

International Development Officer Project Survey (IDOLearn)

The Results from Finland

A short summary

The survey questions were sent to 30 people working in different areas and jobs of international education. We received 26 answers.

Our respondents work in in-service education (7), in vocational colleges (6), in official national education (5), in higher education (3), and in private training institutions (2). Vocational Adult Education Centre, Trade Union, School for Vocational Teacher Education each have one respondent.

Most of our respondents are managers with international responsibility (9), education coordinators (6), and international project or mobility coordinators (4). Education Advisor, International Relations Assistant, Evaluator, Development Manager, National Agency Programme Manager, Counsellor of Education each occurred once. Most of them (15) use more than half of their work time for international activities. Typically for Finland, they all have a higher university degree (a master's degree), and half of them have it in foreign languages. Almost all of them (25) have learned their international skills on the workplace. (And most of them are female.)

In their current job they appreciate mostly networking activities, communicating with others, and communicating in foreign languages. They do not much engage in research activities (lack of time??). Three persons took up the important task of following international education on national, EU and global levels.

Use of foreign languages, communication (verbal & written), project management and interpersonal teamwork were the most important competences for being an International Development Officer.

Cultural awareness, interpersonal teamwork, and foreign language skills were clearly the most appreciated competences for the future International Development Officers.

The questionnaire answers give a picture of a Finnish IDO: Academic education, often that of a language teacher, hard working in international activities, having a management job. Female, been in international jobs more than 3 years. Interested in developing her professional skills and status.