**Career education – the global and the local**

The Soini comprehensive school (Western Finland) organized an afternoon seminar with the local employers and students from grades 8-9 on December 8, 2022. The seminar focused on experiences of both the students and employers during the annual practical work experience sessions which took place two weeks before the seminar. In accordance with the national core curricula for comprehensive education, the students are entitled to practical work experience periods (“TET” periods in Finnish) before they make their choice for upper secondary level education programs. Annually, TET period placements are available e.g. in machinery, agriculture, green housing, logistics, transport, education and retail trade. One goal of the seminar was to raise awareness of lifelong guidance and reflect on how this local concrete career education activity is linked to the wider national, European, and global context, by using occasion of the Global Careers Month.

According to the students the TET periods provided new experiences and concrete opportunities for working with other employees. The employers perceived the TET periods as important means to inform the students of the current competence needs and long-term investments for future recruitment of employees. In addition, the employer representatives told the students their personal career stories and provide concrete advice for job searching. They mentioned that often the TET period is an opportunity for the students to get their first real working experience and they can refer to this when applying for summer jobs in these companies. The employers emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and upskilling in the current world of work.

**Agenda**

Career education – the global and the local: Feedback seminar on annual practical work experience periods (TET) with students and employers

Time: Thursday, December 8, 2022. 13:00 – 15:00 EET

Place: Soini Comprehensive School, Finland (<https://peda.net/soini/yhtenaiskoulu>)

13:00-13:05 Opening the seminar and introduction of the participants

 Ms Irma Nukarinen, Guidance Counsellor, Soini Comprehensive school

13:05-13:15 Practical work experience as part of career education in Europe and globally

 Dr. Raimo Vuorinen, independent guidance expert, Soini Comprehensive school alumni

13:15-13:25 Links between TET-period in Soini and the Global Careers Month

Cynthia Harrison, CareersNet coordinator, project manager lifelong guidance, VET supporting policy, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop

13:25-15:00 Panel with employer representatives

 Mr. Aki Sammalisto, CEO, Koneurakointi Aki Sammalito OY

 Mr. Esa Järvelä, CEO, EJ-Tarhat OY

 Mr. Tomi Kurunmäki, Puutili KY, Vice-President of Lehtimäki employer association

 Mr. Ilkka Aho, Early childhood education teacher, Laulumaa nursery school

15:00 Closing the seminar

 Ms. Irma Nukarinen, Guidance Counsellor, Soini Comprehensive school

**Local newspaper article published 10 December 2022**: https://www.torstai-lehti.fi/2022/12/10/soinin-kasit-ja-ysit-saivat-ajattelemisen-aihetta/