

Special Issue of the *Journal of Professional and Vocational Education* 5/2019

(i.e. Ammattikasvatuksen aikakauskirja in Finnish): Individual and Institutional Effects of Funding for Vocational and Professional Education

The final 2019 issue of the *Journal of Professional and Vocational Education* (Ammattikasvatuksen aikakauskirja [AKAKK]) will focus on the funding-related issues of vocational and professional education. We invite researchers, practitioners and other experts such as rectors and teachers, and department heads to contribute to this special issue, which will be published online.

Over the past several years, the importance of funding for the education system in Finland has become a topical issue. Traditionally, education has been a political and societal priority in Finland, and educational equality has been supported by state-funding and the provision of free education. In the recent past, funding has been a popular topic in many media platforms due to cuts in the resources allocated for various education sectors. Moreover, the costs of education have been actively questioned and discussed when there are plans for lengthening compulsory education, whether for early childhood education or post-compulsory, youth education. From the perspective of vocational and professional education, post-compulsory education is particularly interesting.

Education has costs associated with teachers' professional development and well-being and the maintenance of school buildings by the state and local communities. Furthermore, students have to invest in their education, and even free education demands financial input from them.

In Finland, the state has supported citizens' participation in vocational, professional higher and continuing education courses. State support for the costs of living and the materials needed for studying, such as textbooks, has been available in the form of study grants, subsidised student loans and housing allowances. Families also support many students, continuously, not only emotionally but by contributing to their living costs, such as housing and transportation.

The state and local communities have played a central role in educational funding in Finland. Thus, changes in education policy tend to have a significant impact and generate societal discussion. On the one hand, public discussion has been concerned about the quality of education. On the other hand, the issues related to citizens' rights in education or inclusive educational policies and the need for high-quality education have been brought up. In accordance with these trends, vocational and professional education and its funding is the theme of the National Conference on Vocational and Professional Education, which was held in November 2018 at Omnia, Espoo (Joint Authority of Education in Espoo Region).

In 2019, the special issue of the *Journal of Professional and Vocational Education* will focus on related topics. The submitted original research articles, commentary essays, reviews, book reviews and summaries could be related to themes, such as:

- Providers of vocational and professional education and future planning of finances
- Financial competencies in vocational youth and adult education
- The effects of vocational education and training institutions and universities of applied sciences on regional economies
- Economic fluctuations and funding of education
- Teachers' pedagogical choices and educational funding

- Students and funding for studies
- Funding of education and inclusive educational policies
- The growth of exporting education as a business.

Naturally, articles may also focus on other topics related to the theme of professional and vocational education and its funding.

The fifth special issue is edited by Tarja Lang, PhD (Omnia; tarja.lang@omnia.fi), Toni Saarivirta, PhD (Regional State Administrative Agency of Southwestern Finland; toni.saarivirta@avi.fi) and Maarit Virolainen, PhD (Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä; maarit.ha.virolainen@jyu.fi).

Please email an abstract of your proposed manuscript to the editors by 15 June 2019. The editors will provide feedback for your proposals by 30 June. The full manuscripts must be compliant with the journal's guidelines and submitted by email (as attachments in .doc or .docx format) by 20 August. Response to the referee-feedback and revision to the manuscript must be completed by 1 November.

All manuscripts should contain the following information: Title, author(s) name(s), email address(es) and affiliation(s), abstract (max 200 words) and keywords (3–5).

- Peer-reviewed scientific articles: 5000 words (max), including references, should be formatted in APA style. Manuscripts must be structured as follows: Introduction, Background/Theoretical Framework, Method, Results, Discussion and References.
- Non-refereed articles and reviews: 2500 words (max), including references.

We look forward to receiving and considering your manuscripts: Tarja Lang (tarja.lang@omnia.fi), Toni Saarivirta (toni.saarivirta@avi.fi) and Maarit Virolainen (maarit.ha.virolainen@jyu.fi).

Journal of Professional and Vocational Education (JPVE) has been publishing scientific articles written in Finnish, Swedish and English since 1998. *JPVE* publishes empirical and theoretical articles as well as reviews on topics, such as workplace learning, technology-enhanced learning, development of expertise and professional identity, among others. *JPVE* usually publishes four issues per year, and it follows a double-blind review process. *JPVE* is classified as a type 1 (basic) scientific publication in the (Finnish) Publication Forum Project (see <https://www.tsv.fi/julkaisufoorumi/haku.php?lang=en>). For more information about *JPVE* and a selection of sample articles, please visit the journal's website at <https://akakk.fi/journal-professional-vocational-education/>.