


Recognition of non-formal and informal learning: The Finnish example and the implementation at Haaga-Helia UAS

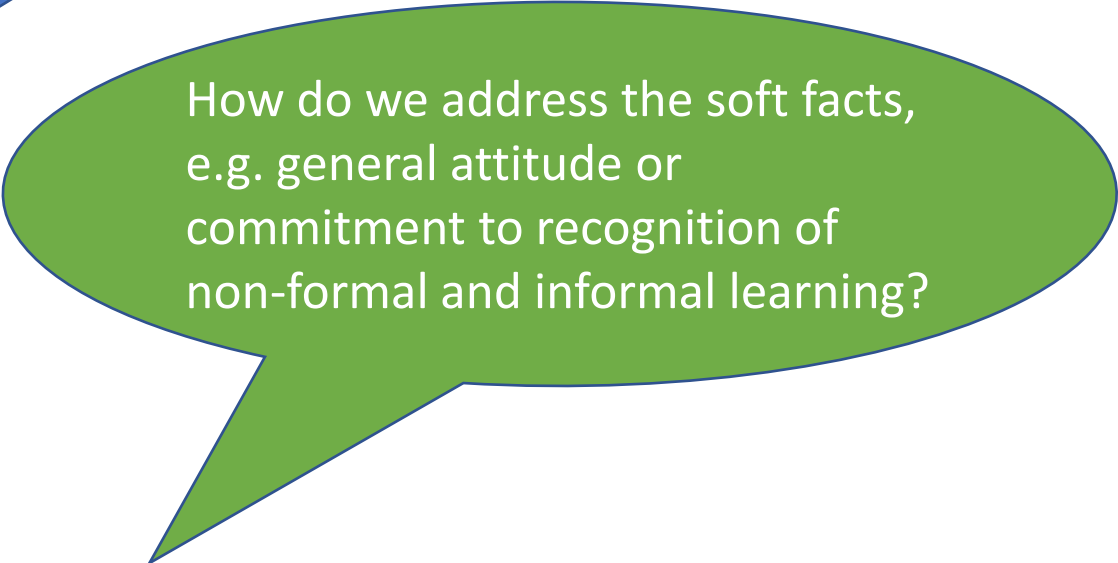
The New Student: Flexible Learning Paths and Future Learning Environments

20-21 September 2018, Vienna - Marjaana Mäkelä, Principal Lecturer





How to widen access and strengthen alternative access through validation of nonformal and informal learning?



How do we address the soft facts, e.g. general attitude or commitment to recognition of non-formal and informal learning?

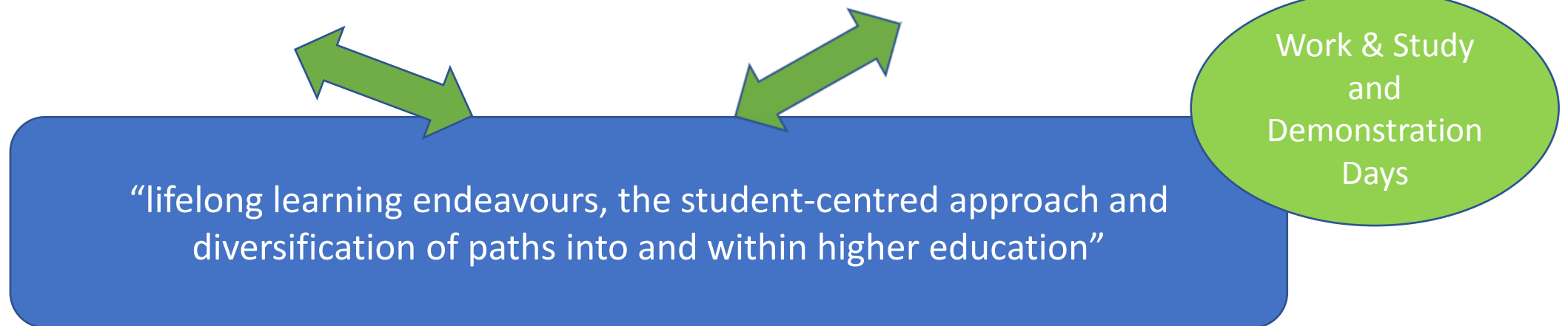
A dual approach

Flexible Learning Paths

- Unfolding an alternative path to access Finnish Higher Education
- Presenting a practical solution of a Finnish University of Applied Sciences

