Finnish Country summary

Brief Introduction

Finland is a country located in Northern Europe bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Gulf of Finland. Neighbouring countries include Sweden, Russia, Norway, and Estonia lies to its south across the Gulf of Finland. Finland is a republic. The chief of state is the President and the head of government is the Prime Minister. Finland has a largely free-market economy in which the economy includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Finland is a member of the European Union (EU).

Finland has been to the fore in learning city development since the mid-1990s. It was the host for the 1996 Year of Lifelong Learning conference in which the concept was discussed. Since then there have been several initiatives in Finnish Cities.

Summary of material collected

Many Finnish learning city activities are included in the EUROlocal database.

Finland - learning region development summary

See below for Finland country summary (Finland) ...

Lifelong learning in Finland and Finland’s path to a Learning society

... Yes Lifelong learning in Finland The extent to which vocational education and training policy is nurturing lifelong learning in Finland Kari Nyssölä Kimmo Hämäläinen ...

Comparative analysis of lifelong learning strategies and their implementation in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.

... strategies and their implementation in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden. Publication Type ... strategies and their implementation in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden. ...

EUROlocal Knowledgebase - Weblinks

WEBLINKS : European learning region-related website links Title contains: ...

Comparative analysis of lifelong learning strategies and their implementation in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.

Tool type(s): Other (please describe) Other: Re ...

EduCluster Finland

... Jyväskylä, Finland NUTS: ,Central Finland, ...

HELSDINKI – AN EDUCATING, TRAINING & LEARNING CITY
... the largest concentration of economic activity in Finland. The number of jobs in the region is 650,000, which is almost 30% of all jobs in Finland. The Region has dominated the development of the fastest growing ...

**Learning Regional Engagement: A Re-evaluation of the Third Role of Eastern Finland Universities**

... COUNCIL 11:2003 The regional role of the three Eastern Finland Universities was first evaluated in 1998. This was the first of its ... Act, though, admittedly, all universities in Finland have been engaged and have had impact also on local and regional ...

**Presentations of the EUROlocal Conference**

... Markulla (President of the EPPs Europe 2020 Taskforce Finland) EUROlocal online PDF ...

**Learning region engagement (Finland)**

Tool type(s): City/Regional Development Examples of Good Practice: ...

**The EUROlocal Project**

The term ‘Learning Region’ is commonplace in the lifelong learning debate. This is ... indicators distinguishing learning cities and regions. Germany is covered by more than 75 learning regions, UK and Finnish national learning city networks boast 100+ members and the EC has ...

**Presentations of the EUROlocal Conference**

... Commission) Doru Hobjila (Committee of the Regions) Lynette Jordan (Glasgow University) Norman Longworth ... (EARLALL) Jutta Thinesse-Demel (German Learning Regions) Ruth Jermann (Swiss Adult Education Association) ...

**PALLACE - Promoting Active Lifelong Learning Links between Australia, Canada, China and Europe**

... creeds, cultures and countries in the building of a new learning and understanding world. The PALLACE project was a two year project ... organiser) - City of Espoo, Finland working with the Finnish Learning Cities Network - CEFEL (Centre de Formation de Elus) ...

**Progress**

Since 1997, Espoo, a City within the conglomeration of Helsinki, was highly active. Led by the then Deputy Mayor, Liisa Tommila, it initiated many innovative learning city projects using museums, libraries, schools, businesses, and adult education centres to spread the
message. It also participated in many of the European learning city projects of the time, including TYELS, the Learning Highway, PALLACE, INDICATORS and LILLIPUT. It led a European Edge Cities network. It is fair to say that, in the early 2000s, Espoo was probably the world’s most active learning city within our knowledge. Helsinki University of Technology, which is situated in Espoo, became the Mecca for Learning City conferences and seminars. Unfortunately Ms Tommila was not re-elected in 2004 and the learning city no longer became a priority, though many of the early projects still survived.

In the early 2000s too, propelled by Markku Markkula, than a Finnish MP, the Finnish National Lifelong Learning strategy was developed and included the concept of the Learning City within its remit. This was the high period of development. The Finnish Learning Cities network comprised all the major municipalities in the country, while activity abounded in Tampere, Turku, Vantaa, Espoo, Jyvaskala, Oulu, Helsinki and others. Many formally gave themselves the title of Learning City and some drew up learning city charters. The major activities included stakeholder partnerships and involvement in learning city development, increasing active citizenship, the development of learning organisations in public as well as private enterprises, reaching out to learners, learning festivals, contact with international partners around the globe, environmental sustainability and an increased focus on culture and heritage., among others. Despite some fallback in the later noughties, Finnish cities still adhere to the ideal. Markkula promotes the concept in his work as an MEP and with the Committee of the Regions, while Helsinki participates in learning city initiatives through the PASCAL organisation.

Links to ET2020