



**Eesti e-Ülikool**  
Estonian e-University

# **Strategy of building a consortium type e-university**

**Ene Tammeoru**  
**Head of the Estonian e-University**

# ESTONIA

- **is very small:**
  - in area 45 227 km<sup>2</sup>
  - in population 1 434 068
- 39 universities (6 public)
  - 68 287 students (2004) – 46% gov. financing

# Estonia & IT

- Many wide-spread Internet and mobile applications:
  - Banking
  - Parking
  - Ticketing
  - Positioning
  - Skype
  - Election
  - Government services

# Estonia & IT (2005)

- Mobile phones: 110 per 100 citizens
- 450 free WiFi zones
- 68% of population uses Internet (90% in the age 12-24)
- 48% of homes have computers at home, 75% connected to the Internet
- 95% students *reported* they use their own computer

# e-Learning at universities (until 2002)

- Uncorrelated projects,
  - At random platforms
  - Often not integrated into regular curriculum
  - Often ending with completion a cooperation grant
- Mostly motivated by teachers personal interest and curiosity
  - Mostly not motivated by institutional policy
- Overall usage of eLearning (with compulsory elements in web) is small
- Still, a small group of strongly interested enthusiasts was active

# Starting point

- **E-learning is important ...**
- Extremely big differences between HEEs in Estonia
  - Private and public
  - Free vs. fee-based learning (both in private and public HEEs)
- Even universities with a similar profile are competitors
  - Hard to find an area where common interests are prevalent
- HEEs are very autonomous
  - Public universities don't subordinate to ministry

# Estonian e-University ...

- ... **is not a university**
- ...is a consortium type of cooperation body between the Estonian universities for implementing e-Learning in HE
- ...is not an independent university, and does not award degrees
- ... will **coordinate** web-based teaching of universities

# Members

- University of Tartu
- Estonian University of the Life Sciences
- Tallinn University
- Tallinn University of Technology
- IT College
- Estonian Business School
- University Nord
- Audentes University
- Estonian Ministry of Education and Research
- Estonian Information Technology Foundation



# Financing

- Funds from Government 25%
- Annual consortium membership fee 5%
- Participation in projects 70%

# Why e-University (1)?

- Promotes quality of higher education and lifelong learning
  - best courses accessible to everybody,
  - more opportunities for interdisciplinary programmers
- Wider, more flexible and better-quality learning opportunities for students
  - clear and more open system for exchanging studies
  - new methods

# Why e-University (2)?

- Better information about learning opportunities
  - common data-base and search engine for e-courses
- More reasonable use of resources
  - common investments to environment, portal, technical support
  - time of students and teachers
  - investment to best e-courses

# Why e-university (3)?

- Supports regional development
  - with the help of regional study centers
- Includes new target groups
  - adults
  - disabled people
  - Estonians in abroad
  - foreign students

# Why e-university (4)?

- Gives better position for co-operation with outside bodies.
  - One partner for enterprises (single gate to e-learning)
  - easier and coordinated co-operation in international projects and organizations
  - better opportunity to participate in “global educational market”

Photograph by  
**Johannes Pääsuke**  
**(1912)**

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National Museum



# Activities

- Staff training and support
- E-learning content development
- Infrastructure
- Inter-university cooperation
- Promotion activities

# Staff training and support

- Training
  - Basic level
  - Advanced level
  - Expert level
- Educational technologists and tutors



