presentations representatives of the NRP and from colleagues from the EDUFI and VET providers in Finland and other organisations. In addition to that there were short presentations from three partner countries: Greece, Italy and Romania. The study visit focused on tracking systems and the use of tracking information at VET provider and system level and how that could be used to support improvements in the quality of VET provision.

Finland's tracking system is based on legislation and has the following characteristics:

- it uses real-time information and VET providers are required to regularly update their data on individual learners e.g. each time a learner completes a unit in her/his individual competence development plan, or if the learner changes his/her individual learning plan etc.;
- it is based on individualised data (not cohort data) and there is automatic alignment between different data-bases through a national data warehousing system;
- non-personal information from the tracking system is publicly available;
- the VET providers are motivated to provide the data to enhance their reputation and maximise their income (from 2020, 25% of their budget is dependent on the outcomes of their provision and 2022 50 %);
- there is a strong culture of learners providing data on satisfaction and employment etc. The system uses on-line questionnaires and learners expect providers to make changes in response to their feedback. The national student feedback system is at the moment in use and the development of national company feedback system is started and the results is a part of funding in VET 2022.



Visit to Ohjaamo/Navigatorn

The PLA included a visit to an outreach centre (Ohjaamo Helsinki, Navigatorn Helsinki) which offers a full range of services for young people up to the age of 30. The centre's focus is employment and education but they also provide services covering health, personal care, social support etc.



The PLA participants visited:

- **Amiedu**¹ (which focused on continuing VET for adults). The principal explained how they used the national tracking system and their institution's data (including comparative data) to improve the quality of their provision;
- **Mercuria Business College**². The quality manager and principal discussed the use of training plans which enabled learners, guided and supported by VET teachers, to design individualised programmes. This included an opportunity to examine how these plans worked in practice; how the teachers' pedagogy had changed to focus on supporting learning rather than teaching knowledge; and how the school used data from the tracking system to improve the quality of provision.

There were presentations from staff working in five different VET providers.

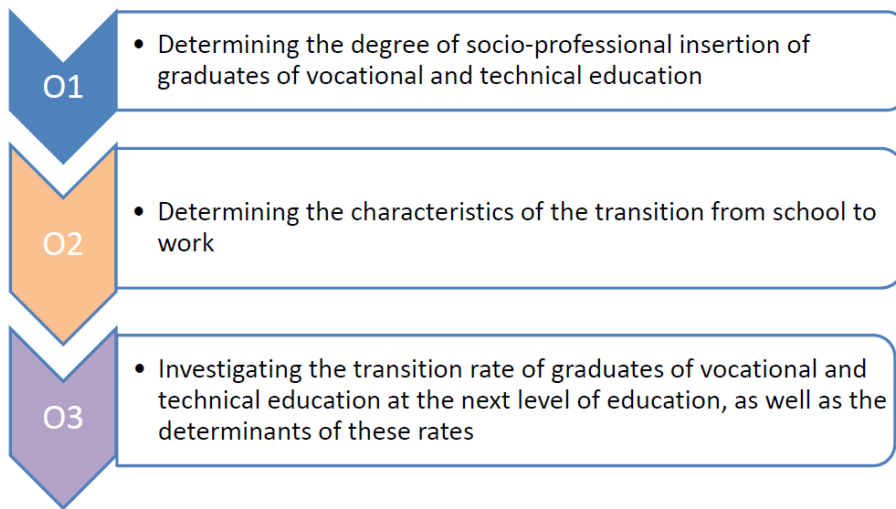
The final part of the PLA looked at how Finland predicts its future skills needs and demand for labour. Colleagues from the National Agency explained how this information is used to inform the design and re-design of VET qualifications.

¹ <https://www.amiedu.fi/in-english/>

² <https://www.mercuria.fi/en/>

VET Graduate Tracking system, Romanian experience

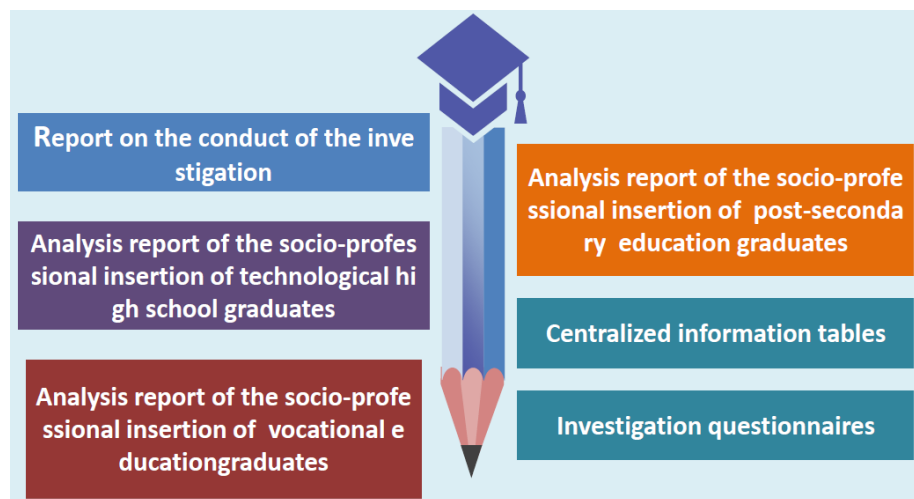
Objectives are:



