



Finnish Virtual University
Suomen virtuaalilyopisto - Finlands virtuella universitet

Virtual University Initiatives and Challenges in the Baltic Sea Area

April 7, 2005

**Eija Ristimäki
Head of Communications
FVU Service Unit**

Outline

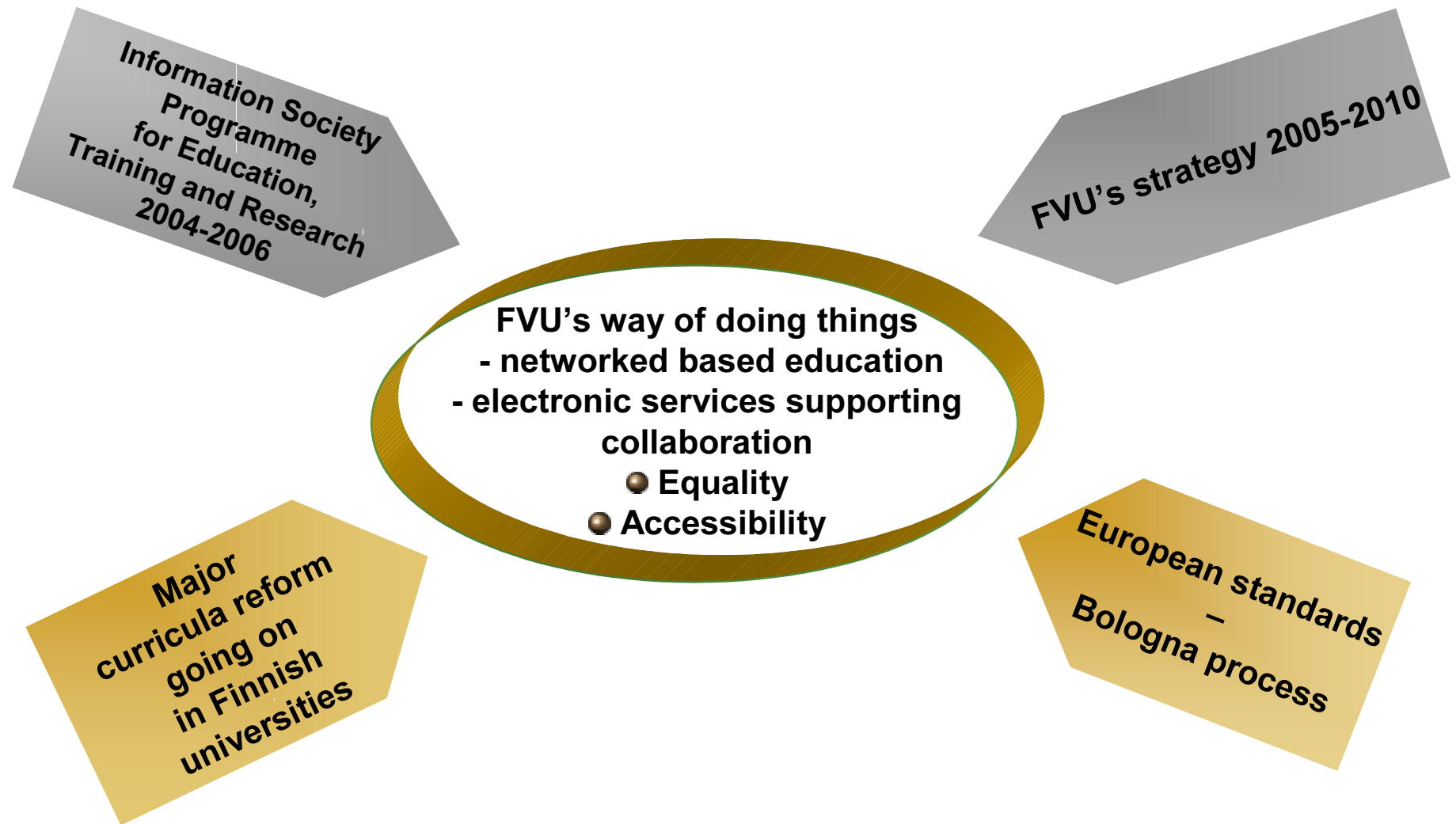
- **FVU – who are we?**
- **Northern eDimension Action Plan**
- **eSkills & eLearning action line**
- **Virtual University Initiatives in the Baltic Sea Area**
- **Future Scenarios for Co-operation**
- **Future Challenges**

Who are we?

