

What is

**CONVENTUS**

Learning system for cooperatives?



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## Basic info on the project

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- Financed by Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), Grundtvig Multilateral Project, e.g. project is supported by the EU general directorate for Education and Culture in the form of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.
- Budget of the project is 399.023 euros
- Implementation time 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013
- Partners:
  - Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
  - Coompanion Co-operative Development Agency of Skaraborg (Sweden)
  - Trentino Federation of Cooperation (Italy)
  - National Cooperative Council - Cooperative Research Institute, Spółdzielczy Instytut Badawczy (Poland)
  - Bifrost University (Iceland)
  - Osuustoiminnan kehittäjät Coop Finland ry (Finland)

- Based on previous experience in the training of cooperative members, during a Leonardo project, SKILLS. In that project it became obvious that people working in cooperatives would benefit from learning from each other and that ICT (eLearning) is a good tool for community learning.
- Adult people prefer eLearning as it is not tied to time or place, but also that face-to-face meetings can be of great importance to support the learning process → the combination of study visits with e-meetings and online project environments in the project.

- The objective of the Conventus project: create greater understanding and knowledge of the situation of the cooperatives in Europe among the co-operators themselves, so as to
- Strengthen their self-esteem and cooperative identity and entrepreneurial skills, updating the cooperative competences  
→ assure a better match with labor market needs, contributing to new job creation and addressing the changes in society.
- As a tool for this, an innovative learning model for cooperatives  
→ a combination of face-to-face learning and using of eLearning tools and social media.

## Process (Work packages)

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### Core activities

- Gap analysis (WP2) \*)
  - Identification & comparison of situation in different countries
  - Curriculum plan
- Development (WP3) & piloting (WP4) \*) of the learning system with different actors (partners, coops, business advisors, students...)
  - OpenMoodle \*)
  - Common material in English
  - National learning materials
  - Group process tools \*)
- Exchange of best practices (WP4) \*)
  - Study visits in Italy, Sweden, Poland and Finland

### Supporting effective implementation & valorisation of the results

- Management: reports, meetings
- Dissemination: involvement of different target groups, informing wider audience
- Evaluation of activities
- Exploitation: sustainability of the project \*)

\*) more information during following presentations

Curriculum plan can be summarized as following:

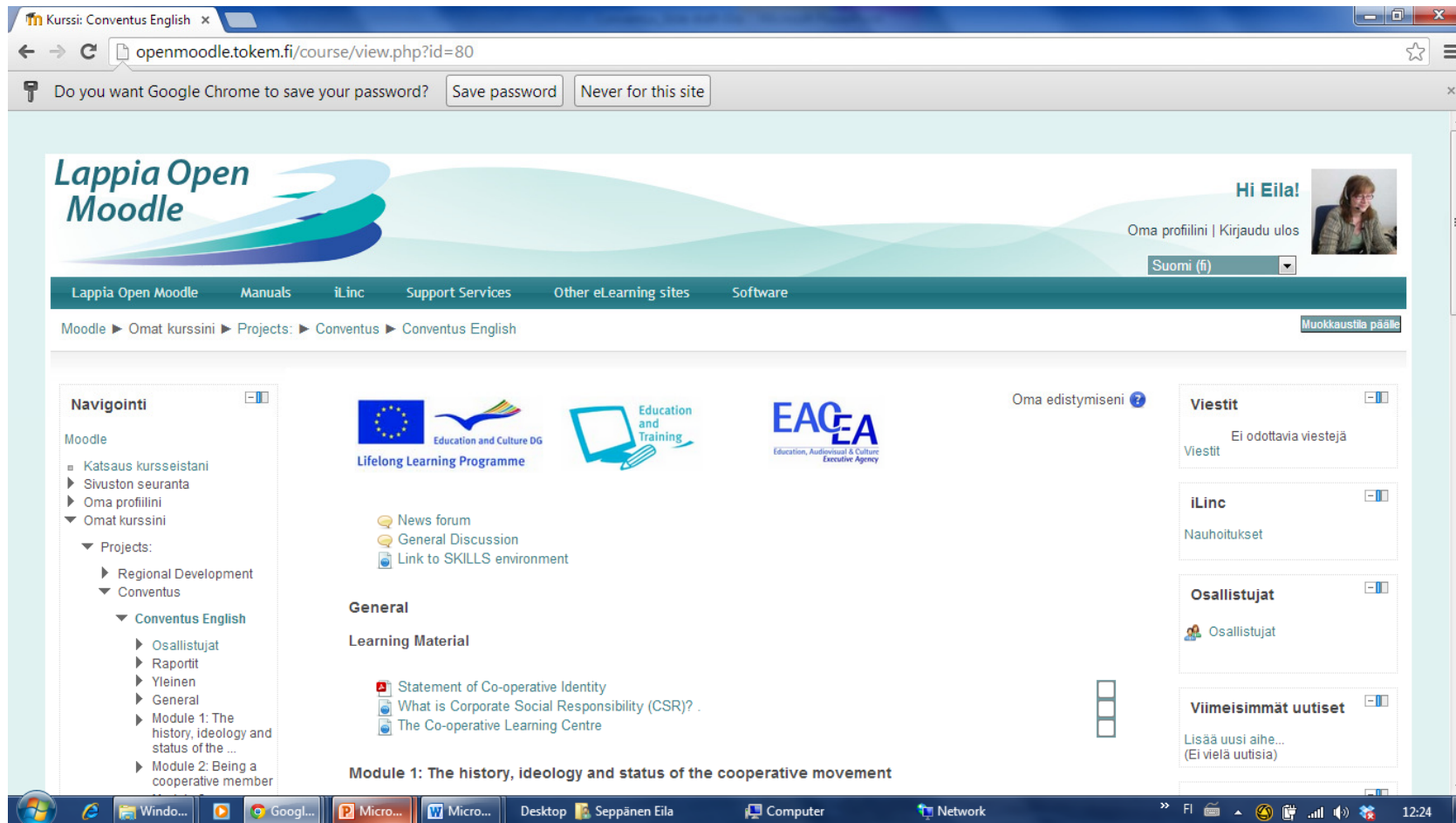
- Focus on practical skills training and group processes
- Limited number of sub-divisions, and focus on general part and especially nature of cooperatives
- Relevant SKILLS project outcomes - validation
- The system consists of 5 modules:
  - The history, ideology and status of the cooperative movement
  - Being a cooperative member
  - Establishing cooperative
  - Managing cooperative
  - Horizontal module, complementing the other modules, identifying development needs of cooperatives and providing tools for group processes among other things.