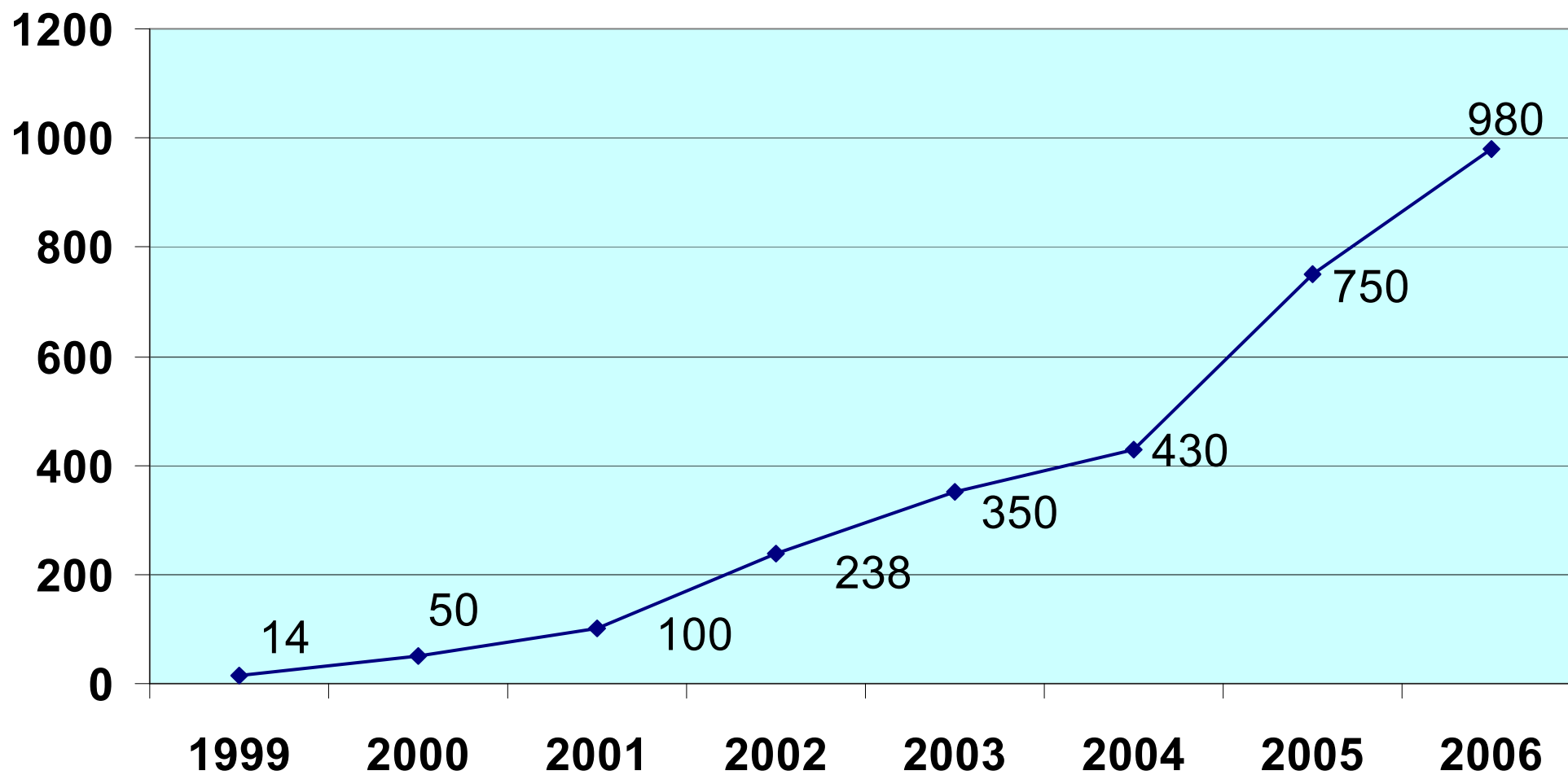
# E-learning content development

- Contests
- Quality

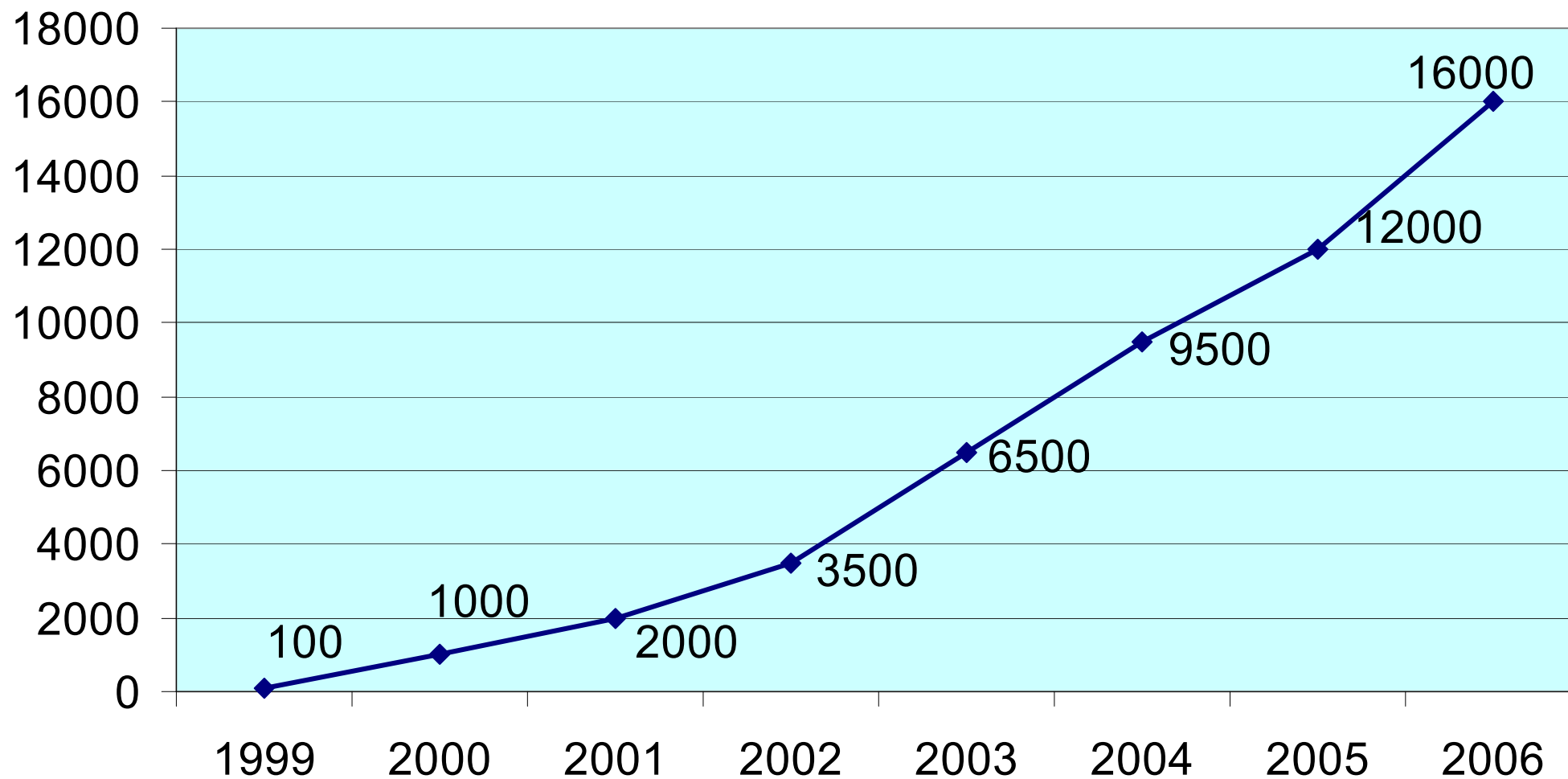
# Infrastructure

- Portal
- e-Learning centres
- LMS
  - IVA
  - WebCT
  - Moodle
- Databases (e-courses; tutor)
- Videoconference system

