Projects:
On Steps to Learning

..in Northern Ostrobothnia
4/15-5/18
Partners:
Finnish Diaconia College
Educational Consortium OSAO

..in Satakunta 2/16-5/19
Partners:
WinNova Länsirannikon koulutus Oy Ltd
Satakunta Educational Federation (Sataedu)
The purpose of the project in Satakunta

1. To facilitate the training paths of immigrants particularly when transitioning from upper secondary education to university level

2. To create easily-accessible digital material concerning educational possibilities for immigrants in the languages (7) of immigrants to Finland:

   On the career path and Studying in a University of Applied Sciences

   https://opinportailla.diak.fi/matkalla-ammattiin/
The purpose of the project in Northern Ostrobothnia

1. To facilitate the training paths of the immigrants and Romanies particularly when transitioning one educational level to the next:
   - Field work to reach Romanies to inform about educational possibilities
   - Culturally sensitive student selection
   - Supportive workshops for the students
   - Student mentoring

2. Multicultural guidance and expertise training

The project was a candidate in Finland for ESF VET award competition (excellence in vocational education and training)
CULTURALLY SENSITIVE SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

- Finnish language skills
- Learning skills
- Support during the studies
- Separate application process
- Preparatory trainings
- Support during the internships
- Student Mentoring
- Student counselling
PREPARATORY TRAININGS

Trainings for the promotion of skills required in higher education:
– Tools and applications required for online studies and blended-form school work
– Finnish language (written, spoken, professional language, grammar..)

General courses:
• Intensive courses (duration one month, 3x/week, 4h)
• Longer term courses (3-4 months, 2x/week, 3hours)

Finnish courses:
• Towards B2-level –intensive Finnish course (one month
  − Finnish language (written, spoken, grammar)
Towards more equal examination process for the ethnic minorities

- In 2016 Diak reserved 15 places for immigrant and Romani background applicants for nursing studies in Oulu. Altogether 44 people applied via separate application process.

- Altogether 10 separate application processes implemented nationally at Diak 2016-2020; 654 applicants / 155 starting places. 3 application processes in Oulu (30 students) and 3 in Pori (30 students) (4 in Helsinki).

- Especially motivation, social, learning and working skills + Finnish language proficiency were evaluated.

- In Finland professionals in social and health sector are expected to have sufficient Finnish skills; at minimum level B1 was required for the studies.
The most important is the personal support during the studies

Support in Finnish as a second language (s2)

Support during the courses

Co-teaching

Support during the Internships
Mentoring

- *Student mentor coordinators* recruited volunteer mentors among fellow students.
- Aim was to encourage, support and guide the immigrant and Romani students.
- The mentors and mentees met in cafeterias, support workshops, organised events and elsewhere as agreed.
Multicultural training

- For the work life professionals; staff of educational institutions, advisory, guidance, training and employment services.

- Knowledge, support and tools for guiding and meeting people from different cultural backgrounds.

- Best practices learned:
  - Combination of theory and group work
  - Experts by experience popular
  - Possibility to do also on demand trainings for workplaces

Key concepts and considerations related to multiculturalism and cultural sensitivity

Plain language

Intercultural guidance and induction

Intercultural interaction at places of work

Romani culture in Finland
Lessons learned – promoting accessibility

- Finnish language proficiency needed in social and health sector
- Understanding requirements for studying – multiform learning.
- Self-direction and capabilities for studying.
- Planning together with all parties: student, teacher, counsellor of internship.
- Networking: sharing information
- At least level B2
- 100% studying
- Co-operation
- Collaboration partners
- Strategic values and choice in organisations to promote equality → resourcing
The work is continuing…

From Steps to Learning towards Working Life
… in Northern Ostrobothnia (6/2018-12/20)
….in Satakunta (8/19-12/21)

Support immigrants and Romanies in their later phase of studies and transition to work life.
Outcomes from Steps to Learning projects so far

- 60 graduations

- At least 35 employed. All students from Diak / health and social sector employed.

- 1300 participants in trainings, events

Enabling educational and occupational dreams come true for Romanies and immigrants.

Students, graduated and employed immigrants and Romanies act as inspiring role models for their peer groups.

Participants of trainings utilise and share information with others.
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