

COMPETITIVENESS PACT AS A POSSIBILITY

OTAVAN OPISTO (FINLAND)



NORDIC LEARNING CENTER INNOVATION PARTNERS

WHICH THEME DOES THIS CASE RELATE TO?

Mark with an X

Theme 1 Strategic mediation	Theme 2 New ways of learning	Theme 3 Targeting new users	Theme 4 Mobilizing the community
x			

INTRODUCTION TO THE CASE

1.1 CASE CONTENT AND ISSUE

In 2016 Finnish Government agreed on and signed a Competitiveness Pact (= CoPa) that requires a vast majority of employees to work 6 minutes longer each day (24 hrs per year), while at the same time public sector workers will have to deal with a 30-percent reduction in vacation pay. The Pact is believed to be key to improving Finnish business competitiveness, since it covers roughly 87 percent of Finnish workers.

CoPa will also affect Finnish teachers, yet they still have the same amount of teaching hours per week (weekly working hours are usually measured as classes taught in basic education and upper secondary school). This leads to a situation where it is practically impossible to control the requirement of 6 minutes per day addition to work schedule. Also the aim for the local school administrations and education providers is to use the additional time in a useful way.

1.2 SOLUTIONS

In practice the additional work is usually combined from a longer period of time and teachers will participate an in-service training or workshop of 2-3 hours. Workshops are tailored with schools to meet the local needs on developing teaching and learning towards the aims of the ongoing curricula.

1.3 RESULTS

CoPa hours offer a new niche in in-service training to be filled. Lectures and workshops have been offered to local educational service providers and individual schools. These INSET workshops cover a part of the CoPa hours for schools. The aim is to tackle the needs of teachers' professional development. Main themes have been e.g. creating learning communities in schools and developing assessment culture (incl. tools and strategies to deliver effective formative and summative assessment) and interdisciplinary learning.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED/WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

We have learned the power of staying positive and open. Even the most challenging times can offer new possibilities for developing new ways of acting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Iida-Maria Peltomaa, email: iida-maria.peltomaa@otavanopisto.fi