OVERALL NATIONAL COMMENTARY

Please outline the national and institutional state of play concerning the implementation of the LLL-Charter (1-2 A4 pages).
Identify key policies, trends, success factors, challenges, etc.
Summarize what has happened – is happening – and will further on happen

Key policies:
- LLL has been in recent years one of the main themes of educational planning on the ministerial level
- very tough structural change is going on in Finnish Universities and policy is that we have to reduce university level education and it also affects ULLL and the way how it is organized
- The needs of the working life and connection to the working life are emphasized overall in the LLL discussion and also the groups which are underrepresented
- also open university has to develop the customer-orientation and to take more into account the demands of working life
- part of the emphasis has been on the guidance, there is a plan for this made together with the ministry of Labour and Ministry of Education and Culture
- CE (also in the universities) has been stipulated now mainly as a business (it is also taxed) and at the same time there have been developed two new models for UCE: university level apprenticeship education and special competencies; first is a new workplace oriented education model (state supported) and the second is a competence which is gained through various educational means and also by APEL methods
- Universities has the freedom to organise ULLL as they wish, but the ministry of education follows quite accurately how it will develop at the universities
- Quality is one of the key policies, there is a The Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC) which helps universities in matters relating to evaluation, universities will be audited and quality systems are everywhere
- Internalisation is emphasized and there is a Finnish education export strategy part of it ULLL

Trends:
- overall trend is that we have good strategies and policies but depressive practice, mainly because we are lacking money for ULLL activities
- University LLL is partly business and probably there will be in near future more University enterprises which take care of this business
- more new organisational changes of university LLL will be seen
- ministry of education gives money to the universities for open university activities but not the real means to control the use of the money
- CE as a business will affect quite a lot on student; it means that the amount of CE students will decrease and hopefully it will better the position of open university
- how the University level apprenticeship education will work we do not know because we are in experimental phase

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- Open universities should attract more immigrants and other underrepresented groups but has no means to do it, this work is weak
- the price for customers in open university per ECT point is stated as a 10 €, it will help students to take part
- APEL –principles are in the strategies but not really working practice, we are quite weak in this
- the new educational technologies are quite good taken into account and practised
- universities will remain behind in development of the LLL
- connections to the working life are good in CE overall in Finland

Challenges:
- to include ULLL in the strategies of the universities has happened at least on a superficial way but to really embed it in to the working practice is a big problem and a challenge, the change from ULLL to LLLU has not happened
- on the ministry level there is a good vision of the LLL but now there is a lack of money to execute the proper guidance for instance
- Universities are quite ineffective and there is a lot of things to do especially in quality, in accomplishing the degrees and so on
- the possibility to accomplish a degree in open university is not possible
- partly degree studies are a channel for free of charge CE
- the unemployment of academic people has increased because the number of university graduates have increased rapidly