

Description of an example of successful national/local VET programmes for learners with SEN in Finland

1) Short abstract

- Finnish example: VET for students with SEN in practice - case Luovi Vocational College (VET SEN) and Luovi's co-operation with mainstream VET provider including their VET SEN approach and practices.
- Framework for Finnish VET SEN including integration, inclusion and segregation
- Luovi (www.luovi.fi) is the largest VET SEN provider in Finland, provided by the Pulmonary Association, financed by the Finnish state, operates nationwide on 26 locations, staff 880, 1460 students with e.g. mental, physical or social health problems, development delays or disorders and learning difficulties
- Luovi offers 7 fields of education and training (24 occupations) as well as preparatory instruction and guidance, adult education (1300 students/year) with a wide range of guidance, support services and partnerships
- Luovi works in close co-operation with local and regional mainstream VET providers and also with other VET SEN providers

2) Highlights / Uniqueness

- Accessibility of the entire age group in VET studies and social participation of all is the basis for all activities at Luovi
- Guidance to VET in partnerships
- Successful training and employment through individual learning paths, support and financial practices (e.g. cost free studies)
- Learning by doing, practical learning environment (e.g. in Luovi's cafés, restaurants shops), on-the-job learning and vocational skills demonstrations, international student activities
- Development of innovative solutions in partnerships e.g. with universities, non-profit organizations and other vet providers including TaitajaPlus-competition (Finnish Abilympics)
- VET SEN teacher and staff training

3) Availability of evaluation data

Demographical data: applicants/in-takes, drop-outs, meeting the objectives of studies including placement, criteria for VET SEN (based on the Finnish financing system for VET SEN), gender

School process data: strategy, mission, vision, values, process descriptions, key objectives curricula

Student learning data: vocational skills demonstrations, certificates (e.g. adapted studies), TaitajaPlus –competition (Finnish Abilympics) results, international mobility

Perceptions data: student feed-back system and results

Strengths and challenges in VET SEN based on peer review and other evaluations