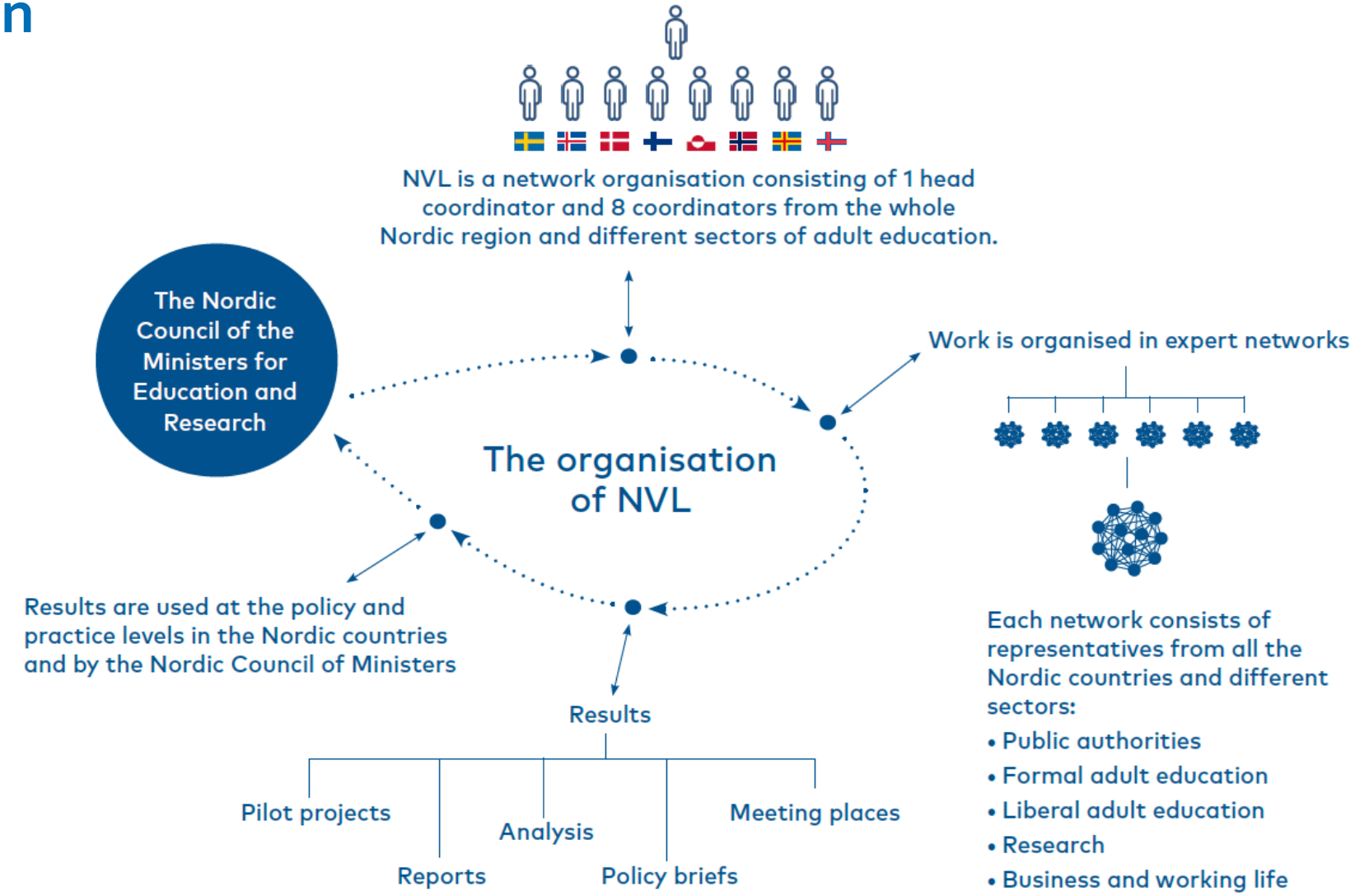
Nordic Network for Adult Learning

NVL facilitates lifelong learning across sectors

Nordic Network for Adult Learning

EBSN Workshop
June 9, 2022

NVL's organisation



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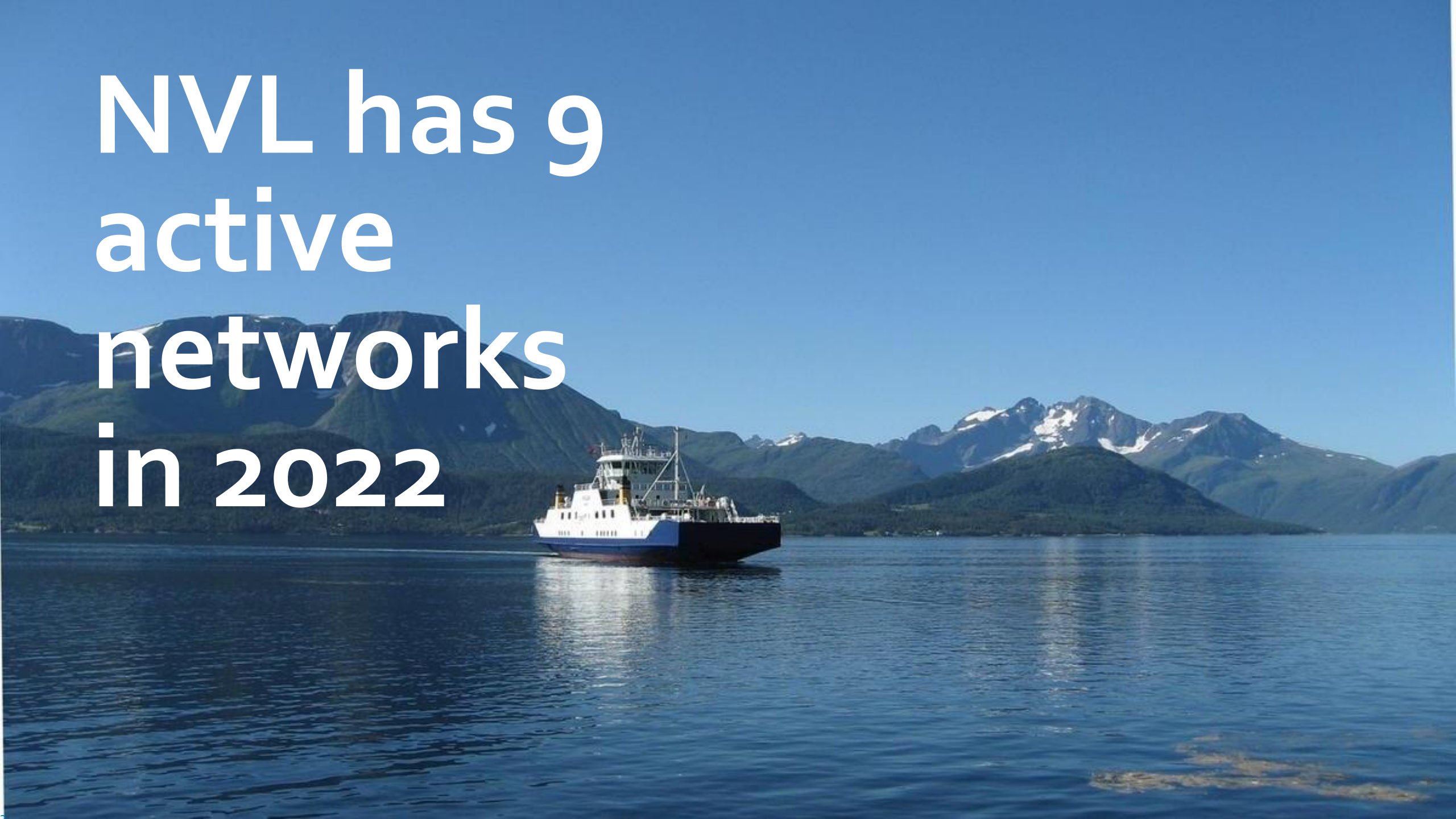
NVL has 9 active networks in 2022



NVL-Digital Inclusion

- ✓ Contributes to the implementation of lifelong learning strategies in the Nordic region and the **development of adults' digital competences.**

- ✓ Works for creating **better opportunities for Nordic citizens** regarding:

  - use of public digital services
  - participation in lifelong learning
  - participation in working life

- ✓ **Research project:** to identify current Nordic challenges and find common Nordic solutions to support: learning for all, development of adults' digital skills, diminishing the digital divide.

