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Stability and change
The role of language skills in innovation work

The importance of language in the workplace is increasingly important in all vocations.

Due to new technologies and the rapid transformation of work the need for innovation work and thus employees that are able to analyse and solve problems in cooperation with others is increasing. Language skills are vital to cope with these challenges. To stimulate the development of language skills in the workplace it is useful to apply a systemic approach to how these can be enhanced through changes in the educational system.

An important strategy to bring about change processes both in teacher education and in schools is to inspire experienced teachers to engage in innovation work through field based postgraduate education programs. Part-time partnership programs enable experienced teachers to work on tasks connected with their everyday work situation as a basis for experiential learning.

The article introduces and evaluates strategies using oral and written language to assist individual and collective reflection and evaluation of learning processes. Experiencing the active use of language in their own learning increases the teachers awareness of the importance of and possibilities for developing language skills in their pupils through technical and vocational education. This in turn constitutes challenging tasks for innovation projects in vocational schools to which the teachers may apply their developing competence in innovation work.