Workshop: How to make vocational education more inclusive, accessible and attractive

The future availability of a professional work force is one of the key questions regarding the competitiveness of the BSR. The aim of this workshop was to provide a platform for sharing best practices in making vocational education a more desirable educational path for young people, while still ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. One of the questions discussed was the creation of "a vocational college that never sleeps", a continually functioning educational institution with a flexible intake. Workshop includes case-studies about attractiveness of VET, inclusive solutions and youngsters as an active actors in developing VET.

The first case-study *Attractiveness of VET* presented how to make vocational education more attractive and how to involve the students in marketing their sector of vocational education. Participants discussed in two groups what makes VET attractive; which are positive/ negative things and can we do something in making VET more attractive in the future.
The opinions of the students:
positive:
- VET is flexible
- VET makes students' life easier
- VET is a key factor in combatting social inequality
- VET creates new professions

challenges:
- VET is always changing
- free education to every student
- hard competition
- we need more co-operation with working life
- we have many difficulties but we also have many possibilities

The second case-study *365/12 – Vocational College That Never Sleeps* presented the idea of 365/12 model where studying and learning can happen anywhere at any time, regardless of time and place. The participants also heard about different kinds of learning environments in Turku Vocational Institute: the boat school Bore, learning centre "Oppimo", the entrepreneurship learning environment "Wisio" and the health technology simulation environment.

All participants took part in discussion session, which concentrated on the following questions:
- How the youngsters see the future of the VET and the working life?
- How to guarantee professional work force in the BSR?
- How to create a vocational college that never sleeps?
- How to guarantee equal opportunities to all students?

Main conclusions concerning the 365/12 model:
- Personalized learning paths should include also personalized learning methods
- The critical point of the model is digital and virtual learning environments
- E-learning isn't the right way to learn for all, but it is a good alternative
- The different parts of the model should be justified