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Advancing Study Ability and Community in Universities

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Abstract

In Finland, structural changes within the universities challenge universities and student unions to develop work practices that support students and their progress. Study time restrictions as well as challenges involving longer careers and employment have increased the need to consider the students' ability to study. Kyky (ability) -project (2009-2010), which enhances the ability to study, was funded by the Ministry for Education and executed by the National Union of University Students in Finland. The project contributors collected good practices that enhance the ability to study in Finnish universities, and nationwide guidelines were compiled for all universities. Kyky -project, carried out in 2011-2013, continues to establish practices that enhance the ability to study.

The project involves cooperative development work in target groups. It promotes and facilitates group work through coordination and training and provides platforms for cooperation. Participants also aim to increase awareness of the ability to study in multiple ways. The project also promotes the accessibility of student organizations and the development of their ability to study on a national level. To help students integrate, the project devises better ways to welcome new students, improves the accessibility of organizations and promotes interaction.

As a result of the project, more students will feel part of the university community, and they are able to learn and study effortlessly, supported by the community. For staff, students, student organizations and interest groups, the project creates know-how and models for cooperation, structures, methods, tools and knowledge – all that enhances the ability to study.

Presenter details

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Laura Heinonen (B.A. education) has been working in National Union of University Students in Finland since 2011. She works as a planner in the Kyky-project, which aims to advance the study ability and community in universities.

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