**The FVU
is a partnership of
the 21 universities in Finland**

- to promote online learning and teaching
- to provide online information resources
- to develop compatible information systems
- to develop the basic infrastructure of full-scale electronic access services

Equality and accessibility as in-built work culture



Northern Dimension as EU policy programme

Northern Dimension Area



Northern eDimension Action Plan

**Agreed by the Heads of Government on the 5th
Baltic Sea States Summit in Estonia, 21 June 2004**

**Can play an important role in the follow-up of
the Lisbon strategy to make the European
Union the most competitive and dynamic
knowledge-based society in the world with
improved social cohesion and employment by
2010**

eSkills & eLearning action line

Focus areas

- **Digital literacy for learning and for the labour market**
- **Virtual Campuses**
- **Following the application of recognition and validation schemes (ECTS) on eLearning**
- **Virtual universities for continuous training and professional development**
- **Stocktaking of e-learning opportunities in the Baltic Sea region**

Virtual University Initiatives in the Baltic Sea Area...

Seminar on Virtual University Education and Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Area, 21 March

Organized by the FVU and the Finnish Ministry of Education

Invited speakers from

- St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University
- Estonian eUniversity
- eUniversity at the University of Latvia
- Baltic Sea Virtual Campus
- FVU and Aleksanteri Institute - Finnish Centre for Russian and East European Studies



...Virtual University Initiatives in the Baltic Sea Area

● Baltic Sea Virtual Campus



● Pilot courses in

✓ Transregional Management

- 33 students from Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden and Denmark

- 5 modules finished, 5 in progress

✓ Industrial Engineering

- 12 students

- 3 modules

- 6 seminars

...Virtual University Initiatives in the Baltic Sea Area

Finnish-Russian Cross-Border University

Partners in Finland

- ✓ **University of Joensuu**
- ✓ **Lappeenranta University of Technology**
- ✓ **University of Kuopio**
- ✓ **University of Tampere**
- ✓ **University of Helsinki**

Partners in Russia

- ✓ **St. Petersburg State University**
- ✓ **St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University**
- ✓ **Petrozavods State University**
- ✓ **The European University at St.Petersburg**

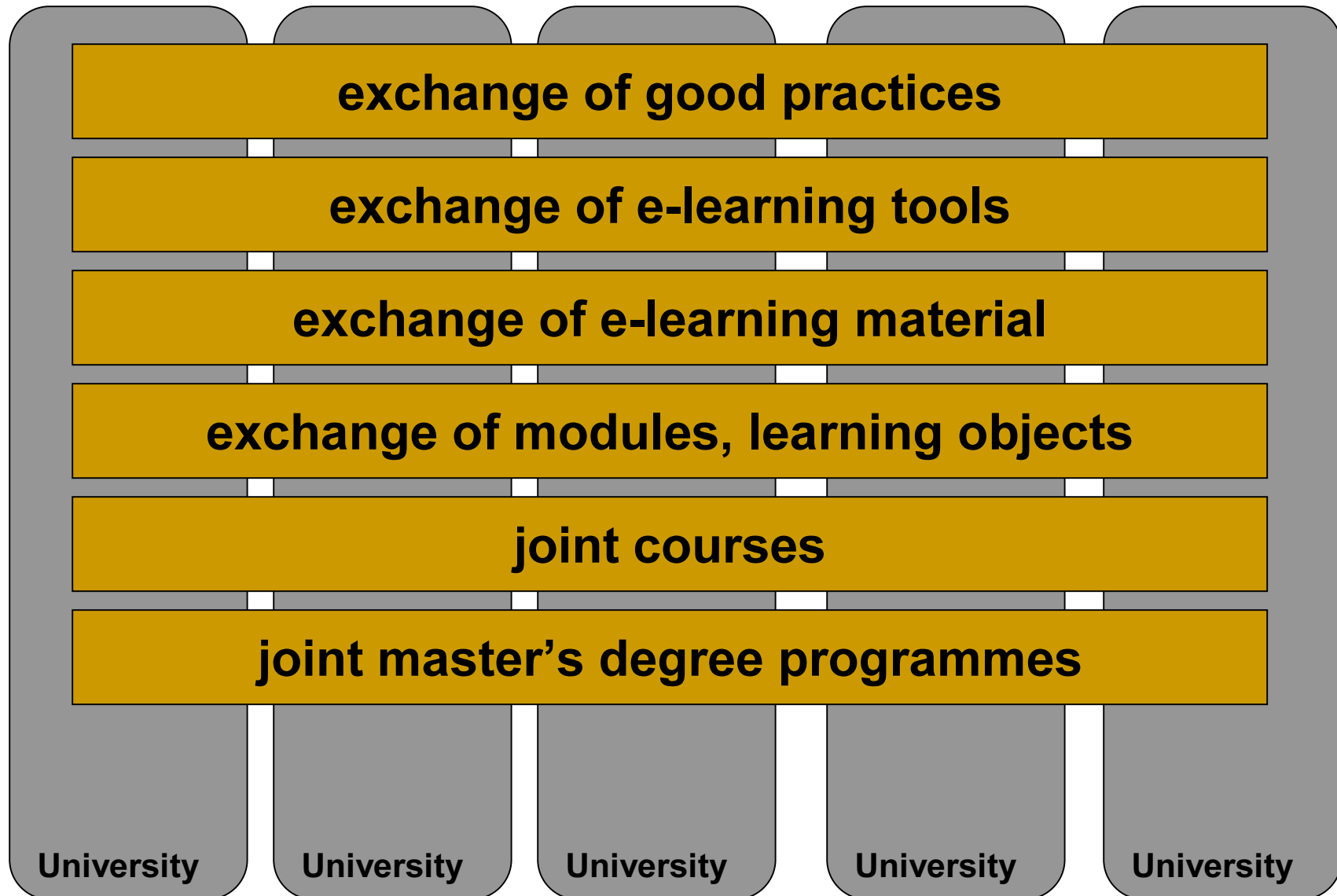
...Virtual University Initiatives in the Baltic Sea Area

