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EPOS CONFERENCE IN FINLAND - REPORT & FEEDBACK OF PARTICIPANTS



EPOS MULTIPLIER EVENT IN FINLAND

Venue

The EPOS Multiplier Event in Finland was organized on Thursday, 26th May 2016 13-16 in Mikkeli, in the Kenkävero Vicarage's Lake Pavillion.

Target audience

The educational organizations in the region of Southern Savo: Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences, South Savo Vocational College and the branches of universities operating in the area: University of Helsinki, Aalto University and the Lappeenranta University of Technology.

Also, entrepreneurs producing and processing organic food were invited; as well as the local representative of the Finnish Organic Association and the director of the Finnish Organic Research Institute.

There were 15 participants, mainly from the educational institutions.





Programme

Welcome coffee



Innovative teaching methods and working life relevance:

Ritva Mynttinen, Eeva Uusitalo, UH/Ruralia: Experiences on working life relevant teaching for higher level education in the project *Innovative Education Towards the Needs of the Organic Sector*

Snapshots on the regional co-operation:

Pekka Pulkkinen, Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences: *MiniMikkeli*

Minna Pasila, Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences: *Mikkeli house fair*

Anna-Maija Torniainen, Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences & Taisto Hirvonen, South Savo Vocational College: *Project Shake*

Discussion and a spring buffet



Discussion

- Working with real life cases is more and more popular in education
- of the teaching methods tested in EPOS, the problem solving project was considered most interesting as a participatory learning environment: learning as /in a project
- some suggestions were made to develop problem solving projects even further, eg. students could
- participate also in the planning phase of the course
- Also: several student groups could have the same stakeholder/phenomenon/village/enterprise as the object of study, that is, each group would have their own viewpoint to the same target.
- the case could be constructed also on a virtual platform
- The 'risk' in real life case teaching: who is in charge of the post-course assistance for the stakeholder?
- challenges of multidisciplinary courses were discussed, and also the idea of collaborative learning.
- interesting notion: the role of the teacher in the interface between working life and teaching, and the need to educate also the teachers how to operate in this boundary area
- how the internships could be more efficient and more useful on the organic farms?



Feedback from the Multiplier Event participants

- The evaluation form was sent after the conference: 6 replies from 12 participants
- The most important reason for attending was networking
- The discussion was mentioned by many to have been very beneficial
- In general, according to the feedback respondents were very satisfied with the event
- Participants were extremely satisfied with the catering and the location 😊