

Social and healthcare services for the hard-to-employ and prerequisites for service integration as collaboration between wellbeing regions and municipalities. (Educate & Employ!) -consortium
PI Virpi Heikkinen, Wellbeing Services County of Pirkanmaa
Timeline of funded project 2026–2028

Letter of Collaboration

Contact on behalf of consortium Satu Ojala, Associate professor,
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Organisation and country City of Tampere, Tampere Vocational College Tredu
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Call **2025 Call to strengthen R&D activities and cooperation in wellbeing services counties, Research Council of Finland**

Purpose and objectives of the cooperation This development project, with consortium partners the Wellbeing Services Counties of Pirkanmaa and Satakunta, and Tampere University, invites various stakeholders from the employment ecosystem of both regions to participate. It will study the life courses of the hard-to-employ in relation to the services they receive and develop methods to promote their positive life transitions.

Description of the practical implementation of the cooperation The project is particularly concerned about uneducated adults who often end up in long-term unemployment and subsequently in social and health services. Promoting timely supported education and employment, in collaboration with secondary education, employment service providers, and employers, would be more beneficial. The project aims to improve the future prospects of the unemployed and enhance service integration, thereby preventing exclusion.

The plan includes an initial research phase (tracking the unemployed and interviewing employees and various actors in the areas of Pirkanmaa and Satakunta), followed by a development phase where findings will be discussed among various actors nationwide. The development phase will be based on the findings of the initial research phase.

As invited by the "Educate & Employ" consortium, City of Tampere, Tampere Vocational College Tredu will participate in the development of the service ecosystem in the following ways:

- i. Steering group work (meetings, e.g., semi-annually from 2026 to 2028),
- ii. Disseminating research invitations for interviews to employers (2026), and
- iii. Participating in development events bringing together various actors (focus on the year following the research phase, 2028).

The Letter of Collaboration will not be binding on the City of Tampere until the relevant decision has become enforceable.

Signature

Signed in Tampere on 13 May 2025

Tuula Hoivala

Head of Development

City of Tampere / Tampere Vocational College Tredu