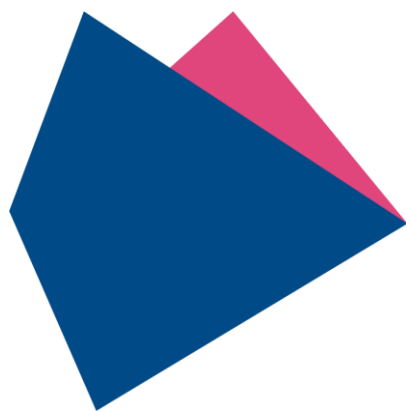


OPPI-mobiili –project 2014-2015 in Vantaa Varia Vocational College

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**VERKKO
VARIA**
VANTAAN AMMATTIOPISTO

The Project is a part of the Finland Ministry of Education and Culture Youth Guarantee program

- The Youth Guarantee will offer everyone under the age of 25, as well as recent graduates under 30, a job, on-the-job training, a study place or rehabilitation within three months after becoming unemployed.
- The OPPI mobiili –project aims to develop solutions for teaching and learning in digital environments and improve teachers' pedagogical practices.
- The aim of these new solutions and pedagogical practices was to answer to the Youth Guarantee program goals, and give Varia college students a chance to study in a unique way (e.g. on-the-job training) and avoid unemployment.
- The Budget of the project was 280 000€.

Results of the project

- The project involved 32 teachers from two colleges and two high schools, over 200 students and 50 companies.
- In the project we mainly created virtual courses (www.verkkovaria.fi) for students for their job-training period.
 - Created mainly 23 courses.
 - Courses were piloted with 200 students.
 - Useful information about the distance learning.
- The Finnish National Board of Education has included the Verkkovaria website to their teachers sites (www.edu.fi/linkkiapaja) for distributing those collaboration practices nationwide.



Results of the project



- The courses of several professional fields (e.g. in hairdressing, tourism, electricity, cars) consist of various individual and collaborative activities.
- Teachers used solutions in which they connected the professional practices to be developed with the use of digital technology;
 - e.g., professional web sites were used for searching information, cameras and videos of mobile tools were used to collect and share outcomes of activities, collaborative environments like blogs were used to collaboratively reflect the outcomes.
 - The learning activities were directly linked to the situations in the workplaces. Closed digital environments (e.g. Fronter, Blogger) were used to share pictures or videos only for the defined group of students and teachers.
- The solution works in very different types of vocational training, and also for students who have difficulties to write or who have not been good on writing: many of the activities emphasize visual outcomes.

Some educational problems related to distance learning in vocational college

- Difficulties to keep contact with students.
 - Students work in different places, they cannot share their experiences and learn from each other.
- Students usually keep various types of diaries during their practicing period etc., but these are mainly shared afterwards, often only to the teacher, and the *issues and ideas during the practicing period have already become outdated*.
- Many workplaces *do not give permission to use mobile phones or tablets at the workplace*, and this creates problems in keeping contact with the students or to ask students to report their learning experiences.
 - A good example is that the mobile devices are not allowed in the restaurants kitchens or hospitals. In some workplaces, it is possible to write about your job during the day (on the coffee break) but even then, pictures and videos might not be allowed.
- Students do not want to write in public, or the workplaces do not want that students publish their daily routines in the Internet.
- Students can/will not do collaborative work if they do not know each other well. They have to have something in common before the collaboration period.

How teachers were trained to dialogical approach?

- Teachers were trained to dialogical approach by researchers Liisa Ilomäki and Minna Lakkala from Helsinki University
 - in workshops (5)
 - Blog for individual designs
 - and giving them online support in special cases.
- Teachers made together a website for all Varia teachers.
 - Teachers were in the same situation when they joined to the project and started learning the new pedagogical approach (first time in projects, first time with new technology etc.)
 - Teachers were supported for dialogical approach by discussing often with them individually and in small groups
 - e.g. talk about what is the collaborative object of activities for students' work and learning.
 - Teachers were supported for technical issues by using Varia Colleges own technical professionals.
 - Teachers had their own tablets and there were also 1500 tablets for Varia students (for use on-the-job-period etc.).

What was good in the project?

- Varia College students got a chance to study in new a unique way, and the the risk of college dropouts will fall.
- Technical support for teachers in almost all the problems were given in timely manner.
- Teachers started to think more about the new pedagogical practices in digital environments.
 - Teachers started to think that the students can do more by themselves and teachers work is also more about guiding.
- Students found new professionals from their workplaces or social networks (like facebook or twitter).

....and what could be improved

- More co-work with each other, discussion and support from the colleagues.
 - More discussion and examples about what is the collaborative object of activities for students' work and learning.



An example from the car industry -course



- In course: Students learn things related to the performance of the vehicle scheduled maintenance. The site promotes the study of different stages of service in an authentic learning environment equipment for workshop or on-the-job learning periods.
- One task in the course: *“Blog what are vehicle's Exhaust Gas Measuring test limits in inspection”*.

=> The blog was full of tailpipe test limits of different kind of cars. Because the exhaust gas measurements indicate the operation of the engine, students learned from each other (and same time from the workplace experts) about pollution devices in different cars, and the mechanical condition of the engine in different cars (the cross fertilization).

Project websites

- Virtual courses developed in Varia Vocational College (in Finnish) are available at the following address: www.verkkovaria.fi.
- See the project websites from www.variaprojektit.fi/oppimobiili (in Finnish)
- Trailer <http://variakoulutuspaiva07012016.blogspot.fi/> (in Finnish)