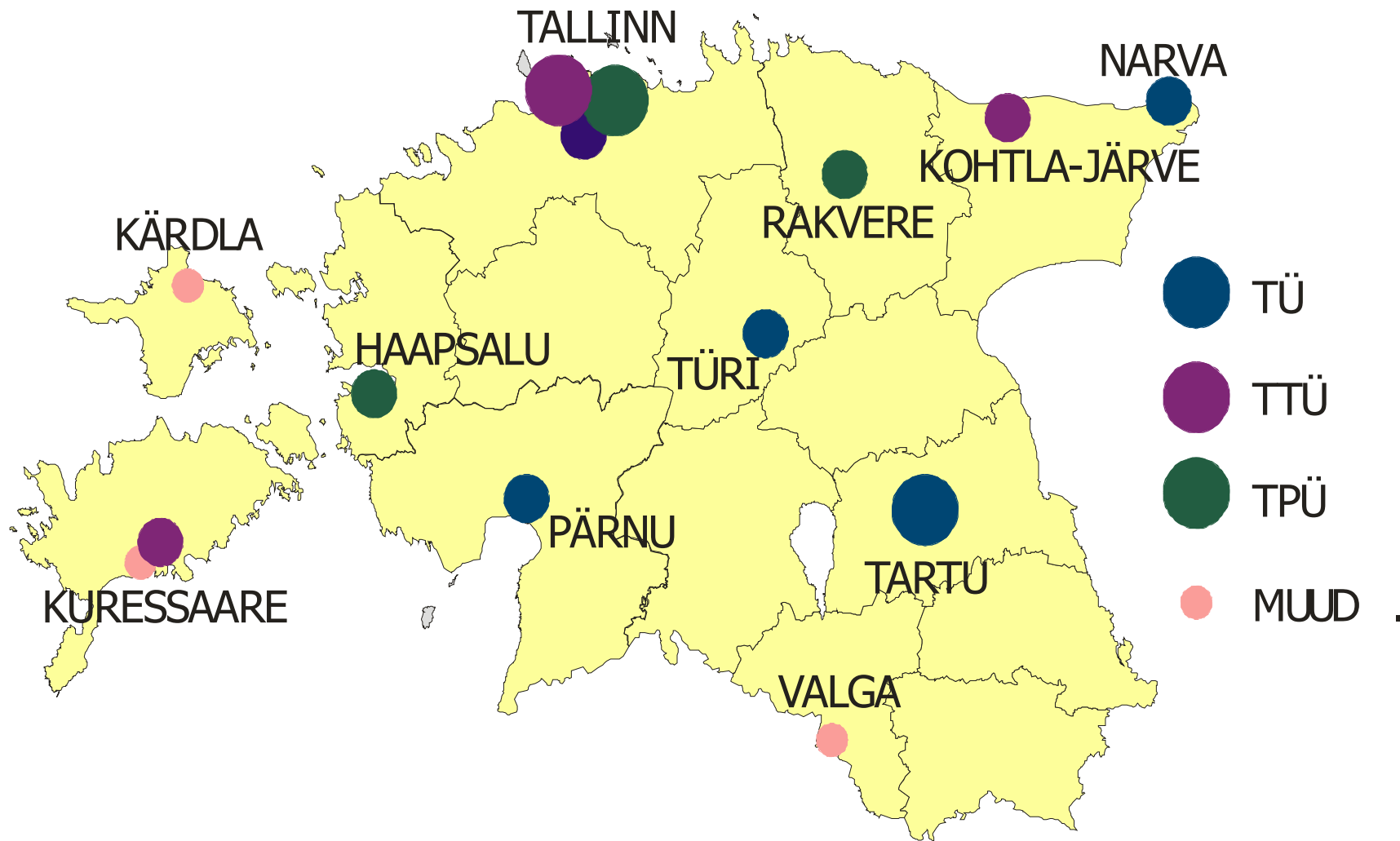
# Number of e-courses



# Number of e-students



# Educational videoconferencing network map



# Inter-university cooperation

- Virtual mobility
- Thematic networks
- Joint participation in national and international e-learning projects

# Promotion activities

- Seminar
- Conference

**7 – 8 April 2006**

in an international conference

**TEACHING AND LEARNING WILL CHANGE**

# Projects

- **THE UNIVe**

“Creating network-based e-university model for the small countries in the context of e-learning in Europe”

Socrates Minerva; 01.10.2003 - 31.12.2005 - coordinator

- **REGIONALLY ACCESSIBLE QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION VIA E-LEARNING (REDEL)**

EU Social Funds; 07.09.2004 – 30.06.2008 - coordinator

- Thematic networks
- University teacher training
- Research
- Support system of e-learning
- Virtual portal
- Quality of e-learning



# Projects

- **MEGATRENDS**

Leonardo; 01.10.2005 – 30.10.2007 - partner

- **E-CONTENT**

eLearning Programme; 01.10.2005 – 31.12.2006 - partner

- **E-XCELLENCE**

eLearning Programme; 01.01.2005 – 31.12.2006 – partner

- **EQIBELT**

Tempus; 21.11.2005 – 30.10.2008 - partner

- Quality
- ePortfolio
- International cooperation
- e-VET



# Thank You!

<http://www.e-uni.ee>

[ene@eitsa.ee](mailto:ene@eitsa.ee)