

AKTIIVI Plus



Photo: Ville Salminen / HAMK

WHAT IS AKTIIVI PLUS?

How to support and promote active citizenship and open learning environments? How can the various projects work together and learn from each other?

The AKTIIVI Plus project has gathered experience about networking practices from development projects in various sectors. It has looked for potential applications of the best practices that were created in these development projects. AKTIIVI Plus supports the commodification of project results and dissemination of these products, nationally as well as internationally.

AKTIIVI Plus project brings together expertise from different projects and at the same time initiates and reinforces their mutual networking. The aim is to make the various projects so transparent that their output and developed skills can be to their own as well as the common benefit. In addition, the results will be disseminated widely to different target groups. The projects have created new library facilities, jointly compiled local history and established new learning models for museums and organizations. Commodification has been found to be a good method of streamlining and sharing promising practices.

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Photo: Mika Sihvonen / AKTIIVI Plus

Lapland's ELY Centre. The AKTIIVI Plus project serves as the coordinator of the development programme.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

The development work generated a lot of good and promising practices, but how to turn them into clear products that the customers/users can adopt and use after the end of the project? AKTIIVI Plus helps other projects to turn good practices into products and to advertise these products.

The starting point is the view that products are not standardised. With the help of the service's systematic description tools it is easier to understand customers' needs. The service must communicate clearly to the customers and in such a way that the customers know what is on offer and how they can influence the success of the service.

SELF-EVALUATION

The projects and activities are evaluated both externally and through self-assessment. Each project participant should self assess all the time.

The benefits of self-assessment include:

- Improvement of implementation
- Increase of the sustainability of the beneficial effects
- Improvement of personal expertise
- Improvement of project management
- Identification of best practices

Self-evaluation support in the projects is carried out in evaluation workshops organised by the AKTIIVI Plus working group. The purpose of these workshops is to critically examine the project's activities against the project's goals by answering the following questions:

Where are we now?

Has any circumstance changed the way that things should be done as opposed to what was written in the project plan?

ANTICIPATION

What are the future open learning environments like? What kind of knowledge and skills will an active citizen need to develop their own expertise in the open learning environments of the future? The future society, working life and education require citizens who not only possess good skills and expertise, but participate in their continuous updating as well. Technological developments create new kinds of environments, that pose challenges to people's abilities to act in those environments.

One of the major tasks of the AKTIIVI Plus project is to gather relevant information and forecasts,

so as to offer the project participants and other stakeholders support in their operations. In the project issues are approached from an active citizenship, open learning environment and competence development point of view.

In the AKTIIVI Plus network product development requires prognoses for the future. What should the developed products be like, so that they reflect short-term needs and challenges, as well as be easily developed in the light of changing conditions?



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MUNICIPAL COOPERATION



Photo: Ville Salminen / HAMK

Municipal cooperation aims at spreading good practices among municipalities and thus contributes to encouraging active citizenship. Municipalities generate huge amounts of data, which are not often easily available to the public. Making these data visible through openness and transparency promotes active citizenship. Rendering public data available to all citizens makes it easier for them to find information about public decisions, or to participate in the discussions.

Transparency of public data can also promote active citizenship by fuelling innovations that the originators never thought of before. When talking about active citizenship, one can also think about the content that people generate themselves through various channels. Modern information and communication technology allows more interactive communication between citizens and decision-makers.

The main themes of the AKTIIVI Plus network projects are the development of public participation and information society skills through active citizenship and open learning environments.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The international dimension is an important part of the AKTIIVI Plus project. International operations have been carried out in several different ways: Targeted visits, participation in international conferences, as well as the involvement of international guests in the project activities and dissemination of the results.

AKTIIVI Plus is actively seeking to work bilaterally in its international cooperation. On the one hand we strive to share our experiences and productised services. On the other hand we seek to bring the best concepts from around

the world to the awareness of the Finnish participants for them to try out.

Internationally, we have focussed specifically on actors in the Baltic region. In the future we will also consider examples from and co-operation with innovative actors from more distant places, such as North-America and Asia. International cooperation does not always require travelling. A good Internet connection and knowing how to use it, is part and parcel of active citizenship in today's information society.



Photo: Teemu Korpi / HAMK



Further information

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