

# Possibilities for University Cooperation: the Estonian Example

Ivo Kruusamägi  
Wikimania 2015

# What we have:

People: 1–2

Money: –

So it's a small project?

well...

# In Estonian Wikipedia:

- \* since 2009
- \* 2000 articles (1/70)
- \* 22 M characters of text

# In Võro Wikipedia:

- \* since 2007
- \* ca 70 articles (1/80)

# What else?

Special course:

"About Free Culture on the Example of  
Wikipedia"

Image donations

Ca 300 so far

(and even more waiting to be uploaded)

So, this talk is about...

... how to get the best out of  
what you have.

Some background:

what does it mean to  
write in Estonian?



# Estonian language

- \* 2000+ years old
- \* highly complex
- \* not of Indo-European origin
- \* key element of Estonian culture
- \* spoken only by 1.2 M

# Estonian language

- \* language of higher education for  
~100 years
- \* highly advanced language technology

# Why all that?

What does it mean for a language to survive and prosper in the age of information and globalization?

What if there are only 1 M speakers?

# Learning no 1

Target the most important.

*ex.* What we offer is a way to preserve Estonian as a language of science.

# That is...

we take one of the most important questions in Estonian higher education and provide a simple solution.

# Who do we work with?

University of Tartu:  
the biggest and highest-ranked  
university in Estonia.



# Setting the perspective

Monterrey Institute of Technology  
in Mexico is highly successful  
in its work with Wikipedia.

# Setting the perspective

Our cooperation with the  
UT is about the same size.

