

young adults



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

'NUPPA No-Threshold Guidance Centre' –

Kynnyksetön nuorten palvelupaikka NUPPA (Ohjaamo)

FI-K-1

The project YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The NUPPA No-Threshold Guidance Centre in Kajaani is part of the implementation of the national Youth Guarantee policy aims at guaranteeing all unemployed people younger than 25 years and to those having graduated recently (younger than 29 years) an active option suited to their situation and needs.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'NUPPA No-Threshold Guidance Centre' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Major challenges in the Kainuu region include the high level of youth unemployment and the poorer health and lower level of general well-being of youth and young adults in comparison to the whole country. In addition, nearly four per cent of young people living in Kainuu can be named as socially excluded. The scattered nature of services for youth and young adults has also been an issue.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The addressees of the NUPPA No-Threshold Guidance Centre include all the youth and young adults under the age of 30 living in the region. However, a special emphasis is placed on the young people living in challenging situations and under the threat of social exclusion – as well as those young people who have been already socially excluded from the surrounding society.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **The NUPPA Centre uses a partner network** and existing services to develop new services for youth and young adults in collaboration with other actors. It brings all youth services together as it aims to strengthen and simplify services for young people and eliminate the duplication of activities.
- **The main goals of the NUPPA Centre's operations** include tackling social exclusion and youth unemployment, but also improving young people's well-being. However, the Centre provides also 'lighter' services, such as youth club activities and guidance on study exchanges.
- **By working together with several experts** from different fields, such as employment officials, education institutions, social services, and health professionals.. Thus, by bringing together a wide range of professional skills and representatives of the relevant jurisdictional fields, the NUPPA Centre aims at addressing young peoples' complicated multilevel problems in a way that would not be possible for a single policy measure or an actor working alone.
- **The implementation of the national Ohjaamo programme** is coordinated by the Ministry of Employment and Economy and is funded mainly through the European Social Fund. A national coordinating *Kohtaamo* project has been established to support the design and implementation of this measure, to develop a common digital platform and internet-based guidance, and to evaluate the results of the programme mainly on the basis of the number of participants of the different services available at the Centre.
- **At the Centre, the individual progress of the participants** is a main factor in evaluating the successfulness of its activities.

How does it work?

- **The NUPPA Centre provides young people** with free and confidential counselling, advice, life management support, hobby activities, and several different expert services. The aim is to implement the principles of lifelong guidance and create services for long-term and urgent situations young people may find themselves in.
- **The services of the NUPPA Centre** include several different rehabilitative workshops for young people whose functional abilities are not yet at a level that would allow them to enroll into full-time education or find employment.
- **A very central aspect of the NUPPA Centre's operations** is that young people have an active role in the design and evaluation of the Centre and that they are involved in planning of the daily activities.
- **The NUPPA Centre belongs to the administrative branch** of the Regional Youth Services, and distinguishes itself by its clear youth and social policy orientation.

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- For more information on the LLL policy NUPPA No-Threshold Guidance Centre, please consult: <http://www.kajaani.fi/fi/palvelut/nuppa>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_Adullit project, please consult the YA project website under: www.young-adullit.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLIT)
- PROJECT NAME: Policies Supporting Young People in their Life Course. A Comparative Perspective of Lifelong Learning and Inclusion in Education and Work in Europe (YOUNG_ADULLIT)
- COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral · parreira@uni-muenster.de · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany



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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

‘VALMA Preparatory Training for VET’ – *Ammatilliseen koulutukseen valmentava koulutus VALMA*