Future Learning Environments

- Example of a hands-on process of work-based learning to enhance
 - blended learning
 - dialogue between HEI and working life
 - commitment within the HEI



Access to Finnish Higher Education Institutions

Universities

- **Entrance examinations**
- Open Path
 - Most institutions apply
 - Some restrictions on degree programs available via Open Path and on number of accepted students

Universities of Applied Sciences

- Entrance examinations
- Open Path on levels 6 and 7
 - Most institutions apply
 - **General rule: 60 (30) ECTS of completed studies → separate application process**

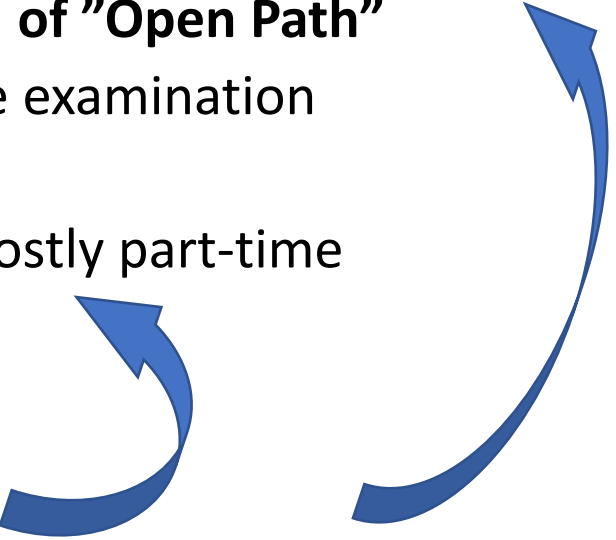


FREEDOM TO
DESIGN ACCESS
CRITERIA AND
STRUCTURES

“Also Finnish higher education institutions enjoy extensive autonomy. (...) Institutions are autonomous regarding their teaching and research.”

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/finland_en (14 Sept. 2018)

Open UAS studies, case Haaga-Helia

- A study fee: 150 euros per semester
 - Language criteria: when in English, IELTS score 6 or more
 - Diversified student body
 - 1) Goal-oriented, full-time students aiming at gaining access after completion of the minimum of 60 ECTS: select in the beginning the option of "Open Path"**
 - a sub-group: applicants having failed the entrance examination
 - 2) Students interested in certain topics
 - may become more oriented towards a degree. Mostly part-time
 - 3) Students motivated to complete only a few courses
 - often a professional trigger
 - Counselling and advising activities are available for all
 - Pre-designed study paths ensure the most successful entry to the institution
- 

From Open Path towards degree studies at Haaga-Helia UAS

Successfully completed 60 ECTS (30 on Master level)



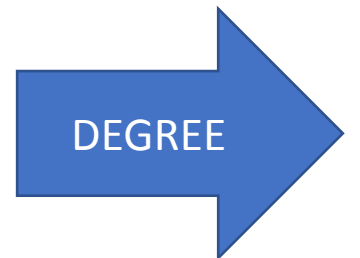
Formal application to the Degree Programme (twice a year)



