

Finnish Examples Of Quality Initiatives in University Lifelong Learning

The case study describes five different quality projects in university adult education in Finland. It compares the similarities and differences of the initiatives.

It focuses upon a) the complicated links between adult education and the mainstream of the university, b) the necessity of development work concerning the quality of teaching and learning at the universities, c) the diversified contexts, motivations and aims of the initiatives and d) the practical models, structures and procedures of their implementation.

It looks at some of the various ways to offer higher education institutions a chance to reflect upon their activities and to learn from good practice. It also describes the key features of the Finnish system that is the development-oriented cooperation between the Ministry of Education, FINHEEC and universities.

The case study illustrates the importance of selecting a quality approach that is appropriate for the context and analyses the strengths and weaknesses of each of the five quality projects described.

Key themes

Accreditation

Benchmarking

Educational strategy

Evaluation

Total Quality Management (TQM)

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