

Mr. Mika Saarinen

Education: Master of Philosophy, University of Helsinki
(theoretical philosophy, international affairs and adult education)

Number of years of professional experience: Slightly over 20 years

Current position (employer, position, employed since):

Counsellor of Education, Head of Unit (since 01/2020)
Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI, Unit for Internationalisation of General and Adult Education

Since 1/2017 also Deputy Director of the Finnish Erasmus+ Agency (as part of his other duties)

Relevant previous professional experience (employer, position, duration):

9/2019 – 12/2019 Counsellor of Education, Head of Unit, Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI,
Coordination unit for EU-programmes

1/2017 – 8/2019 Counsellor of Education, Head of Unit, Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI,
Internationalisation Services for VET

11/2006 – 12/2016 Head of Unit, Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation CIMO

8/2004 – 10/2006 Programme Manager, Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation CIMO

7/2001 – 7/2004 Senior Adviser, Finnish National Board of Education

4/1999 – 6/2001 Project Coordinator, Finnish National Board of Education

Language skills:

Mother tongue: Swedish

	Understanding		Speaking		Writing
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Finnish	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
German	B1	B2	A2	A2	A2
Spanish	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1

Digital skills: Proficient in all relevant tools as well as use of social media etc.

Other relevant information:

Mika Saarinen has worked for twenty years with both higher education and vocational education and training (VET), as well as European Union issues. His experience spans both national and international development work on national level, within the EU and beyond.

Most recently his interests have been towards future trends of working life, education and work-life cooperation, the strategic impact of internationalisation and notably also the skills and competences gained through international experiences. Mika is also focused at issues related to global cooperation in education.

Mika has participated in policy work, conducting studies and surveys, writing guides and manuals as well as lecturing widely within these fields. He sits on number of national and international committees related to the VET and EU-cooperation. He is also the Finnish Government representative at the Governing Board of the European Training Foundation.

Mika is a 1992 alumni of the Lester B. Pearson United World College UWC of the Pacific, Victoria, B.C., Canada.