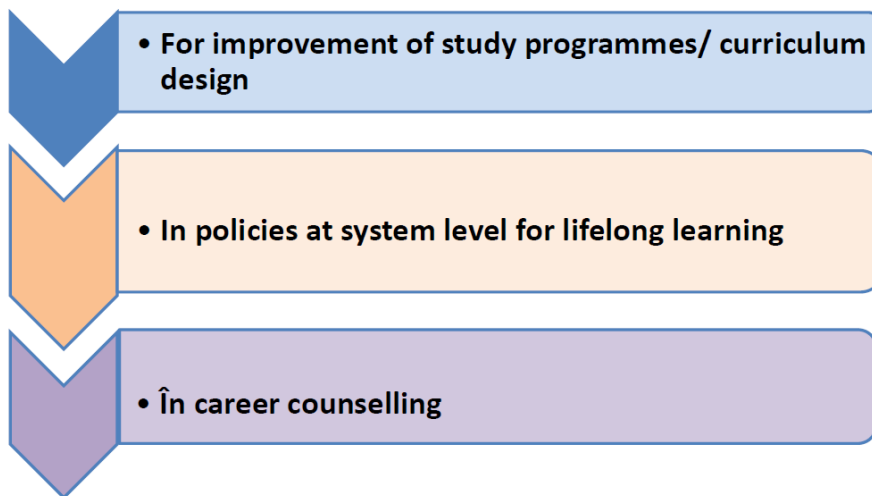
The study on the monitoring of socio-professional insertion of VET graduates is carried out through a process that has two subcomponent:

1. Creation of information on VET graduates (structuring the graduates by profiles, domains, qualifications, residence environments and identification data) – mandatory for the County School Inspectorates
2. Field survey based on questionnaire among graduates finalized with the elaboration of the report on the conduct of the survey and the socio-professional insertion analysis reports for each category of graduates investigated.

Working tools:



Use of information:



VET Graduate tracking, Greece

Aim and Scope

// The traditional approach of measuring and analysing the socioeconomic development (e.g. VET graduate's performance in labour market) has drastically changed over the past years (Kourtit & Nijkamp 2018).

// Scope: create tools for better understanding of VET graduate's performance in labour markets - exploiting data with new technologies to support decision-making processes

// Aim: promote policies to enhance attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training

The Mechanism

// The Mechanism of Labour Market Diagnosis of Greece has been institutionalized by the Ministry of Labour in 2016, following an Action Plan approved by the European Commission in 2015.

// The Coordinating Committee governing the Diagnostic System consists of representatives of ministries, public agencies and social partners. The Operational Network of Agencies and Organisations provides the System with inputs of data and is a primary user of the System's outputs. A Scientific Committee advises on matters of methodology and scientific integrity.

// The National Institute of Labour & Human Resources (NILHR) has the scientific responsibility for the System. It coordinates the Operational Network, manages the Information System and produces dashboards with the System's results.

The databases

- Public Employment Service
- National Employment Registry
- Hellenic Statistical Authority
- General Commercial Registry

Methodology [I]

1| Desk research is taking place through the utilization of administrative data about VET graduates.

2| Qualitative approach will take place through the use of focus group method engaging social partners and other partners involved in the specific field in Greece in order to identify critical issues and parameters to be further investigated.

Methodology [II]

3| 2 Quantitative surveys will be implemented targeting:

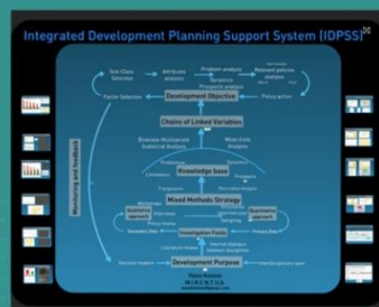
> Businesses, aiming to determine their satisfaction in relation to the level and type of skills offered by VET graduates

> VET graduates, aiming to determine their satisfaction in relation to the skills they gained and the curricula that they followed through their studies

These phases will lead us to create a more rational model / framework that links labour supply and demand in order to develop curricula which will respond better to the needs of labour markets.

