Jan Rehwaldt

University of Tartu, Social Informatics, February 2012

*Exercise 3: Analyse the socio-technical system of the project. You can either pick your own project that you have work-related experience with, or you can choose from one of the following:*

1. *Study Information System*
2. *Music related discussion forum*
3. *International Customs declaration system*
4. *Library information system maintained by consortium of libraries*

[*http://www.elnet.ee/ester/*](http://www.elnet.ee/ester/)

1. *Secure Multy-party Computation*

*for what SMC is, and a concrete use case of it, read* [*http://eprint.iacr.org/2011/662.pdf*](http://eprint.iacr.org/2011/662.pdf)

**Study Information System**

**People, their roles, relationships amongst each other and with other system’s elements**



**Hardware**

Required are some *servers* running the OIS, which have to be powerful enough to operate 17,000 students[[1]](#footnote-1) and staff members. Additionally *network infrastructure* and *computers* have to be provided within the university buildings and employee’s offices.

**Software (operation systems, programmes etc)**

Server operating system: most likely Unix or MS Windows with web server for running OIS

Employee’s computers: most likely MS Windows with standard browser for accessing OIS, additional client OIS software *may* be provided

**Techniques (management techniques, skills)**

Initial processes are creating, editing and deleting a course, specifying attendee limits and room numbers for it (performed by Dean’s office or lecturer).

After the system is filled with information about courses students or the Dean’s office may register (search course, check their schedule, check for free places, register) or cancel courses. A lecturer or other university staff may send mails through the OIS’s mail system.

**Support resources (training, support, help)**

For students: University’s IT department, which provides various communication channels (mail, helpdesk phone) and a dedicated webpage with a Frequently Asked Questions section as well as various manuals.

For employees: University’s IT department, which operates the OIS system, provides a helpdesk hotline and *may* give training as well as usage advices.

For lecturers: See employees.

**Information structures (content and content providers, rules, regulations, norms, especially those that give obligations or privileges for the use of information system or information, access control)**

Content is provided by lecturers and Dean’s office. System is provided by UT IT department. Those have privileged rights for accessing and modifying OIS’s content.

Students may search, register or cancel courses. The latter two may only be performed until a certain deadline at the beginning of each semester. After this deadline the Dean’s office has to be consulted and only viewing access is permitted. Students may additionally access lecture documents, either available only for attendees or for all UT students. Access criteria are specified by the lecturer.

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\_of\_Tartu [↑](#footnote-ref-1)