Finnish-Russian Cross-Border University

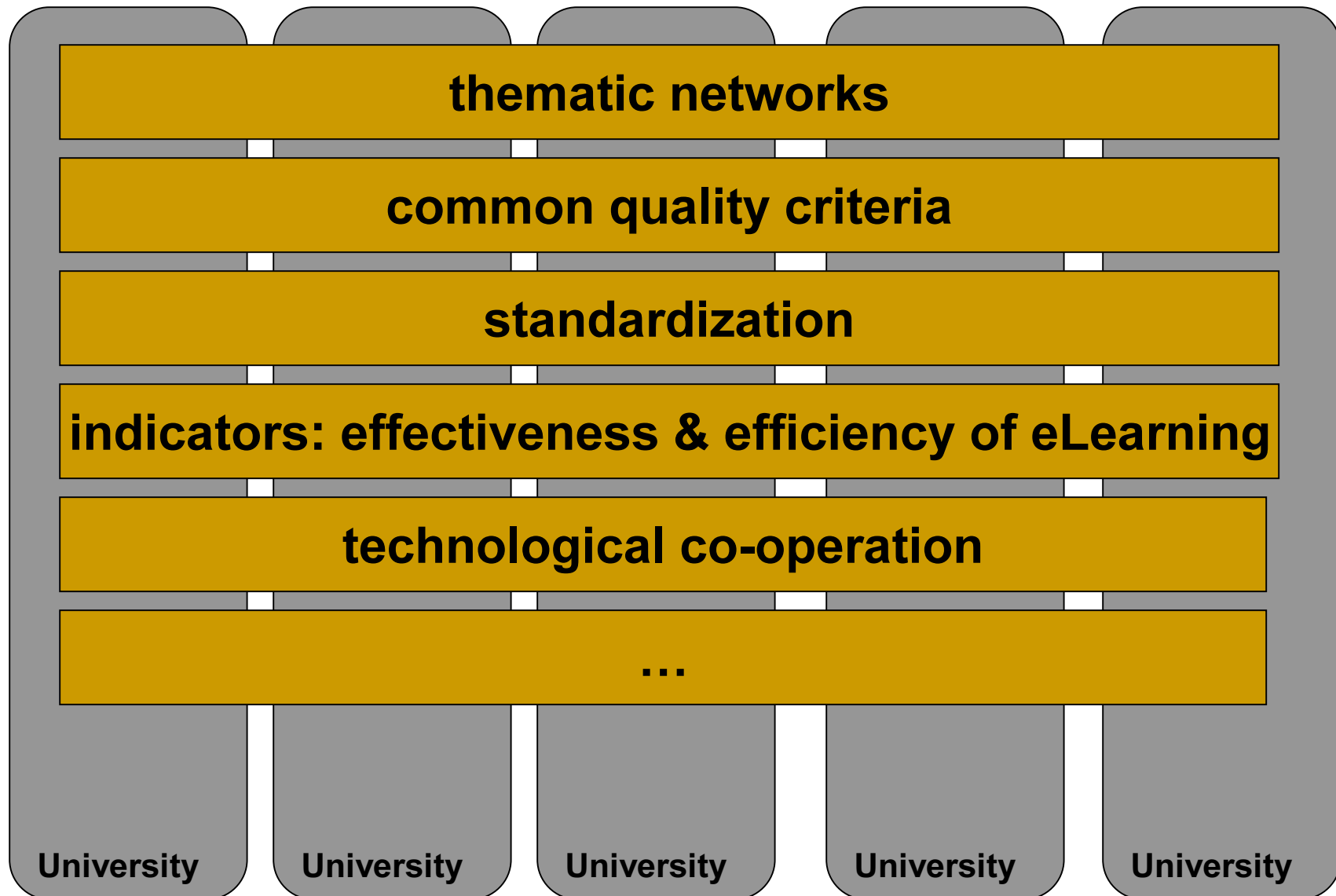
Joint programmes in

- ✓ **International Relations**
- ✓ **Information Technology**
- ✓ **Business, Economics, Corporation Law**
- ✓ **Public Health**
- ✓ **History**
- ✓ **Forestry and Bio-energy**

