



European Union
European Regional Development Fund
European Social Fund

Learning Market Activities

- Keys for Promoting the Wellbeing of the Pohjois-Savo Population

The aim of the project has been the development of training in wellbeing, in order to meet the challenges of the working life in the future and in to obtain skilled labour, the development of entrepreneurship and services in the well-being sector, as well as the development of new methods of work that promote the well-being of the local population and the strengthening of the collaboration network in the area.

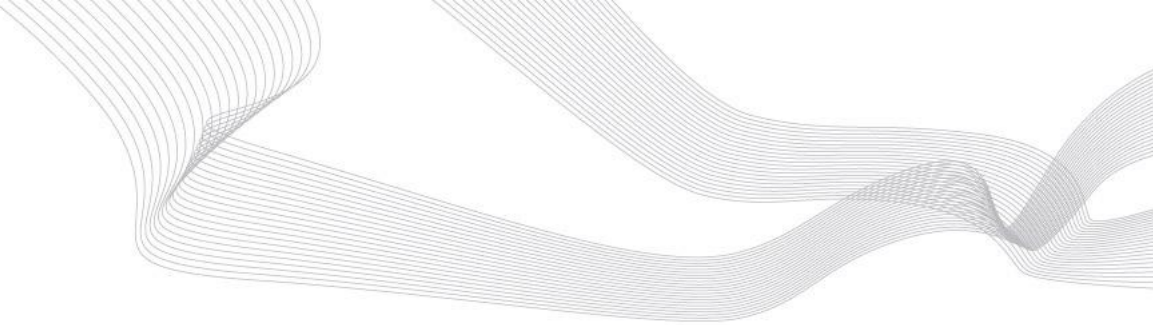
Measures and Results

A new learning environment, VireTori, has been planned and initiated in the project, in which the Savonia Polytechnics and Savo Vocational College students offer multi-professional well-being services for the local population through the performance of doctrines, while being part of their studies. The activities can be implemented in basic and post graduate studies. The services are offered in the facilities of the schools, as well as in other locations according to the activity. Two physical places, VireTori/Valkeinen and VireTori/Pressa, have been established for the activities.

Well-being services, which have been planned in the project and implemented at VireTori, comprise creative activities, health measurements, assessment of functional capacities and capabilities in support of activities, advice and guidance, playground activities, club activities, as well as work in family and customer's homes. These services have been directed to personal carers and their close persons, child families, organisations and members of associations, customers and staff of the nursing and care sector, customers and staff of activity centres, primary school students and private VireTori customers. In 2009, VireTori activities had 4959 customer visits. During the project, a new job position for VireTori coordinator was created for VireTori.

Training on multi-professionalism, on performing doctrines and on well-being was organised for agents and target groups of the project. Additionally, training associated to economics, nutrition and elderly mental health was directed to target groups.

Leverage from
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During their work, the students saw the experience with customers and their advising as important learning experiences. The students saw as a good thing the fact that they had time for the customers, and that they could interact in different activity environments as they did at home. The possibility of an independent and multi-professional work, customer treatment and acceptance of responsibilities for one's own activities were seen as good learning experiences. According to the students, a period of several weeks provided a better support for the learning than a few days of activity at VireTori.

The customers have perceived VireTori as a low-threshold place, which is easy for one to reach. The service was seen as satisfying, flexible and supportive of the mental health.

The performance of the students was relaxed and the service was friendly, joyful, customer-oriented and skilled. Among other things, the work in family and customer's houses, club activities and food courses helped personal carers and persons living at home to cope with everyday life.

According to the teachers, the process of learning by working with customers was seen as a good teaching method that supports learning. The training organisations and partners in the activities have used their existing collaboration networks and linked themselves to the collaboration in a new way.

After the end of the project, VireTori will continue as an activity of educational institutes consonant to teaching plans.

Basic information of the Project:

Objective:	Regional competitiveness and employment
Programme:	European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme in mainland Finland
Priority axis:	3. Development of skill systems, innovation systems and service systems that improve the working of the labour market, and development of service systems
Total Costs:	674 000 €
Assistance (ESF + Gov.):	600 000 €
Project period:	1.3.2008 – 31.5.2010
Sponsor:	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
Reaisers:	Savonia Polytechnics (Administrator) University of Eastern Finland (co-performer) Savo Consortium for Education (co-performer)