



Keynote Session II : Presentation- 2

Sustainable Development Goals for the Future: From Strategy to Practice.

Dr. Tuukka Soini

ABSTRACT

One of the most urgent issue for communities to solve is the sustainability. Climate change, environmental and social crisis and growing inequality are huge challenges which need to be solved urgently. Omnia, the joint author of education in Espoo Region and member of UNEVOC center of Excellence has take it's role to be part of the solution. By educating people organizations are able to do the change.

City of Espoo, where major functions of Omnia are located, has been elected the most sustainable city in Europe. Espoo focuses especially in learning, training and innovations. Omnia's strategy is to create sustainable future by promoting inclusion, skills and well-being of citizens and boosting the vitality of municipalities, communities and businesses of the region. In order to achieve this goal social, cultural, environmental and economical sustainability will be focus areas in next years.

Vocational education is one key to sustainable development. In Finland vocational education participates in regional strategy discussions, joint development projects with tertiary education and often shares premises with companies and universities. Instead of gaps, there are bridges between the world of work and vocational education and universities. All initial vocational education students graduate with work experience accumulated during the work-based learning periods. The part-time further and specialist qualifications are mainly offered to adults already working or contracted for an apprenticeship for the studies. The hands-on curricula includes assignments completed at the workplace as knowledge must be applied to achieve the learning outcomes and demonstrate competence. What this means in practice is that someone studying for the further qualification for entrepreneurs actually founds the business and takes steps to launch activities. Some studying in a management program completes a development project linked to his/her responsibilities and the 16-year old catering student designs and cooks a menu for a real customer. Theory meets practice in a multitude of learning opportunities enriching communities. Partnerships are foundation for innovations. Omnia collaborates with local businesses, City of Espoo and Aalto University to achieve the sustainable development goals. There is co-operation between vocational and university education and mixed student teams to innovate solutions to real problems. Omnia is strongly contributing to sustainable development goals of City of Espoo. Omnia is creating innovations together with local companies and co-learning with them. This ecosystem of collaboration creates vitality and well-being to whole Espoo region.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, Omnia's Strategy, Work-based Learning.

BRIEF CV

Mr. Tuukka Soini is Chief Development Officer in Omnia(Joint Authority of Education in the Espoo Region). He has a wide experience in learning transformation and technology driven change projects during last eighteen years. Mr Soini has been leading learning transformation programs in public sector and also in business world.

Mr. Soini is a leader, consultant, trainer and pedagog whose strong vision of success factors of education covers required actions from system level to individuals. His background as a teacher gives him realistic basis to form system wide vision to do the change. He has a strong experience of education sector in Finland.