

New perspectives on future competences and the capabilities of adult learners in Nordic countries



Presentation at the GRASPING THE FUTURE conference
8.6.2007 Leena Jokinen



TURUN KAUPPAKORKEAKOULU
Turku School of Economics



Project facts

- Coordinated by the Education and Training Service Centre - Fræðslumiðstöð atvinnulífsins.
- Financed by the Nordic Council -Nordiska Ministerrådet.
- A part of the Nordic network of adult learning - Nordiskt nätverk för vuxnas lärande (NVL).
- Started in the beginning of the year 2005, and the final report is due by the end of year 2007
- The project team: six persons; one person from each Nordic country and a coordinator from Iceland
- Budget ca. 100 000 €

The project team



30.9.2008

Think-tank aims and objectives

1. Contribute to the ongoing work of the Nordic Council in forming strategies for competitive economy in the Nordic countries
2. Focus on the future competencies, especially in the field of life-long-learning and the future of education
2. The starting point is the Nordic council report Nordic region as a Global winner region. Tracking the Nordic competitiveness Model
3. The outcome will be a critical and reflective report for policy and decision makers, practitioners and other professionals involved in competence development

Starting points

- What are the future images of Nordic society and working life?
- What are the competences, which individuals and organizations will we need in order to develop competitive abilities in the future society?
- What are the adequate educational structures and learning methods to develop these competences?
- In what way the Nordic culture and way of life will form a basis for winning strategy and what competences need to be developed and flourished in order to create unique frontrunner products and services in a global world?

Working methods

- Analysed reports connected to the future of learning and education, innovation policies, competence building, national strategies and policy reports etc.
- Project meetings for face-to-face discussions and reflections
- Dialogs with different national experts.
- Midterm seminar organised in August 2006

Overview of the results

- Sustainable welfare society linked to global competitiveness
- Nordic value basis as starting point for the Nordic winner position
- Competitive edge is based on culture in Nordic societies

Future competence development

- Three categories of issues concerning future competence development:
 - individual level,
 - work life and economy level,
 - institutional and educational level

Individual level

- Inclusion – everyone should take part
- Competences are bound with social abilities
- Adult education promotes tolerance
- Develop abilities to take social responsibility in order to increase welfare of societies
- Develop independency, self awareness, self-reliance and responsibility
- Develop well-being and basic competences
- Promote critical reflective attitudes and thinking
- Foster creativity, entrepreneurship and innovations
- Develop new basic competences e.g. foreign languages, ICT-skills, entrepreneurship, technical device usage skills
- Flexibility and mobility open up new possibilities in working life
- Yes to Nordic identity!

Working life

- Successful innovation and development policy needs new platforms for interaction with all educational institution and working life organizations
- Accreditation and acknowledgement of basic skills and key competences within working life
- Develop interaction between different research cultures in order to promote innovations
- Need for new finance structures for individuals to combine institutional and work-based learning
- Need for new multifaceted networks and structures for effective continuing education
- Demand and supply of adult education need to have more contact and use more extensively each others experiences
- Good adult learning procedures contribute to regional development and competitive economy
- ICT skills are key for successful economy
- Entrepreneur education creates understanding for dynamics of local based economies and increases understanding of global perspectives
- Adult education programs have not focused enough to issues of small businesses in the global economy

Institutional level

- Develop overview of adult education and give responsibility of continuing and further education to all stakeholders
- Create new forms of education and learning with the help of interaction between formal, informal and non-formal learning
- Create cross sector interaction for entrepreneur economy
- Develop further flexible accreditation, validation and recognition of all learning
- Develop new teacher and learner roles
- Use coaching in a wider scale
- Adult learning environments should cultivate usage of tacit knowledge and practical skills
- Develop pedagogical innovations for group learning and other methods favourable for learning
- Culture and experiences are an important part in a learning process, and this should be taken into account in adult learning
- Create strategies to include excluded groups in education and learning

Some suggestions

- Development of systems and structures in education in order to reinforce the high quality and broad basis of education
- Future competence development is based on crossing realms and interdisciplinary thinking patterns, mobility, flexible arenas for learning, and encounters over different borders
- Focus on learning in working life, individual ability to take responsibility and active citizenship, from knowledge / research to competences / active abilities
- Create overall picture of competence development systems, methods and infrastructures

Prosperous future for Nordic societies – creative economy, social high-tech and innovations

- The accelerating speed of change is the main driver of the creative economy
- Social high tech means better decision-making and planning processes, better education, health and innovation systems
- Creation of dynamic and global innovation environments presupposes a new kind of co-operation culture
- New Kalmar Union???

Thank you



Turku School of Economics Finland Futures Research Centre

www.tse.fi/tutu

Leena Jokinen E-mail: leena.jokinen@tse.fi

30.9.2008