

PHD DEGREES IN THE BIOENERGY SECTOR – AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOCUSING ON MIDDLE-AGED STUDENTS ?

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PROJECT WORKING METHODS I

Interviews

Interviews with people from various universities and research fields working in the region of Jyväskylä, was performed during the summer and early autumn 2010.

The study focus especially on mature PhD students and people that have already performed their PhD as part-time studies parallel to a working carrier.

PROJECT WORKING METHODS III

Bioenergy PhD Club

A multidisciplinary, bioenergy related PhD club started to work in May 2010 as part of the project.

The focus so far has been put on discussing bottlenecks, networking ideas and new initiatives such as "PhD Clinic" and a new kind of PhD scholarships.

One new interesting possibility to get support for shorter allowance periods (writing eg. articles) is already being created (The Education Fund) and this new instrument will be evaluated as part of the work.

The club members (both PhD students and post docs from different universities – the common factor is working in Central Finland) plan to meet on a monthly base during the academic year 2010-2011.

ABSTRACT: Finland is one of the leading countries in bioenergy R&D in Europe but so far very few PhD theses have been published in this field. Many scientists and experts in the age group of 40-55 years have been working in bioenergy related R&D throughout their career but published little or even nothing that is generally accepted as scientific.

Completing a PhD at the age of 40 and something is not without its challenges; there are difficulties in securing financial support, significant time allocation required for academic studies and the need to find a professor that is willing to provide guidance.

One of the key objectives of the ESF project developing the Bioenergy Education Cluster of Central Finland (BEV-osaaja) is to investigate the needs of new innovative training methodologies and to develop a pilot-scale training program for PhD studies focusing on the middle-aged group (40-50).

PROJECT WORKING METHODS II

Pilot-scale PhD courses and post graduate training programs at JYU:

YMPJ210 Bioenergy research seminar

YMPJ211 Bioenergy doctoral thesis seminar

YMPJ212 Bioenergy thesis seminar

New training initiatives, serving especially researcher scientists working fulltime outside the university, are also being planned together with "Täydennyskoulutuskeskus" in Jyväskylä.

PROJECT WORKING METHODS IV

International cooperation

The work planned within the present project includes a survey of Master Degree Bioenergy Education possibilities in Europe but not yet any initiatives for developing international PhD education cooperation.

We are interested in international initiatives increasing the cooperation possibilities in the field of bioenergy PhD education. Such initiatives could include for example PhD student exchange programs, Summer course activities, teacher mobility programs, developing education material and web-based courses for co-use in several universities as well as research and supervisor cooperation.

EARLY FINDINGS AND IDEAS

WANTED:

"Journal club"

"Adult - tutoring"

"Realistic funding instruments"

"Personal guidance in scientific writing"

"More professional courses for PhD students"

"Ideas to tackle temporary lack of motivation"

"More resources for face-to-face-time with tutor"

"More cooperation between university and companies"

COLLABORATE WITH:



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

