



One strategy that policy makers and local and national governments have used to develop rural areas is to increase access to learning and education in these rural areas. One method is to offer distance learning opportunities.

Over the last 30 years there have been many ambitious educational projects promoting distance education as a catalyst for regional development.

Many projects became integrated into the municipality's strategic development in the form of learning centres, whereas others disappeared after the project funding ended. We will present concrete examples of successful Nordic projects supporting adult, flexible learning in rural areas identified in Nordplus project "[Presence at a distance](#)" (PAAD). Moreover we have compared our findings with the findings of a larger project "8-Success Factors" <https://nvl.org/Content/8-Success-Factors>, which examined more than 50 successful educational projects aimed at responding to, or proactively preparing people for change and disruption in the labour market and in society in general.

This presentation summarizes the findings of three projects and consolidates the conclusions from all three, giving a useful overview of key success factors to consider when planning and executing educational projects aimed at rural development.

Moderators and presenters at the workshop:

***Education Manager at Omnia, Taru Kekkonen, Omnia (Chair)***

***E-learning specialist, Alastair Creelman, Linnaeus University, Sweden***

***Projektkonsult Carola Eklund, Åland***

***Career Guidance Counselor, Dierdre Hansen, Faroe Islands***

***Lecturer Hróbjartur Árnason, University of Iceland***

16.00 Reception

Get together. Interactive discussion and continued learning over snacks and drinks.

***Jørgen Grubbe , Chair of FLUID, Vicepresident IDA Education, Member Distans and partner in PaaD***

19:00 Dinner (separate registration)