Interview with the DP director

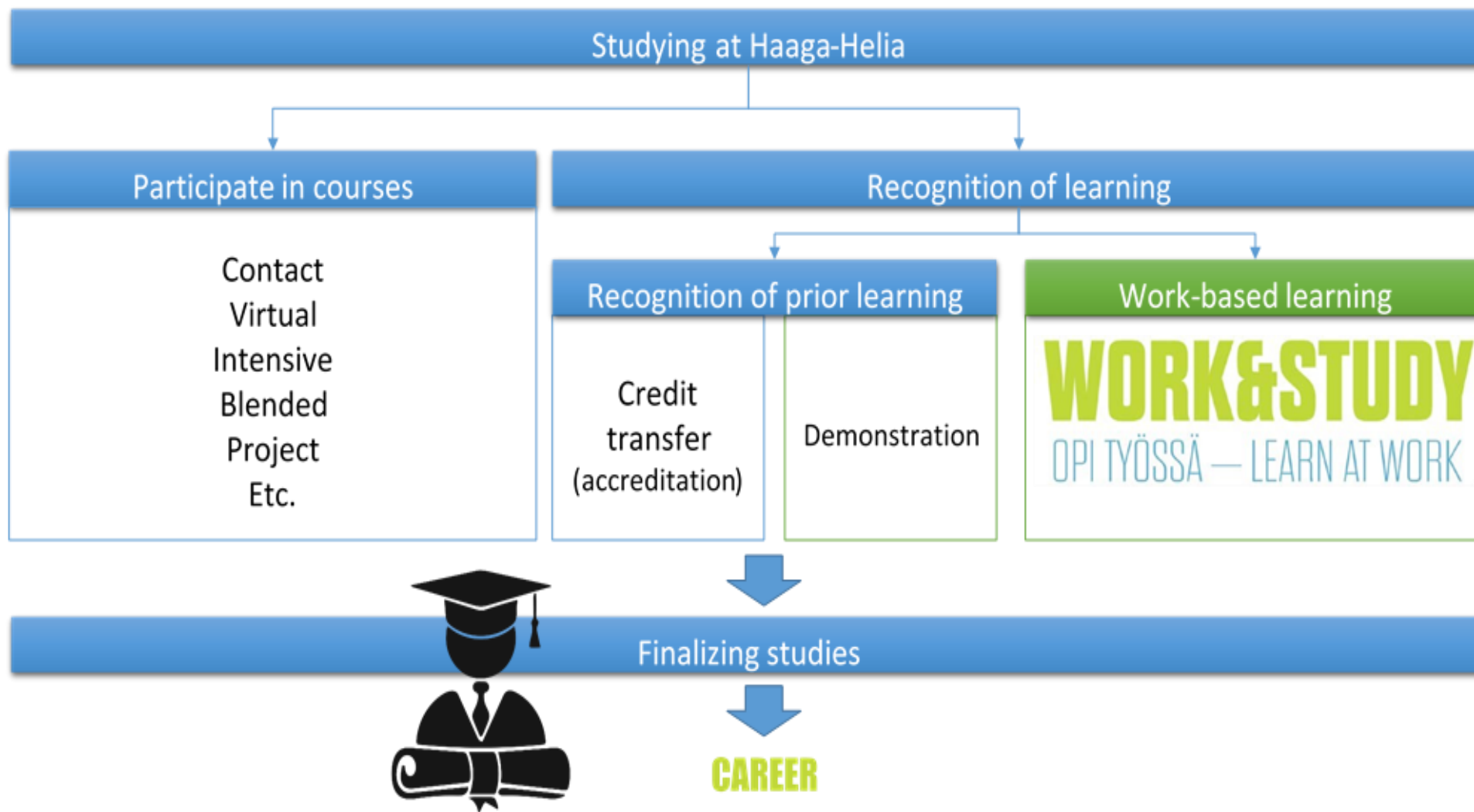


Acceptance: enrolment to second year studies and
meeting with a study counselor for check-up and
guidance

