

Sustainability in the strategy of YSAO

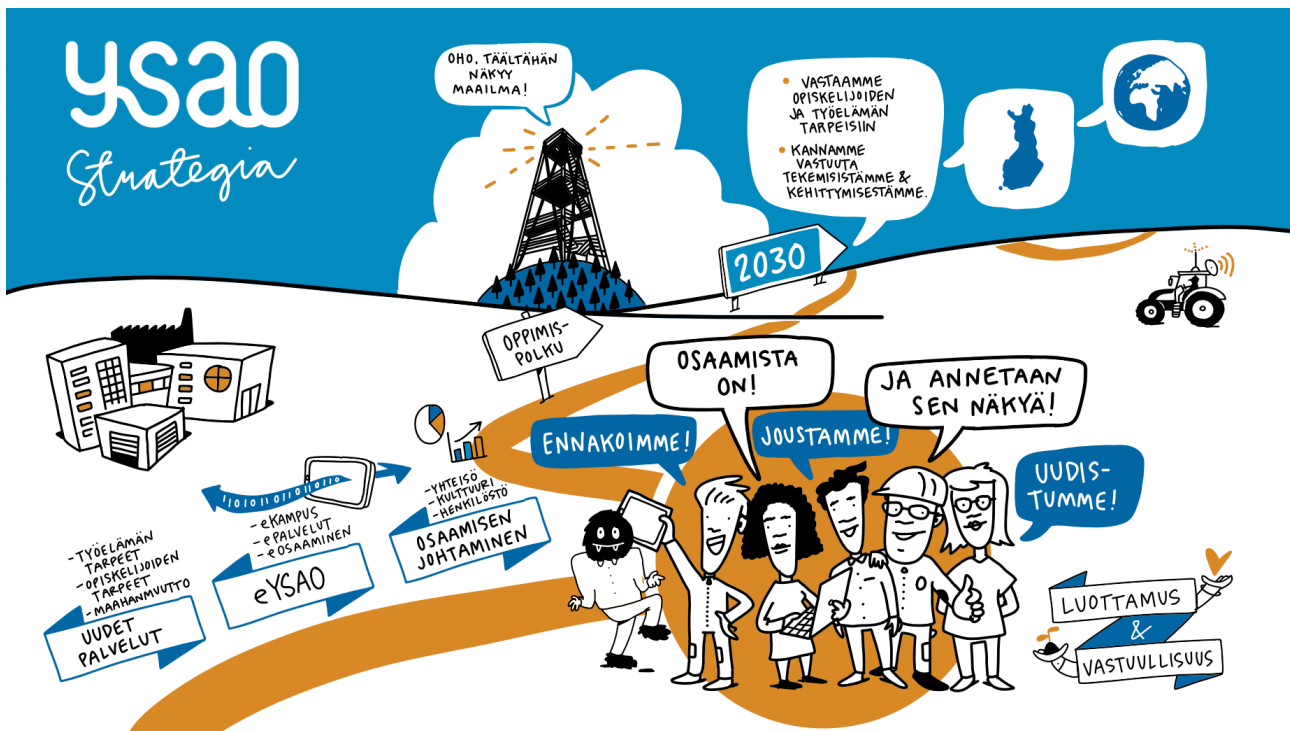
In Ylä-Savo Vocational Institution (YSAO) sustainability plays an important role in strategy. Sustainability has been recognized as a major factor years back and has now been lifted as one of the key elements in the strategy. In everyday level this means i.e. energy consumption of new housing and machinery investments. For YSAO it is not only the environmental issues that are important but also social sustainability, i.e. demographic change in population age structure, equality between all students to participate studies and people to be treated equal.

Sustainability has been a part of the strategy work from the very beginning. When one has made scenarios about the future sustainability has been highlighted as one of the big things. The aspects of sustainability in 2023-2027 strategy of YSAO are i.e. low emissions, digitalisation and shortage of work force. In 2023-2027 strategy sustainability is mentioned as one of the two main values: Responsibility and trust.

Based on the strategy 2023-2027 YSAO has generated development programs. One of the biggest is digitalisation which is an obvious part of sustainability. Others are i.e. the green transition, socioeconomic responsibility and development of the skills of the YSAO staff.

Although sustainability is been recognized as an important part of strategy, sustainable management is something that is slowly taking shape. In YSAO one believes an institution should develop strategy first. Strategy highlights the key issues and every department takes actions to implement the strategy to their everyday life. In some departments sustainable management is further than in others. In YSAO's logistic department one has used i.e. the following methods:

- Digital learning environments and study platforms are part of almost every course YSAO offers.
- The principles of the degree programs have been renewed in autumn 2022. Today the main points to focus on are the economic and productivity of work. I.e. economical driving and how do expenses generate. These have a direct connection to UN climate goals.
- In weekly staff meetings the manager of the logistic department discusses the matters with the staff (i.e. lighting, waste, recycling).
- Staff members have individual development discussion with the department manager regularly. Sustainability is one of the issues that is on the list everytime: How can a single teacher/staff member actively effect on green transision and sustainability.



The 2023-2027 strategy of YSAO is presented in this picture. To highlight few sustainable related things:

- eYSAO (on the left hand side) means digitalisation. eYSAO is been divided in three headlines: eCampus, eServices and eSkills. YSAO is determined to develop its study and support services in more sustainable way. Also the eSkills of the staff and students are mentioned as an important development area, which reflects the social sustainability.
- Uudistumme (on the right hand side) means renewing. This is a strong declaration about staying on the edge of development. To recognize the mega trends and quiet signals and to act according, being ready and willing to adjust one's culture and actions.
- Vastuullisuus (on the right hand side), meaning responsibility, is one of our two main values. YSAO is socially, economically and environmentally responsible operator.