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Kari Liukkonen has Master degrees in both Science and Education and is currently busy with his Ph.D. studies at the University of Oulu. Ken is the Development Manager at the University of Oulu, Campus Futurus, where he works on reforming and implementing a strategy for the educational use of information and communication technology. He also coordinates the development projects related to educational technology and virtual university activities. Kari serves as member in various groups and committees and received an Outstanding Paper Award at the eLearn 2005.



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Creating Mobile Learning Services at the University of Oulu, Finland

Our focus is on the creation process of mobile learning services at the University of Oulu. Some preliminary results and experiences of this process are discussed. In 2003, Virtual Campus project was started at the University of Oulu as a multidisciplinary co-operation. The project aims at promoting applications of wireless technology in university studies and work. The developments of mobile services at the University of Oulu are done in three parts: 1) creation of the infrastructure 2) modification of existing network services for mobile use and 3) creation of the real and innovative mobile services. First and second stages of the development have been progressed far in schedule and the third stage has just been started. To gather information for the third stage Virtual Campus organized spring 2004 two evaluation studies. The aim of the first study (n=715) was to explore university students' conceptions of their needs for mobile tools for scaffolding their learning activities. The aim of the second study (n=147) was to reveal what kind of features students would appreciate in a mobile learning environment.

Based on the study results Virtual Campus launched several projects to create mobile learning services for students and teachers. These new services were tested in field trials during spring 2005 where users' experiences were carefully catered and evaluated. Preliminary results show that students and university staff would appreciate mobile services to be used as an additional tool with already existing computer based services.