



A non-threshold support service and an authentic learning environment

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LAMK

Lahden ammattikorkeakoulu
Lahti University of Applied Sciences



Sylvia-koti Assoc

Leverage from
the EU
2014–2020



European Union
European Social Fund



Olopiste

- 1.9.2015-31.8.2018
- European Social Fund
- Easy access support action for the long-term unemployed and socially excluded people



Objectivities are to:

- strengthen the participants' ability to partake in society's normal activities as well as to strengthen their working ability and well-being through support and provided activities.
- to create a new kind of authentic learning environment for Bachelor of Social Work students.



Partners

- Harjula Settlement Assoc
- Sylvia-Koti Assoc
Kaupunkikylä
- Lahti University of Applied
Sciences



Harjula Settlement Assoc

Harjula Settlement is a multifunctional organization that operates upon the principles of communal integrity and co-operation.

- Two private day care centers
- Support and counselling service for children that have been bullied at school and their parents
- Civic engagement and participation
- In-home care for senior citizens
- Adult education centre
- Outdoor advertising and bill-board sites
- Kesti lunch restaurant
- Alternative dispute resolution



Sylvia Koti Assoc Kaupunkikylä

- A community based in Lahti offering supported living services and work engagement opportunities to and with persons with special needs.
- 4 residential buildings, organic café and bakery, a team that works with unemployed young people, looking after many parks and open areas in Lahti
- The roots of Kaupunkikylä's culture are in the international Camphill-movement.



LUAS

- A provider of multidisciplinary higher education in Lahti
- 5,000 students aiming at the BSc or MSc level and a teaching staff of 260
- Operates actively in EU-funded projects
- Our applied research activities aim at finding, developing and producing new and improved products, production systems, methods and services
- RDI activities are integrated into teaching