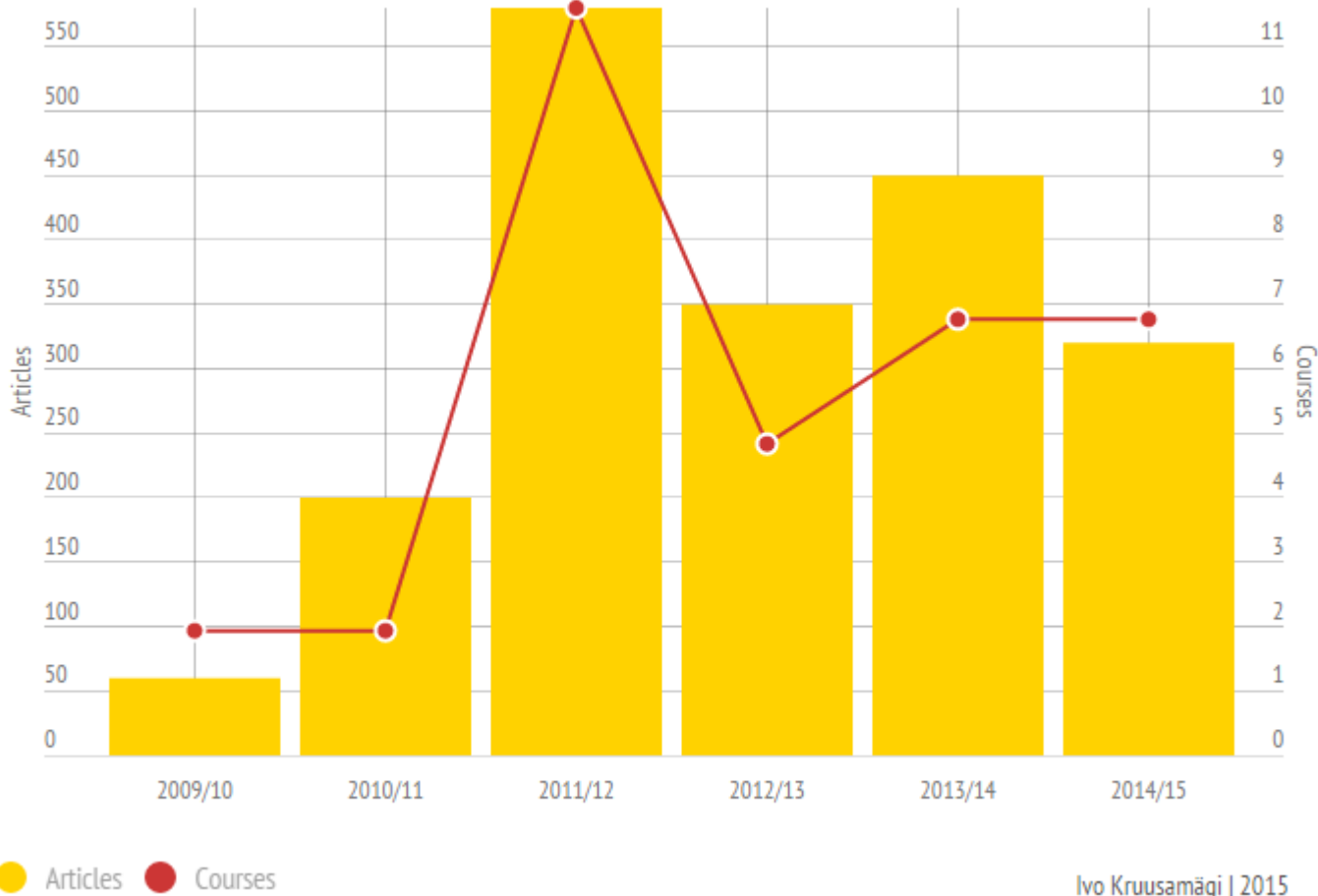




# Remark

It's a growing norm in Estonian universities that all the materials are made freely available.

# Results for Estonian Wikipedia



# Case studies

Examples on what has been done.

1) Our biggest course.

2) Our most unique course.

+ some bonus tracks

# „Väljendusõpetus“

„Estonian Composition and Conversation“  
Faculty of Science and Technology

mandatory to all 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc students

200–270 students per year

<https://et.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vikipeedia:V%C3%A4ljendus%C3%B5petus>

# „Väljendusõpetus“

It is helping to cover the empty fields in natural sciences in Estonian Wikipedia.

By doing so it supports the use of Estonian language in the field of natural sciences.

Students work is benefiting the society!

# Course stats.

Wiki exercise has been held 4 times  
900 articles (ca 86% new)  
min of 8000 ch. of pure text per art.  
that results on an average of 12kb art.  
0.86 art. / 1 reg. student

# Stats.

Avg. article receives 100 views per month.

