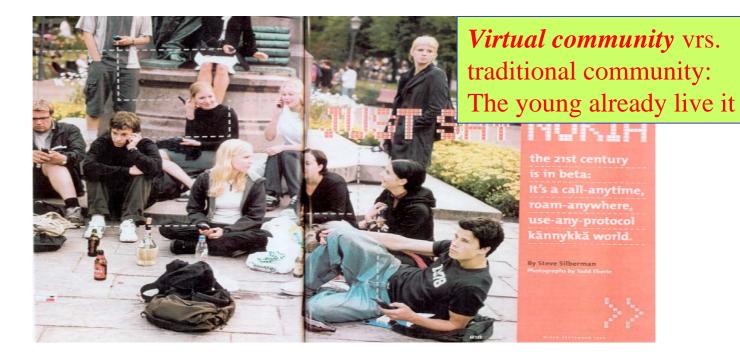
#### **Teuvo Peltoniemi**

Director of Information Department, A-Clinic Foundation, Helsinki Vice President, Prevnet Network

## What are Internet and the ICT bringing to us? Prevnet Network and views on the future

Final Conference of the Twinning Project 'Support to the implementation of the National Programme for the Fight Against Drugs 2004-2008', Bratislava, Slovakia, 12 December 2006





### WHY TELEMATICS AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY?

Features of telematics especially suitable for alcohol, drug and mental health prevention

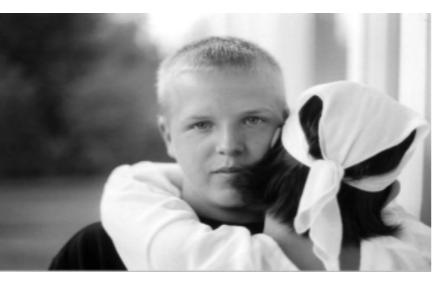
- @ Simplification of the continuously more complex society
- Anonymity, and closeness at will
- Low threshold to evaluate, motivate and seek help
- @ Empowerment to use one's own resources
- @ Return of written (and pictorial) word
- © Freedom from time and place
- Cost effectiveness

More freedom for individual choices





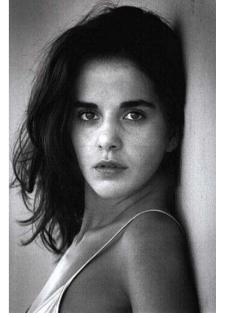
# Many claim that the speciality in human related work is the face-to-face contact. But is it really...



...an indispensable element in human interaction?

No, but a feature of limits of the real world people want to regulate the psycho-social distance themselves

Telematics makes possible to avoid the unpleasant situations of *losing-face*. Ability to regulate possible *shame* helps communication in difficult issues and lowers the threshold to seek and give help.





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# Special case: benefits of written messages in prevention and treatment

- Time shift
- @ Accuracy of messages
- @ Possibility to return to the message and the answer
- Anonymity and regulation of social distance
- People seem to love written telematics (e-mail, SMS, chat)





### Suicides and the Mobile Phones

In Finland suicides have decreased by a third because of:

- 1. National Suicide Prevention project,
- 2. New anti-depressants and
- 3. Mobile phones.
- SMS transfer feelings and give and get
   and give support and help
- Mobile phones add safety as instruments
- Next Nobel Prize in Medicine to mobile phone industry?

(Adapted from Huttunen, Duodecim 2003)





Prevnet and recent telematics services on addictions



## Background of addiction telematics since 1970s

Telemedicine

Self-help programs

"Information society"

Games, entertainment

*e*Learning

*e*Health

Telephone hotlines

Peer support methods

Information and support type web sites

PREVNET EURO

Control of promotion of promotion de promot

Etherapy and counselling systems

Videoconferencing & message programs

Addiction telematics integrated with face-to-face systems







# Prevnet Network: from promoting telematics to building products together

- Started in FI 1996, from EU projects funded by DG5
- Prevnet Euro 1998 with FI, SW, NL, E, UK: Book "Telematic Prevention...
- In 2000 the Network to promote telematics in addiction prevention with
- 20 core & 14 associate organisations from 15 EU countries. Co-operation with e.g. EATI, UNESCO, EMCDDA, WHO, Pompidou and UNDCP
- First president Teuvo Peltoniemi, FI. Now Peer van der Kreeft, BE
- Large conferences hold in Greece and Ireland; next in X-city autumn 2007
- National Prevnet networks: Germany strongest
- A new application for network and project in 2007 by the UK; all EU members and especially new members are welcomed.
- Next emphases for web based prevention and treatment:

building and sharing techniques and contents together.



First (left) and second Prevnet site editions, third in progress





Telematic

German national sitewww.prevnet.de







**ENCARE** deals with all risky environments for children with coordination from DE, UK & FI



**Council of Europe** Pompidou group Siberian telematic project (Hanti-Mansiskij)



International cooperation of Prevnet





www.Prevnet-Quality.de guidelines by the Hamburg Büro für Suchtprävention, in 5 languages

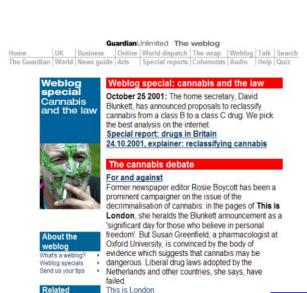


Vapa project cooperation in producing services for the disabled: sign language part of AddictionLink

Cooperation of AddictionLink with Trimbos and Jellinek in the Netherlands to produce a self-help counselling program.