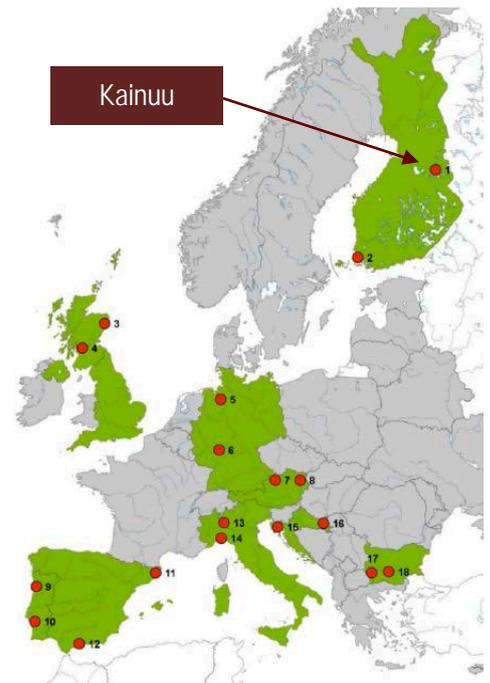
FI-K-2

The project YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The starting point is the assumption that by looking into the specific regional and local contexts, policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems, and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country which were identified as ‘contrasting cases’ with regard to socio-economic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The Preparatory Training for VET, aimed at youth and young adults who have no study place after completing comprehensive schooling and who need support to improve their learning capacity and study skills before enrolling to VET, is a national policy implemented regionally and locally, in this case by the Kainuu Vocational College.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



‘VALMA Preparatory Training for VET’ – What is it about?

The challenge on site

At a national level, high rates of VET drop-outs and many students not completing VET in target time are two central issues in the field of education policy. This is also the case in Kainuu where around seven per cent of VET students dropped out of education in 2014/2015. In addition to this, one major challenge is the poorer health and lower level of general wellbeing of youth and young adults in Kainuu in comparison to the whole country.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The target group of the VALMA training includes young people who are leaving comprehensive school, are without secondary education, and want to refine their career plans and attend VET after the preparatory training. The training is also available to adults who need support in order to transition to VET. In addition to youths, immigrants are also an important target group of VALMA.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **The main objectives of the VALMA preparatory training for VET** include reducing VET drop-out rates, guiding students who have dropped out back to studies in more suitable fields or programmes, and facilitating the completion of VET, as well as tackling the issue of social exclusion of youths and young adults in the Kainuu region by improving students' learning and career management skills through flexible educational and learning practices.
- **The VALMA training is an educational policy** that takes a holistic perspective on the lives of its participants (focus on general wellbeing and life management skills, not just on study skills and educational choices), it also relates to youth and social policies.
- **One central aim of the VALMA training** is to increase educational equality and improve access to education.
- **The VALMA training is one of the versatile and flexible study tracks** that have been developed for the transition point between basic education and upper secondary level aimed at supporting successful transitions from one level to the next as well as endorsing the continuity of students' lifelong study tracks.
- **The successfulness of the measure** is evaluated by, for example, monitoring the dropout and study completion rates at the vocational institution as well as by following the paths of the participants after the training period.

How does it work?

- **The VALMA training takes one year**, it has a scope of 60 competence points and a structure that includes both compulsory and optional modules. The training attempts to improve students' study and career skills and introduces different occupations and vocational studies. When young adults later apply for a VET programme, they can receive extra points for having completed VALMA training.
- **For immigrant participants**, a special emphasis is on improving language skills to enable them to participate later in studies conducted in Finnish (or Swedish).
- **The training modules** include improving study skills, preparing for work-based learning and apprenticeship training, strengthening general everyday life management skills, and wellbeing as well as vocational qualification modules. During the training participants have a chance to explore a diverse range of vocational sectors, occupations, and work places. At any stage of the preparatory training, students can move on to VET if they have necessary skills and other resources to do so.
- **In Kainuu, the VALMA training is provided by the regional VET institution.** In addition to the extensive cooperation within the VET institution, there is a lot of cooperation between the experts working at VALMA and several public sector actors, such as employment officials, health and welfare services, and social services as well as local and regional employers.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Preparatory Training for VET, please consult: <https://www.kao.fi/opiskelemaan/nuorten-koulutus/miten-haetaan/valma-koulutus/>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_Adult project, please consult the YA project website under: www.young-adult.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'Becoming Partners' – *Kumppaniksi*

