Network promoting
e-learning for rural development
e-ruralnet

LLP Transversal Programme
Key Activity 3 ICT - Networks

WP7 – Organizing a national workshop

National Workshop in Estonia
Overview

May 2011

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For more information on E-ruralnet visit the website www.e-ruralnet.eu

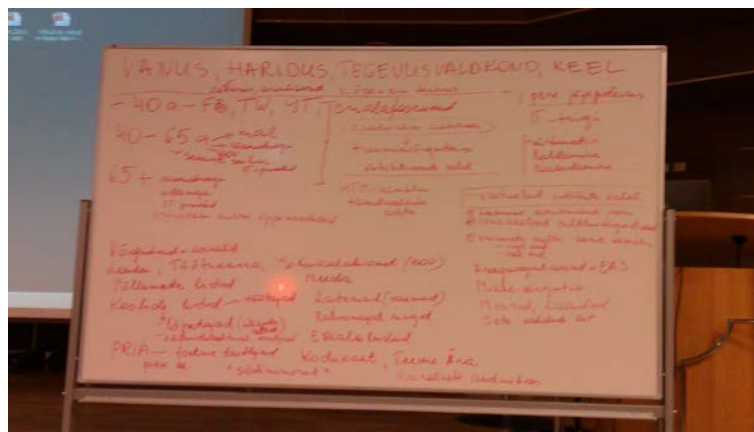## SEMINAR: Further training in rural areas with the aid of e-learning

An overview of the seminar

The Estonian seminar about E-ruralnet took place on April 27, 2011 in the main hall of the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The event was previously advertised in the Estonian network through the mailing list, on the University homepage and in the e-learning mailing list, covering the whole country. Moreover, the Estonian partners were present at an international e-learning conference on April 6-8, which was also organised on the premises of the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The conference enabled to create contacts between the representatives of various institutions and they were invited to participate in the seminar of E-ruralnet. Booklets introducing E-ruralnet were also displayed, including invitations to the conference. 29 people participated in the seminar; most of them were members of the network and represented the field of further education.

The opening speech was held by the rector of the Estonian University of Life Sciences, Mait Klaassen, who emphasized the significance of e-learning in contemporary society and the importance of leaving out the letter "e" from "e-learning".

Seminar was divided into two parts – speeches and workshops. The first speech was made by the general coordinator of E-ruralnet, Mrs Fouli Papageorgio, who gave an overview of the project and completed work. A substantial part of the speech was dedicated to the results of an all-European questionnaire. The second report was presented by Timo Laur, who is the Estonian coordinator of the project and gave a review of the results of the questionnaire in Estonia. The third speaker was Olav Harjo (head of the Estonian Broadband Development Foundation), who gave an overview of EstWin project which brings broadband internet connection to rural areas. The fourth speech was held by Anne Riisenberg from the Central Union of Estonian Farmers and presented the farmers' view of further training needs for agricultural enterprises. A survey of the supply and demand of further training was presented by Riin Kikkas, the head of the Open University of EULS. The sixth speaker, Tiina Ardel, introduced an e-learning experience of the Olustvere School of Service and Rural Economics. The last presentation introduced an E-ruralnet game which received very positive feedback from the participants. Also some suggestions were made about possible future alterations to the game.

Workshops were held after a coffee break. Initially three workshops were planned: 1) How to reach an e-learner in rural areas? 2) Cooperation networks for rural development and 3) Possibilities of and barriers to e-learning in rural areas. Innovative solutions for further training. As the first workshop did not attract so many participants as expected, the first and the second workshop were combined. A very active discussion took place in both workshops.

In general the participants were very satisfied with the seminar. A lot of positive feedback was received from the participants and the interest in the network was great.

Summaries of workshops

Combined workshop: How to reach an e-learner in rural areas? and 2) Cooperation networks for rural development

For specifying the target groups of potential e-learners, the participants of the workshop considered it essential to define:

• the age of learners, thus enabling to describe their possible communication partners

• the field of activity, which determines the amount of participating in various networks and helps to investigate further the needs for e-learning.

• level of education, showing possible activity and skills of using internet

• language environment, a factor to be considered by the developers of e-learning in the future. Both the Estonian and Russian language users communicate through different channels, an aspect which has to be taken into consideration when forwarding information. In the future e-learning modules should be accessible in Estonian, Russian and English, there has to be an opportunity of using different languages.

Age of e-learners	Potential ways of accessing them and communication channels
Up to 40 years	Social networks: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc
40 – 65 years	Social networks, e-mail, lists of various networks, local municipalities and IT - centers
Over 65 years need IT support in the initial phase	e-mail, libraries, local municipalities and regional IT-centers

The list of networks for finding the most appropriate communication channel by the organisers of e-learning:

Leader, lists of farmers, applicants for PRIA support grants, information portal pikk.ee, societies of professions and professional forums; Kodukant and Teeme Ära movements, existing database of Ruralnet, regional development offices in rural areas (Enterprise Estonia), **Union of Rural Municipalities of Setomaa**, organic network, so-called „spark

people" in various regions, fairs kindergartens (parents and grandparents), community centers, clubs and fellowships, Unemployment Insurance Fund, departments of social assistance, lists of schools (graduates, personnel, participants in further training), student societies, etc.