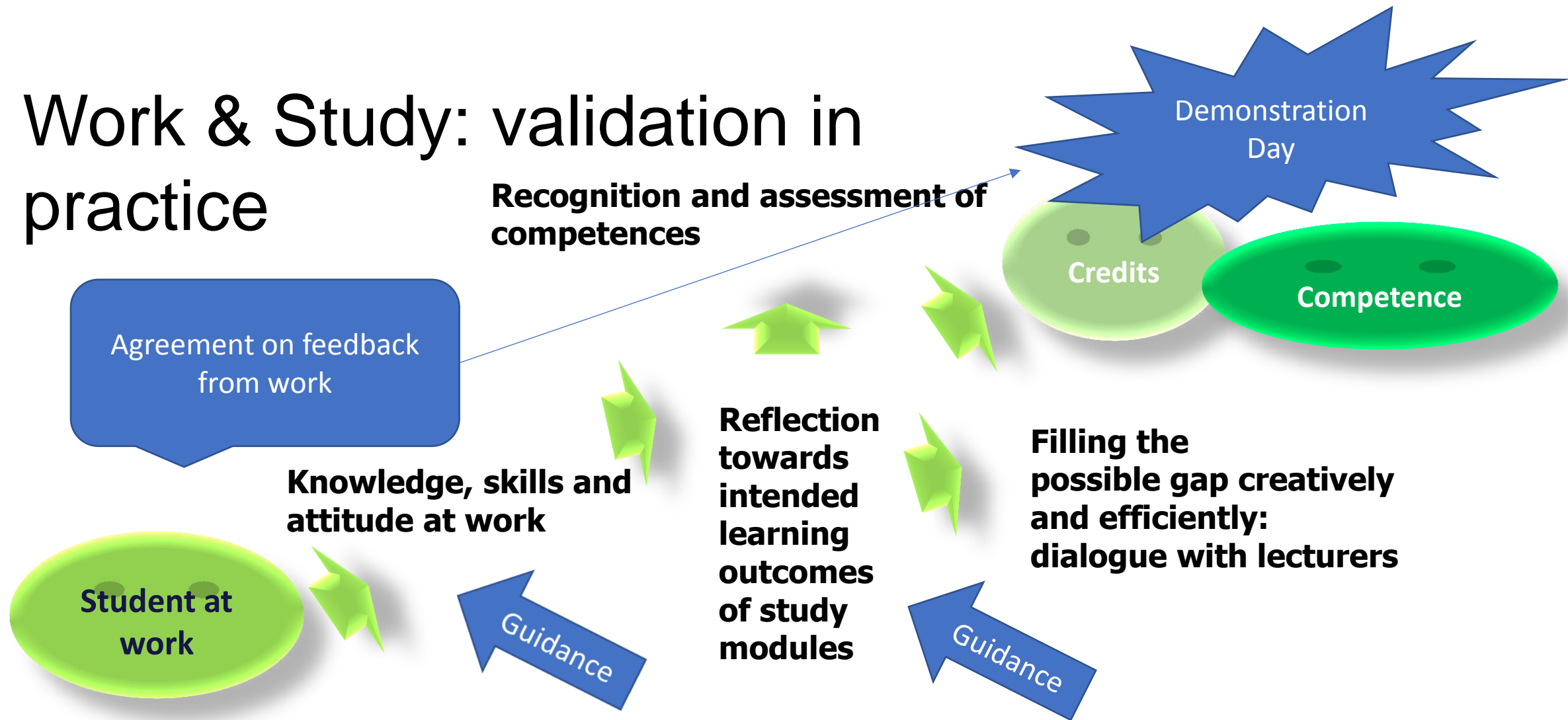


RPL as part of gaining credits for Open Path students

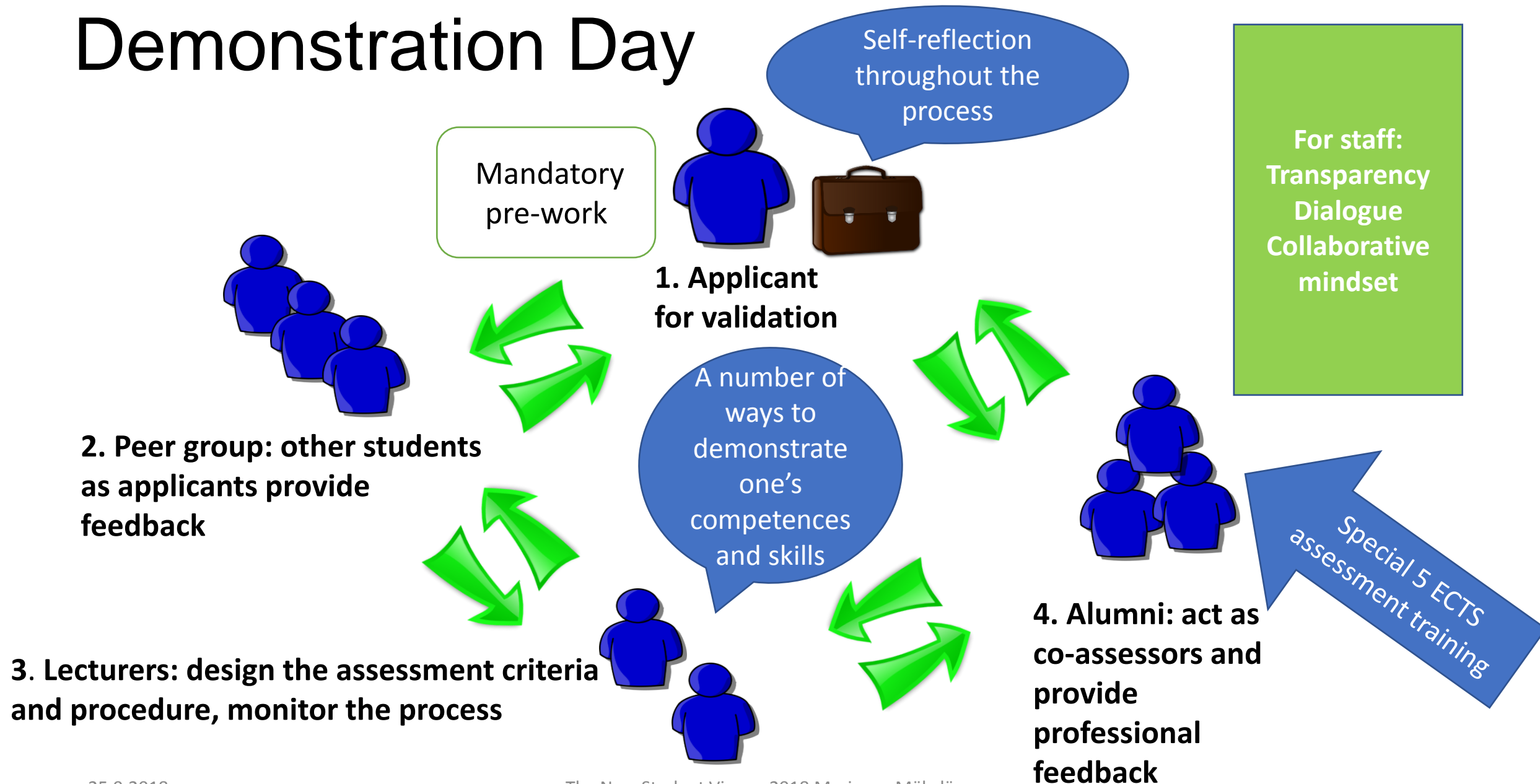
- Similar process with degree students:
 - VNFIL
 - **Work & Study**, the Haaga-Helia approach to Work-based learning
- Work-based learning is an institutional policy and mindset
 - employability
 - networking with relevant sectors of working life
 - not only RPL as prior learning, but involving learning that occurs alongside studies, in real professional contexts
 - credibility and transparency of education
- Majority of Open UAS students work while studying → facilitates integration of W&S



Work & Study: validation in practice



Demonstration Day



More information online

- Finnish Higher Education: https://www.oph.fi/english/education_system/higher_education
- Finnish Education in EURYDICE: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/finland_en
- Open UAS and University studies: <https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/higher-education/open-studies/>
- Haaga-Helia UAS: <https://www.haaga-helia.fi/en/frontpage>
- Work & Study process: <http://vplbiennale.com/books/the-learner-at-the-centre/> (Conceptualizing validation of work experience in a Finnish University of Applied Sciences)

Mission: “Haaga-Helia opens
doors to future careers”

Thank you!

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