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## Enterprise Architecture Framework Adoption by Finnish Applied Universities' Network

**Speaker:** Jaakko Riihimaa, Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences

### Abstract:

Enterprise architecture (EA) way of thinking is becoming an essential part of universities daily life. Generally, one of the main ideas of EA is to give the holistic view on organizations' operational environment and recognize the dependencies. The article presents some piloted experiences and university visions from Finland, where a new national law focusing on mandatory EA-adoption in public sector has just launched. In spring 2009 the CIO-network of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences decided to start a pilot project to adopt the EA-concept. Two of the subproject concentrated on organizational issues - first one to loosely coupled co-operative organization, another to organizational merger contract. How to combine quality assurance work and the enterprise architecture was practiced within few networks. Some of subprojects build more confined reference architectures. Project also aimed to exchange discussion between CIOs and rectors and to find a common language between the parties. The findings of the project brought to light important viewpoints. In addition to organizational learning processes we noticed the strength of networked peer group, guideline to focusing on limited target areas and importance of gradual, long term vision when EA is adopted. Adopting EA will offer practical benefits, like improved documentation quality, abilities to view the big picture of operational systems or understanding better the effects of planned changes. One of the most essential points is mutual communication. Top-managers must understand the importance of EA adoption, support it and EA must be owned by top management and develop managers.