



# NEW EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KOTKA



**An extensive educational system developmental project has been launched in the city of Kotka this autumn. The title of the project is "The schools in Kotka as a working place - rebuilding the educational activities".**

The objective is that both the employer (City of Kotka) and the teaching personnel commit themselves to a common strategy and the principles together approved for a continuing development of the education. This project covers both the general and the vocational education, about 35 schools and educational institutions and about 700 teachers and instructors. The project is financed by Ministry of Labour and the City of Kotka. In the planning team representatives of all parties were involved, so already during the planning stage the different viewpoints of the parties were taken into consideration and the objectives of the project are now common

to them all.

The main objective is divided into different sub-objectives. One is to create a common educational strategy for the school system, which can direct action in different educational institutes. The guidelines are drawn by a "strategy team", where the different types of schools are represented. Along this work also the evaluation and quality systems are developed. This work is the basic work, which has to be done for the further development of education.

Another sub-objective is to improve the teachers and instructors ability to manage their work. This is done by developing cooperational networks between and in the schools and by introducing team working methods among teachers. The preparatory work is done in three teams. Those teachers who are members of these teams, form groups in their own schools, where the

same topics can be discussed, different solutions found and tried out in practise. During the project individual schools can get consultation by the project manager, the University of Helsinki and Vantaa Institute for Continuing Education. Four extensive training seminars for all 700 teachers will be organised during the next school year to introduce team working model.

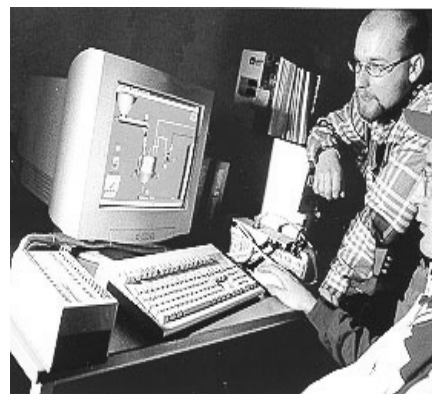
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## KYMENLAAKSO POLYTECHNIC

**Kymenlaakso Polytechnic is a multi-disciplinary institution of higher education, which was founded in 1996. The mission is to actively promote the implementation of the development strategies of the Kymenlaakso Province, as set by the regional authorities.**

The task is to produce internationally competitive professionals in cooperation with local companies, organisations, and authorities. Keywords for the success are flexibility, project management knowledge, and ability to react promptly to the changes in society. The objective of the international dimension of the Polytechnic is to keep curricula and teaching methods in the forefront of the European higher education. This includes not only the high-level expertise in one's own field, but also acquiring language skills and cross-cultural skills required by an increasingly international society and industries with versatile international trade relations. Natu-



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rally, this knowledge and experience enables the future experts to work abroad, too. International cooperation is a strategic means to fulfil the objectives, and to ensure the quality of the provided training.

The Polytechnic provides Bachelor Degree Programmes in technology and transport, forestry business and

administration, social and health care, and culture. Arranging follow-up and specialisation courses for graduates already at work transfers the latest knowledge. Moreover, research and development, which supports the training, is carried out and business and technology services for local enterprises are served. It is owned by the city on Kotka and the municipalities of the Kouvola region. The Polytechnic has 3000 full-time students, 300 part-time students and the staff of about 350 persons.

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