



SEEL Conference 2003

Supporting Excellence in E-Learning

Shaping the regional eLearning Policy

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My presentation is a practical review about eLearning implementations in Kuusamo

Topics

1. Introducing eLearning in Kuusamo
2. Requirements for eLearning implementations from our perspective
3. One practical example
4. Plans for the future



Facts about Kuusamo

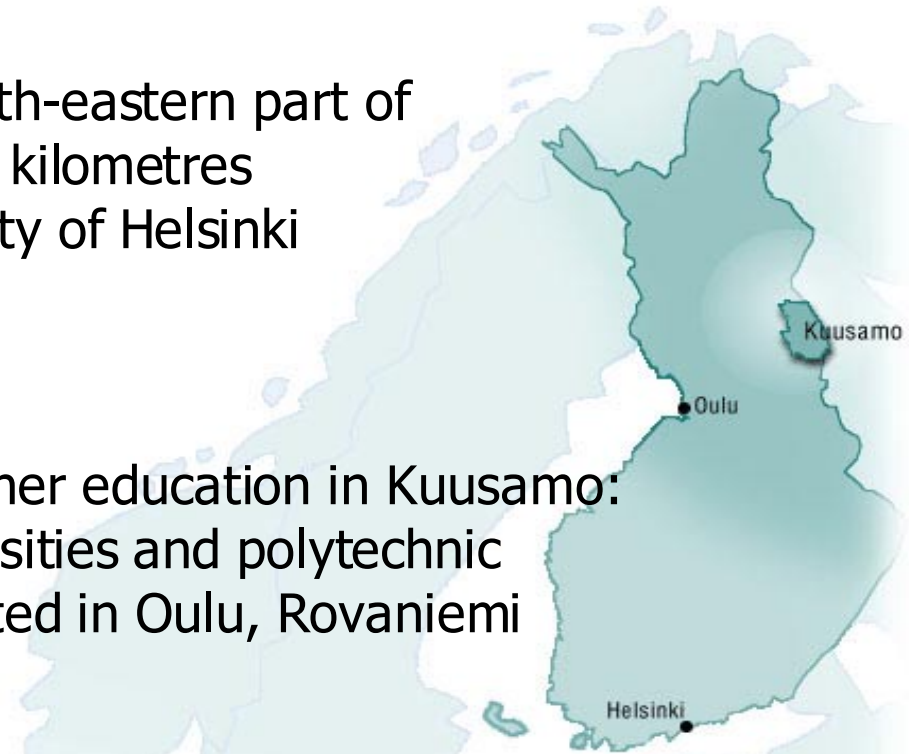
Kuusamo Town

- ❖ situates in the north-eastern part of Finland about 800 kilometres from the capital city of Helsinki
- ❖ 19 000 inhabitants
- ❖ No institute of higher education in Kuusamo: the nearest universities and polytechnic institutes are located in Oulu, Rovaniemi and Kajaani



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*Distances from Kuusamo:
Oulu 220 km
Rovaniemi 200 km
Kajaani 230 km*



Source of livelihood

- ❖ Services 64% (private 32%, public 32%)
- ❖ Primary production 14%
- ❖ Processing industries 16%
- ❖ Others 6%
- ❖ Unemployment rate is decreasing, but still about 17 %

