



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

Career guidance and youth outreaching strategies

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Involving NEETs in the Youth Guarantee scheme through outreaching, guidance and counselling activities.

Finnish youth work model and methods



Finnish youth work model and methods

- Finland has a strong tradition of municipal youth work. Elsewhere in Europe, youth work is mainly carried out in youth organisations.
- Administratively, youth work services are part of education services.
- Youth work legislation (Youth act): the grounds for youth work are laid down in the Youth Act.
- Guiding document: the Government defines its youth policy objectives and measures to achieve them in [The National Youth work and Youth Policy Programme](#).
- Youth research and education: Finland emphasises the quality of youth work, the training of youth workers and the use of digital technology in youth work.

Finnish model for youth work

- The first youth workers were hired in municipalities at the end of the 1940s, separated from the parties' youth organizations and their ideology.
- Nowadays, Finnish youth work essentially includes municipalities, youth organizations and youth work in parishes.
- Background to education and culture, free-time activities and voluntary hobbies.
 - The principles are openness and inclusion, cooperation with different actors and multidisciplinary.
 - The task of the municipality is to create preconditions for local youth work and activities by organising services and facilities for young people and by supporting young people's civic activities by taking local conditions into account.

Youth work actors, partners and stakeholders

- The Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.
 - The Regional State Administrative agencies.
 - Municipalities, wellbeing services counties (social- ja health services), PES-offices, youth organisations and other non-governmental organisation, other communities and young people.
- Into – Association for Outreach Youth Work and Workshop Activities.
 - Youth sector educational institutions: Vocational schools, universities of applied sciences, university.
 - Finnish Youth Research Society.

Theoretical grounds

- Humanistic perception of people:
 - every individual is important as they are, regardless of their background, abilities or other characteristics.
- Holistic concept of human beings:
 - a person must always be faced as a unique individual influenced by all aspects of human existence.
- Constructive vision:
 - learning is an active and social activity of the learner, where the learner interprets his or her observations and new knowledge based on his or her previous knowledge, ideas and experiences. In this way the learner continuously builds his image of the world.

Social empowerment

- Means improving social functional capacity, everyday life management and life management. Is about strengthening people's key life skills. The aim is to improve the individual's ability to act and cope in social situations and to be involved in communities.
- Social empowerment means both preventive and corrective work, measures to improve life skills and prevent social exclusion, early intervention and support in life challenges.
- Young people are supported comprehensively and through multi-professional work, communality and inclusion, based on their needs, with a view to the future.

Outreach youth work as a working method

- The purpose of outreach youth work is to reach a young person in need of support and help him or her to receive services and other support that promote his or her growth, independence, social inclusion and other life management as well as access to education and the labour market.
 - Outreach youth work offers to young people early support, if they decide to accept it, and strengthens their preparedness to move forward in life. For young people, participation is always voluntary.
 - Outreach youth workers are where young people are, offering them opportunities for safe, confidential encounters with adults.
 - They help young people find answers to their problems and questions and assist them in finding the services they want and need.
- <file:///C:/Users/03039860/Downloads/Outreach-Youth-Work-Handbook-The-Finnish-Way-Into-2022.pdf>

How can we reach young people?

The Youth Act contains a provision that requires that some authorities must disclose information on young people

- The Vet provider shall disclose information on young people other than those within the scope of compulsory education who discontinue their studies in vocational education and training, general upper secondary education or preparatory education for education leading to a qualification or degree;
- The Defence Forces and the Centre for non-military Service shall disclose information on young people who are released from military or non-military service due to a lack of fitness for military service or who interrupt their service. (general conscription)
- The education provider may disclose information on a young person within the scope of compulsory education who has completed basic education and who is not placed in studies after basic education or who discontinues studies.
 - [National yhteysivään.fi](https://www.nationalyhteys.fi) - contact system

Workshop activities for young people as a working methods

- The purpose of youth workshop activities is to improve young people's capabilities for accessing education, completing education and accessing the open labour market or other services they need by means of coaching. The purpose of workshop activities is to improve young people's life and career management skills and to promote their growth, independence and inclusion in society.
 - Support the participants' engagement and management of everyday life. Focus on effective and multi-disciplinary co-operation between employment services, education services, youth services, social services and healthcare. Combine individual coaching, job tasks that strengthen the participants' skills and peer support.
 - functionality, goal-orientation, working life orientation, communality, equal encounters, building trust and supporting inclusion, networking and multi-sectoral cooperation.

Government special grants

- The Ministry of Culture and Education makes central government funding (eur 13 million in 2024) available to the Regional State Administrative agencies. Agencies grant funding to actors in their area.
- The call for applications for a discretionary government grant and the application instructions are drawn up together; the grounds for the instructions are laid down in the Act on discretionary Government transfers and the Youth Act.
- The granting of funding is based on discretion. The award criteria take into account, for example, the employment rate in the region, an estimate of the number of NEET youth, the state of public services in the municipality/region.
- The grant covers outreach youth work payroll costs – eur 30,000 granted per staff-year of outreach youth worker.
- Beneficiaries are required to report on the use of the grant.

Collection of statistical data

- User statistics are based on register data of actors. The Regional State Administrative agencies collect register data with annual inquiries.
- In 2023
 - 520 outreach youth workers;
 - 30,000 requests for contact to outreach youth work => 26,500 young people are reached => > 20,000 in longer guidance. On average, outreach youth work takes about 1 ½ years.
 - <https://nuorisotilastot.fi/en/1921/visualisoinnit-en/outreach-youth-work-2/>
 - there were 219 workshops for young people; 12,200 young people were in training.
 - <https://nuorisotilastot.fi/en/1838/visualisoinnit-en/youth-workshop-activities-2/>

SOVARI indicator of social empowerment

Produces information on the quality of outreach youth work and workshop activities and their impacts on life skills.

