

# **Building the Stepping Stones, Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policies and Systems 8.11.2006**

Guidance services in the Public Employment Services

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## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SYSTEM;**

**SERVICES ARE PROVIDED MAINLY BY TWO ESTABLISHED PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEMS**

- 1) **STUDENT COUNSELLING WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
- 2) **INFORMATION, GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES AT THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICES**

# 1. Public school system

## **Comprehensive Schools (7th –9th grades)**

- student counsellors, class and subject teachers

## **Upper secondary schools**

- student counsellors, group advisers, other teachers

## **Vocational Schools**

- student counsellors, all teachers

## **Polytechnics**

- specialised counsellors

## **Universities**

- specialised counsellors

## 2.

### **Employment Offices:**

#### **Vocational guidance and career planning**

Guidance personnel:

->vocational guidance psychologists (280)

#### **Educational and vocational information services**

Guidance personnel:

->educational advisors (300)

#### **Services for special needs clients or in job clubs**

Guidance personnel:

->(specialised) employment consultants (600)

## **SHORT HISTORY/ BACKGROUND OF VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN FINLAND**

- FIRST VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR'S VACANCE WAS FORMED IN 1939 IN HELSINKI
- BECAUSE OF THE WAR THE WORK STARTED IN 1941; THE FIRST COUNSELLOR WAS NILO MÄKI (NILO MÄKI-INSTITUTE)
- IN THE BEGINNING OF 1950 THERE WERE OFFICES OF VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN 11 CITIES

- THE ACTIVITIES WERE FIRST ARRANGED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND FROM THE YEAR 1961 BY THE GOVERNMENT
- IN 1973; EMPLOYMENT OFFICES LIKE TODAY WERE BORN; VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE MOVED LOCALLY UNDER EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
- IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS ACTIVITY THE EMPHASIS WAS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE MAKING AT SCHOOLS THEIR FIRST CHOICES CONCERNING THEIR VOCATIONAL FUTURE. WE PSYCHOLOGISTS DID A LOT OF CO-OPERATION WITH SCHOOLS WHERE WAS NO COUNSELLING SYSTEM YET
- STUDENT COUNSELLORS' EDUCATION WAS BUILT IN 1971

## **The Situation today:**

### Employment office of Jyväskylä

- Ministry of Labour -> Regional Employment and Economic development Centres/ Labour Force Departments (15) -> Local Employment Offices (127) -> Reception Centres (3)

### Employment Office of Jyväskylä

- is one of the eight biggest offices in Finland
- the area: 9 municipalities including 165 000 inhabitants
- about 140 employees; 9 vocational guidance psychologists (majority of personnel are employment advisers)

## Vocational Guidance Services:

- our services are available for all citizens who are at the age from 16 to 50-60
- about half of them are unemployed
- majority of clients today are adults; at least 25 years of age
- there would be more needs to give service for currently working adults
- also young clients are especially cared at the moment: social guarantee for young people (“a fast and efficient start”)
- health problems seems to be growing/ needs for vocational rehabilitation



## The methods/ tools in vocational guidance process

1. personal, confidential conversation/guidance discussion
2. guidance in small groups
3. psychological tests and inventories  
(we can also give homework)
4. work and training try-outs
5. medical assessments when needed to clarify vocational situation and possibilities
6. to give and help to find information ( co-operation with our educational and vocational information service, also electronic services and to help client to reach proper services)
7. co-operation and consulting with other experts inside and outside the employment office, networking

As a result of the guiding process there would be created a realizable training/working life plan or alternative plans.

## **Challenges:**

Lifelong learning and lifelong counselling; how to cope with the continuing change in society, in working life and in education systems

Demographic changes

Changes in peoples' career development

Growing challenges for qualifications