The intricate process of implementing URKUND at the University of Tartu, Estonia

Djuddah A.J. Leijen

Story of intricacies

- Needs

- Fulfilling these needs

- Fulfilled

- Contextualise

- Understanding and lessons learned / to be learned

Contextualising needs

- 1632 University of Tartu, Estonia (modelled after Uppsala)

- 18th Century — Russian rule (prosperous period - German language)

- Post WWI — Independence and National University (Estonian language)

- Pre and Post WWII — constant transition between German and Russian

- Post WWII — Soviet Occupation crippled the University

- 1989 - 1992 — re-establishment of national University

International programmes (BA and MA)

PhD programmes

- BA: Business administration / Science and Technology / Medicine

- MA: Philosophy / Semiotics / Folkloristics / Education Technology / European Union and Russian studies etc.

- 1300 PhD students

http://www.ut.ee/en/admissions/masters-degree-programmes-taught-english-0

2008

Birth of a small Writing Centre (AVOK)

AVOK - Centre for Academic Writing and Communication

News

Information:

Djuddah Leijen (djuddah.leijen@ut.ee)
Head of AVOK

We published an **academic writing guideline in English**.

About us

What does AVOK do?
Courses
Editing and proofreading
Projects

Contact:
Lossi 3-310, Tartu 51003
e-mail: avokeskus@ut.ee
tel: +372 737 6368

AVOK: Centre for...
f Liked

You and 31 other friends like this

vok/what-we-do

Consultations

If you have any questions about academic writing, you can send them to avokeskus@ut.ee

You can use the URKUND plagiarism checker to avoid plagiarism:

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

URKUND

Online resources

- Academic writing guidelines
- Online resources
- Forum

The construction of this website was financed by the program Primus of the Estonian state, 95% of which comes from the European Union's European Social Fund.

Primus   ARCHIMEDES   AVOK

The responsibility of AVOK is to support writing through:

- good practice (teaching practice)

- research (research informed teaching and learning)

The university of Tartu:

- NEEDS: Internationalisation / Writing in English

- MORE NEEDS: Writing in Estonian (lack of a tradition)

- EVEN MORE NEEDS: Plagiarism education (lack of holistic understanding)

AVOK's Responsibilities related to URKUND

- Made it our responsibility to teach good writing practice

- Understand plagiarism in this equation

- WITH some international program managers — we pushed for the University to find a systematic solution

Why was there a need for URKUND?

- If the university has a plagiarism policy (academic misconduct)

- Individuals (including students) could use online systems and KRATT (Estonian developed system)

However,

- No systematic approach (single message) regarding dealing with plagiarism (especially in Estonian)

kratt.edu.ee

Fulfilling the NEEDS

• Introduce a (new) system URKUND

but, use the introduction to —

_____

• Support good practice and awareness through this introduction

Are the needs fulfilled?

