



**Erasmus + Project No  
609068-EPP-1-2019-1-FI-EPPKA3-VET-NETPAR**

**Together for Future VETskills - ToVET**

**Best Practice Card - Finland**

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## General Information:

In Finland we received 14 answers from our national and international partners. From those answers, two of them from international partners and 12 from partner VET colleges in Finland.

Most of the best practices have been related to mobility (internationalisation and dissemination) and digitalisation & virtuality in supporting and reporting. All mapped best practices has been selected for analyse.

### 1- International Mobilities

- Vamia: International staff training day
- Vamia: International activities and projects
- Omnia: Shared expertise in own organisation
- Omnia. Staff internationalisation in own organisation
- Brahe: Internationalisation is for everyone

### 2- International Cooperation

- Kainuu Vocational College: Global Networks
- Luovi: Canada Network
- NetPort Science Park (Sweden): The BBVET International Training Year

### 3- International Work-based learning (WBL)

- Ylä-Savo Vocational College: Ponsse-polku (Ponsse path)

### 4- International Digitalisation & Virtuality

- Vamia: Electronic Porfolio for students going abroad
- SAMledu: Virtual mobilities
- Kainuu Vocational College: Digitization of mobility support tools and services
- SAMledu: WhatsApp in guidance
- Luovi: Homepage of the College's international activities



## Presentation/Description of the method

### 1. International Mobilities

#### ▪ **Vamia: International staff training day**

Short programs numbers that are varied in nature (panel, interviews, online-meetings with people abroad, having staff and students from different departments participating in the program, staff presenting all international projects, international food for lunch).

Having people of very different background and international experience participating so that everyone in the audience receives something for them.

**Target groups:** All organisational staff from principal to janitor.

**Benefits:** Every one receives same info concerning international activities. Day is the place of cross-disciplinary learning and new ideas.

#### ▪ **Vamia: International activities and projects**

Staff training day of all staff: Possibilities facilitated by internationalisation.

Introduction speech, orientation and goals of the training day. The goal to get all staff to know about the international activities and how internationalisation benefits the students, staff and the develop of the school as a whole.

A varied panel with as many different fields and activities involved as possible (youth students, adult student, management, teachers (experienced and not experienced), international students from other countries, employers welcoming international students, companies abroad welcoming your students).

The whole session can also be filmed and recorded to show to people that could not attend.

**Target groups:** Management, teachers and staff of VET schools.

**Benefits:** Management and staff will learn what benefits there are of international activities and projects (for students, staff and the development of the school). Management and staff will know what international activities there is in their school. The Management and staff know what to do in case they want to get internationally involved.



- **Omnia: Shared expertise in own organisation**

There's not only one expert or separate team dealing with internationalisation, but there is also a network of teachers, study counsellors and other members of the faculty taking part in the activities by recruiting students and guiding them. This way we can make sure to involve all possible candidates from all fields to take part in the activities.

**Target groups:** VET students

**Benefits:** The message reaches more students than otherwise would be possible.

- **Omnia. Staff internationalisation in own organisation**

Involving staff of all categories and fields in hosting international guests. There are in normal circumstances annually several hundreds of international guests visiting Omnia. They are usually interested in the implementation of VET studies and therefore it's crucial to have all possible staff categories involved in the visits. This also serves as a great opportunity for staff members to practice their language skills and to update their own knowledge and expertise.

**Target groups:** VET staff

**Benefits:** Internal benefit: Increased knowledge and expertise of staff members. This has also served as the first step on the road towards staff mobility. External benefit: Versatile picture of Finnish VET to visitors.

- **Brahe: Internationalisation is for everyone**

Internationality in VET is concentrated in girls and students that already are international with good knowledge of languages. Internationalization often accumulates for the same students, even from one level of education to another. These young people start internationalization at an early stage and gain international experience and language skills. However, students who are less successful in their studies can often benefit from the international experience even more than the so-called "good students".

The key is to encourage different types of students to internationalize:

- involve as many teachers as possible in international activities
- motivates new participants by telling about the concrete benefits of internationalization
- encourage not to place too much emphasis on eg. English proficiency requirements
- sharing the experiences of earlier exchange students
- use of social media and mobile devices
- coaching is important, students are met several times before and after the exchange
- constant contact with the home country, eg WhatsApp
- reporting on blogs and social media
- include a gender perspective in the institution's internationalization strategy
- shift lengths tailored (not too long) to 2 to 6 weeks



- more competence points from periods abroad through everyday learning

**Target groups:** VET students, specially students who are less successful in their studies.

**Benefits:** The objective is that students should have equal opportunities to internationalize, regardless of place of residence, gender, age, language, culture, health status or socio-economic background. In Brahe's experience, these measures have contributed to this goal.

