

CIVET – WP 1 “Observation”

Template 1.1 – General Information



Name of Partner: Etelä-Kymenlaakson ammattiopisto (Ekami)

Main City of Partner`s activities: Kotka

Region: FI 18 (Southern Finland)

Country: Finland

Short Information about the Partner and it`s general activities

Ekami provides initial vocational training, further training and apprenticeship training in over 30 different fields. All fields have immigrant students. Ekami is also a prominent provider of L2-trainings in the area. The number of students is approximately 3000 and the number of staff is 400.

General situation of migration in partner`s city or region (choose city *or* region)

Immigrants in Kotka:

1. Approximately 4, 8% of Kotka`s inhabitants are immigrants (2665 people) with a permit of residence. They are
 - re-immigrants with Finnish origin, especially from Russia
 - refugees mainly from African and Asian countries
 - women and men married to a Finnish person
2. A number of Finnish citizens with an immigrant background (no statistics of this group)
3. 150-220 asylum seekers at the reception centre of Kotka
 - the duration of their stay varies
 - many of them get later a permit of residence and stay in Kotka

All immigrant students of Ekami have a permit of residence. Asylum seekers are normally not allowed to study in vocational education and training. This regulation is based on the guidelines of Finnish National Board of Education. Students of Finnish language courses have usually stayed in Finland from two months to three years. Students in vocational education or training have usually stayed in Finland at least two years. There are also some students with an immigrant background who already have Finnish citizenship and those who have attended Finnish comprehensive school for several years and whose language skills are on the same level with Finns.

Immigrants and language teaching in Ekami:

- immigrant integration training (provided by The Employment and Economic Development Office = TE Office) for those who have been in Finland less than 3 years
- language courses from basic course for illiterate people to advanced courses
- integration training is compulsory for unemployed immigrants
- vocational guidance and preparatory vocational training (provided by TE Office)
- L2-training (Finnish as a second language) during vocational studies
- unemployment benefit will be paid during trainings which are provided by TE Office
- in most courses demand is higher than supply
- teachers of immigrants must have pedagogical qualification; qualification in L2 recommended

Counseling Migrants in VET:

- Immigrants with an adequate knowledge of Finnish can study in vocational education and training in every field
- B 1.2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is the average level of language knowledge which is required for vocational education
- There are tailored trainings for immigrants, e.g. ward domestic, practical nurse
 - the needs of an immigrant learner are taken into account, e.g. learning material in simplified language
 - L2-lessons are included
- Trainers and teachers must have pedagogical qualification and also qualification in their field
- The motivation of a trainer/teacher and the motivation of the immigrant student create an auspicious atmosphere for learning...

General information on situations in work-based education and training in your organization/institute:

The language of communication between an immigrant student and a teacher/trainer or a workplace instructor is Finnish. Most teachers/trainers or workplace instructors use spoken language and dialect when they are counselling immigrant students which induces problems sometimes.

When an immigrant student is on work placement, is he encouraged to use just Finnish there. Work placements are seen also as a part of the language learning process.

We don't usually have xenophobic or racist problems in the classrooms or work placements. Problems arise due to difficulties in communication and different cultural background.

Additional comments and information: