

## InnoOmnia

### **1. Brief description of the measure**

InnoOmnia, in the city of Espoo, Finland, was founded in 2011. It is the first multi-sector vocational education centre in Finland where entrepreneurs may run their businesses jointly with students and teachers. Work and vocational education are part of a blended learning approach. One of the key aims of the programme is to improve the appeal of vocational education, and to offer “21<sup>st</sup> century learning” opportunities.

Services include:

1. Entrepreneurship support for current and aspiring entrepreneurs, primarily in arts and crafts or the service sectors.
2. Work-based/on-the-job learning programmes
3. Innovation and piloting of new teaching methods in the context of vocational education, g, e.g. gamification, mobile learning, entrepreneurial teaching methods
4. Teacher and school leader professional development for K-12 and vocational sectors

### **What were the conditions and steps taken that have contributed most to the success of the measure?**

The InnoOmnia campus and facilities are designed to provide opportunities for networking and co-creation.

At the macro level, flexibility in the Finnish education system, which allows students to pursue a dual track featuring the core curriculum and the VET qualification, ensuring students will have access to higher education is important for the success of the measure. Students at InnoOmnia receive an upper secondary school degree and a VET qualification.

### **Which stakeholders were involved in identifying needs and in the planning and design of the measure?**

Leaders and faculty of InnoOmnia, as well as local businesses and entrepreneurs cooperating with the programme.

### **Who was involved in implementing the measure?**

As above

### **Who has key responsibility for implementation?**

As above.

### **How are the different people involved in implementation being supported (e.g. do they receive specific training?)**

Innovative teaching and learning for VET and entrepreneurship education is promoted, and its impact is evaluated on an ongoing basis. Faculty are encouraged to engage in research on innovative teaching methods.

### **What have been the obstacles to introducing the measure? How have they been addressed?**

The Finnish government has pointed to the need for more employer involvement in VET education and launched a campaign to encourage their participation. One solution proposed by InnoOmnia has been to introduce a more flexible system that will be more attractive to employers who do not want to make one to make a two to three-year commitment to apprentices.

### **Is there a monitoring/evaluation system in place?**

Yes

**What is monitored?**

- Participation
- Number of entrepreneurial start-ups
- Ongoing feedback on business successes

**Who monitors and how?**

InnoOmnia monitors outcomes including participation of entrepreneurs and students. Participation in training for school leaders and teachers in the areas of entrepreneurship and educational technology are also monitored.

Entrepreneurs' proposals are evaluated during the selection process. While InnoOmnia's hub provides an incubator for new businesses, they may move on to new premises as they grow. Those who leave the hub are interviewed so that they can provide insights on what may be improved.

In-house entrepreneurs receive feedback in monthly workshops.

**Are further evaluations planned and when will the results be available?**

Evaluation is ongoing.

**What has been the impact of the measure?**

Since it opened in 2011, the InnoOmnia project has supported at least 110 aspiring entrepreneurs to establish sustainable businesses and around 600 students have participated in opportunities for on the job learning. In addition, 742 teachers and school leaders have been trained in entrepreneurship education and the use of educational technology. The project has also received national and international awards for educational innovation.

Another indicator of the success of InnoOmnia is that more than 50% of 9<sup>th</sup> year students in the region apply to Omnia.

InnoOmnia received a national innovation award in the education sector in 2013. The programme was selected as a global good practice by InnovEdu in 2015. It was featured in a publication of the Qatar Foundation's World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) in 2013.

**What resources are involved (material, space, amount of funding)? (text field)**

The InnoOmnia campus serves 10,000 students, and provides common spaces for entrepreneurial startups. No budget data are available.

**17. Further info (website, contact person e-mail, organisation details)**

<https://fr.slideshare.net/sjarvin/innoomnia-shortly-explained>

<https://www.omnia.fi/internationalomnia/omnia-highlights>

<http://www.innovedu.org/en/innoomnia>

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/edhub/innoomnia>

Hannon, V. et al. (2013), *Learning a Living: Radical Innovation in Education for Work*, Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, Doha.

Contact: Mervi Jansson [mervi.jansson@oep.fi](mailto:mervi.jansson@oep.fi)