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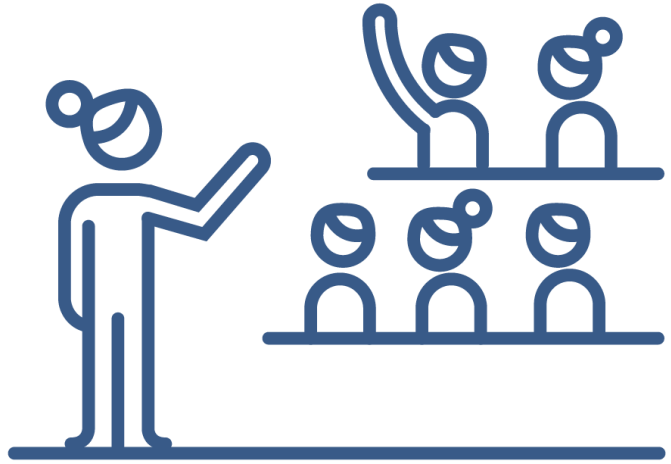
"Reaching out for the hard to reach"



Mapping of policy and of educational initiatives regarding digital inclusion of adults in the Nordic countries.

Initiatives aiming at reducing digital gaps in the light of the digital transformation in the Nordic countries:

- Initiatives directly addressed to **participants (24)**
- Initiatives aimed at supervisors, counsellors and **teaching staff (7)**
- Open digital education resources (OER) and other key resources for **education providers (9)**

Almost half (19) are run in a project form.
The activities of a more permanent nature are often financed through the state budgets (7) or by the municipalities (3).
More than half of the initiatives (24) are not only publicly funded, but are also run in public reign. The others are run either privately (12) or mixed (4).

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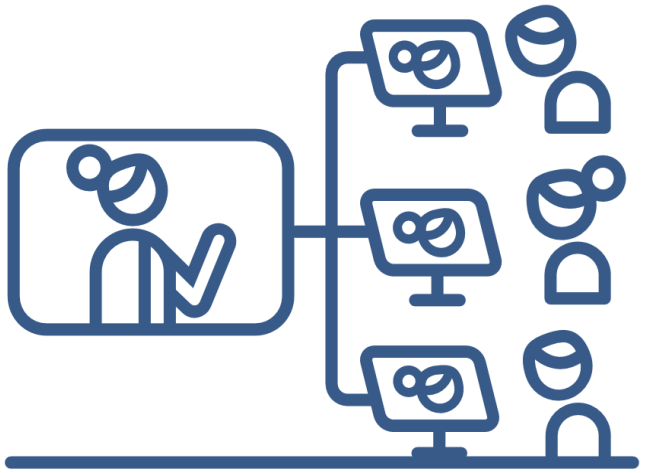
What has worked best for the learners?



The initiatives in many cases consist of a mixture of problem solving and skills training. Two thirds of the initiatives are based on some form of **co-creation with those participating in the training.**

A research-based learning design is being co-developed together with migrants, refugees, older adults and educators emphasising social inclusion and empowerment. **The project argues that citizens must be seen as a resource in solving the problem of digital exclusion.**

The long list of initiatives serves as inspiration and to provide an actual picture of the efforts to reduce digital skills gaps in the Nordic countries. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the mapping also presents an expectation that even **more is needed to reduce digital divides.**

Selected cases are being researched, to improve the practice (produce a toolkit) and recommend to decision makers.

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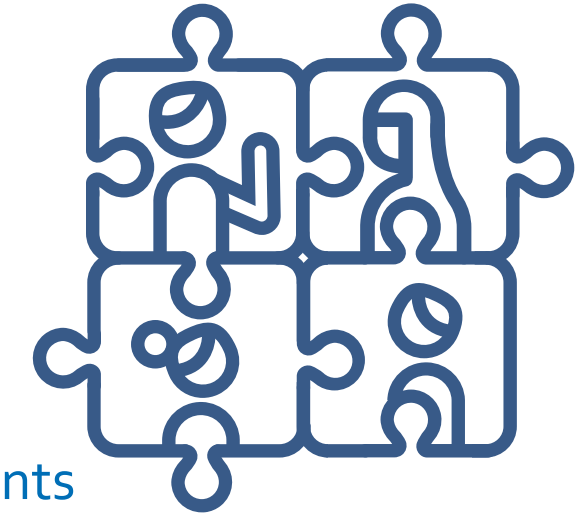
Lessons learned?