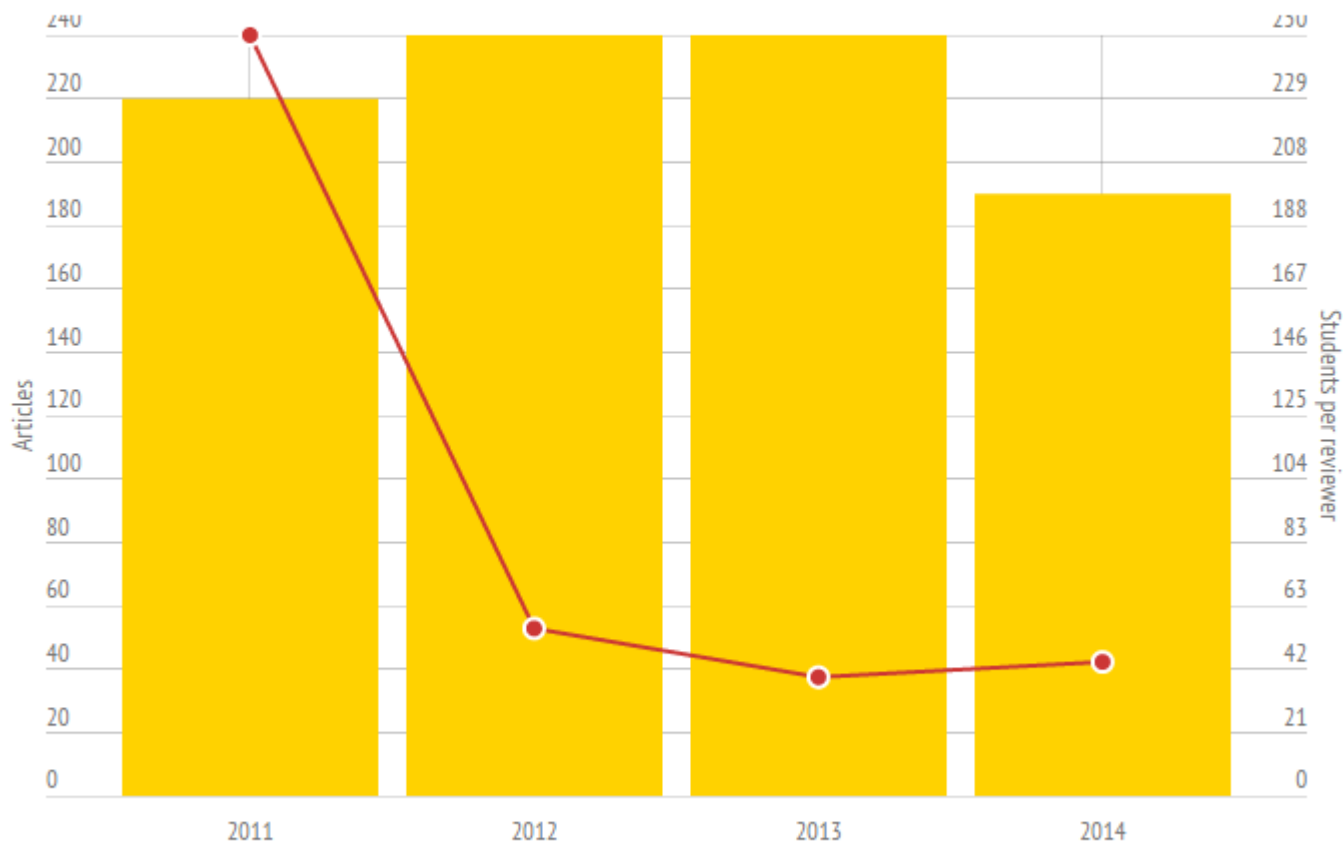
That is well above the general average.

*[students work on notable topics]*

Thus, by now articles have been viewed  
over 2.5 M times!

# Stats.

## "Väljendusõpetus"



● Articles ● Students per reviewer

Ivo Kruusamägi | 2015



# How is it done?

It's 1 out of 3 exercises.

The goal is simple: practice writing.

Students write about something related to their research.

# How is it done?

„Our side“

- \* Reviewers (5 last year)
- \* Coordinator (1)

# Reviewers

Nonwikipedians (mainly uni. students)

Give feedback on articles created into user subpages.

Ca 40 students per reviewer.

Paid job: covered by university.

# Coordinator

Prepares materials, wiki and reviewers.

Gives lecture about Wikipedia / exercise.

Monitors activity and solves problems.

Answers general questions.

Deals with problematic students.

Goes through created articles.

Reporting.

# Some learnings

Big courses are good

- easy to focus
- high reach
- influential

...but they **DO NEED** a wellmade system.



# Special course about Wikipedia

„About Free Culture on the  
Example of Wikipedia“ (3 ECTS)

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

<https://courses.cs.ut.ee/2014/Wikipedia/spring/Main/HomePage>

held 3 x

# „Vaba kultuur Vikipeedia näitel“

The course gives an overview about the Wikipedia and its interactions with the society.

Some of the best specialists in country step up as lecturers for this course.



# „Vaba kultuur Vikipeedia näitel“

Academic year of 2012/13:

the course got an average feedback of 4,83 (out of 5).

In addition to theoretical lectures and seminars there is an important part for the practical work and home exercises.

# Curriculum example (spring 2014)

## Lectures:

1: Wikipedia

2: Estonian Wikipedia

3: Free culture in Estonia

4: Crowdsourcing in Estonia

5: Copyright law

6: Free software

7: Building encyclopedias

8: Science journalism



# Curriculum example (spring 2014)

9: Wikipedia and media

10: Open Science

11: Small languages in the web

12: Informative content of photos

13: Citizens role on creating, holding and developing free society

14: Information society

+ 4 sessions of practical work

+ 2 seminars (Wikipedia in Education, Future)

# „Vaba kultuur Vikipeedia näitel“

Well received by students and university, but

...

how to get the students to take this course:

- „I know everything about Wikipedia“
- non-mandatory subject
- not an easy subject to pass

# Conclusion

There is a lot to talk about Wikipedia.

