

Entrepreneurship, Initiative and Innovation in Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences

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Structural development in higher education in Finland

1. We get a new law of universities on 1.1.2010. Finnish Universities are independent corporations under the public law or foundations under the private law.
2. At the same time (on 1.1.2010) happened three mergers of universities:
 - * Aalto –university (former Helsinki Technical University, Helsinki School of Economics and University of Art and Industrial Design)
 - * University of Eastern Finland (former University of Joensuu and University of Kuopio)
 - * New University of Turku (former Turku School of Economics and University of Turku)

Structural development (II)

3. In the UAS sector we have made 4 mergers in 2007 – 2010:

- HAAGA-HELIA UAS, in Helsinki 2008 (former Haaga Uas and Helia Uas, both from Helsinki)
- Metropolia UAS, in Helsinki 2009 (former Helsinki UAS, Stadia and EVTEK UAS in Espoo)
- Novia UAS 2009 (former two swedish speaking UAS's in the western coast)
- Tampere UAS 2010 (former Pirkanmaa UAS and Tampere UAS in Tampere)

Structural development (III)

4. The wider discussion of the structural development of whole higher education system in Finland is going on during this year:

- UAS's rector's manifest of February published on 12.2.2010 (UAS's takes more stronger role as regional higher education institutes)
- Differentiation between higher education institutes will happen between different parts of country (in Helsinki area there will be bigger Universities and bigger UAS's, in other areas where are smaller universities and UAS's (Lappi, Vaasa, South-Eastern area) there would maybe happen mergers between universities and UAS's)



Structural development (IV)

- Nowadays we have 16 universities and 25 UAS; our Ministry of Education makes the new plan from higher education so that numbers in 2020 would be 15 universities and 18 UAS
- The new plan of structural development of higher education our Ministry of Education will be published in may 2010

The Entrepreneurship and UASs

In the Ministry of Education sectors aims of entrepreneurship education for higher education to 2015 are:

- Networking between different parties involved in entrepreneurship education has intensified at the international, national, regional and local level
- Higher education institutions have incorporated entrepreneurship in their overall strategies
 - Research relating to entrepreneurial learning environments and entrepreneurship pedagogy has been stepped up and it is of a more cross-disciplinary nature
- Entrepreneurship education is an inherent part of the initial training of teachers responsible for entrepreneurship education

Priorities for higher education overall

- to promote graduate entrepreneurship
- to carry out recommendations, with focus on motivating entrepreneurship, elaborating innovations into business and supporting growth business
 - to develop business know-how
 - to promote the utilisation of research findings
- to develop cooperation of the science park/technology park/business incubator type
 - to constantly develop forms of cooperation between higher education institutions and the world of work
 - to diversify the provision of continuing professional education intended to entrepreneurs and other employed persons
- to develop teachers' pedagogical competencies relating to entrepreneurship

Priorities specially for UASs

- To enhance RDI and to focus it specially to support and upgrade SMEs
 - To support transfer of business to the next generation
- To establish a UAS master's programme in SME business

Finnish higher education and public research (Evaluation Report of Finnish Innovation System)

- The resources are scattered into three types of institutions (universities- UASs – public research organizations) –with partly overlapping duties
 - The institutions are scattered around the country
- Universities are internally fragmented with too small research and teaching units
 - Finnish higher education sector has low internationalization
- Finnish students enter higher education later and study longer than their counterparts

Main challenges in developing the Finnish higher education sector

- Increasing the quality of research (most critical challenge)
- Streamlining the sector to reduce fragmentation and overlapping activities
- Increasing internationalization of university sector
 - Tackling the problem of late graduation

The Role of UASs in Finnish Innovation System (International Evaluation Report 2009, www.evaluation.fi)

- UASs should be given the incentives to specialize for regional needs; given their ownership structure they are better suited than universities
- UASs are seen the best source of experts for regional needs
- UASs are seen to perform well in providing competencies for the needs of the local and regional businesses and economy
- UASs are important actors in the regional innovation systems



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