

Study Visit „ Recognising Rural Youth Work“ Kouvola – Helsinki

08-12. Oktober 2018

Documentation

The Finnish youth work system:

Suvi Lappalainen, network manager of Kanuuna; Network of directors of youth services of the 28 biggest cities in Finland; Kanuuna is Centers of expertise for municipal youth work in Finland

Structure of youth work in Finland:

- Youth work under Ministry for education and culture
- Youth Act 2017
- National Youth Work and Policy Programme youth policy objectives (one hobbies , employability, participation, prevention for mental health, guidance for independent living
- Ministries have main responsibility - themes suggested for local governments but no official obligation....
- Objectives for International and European Cooperation in youth work

Youth Work - Centers of Expertise (12 Centers in whole Finland)

- Inclusion (City of Espoo), Participation of young people (Alliansi), Social empowerment, Digital youth work,(city of Oulu& Helsinki), Improvement of quality and methods of youthwork(City of Lahti), guides and scouts Finland, Finnish Youth Research Society, etc
- Open Call from ministry, best applications for the Centers of Expertise won

Structure of youthwork in Finland:

Public administration, center of expertise, civic activity (Youth and civic organisations), Lutheran church (state church)

Aims of Kanuuna (Competence Center for Municipal Youthwork):

- Spreading the logbook-System for documentation of youth work (methods from KEKS network of municipalities Sweden), aim is to reach 80-90% of all Finnish municipalities, open data, anonym data which can be shared by everybody, offers, structure, organisation is open from every municipality, sampling small groups or regions, or city districts possible;
- Question: pressure on the youth workers because of open data?--> youth workers are happy with it, they can show what they do, policy makers, researchers, ministry should read documentation), sharing good practices, mistakes can be openly addressed (positive culture of mistakes)

- Kanuuna organizes networks on evaluation, youthwork at schools, equality network, Kanuuna & Human rights league → HR based youthwork, Railway work, network on youth work in commercial/public spaces, community center youth work network (libraries, schools, sport clubs)
- Aim of Kannuna: Positioning youth work nationwide in a change process in youth work structure

Education system for youth workers:

Bachelor & Master's Degree (in Tampere): Social Science,
Youth Work & Youth research



Youth Work in Kouvola:

Ismo Korhonen, Director of the Services for Children and Youth & Tuula Soininkallio, Youth Service Manager

- Kouvola has 85000 inhabitants; comprises 60 villages
- Unemployment: 13,5 % unemployment rate Kouvola; 8% national, 11 % Kouvola youth unemployment rate
- Urban City Strategy 2019-2030 - focus: business, children, young people
- welfare services: 3-4/5 of city spending
- Kouvola Budget 4 Mio€/year on youthwork
- 53 youth workers, 12 youth clubs in Kouvola
- challenges: aged population growing, younger people (under 15 years) are living more in city centre, less in rural areas
- challenge: social and health services may be organised on regional level soon, not municipal anymore
- future: free public transportation in the city for elderly people may in the future be free for young people aswell

Youth Work Practice in Kouvola:

Youth Work in schools: (all schools) youth workers work part time in school part time in youth house, youth work in school since 10 years already, during breaks, giving preventions lessons (against drugs, teasing), is part of the curricula, school youth worker and social worker are both in schools (social workers are doing mainly case management, youth workers group things)

Other youth work **offers** in Kouvola: one stop guidance center (guidance on education, health information, jobs...), youth service communication, communal youth work, international youth work, focussed youth work, youth workshops

Quality in Youthwork

Riikka Kaasalainen

Background theory: Securing quality in the work on the background of the Deming circle: act, plan, check, do as a continuing process

Plan:

- Form for planning event, to be filled in by every youthworker before the event with aims, reason, responsible person, process, budget, communication and marketing, evaluation; to be approved by the boss; filled in forms are open for colleagues to get inspirations
- clients involved in planning already (e.g. night of arts was planned participatively at the youth house)

Check:

- audits of the work by peer review, meaning that other youth workers go to colleagues in other youth centers in other cities and do auditing after they got a training how to do audits
- self-assessment of youngsters (before starting to work, in the middle, after work with client),
- evaluation is done mostly online, not sending via email but handing clients tablets with the open evaluation form to fill in
- there is a common evaluation form that can be used by all colleagues (including the question which tasks that should be improved when, how, who)
- Collection of stories of young people how youth work impacted their life, shows the impact of youthwork for general public and politicians, also on videos (to add to statistics about

Do:

- idea collection online tool from the municipal youth service for youngsters is promoted at youth clubs and schools

Round table discussion with politicians:

Politicians representatives: Kouvola City Council members, members of Committee of children and adolescents (members are elected politicians), services for children & adolescents administrative, vice chairman youth council (municipal Youth council, in a law it's written down which topic they have to be asked, members are elected from the schools)

What's the case in Austria and in Finland?

Topic: Digital Youth Work

How will youth work develop in future?