Digiaikakauden Taidot (The Digital Age Skills), **80 projects across Finland**
Education providers: private organizations, folk high schools, summer universities and study centres
Target audience: Adults with insufficient digital skills, especially the unemployed or people at risk of unemployment, early retirees and immigrants
Time period: Autumn 2018 – December 2021
Funding: State Budget - Ministry of Education and Culture, 7 million Euro

A national program providing financial support for **new** training courses and training modules that have focus on digital skills. The program supports the provision of free and easily accessible training in digital skills, both basic digital skills and more advanced digital skills. Different educational institutions are involved, and in cooperation with NGOs.
The Panel of the Future Competencies has stated that there is a need of a **systemic model that can ensure that all educational resources are collected** and targeted specifically at students or education providers.

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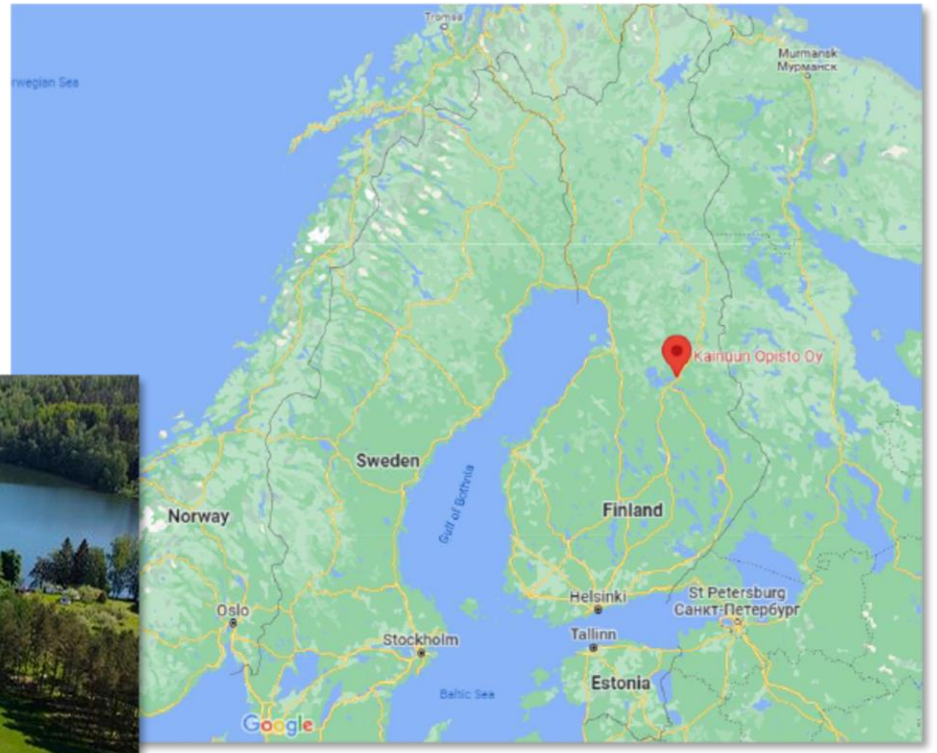
The Folk High School of Kainuu in Finland



