



Finland Futures Academy (FFA)
Helsinki Node
Finland

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Helsinki Node Report

Period: July – December, 2003

Node Group & meetings

There is a Node group composed of three researchers. In order to ensure the availability of relevant research data in different fields of sciences there is need for national co-operation between all the relevant futures parties in Finland.

Helsinki Node (2003)

Dr. Osmo Kuusi

Dr. Sirkka Heinonen, chair until the beginning of 2004

Dr. Auli Keskinen, chair from the beginning of 2004 (replaced by Dr. Mika Aaltonen from the beginning of 2004)

M. Sc. Sari Söderlund, general secretary (replaced by Dr. Juha Kaskinen from the beginning of 2004)

During the period there were two Helsinki Node meetings: 26.8. and 17.11.

Millennium-Project Planning Committee meeting, San Francisco, 17th-20th July, 2003

Sari Söderlund took part in the Millennium Planning Committee meeting in 17th-20th July 2003, San Francisco. During the Planning Committee –meeting the following issues were presented (and partly delivered in a written mode) and discussed:

- Article: "Millennium Project Evokes Global Responsibility in Futures Studies", Dr. Sirkka Heinonen (Established in Finnish: Futura 1/ 03, Finnish Future Society)
- Futura annual with Millennium thematic 1/ 03: "The challenges of the Millennium" (Finnish Future Society)
- "Indicators of the Millennium Project", article by Dr. Osmo Kuusi, presented in the "Scanning for the Futures"-seminar, Global Environments -workshop, Turku, June 2003
- "Indicator and Local Panel Based Approach in the Meeting of Global Challenges" -EU-project proposal by Dr. Osmo Kuusi, 12/06/03
- "Proposal for a new Global Challenge within the Millennium Project: The Human-Animal Relationship" by Helena Pedersen from Sweden, 18/06/03
- FFA Annual Report 2002
- Helsinki Node Report - activities since the beginning of 2003

There was a presentation in the "Futures Around the World" –workshop (afternoon, 19/7/2003), the international conference of the World Future Society. Here, Finnish society of futures researchers and the role of the Finland Futures Academy were discussed. During the Planning Committee –meeting there were two other meetings: futures education around the world and European co-operation in facilitating futures activities. During these meetings regional approaches to Millennium-themes were reinforced and European node co-operation was initiated.

Global challenges –questionnaire

During the 18th and 30th of Dec., the global challenges –questionnaire was sent to about 40 experts.

EU-Project proposal

During the beginning of September, 2003, the EU-Project proposal of "SPIDER – Increasing regional competitiveness through futures research methods" was designed and sent to the EU Commission, for the "Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action" (see the enclosure). The aim of the project is to increase potential of intrinsic regional strengths. The partner regions are: Etelä-Suomi (Finland), Wallonia

(Belgium) and Regierungsbezirk Düsseldorf (Germany). There was co-operation between the nodes of Finland, Germany and Belgium in generating the project plan. The project was preferably evaluated by the EU and it starts from the beginning of March 2004. The responsible researcher and coordinator of the project is Dr. Juha Kaskinen (FFA).

European node co-operation

There was a kick off meeting of the EUMP-nodes in Brussels on the 21th of November, 2003. The idea is to create a common understanding of the spirit and objectives of the European nodes. European Node meetings will be held twice a year. Sari Söderlund and Olli Hietanen took part in the first meeting.

Global Challenges, 1st Round Delphi questionnaire, Dec. 2003

During December 2003 and January 2003 Global Challenges –questionnaire was sent to about 40 Finnish experts coming from different fields of expertise, from public, semi-public and private organisations.

Activities in the Finland Futures Academy

Tallinn University joined FFA course co-operation in the beginning of the Autumn term 2003. FUTURES1 (How Can we Explore the Future?) was initiated together with the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, the Budapest Business University and the Tallinn University.

Autumn 2003, the second edition of the study book "Tulevaisuudentutkimus. Perusteet ja sovelluksia" was published and the outline of the virtual surrounding (based on the study book contents) was planned.

The IAB (international advisory)-members of the Finland Futures Academy, for the second period of 2004-06, were selected on the 18th of November by the FFA Board (see the enclosure).

Plans for the 2004

In the Helsinki Node meeting, the 15th of Jan., 2004, action for the year 2004 was outlined as follows. Helsinki Node

- takes actively part in research commissions coming from the MP coordination unit, the UNU American council
- takes actively part in all the actions and initiatives of the MP European Nodes with reinforcing the basis for persistent European co-operation
- gives comments on survey questions and action plans of the MP whenever possible
- takes part (Dr. Juha Kaskinen) in the next MP Planning Committee meeting in Sao Paolo, Brasil, March 2004, by giving a presentation on the SPIDER (EU) Project
- takes part (Dr. Mika Aaltonen) in the MP Planning Committee meeting in Washington, July 2004
- writes an article (Dr. Osmo Kuusi) on the modern understanding of the Delphi Method in the context of futures studies. The aim is to analyse how the Millennium Project and some other actors/ projects (PREST & foresight) apply the method and to explore the scientific basis of the Delphi process/ rounds and futures argumentation.
- organises a Millennium Forum (global issues) together with the Finnish Future Society in October 2004, in the context of the meeting of the Club of Rome and the International Advisory Board of the Finland Futures Academy

Helsinki node 2004

Dr. Mika Aaltonen (chair)
Dr. Sirkka Heinonen
Dr. Osmo Kuusi
M. Sc. Sari Söderlund
General secretary
Dr. Juha Kaskinen

**Finland Futures Academy's
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