- What do we know about the context of plagiarism in our region?
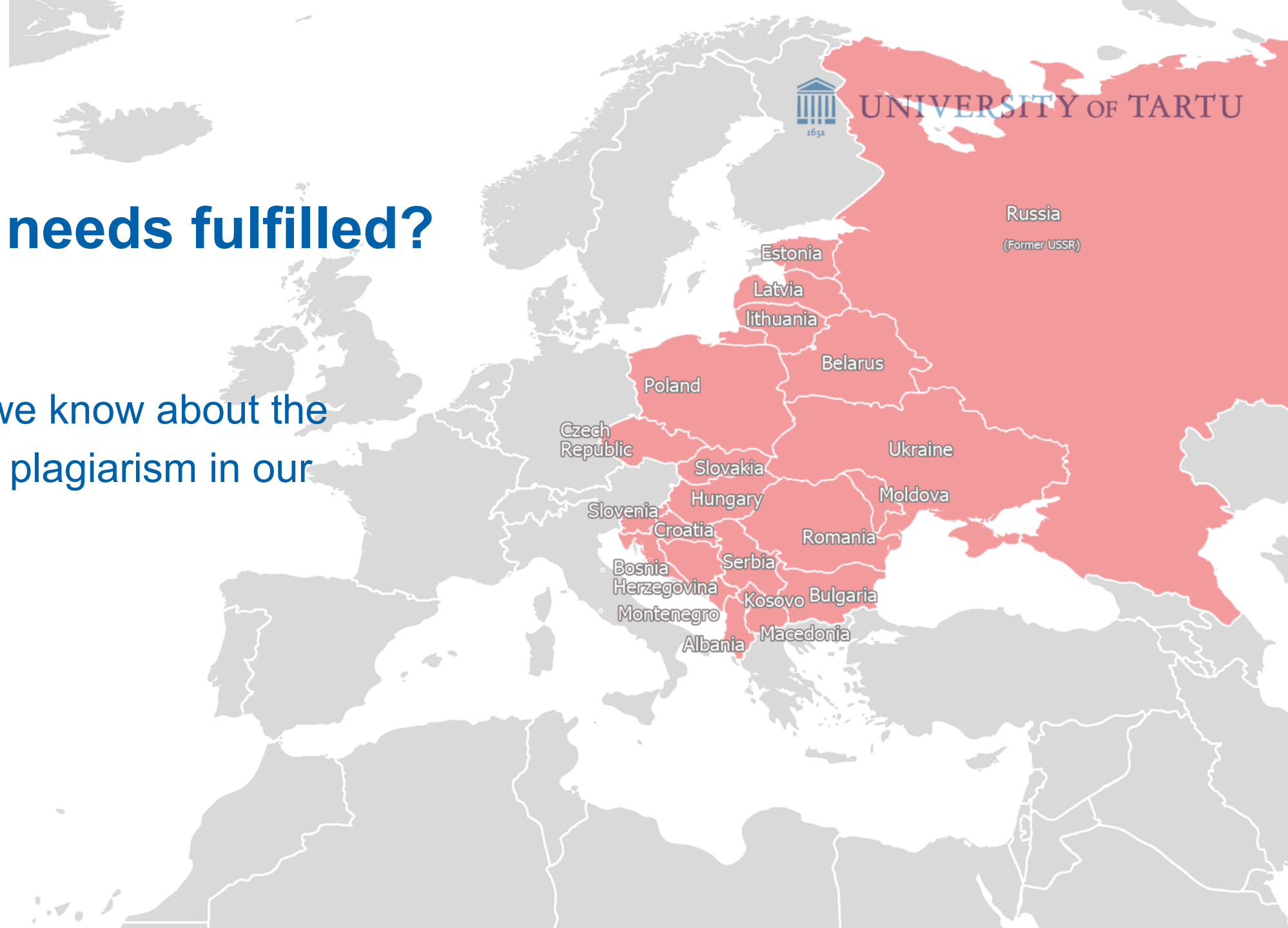
Are the needs fulfilled?

- Eastern European context (is an important context)

- Different perspectives on plagiarism (in comparison to western Europe.

"*[There are]* huge differences in attitude to plagiarism between western and post-communist countries" (Foltýnek & Čech 2012)

Evidence: we see this in their writing (literacy development)

Current situation:

Are the needs fulfilled?

- According to the **Rector's office**

  - YES (we have a system in place)

- According to the **Office of Academic Affairs** (includes legal counselling; quality assurance; lifelong learning; study systems such as Moodle, Panopto, Urkund)

  - YES (we have written and translated manuals how to use the system)

- According to the **The Centre for Professional Development** (supports teachers)

For example:

In a recent interview with the office of academic affairs

URKUND is the IT app that will solve our plagiarisms problems.

""The plagiarism catching net" [URKUND] is so good that nothing gets trough and "the poor student who makes a mistake" will be caught by the programme no matter what."

According to literature and previous cases:

Are the needs fulfilled?

- Focus should be on developing:

    - academic literacy

    - related learning processes

- NOT on MISCONDUCT

(Löfström, 2017)

Needs fulfilled?

NO! There is no plan to educate everybody about plagiarism! No central stance! No information! No workshops!

But maybe we are being too critical and too pessimistic?

Recent survey investigating writing:

- In my opinion, **the situation [of academic writing] is bad in the university** [of Tartu] - I feel like **we do not educate our students in this field enough**. Also **the Urkund seminars that are being held throughout the university are merely formal**. They **introduce the system**, but the **pedagogical aspect is not at all addressed**. In my opinion, the teaching consultants who are teaching these seminars are also not competent to do that. **I consider it very important that the university has a centre that would advise and support teachers and offer them training sessions that would help them to better develop students' writing skills.**

Fulfilled?

- Personally — YES! Urkund has come to Tartu and Estonia!

- Estonian's Information Technology Foundation for Education — supporting URKUND for

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

HITSA
Information Technology
Foundation for Education

- Previously supported KRATT

Tallinn University of Technology
Tallinn University
Estonian University of Life Sciences
TTK University of Applied Sciences
Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences
Estonian Business School
Tallinn Health Care College
Estonian Academy of Arts
Tartu Health Care College
Estonian Academy of Security Sciences
Tallinn Secondary School of Science
Lääne-Viru College
Estonian Aviation Academy
Estonian National Defence College

PLAGIARISM

"educational institutions must work towards fostering a culture of integrity that goes beyond deterrence, detection, and punishment of students." (Bretag, 2013)

Xander Natas from DeviantArt

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

PLAGIARISM

"Our findings revealed tensions between the ways plagiarism was framed in institutional policy documents, and students' understandings of plagiarism and academic writing. We suggest that, in order to support students' acquisition of academic writing skills, plagiarism should be framed in relation to 'learning to write', rather than as a moral issue." (Adam, Anderson, & Spronken-Smith, 2015)

Xander Natas from DeviantArt

Who's responsible?