Austria: training youthworkers on dig youthwork is a need in Austria, 2 conferences held on digital youth work, Website and portal for Feedback of youngsters and ideas exists in Innsbruck, Social listening: youthworkers should be in the social media present and listening, Organisation dealing with it in Austria: Safer Internet, Data protection is a problem in Austria, technical training to produce media content by youngsters themselves is important, connecting fun with learning

Finland: face to face contact equally important, is going down when too much effort in digi youth work, bringing low threshold participation methods

Topic: School drop out- what can be the role of youthwork?

Austria: compulsory education until 18 years; new law in Austria, jobcoaching/ youthcoaching are the tools, drop out is reported to coordinating body, resources went to education/coaching field, other approaches: apprenticeship, production schools, hourly paid workshops (but not enough offers)

Finland: municipality has to pay money to the government for unemployed adults over 18, prevention for mental health in school as prevention for drop out, outreach youth workers are going home directly to young people

Topic : Are sport club perceived as doing youthwork?

How is the cooperation between municipal and private organisations doing youth work?

Finland: some of the youth houses are run by private org (evaluation needed), sports academy in school, municipality gives money to this organisations, sport clubs can use in school facilities

Austria: the more youthwork the clubs do, the more money they get

Topic : Value of Youth Work Why is youth work important in Kouvola?

Answers of the politicians: Very important, the way to keep youngsters here(Loosing young people to university cities is problem), important that young people feel good, youngsters bring tax euros in future, offer for young people& social interaction is important

Practise of Youth Work Kouvola - Examples

Ohjaamo: One stop guidance center in the shopping mall

Sanna Heimonen

- Health Care, Outreach youth work, job coaching, study counselling, social, substance abusers, youth information, social services → professionals from different organisations
- 50 one stop guidance center in 100 municipalities in whole Finland, 500 professionals working
- Target group 18-24 years mostly
- Approach: Open door, multi-sector service, service counselors
- Professionals come from different organisations, at the same time, different employers but working in a team; Network from different organization
- Benefits: Fast appointments, events (how to get abroad), job parties with employers(interview), free time, one day a week a youthclub for over 18 years old, groups are welcome
- 3400 young adult visiting since 2015
- connecting job issues with health, health care check with a nurse, psychologists at the same place



- professionals are service counselor, employment services, career counselors, Outreach youth workers go home to the young people
- visit www.ohjaamot.fi
- opening hours in the afternoon
- Challenges: data protection, teamwork between different org,
- Future perspective of the Ohjaamo: permanent model, psychosocial support program, e Guidance, other age groups (30-100)

Cultural Youth Work

Joska

- 1,5 persons working for it in Kouvola
- graffiti workshops(with temporary big plastic wraps around trees)
- camera/photo workshops
- music competitions of bands
- culture week “Come, participate, Enjoy”
- Manga/Animee week
- Youth theater linked to the city theater with free professional workshops
- Movie clubs with discussions

Digital Youth Work

Juha Leskinen

Areas/tasks:

- Motivate colleagues to do digital youthwork
- Making work easier: offering online tools for better team cooperation and easier event organization
- Reaching kids that don't come to the youth clubs
- Kouvola municipality has bought a robot that is programmed by different schools and institutions

Example: *Discord* – chatroom for youngster/used in the gaming community

- Kouvola youth service opened a channel for Kouvola youngsters in Discord
- During opening hours of youth clubs youth workers are also online in the chatroom; monitoring what's going on
- programmed with bots that ban swear words
- chatroom can only be joined with an invitation
- in Kouvola 15 kids that stay at home all time; contact via discord
- training course for youth workers how to handle digi youthwork

International projects of Kouvola Youth Service:

- European Volunteering in Youth Centers, Outdoor pedagogics institute and in the school youthwork: 3 European volunteers at the same time sharing a flat
- Youth exchanges of youngsters from youth clubs, e.g. visit to Ireland and vice versa
- Fundraising of the kids for a joint budget for the youth exchange (organization parties with entry; selling cookies, summer work in local companies)

- Coordinated by Maritta, but the application is written by the youth workers who want to go on the youth exchange during office hours and partly together with the kids



Finland: Recognizing Youth Work

Alliansi, Helsinki (Youth NGO , Finnish Youth Council, Center of expertise for youth participation& International), www.alli.fi

- Youth work *boat cruise* in 2018
- *Youth work week 2018* with topic “social inclusion of young people”: campaign, small stories from youth workers, award ceremony and media event: : 300 participants, media representatives, politicians from different parties, presenting different ways of youth work, lunch for free, different rooms to try out youth work methods also for politicians, hashtags, webpage: online idea collection of solution of social exclusion;
- national youth work event in Turku, Finland, March 27-28, 2019: *YOUTH2019 - national youth work days*: open also for international guests with programme slots in English, 1000pax; peer-learning, networking and sharing of best practices between the participants, programme created by Alliansi