Next Steps

- Comparison of primary and secondary data
- Creating knowledge bases
- Sequence of policies and actions



The PLA's participants agreed on the following conclusions:

- it is important to be clear about:
 - ✓ the purpose of a tracking system;
 - ✓ the motivation of each participant and user of the system;
 - ✓ how the data will be used;
 - ✓ the data security issues (particularly when tracking is based on individualised data);
- there are significant technical challenges associated with data alignment and merger;
- tracking systems are expensive to design and operate: the benefits need to exceed the cost;

- a tracking system may show some initial VET qualifications do not lead to learner employment (e.g. in the arts or humanities areas) and this could encourage VET providers to withdraw these programmes;
- real-time, individualised tracking systems help national authorities to monitor what is happening in each VET provider and at the system level.

The key conclusion was that, in order to achieve the objectives of the Recommendation on graduate tracking, it is necessary to continue the joint development of National Reference Points. In some of the partner countries, the system is already in place and, for all partner countries, the use of information still needs development.

One conclusion was that all information on graduate tracking is not sufficiently utilized at system or VET provider in Finland. Therefore, the next Finnish NRP aim to develop methods for better utilizing this information.





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17.10.2018

1 (3)

Action Grant 2017 - Support to the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points (EQAVET NRP)
Decision number - 2017 -0842/001-001
Project Nr 586540-EPP-1-2017-1-FI-EPPKA3-EQAVET-NRP

STUDY VISIT IN FINLAND

VET graduate tracking system in Finland

- The use of information at VET provider level and at system level to improve VET provision and VET qualifications (feedback)

Time 25.-26.10.2018

Organizer Finnish National Agency for Education
Hakaniemenranta 6, 00530 Helsinki, Finland

Objectives The main objective of the study visit is to be familiar with VET graduate tracking system in Finland and the use of graduate tracking information at national and VET provider level.

Program

Thursday 25.10.

9.00–9.30 Welcome

Kati Lounema, Counsellor of Education, Head of unit, Vocational Education and Training, Finnish National Agency for Education

Targets and practical arrangements

Leena Koski, Counsellor of education, Finnish National Agency for Education

9.30–10.15 The use of VET graduate tracking information to promote educational policy objectives and the impact on funding

Tomi Kytölä, Senior specialist, Ministry of Education and Culture

Discussion

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2 (3)

17.10.2018

10.15–10.45 Overview: VET Graduate tracking system and the use of information in partner countries

Case Romania

Case Italy

10.45–11.00 Coffee break

11.00–11.45 Producing national tracking information for the use of VET providers.

Seppo Hänninen, Senior adviser, Finnish National Agency for Education

Questions and answers

11.45–12.15 Overview: VET Graduate tracking system and the use of information in partner countries

Case Greece

Questions and discussion

12.15–13.00 Lunch

13.00–13.45 VET graduate tracking system

- Tracking of students with special needs (case)

Anne Tornberg, Head of development, Luovi Vocational College

Questions and discussion

13.45–14.15 Graduates tracking system in Vipunen - Education Statistics Finland

Riikka Koivusalo, Adviser, Finnish National Agency for Education

Questions and discussion

14.15–15.00 Statistics Finland. How to collect, refine and distribute follow-up information?

- Statistics Finland is the only Finnish public authority specifically established for statistics.
It produces the vast majority of Finnish official statistics.

*Mika Tuononen, Chief Adviser, Statistics Finland/Population and Social
Statistics/Education, Culture and Time Use*

Questions and discussion

15.00–15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 15.30 Strengths and challenges

Discussion in the groups

15.30–16.30 Transfer to Ohjaamo Helsinki



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16.30–17.30 Visit to Ohjaamo Helsinki

- Ohjaamo Helsinki is a service for young people from 15 to 29 years of age in Helsinki, providing information, support and assistance in different life situations. A large number of professionals are available for young people to get advice.

19.30– Visit to VET provider Amiedu

Dinner

Friday 26.10.

9.00–10.30 Visit to VET provider: MERCURIA Business College

- * MERCURIA Business College: individual study pathways and learning environments
- * VET graduate tracking system
- How does MERCURIA Business College collect and use the follow-up information to improve the VET provision?

*Principal and Managing director, Tiina Immonen, MERCURIA
Quality Manager, Henni Timonen, MERCURIA*

Questions and discussion

10.30–11.00 VET graduate tracking system

- How does the Varia collect and use the follow-up information to improve the VET provision?

Pekka Tauriainen, Principal, Vocational College Varia

11.00–11.15 Key Conclusions

11.15–11.45 Lunch in Mercuria

11.45–12.45 Transfer to Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

12.45–14.15 The use of information at system level to improve VET provision and VET qualifications (feedback).

- for anticipation of educational needs
Kari Nyyssölä, Counsellor of Education, Head of Unit, Foresight, Finnish National Agency for Education
- for qualification requirements (national curricula)
Minna Bálint, Counsellor of Education, Finnish National Agency for Education
- for other purposes

14.15–15.15 Conclusions and feedback

Coffee

Changes are possible.