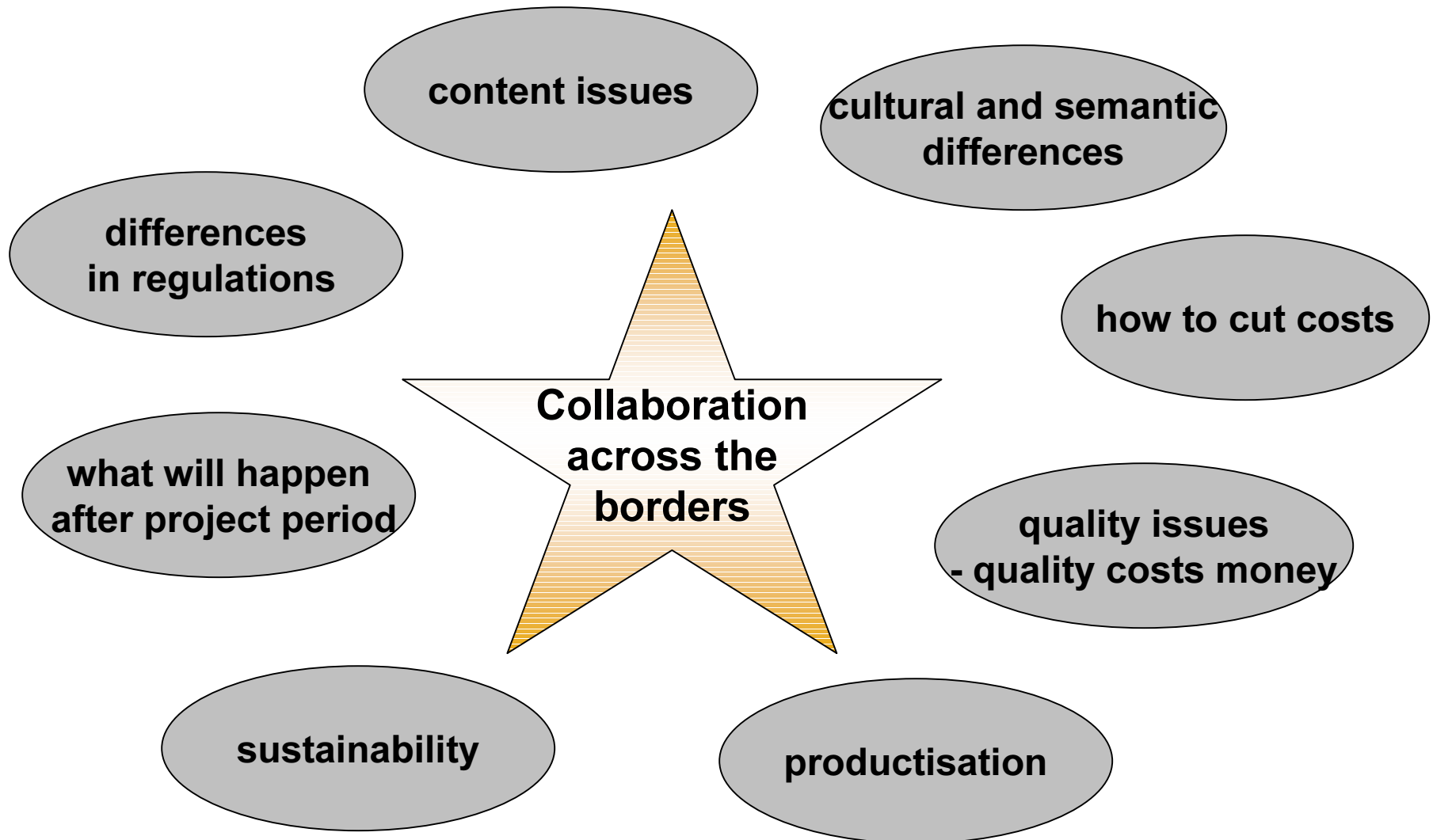
Future Scenarios for Co-operation...



... scenarios for co-operation



Future Challenges



Is there funding available ?

EU funding programmes

- IST Programme
- 6th Framework Programme
- Interreg III
- Tacis

Nordic Council of Ministers

**International financial
institutions**

FVU portal – Further information

Follow-up and further actions at
<http://www.virtualuniversity.fi>