There are many networks and the choice among them should be made according to the target group and particular e-learning service.

The Ministry of Education and Research has carried out a survey about further training which can be used for analyzing by the developers of e-learning.

The workshop brought out some keywords to be considered in the future:

1. IT– support is definitely necessary for those people who do not use internet in their everyday life

2. Systematizing, managing and renewing are important aspects in developing e-learning

3. A competition between the providers of e-learning might lead to discrepancies between institutions and to withholding information

4. In order to avoid disagreements, a reliable institution should be established for developing e-learning, including a core network which represents the relevant institutions (enthusiasts from various institutions).

5. E-learning should be connected to various professional standards.

6. E-learning should be presented as a service.

The workshop was moderated by Merry Aart and Rando Värnik.

The possibilities of and barriers to e-learning in rural areas. Innovative solutions in further training.

1. The presentation of innovative solutions, a discussion on what can be considered innovative.

2. Rural population versus city inhabitants – is there a reason to distinguish between them and define them as special target groups.

3. The usual ways of learning do not function in e-learning. We need new methods of teaching which include social network and social media. The share of communication is increasing in the learning process.

4. There is going to be an information flow for a learner, therefore critical approach towards information should be taught. How to improve learning, so that it would become a part of life?

5. The learners' skills of self-expression and speaking. It was brought out that the decreasing speaking skills of the learners are connected to e-learning which is at the moment based on the written ways of self-expression. It was found that the learning of communication skills should become more active while learning other subjects and that the school should render social skills of cooperation and communication besides offering knowledge.

The workshop was moderated by Meeli Voore

Agenda

Moderator: Jüri Krusealle	09.30-10.00	Registration and morning coffee
	10.00-10.10	**Welcoming from Mait Klaassen –** Rector of Estonian University of Life Sciences
	10.10-11.00	**E-ruralnet. The project and survey results in EU.** Dr. Fouli Papageorgiou (PRISMA – Greece)
	11.00-11.20	**E-ruralnet survey results in Estonia.** Timo Laur (EMÜ)
	11.20-11.50	**EstWin project. Fast broadband for rural areas.** Olav Harjo (head of ELASA)
	11.50-12.50	**LUNCH**
	12.50-13.15	**The demand of vocational training from the viewpoint of the Central Union of Estonian Farmers.** Ann Riisenberg (board member of EPTK)
	13.15-13.40	**The demand of vocational training in case of EMÜ Open University.** Riin Kikkas (EMÜ, head of Open University)
	13.40-14.10	**E-ruralnet GBL tool.** Timo Laur (EMÜ)
	14.10-14.30	**Good practices in the supply of e-learning at the Service and Rural Development School of Olustvere.** Tiina Ardel
	14.30-15.00	**COFFEE**

	15.00-16.00 **PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS**		

DISCUSSIONS	**How to reach the e-learner in rural areas?**	**Networks for promoting rural development**	**The possibilities and barriers of e-learning in rural areas. Innovative solutions in vocational training**
	Moderator: Merry Aart	Moderator: Rando Värnik	Moderator: Meeli Voore

16.00-16.30	**Conclusions, end of workshop**

List of Participants

No	Name - Surname	Organisation
1	Priit Lomp	Valgamaa KÕK
2	Erika Jaret	
3	Roger Evans	
4	Merry Aart	Private participant
5	Endel Peets	Tartu Ülikool
6	Tiina Lasn	Tartu Ülikool
7	Kelli Jõgeva	VKHK
8	Kaisa Puniste	Tartu Rahvaülikool
9	Esta Pilt	Tartu Ülikool
10	Jüri Krusealle	EMÜ
11	Rando Värnik	EMÜ
12	Meeli Voore	EMÜ
13	Argo Peepson	ÕTK
14	Fouli Papageorgiou	PRISMA
15	Riina Miljan	EMÜ
16	Ann Riisenberg	Eesti Põllumeeste Keskliit
17	Raivo Ruus	EMÜ
18	Maarika Roosiväli	EMÜ
19	Mait Klassen	EMÜ
20	Tiina Ardel	Olustvere Teenindus- ja Maamajanduskool
21	Kaire Vahejõu	EMÜ
22	Viive Karusion	JKHK
23	Ruth Türk	JKHK
24	Tõnu Mõistus	EMÜ
25	Olav Harjo	ELASA
26	Katrin Kisand	Tartu Kunstikool
27	Helist Luik	EMÜ
28	Riin Kikkas	EMÜ
29	Liis Oper	EMÜ
30	Timo Laur	EMÜ