

Centre of Expertise for Digital Youth Work

INTERIM REPORT 2020–2022

We are one of six youth work centres of expertise established by the Ministry of Education and Culture for the period of 2020–2024. Our goal is to promote the digitalisation of youth work. The operations of the Centre of Expertise are administered by Verke as part of the City of Helsinki. The Centre also includes Koordinaatti, which is administered by the City of Oulu.

We produce material to support planning, management and practical work.

Example:

A professional digital competence toolbox for youth work, which encompasses the criteria for professional digital competence in youth work, a self-assessment tool and a competence test.

“Having a tool like this to support youth work is nothing short of excellent. It is definitely something that our work community will make use of and will hopefully give rise to new ideas.”

Video productions and series

- Verke LIVE
- Töissä verkossa
- Huomisen tekijät
- Tietosuoja nuorisotyössä
- SomeCamp 2020 verkossa

We have produced **76** YouTube videos, which have been viewed a total of **55 455 times**.



We have published a total of **14** tips, meaning practical videos, instructions, method descriptions and listings, on our website.



We have received **5 271** orders for our publications, and our publications have been downloaded **6 011** times.

Koordinaatti has published **22** while Verke has published **6** which have been listened to a total of **2 617** times.



We react to contemporary phenomena and highlight new themes in youth work.

- Youth work during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Climate change
- Promotion of young people's well-being
- Threats and opportunities associated with digitalisation
- The environmental impacts of technology
- Guide for the prevention of grooming and sexual violence in youth work
- Updated guides on child welfare notifications and reports in online work and on the accessibility of online services

We organise training courses for working communities and provide training at both the regional and national level.



Verke and Koordinaatti have provided training to a total of

6,699 participants in 209 training events

4,3/5 overall rating of our training courses.

92 % of participants feel that they have gained new ideas for their work.

56 % assess that they know how to apply what they have learned in practice.

“ Interesting information about digitalisation as a whole, but also a lot of things applicable to my own work.”

“ The online courses were very important, promoting the implementation of digitalisation during exceptional circumstances.”



Our online learning platform has received a total of **882 new registered users.**

We add to the knowledge base by producing reports, publishing articles by experts and contributing to research in the youth sector.

- Report on the digitalisation of municipal youth work in 2021.
- Commissioned study on the effectiveness of online youth work (carried out by South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences).
- Participation in numerous research projects focusing on e.g. the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the media use of young people, digital well-being and the future of youth work.

“ Three out of four youth workers who responded to our municipal survey (n=903) say that they need more training on digital matters”

We have published a total of **41** expert blog posts.



We serve as an expert and partner in the development of digital youth work.

- We organise workshops focusing on various themes, such as maker activities, new social media services in youth work and the management of digital youth work.
- We provide consultation to municipalities, parishes and organisations on the deployment of digital tools in youth work, such as bots, digital gaming, etc.
- We support the preparation of new digital projects and participate in the steering groups of development projects.





We maintain networks for the promotion of digital youth work.

The forum of online youth work (NuSuVefo) coordinated by Koordinaatti has **59** member organisations and has organised **26** events.

Verke's Discord server has **1 150** members.



We actively engage in international project and expert cooperation.

- We are contributing to the implementation of the Council Conclusions on Digital Youth Work in the DYW SNAC project coordinated by the Finnish National Agency for Education.
- We provide consultation to the Ministry of Education and Culture as a national expert on the digitalisation of youth work.
- We are a member of several international expert groups, such as the Digital Transformation Advisory Board, the European Academy on Youth Work Advisory Board and the Council of Europe's AI Literacy Expert Group.
- We are the chair of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA).

We have participated in **66 international events** that had a total of **1,372 participants**.

We reach our target audiences via various channels:



Our newsletter has **1,621 subscribers**.



Our website (verke.org) has recorded **115,350 visitors**.



We (Verke) have **9 478 followers** on social media.