The Finnish Academy for Skills Excellence (FASE) at HAMK Häme University of Applied Sciences
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• The Finnish Academy for Skills Excellence (FASE) at HAMK Häme University of Applied Sciences is specialized to providing training for high-level skills trainers and competition specialists since 2008. It improves the quality and attraction of VET, the competence of VET teachers and trainers.

• FASE creates and promotes excellence in the field of vocational education using skills competitions as its method. It models and disperses competence obtained from skills competitions, for the use in professional education, excellence in training and development of teaching.

• FASE works in close cooperation with the Skills Finland Association and is a part of HAMK’s research unit Professional Excellence that focuses on competence development and management.
1. Development of competence
   • Pedagogy of Vocational Top Expertise
   • Competence of Skills Competition Specialists
2. Dissemination of good practices in the field of VET
3. International collaboration and education export
4. Research and development projects that promote excellence in skills
International programmes

Multiform training tailored according to the customer’s needs to improve participants’ teaching and coaching skills in practice

FASE also educates skills specialists abroad (WorldSkills and EuroSkills trainers and VET teachers). The training programmes are tailored to the needs of the customers to provide excellence in skills for managers in vocational institutions, workplace instructors and people working on personnel development in companies or in vocational institutions.

The programmes may include studies in participants' home country, or in Finland, as well as web-based studies using different virtual learning environments. The participants benchmark the Finnish way of developing excellence in skills and various learning environments. They experience, learn and develop different teaching, assessment and guidance methods.
Developing Excellence in Skills – training programme for experts from SENAI, Brazil

The training programme included two intensive contact study weeks in Brazil and one week in Finland during the Finnish National Skills Competitions in Lahti in 2014.

Training programme for WorldSkills Russia experts (ongoing)

Training the WorldSkills Russia experts in April 2017
Our understanding of the pedagogy of vocational top expertise

The pedagogy of vocational top expertise is understood as recognizing individual strengths and supporting professional growth towards the goals set by the competence needs of the world of work and global competitiveness.

In order to be successful and to develop, both top experts and organizations need teams consisting of top experts and collective competence networks. (Eerola 2016.)

A major change in teaching culture!
Skills competitions as a tool to develop top expertise

Strong belief in Finland: competitions are a powerful tool to develop VET and vocational top expertise.

Evidence

* feedback, statistics
* questionnaires and interviews
* auditing competition activities
* research

Benefits

• Provides an individual learning path (and a career path) for a potential top expert
• Better learning outcomes
• Collaboration with the world of work
• Internationalization
• Marketing and making VET and skills attractive
• Competence of VET teachers and trainers

EuroSkills 2017 Gold Medalist Jaakko Järvi (carpentry)

EuroSkills 2017 Silver Medalist Kirsi Havi (beauty treatment)
Publications

The Pedagogy of Vocational Top Expertise 2016

Towards Vocational Top Expertise 2013

Skills Competitions in Finland for People with Special Needs. IA 2016 Bordeaux

Competitions for Everyone, part 1, 2010
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