



Enabling Social Innovation

EU Funds: How can they facilitate Social Innovation?

Power! -project

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New opening

- We supported persons who has multicultural background and special needs, e.g., mild intellectual disability, problems with daily life management, trauma background.
- We had EU funded AMiD -project (2018-2019) before Power! –project. This project gave us ideas to apply for a national project.
- The target group was quite new for us. We didn't have much information how to support them towards employment.

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About the project

- Main goal was to develop training model and tools which would support the employment of the target group.
- Other goals were
 - Organize group and individual coaching.
 - Find study or work place for the participants.
 - Strengthens the self-awareness, strengths and social inclusion of the participants.
 - Provide adequate and appropriate support



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What we have learned?

- Our participants face many challenges:
 - Many of them have dropped out of the services.
 - Most of our participants need strong support in their everyday life. Many of them have mental health challenges.
 - Society defines the future of them.
 - It is difficult to get to study if you are illiterate.
- Despite the facts above:
 - Most of the participants committed to our activities.
 - They are very motivated to study and work.
 - They want to be part of society.
 - They have many strengths and capabilities.

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Feedback

- Feedback from our clients:
 - "I've learned a lot of different things, tasks, the Finnish language, I've made friends."
 - "I have learned new things."
 - "I like to be here".
- Feedback from the partners:
 - Coaching have been very useful for the persons.
 - We have received positive feedback about individual guidance and meetings.
 - The success of the activity is also indicated by commitment to the activity.



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Results

- Many of the project participants have a lot of unidentifiable potential that could be useful in society and labour market
- We need to support people, so that they are able to show their potential.
- People were able to find summer jobs and internships, when supported that gave them first contacts & experiences in working life.
- All of the project participants were able to find their next steps toward active inclusion (work, place of study etc), with the help of the project.

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Funding

- The funding source was European Commission / European Social Fund, the Finnish Operational Programme “Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 – Finland's structural funds programme”
- The funder was open to discuss each phase of the project. If we had any problems, we could always contact them.
- The target group was difficult to reach and needs a lot of support. Sometimes it was difficult to justify to the funder why the project did not reach many people and why it was difficult for them to find employment. In our opinion, the funder focused too much on numerical measures and did not always understand the importance of the process and the support people receive during the process.



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Vipuvoimaa
EU:lta
2014-2020



Materials

- We have made 3 guides:
 - Life
 - Study
 - Work
- We made also a poster "You have the right to.."
- All materials have been translated into English, Persia, Arabic and Somali.
- You can download them from our website:
<https://kvps.fi/tietopankki/?data-type=oppaat-ja-tyovalineet>

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Thank you!

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