Tourist resort

- ❖ Kuusamo is the most popular all-year-round tourist resort in Finland



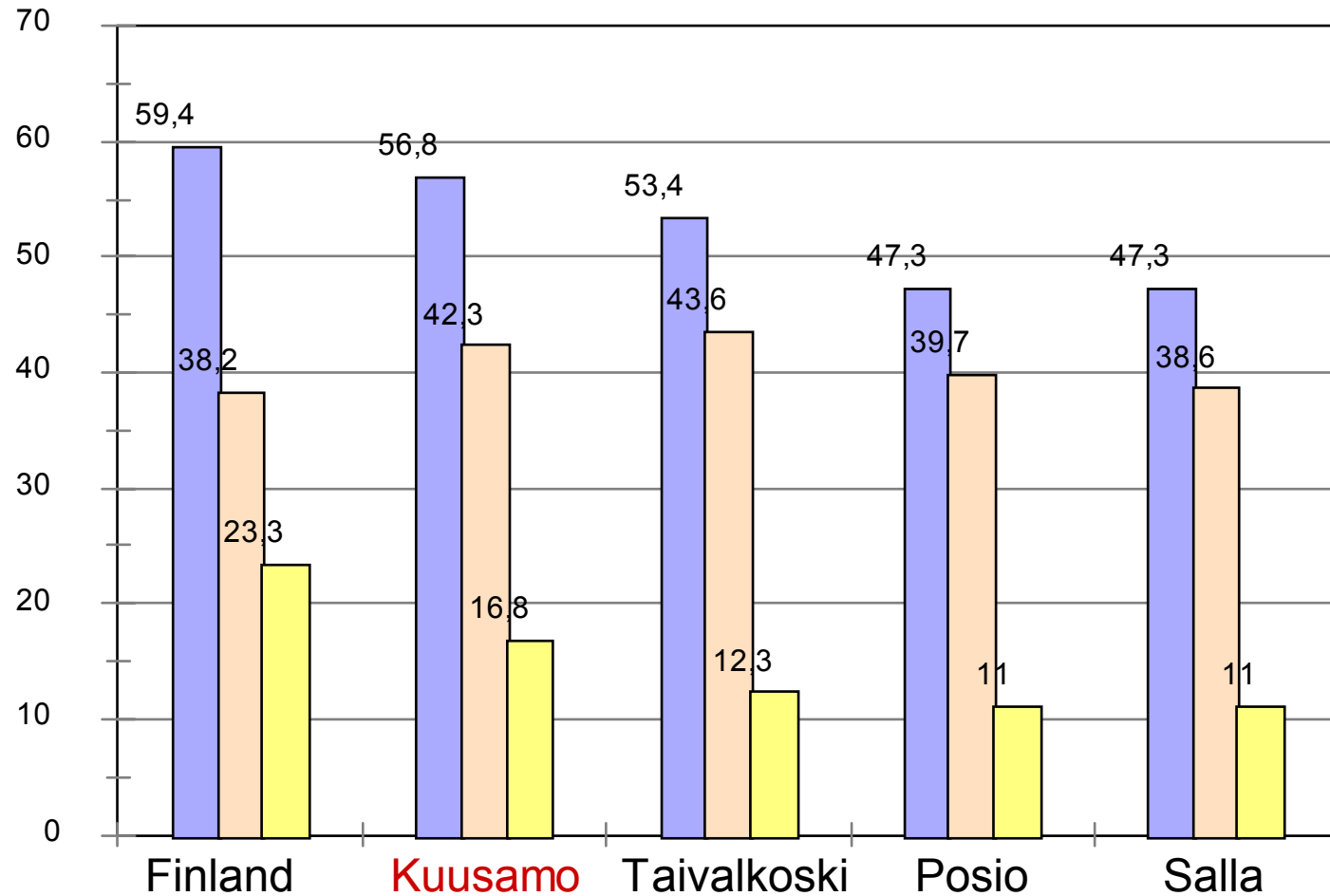
Facts about Kuusamo



Degrees by Level of Education %

Year: 2000

Source: Statistics Finland



eLearning in Kuusamo

- ❖ Combination of technology and traditional education
- ❖ Technology
 - Data transfer technology and videoconferences
 - Lectures in cd-roms
 - Learning environments; materials, communication
- ❖ Exercises in practice at a classroom
- ❖ Support
 - Technical support
 - Pedagogical support
 - Tutorial services for students and teaching staff
- ❖ Centre of learning



eLearning has been adapted particularly for

Polytechnics education

- College level engineers
- Professionals in tourism

University education

- Open university courses
- Master Programmes
- Courses for professionals

Requirements for eLearning implementations from our perspective :

- ❖ Strategic and regional plans
- ❖ Partners
- ❖ Technological solutions and support

1. Strategic and regional plans

- ❖ ANALYSIS
- ❖ VISION
- ❖ STRATEGY

2. Working with partners

- ❖ PLANS
- ❖ IMPLEMENTATION
- ❖ NEW OPERATIONS
- ❖ FINANCING

3. Technological solutions and support



eLearning in Kuusamo



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Master of Science programme 2001-2004

Information Processing Science

- ❖ Started in 2001, together with four other regional groups
- ❖ Cooperation between the University of Oulu, Naturpolis Kuusamo Education and Development Services Unit and Open University
- ❖ 20 students
- ❖ All lectures and exercises in Kuusamo

Implementation and the role of the partners

- ❖ University of Oulu:
 - Lectures
 - Materials
 - Learning environment

Uplifting the standard of know-how is one of the region's most important instruments of development.



eLearning in Kuusamo



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❖ Naturpolis Kuusamo Education and Development Services Unit

- Exercises and tutorial help and support
- Pedagogical support
- eLearning support services for students and teaching staff
- Evaluation
- Training local teaching staff and technical support personnel and tutors
- Learning technology
 - Data transfer technology and videoconferences
 - Lectures in cd-roms
 - Learning environments; materials, communication

❖ Regional Council of Northern Ostrobothnia and ESF

A well-balanced combination of theory and exercises in adult education

Effort must be aimed at

- ❖ Continuous development of technology
- ❖ Virtual institutions
- ❖ Economic issues
- ❖ Connections to business life

Our long-term goals are

- ❖ Operational and permanent opportunities for higher education in the Kuusamo region
- ❖ eLearning support services
- ❖ New enterprises and jobs (eLearning business)

Summary

Why is eLearning the remarkable way of raising the standard of know-how in Kuusamo ?

- ❖ Brings the universities and polytechnics in reach of the local inhabitants
- ❖ Provides flexibility
- ❖ Cost-effective method
- ❖ Multifaceted eLearning environment



*To study is expensive,
but not to study is even more expensive*



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