

Lahti, Pertti 1996. **The postmodern market society and adult education centres.**

- The primary function of adult education centres in Finland has been to enhance and improve the level of education in society, to create the general qualifications, which, in the wide sense of the word, provide the basis for the development of Finnish culture. The Finnish citizen of the 1990s is a liberated and well-educated selector, one whose selections are increasingly more difficult to steer from outside or from above. Development presents both threats as well as opportunities for adult education centres in Finland. Their role as background organisations for popular movements has undergone several decisive changes. Finnish adult education centres have two options to choose between: either to merge with the educational system as a whole or proceed to define the characteristic features which enable citizens' study activities associated with liberal citizens' activities and based on their own value premises. In this way, adult education centres will be in a position to help people compose comprehensive and value-committed conceptions of the world, e.g. enabling them to better appreciate individual differences, in this postmodern, fragmented world of ours.

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