

P-11: Testing services improving skills of the future workforce

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Introduction

Savonia University of Applied Sciences has two main tasks: education & training and R&D and innovation (RDI). Savonia has a focus area of applied health technology. We are responding to the need for reform of the social and healthcare sector and increased efficiency and quality of social and healthcare services. This will be achieved through the promotion of the development and commercialization of technological applications, improving professionals' skills for e-services, and applied research into the digitalization of social and healthcare services.

Material and Methods

Health care is coming more and more digitalized. Companies are developing more products and services to help customers to be healthier and support health care professionals on their work. At the same time social and health care employers expects the graduating new work force to bring the knowledge about these new ways to do the work and ability to use and apply health technology in health care services. New technologies are coming faster than we expect available to health care and it is important that social and health care professionals are familiar with different technologies and can handle the basics in the most common technologies user interfaces for e.g. VR, AR and tablet/mobile computers.

Savonia University of Applied Sciences coordinates Kuopio Health Lab -project that develops services for health technology companies to test products usability and suitability for health care. We are also evaluating new service ideas and combine digital and traditional healthcare services. Services are part of the Kuopio Living Lab services.

Results

Students and their teachers are helping companies to develop different health games, apps and other software. Students and specialist are working in multi-professional teams testing different technologies and evaluating their suitability in health care. Engaging students and teachers to the testing and developing new products and services also increases the student's knowledge about technologies and it's opportunities regarding the future work life. At the same time companies developing future healthcare solutions get important information about how to improve their products and services. Companies are getting a lot of help for their R&D and get better and more effective products at the market faster.

Discussion

As so far, our testing services made by students has received good feedback from customers and students. Savonia University of Applied Sciences has hundreds of students available for testing, so service is fast and adaptive. To give proper service for the companies, they must be properly coordinated. Kuopio Health Lab project is developing offered services intensively to the end of the year 2019. At the same time projects aims to engage the whole Savonia University of Applied sciences to be one big Living Lab. Living Labs are both practice-driven organizations that facilitate and foster open, collaborative innovation, as well as real-life environments or arenas where both open innovation and user innovation processes can be studied and subject to experiments and where new solutions are developed.

References

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