

Trust increases work wellbeing and efficiency

Trust is a key factor in terms of human interaction and wellbeing in work communities, and it also increases the organisation's efficiency, says Professor **Kirsimarja Blomqvist** of Lappeenranta University of Technology.

According to Blomqvist, an atmosphere of trust enables the creation of new information, brings together know-how, boosts learning, and improves technologies and services in a network environment. It is all the more important in situations where people have to put themselves on the line and when uncertainty and risks are present.

Trust is increasingly important in work communities, because it is needed in all parts of organisation and at all levels where employee cooperation is crucial.

At the same time, building trust has become more and more challenging, since through wider globalisation, people with quite different backgrounds often only work together on projects with no common work history.

Blomqvist urges organisations to place a lot of emphasis on creating an atmosphere of trust, because according to studies it is one of the key factors that contributes to efficient and successful communication within work communities and improves staff commitment and cooperation.



Information and wireless technology to create energy savings in public buildings

Providing people with accurate information is the best way to achieve results if you want to change people's energy consumption attitudes and habits. This is the approach adopted in an EU project called Save Energy that was started in 2009 aiming at energy savings in public buildings. Two comprehensive schools in Helsinki, Pihkapuisto Primary School and Ala-Malmi Comprehensive, have been chosen to pilot the project in Finland. The schools join in to develop ICT-based wireless measurement and control systems that provide both staff and the pupils with real-time information about the energy consumption of electricity, lighting and air conditioning.

Save Energy aims to share the best practices in energy consumption and reduction of carbon dioxide emission in public buildings on a European scale and slow down global warming. Sixteen partners are participating in the project from five European countries – Finland, Holland, Portugal, Sweden and England. In addition to Helsinki, energy saving experiments are carried out in an old people's home in Leiden, Holland; the Municipality Main Office Building in Lisbon, Portugal; the City Culture House in Luleå, Sweden; and the Town Hall of Manchester, England.

Besides Metropolia, the Finnish participants in the project are the Helsinki School of Economics, Nokia, There Corporation and Green Net Finland.

City of Espoo and Metropolia aiming at partnership model



The daily goings on of a university of applied sciences and the labour market do have their differences, but there is nevertheless a lot of cooperation between them. What kind of principles, structures and processes are required for successful cooperation? These are some of the issues that the City of Espoo and Metropolia are trying to find answers to. The objective is to create a model on the elements required for a partnership to be fruitful between a university of

applied sciences and the labour market. This partnership is studied in detail from the viewpoint of know-how and expertise, career and recruiting model, and resource management. The principle is that it should be possible to apply the results to other similar projects.

Building this partnership model is a key part of Collaborative Intensity, a joint project between the City of Espoo and Metropolia. The model is developed as action research in a pilot, with Metropolia and Espoon sairaala (Espoo Hospital) including the recruiting unit.

Translations by Robin Maylett

Art closer to people

Metropolia has started up an extensive musical education development project called CultureBridge. Its objective is to develop the training of music educators in cooperation with the capital region's cultural and art institutions. Moreover, the idea is to improve the students' skills in working with the public and to expand the music educator's traditional job description.

"Unlike in the old days, today's people do not have a need to experience art in their lives. Cities do have their museums and theatres to visit, and orchestras that give concerts, but few people really feel them to be a part of their lives. CultureBridge tries to help

cities and their art institutions to build bridges to the public, especially to those who often remain in cultural blind spots, such as children, young people, immigrants and older people. Bridge builders are required so that people can discover some area of music or art that they feel they can connect with, and thereby lead more fulfilling lives. I believe that this will create a lot of wellbeing in cities," says **Laura Huhtinen-Hildén**, Senior Lecturer of Music Education at Metropolia, who is leading the project.