Interactions with WP are interesting.

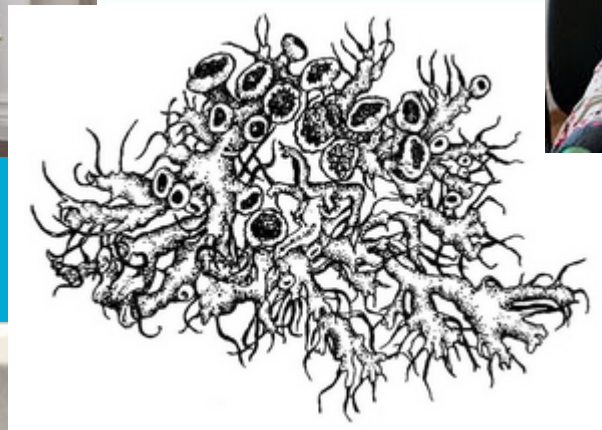
We need more academic research on topic.



# What else can be done?

Universities have a lot of media content.  
Why not get that into Commons?







# European Science Photo Competition

\* November 2015

\* Based on the  
Estonian Science Photo Competition  
held in Wikipedia



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:European\\_Science\\_Photo\\_Competition\\_2015](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:European_Science_Photo_Competition_2015)

# Future plans – WikiComment

## better system for feedback



comment highlight strike | history changes

my pages

settings

log out

et

search



### Naatriumsulfaat

Naatriumsulfaat on väävelhappe naatriumisool. See esineb nii veevaba vormina ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) kui ka kristallhüdraatidena ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ja  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

Veevaba naatriumsulfaat on kibeda maitsega valge kristalne pulber, pH on neutraalne. Naatriumsulfaadi dekahüdraati leidub loodusliku mineraalina (*sal mirabilis*) ja puhastatud kujul on see tuntud nimetusega **glaubrisool** (Johann Rudolf Glauberi järgi), mida on kasutatud meditsiinis **lahtistina**.

Esmakordselt kirjeldas naatriumsulfaadi valmistamist saksa apteeker ja keemik Johann Rudolf Glauber (1604-1670). Naatriumsulfaat on odav ja seda toodetakse maailmas väga suurtes kogustes. Seda kasutatakse põlvkondade jooksul muuta meid ümbritsevat keskkonda elamiseks, klaas- ja soodatööstuses ning vähemal määral veel paljudeks otstarveks kasutada mõttekriipsu.