Helena Ahonen, rector

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAdIovU5HQQ

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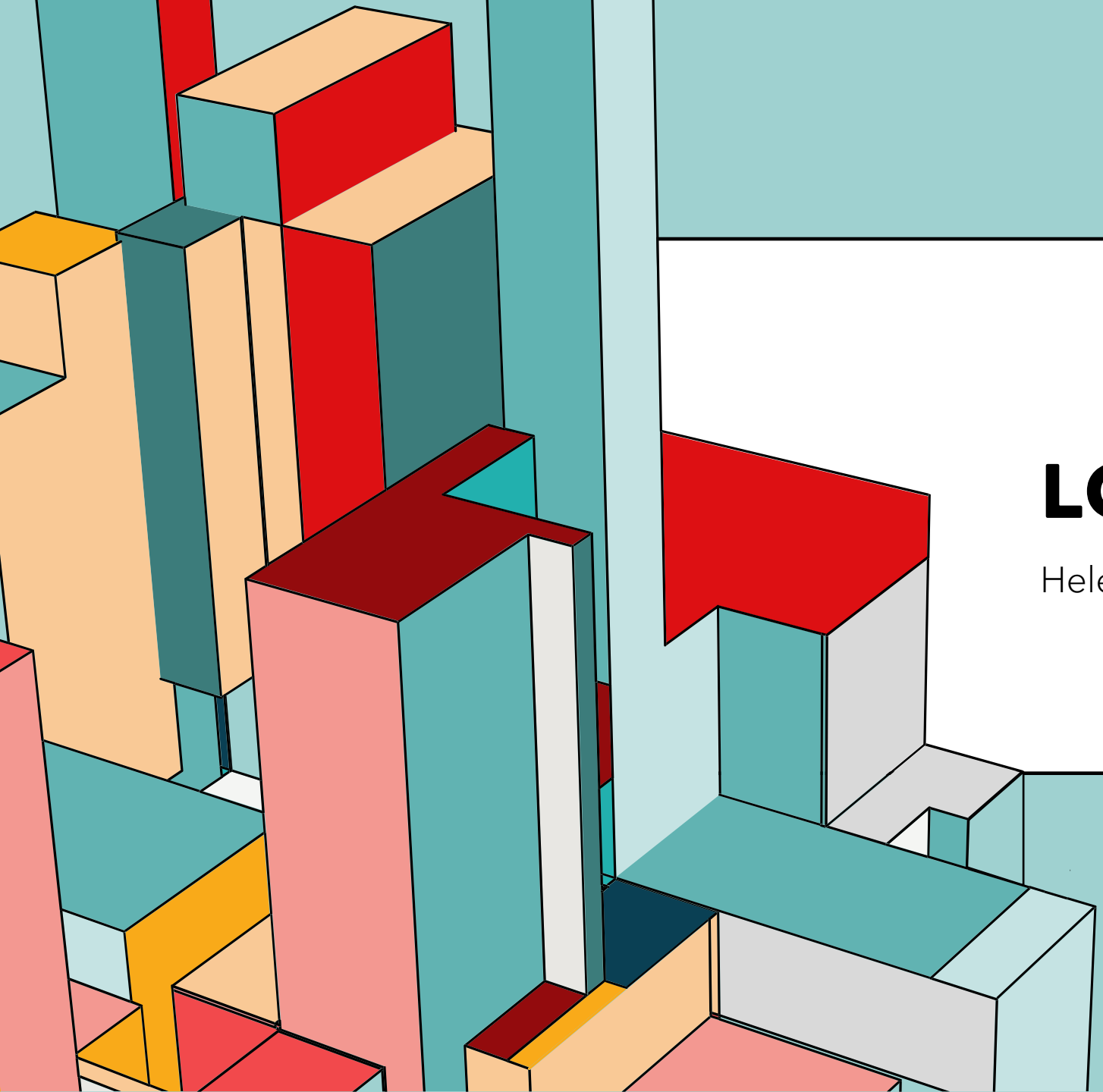


