



MISSION ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF
INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

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Main goals of the seminar

- We are looking for additional INSPIRATION for scope and depth of the mission
- We are hoping to learn from the experience of others in terms of building up the COOPERATION and MANAGING joint initiatives for developing IT systems
- We aim to discuss challenges and risks involved, but also possible gains and motivation of different stakeholders

We are looking for some additional INSPIRATION for scope and depth of the mission

We share the understanding that information systems in higher education are outdated both morally and technologically.

Users (students, academic staff, managements) have higher expectations in terms of functionality, design, interoperability.

Development itself is time consuming and costly - the systems are monolithic and do not support well partial upgrades (one service/process at a time).

In short, we understand the necessity and the urgency of the mission.

Our goal is to...

Reduce the amount of human effort (and possible errors due to that) in administering, exchanging and managing information.

Consider wider interests of different user groups.

Support the emergence of new data-driven services.

Enable better use of educational data for analytics and research purposes.

Shorten the development cycle of IS.

And generate conditions for joint development, build up the capacity to work together with the aim of reducing development costs in the future.

We are searching for the ways to COOPERATE in an unusual setting

„WE“ consists of:

Public universities – three out of six are starting projects for the development of their study-information system during this year or next

Ministry of Education and Research (MER) – currently in the middle of procuring the analyses of business rules and their own data collection needs within the Estonian Education Information System (EHIS)

Information Technology Foundation for Education (HITSA) – currently procuring first phase SIS development for institutions of professional higher education and vocational schools, also involving a private university. Also responsible for some other smaller IS for higher education.

The challenge – stakeholders are using different project funding instruments for their developments, they are at different phases with different project set up.

We are trying to build up the MANAGEMENT structure for such cooperation

We have formed a consortia based steering group within HITSA, including members from all the universities and representatives from the institutions of professional higher education as well as MER.

Two sub-committees have been set up:

1. Standardization committee – for the purposes of harmonizing definitions and representation of data, defining the scope of core data/parts of processes, which could potentially be developed jointly. Have started with the admission process and data involved.
2. IT committee – is going to discuss the principles of interoperability and integration, look for the possibilities of extracting some parts (services) from existing information systems, which could be replaced by new ones, also trying to look into more recent, less time consuming and less costly ways for the development.