

Transitions from Initial Vocational Education and Training Qualifications to Working Life in Finland – Observations and Reflections from an International Expert Panel

Appendix 3. Interviews on-site 29–30 January 2026, Helsinki

Interview 1: Ministry of Education and Culture

- Petri Lempinen, director general
- Kati Lounema, director
- Ville Heinonen, ministerial adviser.

Interview 2: Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

- Marko Aaltonen, senior adviser, head of unit
- Heli Tirri, senior adviser, head of unit.

Interview 3: Stakeholders

- Mikko Vieltojärvi, adviser, Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)
- Kirsi Rasinaho, specialist, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK
- Maria Nyroos, digital and innovation policy specialist, Federation of Finnish Enterprises.

Interview 4: Stakeholders

- Eira Bani, leading special adviser, The Trade Union of Education OAJ
- Sari Aarnio, project manager, Finnish Education Employers (FEE)
- Peter Pahlman, adviser, The Finnish Association for the Development of Vocational Education and Training AMKE
- Kari Puumalainen, vice chairperson, Finnish Association of Vocational Education Leaders (SAJO).

Interview 5: Student unions

- Kaisla Kanerva, chairperson, Finnish Union of Vocational Students (SAKKI)

Interview 6: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, Economic Development Centre, The Rectors' Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences Arene

- Markku Virtanen, ministerial adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland
- Jarkko Tonttila, head of department, Economic Development Centre of Uusimaa
- Jari Multisilta, chairperson, The Rectors' Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences Arene.