



RECOGNISE YOUR INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCES!



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



RECOGNISE YOUR INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCES!

This material is based on a study "Hidden Competences" by CIMO (from 1.1.2017 EDUFI) and Demos Helsinki, looking at the significance of international competences in the changing world and in the future labour market.

The idea and design of the material are by Satu Syyrakki and Miika Kekki in cooperation with CIMO.



RECOGNISE YOUR INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCES!

**Global
labour market:
where
are we?**

**What does
being
international
mean?**

**What does
it mean
to me?**



● Global labour market: where are we?

Think of examples of global changes currently affecting the whole world.



**Tell your pair/
team what ex-
amples you
thought of.**

● Global labour market: where are we?

Mega trend = a major global change affecting different levels of societies and the whole world.

The Hidden Competences study identified four mega trends:

- resource scarcity
- changing demographics
- globalisation
- global technological change

Compare your own examples to these four trends: can you find similarities and differences?

● Global labour market: where are we?



List jobs that are

- very international
- not international at all

**Compare your list
with somebody else.
What makes a job
international?
Why?**

● Global labour market: where are we?

In the Hidden Competences study, farmer was regarded as one of the most international jobs.

Find out why!



● Global labour market: where are we?

Labour market has changed a lot over the past 40 years.

For example, these things have changed:

- people's level of education has risen
- Internet came to the work places
- the line between domestic and global markets got blurred
- immigration for work began

● Global labour market: where are we?

Interview somebody who has already been in the labour market for a long time about how his/her sector has changed and what impact has the change had on his/her job.

Do you recognise the general changes in the labour market from the story?

● Global labour market: where are we?

List employment sectors that have been particularly affected by the changes in the labour market.

What completely new sectors and jobs have emerged?



● Global labour market: where are we?

Think what kinds of new jobs could emerge by 2040.

What will a working day look like in 2040?

Write a short story about it!

● Global labour market: where are we?

Think alone, in pairs or in a group what kinds of skills and competences are required from employees now and in the future.

What kinds of new opportunities do the labour market changes offer to individuals?

What do the changes mean for the whole society?

● What does being international mean?



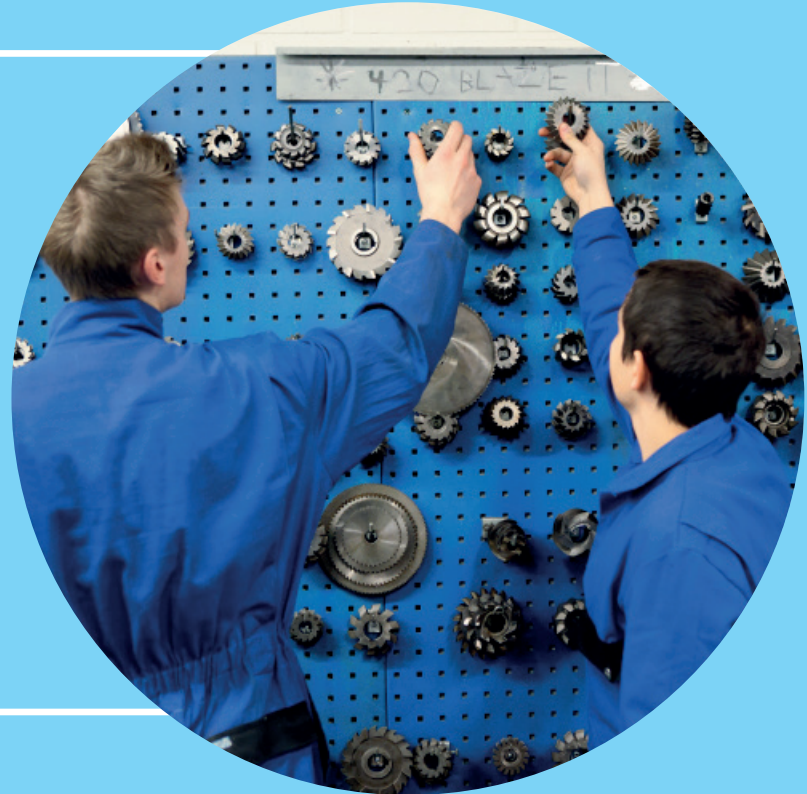
List people who you think are international.

