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Promoting Spatial Development by Creating COMmon MINdscapes **COMMIN**



JYVÄSKYLÄ UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Business Administration Services

Feedback Summary of COMMIN Trainings Organised in the Jyväskylä Region, Finland, by Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences in 2005 – 2006

Background

In the Jyväskylä Region 4 short training courses were organised within the COMMIN -project:

- 1. March 16 – 18, 2005: Challenges of urban and regional development**
- 2. June 1 – 3, 2005: Innovation and Regional Economic Development**
- 3. November 30 - December 2, 2005: National, Regional and Interregional Programmes for Developing Excellence - Initiatives, Experiences and Good Practices**
- 4. April 6 - 8, 2006: Spatial Planning and Regional Development in Europe – Past, Present and Future**

Each training course offered a different set of lectures and study visits.

Method of gathering feedback

Feedback was gathered from the participants via Internet by using Digium Enterprise system (<http://www.digiumresearch.com/product.asp?lang=1>). To all participants of each training seminar was sent a link to their personal email 2 weeks after the training and participants had approximately a week to answer to the feedback survey and give their comments.

Results of Evaluations – Key Findings

The participants completed evaluations of the seminars in the following areas:

1. Overall evaluation of the trainings in terms of arrangements

- training arrangements before and during the training
- facilities and servings

2. Evaluation of the trainers in terms of

- expertise
- skills as a presenter
- applicability concerning your work

3. Any comments (open-ended question)

1. Overall evaluation of the trainings in terms of arrangements

The data collected regarding the practical arrangements of the seminars was very positive. The average of overall evaluation of all the trainings being 4,36 on a scale 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

1. Overall evaluation of the trainings in terms of arrangements

	March 2005	June 2005	Nov 2005	April 2006	AVG
* In general	4,25	4,25	4,71	4,25	4,36

2. Evaluation of the trainers

The trainers were evaluated in terms of their expertise, applicability of their input concerning the participants' work and presentation skills. A brief analysis of the data shows that in general the participants rated the lecturers very good. Especially expertise of the trainers was rated very high: 4,44 on a scale 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

2. Evaluation of the trainers in terms of

	March 2005	June 2005	Nov 2005	April 2006	AVG
* Expertise	4,63	4,45	4,18	4,48	4,44
* Applicability concerning your work	Not asked	4,14	4,16	3,94	4,08
* Presentation skills	4,54	4,09	3,72	4,46	4,21

3. Would you like to express any comment about the training?

On the feedback survey participants were asked to provide written comments in relation to the trainings. The views expressed relating to the trainings on the whole are positive, but also very good suggestions to develop the training to reach even better results were given. Comments included e.g. the following:

- Splitting of the programme into one introduction day + one workshop/ working group day incl. report from working groups (if enough participants) + one excursion day - Guiding questions/ targets set by the seminar coordinator or collected from the participants in advance + at the end of the seminar evaluation, if questions are answered/ targets reached –
- mid-term plan of the trainings: dates + topics -> planning for those like me who cannot attend at the next training but would continue maybe at the end of this year - establishment of a list of participants/ newsgroup or whatever to connect people;

- More group discussions on a day with only one lecturer would be good;
- The training was excellent and very useful. Part of it should be made part of university programs for economists! There are many things which I was simply not aware that they do exist. I am pretty sure there are many officials directly responsible from governmental side of aspects mentioned in the training- and they are not aware either. That is somehow sad. And means there is lots of space for improvement! I believe this is one of the most useful and mind expanding seminars I have attended! THANK YOU!
- The subjects were very interesting, especially in innovation development field, but I think that some more group work would be useful.
- Training raised up relevant issues that I also have to deal with at my work. Moreover the delivery of sessions was offered in open form thus allowing sufficient space for discussions and sharing. However without translation to Russian I think the session would be more efficient and more easy to follow and open discussions. Otherwise I do highly appreciate the given opportunity and in general I find the training valuable for improving my professional performance.
- There was a lot of discussions during the coffee breaks and in the evenings. It would be good to have more space for discussions during the "seminar time" to exchange experiences and knowledge from all participants.
- I noticed that it is quite important to be at place by discussions about the regional development of the BSR. It was very interesting to come in contact to people from all over the BSR. Such seminars need to become permanent structures for exchange in the BSR.