As a service

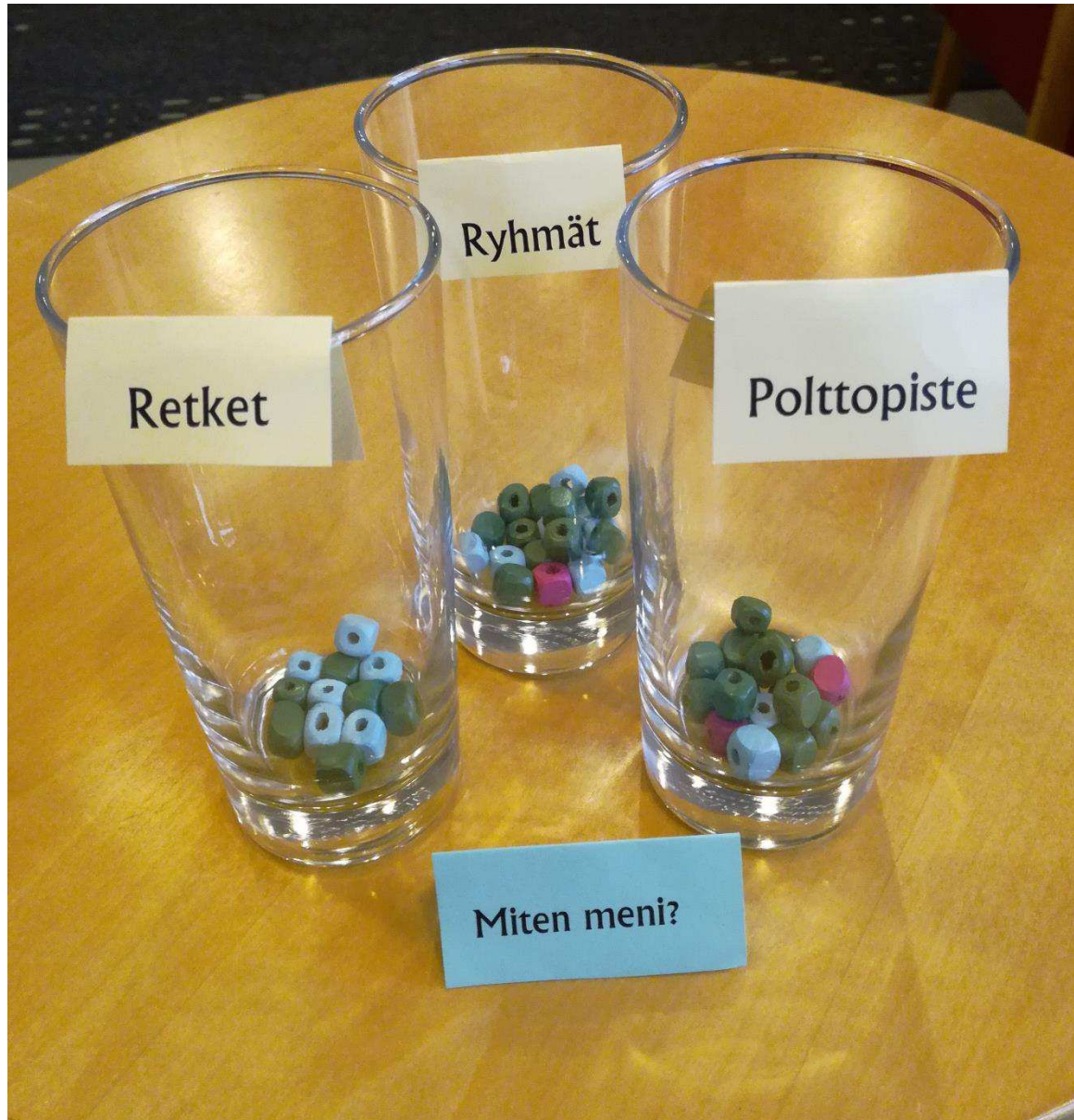




Activities offered

Tailor made support in the form of

- excursions
- exercise group
- physiotherapy group
- relaxation classes
- community health nurse consultations
- individual counselling
- group counselling
- job coaching



Feedback

Feedback has been collected throughout the project

- Written questionnaires
- Client panels
- Beads
- Regular partner meetings

Clients' opinions are taken into consideration in all planning



Qualitative results

Through support, provided activities and personal empowerment there has been an increase in:

- active participation and involvement
- social interaction skills
- ability to partake in society's normal activities
- fitness for work
- mental well-being
- motivation

Quantitative results

53 of 109 registered clients have found their way forward:

- ✪ working 26
- ✪ studying 7
- ✪ work trial 7
- ✪ rehabilitative work 4
- ✪ retired 2
- ✪ other 7

Time and support are the core objectives of counselling when the aim is to enhance the client's individual growth and learning



Client Success

- Starting job search
- Taking responsibility for one's own health
- Increased capacity to function and work
- Building social connections
- Broadened opinions
- Active participation
- Abstinence from substance abuse
- Better self-esteem



Matti

- 50 year old male
- Unemployed for 10 yrs
- College degree
- Social contacts at Olopiste, nurse's consultations and excursions
- 5 month participation
- Olopiste sourced a lead for a job in the 3rd sector and this client is now working



Maria

- 45 years
- Vocational degree in a field that offers lots of work opportunities.
- Problems with empathy, in social situations and personal hygiene
 - Ongoing personal support and counselling on top of other services provided by Olopiste
 - 1,5 yrs participation
 - Working since August 2017

Authentic Learning Environment





Authentic learning environment

- Olopiste is a work-based learning environment for higher education students
- Students gain competence which will be useful in their future working lives.
- They have an opportunity to work in conjunction with a multi-professional team with mentorship.



“I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I’m going to learn, I must do it by listening.”

Larry King

Student’s duties at Olopiste

- 3 days at Olopiste + independent work (research, studying, planning)
- Meeting clients
- Interactive discussion group
- Pop up Olopiste
- Humans of Olopiste
- Plan and execute an event
- Working alongside an other student (in pairs)

<https://youtu.be/gD3ojCI6EMo>



”This art exhibition on wood makes me feel like home as I am a carpenter by profession. I go to Olopiste for social contacts and the different excursions make my days more interesting.”



”Once you visit Olopiste – you get hooked!”



Action Learning

- First contact with social work and clients
- Interaction with different people
- Transferring theory to practice
- Peer support
- Opportunity to use personal skills and strengths



Requirements for learning

- Clear basics and duties
- Ability to tolerate uncertainty
- Taking responsibility for one's own learning process
- Stepping out of one's "comfort zone"
- Reflection of learning experiences



Challenges for learning

- To tolerate uncertainty
- Students role in articulation, wording and sharing learned information
- Time and support



Positive outcomes

- It has been inspiring for the students to be able to act as a professional in an authentic learning environment.
- The authentic context and activities of the project have been good motivators for learning.
- Students gain competence which will be useful in their future working lives

A faded, grayscale background image of three people walking together. The person on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a dark beanie. The person in the middle is wearing a dark jacket and a dark beanie. The person on the right is wearing a light-colored jacket and a light-colored beanie. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

“Time and support are the core objectives of counselling when the aim is to enhance the client’s and student’s individual growth and learning”



For Padlet:

<http://bit.ly/2jRW7AI>

In order to type your comment choose

+ in the bottom right corner

One comment in each post-it note

Comments can be edited



What possibilities or obstacles emerge from the voluntary nature of the Olopiste service?



How can an authentic learning environment enhance UAS students' learning?

A group of approximately ten people is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that winds through a lush green field. The field is filled with tall grass and small white flowers. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky. The people are dressed in casual summer attire, and some are carrying bags or backpacks. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day outdoors.

Thank you!

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