[Internationalisation for all](#)

## 2. International Cooperation

### ▪ **Kainuu Vocational College: Global Networks**

Finnish vocational colleges work together and implement mobility and other internationalization activities to non-European countries. The networks are generally country-specific, ie. each network co-operates with one specific country.

Finnish National Agency of Education international state grants enable colleges to co-operate with countries and activities that are not supported by EU or Nordic funding.

**Target groups:** Vocational education providers in all countries

**Benefits:** Global destinations are more demanding than European ones and therefore a network-like approach is well suited to them. By working together, no one's workload becomes too great. The network has different skills and it is good to share them, peer learning. Creating partnerships is easier. More detailed and up-to-date information on the target country. Collected and shared common information related to mobility (eg. security issues).

[www.finvet.fi](http://www.finvet.fi)

### ▪ **Luovi: Canada Network**

Canada Network is funded by National Agency of Education in Finland and coordinated by Kainuu Vocational College. There are seven VET providers in the Network.

As one of the Network annual activities we organise a tour of Canadian chefs from Quebec. Two chefs from a partner VET centre teach in VET colleges in Finland every year for a month. The tour takes place in different locations in Finland, 3 to 4 VET colleges take part during one month and then the following year the other 3-4 VET colleges welcome the quebecien chefs. The duration of the workshops in one college is one week. We have arranged the cooking tours since 2015.

The preparations are made in the network of Finnish VET colleges. The content:

- working together with the students
- quebecien menu, ingredients from Canada



- visitors can come and join the lunches/dinners

During the tour in Finland the Canadian chefs can also meet to outgoing students and staff and get to know them before the placement in Canada. The experiences are shared in the Canada network.

**Target groups:** Hospitality students and staff in VET colleges.

**Benefits:** It is a very good example of internationalisation at home. A lot of students and staff can benefit from the lessons and other staff can join lunches and experience something new and meet the chefs. Students and staff learn English in practise when working with the chefs. The way is to do things from the very beginning so they also learn new practises.

Our activities are reciprocal, we send students and staff to Canada. The tour takes place in October-November and then the students travel to Canada in February-March. This way, they can already get to know each other and it is a part of the preparation of the outgoing students.

#### ▪ **NetPort Science Park (Sweden): The BBVET International Training Year**

The BBVET Mechatronics training has the duration of 10 months and the students will study in three to four countries in the South Baltic region.

Each module is 10 weeks and in total the program offers 4 international exchange modules with professional trainers in a cross-border team. The first module is an introduction to the program with training in group dynamics, teamwork and identification of the student's individual goals.

The students which pass the BBVET education programme are able to work in the following fields:

- mechanical and plant engineering,
- automation technology,
- the fields of vehicle, aircraft or spacecraft,
- information and communication or medical technology.

**Target groups:** Students for the BBVET Mechatronics program are recommended to have experience from the following areas (Cf. *ibid*):

General skill requirements:

- Dexterity and eye-hand coordination (for example, when mounting circuit breakers, replacing wearing parts),
- Care (for example, when analysing and correcting malfunctions),
- Technical understanding and craftsmanship (for example when assembling machines from mechanical and electronic parts),
- Flexibility (e.g. adapting to changing working environments and conditions for mounting inserts).

Relevant school subjects:



- Mathematics (for example for the collection and evaluation of measured values),
- Computer science (for example, dealing with hard and software components, in configuration work),
- Technical work/ technology (for example, for installing mechatronic systems, technical drawing).

**Benefits:** The range of occupations accessible to the holder of the certificate of the programme is quite wide. Mechatronics experts work in the assembly and maintenance of complex machinery, plants and systems in the plant engineering and mechanical engineering sectors or for organisations which purchase and operate such mechatronic systems.

<http://www.bbvvet.eu/mechatronic/>

### 3. International Work-based learning (WBL)

#### ▪ **Ylä-Savo Vocational College: Ponsse-polku (Ponsse path)**

Ylä-Savo Vocational College (YSAO) has developed a study path model for undergraduate students in the field of mechanical engineering and metals, in which students complete 35% of their studies at Ponsse Ltd's factory or various services centers (in many countries), studying the knowledge and skills required for the degree and demonstrating professional competence in the workplace. Student can apply for the Ponsse path in the degrees of sheet metal welder, CNC machiner, machine installer, car mechanic and electrician, as well as warehouse manager during the first year of study.

**Target groups:** Undergraduate students and adults who want to study new skills and competences in technology.

**Benefits:** Students will get good opportunities to develop practical skills in forestry machine maintenance abroad and at the same time they will learn to work in the different cultures with using other language than their own native language.