Picture from project meeting in Falköping, Sweden. The testing of the learning material in Moodle was partly led via an iLinc internet connection with project personnel located in Tornio, Finland.

## Learning system/ learning material, forums...

<http://openmoodle.tokem.fi/> (identification needed)



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Lappia Open Moodle course page. The browser's address bar shows the URL [openmoodle.tokem.fi/course/view.php?id=80](http://openmoodle.tokem.fi/course/view.php?id=80). The page features a header with the Lappia Open Moodle logo and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a sidebar with a 'Navigointi' (Navigation) menu, a central section with logos for the European Union, Education and Culture DG, Lifelong Learning Programme, and EACEA, and a right sidebar with various user-related links and a list of recent news. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with several open applications and the system clock.

**Lappia Open Moodle**

Hi Eila!  
Oma profilini | Kirjaudu ulos  
Suomi (fi)

Lappia Open Moodle | Manuals | iLinc | Support Services | Other eLearning sites | Software

Moodle ► Omat kurssini ► Projects ► Conventus ► Conventus English

**Navigointi**

- Moodle
  - Katsaus kurseistani
  - Sivuston seuranta
  - Oma profilini
  - Omat kurssini
    - Projects:
      - Regional Development
      - Conventus
        - Conventus English
          - Osallistujat
          - Raportit
          - Yleinen
          - General
          - Module 1: The history, ideology and status of the ...
          - Module 2: Being a cooperative member

**General**

**Learning Material**

- Statement of Co-operative Identity
- What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?
- The Co-operative Learning Centre

**Module 1: The history, ideology and status of the cooperative movement**

**General**

**Learning Material**

**Module 1: The history, ideology and status of the cooperative movement**

**Viestit**  
Ei odottavia viestejä  
Viestit

**iLinc**  
Nauhoitukset

**Osallistujat**  
Osallistujat

**Viimeisimmät uutiset**  
Lisää uusi aihe...  
(Ei vielä uutisia)



## Learning system/ pilots, study visits, public material, links...

<http://conventuscoop.eu/>



The screenshot shows the website <http://conventuscoop.eu/> in a web browser. The header features the NVENTUS COOPERATIVE TRAINING logo, the European Union flag, and the Education and Culture DG Lifelong Learning Programme logo. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, The Conventus Project, Project Calendar, Links, and Contact. The main content area displays an article titled "The Poland Workshop, Cooperatives Visited" by Adam Piechowski, dated 06 SEP. The article discusses the Conventus meeting in Warsaw and mentions the "Społem" Warsaw-Center Consumers' Cooperative. A sidebar on the right shows a Facebook feed with posts about the "Conventus - Learning system for cooperatives". The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock.



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**Next steps?**

# Thank you!



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