Follow-up of the Projects Receiving the Employment Policy Assistance in North Karelia

The study Follow-up of the Projects Receiving the Employment Policy Assistance in North Karelia was conducted by the project Evaluation and measuring of the Employment Effects. Employment policy assistance is used in Finland to support service providers, whose operations improve the ability to work of the long-term unemployed and review employment opportunities. The assistance can be granted to a municipality, joint municipal authority and other community or foundation. In North Karelia, mostly the employment projects of foundations have been carried out with employment policy assistance.

Projects receiving the employment policy assistance do not have unique national follow-up, such as ESF projects, but the regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) have developed their own indicators and their follow-up systems. The report deals with the follow-up of projects and the developing of the follow-up systems, the backgrounds of the employment policy assistance and the role of the third sector as an implementor of the employment policy. The study was implemented through an online survey. With the questionnaire was surveyed experiences of the follow-up forms of ELY Center and the evaluation methods used in the projects.

There are high expectations that employment services provided by third sector would help unemployed to find jobs in the open labor market or move to the education or training. The projects considered the employment in the open labour market and moving to education or training as an extremely important way to measure the result of projects. In spite of this a part of the outcomes accomplished by the projects will not be verified on the present follow-up system. According to the project leaders, in the outcomes attention should also be paid to the participants’ improved skills, knowledge and empowerment.