Justify your choices: what is it that makes just these people international?

● What does being international mean?

Are some hobbies particularly international?

Which employment sectors are international?
Why?



● What does being international mean?

Do the test
"Discover your international
competences"? at
[www.oph.fi/en/
development/
hidden-competences](http://www.oph.fi/en/development/hidden-competences)

**Discuss with your
pair what kinds of
characteristics you
could link with
international
competences.**

● What does being international mean?



Did you and your pair identify similar characteristics (please, see previous slide)? Compare!

Division between traditional and extended international competences in the Hidden Competences study.

• What does being international mean?

Reflect on your international experiences – what kind of core skills have you gained that could be useful for working life?



● What does being international mean?

Discuss the word
"international"
– what does it mean to you?
Make a mind map about this.

**What word
could replace
"international"?**

● What does being international mean?

International experiences
are not always positive.
Think why this might be.

Can you still learn about
the experiences?

● What does it mean to me?

Make a timeline of your international experiences: e.g. hobbies, travel, use of foreign languages, learning about different cultures and other situations with people from different cultures.

List the three most important things that you have learned/realised in these situations. What have you learned about yourself?



- **What does it mean to me?**

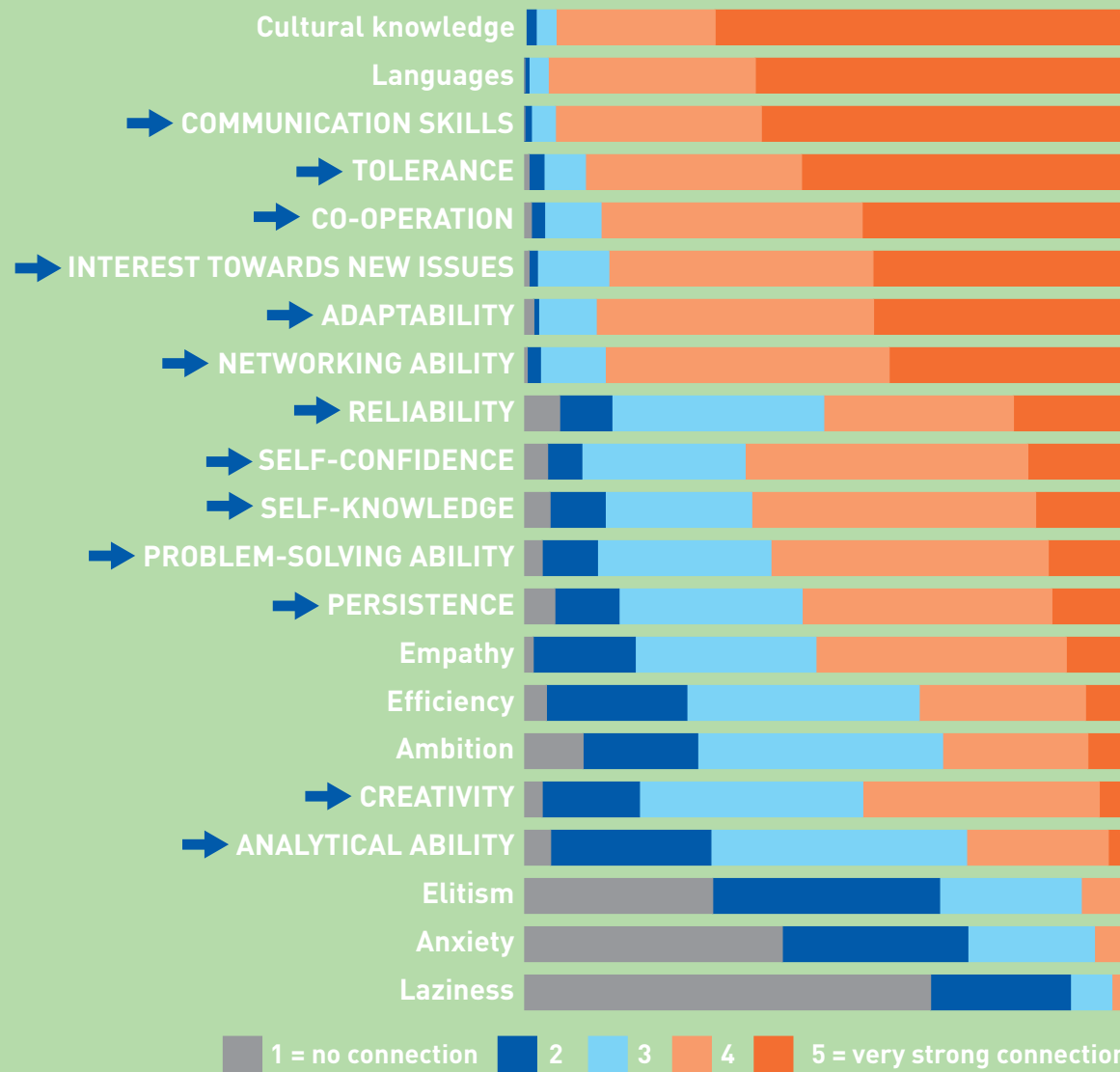
Imagine that you are going abroad for a year. Make a check list of 10 things that you especially need to pay attention to.

