

Welcome to Haaga-Helia!

Vocational education in the core of sivilized society



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Main Objectives

- to get oriented to the program and get to know each other
- to be able to outline networking in education from different perspectives
- to gain insights into collaboration with the working life
- develop the project's models and get to know Finnish VET



Haaga-Helia

The Ministry of Education and Culture has declared 2024 as the theme year of *Sivistys*

- The Year of Sivistys 2024 is inspired by the 150th anniversary of the Finnish Lifelong Foundation, the oldest foundation for Sivistys, lifelong learning, and adult education in Finland.
- In the context of the thematic year, Sivistys will be explored through the following themes:
 - Sustainable future
 - Diversity, equity, and new Finns
 - Culture and art leading the way
 - From science to Sivistys
 - Literacy and dialogue
 - Lifelong learning and Sivistys

***Sivistys* is a Finnish concept with two distinctive definitions:**

- 1) a general societal aim and value; enlightenment
- 2) a specific type of person who is civilised and well-behaved, who lives in harmony with other people, wider society, and nature, and who can also contribute to the preservation and development of communities, the environment, and humankind in general.
- *Sivistys*—in both definitions of the concept—can be developed within the educational system, starting from home education through the school system, universities and adult and continuing education. However, *Sivistys* (as an individual characteristic) is not a synonym for trained or educated person.

Defining an English equivalent for Sivistys is a complex task. It is often translated as self-formation or self-cultivation.

In English-language research literature in this context, the concept and word Sivistys are typically referred to as Bildung, the original German term for education in a broad sense.

In other Nordic countries, the concept is known as bildning.

Sivistys and the role of Universities and education

Wilhelm von Humboldt: German philosopher, diplomat, statesman and linguist: Freedom of the individual and independence of research and teaching. Bildung durch Wissenschaft - i.e. "civilization through science". The objective knowledge sought in universities, pure science for science's sake, provides the basis for "personal education", characterized by the human desire for self-education without external goals.

Vs Snellman's (Finnish philosopher and statesman) view:

The first obligation of a civilized person is to understand the demands of his time and to tackle the great questions of humanity. National cultural work must be to contribute to the development of universal human culture and peaceful relations between nations.

The university of education must open up to society. Civilization is the foundation of society's central freedoms and equality and a suitable frame of reference for lifelong learning.“ Because Civilization does not end at a school or a certain degree, but the whole of life is the school where the individual is shaped into a human being, and this civilizing process itself forms what is human in a person.”

General Bildung/Sivistys vs professional Bildung/Sivistys

- Vocational education has been defined with an educational dimension that is tied to the acquisition of skills, activities and attitudes.
- European vocational education has its roots deep in history, in the medieval institution of trade unions. We take care of the transfer of professional skills to the next generations. (Finnish philosopher Eino Kaila characterized civilization as the fact that the past lives in us.)
- The decisive thing is what we understand to be part of this professionalism

Professional ethics in the core of Bildung in vocational education

- Professionals must be aware of the social impact of their activities and bear ethical and moral responsibility for development.
- The profession includes not only the knowledge and skills needed in the profession, but also the ability to understand and specify the ethical issues of one's professional field, the ability to recognize and implement the professional responsibility of an expert in the field, the ability to have a reasoned discussion about the ethical issues of one's field and work.
- In vocational education and training, Bildung/Sivistys is built in practice. In general education Bildung/Sivistys is built in theory. Our job is to find the right balance for them. In this work, it is essential to cooperate with networks. This is the most central aspect of the development of vocational education. Getting Bildung together.

A top-down view of a white circular desk. On the desk are a silver laptop, a black smartphone, a clear cup with a green drink and a black straw, a black pen, and an orange notebook. A beige zippered pouch is also visible in the top right corner.

Have a great week in Helsinki!