tähtsuses "kuni" tuleb  
 sidekriipsu asemel  
 mark solved | comment

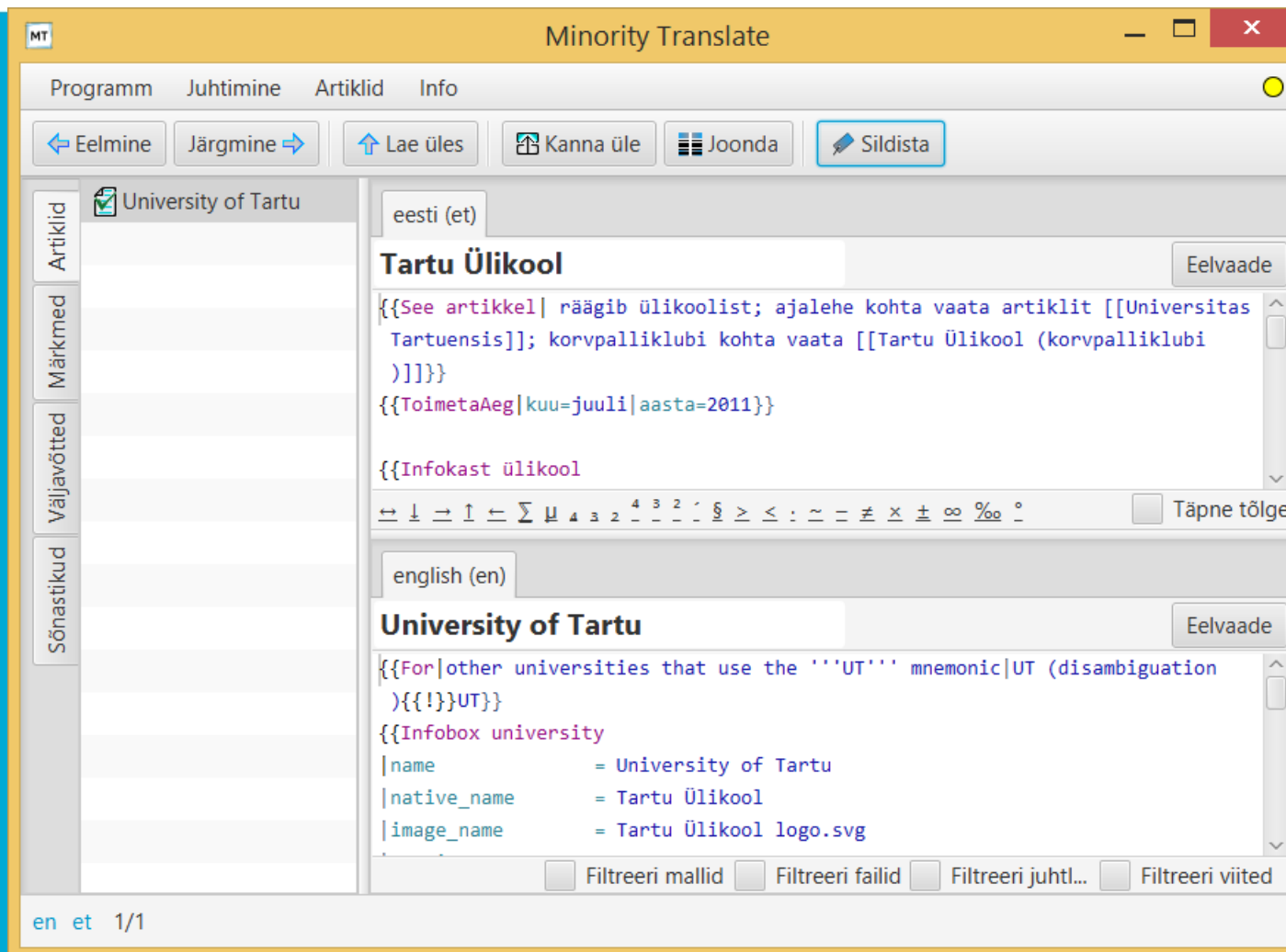
Vaata ka...

- Soolad
- Sulfaadid
- Naatriumvesiniksulfaat

Naatriumsulfaat	
	$2 \text{Na}^+ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{S} \\ \parallel \\ \text{O} \end{array} \right]^{2-}$
Keemiline valem	$\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ (veevaba) $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (dekahüdraat)
Välimus	Valge pulber, hügrokoopne (veevaba)
Molaarmass	142,04 g/mol (veevaba) 322,20 g/mol (dekahüdraat)
Tihedus	2,664 g/cm <sup>3</sup> (veevaba) 1,464 g/cm <sup>3</sup> (dekahüdraat)
Lahustuvus vees	4,76 g/100 g (0 °C); 42,7 (100 °C)



# More software development



Minority Translate

translate.keeleelek.ee

# Future plans

Adding some resources to this.

One volunteer can't handle over 400 students per year.

Better feedback.

# Future plans

Diversifying the Wikipedia experience.

More emphasis on teamwork.

Multimedia creation by students.

# Summary

Address the right questions.

No course is too big (or small).

Find additional ways to cooperate.

Constantly keep on developing.

# Summary

Education cooperation could help to produce the content on truly important topics.

Not every article that gets a lot of views is significant, but the ones that are, are really important.

# Summary

You don't need much to do big things.

Just find a way that works in your country.



# Summary

Wikipedia is an educational project.

Lets go out there and make it part  
of the education system!

# Questions?