Who will take responsibility?

Tensions

COST Action

The Network of Nordic and
Baltic Writing

RESEARCH

TEACHING

LEARNING

WRITING
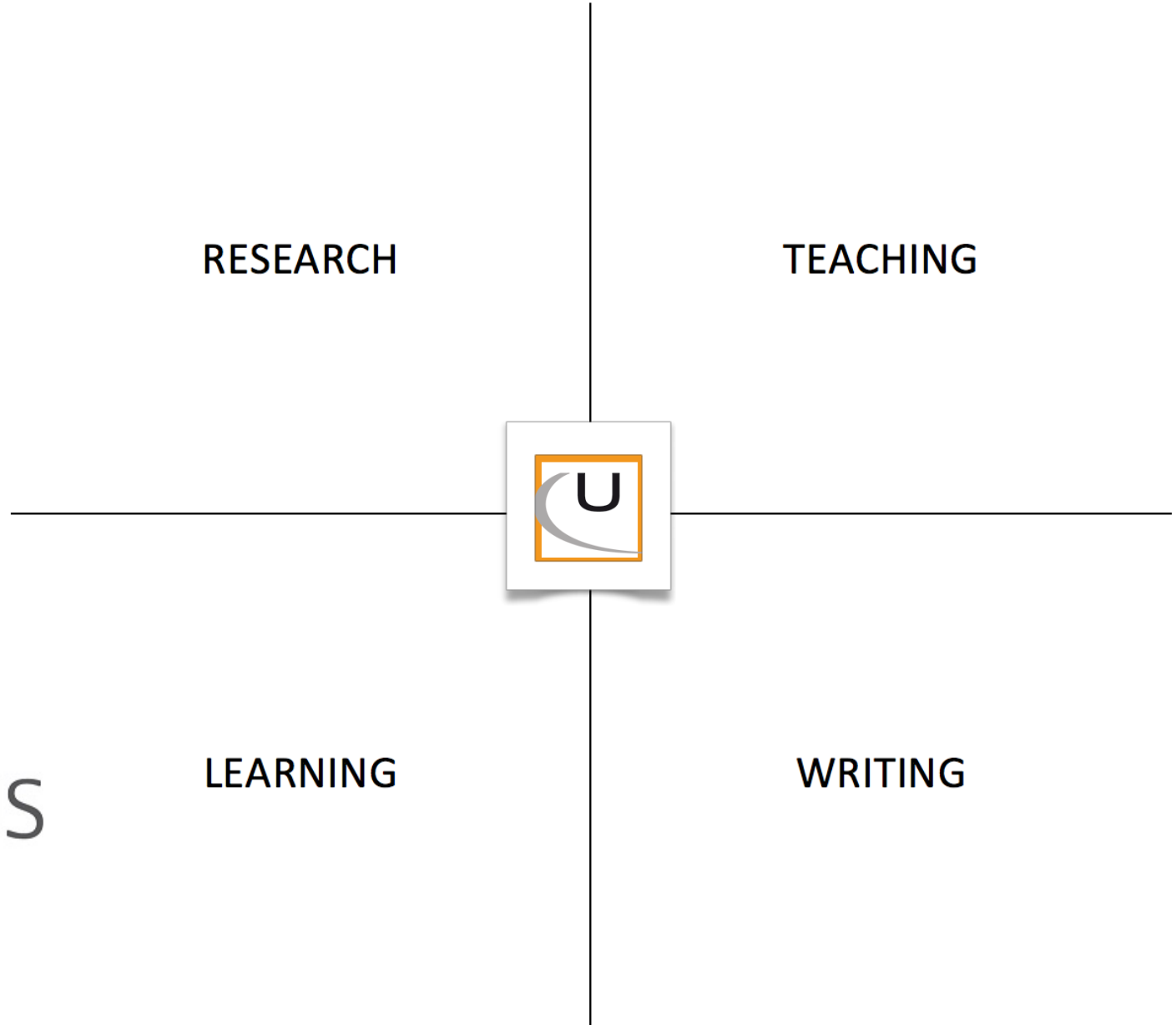
Why discuss this here?

Lessons learned

- Many universities have a plagiarism education program

- Integration from past to now (e.g. Chalmers) has progressed

- Estonia — an consortium supporting all education — [sounds like an opportunity]

- But, who is responsible?

- Active role of Urkund to 'push for plagiarism education'

- Active role of Research

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

Djuddah A.J. Leijen
djuddah.leijen@ut.ee
The intricate process of implementing URKUND at the University of Tartu, Estonia