

Topic stream: B. Good practice

Submission type: Presentation

Submission title:

Practicing entrepreneurship? Learning from the Finnish experience

Abstract:

This presentation reports on a recent 'learning expedition' to Pro Akatemia in Tampere, Finland. Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) engages in radically new approach to delivery of their Entrepreneurship and Team Leadership Bachelor's degree. Rather than a pedagogic approach, the course is developed along the lines of a heutagogic approach (Hase and Kenyon, 2000). This approach challenges the centrality of a 'teacher' and moves towards the student 'learning how to learn' and focusses on knowledge sharing in contrast to knowledge learning. In Finland, this is realised through student self-learning; sharing with peers; and 'frontline' engagement in business activities. In this context 'teaching' is 'coaching'. The outcomes for students include: high levels of entrepreneurship, excellent student completion rates and near full employment post-completion. How does this radical approach transfer to our teaching and learning environment? Despite the outcomes, does it have academic credibility? This presentation seeks to report on findings from the Tampere trip and to pose a variety of questions which both present ideas for transfer to our context and critique the approach based on pedagogic epistemology.