

Net university, transfer of innovation in continuing university education

Partner meeting in Stornoway April 6-7th 2009

Attendants: Frank Rennie, Lews Castle College – Guðrún Rósa Þórsteinsdóttir, University of Akureyri – Sheila Downer, Smartlabrador –Sigrún Víglundsdóttir, The East Iceland Knowledge Network – Siv Sjöström, Höskolan i Jönköping – Stefanía Kristinsdóttir, The East Iceland Knowledge Network – Svante Hultman, Höskolan i Jönköping

Best practice report.

A draft has been made with information from Iceland. Guðrún wanted to work with the document a little more and will send a corrected one before Friday April 17th.. Other partners can use that as a template and will send information from their countries before May the 1st. Guðrún will then coordinate and submit a new draft, that Partners can comment on using „track changes“.

Timeline:

April 17th	All partners will have a new draft of the Icelandic report and can use it as a template for entering their data.
May 1st	Guðrún will have received information from all partner countries.
May 15th	All partners will have received a new draft from Guðrún containing information from all partner countries. Comments and changes shall be made using „track changes“
June 1st	Final report ready.

Transfer of innovation

What can we learn from each other?

- University/college cooperation from Scotland
- Development of local courses and programmes
- Distributed learning – flexible learning – lifelong learning. Benefits for both students and teachers.
- Information about learning centres from other partners.

Conference in Iceland in September

The best practice report will be introduced to stakeholders at least in Iceland on a conference/seminar in Iceland. The partners agree that it is better to meet face to face. If that will be possible Stefánía wants the seminar to take place in Egilsstaðir. That would give a chance to show the East Iceland Knowledge Network facilities to partners.

The application to Leonardo Office included three trips (Iceland – Skotland – Sweden). If the project is to pay for the fourth trip it is necessary to apply for it specially, or get the travel money elsewhere.

If face to face meeting is not possible plan B will be to use teleconferencing.

OER

Frank introduced the ideas of Open Educational Resources (OER). The idea is that course material should be freely accessible for everyone to use through for example wiki-pages, YouTube and so forth. It was decided to use these methods for our Pilot project. Frank will make guidelines for other partners on how to make OER-courses.

Pilot action

TEIKN is working on a master's program in Environmental en National Park management. In the partner meeting last November it was decided to use this program for pilot implementation in the net university project.

Some discussion was about how much we could do in 18 month project and it was decided that each partner would provide one course using methods of OER. Another issue is the level of expertise in the group: Do we have the necessary skills to make a course? Every partner will have to consult with experts in their country regarding the course material.

People were also wondering if there was a demand for this kind of educations. Sweden has offered something similar but did not get enough students. Good employment situation could explain that. In Iceland 20% of the country is protected area but educational options in that field have been missing. We know that the need for educated people is there. However it is not possible to estimate in advance how many people internationally will be interested in the program.

Frank will make one course and some guidelines for other partners on how to use the methods of OER to make their courses.

The product will then be four courses and a guide on how to make courses using OER methods. Either the courses will be built from scratch or already established courses will be adjusted to the method of OER.

Sheila wanted to discuss this with her contacts at the Canadian Universities to figure out where their expertise are.

The courses suggested for other partners were the following:

- **Scotland :** National Park Management – environmental approach“
- **Sweden :** Communications
- **Iceland:** Biodiversity

Timeline.

May 1st	Final decision has been made about which course each partner takes.
June 1st	Frank will send a draft for the guidelines.
October 1st	A draft has been made for all the courses
December 1st.	Courses ready

Final meeting in Sweden

The 38th EUCEN conference „Quality and Innovation in Lifelong Learning – meeting the demands of individuals“ will be held in Jönköping, Sweden 5-7 November 2009. It was decided to have the final partner meeting just before the conference so that people can in the same trip attend the conference.

Svante suggested that people should arrive in Sweden on November 3rd. The partner meeting will be held on November the 4th and maybe on the morning of November 5th. Then people would attend the conference that starts after lunch on the 5th. The last day of the conference (Saturday) is not professional so people can skip that if they want to get home early.

Stefania thought it would be good to have Páll Skúlason as a speaker on the conference. Sheila suggested that all the partners should nominate one speaker for the event. She asked to get the programme for the conference sent and then she could suggest a speaker.

Valorisation

Some discussion came up about the word „valorisation“ the meaning of which seems unclear.

According to [The Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013 – Glossary](#) “Valorisation' is the French term for dissemination and exploitation of results.”

We have to develop a handbook of quality measures for distributed learning. The handbook will be in English but could be adopted to Icelandic and Swedish as well. Rather than a paper the handbook could be a website.

Timeline:	January 1st.	A draft is ready for the handbook
	February 1st.	The handbook is ready

Dissemination

Sheila will gather information about Net Universities and educational networks in Europe.

Committee on Icelandic policy for universities and Science

The Minister of Education in Iceland has founded a steering committee to work on policy for the ministry regarding Universities and Science during financial crisis.

Stefanía suggested that Frank would be a good consultant for that committee. The initiative would probably have to come from the committee members. The conference in Iceland in September could give us an opportunity to introduce Frank to at least some of the committee members.

It is likely that the committee will suggest union of universities. This has been happening in the Nordic countries like Norway and Finland. Some universities in Sweden are uniting on their own initiative rather than the governments. By the year 2011 all schools educating teachers will have to apply for accreditation for teacher education. Today every university in Sweden is offering teacher education and many have programs for all educational levels but that will probably change towards divisions according to age groups.

The universities in Sweden are financed according to student count and if few students apply the school has to return part of the money.

In Sweden people are discussing having one net university but all universities can offer distance education. Schools should offer education rather than methods of education.

In UHI a committee looks at all new course suggestions. If similar/same course is already taught at a partner school the committee does not approve the new course and requests cooperation between the schools involved.

On the web

Following is a list of some of the websites Frank showed us, and contain helpful tools for educational purposes.

- www.creativecommons.org : Website about copyright licenses for shared material
- www.oercommons.org : Free to use teaching/learning material
- www.teachersdomain.org : Free to use teaching material
- www.commoncrafts.com : Good educational videos
- www.sidecap.wetpaint.com/page/Resources : Links to educational websites
- www.academicearth.org : Video lectures from scholars around the world
- www.teachertrainingvideos.com : Teacher training videos
- www.delicious.com : Bookmark your web pages.
- www.doodle.com : Scheduling software
- www.galsontrust.com : Website of Galson Estate Trust of Isle of Lewis.

Recording software is for example camtasia and ging.

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