

# MOVING ON: Breaking down Barriers With Social Responsibility and Networking

## NEWSLETTER

June 2024



Welcome to our inaugural newsletter, where we'll share updates from our project partnership.

### **MOVING ON: breaking down barriers with social responsibility and networking**

seeks to increase the employability of young individuals and improve the quality and recognition of youth work through innovation.

Since the beginning of last year, the project partners have been working together to exchange best practices and develop a new counselling methodology, employer engagement strategy and comprehensive networking model.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ami.ee/moving-on/>

## Partners

---

**SA Omanöolise Kooli  
Arenduskeskus**

<https://www.step.ee/>



**High:five Fonden**

<https://highfive.net/>

## High:five

---

**Aseman Lapset ry**

<https://asemanlapset.fi>



**MTÜ Tukkel**

---

## Project kick-off meeting in Tallinn, Estonia

The kick-off meeting for the project took place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 18 to 20 April 2023.

SA Omanäolise Kooli Arenduskeskus extended a warm welcome to representatives from Aseman Lapset and High:five Fonden.



Each organisation took advantage of the opportunity to showcase their individual mission, vision, expertise, and likely contributions to the current project.

Through constructive dialogue, participants exchanged ideas, shared insights, and nurtured a collective understanding of project objectives. The productive discussions laid the groundwork for future collaboration, thereby paving the way for the successful continuation of project activities.

## International meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark

In October 2023, the project partners came together in Copenhagen. Ole Hessel, director at High:five, gave an in-depth overview of the organisation's activities and approaches. Ole's colleagues at High:five and their close cooperation partners from NCC and the Danish Prison and Probation Service, who spoke about High:five's collaboration with governmental institutions and private companies, joined the visitors.





The project partners got the chance to continue the discussions while touring the Danish Parliament together with Maria Durhuus. Among other things, participants discussed how the debt burden on young people with a history of offending can pose a significant challenge to their transition away from criminal lifestyle. Additional debates centred around the involvement of politicians and ways in which the organisations can potentially contribute to the policy discussions that directly affect their shared target group.

## We asked Koidu Tani Jürisoo (CEO, SA Omanäolise Kooli Arenduskeskus) to share key personal takeaways from the visit to Copenhagen

### **Which facets of the project partner's operations or approach left a significant impression on you?**

**Koidu:** I was impressed by High:five's approach to building relationships with politicians. In our line of work, political support can prove crucial. It was inspiring to see how they've managed to open the lines of communication and advocate for the young people in the programme. I also liked the fact that High:five looks for qualified organisations that would be worthy of employing the young people in their programme. Rather than doing anyone a favour, the companies can gain a valuable new employee and the young individual deserves decent wages and working conditions just as much as anyone else.

### **How do you envisage this visit positively impacting the overarching success of our project?**

**Koidu:** The visit allowed us to strengthen our partnership, as we discovered many similarities and areas where we can learn from one another's successes and failures. We collectively concluded that we may not be able to change the world, but we can make a difference.

## How do you intend to integrate the newly acquired knowledge from the visit into our ongoing project activities?

**Koidu:** We had the opportunity to hear from High:five's cooperation partners. Their viewpoints would prove valuable when developing our employer engagement strategy. We had fruitful discussions about the expectations and prejudices that companies may have when considering hiring a young person with a history of offending. At the same time, we identified multiple potential benefits for employers and special attention was paid to the topic of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). We aim to work on bringing the topic of social responsibility closer to employers by reaching out to various stakeholders and companies.

High:five has relatively strict selection criteria. The expectations are clearly communicated prior to the young person joining the programme. Honesty and transparency are key pillars of their work. The programme does not accept youth who they deem "too easy", meaning that the individual is seen to be capable of finding employment without the support of the team at High:five. The ones that are deemed "too difficult" would be referred to other service providers who are better equipped to deal with complex issues such as mental illness or substance abuse. It is important to focus on the most efficient use of limited resources to maximise the impact of the organisation's work. Until now, the STEP programme in Estonia has taken a somewhat more lenient approach to accepting young people into the programme. The visit to Denmark gave us plenty of food for thought.

## International meeting in Helsinki, Finland



On 28 February 2024, the project partners from Estonia and Denmark made their way to Helsinki. Over the following couple of days, the project partners engaged in a training session led by Ronja Turkka on the Cynefin framework and were introduced to the Experts-by-Experience (EBE) course, developed by Laurea University of Applied Sciences and presented by Tepi Salo.

The project partners had the opportunity to visit the Walkers youth cafe in central Helsinki.

The youth cafe disseminates a youth-positive message, aims to increase the presence of accessible adults in the lives of youngsters and goes where the young people normally gather.

They have trained professionals and volunteers who can support or advise young people when needed.

### **Want to know more?**

Please visit:  
<https://walkers.fi/en/>



## **Koidu Tani Jürisoo (CEO, SA Omanäolise Kooli Arenduskeskus) shares key personal takeaways from the visit to Helsinki**

### **Did the visit bring about any fresh insights or viewpoints regarding the project?**

**Koidu:** The meeting in Helsinki proved valuable for the development of our counselling methodology. Ronja Turkka introduced the Cynefin framework which was developed by Dave Snowden. It centres around five situational domains and illustrates the need to adjust decision-making depending on the situation or the field in which one operates.

We realised that our organisations work in settings where an overly orderly approach and easy solutions rarely lead to the desired outcome. This is something we need to embrace and remain cognisant of. Only by embracing chaos and complexity can we be receptive to divergent viewpoints, new ideas and innovative solutions.

### **How do you envisage this visit positively impacting the overarching success of our project?**

Koidu: In Helsinki, we took the time to focus on the strengths and potential areas for improvement of each of the project partner organisations. This called each of us to reflect on our own work and the ways in which the materials we are developing can lead to positive changes in our approaches and the ways in which we carry out our daily tasks.

## **Could you describe any notable encounters or moments of significance during your visit?**

**Koidu:** We had interesting encounters with employees and cooperation partners of Aseman Lapset. We were introduced to the Experts-by-Experience course at Laurea University of Applied Sciences which provides an ideal platform for individuals seeking to make a change in their own lives and empower others who may face similar challenges to those they've had to overcome. Involving such experts in our line of work could prove extremely useful. They could deliver training, offer practical advice from an end-user perspective, lead public debates, and aid officials in making sensible decisions and developing effective solutions for those who need them.

Another memorable part was the visit to Walkers, a youth cafe in the centre of Helsinki that is maintained by Aseman Lapset. Not only does it provide a safe space for young people aged 13-18 to meet their peers, but they can also reach out to volunteers, play board games, or purchase refreshments at very affordable prices. A month after our visit to Walkers, my colleague and I were sitting at the McDonald's in Tallinn Old Town, observing the young people around us. They had gathered in this bustling and noisy setting to talk, laugh, cry, and support each other, all under the vigilant watch of the security guard who was ready to expel them at the first sign of misconduct. I've heard that the Tallinn City Government has plans to establish youth cafes similar to Walkers. I see this as a necessary step to provide our youth with safe spaces and I wish them great success.

**Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to your continued support as we move forward. Please look out for further updates and exciting developments in our next edition.**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**



**erasmus+ and  
european solidarity  
corps agency**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.