

Net-university - Leonardo project

Meeting notes from 7th to 8th November 2008

Attending: Sigurbjörg Jóhannesdóttir, Stefanía Kristinsdóttir, Kristín Jónsdóttir, Guðrún Rósa Þórsteinsdóttir, Sigrún Víglundsdóttir, Sheila Downer, Svante Hutman og Frank Rennie.

Project meeting Agenda, 1st day 7th November, at 10:00 in Reykjavik

- 10:00 Short introductions from each partner
- 11:00 Coffee
- 11:10 Project organization
- 11:30 Introduction from the Leonardo Office
- 12:00 Lunch
- Best practice reports, drafts and ideas
- 13:00 Introductions from Iceland
 - Status of the Net-university project in Iceland, Mrs. Sigurbjörg Jóhannesdóttir
 - Learning and knowledge centers around Iceland, Mrs. Stefanía G. Kristinsdóttir
 - Introductions from the universities, Mrs. Ásrún Matthíasdóttir, Mrs. Kristín Jónsdóttir and Mrs. Guðrún Rósa Þórsteinsdóttir.
- 14:00 Introduction from Scotland, Mr. Frank Rennie, professor
- 14:45 Introduction from Sweden, Mr. Svante Hultman
- 15:30 Coffee
- 15:45 Introduction from New Found Land, Mrs. Sheila Downer.
- 16:30 Discussions
- 17:30 Conclusions

Introduction from each partner, their background and institutions.

- Sigurbjörg, ministry of education, overseeing technical, Web based projects.
- Sigrún, project manager for master degree in environment/national park management
- Svante, distributed learning, cooperation with municipalities, international cooperation.
- Frank, geologist, development of UHI on regional development
- Guðrún Rósa, managing director of Research institution University of Akureyri. Expert in distance education.
- Andrés Magnússon, Leonardo office
- Sheila, New Found Land, Smart Labrador, The Northern Knowledge Network
- Kristín Jónsdóttir, managing director of lifelong learning University of Iceland
- Emil Björnsson, vocational counselor, TEIKN
- Stefanía, managing director, TEIKN

Introduction to the Icelandic Net-university environment from Stefanía. Partner's criticized the lack of information on what will be done in the project. Another introduction on project organization will be delivered next day based on the organization demonstrated in the proposal.

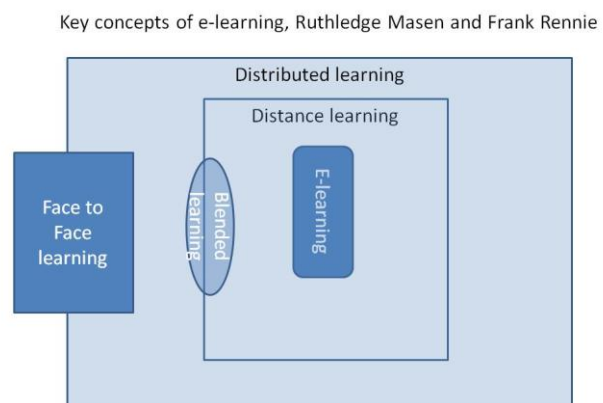
Introduction from the Leonardo Office, slides posted on Net-university project site at basecamp <http://netuniversity.basecamphq.com/clients>. Andrés Pétursson, few points to remember:

- It is important to use all the money available and to keep invoices at hand, show all real costs and keep track of all time spent on the project. Invoices and time sheets should be kept for 5 years, time sheets should be signed. Invoices to be kept, flight departure tags should be kept.
- Daily allowance should cover taxi costs, dinner, lunches etc. Fixed daily allowances, see table in the proposal, UK 288€, Iceland 279€, Sweden 225 €
- Travel costs are only paid for participants directly related to the project. Economic class should be used whenever possible.
- If daily allowances are used meals during the meeting will not be paid by the project. One common dinner will be overlooked.
- The project can be charged with equipment (bought or rented), and facilities if rented (usually not in partners own facilities, unless it is partners business to rent facilities, then it could be considered).
- Other costs, refreshments for guests other than partners, conference fees, advertisements, books, reports, cost of surveys etc, printing etc. If tasks are subcontracted partners need to ask for offers.
- Sub-contracting cannot be more than 30% of all project cost.
- Contract needs to be made between the partners.
- Leonardo Office can ask for accounting documents especially if costs are unusually high.
- Currency rate usually used is the daily rate when receiving or chasing out project payments. Official monthly rate is posted on EU web-site.
- VAT is not paid.

Discussions on distributed learning: Use of video conferencing equipment has decreased while the need for facilitation and facilities for university students has increased. Education centers have become a meeting point for students working on projects etc.

Video conferencing is not a relevant channel for teaching but is quite suitable for project meetings and small group discussions. Use of teaching webs, taped lectures, slides and supporting material, plus access to teachers through e-mail, Skype and teleconferencing. Mixture of methods usually the best practice. Frank

presented a scheme on „Key concepts of e-learning“ that he and his colleague used to explain the difference between learning-methods, see picture. (Frank possible has a better description of it somewhere).



Learning centers and UHI: Frank discussed that UHI doesn't start up learning centers but if municipalities set up a centre then UHI participates with their services and activities. Scottish universities and colleges pay learning centers for the students that use the facilities cost that is from 15-45% of total cost/contribution for each student.

Saturday 8th November.

- 09:30 The vision of the Net-University
- Infrastructure
 - Content
- 10:15 Coffee
- 10:30 Brain storming
- 11:30 Summary and introduction of key ideas
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Key Ideas – follow up and organization
- 13:50 Summary
- Conclusions from partners**
- 14:00 Mr. Svante Hultman
- 14:20 Mr. Frank Rennie
- 14:40 Mrs. Sheila Downer
- 15:00 Mrs. Stefanía Kristinsdóttir
- 15:20 Coffey
- 15:40 Next meeting, project organization etc.

As the time for the meeting on the 7th was too short introductions from Svante and Sheila were postponed until this morning.

Sheila presented the environment for distance education in Sweden as well as ideas related to „The Northern Knowledge Network“. See paper presented by Sheila „Profile of distance education, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Svante introduced the system of the Swedish Net-University model plus his involvement in „European Universities Continuing Education Network“ EUCEN. JU will be hosting a conference on „widening participation“ in **Sweden on 2.-4th November 2009**. Svante presented the idea that the Net-University project could be presented within the conference and that someone within the consortium could be one of the speakers on the conference (as I recall Frank was suggested by the group ☺). See further information on the EUCEN on <http://www.eucen.org>. The Net university model in Sweden is represented through a support system of learning centers, counselors etc. Plus a common web-site www.studera.nu where all students can apply, both for distance education and other.

Viðar Hreinsson managing director of the Reykjavík Academy. www.akademia.is introduced the idea of the Iceland-Academy (IA). IA is supposed to be a network of scholars providing and developing university courses around the country. The objective is to utilize human capital and knowledge of knowledge centers around Iceland and within the community of independent scholars through education (exploitation of research). Viðar thought that this was the right time to present the idea that is parallel to the fall of capitalism (the economic collapse of Iceland) as people would focus more on real values and look for solutions and answers based on critical thinking and studies within humanities and social sciences. The emphasis of participants within that system are mainly small actors such as independent scholars, learning and knowledge centers around Iceland.