- What does it mean to me?

If you have applied for a summer or another job, recall your job interview.

Write down things that your employer stressed or regarded important.

• What does it mean to me?



= Attributes
that are valued in
recruitment

Compare your
list to these
characteristics.
What do you
notice?



● What does it mean to me?

What would your dream job be? What kind of skills and competences would you need?

Think in pairs what kinds of international activities at home or abroad could help develop the skills and competences needed in your dream job.

● What does it mean to me?

Imagine a line on the floor, with the listed attributes ranging from 0 to 10. Pick an attribute and stand on the line on the spot that you think represents you. Tell why you chose to stand just there.

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Do the same with another attribute. Think of more attributes.

- Efficiency
- Analytical ability
- Problem-solving ability
- Reliability
- Tolerance
- Interest towards new issues
- Cultural knowledge
- Cooperation
- Adaptability
- Networking ability
- Self-knowledge
- Persistence

● What does it mean to me?

First, think of a positive international situation in your life in which you felt you succeeded.

Take turns to tell these situations to each other in your group.

Write down from other people's stories skills and competences that you think the person telling the story has.

Make a note of things that the person does not mention him- or herself.

When the story is finished, tell the things you wrote down to the person telling the story.

Change roles so many times that everybody gets a chance to tell their story and gets feedback from others.

Discuss what it is like to recognise one's own skills and competences.

Adapted from an exercise by Vance Peavy

● What does it mean to me?

Think how you can present your skills widely and creatively.

Write yourself a CV to apply for a real or an imaginary job.

Can you demonstrate your skills in another way than with a traditional CV?

Make a video presentation about yourself with your friend either in your own or in another language to apply for a summer job abroad.

Find out from oph.fi how you can tell about your international competences:
www.oph.fi/en/development/hidden-competences

Find out about different portfolio- and e-portfolio models.
How could you use them to present your international competences?

● What does it mean to me?

In pairs, practise job interviews in which you describe your own competences.

Take turns to be the interviewer and the job applicant.



● What does it mean to me?

If you were to go abroad for a longer period, where would you go? Where would you definitely not go?

List the five most popular and five least popular countries in your group.

What kinds of images do you have about these countries? Where do these images come from and are they true?

Why some countries become more popular than others? Why might it be important to know more about the less interesting countries?

See the most popular target countries of Finnish students in an infographic on EDUFI's website:

www.oph.fi/en/statistics-and-publications

● What does it mean to me?

Do we need any other languages than English anymore? Could we stop studying other languages?
Discuss in pairs or in groups!

If you had to learn one new language, what would it be?
Why?

Survey about language skills needed in different sectors commissioned by the Confederation of Finnish Industries:

ek.fi/wp-content/uploads/EK_henkotiedustelu_esite_nettiin.pdf

● Finally



There are many ways in which you can improve your international competences. Employers benefit from your skills – make them visible!

Sources and further information:

www.oph.fi/en | Education development |
International competences and working life |
Hidden Competences



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