

Anecdote 1. Line Fjellvær: Scandinavia's First Mobile Student?



In the spring of 2002, Line Fjellvær was among the three first students to utilize NKI's experimental services for mobile education. So far, she is pleased with the services and emphasizes that they make online courses more flexible. Like many other adult students, Line is a very busy person. She is the Director of Studies for the International Centre for Hydropower in Trondheim, and her work requires frequent traveling and field services. She is also a mother of three active children, age 6-9.

"I have little spare time for studying, she says. I have to do it in between – when I have some available moments. And then, I'm not always near my PC."

Line had no experience of online education before she enrolled on the *Specialization Program in International Online Education* (SPICE). She chose the SPICE program because her employer wanted to develop online courses both as separate courses and as a supplement to traditional courses. When she had finished the introductory course, she was asked to become an m-learning guinea pig in the *SPICE 603: Online teaching and learning* course. Since then, she has been a mobile student using a PDA with a mobile phone connection to the Internet. Now, she is contemplating using her SPICE courses as a part of a master's degree in pedagogy and information technology from the Danish Pedagogical University.

The course was NKI's contribution as a partner in the European-funded m-learning project (<http://learning.ericsson.net/leonardo/index.html>), headed by the Ericsson Company. Through the project, NKI provides three students and the teacher – Morten Flate Paulsen – with PDAs, Ericsson mobile phones, and free access to the Internet. Since very few potential students had access to such mobile equipment, and since it was more expensive than the course tuition, only three mobile students took part in the experiment. Ordinary students, without mobile equipment, also took part in the course. So, all mobile services were offered as optional supplements to the ordinary online course services.

Line is very pleased with the opportunity to use her PDA to study when she is traveling. She has downloaded all course readings to her PDA as e-book files in Microsoft Reader format. She can also use it to communicate with her tutor and peer students via e-mail. When she traveled to Tanzania, she experienced that she could use the PDA to write word documents and e-mail them with her mobile equipment. She admits, though, that her equipment has caused several problems:

"I was able to connect to the Internet via my mobile phone in Tanzania, but it was trouble-



