



**Leonardo da Vinci**  
Mobilnost



MOBILITY PROJECT:	<b>SELF-EVALUATION AND QUALITY IN VOCATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION</b>
PROJECT COORDINATOR:	<b>SLOVENIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADULT EDUCATION</b>
PARTNER ORGANISATION:	<b>SALPAUS FURTHER EDUCATION, LAHTI, FINLAND</b>
DATE:	<b>OCTOBER 2005</b>

## FOTOEVALUATION

### Meeting the representatives of the national institutions



*Mrs. Lena Koski of the Finnish Board of Education presented the national strategy for quality to us.*

*An interesting debate about the system of Finnish national quality awards.*



*Mr. Heikki Silvennoinen introduced the activities of the Finnish Education Evaluation Council.*

*The Finnish Education Evaluation Council is responsible for the development, evaluation and information regarding education of school owners and principals, teachers, politics and work councils. It was created in 1991 and employs 350 experts from different fields.*



*Mrs. Eini von Becker presented the activities of an international organisation AIKE Ineternational.*

*Ike International is a part of the AIKE Group and as an independent unit incorporates and represents centres for adult vocational education in their international activities. It is a member of the European association for vocational education. Status: a non profit organisation with forty-six members.*

## **Visits to educational organisations**

### **1. Presentation of quality management and self-evaluation process at the Lahti College of Hospitality**



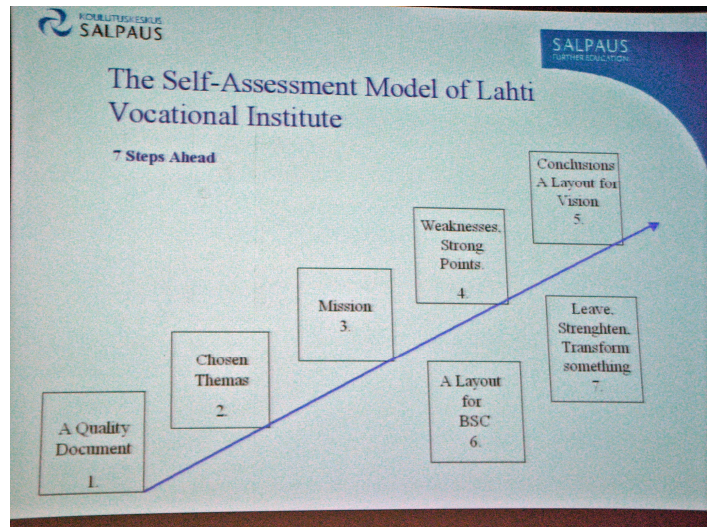
*A talk with Mrs. Irris Yia Monnonen, the college principal, Mr. Pekka Punu, the quality coordinator and Mrs. Kaiso Takamaa, adult education teacher.*

*Talks with the employees were the most valuable part of the study visit. They allowed us a direct exchange of experience and opinions. The discussion about the work of a quality coordinator was very useful. We certainly remembered what teacher Kaiso Takamaa replied to our question about teachers' motivation for self-evaluation processes. »We no longer ask about this,« she said. »The care for quality is a part of our regular job.«*



*We were interested to see how the practical courses are taught at the college. Some of the participants of the exchange came from Srednja gostinska in turistična šola (Secondary School for Hospitality and Tourism) from Radovljica, who could directly compare two similar educational organisations, work conditions etc.*

## **2. Presentation of quality management and self-evaluation process at the Lahti Vocational Institute**





*Mrs. Kaisu Nyman presented the quality management system at the Lahti Vocational Institute.*

*Mr. Seppo Komulainen is a quality coordinator at the Lahti Vocational Institute.*

*His attitude, energy and enthusiasm conveyed an important message: »The source of quality are the people!«*

### **3. Presentation of quality management and self-evaluation process at the Lahti College of Arts and Crafts**



*We were interested to see the premises for the vocational education of secondary school students and adults. Cooperation between a student and her/his mentor is an important aspect of quality.*

