

## **Co-creating Collaborative Learning Experiences**

Case Multidimensional Event Organizing Course

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### **Abstract**

This paper describes the co-creation of collaborative learning experiences in an event organizing course arranged by the Multidimensional Tourism Institute (MTI), an educational entity combining all levels of tourism education. The course is a joint study unit for the students from all educational institutions of MTI: vocational college, university of applied sciences and university. The aim of the course is to offer the students the opportunity to work with people from different educational backgrounds, provide new viewpoints to the subject and familiarize students with versatile study cultures. The course was organized for the first time in the fall 2012 in collaboration with Staalon Teatterifestit –event in Kittilä, Finland. The aim of this paper is to elaborate on the learning experiences of different parties involved and discuss the ways event-based learning environment facilitates them.

The course was designed as project-based, and therefore experiential, learning environment based on multi-stakeholder collaboration between the different parties involved (e.g. Bosman, Dedekorkut & Dredge, 2012; Jamal, Taillon & Dredge, 2011; García-Rosell, 2013). The students first participated in a week-long intensive course, then volunteered at the event and afterwards work on development assignments in groups. The student and event organizer feedback as well as participant observation by the teacher of the course (one of the authors) are used as a data in this study. The preliminary results indicate that the event-based, collaborative learning environment created learning experiences not only for the students, but to the event organization and teachers respectively. The authors will also discuss how such multi-stakeholder collaborative learning provides value to the different parties involved.

Keywords: event, education, collaborative learning, co-creation