

Regional open university education and lifelong learning

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The objective

- Describing a model of collaboration between the Open University and regional partner institutions to promote university life-long learning.
- The questions are:
 1. How to organize collaboration between university's faculties, open university and regional partner institutions to promote ULLL?
 2. What kind of quality management procedures are used in collaboration?

National policy

- The Finnish Universities Act (558/2009) provides that universities must promote lifelong learning by degree-awarding, continuing, or by open university education.
- Open university education is provided at 14 Finnish universities. ([Finland](#))
- Open universities are integral parts of their universities, and they can also operate regionally.
- The objective is to offer everyone opportunities to develop their competences, to raise their level of education and to receive retraining.

Open University of the University of Jyväskylä

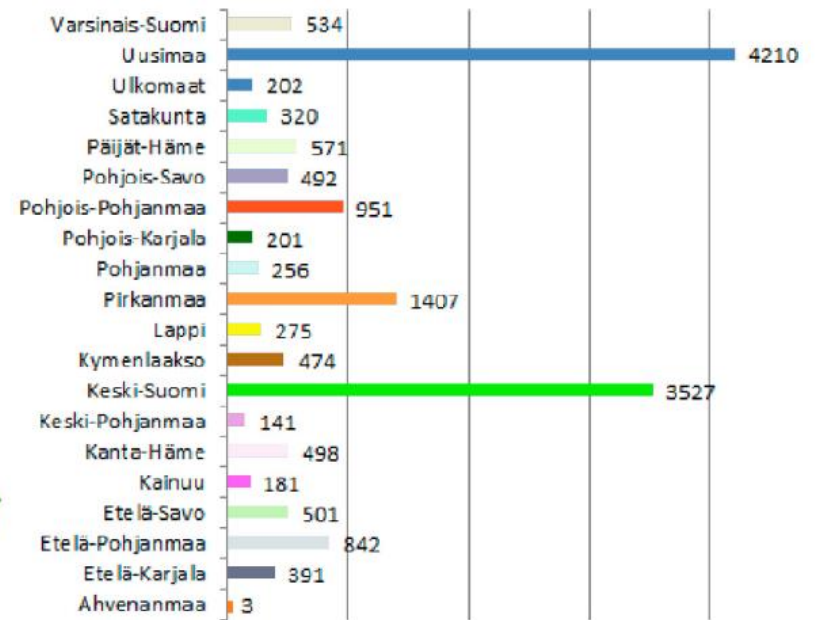
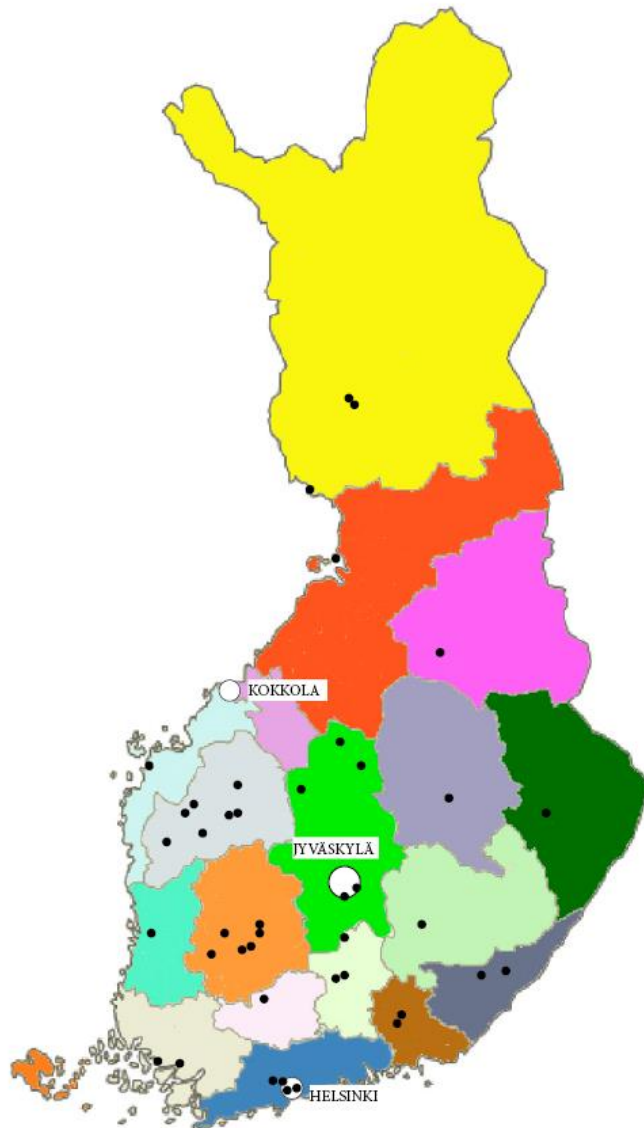


- Open University is an independent institute that operates in cooperation with the University's faculties.
- It is in charge of organizing and developing university education that promotes educational equality and lifelong learning.
- The education is provided either as the University's own instruction or in cooperation with currently around 60 regional partner institutions located in various parts of Finland. ([Finland](#))
- These partners are providing also other types of adult education than open university education.

