

Learning by Doing - ESF Project 2010 - 2013

From prison to freedom; from studying to working





Why?

Lack of professional competence is one of the biggest obstacles to social integration and employment for freed prisoners. The possibility of prisoners applying for education can be promoted with varied and timely guidance. The guidance must lay extensive paths with well-functioning networks that lead from prison to freedom, and from studying to working.

The resources, competence and collaboration of the official bodies that provide this guidance in vocational education for prisoners must be improved. Improvements and networking are needed in recognising training needs, providing tutoring, facilitating work-oriented learning and strongly supporting workplace instruction, in order to ensure that the chain of guidance offered to prisoners is unbroken from prison to freedom and from the place of study into the workplace.

For whom?

The Learning by Doing project comprises tutoring and training for prison personnel in the correctional services field, in educational institutions and in workplace training organisations in the Hämeenlinna region. The participants will receive education and consulting services.

The project's target group includes:

- The personnel at Vanaja Prison who are in charge of providing guidance on studies and work activities for prisoners
- The workplace training personnel of the State Forest Enterprise and other organisations offering this service
- The instructors and study guidance personnel at Kiipula Vocational College, Tavastia Vocational College, Salpaus Further Education and Häme Vocational Institute, as well as the workplace instructors of the companies offering placements for their students
- The personnel in charge of prisoner guidance in the employment administration, the municipal social administration, the Social Insurance Institution and the third sector

The indirect target groups are the prisoners at Vanaja Prison, the staff of the vocational education institutions in Kanta-Häme and all others involved in the partnership projects. Additionally, the project will have communications and various events directed at political decision-makers and state officials regionally and nationally.

What?

The project will involve creating a regional network that can provide guidance for prisoners in their studies and in finding employment. It will increase collaboration between educational institutions, the employment administration and businesses in training and employing prisoners, and increase the applicability of prison work activity to learning and acquiring educational credits. It will support the integration of prisoners into society, studies and work by providing carefully timed guidance. The expected overall outcome of the project is to increase prisoners' education and employment opportunities and to reduce the risk of marginalisation.

How?

The project will involve tutoring and training prison guidance personnel at the prison and in workplaces, turning prisoners' work activities into studies and reinforcing educational institutions' guidance competence in order to build study and employment paths for prisoners. Training will be offered in group and individual lessons and seminars. The project will also involve building a network of partners whose aim is to support prisoners on their journey from prison to freedom and from studying to working.



Outcomes

1. Model for regional partnership network
2. Model for prison activities that guide prisoners towards studying and a profession
3. Materials related to improving prisoners' educational support functions and labour-intensive learning contents for educational institutions
4. Information and guidance training materials for companies
5. Model for educationalising prisoners' work activities so that they correspond to vocational studies

The regional models developed in the project will be applicable nationally.



The Learning by Doing ESF project will run from 1 August 2010 to 31 December 2013.

The project is being carried out as a joint venture by Kiipula and Tavastia Vocational Colleges in collaboration with Vanaja Prison and Metsähallitus (the State Forest Enterprise). The project's administration is being undertaken by the Kiipula Foundation. Learning by Doing is an ESF project funded by the Southeast Finland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment under section 3, "Developing Competence, Innovation and Service Systems that Support the Labour Market".

FURTHER INFORMATION

Kiipula Vocational College

Mailing address: PO Box 13, 14201 Turenki, Finland

Visiting address: Kiipulantie 507, 14200 Turenki, Finland

tel. +358 (0)3 685 21

www.kiipula.fi

Tavastia Vocational College

Mailing address: PO Box 30, 13100 Hämeenlinna, Finland

Visiting address: Hattelmalantie 8, 13100 Hämeenlinna, Finland

Tel. +358 (0)3 658 11

www.kktavastia.fi

Kirsi Ek

Project Manager, Kiipula Foundation

Tel. +358 (0)50 420 4209

kirsi.ek@kiipula.fi

Sirpa Rintala

Project Officer, Tavastia Vocational College

Tel. +358 (0)3 6581 478

GSM +358 (0)40 8251 755

sirpa.rintala@kktavastia.fi

Esa Auvinen

Employment Coach, Kiipula Foundation

Tel. +358 (0)50 420 4232

esa.auvinen@kiipula.fi

Kiipula

