

In Finland, sustainable development is incorporated as a comprehensive, subject-crossing theme in the national core curricula of general and vocational education. In 2009, the environmental criteria were updated to sustainable development criteria covering the environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of sustainability. The criteria apply to the general and vocational education at the first and secondary level, adult education and liberal adult education. The new criteria and related self-evaluation tools are based on the principle of quality circle (plan, do, check, act), and are applicable with quality systems. They provide a systematic tool for the planning of teaching and constructing of a sustainable development program.

Sustainability criteria and certification for Liberal Adult Education institutes in Finland

- The criteria for certification were published 2014
- Aims of the certification system: Development of the quality of teaching, learning environment and operation of educational establishments
- Implementation of education for sustainable development in teaching and institute culture
- Elements of sustainable development in culture of the institutes: Ecological, Economic, Social and Cultural sustainability
- Sustainability criteria: process model
 - o Planning
 - o Implementation
 - o Follow-up, Evaluation, Development
- Ecological and Economic sustainability
 - o Responsible procurements and sustainable consumption (also social and cultural sustainability)
 - o Recycling and prevention of waste
 - o Energy and water
 - o Transports and traffic
 - o Nutrition and health (also social and cultural sustainability)
 - o Management and maintenance of the premises and surroundings of the institutes
 - o Own theme (ecological/economic sustainability)
- Social and Cultural sustainability
 - o Safety of the educational establishment
 - o Wellbeing of the staff and the students
 - o Prevention of bullying and exclusion
 - o Organization of students' support services
 - o Cultural environment and traditions
 - o Cultural diversity and internationality
 - o Own theme (social/cultural sustainability)
- Using the criteria themes for continuous improvement (SD programme)
 - o Selection of annual themes
 - o Review of the selected themes
 - o Sustainable development (SD) programme
 - o Implementation of the programme in teaching and culture
 - o Evaluation and development of operation
 - o Participation of the staff, students and stakeholders
- Pedagogical approach of SD
 - o Knowledge of the environment
 - o Action skills and experiences
 - o Cognitive skills
- Applying the Sustainable Development Certificate
 - o The educational establishment conducts a self-evaluation
 - o An authorized auditor checks the report and conducts an on-site external audit
 - o The auditor gives the educational establishment a statement about the fulfillment of the criteria
 - o The educational establishment does the corrective actions, which are then verified by the auditor
 - o The educational establishment can apply for the Certificate from the OKKA-Foundation
- Contact Information for the Certification in Finland
 - o Mr. Risto Tenhunen, President, Cooperative ECO-ONE
 - o E-mail: risto.tenhunen@eco-one.fi
 - o **Infopage in English:** www.koulujaymparisto.fi/sivu.php?id=1820
 - o Mr. Erkka Laininen, Planning Manager, The OKKA Foundation
 - o E-mail: erkka.laininen@okka-saatio.com www.koulujaymparisto.fi/index-en.htm

Keski-Suomen Osaava, KESO-project in Liberal Adult Education institutes in Central Finland

The KESO-project is a part of the project Keski-Suomen Osaava. It offers further education for staff in Finnish liberal adult education institutes in Central Finland in 2010-2016. It is funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland. At the moment the project consists of 20 liberal adult education institutes in Central Finland. For the years 2014-2016 one of the projects main goals is for at least 50 % of the institutes to be awarded the Sustainable Development Certificate. Five of the institutes get the Certificate until May 2015.

We develop sustainability, use of social media and pedagogy for special needs students. We want to enhance the knowledge and skills of the whole personnel and to promote the well-being of everyone, senior part-time teachers in particular. The supporting of working communities across generations and work tasks is also a key action in the KESO project.

Our slogans are:

- Appreciate your work and colleagues in your working communities!
- A respected working community thrives!
- Take the initiative: we arrange lectures and workshops according to need!
- Work can be fun – joy gives you strength and new ideas can flourish!

We develop:

- the use of social media
- the pedagogy for special needs students
- the knowledge and skills of the whole personnel
- the well-being of everyone but especially senior part-time teachers
- the supporting of working communities across generations and work tasks
- the developing of sustainability in adult education institutes

Because everyone is valuable, important and skilled!

- Contact Information of KESO-project
 - o Mrs Sini Louhivuori, Principal, The Jyväskylä Adult Education Centre
 - o E-mail: sini.louhivuori@jkl.fi

The project's home page: <http://www.peda.net/hankkeet/ksosaava>

Project leader: Sini Louhivuori, sini.louhivuori@jkl.fi

Project coordinator: Kristiina Niermi-Kaija, kristiina.niemi-kaija@jyu.fi

Finnish Adult Education Centres: <http://kansalaisopistot.fi>

Finnish Folk High Schools: <http://www.kansanopistot.fi>

Summer University of Jyväskylä: <https://kesayo.jyu.fi>