*Small groups, personal approach and constant progress monitoring were the factors that our Finnish colleagues emphasized when they spoke about the quality of practical training.*



*A very cordial meeting with two Slovenian students, who study at the college. They explained that they wanted to study shipbuilding. As the study course they were interested in wasn't available in Slovenia, they decided to come to Finland. Their perception of quality differences between Slovenian and Finnish educational differences was very interesting.*



*A college graduate proudly presents his graduating project. The connection between his theoretical knowledge and his practical application is the main objective in the Finnish vocational education and training.*



*For the principal Keijo Makkonen a visit from Slovenia was nothing new. He was pleased to tell us that he had been cooperating with a secondary school Škofja Loka; students and teachers visit him and his school on exchange visits. His teachers were on exchange visit in Slovenia that year.*

*In the days when we were visiting, the college was preparing for another visit – from a group of external assessors, since the college was competing for a national quality award and was shortlisted together with five other institutions. For us, this was an excellent chance to learn on the spot what is the procedure of getting a national award. Most of all we wanted to know about the motives for entering the competition for such award. External confirmation of quality, better recognisability, information for potential participants and increased enrolment – these were only but a few reasons the college staff listed. Afterwards we learnt that the college won the award!*

**4. Visit and presentation of Lahti Folk High School and a presentation of the activities in the Finnish Association of Adult Education**

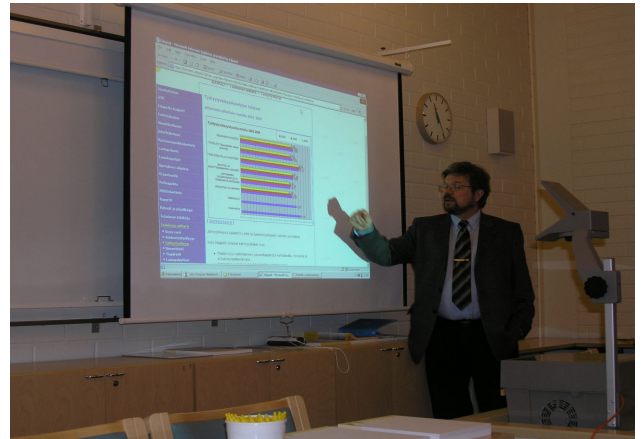


*Mr. Ville Marjomaki, the principal of the Lahti Folk High School and the president of the Finnish Association of Adult Education described the field of non-formal adult education and the role of »folk high schools« in this system.*

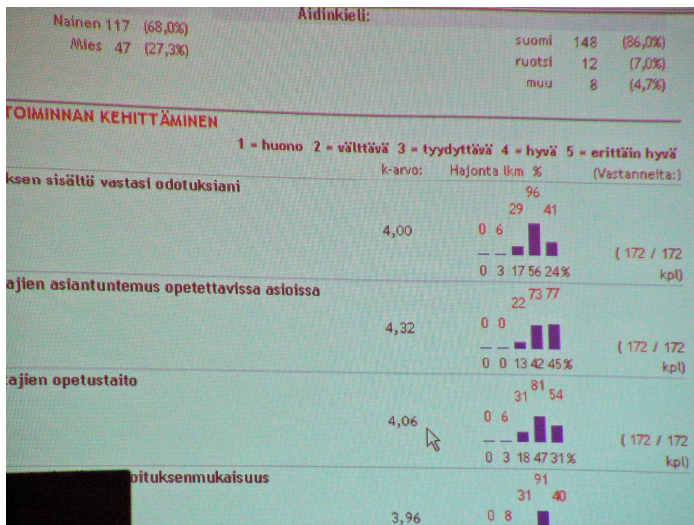


*With its 110 years, Lahti folk High School is one of the oldest one in Finland – it was founded by the local community. It offers programmes oriented towards humanities (photography, needlework, computer science, fine arts, film, cultural and art history, journalism, ...). In addition to non-formal programmes, they also offer elementary education for adults, adult vocational education (Social nursery and health) and Summer School. School also operates a student hostel.*