### 4. International Digitalisation & Virtuality

#### ▪ **Vamia: Electronic Portfolio for students going abroad**

Before the student goes abroad he/she participates in preparation. During the preparation the student makes an electronic "international folder" in the cloud that he/she shares with the international coordinator, the vocational mentor in the own school and the study counsellor.

The student then collects different type of the material in the folder during the whole process from applying to go abroad to being back home again and getting all the learning (formal and in-formal learning) recognised. In updating this folder in the cloud is very important in an emergency situation when the student is abroad.



During the trip the student can add any information to the folder to show proof of what he/she learnt. In addition he/she has it all in one place, easily accessible in case all travel documents etc. are lost during the trip or there is any other emergency situations that some else need the information, the sending institution can check that the student has prepared all necessary before travelling away.

**Target groups:** Students, international coordinator and vocational mentor in the own school

**Benefits:** Everything is stored in one place. The sending school can see where in the preparation process the student is. Safety reasons: in case the student loses personal belongings, get robbed or get into an accident where the sending institution needs the information or the travelling documents.

#### ▪ **SAMledu: Virtual mobilities**

Because of Covid 19 we can't travel during this spring and next autumn. We planned to continue our cooperation with our partner organisations anyway.

Virtual mobility can be:

- webinar using Teams/Zoom/Skype, shared tasks to students and working in international groups.
- webinar where partner colleges teacher teaches our students
- teacher cooperation in small or big projects during the lessons, shared tasks to students
- video postcards to partners done by students
- escape room game where the only way to solve the problem is cooperation between the students
- shared on the job learning task where the communication between the students will be by using WhatsApp pictures and videos

**Target groups:** VET students and staff.

**Benefits:** International skills without traveling.

#### ▪ **Kainuu Vocational College: Digitization of mobility support tools and services**

Creation of student mobility documents as Memorandum of Understanding and Learning Agreement are digitized. They are created through a student management programme that is used in most Finnish vocational schools.

**Target group:** Teachers and international coordinators who prepare these agreements with foreign receiving partners.

**Benefits:** Same kind of system is used also in domestic training of vocational students. So the teachers already know how to use it. The information form is mostly in Finnish language but the documents will be created in English. The system saves a lot of time and the documents are filed at once.



- **SAMledu: WhatsApp in guidance**

When a student or a group of students is going abroad and the group members know their destination country a WhatsApp group is created. In this group there are the students, their teacher and the members of the SAMledu international team.

Through WhatsApp students can easily and in an informal way contact their teacher and the members of the international team already before the departure and especially during their exchange period they can tell about their joys and sorrows in the destination country. In case some problems occur WhatsApp group is the first step to tell about them.

When a group of foreign students arrives in SAMledu we very often create a WhatsApp group for the foreign students, the members of the international team and tutor students. Through WhatsApp we can ask how they are doing in the work placement and inform about freedom activities and the foreign students can ask us for advice and help.

**Target groups:** SAMledu students during their exchange period, the teacher of the student group, members of the international team. Foreign students during their exchange period in Finland, Finnish tutor students, members of the international team.

**Benefits:** Quick accessibility of students to give guidance. WhatsApp is free of charge.

- **Luovi: Homepage of the College's international activities**

Students and staff members at Luovi Vocational College are sharing their experiences abroad on this. Also they share information for their international visitors and internationalization at home on these pages.

**Target groups:** Students and staff members at Luovi Vocational College are sharing their experiences abroad on this. Also they share information for their international visitors and internationalization at home on these pages.

**Benefits:** On place where everything concerning international activities of the College is collected. The students, staff and the visitors can find info easy.

<https://luovi.fi/international/>

## General objectives

### International Mobilities

- Internationalisation and dissemination
- Intercultural exchanges
- Social inclusion
- Know-how between VET centers

### International Cooperation



- Creation of cooperation networks
- Virtual cooperation
- New methodologies
- Making common training programme based on compared curriculums and syllabus from different countries

### **International Work-based learning (WBL)**

- WBL development
- Encourage cooperation in company networks

### **International Digitalisation & Virtuality**

- New ideas for data management
- Dissemination of the mobility benefits through social media
- Development of virtual cooperation

### **Target group – participants**

- VET students
- VET staff
- VET management
- VET organisations
- Continuous learners
- Companies

### **Why it has been selected as good practice:**

The criteria used for mapping:

- innovativeness of the project
- economically possible methods and resources are used
- practise increases quality of results in internationalisation activities
- based on use of digital technology and social media

### **Final comment**

In Finland, projects promote deep and diverse cooperation amongst our member organizations, linking them with international partners, and connecting them to new opportunities for future skills and collaboration.