



Educational Organizations' Innovation Activity

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Abstract

Worldwide economic and social changes challenge educational and business organizations to re-design their activity. Innovations are seen as important factors relating to the success in working life. Partly because of strong societal emphasis on innovation activity, also educational organizations have become strongly interested in the topic. The objective of the presentation is to scrutinize the concept of innovation in educational context. What do we actually talk about when we talk about innovations in educational organizations? How we could promote innovation activity in the context of education? The case study is on-going ESF -funded project KINOS (Developing Innovation Competences of Educational Organizations) in Mikkeli, Finland. Its aim is to develop educational institutions' innovation competences and create operations model to promote innovation activity between the different educational organizations and companies at the area. The project is led by Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences. Partner organizations are Mikkeli University Consortium, South- Savo Vocational College and Otavan Opisto vocational school. The goal of the project is to develop multiprofessional and multiorganisational innovation communities and operations model to implement innovation activity in the future. As a conclusion can be presented that the innovation activity requires new forms of collaboration and learning between different kinds of organizations. These new forms of collaboration can be found from the partnerships and co-configuration between working-life partners and educational organizations. Shared objects can promote motivation for collaboration and learning. In the context of education the learning aspect of innovation activity is emphasized. There are several different educational models in Finland relating to so called work-based learning. Although some differences, there are also several similarities, such as communal nature of learning, authentic cases, dialogue, knowledge creation and developmental aspect of activity. These similarities could be kept as key aspects of innovation pedagogy.