

Best Practice cases in VET - Finland (Partners: TEAK)

Portable Cabinet Maker Education Workshop (PW)

Duration 12 months

Portable Cabinet maker education workshop (PW) is run by TEAK OY. By completing this course students are getting title of "Cabinet maker". This title is catalogued by Finnish National Board of Education qualification Framework for cabinet makers. A separate qualification pass is given to the student.

The certificate of vocational skills, which contains data about the holder of the certificate, his/hers qualifications and modules of qualifications, other education and employment. As regards the competence based qualifications the certificate of Vocational Skills is approved by the National Board of Education and entry on a qualification made therein deemed equivalent to a separate qualification certificate.

The new "Portable cabinet maker education workshop" (PW) is based on the idea that a fully equipped workshop with machines and equipments will be transported to a destination where there is a need of cabinetmakers. The workshop can be placed or established in any suitable facility. The PW working only as long as the course exists. After that it will be moved to another place in the country.

The normal procedure of setting up a PW is a contract between the education institute (TEAK), the local industry and the local employment office. If the need for new workers or for further education for the personnel in the industry the PW is the best solution.

In many cases there are a lot of adult people (often unemployed) that wants to be educated and trained for a new job. Unfortunately many of them don't have the possibility to travel and stay in a faraway vocational institute for months because of family reasons. For those people the PW is a solution for to get a profession and a job within the woodbased- and furniture industry.



Fig. 4 Cabinet maker

This course is made for to educate different types of students: job seekers, adult learners, in-job training. etc

Aim of this course is to bring the woodworking workshop out to the student so that he/she can get a professional training without having to travel to a permanent school far away from home.

The objective is to get the same education and qualification in the "portable workshop" than in the standard permanent education programmes.

The **learning outcome** has been as good as the normal education outcomes in permanent schools and workshops. When different groups of students, the students in school and the students in the “portable workshop” have been compared no significant differences can be found between the learning, the skills or the qualifications they got after finishing the course.

Why this is an example of Good Practice:

Course provider’s view: We are taking the education to the field where we can educate the students on their own “backyard”. We can also easily modify the education programmes and include local interests into the education program

Participant’s view: The education and the “portable workshop” is coming to us... we don’t have to travel far away. It saves us a lot of costs and time. The education in the “portable workshop” is surely as good as in any normal school.

Industry’s view: The education is modified so that it fits to our industry needs and the skills needed in our company can better be notified than in normal schools basic education programmes.

The teaching methodology is based on portable workshops that have been transported to the different locations depending on demand of the workforce.

The assessments methods include written, practical examines and portfolio work.

Learner/Employer motivation and course promotion: The “portable workshop” are transported and placed in regions where there is a big demand from the industry of cabinetmakers/woodworkers. The woodworking industry from the region is highly involved in course marketing. The student is motivation is driven by high chance of getting job in the local industry after completing this course.

Multiplicity: The PW can be modified to include different education programmes depending on the demand. For the moment we use this method in training of the following profiles:
Cabinet maker (includes all machines and equipments)
CnC machining and programming (wood and metals, includes 3 portable Cnc-machines and 15 laptops)

Student retention in this course is fairly good.

Course Evaluation: Standards methods of course evaluation are applied here (individual student evaluation)