5. **Presentation of quality management and self-evaluation process at the Edupoli Vocational College in Poorvo.**



*Mr. Tarmo Vaalasmaa is a quality manager in educational organisation Edupoli. He explained us the vision and mission of the organisation, its activities, the structure of its students. He presented the quality system and especially the role of the quality manager within this system.*



*In Edupola we could see a practical example of what we often hear – namely, that Finland is among the first couple of countries in the world when it comes to technological development and the use of modern telecommunication and information technology. We were interested to see how the employees use intranet to communicate within the college network.*

*It was also interesting to see a web-based tool used in self-evaluation processes. Web-based questionnaires are used to interview participants and employees, electronically process data and compare them. The results are used as the basis for discussion about quality improvement.*

6. **Presentation of quality management and self-evaluation process at the host organisation Salpaus Further Education**



*We spoke to Mrs. Katri Luuka, the development director of Salpaus Further Education, who presented us the a wider frame into which our host organisation is included.*

*We learned many interesting things about the degree of authonomy Finnish vodational colleges have in creating their own activities. It was interesting to hear how they spent the money from the European structural funds in the last couple of years. We realised that – together with many positive effects of European pooling – we share some problems and development dilemas.*



*Sari Mikola presented us the staff development model they use at Salpaus. Each member of the staff has his or her own plan for personal development. This is used ias a base in annual review, during which the staff member and his supervisor map out the necessary training for the employee, evaluate work effectiveness and discuss future development of his or her career path.*





*Jaana Illomaki and Sari Mikola presented the quality management system at Salpaus.*

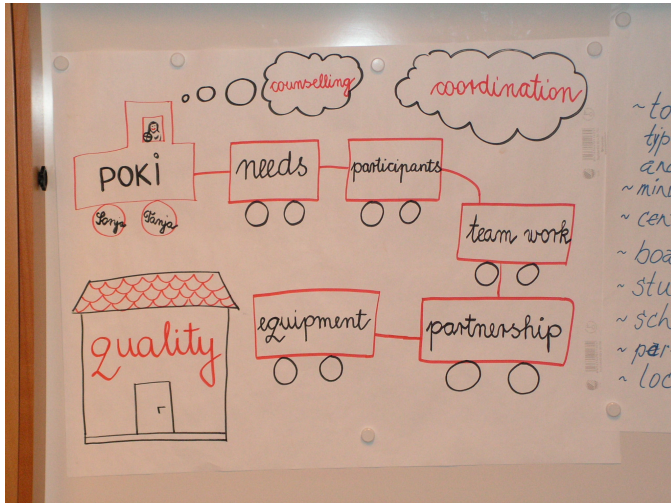


*Jaana and Sari represented host organisation Salpaus Further Education and were with us throughout the visit. Salpaus was our »base« from which we left on visits to educational organisations. When we returned our discussions with them were most useful, as they were always prepared to clarify possible dilemmas, explain whatever we may have missed due to our imperfect knowledge of the Finnish educational system. Talking to them and other Salpaus staff we really got to know te Finnish hospitality.*

## 7. Study visit evaluation



*On the final day of the study visit we carried out an evaluation discussion together with our Finnish colleagues. The participants first discussed their newly acquired knowledge in small groups, emphasized the most important and most useful information.*



*A vivid presentation of important factors in quality education and the place that the QUEA projet has in this path.*

*The participants filled in an evaluation questionnaire and disclosed whether the expectations they had before travelling to Finland were fulfilled and their satisfaction with the study visit.*



**Mobility project participants – Self-evaluation and quality in adult vocational education and training.**

When we returned home we felt connected with a new link. Whenever we meet, we renew it. This brings one of the secrets from the Finnish success story into Slovenian quality projects: »**The source of quality are the people!**«