



The Toive (wish) project by the Sibelius Academy aims at predicting changes in the operational environment and competence needs of the music industry. In the future, music will promote well-being, as seen in The Specialised Service Centre Resonaari project.

Education meeting the needs of working life and individuals

With respect to working life, it is imperative to understand what type of competencies will be in demand in the future. A foresight system for predicting changes in working life provides tools for ensuring a match between education and the world of work.

THE PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING A FORESIGHT SYSTEM for education and competence needs produces long-term foresight data. The related projects develop approaches to utilising foresight data in education-related decision-making at local, regional and national level.

At local and regional level, the development programme's projects are of particular help in improving the foresight skills of education providers. The goal is to use the projects' versatile networks and foresight data to strengthen regional competitiveness.

Foresight data produced through the projects is also applied in strategic decision-making at national level. For example, this data is used for preparing the Development Plan for Education and Research and for deciding on degree criteria. On the basis of the foresight data, systems for organising education are being developed. In addition, the contents of education and places on courses are being steered in the most productive manner possible. The projects' long-term impacts are emerging in the form of a better match between education and working life, enabling faster entry into the labour market for graduates.

Finnish National Board of Education predicts vocational competence needs

The Finnish National Board of Education is implementing a three-year National Project on Anticipation of Competences and Skills Needs (VOSE), to be completed in 2011. Through this project, a new type of national foresight system for competence needs will be created. This permanently established system will predict competence and professional skills requirements for working life and business. It will react nimbly to changes, quickly producing data for use e.g. in reforming degrees, curricula, training programmes and other educational content.

Environment experts mapping the sector's competence needs

The environment experts project is being implemented through cooperation between TOP Instituutti Ltd (a Finnish vocational institute for the environmental services sector) and SYKLI Environmental School of Finland. This project will continue until the spring of 2012. It is producing foresight data on the long-term competence needs of the environmental sector, nature-related sectors and the energy sector. In addition, tests are being conducted on the foresight system used to obtain this data. The system enables regular monitoring of any changes in competence needs. In response, educational provision is being steered to meet those needs. A working group of experts has been established for the purpose of supporting planning and development work. This working group consists of representatives of public authorities, research institutes, higher education institutions, vocational institutions, and associations and organisations within the sector. The Delphi method (or: the delphi technique) and future scenario work are being used in the project's foresight processes.

The programme for developing a foresight system for education and competence needs

Financing 2007–2013: € 5.3 million

Administration: Ministry of Education and Culture

Further information: [minna.balint\(at\)oph.fi](mailto:minna.balint@oph.fi)

www.oph.fi