

# In Finland Social Skills Prevent Marginalization

Better social skills among young people and increased employment through studies is a national development program in Finland with a focus on reducing dropout of school and education, increased employment among students and support for education and career. A broad group of youths is defined as target group for the initiative, all with one thing in common: that they are marginalized from school/education and the labour market.

The goal is to promote employment and to prevent marginalization. But also to facilitate more effective transitions from elementary school to high school or vocational training. A number of different approaches are tested during the project:

- More individualized counselling and support
- Early intervention for youths with mental health problems
- More expertise on mental health problems for teachers, youth workers and professionals in the social and care services
- Introducing individual study plans as well as monitoring all levels of education
- Increased cooperation between the labour market and vocational education
- Further developing cooperation between youth workshops, educational institutions and labour market authorities

## Tangible Results

Documents on the Finnish Ministry of Education's website suggest that the project has had tangible results in several areas, including:

### Prevention of dropout

- Dropout reduced in the educational institutions participating in the project
- More students graduate within the prescribed time
- Students receive sufficient support in terms of study and career

### Inclusion in the labour market

- More people start out in a profession that corresponds to their level of education

### Health

- A number of public actors (such as teachers, counsellors, health workers and youth workers) gained increased knowledge about early intervention
- Early detection of problems and early intervention constitutes a common practice

### Systemic development

- Increased multicultural skills at youth workshops
- Youth workshops have become more accessible
- The working patterns of the regions have evolved to a higher standard

More on the project:

[http://www.ungdomsgaranti.fi/files/34025/Social\\_guarantee\\_for\\_youth\\_2013.pdf](http://www.ungdomsgaranti.fi/files/34025/Social_guarantee_for_youth_2013.pdf)