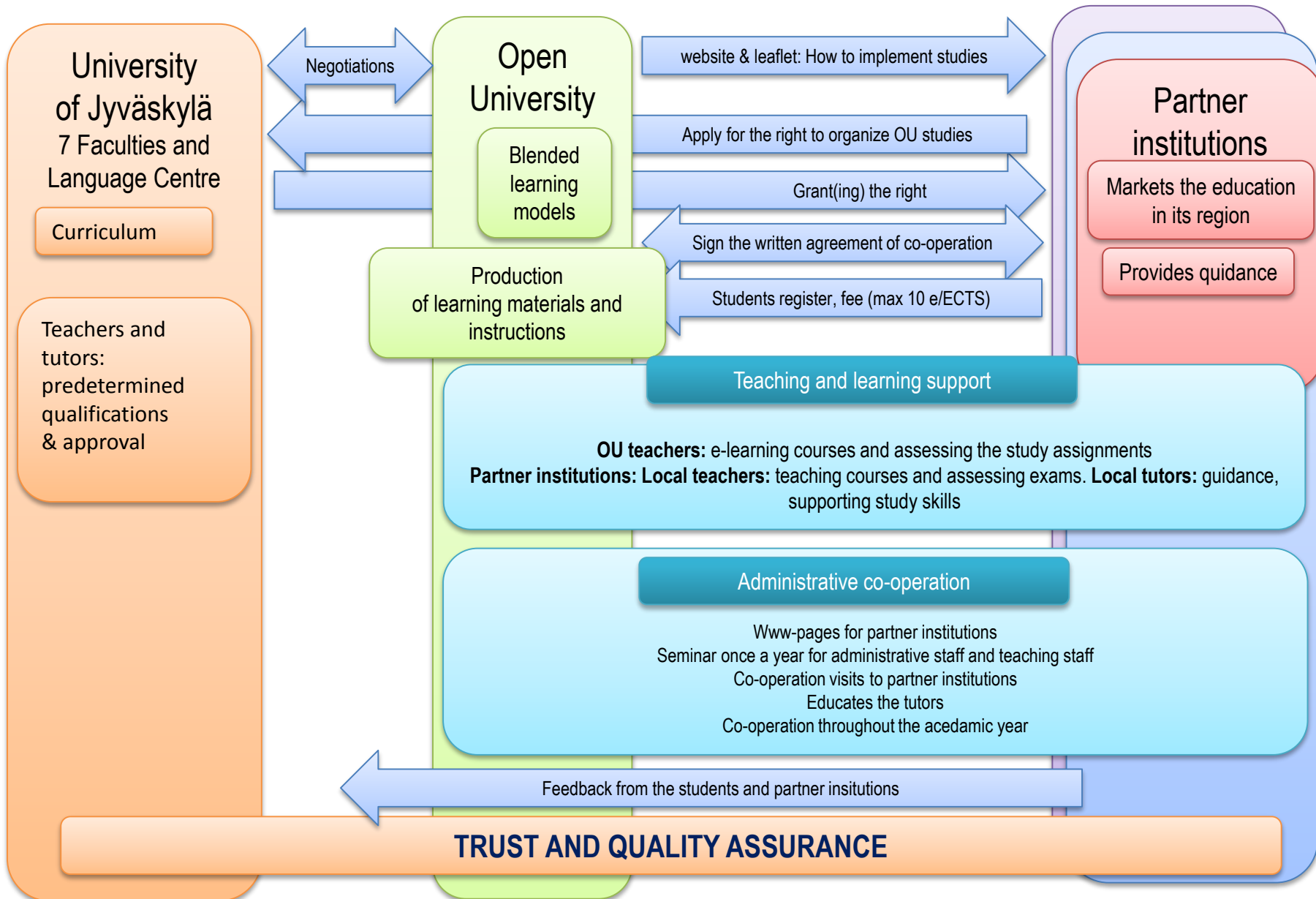
Number of students registered to studies in counties in 2014

The grand total of 15 977 of which students at the open university 13 383 and at the partner institutions 2 594

● = partner institution (around 60)



MODEL OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN OU AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Quality management procedures in collaboration

- Teachers and tutors: predetermined qualifications & approval
- Co-operation agreements
- Website for partner institutions
- Seminar once a year
- Co-operation visits to partner institutions
- Co-operation during the academic year
- Student feedback-system: e-system when applying the certificate, total results of last year on the web-page → developing the OU studies
- Pedagogical laboratory: developing adult educational and e-learning practices in the University of Jyväskylä

The questions

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2. What kind of quality management procedures are used in collaboration?