Research in Universities of Applied Sciences

Henrik Wolff
President
Research in UAS - why

The role of UAS

1. To educate the workforce for the Knowledge Society

2. To conduct Applied (or Demand Driven) Research for the benefit of the Society
Innovation and Research

- Where is it done

- Why is the link between Higher Education and Research essential
The Knowledge Triangle

Innovation

Education  Research
R&D LABOUR HOURS

Business Sector

Higher Education (incl. polytechnics)

Public Sector (incl. Private non-profit)

Source: Statistics Finland

EDUCATIONAL COMPOSITION OF R&D LABOUR HOURS

Business Sector

Source: Statistics Finland
Ministers at the Leuven conference: “Higher education should be based at all levels on state of the art research and development thus fostering innovation and creativity in society. We recognise the potential of higher education programmes, including those based on applied science, to foster innovation”.

Swedish EU presidency: “The current debate about the knowledge triangle tends primarily to focus on the relationship between research and innovation. We will focus on the central role of higher education in the knowledge triangle and for European competitiveness”.

Dutch SER (Social and Economic Council): “to involve more explicitly (higher) education concerning the development of the European Knowledge Area”.

Veerman: Preserve the binary structure, but: small, selective research intensive universities, and broad supply of universities (UAS) with a clear profile

>>invest in applied research at UAS, and publicly funded Masters in applied sciences
Diversity:
UAS are the linking pin in the regional knowledge triangle
SUFACARE
Supporting Family Caregivers and Receivers in Finland and Estonia
Project financed by EU Central Baltic Interreg IV A Programme 2007-2013 in co-operation with Arcada and Tallinn University
Aims for SUFACARE during 2009-2011

- Aim of this project is to enhance the situation of family caregivers and receivers in Estonia and Finland in working conditions, physical and mental health, quality of life, practical issues and social participation

- Project is carried out by surveying caregivers (questionnaire and interviews) about their situation in e.g.: physical and mental health, quality of life, social services, social-economical situation and social participation

- Based on surveys we are designing an educational program for caregivers to help them in their daily life, help them to find solutions and increase their capacity in their tasks

- The final goal is to create a modell to enhance the living conditions for caregivers, which is both human and cost-efficient. We shall lay down recommendations and propositions for changes in family caregiving for municipalities and decision makers in Finland and Estonia
SUFACARE
SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND RECEIVERS IN FINLAND AND ESTONIA

SURVEY
CAREGIVERS’ NEED OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE?

PHASE I
QUESTIONNAIRE

PHASE II
INTERVIEWS

PHASE III
COST-EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

ANALYZING RESULTS

PHASE IV
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2010-2011

PHASE V
FINAL OUTCOMES -GENERAL MODEL FOR HUMAN AND COST-EFFICIENT HOMECARE IN FINLAND AND ESTONIA

Social services

Mental health and wellbeing

Physical health and condition

Social participation

Environment and accessibility
Research Programs in Diak: research to combat marginalisation
DIAK SOUTH
• Helsinki (1000 students), Järvenpää (500),
• Kauniainen (100)
DIAK NORTH • Oulu (200)
DIAK EAST • Pieksämäki (500)
DIAK WEST • Pori (250), Turku (230)

Five Degree Programmes (BA)
Three Master’s Degree Programmes

Altogether 2950 students, 290 staff members
Structure of Research & Development work in Diak

Services for working life, “ServiceDiak”

Service Teams
- In every unit:
  - Training
  - Developing
  - Surveys

Research Programs
- In admin. Office:
  - Church
  - Welfare services
  - Civil Society
Research Programmes in Diak

- Welfare-services
  - Services against social exclusion
  - Social and health services
    - Care
    - Sign-language interpretation
  - Well being and health
- Civil society
  - Work against social exclusion
  - Associations
    - Civic activity and communality
  - Values, religions and culture
- Church
  - Parishes’ work against social exclusion
  - Church, parishes and Christian associations
Aim of research

The overall objective is the promotion of people’s well-being and their ability to participate: to combat marginalisation

Roots in working life and everyday life of people

Three principles: ethically right, scientifically true, and beneficial to society

Research programmes’ foremost function is to add, refine, and share the know-how within four units of Diak

Longstanding partners in Europe, Africa and Asia
InForm – Campaign against obesity in children and adolescents (2008-2011)

The project has received funding from the European Union (Public Health Program)
Project budget: 700 000 €

Aim:
• The general objective of the InForm project is to develop integrated overweight / obesity prevention and treatment strategies for children and adolescents
• The participating countries are Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Norway and Slovenia
Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences

Expected results:
• There are two main outcomes from the InForm project:
  • a measurable change in awareness about the important of healthy lifestyle for the prevention of obesity of the children, adolescents and their families targeted with the social marketing campaign
  • A sustainable network of competence centres in the area of childhood obesity prevention and treatment in the participating countries. This network will implement the manual and the training course beyond project time
European Network for Universities of Applied Sciences (UASNET)
Moving from project to sustainable networking
www.uasnet.eu

Henrik Wolff
president UASNET
vice-chairman international affairs ARENE
CEO Arcada UAS
The partners in UASNET?

11 National Associations for Universities of Applied Sciences:


Sounding Board: EARTO, UEAPME, Erinn
Why professionalize teamwork?

- UAS as important actors within the higher education sector still lag behind in:
  - International visibility (widespread knowledge on the activities and added value we have to offer)
  - Appreciation (acknowledgement of the value and contribution of UAS to society, especially social-economic development on a regional level)
  - Support (accompanying policy measures and funds)

While at the same time:

There is a growing demand from the world of work for our type of research and education.

There is a growing political demand for our type of research and education. Now is the time to act…. 