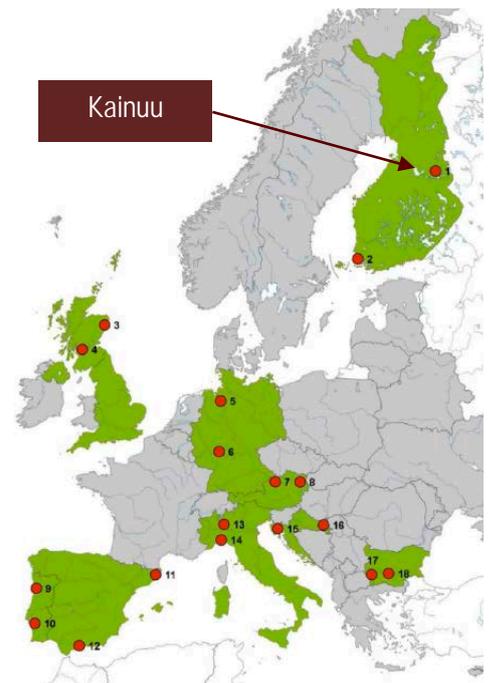
FI-K-3

The project YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

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The Becoming Partners is an organisation, which has its main focus on employability and work life skills, and targets its operations at unemployed young adults who are having difficulties in finding employment or a suitable study place, facing a high risk of social exclusion, or in need of rehabilitation.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'Becoming Partners' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

With regard to young adults, the main challenges in the Kainuu region include high youth unemployment and lower levels of general health and wellbeing of youth and young adults in comparison to the whole country. Nearly four per cent of young people living in Kainuu can be perceived as socially excluded.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The Becoming Partners organisation provides several different workshop services aimed at different target groups depending on their main challenges and functional abilities. The addressees of this policy include young people who have a VET certificate but have difficulties in finding employment or a suitable further study place, but also young people who need longer, more in-depth rehabilitation periods before they are able to move on to education or the labour market.

What is the policy aiming at?

- The objective of the **Becoming Partners organisation** is to reduce youth unemployment and to tackle the issue of social exclusion of young people in the Kainuu region.
- The organisation provides a 'chain' of workshop services designed in a way that a young person can start with a service that best suits their needs and functional abilities (for young people in most challenging situations this could mean extensive cooperation with, for example, mental health professionals and workshop activities only few hours per week) and move flexibly up the chain as their abilities strengthen with the goal of eventually enrolling in full-time studies or finding employment in the open labour market.
- Many of the workshops are out-sourced services of the regional TE Office (the Employment and Economic Development Services), KELA (the Social Insurance Institution of Finland), and the Kainuu SOTE (Social Welfare and Health Care Joint Authority); in the latter case, the services are implemented and participants selected in collaboration with the Kainuu Central Hospital. The target groups are defined in cooperation with the service buyer.
- This labour market policy has a strong emphasis on the overall wellbeing and everyday life management skills of its participants. Its successfulness is evaluated by monitoring the number and progress of the services' participants as well as by following their (employment) situation after leaving the measure.

How does it work?

- The **Becoming Partners organisation** provides a **transitional environment** where the participants' objectives are clarified while working. Activities are designed to ensure that once the rehabilitation or training period with Becoming Partners ends, the next place for the participant has been determined and suits their needs and capabilities.
- **Primary actors of the organisation** include rehabilitation counsellors, personal coaches and the job coaches of workstations, who all work in collaboration with each other and, where appropriate, utilise a broader network of collaboration partners to support each young person.
- **Production work carried out under the guidance of the job coaches** is an important part of the preparation for working life and rehabilitation at the organisation. Each person's work tasks are tailored to meet their current skills and abilities, and do not necessarily require any prior training or special knowledge of the vocational field in question.
- **All the workstations** serve real customers, and they implement studification of work, which means that the participants can earn formal study credits while working there.
- **Work try-out periods in local and regional companies** are also an important part of the participation in the activities of the Becoming Partners organisation.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Kumppaniksi, please consult: <http://www.kumppaniksi.fi/>
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