# "Good boys are not the only ones": Other actors: Pro drug sites, drug trading and controlling drugs in the net

- Advocating free drug policy
- Illicit drug trade in the net
- ② Parental control programs











Click here to find out more.

Few commercial interests ever make the kind of dramatic and ongoing progress achieved by the Hemp Industry. In spite of difficult and unique obstacles, this industry has positioned itself over the past decade to once again become a major global economic force in the 21st century.

The Hemp Industries Association (HIA) is at the forefront of the drive for fair and equal treatment of industrial Hemp and the instigation of a level playing field on which to compete with other natural resources and synthetics. The HIA seeks changes in government policies to encourage global production of Hemp as a raw material for industry.

EU project *Psychonaut2002* has published a large study on the Internet drug sites





# Drug and alcohol NGO sites rarely have the real **critical mass** to become commonly used





## An example: Päihdelinkki - AddictionLink

The full-service addiction site of Finland

"Everything from information to net therapy"

**É**urope Awards

Prime Minister's Special Award given at IST2006 EU conference in November 2006 in Helsinki

Other crimes suspected:

-Breaking the law of gravity
-Figure against the laws of any decency

- AddictionLink lowers the threshold in a sensitive area, with a user-friendly interface offering anonymity, simplifying the complex systems and giving freedom of time and place
- Applying peer support and discussion, self help empowerment to use citizens' own resources to test, evaluate, motivate and seek help, and also professional support and counselling
- High-quality and accurate contents based on professional health and social care expertise, offered in an objective, non-accusing and positive way
- Since 1996 the most popular addiction site in a country with only five million people nearly 40 000 individual visitors a month.

An indicator of popularity of net services of the A-Clinic Foundation: a parody site www.webalcoholic.com



## AddictionLink 10 years. From information to web-therapy

**Facts** 

**Tests** 

Self-help

## Peer group discussions

Sauna - drugs

Slowing down - alcohol

Home channelparents

Hooked - net addiction

Ace - gambling

Individual professional counselling



English, Swedish and Sign language versions, Russian coming

**News** from media

**Edutainment** 

For parents: How to meet drug and alcohol problems

**Referral** to professional face-to-face services



Since 1996 the *most popular addiction site* in a country with only five million people – **now nearly 40 000 individual visitors a month.** 

# Anonymous distant BAC calculating: "Promille-GSM" since 2000 in Finland, in Czech "Promile" since 2005

#### **INFORMATION TO SEND:**

- \* Gender
- \* Weight
- \* Alcohol units consumed
- \* Drinking start time

Men 74 % Women 26 % Often contrary



Cognitive therapy based supporting small steps by monitoring and giving practical tips to control and cope. Socially invisible way to control drinking.

### **Intended uses:**

- 1. Avoid drinking & driving
- 2. Help in controlled drinking (self-) treatment

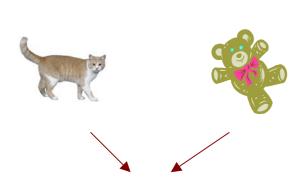


ICT and computers:
a good substratum for addictions,
Real virtual reality and
the new developments of the ICT technology



# Full immersion reality coming: virtual reality from tamagotchi to positioning systems

Real virtual reality: connected with all the senses!





Virtual life pet



Do you want your wife/husband/parents/ children/employer/police to know always where you are?









### Forms of virtual world



"Virtual": distance, electronic, net, e.g. virtual education

➤ VIRTUAL REALITY (VR): Human being is attached to the computer with some of the senses, like games at the moment



➤ UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING: Interactive computer(network) everywhere in the environment of the man e.g. positioning based messages, rf tags

>OVERLAPPING REALITIES: Simultaneous use of virtual reality, ubiquitous reality and real world e.g. navigation systems of a fighter

FULL IMMERSION REALITY: combines virtual reality and ubiquitous computing into an integrated immersion realities, all the senses are attached as interfaces to the virtual world, the future







## What happens when VR is Real?



### **Full virtual world brings:**

- @ Excellent instrument for entertainment @ Good method for training, simulation, prevention, treatment in substance abuse, smoking, mental health and other psychosocial problems
- @ Difficult problem in VR as addiction

Mass games like WoW are creating a new form of Internet addiction especially in South Korea and Japan







### The future of addiction telematics: trends, needs and inhibitors

- 1) Transfer from telemedicine to telematic self-help, peer-help and eHealth
- 2) Instrumental infrastructure changes to human interactivities with emotions and feelings
- 3) Broader concepts of psycho-social problems
- 4) More integration of telematic services with traditional face-to-face services
- 5) More contents and organisational integration both nationally and on European level.
- 6) Exaggeration of local systems a hinder as the main nature of web and telematics is national and global.
- 7) Need for quality proof systems and research on the effects of services and for learning what really helps.
- In principle the technologies and solutions already exist, but are not so much used...
- Next generation possibilities are round the corner...





## My forecast in December 2006

Telematics will REPLACE a large part of the psycho-social prevention and treatment work yielding great benefits to the citizens!

The possibility for a virtual reality greatly outweighs the negative aspects but also calls to pay attention to making OPTIMAL use of the new information society.

PREVNET has been <u>promoting</u> ICT in alcohol and drug prevention and treatment. It is now available as a <u>cooperation and synergy development</u> tool for the whole EU;

WELCOME NEW MEMBER STATES!
VITAJTE SLOVENSKO!



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