- The data are produced annually at the national, regional and service unit level. Based on an anonymous online survey.
- Tells the perspective of service users. Collects important feedback, provides information on the socially reinforcing impacts and describes the skills young people have acquired in their own lives during the service period.

Social empowerment is examined in five areas:

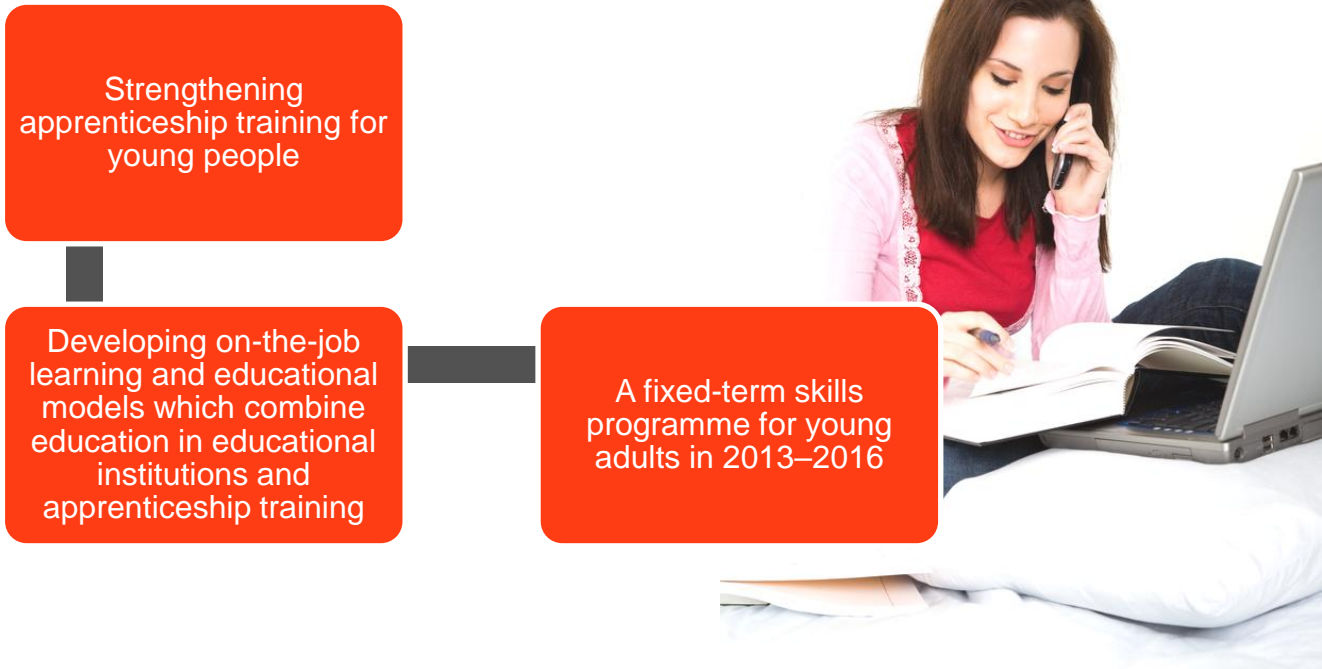
- self-knowledge
- social skills
- managing everyday life
- study and working life skills
- life management and goal-orientation

Benefits of use

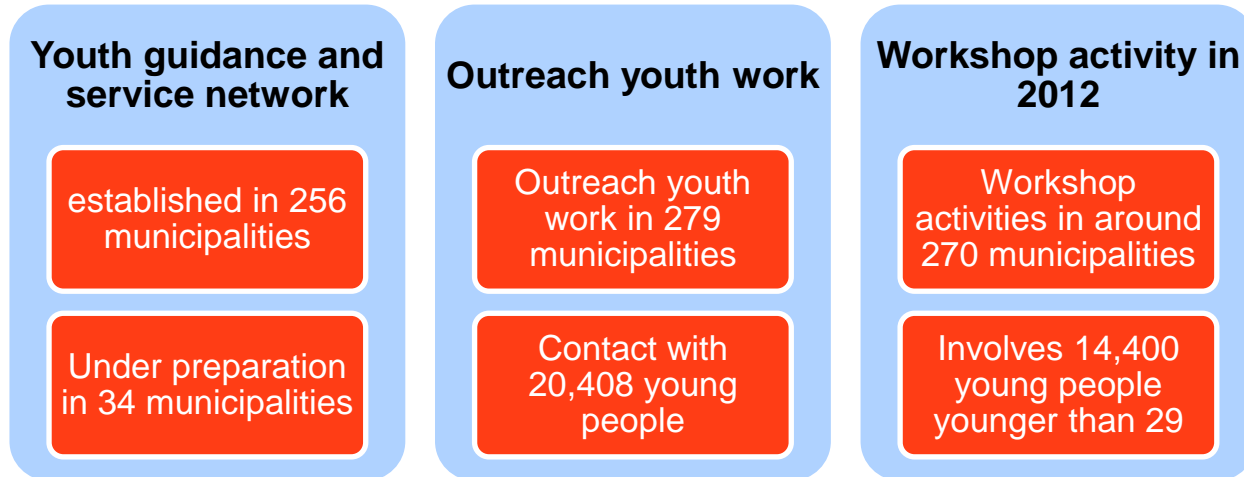
- for employees: helps to say what outreach youth work and workshop activities are about; identify the strengths and development areas of one's own activities; compare your own activities with others.
- to decision-makers and cooperation partners: to obtain information on the human and societal significance of services.
- young people: can influence the development of services; strengthen inclusion.

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The implementation of the educational guarantee



Cross-sectoral authority network, youth outreach and youth workshops in 2012





Thank you!