



Peda-forum – the Finnish co-operation network of expertise
in university pedagogy

PROPEDA PROJECT 2007-2009

Propeda project develops *Peda-forum* network

The Finnish Ministry of Education has granted funding for developing the national cooperation network of expertise in university pedagogy, *Peda-forum* (established in 1994 and coordinated by the University of Oulu), for the years 2007-2009. The funding was granted to the *Propeda* project (University of Tampere), from which some of it will also be allocated to the Universities of Jyväskylä, Helsinki and Turku.

Academic developers' work has become acknowledged and their status ever more established at the Finnish universities. The development work requirements and conditions vary between the universities, but the common challenge is that various instances hold increasingly more expectations for the academic development work. Academic development work has taken many forms and, in a short period of time, innovative practices and support services have been created at the Finnish universities – even when compared internationally.

In the future, improved understanding and competencies of academic development are required, as well indications of its impacts. It is also necessary to create forums for enhancing the expertise of the academic developers, spreading innovations and deepening our understanding of academic development as a phenomenon.

With the *Propeda* funding, the *Peda-forum* network aims to strengthen and develop the already existing structures and practices of academic development, such as the *Peda-forum* journal, Pedagogical Memory network tool and the study psychologists' work at the Finnish universities. Another aim is to create new structures and practices to meet the challenges of enhancing the developer's expertise and the academic development units' roles, functions and status.

The *Propeda* subprojects are

Subproject 1: Series of workshops for academic developers

The first *Developing the Academic Developer* workshop begins in October 2007. Contact person: Maarit Ansela, maarit.ansela@uta.fi, +358 3 3551 8959, University of Tampere, Academic Development Unit.

Subproject 2: Enhancing the status of the academic development units

Benchmarking between the academic development units.



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Subproject 3: Developing the academic development support tools

Peda-forum journal (referee practice)

Pedagogical memory (content and technology)

Contact person: Jari Rantamäki, jari.rantamaki@cc.jyu.fi, +358 14 260 4318,
University of Jyväskylä.

Subproject 4: Study psychology at the Finnish universities

Enhancing the study psychologists' work and establishing the role of study psychology in the development of teaching and study counselling practices in the field of Higher Education.

Contact person: Satu Eerola, satu.eerola@uta.fi, +358 50 443 7243
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The *Propeda* steering group is in charge of the overall planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. The chairperson is Mr Jari Rantamäki (University of Jyväskylä) and the secretary Ms Maarit Ansela (University of Tampere). Other members are Mr Matti Lappalainen (University of Turku), Ms Satu Eerola (University of Tampere), Mrs Anu Yanar (Helsinki University of Technology), Mrs Suvi Eriksson (Student Union of the University of Oulu), Mr Markku Ihonen (University of Tampere), Ms Minna Penttilä (University of Jyväskylä), Mrs Merja Maikkola (University of Oulu, Peda-forum coordinator), Mr Asko Karjalainen (University of Oulu), Mr Jan-Peter Kaiku (Theatre Academy of Finland). The project is coordinated by the Academic Development Unit of the University of Tampere.