



## ELVETE - Case Study no 3: Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre

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## Table of Contents

Summary .....	3
General Information on VET Organisation.....	4
Interview with a participant .....	6
General Information about VET Organisation .....	6
<i>Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre</i> .....	7
The duration of the programs .....	7

## Summary

MSS in Iceland collected four cases at three organisations. The third case was collected at Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre, -a rehabilitation centre for people that have for some reasons left the work force and are provided with courses and vocational training in order to find a way for them to re-engage.

The conclusions indicate that in the case of the rehabilitation centre, the participating companies see it more as social responsibility to take interns and that they would not want to interfere with the shape of the program. The participant interviewed was very satisfied with the program and as a result she has a job in a new line of work that suits her physical abilities better. When asked if the program worked for her as a learner, her answer was: "If one is willing to learn and adapt, this is the ideal program".

## General Information on VET Organisation

Institution: Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre

Type of Institution: Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre specialises in rehabilitation for individuals that have, due to illnesses, accidents or social complications left the workforce but are willing to return. Most of the participants are offered to engage in the studies on the behalf of the unions they belong to, there is an office that handles matters of those that have left the workforce due to the above stated reasons and that office assigns the participants to this program. Also occasionally participants are assigned on the behalf of the municipals in the area.

Locality and Country: Reykjanesbær, Sudurnes area, Iceland

Course name and level: There are two main themes of studies, Education line and Employment line.

Target Group of Course/Curriculum: individuals that have, due to illnesses, accidents or social complications left the workforce but are willing to return.

Pedagogy used?

Consequences pedagogy or depending on the activities and initiatives of both individual and group, different pedagogies will be chosen according to the evaluation.

Is the course accredited?

Not formally, however some of the most basic courses in collage may be evaluated if very similar to the courses in the rehabilitation program.

Statistical Information (if relevant)

General Information on Business involved

Name of Business: Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre works with quite many organisations in the area; the organisation we interviewed is Njardvik primary school (Njarðvíkurskóli) as they have taken on numerous participants as temporary interns at their organisation from Samvinna's rehabilitation program.

Number of employees: There are about 70 people that work at Njardvik grade school.

Area of involved Business: Njardvik grade school, the organisation we interviewed regarding participants from Samvinna is a children's school that has 377 students at the age 6-16.

How is the Business involved in the curriculum?

The business sees it as social responsibility to take interns that have been out of the labour market and wants to support the rehabilitation program. There is close cooperation between Samvinna and the businesses when preparing for internship of

individuals but contrast to our belief the businesses do not wish to influence the curriculum but prefer to be supportive of the current curriculum as they feel they would be interfering with the program that is adjusted to each and every participant.

Engagement profile of business: In what way(s) does the business cooperate

The rehabilitation centre and the business draw up a contract when the internship is arranged. The business registers the participant's engagement, if he/she shows up for work every day on time and provides feedback to the rehabilitation centre. The interns know that if they give excellent performance there have been incidents when interns have been hired permanently so in some cases there is a lot at stake.

### Interview with a participant

Student name: Grazyna Kawa, a former employee in the fishing industry but she had some back injuries which made that line of work impossible for her. She took the Employment line at Samvinna. Her period of internship was at a factory that sews clothing for an Icelandic outdoors clothing label. After finishing the rehabilitation program she got employed part time and later on she was offered full time employment at the business.

Relevance of IT: IT is important in some courses but not at all in other. The participants that take the Education line depend more on IT, for a lot of their projects are handed in online through a student system. The participants in the Employment line depend less on IT but still it is relevant.

Give an overall rating of the program: Grazyna rated the program very favourably, when asked out of 10 what would the score be she gave the rate of 9.

How effective is the cooperation of the program provider and the employer? In Grazyna's case the internship period was very successful and the job seemed to be fit for her physical abilities. The cooperation of Samvinna and the business was very good and especially regarding the adjustment of how much work she was capable of performing at the time. She was offered a part time job after the internship period and later on full time job.

Can it be applied to other areas of ICT? In Grazyna's opinion if the students are taking some courses via distance learning or preparing for internship at a computer or IT business then IT can be used more.

Can you apply the achieved knowledge? She has showed that in her case the program was successful, the business wouldn't have offered her full time employment unless it was.

Does it do the job for you as a learner? When asked if the program worked for her as a learner, her answer was: "If one is willing to learn and adapt, this is the ideal program".

### General Information about VET Organisation

### **Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre**

Samvinna Rehabilitation Centre specialises in rehabilitation for individuals that have, due to illnesses, accidents or social complications left the workforce but are willing to return.

The rehabilitation program is adjusted to the needs of the individual, some have more educational needs but Samvinna also offers financial consultation, psychiatric consultation, group therapy/group dynamics, Self-balance, physical education and training and more. Short periods of vocational training are provided in companies in the Sudurnes area.

The rehabilitation is mainly conducted in a group but based on assessments of the individual's needs. The main pedagogy used is the consequences pedagogy and the main aim is to strengthen the self-esteem of the individual and reinforcement of participants' believes in own capabilities. The program supports the participants to acknowledge their hurdles and to learn how those hurdles can be dealt with. Also the program provides support for participants when setting realistic goals.

There are two main themes that can be chosen according to the participants desire and abilities, Education line and Employment line. The Education line focuses more on supporting participants that are aiming for further studies but the Employment line supports those who want to seek employment.

### **The duration of the programs**

The duration of the programs vary from 1 semester up to 3 semesters and duration is adjusted according to individual evaluation.