LOS LOHTAJA

Helena Ahonen, Kainuun Opisto

KAINUUN OPISTO

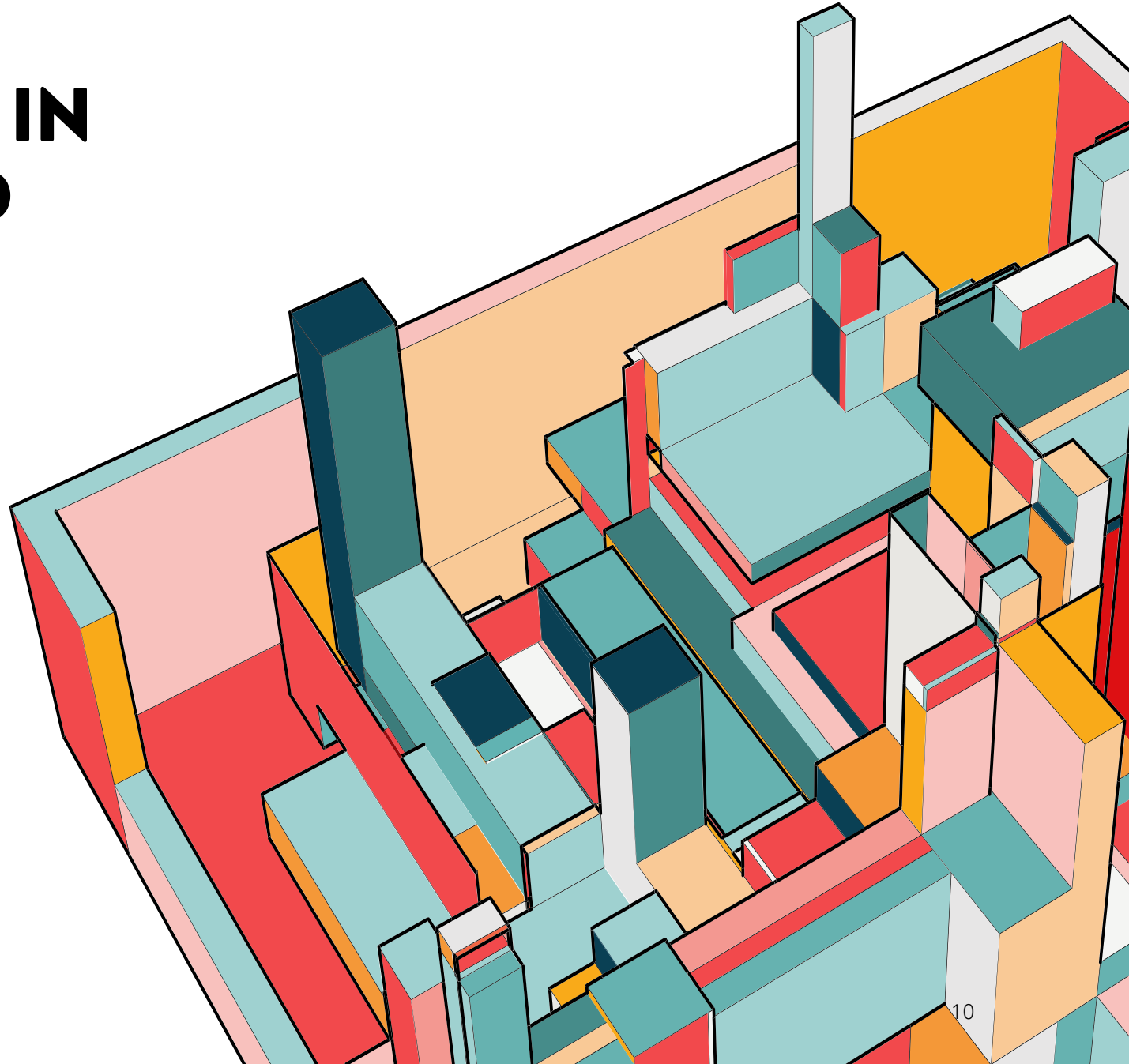
elämää varten jo 110 vuotta

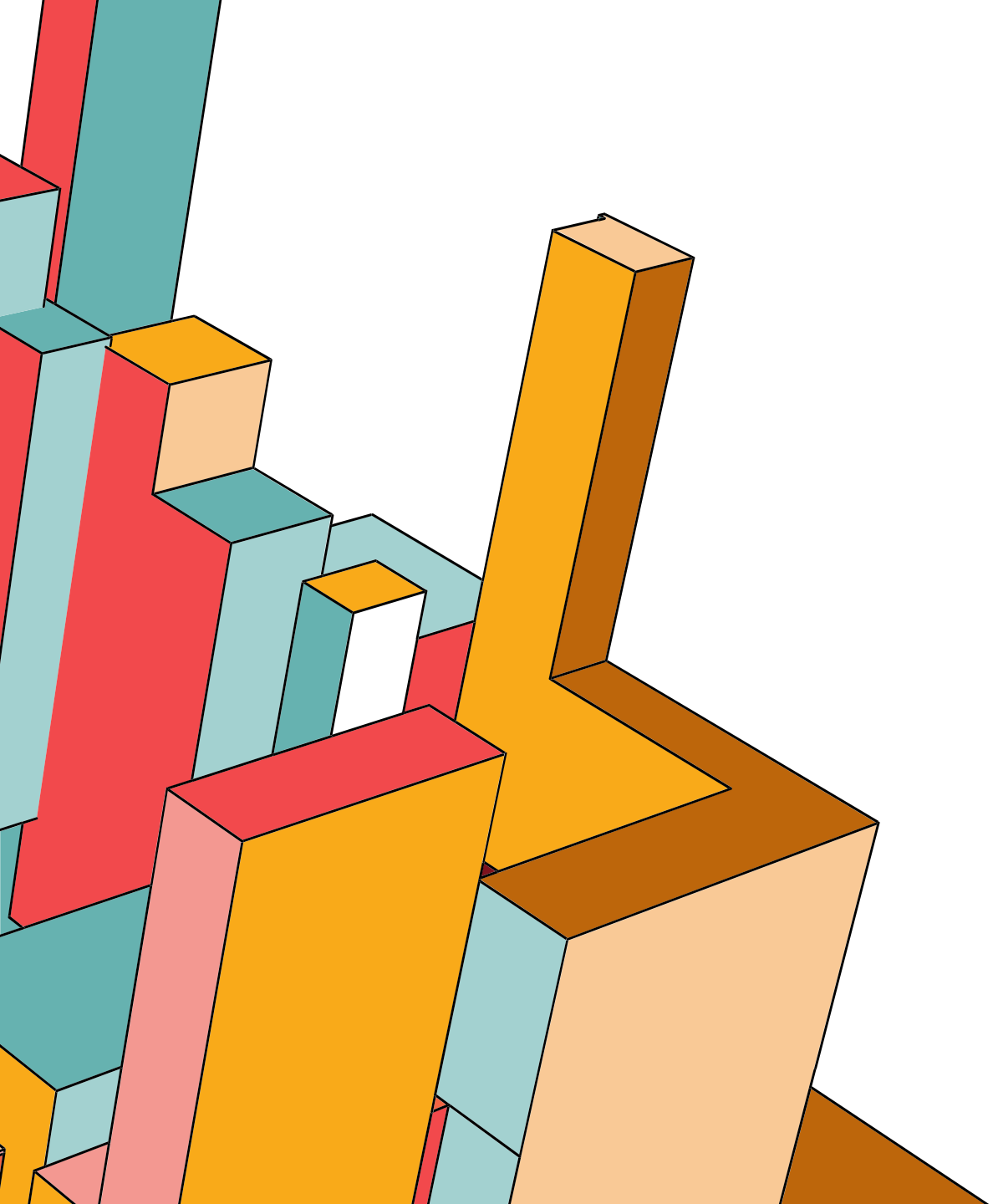
KAINUUN OPISTO
FOLK HIGH SCHOOL IN NORTHERN FINLAND

Mission: Education for everyone, also for those who are underrepresented in schools.

Specialized in integration and marginalisation issues.

Since 2019 The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture has allocated funds for supporting basic skills of adults.





Our educational record in Finland is high, but we still have adults with difficulties in reading, writing, maths and IT skills.

