



FILING CARD GOOD PRACTICE EXAMLE
European Network 'Career & AGE'

Identification of the 'Practice'

TITLE of the good practice: The InnoOmnia Hub - A Learning Community of Entrepreneurs
Country/Region: Finland / Espoo
Nature: Programme
Period*: Ongoing
Budget*: n/a
In which language(s) available: Finnish, English
Final beneficiary: Vocational Students, Job-seekers, present and to-be Entrepreneurs
Leading partner: Omnia, The Joint Authority of Education in the Espoo Region
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*: If known/if available

Description of the 'Good Practice'

What was the problem?:

Need to find new flexible models for training and supporting entrepreneurship in the vocational field focusing on all age groups.

What were the objective(s)?:

InnoOmnia addresses several educational and social issues:

1. unemployment; how to empower people to make a living through entrepreneurship
2. image of VET; can modern technology, real world learning, education and realistic perspectives for future employment result in an attractive choice for the youth
3. training teachers and school leaders about 21st century learning in VET
4. offering on-the-job/work-based learning opportunities for students , often the first job for a 16/17 year-old youngster
5. making entrepreneurship sustainable and less of a lonely journey through offering community support

What did you do?:

Was there a specific focus on gender, diversity:

InnoOmnia, a flagship for vocational learning, set off in August 2011. InnoOmnia is a part of Omnia, the Joint Authority of Education in the Espoo Region. Omnia received the Ministry of Education Quality Award in 2013 in addition to recognition for the most innovative learning environment. Omnia is a forerunner in national and international education development projects focusing on systemic, sustainable solutions. Omnia offers vocational training to young people and adults ranging from basic to specialised qualifications, apprenticeship training, youth workshops and professional development programmes for teachers, trainers and school leaders in both the K-12 and vocational training sectors

InnoOmnia is a lifelong learning hub located on the Omnia Kirkkokatu campus, offering a unique combination of services: 1) entrepreneurship support for resent/would-be entrepreneurs, mainly from arts

and crafts or the service sector 2) work-based/on-the-job learning programmes for vocational education (VET) secondary students 3) innovation and piloting new pedagogy for vocational teaching and learning, e.g. gamification, mobile learning, entrepreneurial teaching methods 4) teacher and school leader professional development for K-12 and vocational sectors.

InnoOmnia is a community in which teachers, students and entrepreneurs share the same coffee pot. All spaces are learning spaces and everyone is both a learner and a teacher. InnoOmnia's development projects pilot different aspects of 21st century vocational learning, such as teaching real world skills, using mobile technology and cloud-based learning to improve learning outcomes, learning through entrepreneurial projects, etc. Entrepreneurs apply to join the community and receive daily, community and business support. Working with students and actively contributing to the community is a requirement. InnoOmnia aims to empower teachers, students and entrepreneurs, increase innovation on a grassroots level and ensure high quality VET education.

What did you achieve?:

- Regional impact; over 50 % of the 9th graders in the region apply to Omnia.
- Learning environment and pedagogical development has been significant; In 2013 InnoOmnia received a national innovation award for the education sector.
- Since opening in September 2011, InnoOmnia has supported 110 new/would-be entrepreneurs in making their business sustainable.
- 600 students have benefited from on-the-job/work-based learning within the hub or its projects.
- 742 teachers and school leaders have been trained on entrepreneurial teaching methods and educational technology, spreading new teaching and learning methods across VET in Finland.
- 700 Omnia staff members have been exposed to new pedagogy along with 2,700 visitors.
- The InnoOmnia model has received both national and international recognition: it surfaced as the sole European case in the book 'Learning a Living - Radical Innovation in Education for Work'.
- Omnia received the national quality award with an emphasis on entrepreneurship from the Ministry of Education in 2013 and was recognised for innovation in learning environments in 2013 by the Finnish Foundation for Invention.
- Omnia has been a good practice case for youth entrepreneurship

What were changes or effects of the good practice?:

- The hub connects and empowers students, teachers and entrepreneurs.
- InnoOmnia offers flexible solutions and support as a learning community; real-life-learning and authentic business environments for students, three levels of support (daily mentoring, community support and business support) for entrepreneurs, professional development opportunities and entrepreneurial immersion for teachers and new models for public/private- partnerships for the organisations.
- Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning is not a buzzword. It is a growing number of people teaching and learning from each other over coffee and by working together.
- Entrepreneurs provide role models for the youth.
- Physical spaces facilitate openness and collaboration.
- Modern technology, new pedagogical solutions and professional development, grant VET a high profile.
- On-the -job/work-based learning supports informal and non-formal learning of real world skills and individual learning paths.
- More students view entrepreneurship as a viable path for employability. Job-seekers in the age group of 30 - 55 had the opportunity to pursue entrepreneurship as a career option with low threshold alternatives, such as joining the Omnia co-operative.

What were the critical points to get the project running?

- Breaking up the boundaries within the organisation, between education silos and in creating common physical spaces, blending businesses and education.

- Disrupting the conventional learning paths, including students' and teachers' schedules, subject-based boundaries and introducing work-based learning as a daily instead of annual activity.
- Raising the awareness of the importance of micro-sized service companies as previous hub initiatives have catered first and foremost high growth start-ups.

Transferability:

Which part of your approach could be used in another context?

InnoOmnia offers a new model for supporting entrepreneurship and employability in vocational education and training bringing together students, staff and entrepreneurs. Also the creation of 21st century learning environments and approaches in learning are transferable. This model applies to all ages, we are currently implementing it for the age group from 16 to 55. Different support and paths are available for the individuals.

Which conditions are needed to optimise the transferability of the project?

The vocational education and training system should have RPL processes. A vocational education training provider willing and able to act as a change agent together with key organisations, i.e. Entrepreneurs' Association, Employment Services providers, municipalities, etc. A joint action plan must be drafted, which is based on a joint vision on what the centre will accomplish and who is responsible for which activities. Naturally, funding must be sorted out.

Link with the focus of the network (Tick more than one box if necessary):

- SYSTEM level X
- ORGANISATIONAL level X
- INDIVIDUAL level X
- Life phase
- Career phase X
- Generation

Other information

Any other useful information on the Good Practice: