

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS A LIFELONG LEARNING UNIVERSITY. THE FINNISH EXPERIENCE

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"Education will not end with the school or a degree but the whole life is a part of the school, where the individual will be cultivated to a human being, and this process of civilization constitutes what is human in human being."

**J.V. Snellman, the national philosopher of Finland
"About academic learning" 1840**



BEFLEX DEFINITION OF ULLL 2007

ULLL is the provision by higher education institutions of learning opportunities, services and research for:

- the personal and professional development of a wide range of individuals – lifelong and lifewide
- the social, cultural and economic development of communities and the region.

It is at university level and research-based;
it focuses primarily on the needs of the learners;
it is often developed and/or provided in collaboration with stakeholders and external actors.



ULLL IN FINLAND IN A NUTSHELL

Services

- Continuous professional development
- Open university education
- Regional development

LLL as a principle

- Non-traditional students in degree studies
- Curricula development and support for the diversity of students

Organization

- Separate units in the university
- University companies
- Decentralization into schools
- Combinations

Student volumes 2009

- Open university 113 000
- CPD 75 000
- Degree students 168 000

ON UNIVERSITY LIFELONG LEARNING

University of Turku strategy
2010 - 2012

- Research-based
- Multidisciplinary
- Student orientation
- Individual pathways
- Learning outcomes
- Lifewide
- Worklife relevance

Ministry of Education 2010,
General Director of Higher Education,

- Not only open university courses and continuing education, but also:
- Recognition of prior learning
- Access of underprivileged
- Activities to support studying
- Exploiting degree structure
- Easier mobility
- Individually flexible solutions

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU STRATEGY 2010 - 2012

Fundamentals

- Lifelong learning embedded
- LLL as a principle and special services
- UTU as a learning organisation
- Responsible: leadership, faculties, expert units
- Implementation plans

LLL & University missions

- Teaching is based on scientific research and the principle of lifelong learning.
- Teaching and learning one of strategic research areas
- Lifelong learning underpinned by research and development
- A relevant tool for disseminating the research results
- A central element in the interaction with society

Research-based teaching & lifelong learning

- Research-based quality of teaching and learning
- Development of guidance and supporting the ability to study
- Lifelong learning as a guiding principle and a set of services
- Multidisciplinarity and worklife relevance of education
- Student recruitment

LLL as a guiding principle and a set of service

- Strengthening the links to research
- Widening the service
- Clarifying the LLL structures and processes
- Promoting specialization courses

Implementation plan for social interaction

- Integrated University profile
- Corporate governance

"Quality administration"

- Systems
- Audits
- Accreditation
- Indicators

We can't easily live without.

"Quality factors"

- Expertise
- Excellence
- Values & virtues
- Working culture

The keys to success

ULLL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Connected to research - benefits the student/client
- Teamwork of scientific and professional experts
- Networked project organisation
- Continuous quality improvement with a research-based profile
- Balance of flexibility and perseverance
- Mixture of public and private funding

ULLL STRATEGIES IN FINLAND (2007)

Focus of strategies

- Development of services
- Collaboration and networks
- Internationalisation
- Quality

Key issues in the strategies

- University profiles
- Entirety of lifelong learning
- Innovative paths for learning
- Model for financing UCE
- Structural development
- Cooperation of HEIs
- Export of expertise

Development tasks (Lindroos & Korkala)

- LLL as a university mission
- ULLL as an entirety
- Funding mechanisms
- Status of adult student
- Supporting staff lifelong learning
- International activities



Turun yliopisto
University of Turku

FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST

ALLUME project (The Turku University case study)
<http://www.eucen.eu/node/65>

SIRUS project
<http://www.sirus-project.eu/>

COMPASS project
<http://compass.eucen.eu/>

The Lifelong Learning Strategies of Finnish Universities
http://www.ucef.fi/fi/liitetiedotot/The_Lifelong_Learning_Strategies_of_Finnish_Universities.pdf

ULLL quality initiatives in Finland
http://www.kka.fi/files/133/KKA_807.pdf

Gracias!