

**Virtual Academy on Geoinformatics  
– A Joint Project of Four Finnish Universities**

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**Key words:** Virtual University, e-Learning, Geoinformatics.

**ABSTRACT**

This paper introduces the process of establishing a virtual university concept based on a collaboration between national universities offering various Geoinformation study programmes in Finland. The co-operation in the development of teaching Geoinformatics has been seen very important. The need for graduated experts in Geoinformatics as well as GIS users is wide. The number of teaching staff in Geoinformatics has been insufficient to cover the required wide range university level education of Geoinformatics in Finland. The use of information and communication technology in teaching and in learning enables the idea that a student from one university can collect his/her geoinformatic study programme from the courses lectured at other universities. The main aim of the virtual university on Geoinformatics will be to support this flexibility to study and to deliver course material also through information networks. This paper also represents how e-Learning methods are used in the production of Geoinformatics courses at Helsinki University of Technology.

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