

Tietie cooperation

Eija Kalliala

Helsinki Business Polytechnic – Helia

e-mail: eija.kalliala@helia.fi

homepage: <http://myy.helia.fi/~kalei/>

Tietie cooperation

- Information Technology Education Using Information Technology
- Project, duration 6/1995 - 12/1998
- Cooperation since 1/1999 -
- <http://www.helia.fi/proj/tietie/>

Cooperation partners since 1995

- Helsinki Business Polytechnic – Helia
- Jyväskylä Polytechnic
- Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic
- Oulu Polytechnic
- North Karelian Polytechnic

New partners since 8/2000

- Häme Polytechnic
- Kymenlaakso Polytechnic
- Lahti Polytechnic
- North-Savo Polytechnic
- Turku Polytechnic
- Vaasa Polytechnic

Goals

- Increase the resources of individual polytechnics through cooperation.
- Liberate learning from the constraints of time and place.

Activities

- Online education:
 - Each polytechnic involved in the Tietie cooperation prepares and carries out one or more courses of one, two or three credits.
 - Courses are available to the students of all the participating polytechnics.
 - Students can learn in their own region without traveling.

Communication and Information Technology

- Internet technology
 - Internet, Extranet, Web pages, E-mail
 - Newsgroups, Chat
 - Video conferences
- Multinode video conferences
- Learning environments or platforms (Lotus Learning Space, WebCT, BlackBoard)

Statistics

Year	Implemented courses	Completed courses
1996	5	132
1997	6	135
1998	5	127
1999	7	228
2000	11	302
2001	23	418
Total	57	1342

Student experiences

- Learning in the Internet demands more – but also gives more than traditional learning.
- Clear schedule and outlined material is essential.
- Students have to create their own schedule and find the time for online learning.
- Personal feedback is excellent.
- Students expect teachers to be active.
- Online learning is suitable for the students' current way of life (work, small children, work aboard).
- Groupwork keeps students involved in online learning.

Teacher experiences

- Online students set their goals higher than traditional students.
- The priority of online students' e-mail is greater than other students' e-mail.
- Teacher has to prepare material beforehand and add detailed instructions.
- Tutoring and giving feedback takes time.
- Online education liberates from the constraints of time – and demands time.

What does an online teacher need?

- Support of superiors and colleagues.
- Relevant technical and pedagogical education (with information on copyrights and data protection)
- Functional hardware, software and network connections.
- Capable and reachable technical support.
- Contracts on compensations and copyrights.

Ideas and facts (1/3)

- Online learning and teaching demands time.
- The teachers have to find means to spare themselves!
- The students have to take time for online learning.
- The functionality of technical infrastructure is a precondition of online education.
- Online education demands more than traditional education – and also gives more.

Ideas and facts (2/3)

- How can a teacher spare him- or herself?
 - Clear course structure in the beginning
 - Learning environment or platform
 - Interaction
 - Groupworks
 - Peer assessments
 - Educational packages

Ideas and facts (3/3)

- Different educational materials in online learning
 - Educational packages
 - Materials on the net
 - Traditional books etc.
 - Materials created by student groups
 - Materials created by teachers
 - Games, simulations, learning landscapes

Different kind of online learning

- Internet in contact learning
 - learning in the classroom, material and interaction in the Internet
- Blended learning in the Internet
 - contact, distance and independent learning
 - groupwork and interaction
- Independent learning in the Internet
 - no interaction

Future ??

- m-Learning (mobile computers and videos)
- t-Learning (digital tv)
- Development of learning environments or platforms
- Learning portals
 - Finnish Virtual School <http://www.edu.fi>
 - Finnish Virtual Polytechnic <http://www.virtuaaliamk.fi>
 - Finnish Virtual University <http://www.virtuaaliyliopisto.fi>