Kainuun Opisto works with local grass-root organizations:

- Getting information from educational needs.
- Reaching contacts with possible students.

Spartak Kajaani ry (fellow organization) supports youngsters, who have background in drug addiction, crime, child caring institutions and other causes of marginalization.

LOS LOHTAJA

Arrenged course of Finnish language, grammar and narrative at Kajaani Spartak workshop (twice a week for five months).

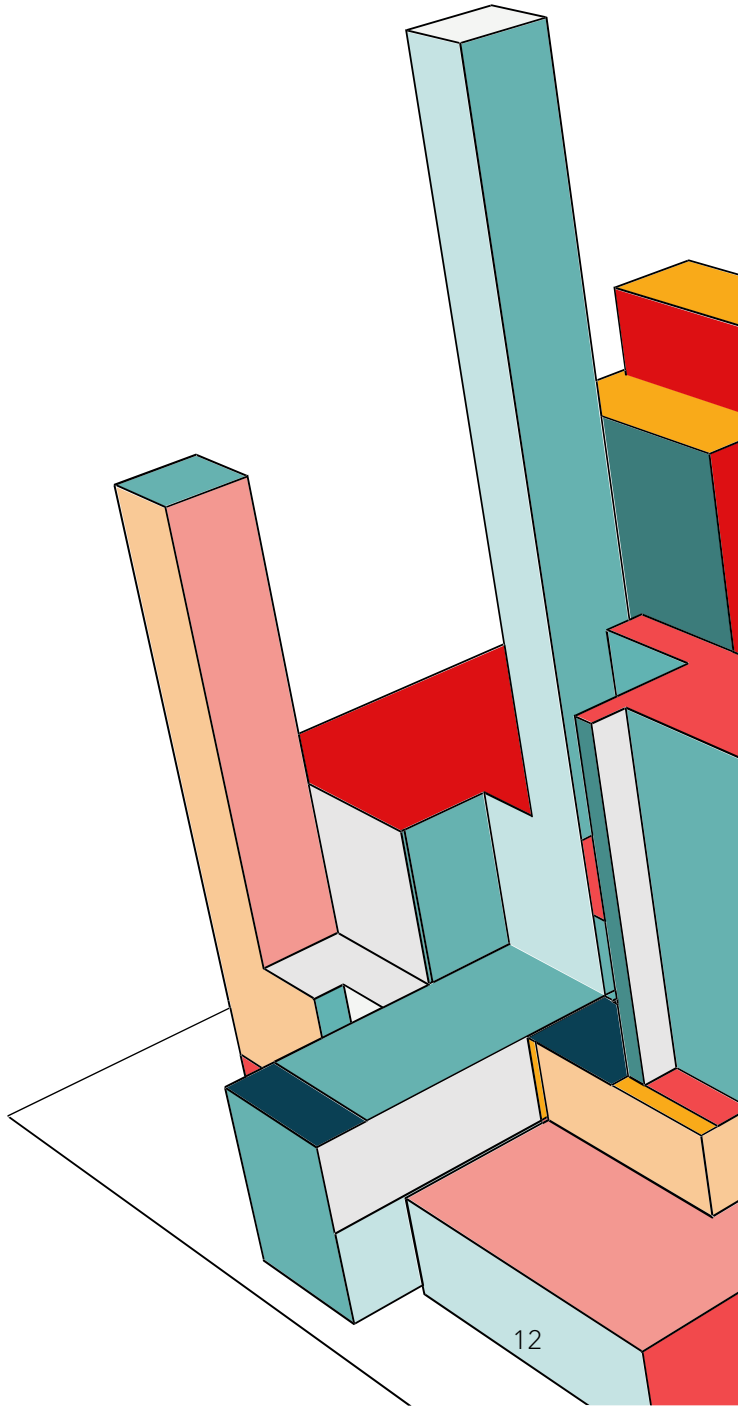
Teacher couraged the students to write about their own life.

