

## **M.Sc Olli Hietanen/ Researcher**

University of Helsinki, Department of Philosophy

(Ohjaajat Professor Ilkka Niiniluoto and Director Auli Keskinen (TSAB))

### **Philosophy of Networks – About Virtual culture and Immaterial Capitals**

In the comparative conceptual analysis of the study concepts and theories of networking, virtuality, space, time, benefits // onko hyöty oikea ??and knowledge are defined. Practical aim of the study is to develop new and innovative tools for networking and knowledge management. The case-study examines ICT cluster of south western Finland coordinated by ICT Turku ltd (Turku Science Park). At the first stage of the study network of the cluster will be analysed and modelled *using network and cluster analysis and soft system methodology*. This assists to define structure, actors and central action processes of the network and structure and dynamics of those processes.

At the second stage actors of the network will be *interviewed individually* and *Delphi- study* will be organised. Individual and group opinions of network structures, actors, resources and objectives are collected through interviews and Delphi-study. Special methodologies that will be used are narratives that are grouped by i) *images of the past* (How and why the network came into existence and who created it?), ii) *images of the present* (What is the network life? Who are forming the network?) and iii) *images of the future* (What is network's future like? What will be obtained through the network?).

At the third stage of the study a conceptual analysis of actors' self understanding, missions, visions and strategic aims will be performed. The material collected at stages 1-2 (network analysis, system descriptions, interview material, Delphi) will be used as research material.

## **GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF eDEVELOPMENT**

### **- FROM DIGITAL DIVIDES TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY**

(Suomen Akatemia, Kulttuurin ja yhteiskunnan tutkimuksen toimikunta. Päätös n:o 201305)

Global Challenges of eDevelopment project aims to study the significance of cultural and social aspects in the development of democratic and sustainable uses of ICT in developing countries. Its main objective is to identify such joint practices and interactions over the existing digital divide that make user-rooted ICT empowerment feasible. The research is closely connected to pilot projects in which the concepts and models analysed are being implemented.

Digital Balance Between Industrialized and Developing Countries pilot research aims to get information of how ICT technology and e-services, which are developed in Finland will work in the case of Africa – **and vice versa**: how information technology and e-services developed in Africa will work in Finland. This practical case study tests the virtual SIS -portal in different social and cultural situations by doing two (or more) communication camps online in Finland and in South Africa. Researchers will interview all the persons involved to the camps.