

Participation of Young People with Mental Health Issues
Peer learning third seminar Rotterdam 29 November – 1 December 2017

Finland: School/youth work projects
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The Kanuuna Network - Finnish network of local government youth work

- Kanuuna is a Network of youth services in the 27 biggest cities in Finland. About 80% of municipal youth workers and more than 60% of youth below 29 years of age live in the Kanuuna cities. The Network was established in 2007 and is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Its main activities are:
 - • to support peer learning in youth work and youth policy,
 - • to carry out research and development projects and
 - • to function as an advocate and expert of youth work and young people

- Kanuuna Network runs thematic networks and one of them is Youth Work at School – Network. About 30 youth workers from about 20-25 cities participate YWS-Network meetings and yearly seminar reaches 100-350 teachers, principals, youth workers and public officers (more about Kanuuna-Network see www.nuorisokanuuna.fi/what).

Some notes of Finnish education system and youth work

- Education is one of the cornerstones of the Finnish welfare society. We pride ourselves on an educational system that offers equal opportunities for education for all. The new core curricula for pre-primary and basic education adopted in 2016 focus on learning, not steering. Youth work is mentioned now first time in curriculum. Finnish teachers are highly educated and strongly committed to their work (see more <http://minedu.fi/en/education-system>)
- Youth work and school are getting closer in municipalities
- Subject teacher system starts at 7th grade when youngsters are 13 years (subject teacher may have like 500 students...)
- Youth workers are well educated in Finland. Youth workers are experts in group dynamics
- Youth work at school is increasing
- Youth work is done in every upper comprehensive school in Finland (more or less...)
- There are different ways to do youth work at school. Here are some examples.... (see also Everybody Goes to School –slides)

Some hours/ half day/ whole day Part of the official school schedule/out of school activity

- Everybody Goes to School → example of → youth work part of the official school schedule
- Typically youth work at school is → groupings to every 7th grade in Finland to enhance the group spirit, different theme days/weeks, break activities, clubs etc. Youth work is done at the school about 5-10 hours a week
- In some municipalities youth workers work at school half day and half day at the youth center → strong bridge between school and leisure. Youth workers reaches also youngsters that don't visit youth centers
- In some municipalities youth workers work full time at the school. In the City of Lahti, there is a full time youth worker in every upper comprehensive school. Youth workers are part of the school wellbeing team and they work with the whole school community. Aim → create a good and supportive school culture.
- And now subject teacher Mari Ruusuvuori from Lahti tells teachers experiences about youth work at school...



Greetings from Lahti



Always there for the students!

Usually first one to know, what's going on with students.



Building up team spirit





SYRJINNÄSTÄ VAPAA ALUE
DISCRIMINATION-FREE ZONE

Youth worker at school...