Process was slow and heavy, but also rewarding, lots of cries and laughs.

The students were fascinated to collect a filmscript from their own individual stories.

The filming itself was more fun.

Local support, possibility to use real locations (police lockup, airport etc…)



ACCORDING TO STUDENTS

The Los Lohtaja – project was a halting experience

The project was the first time they had to confront how the drug using affects their close-ones

The Los Lohtaja film also became a memorial of one of the participants, who was deceased during the project

Los Lohtaja film has been shown in elementary and secondary schools, followed by time for discussions afterwars. It has been shown to senior people as well.

AFTER LOS LOHTAJA

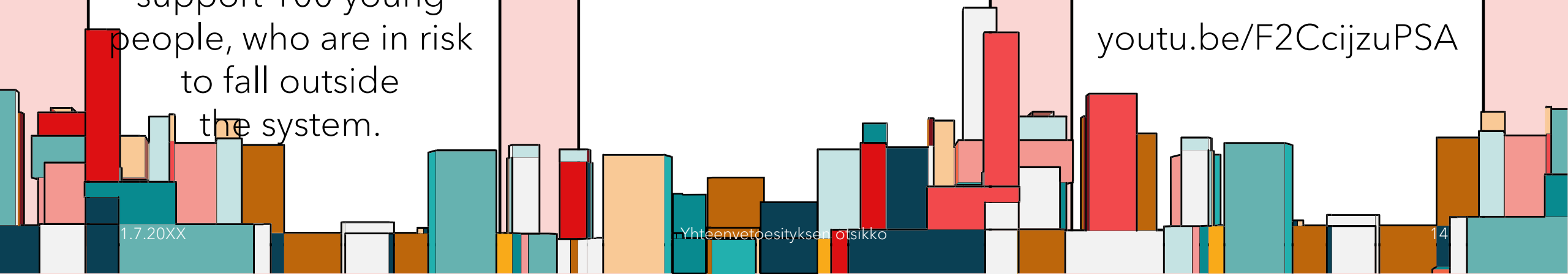
European Social and Stuctural Funds funded Kainuun Opisto and Spartak Kajaani a new project started in 2021. Aim is to contact and support 100 young people, who are in risk to fall outside the system.

We are also arranging peer tutor courses for recovering drug or alcohol addicts.

The film Los Lohtaja can be seen in:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAdIovU5HQQ

youtu.be/F2CcijzuPSA



THANK YOU!

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Facts

- ✓ NVL was established in 2005 by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- ✓ NVL is part of the work of the Council of Ministers for Education and Research in the policy area of adult learning.
- ✓ NVL's activities are an important part of achieving the vision for the Nordic region.

Nordic Network for Adult Learning

nvl.org

Antra Carlsen

Nordic Network for Adult Learning

www.nvl.org

Nordisk Netværk for Voksnes Læring