



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education

REGIONAL OPERATIONS OF
UNIVERSITIES

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■ WHY ?

- Being a high skill society, Finland needs to develop the whole country, not just university towns
 - Proclaiming oneself as a high skill society is not enough; skills need to be developed equally in all parts of the country
 - In practice, R&D is focused on areas (the Helsinki area, Oulu, Tampere, Turku and Salo) where the major universities and companies (e.g Nokia) are located



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- Compared to its population, Finland has a high number of universities and polytechnics – practically the entire country is covered
 - 20 universities
 - 29 polytechnics
 - The number of students will no longer grow, instead, it is decreasing



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■ WHY ARE REGIONAL OPERATIONS NECESSARY ?

- Skills requirements change – it is increasingly important to retrain adults
 - Today, the skills of employees whose degree or qualification was acquired 10 or 20 years ago are largely outmoded
 - They still have 20 – 35 working years ahead of them !
 - In the future, universities and other institutions of higher learning will invest more and more resources on retraining workers



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- Teaching modes and structures will change
 - Workplace training, or at least training close to the customers
 - Work experience and regional skill requirements need to be taken into account in the training – tailoring to regional and individual needs
- In order for sub-regions to develop in the desired direction, academic expertise need to be brought as close to the various functions of the society as possible, both in the public and private sectors, e.g. in training and business activity



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■ Kymenlaakso

- Not among the most successful regions as far as the financing of research and development is concerned – little public funding for R&D
- The major R&D operator in the area is the Austrian company Andritz, one of the world's leading equipment suppliers for the wood processing industry
- The region will face labour shortage in the future – on the other hand, there is deep-rooted structural unemployment



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- Large-scale enterprises do not need regional units – they can operate with universities and other institutes of higher learning directly, they also have their own R&D departments and training systems
- Decision in big companies are made globally – even decisions to close down operations are made far away from the region affected
- Regional units of universities and other higher institutions of higher learning are required by
 - Small and medium-sized companies, especially growth companies and those that want to become international
 - The public sector: structural modernization of services and municipal departments of education



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■ HOW ?

- Co-operation instead of competition, regional units of universities and institutions of higher learning aim at co-operation, reaching better results through co-operation than through competing with each other
- Partnership with municipalities, other educational organisations and especially with business is required
- Regional forms of co-operation



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- The University Network of Kymenlaakso
 - Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences, the Kotka and Kouvola units of the University of Helsinki, Lappeenranta University of Technology as partners
 - The co-operation is governed by a regional university strategy (2002 – 2005, 2006 – 2010) which was prepared by all parties in co-operation and which specifies the key regional research and training requirements to be developed together
 - Environmental and safety sectors
 - Promoting entrepreneurship
 - Shared support services for organisations



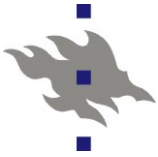
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- Shared support services for organisations ?
 - Establishment of a guidance and support system for adult students irrespective of the educational institute they are enrolled at
 - Establishment of shared regional scientific library and information services
 - Providing a service for businesses an "one-stop" principle where companies can e.g. order a plan for their personnel training requirements



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- In the future, the aim is to co-operate with vocational upper secondary schools; the expertise of the network encompasses designing the implementation of the adult education system – the contents and instructors are provided by the network partners
- The network does not get any external financing as such, it uses the organizations' own resources
 - Additional financing comes from regional financing sources and the EU (project-specific financing)



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■ What ?

■ Adult education

- Gives specific qualification – e.g. that of a teacher or pharmacist – to those who are already have a university degree
- Master's programme in some new field which can not yet be studied in the university (network communication) or some established master's programme in a field with a shortage of skilled employees (social welfare sector)
- Long-duration further training courses
- Short seminars on current issues



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■ R&D

- Research and development that meets the needs of businesses, public administration and the region
- In Kymenlaakso
 - Development of general education
 - Development of counselling services for adult students
 - Meeting the educational needs of immigrants with academic backgrounds – upgrading of qualification for employment in Finland
 - The environmental sector, especially projects related to protecting the Gulf of Finland sea area
 - Cross-border co-operation projects
 - Project related to the history of our region