

Abstract of Speech Template

Title: Nobody's left behind - Youth Guarantee and the services linked to it in Tampere

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Contents

Finland is a Nordic welfare society with long traditions of developing methods and services for equal wellbeing for everybody. Keeping a welfare society functioning is an ongoing process. Depending on the global, national and local economical, cultural and societal changes constant development work of new and innovative methods for emerging challenges is needed.

One of the biggest challenges in Finland is the social exclusion of youth. Social exclusion of youth is a human tragedy and a loss for the young personally, but also economically for the whole society. All the efforts and development work has to be done to prevent it. Early intervention and supporting the disadvantaged groups are effective methods to decrease inequality and risk of marginalization.

Youth guarantee

The social guarantee for young people was introduced in 2013 with a view to promoting employment and preventing social exclusion among young people. The guarantee sets out to provide all young people with realistic opportunities to pursue and complete a post-basic qualification and find employment, while ensuring that young people are not left to get stuck in a period of non-activity for too long. The situation in Finland in 2011 was gloomy; there were about 40 000 NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) under the age of 30 who had only basic degree. It was estimated that expenses raising from NEETs were to be around 300 M€ each year!

The youth guarantee guarantees that each person under 25 years of age, and recent graduates under 30 years of age, will be offered work, a work trial, or a study, workshop or labour market rehabilitation place within three months of registering as an unemployed jobseeker. The youth guarantee also includes an educational guarantee, which guarantees a study place for each young person finishing basic education.

The effective enforcement of youth guarantee requires cooperation. The collective responsibility adopted by authorities, businesses, organisations and young people is integral to the full success of the social guarantee. Finland's youth guarantee is founded on the Public-Private-People Partnership approach, with young people themselves being active participants in shaping their own future. A shared will and a spirit of voluntary work are needed from the whole society.

Pillars of the youth guarantee consist of 1) Education guarantee: Every person completing basic education will be guaranteed a place in upper secondary school, vocational education, apprenticeship training, a youth workshop, rehabilitation or a place in some other form of study.

2) The skills programme for young adults provides young people under the age of 30 that hold no qualification or degree with the opportunity to complete a vocational qualification or a study module. It is possible to complete a vocational or specialist vocational qualification or initial vocational education as part of the programme.

3) Employment and Economic Development services (TE services) for youth (Public Employment Services, PES). Unemployed young should register as a jobseeker at the TE Office. The TE Office will prepare an employment plan, and will offer work, a traineeship, a study place, or a place in a workshop or in rehabilitation within three months of registering as unemployed. These services will improve the young person's possibilities of being successful in the job market and finding a job.

4) Rehabilitative services including municipal social and health services.

5) Other individual services for young people, such as youth outreach work and youth workshop activities.

Ohjaamo (Youth Guidance center)

Ohjaamo, one-stop guidance center, is a place targeting everyone under the age of 30. It brings services together under one roof. Ohjaamo offers information and guidance in matters related to education, employment and well-being. At Ohjaamo young people themselves take the central role in planning their path forward. Young people can come to Ohjaamo alone or with a friend or parents. The service is free of charge and open to everyone.

Ohjaamo can be found in 70 communities, in each of Finland's regions. The One-Stop Guidance Centers are being developed as a collaboration project among several ministries with local municipal authorities. Taking part are the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The One-Stop Guidance Centre operation model is built on One-Stop Guidance Centres providing cross-sectoral service, basic

services from various administrative branches and a wide cooperative network. The model is based on agreements and partnerships between operators. Enterprises and the third sector are also involved.

In Ohjaamo Tampere 62 % of customers are between the ages of 18 and 24 and 26% of customers are between the ages of 25 to 30. Usually customer spends 45 to 60 minutes in Ohjaamo. Most customers revisit Ohjaamo with an appointment. On average there are 5 to 25 new customers per day without an appointment. Pop up Ohjaamo moves wherever the customers are. In Ohjaamo there are group activities for young people, e.g. social skills support group. Ohjaamo Tampere has received excellent feedback from its customers.

Results and findings

According to the Statistics Finland the amount of NEETs had decreased from 12,1% (2015) to 10,7% (2018). At the end of October 2018 there were 28 400 unemployed people under 25 year old which was 3 900 less compared to the situation year before.

The amount of NEETs aged 15 to 24 in Tampere has decreased from 14,9% (2015) to 12,6% (2017) and the amount of under 25 year old unemployed people has decreased from 2 451 (October 2017) to 1 683 (October 2018).

After the first years of youth guarantee the research monitor showed some findings. There was an increased attention to the youth unemployment and to the need to further develop services for unemployed young. Youth guarantee was raised to the center of politics at local level. It increased cooperation among actors: more than 50 % of organizations offering services for young have changed the way they operate. The changes concern resources available, day to day operating and networking. The availability of social and health services were estimated to be inadequate. Greatest challenges were estimated to be the lack of rehabilitation service for those suffering from addiction and the lack of mental health services. Finding proper services for young can be challenging depending on municipality where the young lives.

Most of the professionals working with young feel that the possibilities to implement the guarantee are good or at least fair.

Unfortunately, the youth unemployment still is a challenge and the figures show again increase. In February 2019, there were a total of 616,000 young people aged 15 to 24. Of them, 242,000 were employed and 59,000 were unemployed. The number of young people in the active population, i.e. the employed and unemployed, was 301,000. In February, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24, that is, the proportion of the unemployed among the labour force, stood at 19.7 per cent, which was 1.5 percentage points lower than one year previously. The trend of the unemployment rate among young people was 16.0 per cent. The share of unemployed young people aged 15 to 24 among the population in the same age group was 9.6 per cent. In Tampere the youth unemployment rate was 15,18% in September 2019.

The current government in Finland tries to tackle the challenge by promoting youth activities and proposed e.g. the raise of minimum school leaving age to 18 years. The government plans to introduce a range of study and support options for compulsory education, such as voluntary additional primary and lower secondary education, folk high schools, workshops, rehabilitation and preparatory education, which may be included in the range of upper secondary qualifications.

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