

Abstract to the topic Welfare-to-work (activation) policies

## **What helps? -clients' evaluations on activation**

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### **Background**

There is a severe structural unemployment situation in Central Finland. In January 2012 the unemployment rate in the area was 13,5 % (16 731) when at the national level the rate was 9.8%. The real challenge was the increase of the rate of long term unemployed job seekers (+7.5%) between January 2011-2012. Their proportion for 26,2 % (6180) was the highest in Central Finland.( Lääperi 2012, Employment review,2012)

The field of services for jobless people is rather fragmented. Thus, two projects, "The Spring"- Transitional Labour Markets in Central Finland and The Involvement into the Rehabilitative Work Practice (both projects are founded by European Social Foundation and the municipalities), aim at develop multi-agency network and multi-professional collaboration.

For the more, according to the results of the client forums from 2010 the clients' demands were: 1) more and better information and better guidance on services, and better orientation into work 2) decent work practice places and increase of real working tasks with appropriate tools , 3) better opportunities to participate in work community activities (Tammelin, 2010). As a consequence of these results there was some development in the municipalities (Era, 2011).

### **Study questions**

We are interested in clients' experiences from multi-professional collaboration, clients' opportunities of involvement and their perceptions of the matters that supported transitions or had an influence on their daily lives. Our study questions are:

1. What kinds of transitions followed the activation processes?
2. What kinds of experiences the clients had in the multi-professional collaboration?
3. What kinds of involvement experiences the clients had in different activities?
4. What are the clients' perceptions of effects of their activation processes?

### **Methods**

The data for the study consists of the following methods: guided questionnaire (400 clients), client group discussions with young, middle aged and aged job seekers in rehabilitative work practice, and life course interviews of long term unemployed job seekers. The quantitative data will be analyzed by cross tabulations and correlation analysis in relation to age, gender, and education. The qualitative analyses will be based on the framework of multi-professional collaboration and involvement. The analyses will be carried out during the spring 2012.

### **Discussion**

We will discuss the aims of the activation policy in relation to clients' experiences. We will also address possible differences by age, gender and education. On the basis of the results, we would like to propose some points to develop.