



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Quality Elements of TCA in the Youth Sector

TCA Officers' Meeting – Quality in Focus
23.5.2019 Zandvoort, The Netherlands



Facts about the Youth Sector

The background features abstract, flowing wavy lines in vibrant green and blue. A thick green line starts from the top right and curves downwards towards the center. Another green line is on the left side, also curving. A thick blue line starts from the bottom left and curves upwards towards the center, partially overlapping the green lines. The overall effect is dynamic and modern.

The Youth Field is Diverse

- Experienced and established organisations vs. youth led groups
- Professional organisations vs. voluntary organisations
- Youth work is either recognised or not recognised in the society
- How to reach all the people working on youth field?



Numbers of Activities and Participants in Finland 2014-2019

- Finland hosted **32** activities
- Finland sent participants to **373** activities
- Number of applications to TCA activities hosted in Finland **6361**
- Number of applications from Finland to activities abroad **1646**
- Number of Finnish participants in TCA activities in Finland and abroad **1784**



Structural Elements Supporting Quality in TCA



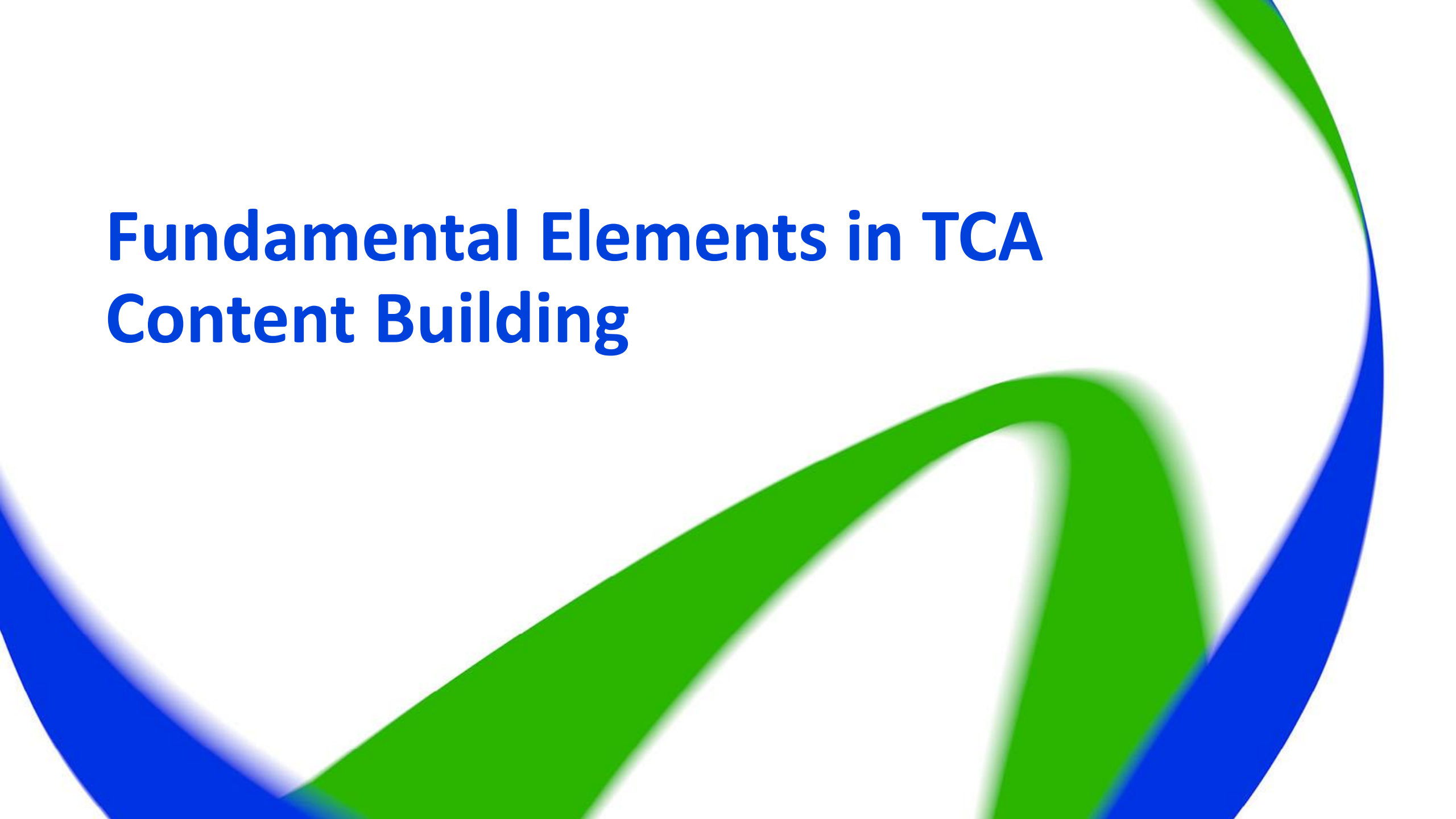
Self-organisation of the Youth NA Network

- Direct and honest communication with COM since the beginning of youth programmes since late 80's
 - Creation of TCP (Training and Cooperation Plan) in 2000
 - Creation of SALTOs in 2000
- Collegial meetings, trainings and working groups
 - TCP Meeting -> TCA Meeting -> TCA/NET Meeting
 - Staff Training (KMST Group)
 - TCA Working Group

Support Measures Created for the Network

- salto-youth.net
 - Extensive amount of youth work related information and homepages of each SALTO
 - NA pages (KMST plan, TCA WG minutes, contact information, logos...
 - European Training Calendar (ETC)
 - Planning Board (PB)
 - Trainers Online for Youth (TOY database)
- TCA/NET Almanac
- TCA/NET Check list

Fundamental Elements in TCA Content Building



Shared Understanding of What TCA is for

- A flexible tool
- Respect for common rules and working ways
- Respect for national realities
- Willingness to cooperate for a common cause
- Responsibility for continuous development
 - New topics
 - Practices and working ways



Need-Based Approach

- National needs vs. common needs on European level
- Needs collected from different sources
 - Applications: quality development needs of applicants
 - Topical themes on national/European level
 - COM & Heads of NAs meetings – priorities of the programme
 - Surveys, questionnaires, consultations, feedback
 - "Gut feeling"

Different Levels of Strategic Planning

- Long-term approach
 - Top-down: strategically developed partnerships on programme priority elements (NA Strategic Partnerships)
 - Bottom-up: a larger challenge that requires deeper cooperation and more activities
 - Network trainings: repeatable modules
- Reactions to European phenomena
 - "One off" activities
 - Working "in batches" – leading to a more strategic approach

Partnerships

- Excellent opportunities to learning and getting better in your job
- Different levels of involvement in project development
 - Sending – Hosting: Trust in the work of colleagues in other countries
 - NA involvement in specific topics (work plan)
 - Different work loads of TCA officers – different roles of TCA Officers
- Coordination and Steering Groups
 - Attempts to coordinate larger entities or reoccurring trainings

Effects – Follow-Up

- Feedback and evaluation
 - From each activity
 - Collected nationally
- Effects/Impact difficult to see
 - New applicants
 - New topics in projects
 - Policy development?
- Follow-up activities to create impact



So?



What Enables Us to Manage TCA

- Years of experience
- Common working ways and values
- Supporting tools and collegial groups
- Commitment
- Strong network
- Partnerships

Steal good practices from youth sector!



TCA is a Flexible Tool





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Çok teşekkürler!

Paavo Pyykkönen
TCA Officer

