



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO  
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

# Lifelong Learning in Finland and Europe

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## Structure of presentation

- Definition of UCE
- University adult education in Finland
- European cooperation; EUCEN
- Priorities in Europe



## Definition of adult learning / lifelong learning

- All forms of learning undertaken by adults after having left their initial education and training
- Benefits:
  - -greater employability,
  - -increased productivity,
  - -better-quality employment,
  - -better health,
  - -lower incidence,
  - -greater individual well-being and fulfilment



## The challenges to be faced in Europe

- Better competitiveness
  - 72 million low-skilled workers
  - 50% of new jobs require tertiary level qualifications
- Demographic change
  - 1/3 of the population is over 60 years
  - Number of youngpeople will fall by 15%
  - Imigration is growing
- Social inclusion; risk groups
  - Low level of initial training
  - Imigrants
  - Rural isolation



# University Continuing Education

- Continuing education
- professional skills
- for university graduates (Master, Doctor)
- short courses, seminars, longer Professional Development programmes, part-time master programmes
- organised by UCE centres
- payable or funded by external funds
- Scientific Continuing education
- Doctor-programmes
- for Masters aiming at Doctors degree
- Doctoral programmes, research projects
- organised by faculties
- free of charge



# University adult education in Finland

- Adults in universities: about 60% over 25 years (125.000 students total)
- Open university; parts of degree studies 80.000 students
- University of the third age 7.000 students
- Continuing education 121.200 students
  - short courses
  - long programmes (PD)
  - open learning centres
  - Labour market training for unemployed university graduates and professionals
  - career development services
- Studia Generalia –lectures open to all
- Organisational and regional development programmes



## Continuing Education in Universities

- from short courses up to more extensive specialization studies (20-40 credits). The focus depends on the orientation of the university.
- Short, topical courses are suitable for updating your knowledge in your own field. Long specialization studies give an opportunity to increase your expertise, and even specialize in an entirely new occupation.
- target groups: academic professionals, training for a new profession, certain occupational groups (also general courses available)
- Often courses are arranged on demand and planned together with the organization that ordered it.
- Includes training for the unemployed and those who are in danger of losing their jobs



## Situation at the Universities

- Many universities have a continuing / adult education centre
- Normally so called special institute under rector
- Part of the strategical plans of the universities
- Third task of the universities is mentioned in the university law
- Universities can make a company for adult / continuing education





## **Incentives available to motivate faculty members to participate in UCE development and teaching**

- Money: for teaching / planning / implementation of a project
- Project funding, eg. EU
- Project management services
- Flexible and effective service
- Possibility to multidisciplinary projects, which can be difficult in basic education

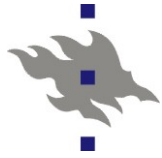
1991 | 2006

*EUCEN*



15th  
anniversary

The European Association for University Lifelong Learning



# *EUCEN*

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



### ◆ Vision

- Enable members to serve most effectively the people of Europe.
- Influence the development of ULLL policy.
- Promote an European model of LLL and promote interaction.
- Contribute to a LLL policy.

### ◆ Mission

- Exchange of experience and information.
- Provide contacts.
- Harmonise levels of Quality for ULLL amongst members.
- Develop University Credit Transfer.
- Influence European policy on ULLL.



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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



## ◆ Strategy

- Assist ULLL policy makers.
- Provide a forum to discuss ULLL ideas.
- Provide an accurate and rapid source of information.
- Help members strengthen their contacts.
- Encourage the exchange of information.
- Provide academic and administrative support.
- Support members wishing to develop European LLL research.
- Provide opportunities for LLL staff development.
- Seek opportunities for student exchange.



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EUROPEAN PROJECTS



◆ CURRENT PROJECTS:

- ADD-Life! - Adding quality of Life through intergenerational learning via universities.
- BeFlex - Benchmarking Flexibility in the Bologna Reforms.
- DISCO - European Dictionary on Skills and Competences.
- DOLCETA Maintenance - Developing on-line consumer education and training for adults.
- EQUIPE Plus - European Quality in Individualised Pathways in Education.
- TENCompetence Consortium.
- LILARA (EUCEN is the external evaluator).



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## MEMBERSHIP



- ◆ 164 universities as full members in 32 different European countries.
- ◆ 12 universities as associate members from 10 different countries.
- ◆ 27 national networks for UCE/LLL and other international networks or institutions as affiliate members.
- ◆ 7 affiliate members represented by individual (on behalf of non-formal international networks).

TOTAL of 210 MEMBERS in 42 different countries



## Future perspectives

- The need is growing: over 50% of an age group have higher education = growing number of potential participants
- Objective is to have 12% participation per year
- The third task of universities: clear role
- Who is paying / funding system?
- Integration to regional development
- Outplacement of staff development / business organisations, public sector



## Future, 2

- New qualifications are needed: long professional courses
- Sabbatical system: 6 months every 6 years
- International cooperation / markets