Digital transformation of University of Tartu at the time of emergency

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University of Tartu

- 17 000+ persons at UT
  - 13 395 students, 12% international students
  - 3635 employees, 52% academic staff (1920)
  - Largest organization in Estonia
- Digital environment was ready for distance work and learning
  - 100+ IS applications web-based and well usable from distance
  - 3 stars for e-learning - Moodle, Panopto, BigBlueButton
  - Teamwork - MS Teams ja MS O365
    - All 17 000+ users in one „address-book"
- Challenges
  - Shortage of digital skills and digital learning methods
  - Freedom to choose own applications

Digital transformation - 1. month of COVID-19

- Panopto (video lectures)
  - 2019 – in all 1500 recordings
  - First week 500 new recordings
  - **First month 1750 new recordings**

- BigBlueButton (BBB, webinars)
  - 2019 – in all 99 BBB enabled e-courses
  - First week 503 BBB enabled e-courses
  - **First month 647** BBB enabled e-courses

- Moodle (e-courses)
  - **78%** of 2892 courses have e-course module
  - First week 88 new e-courses
  - **First month 171 new e-courses**

In 1 month yearly amount of video recordings
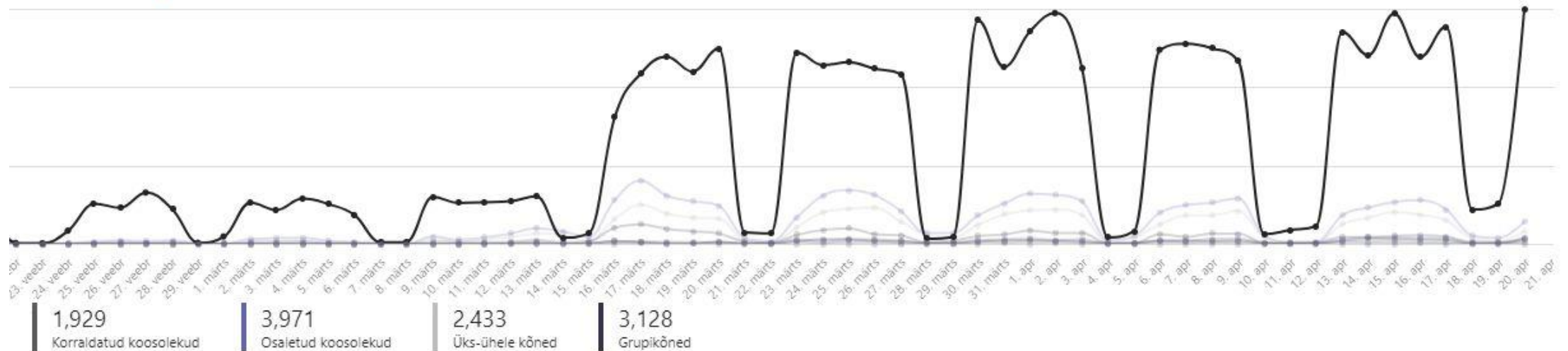
99 -> 647 courses w. BBB webinar module

171 new e-courses at Moodle

Teamwork – MS Teams

09.03.20 -> 23.03.20 -> 20.04.2020 (per day)

- Active users 645 -> 1489 -> 1847 (3500 employees at UT)

- Messeges 1489 -> 6084 -> 7461

- Meetings 2 -> 233 -> 272

MS Teams Tartu Ülikoolis
Märts - aprill 2020

| 1,929 | 3,971 | 2,433 | 3,128 |
| Korraldatud koosolekud | Osaletud koosolekud | Üks-ühele kõned | Grupikõned |

Supporting swift digital transformation

- **Guidance**
  - First week-end 14.-15.03.2020
    - Frequently asked questions
    - Recommendations to replace classroom teaching with e-learning
    - Thorough set of MS Teams instructions
  - Next weeks – every day couple of new guides
  - Active counselling
  - IT operational information
  - Forum for e-learning practices

- **Invention of best practices**
  - Scientific defenses – three different practices
    - MS Teams, Zoom, Teams Event Live
  - Council meetings
    - Zoom or MS Teams
  - Live broadcasting – Teams Event Live
  - Workshops and conferences
  - Online exams and tests
  - Online commencements

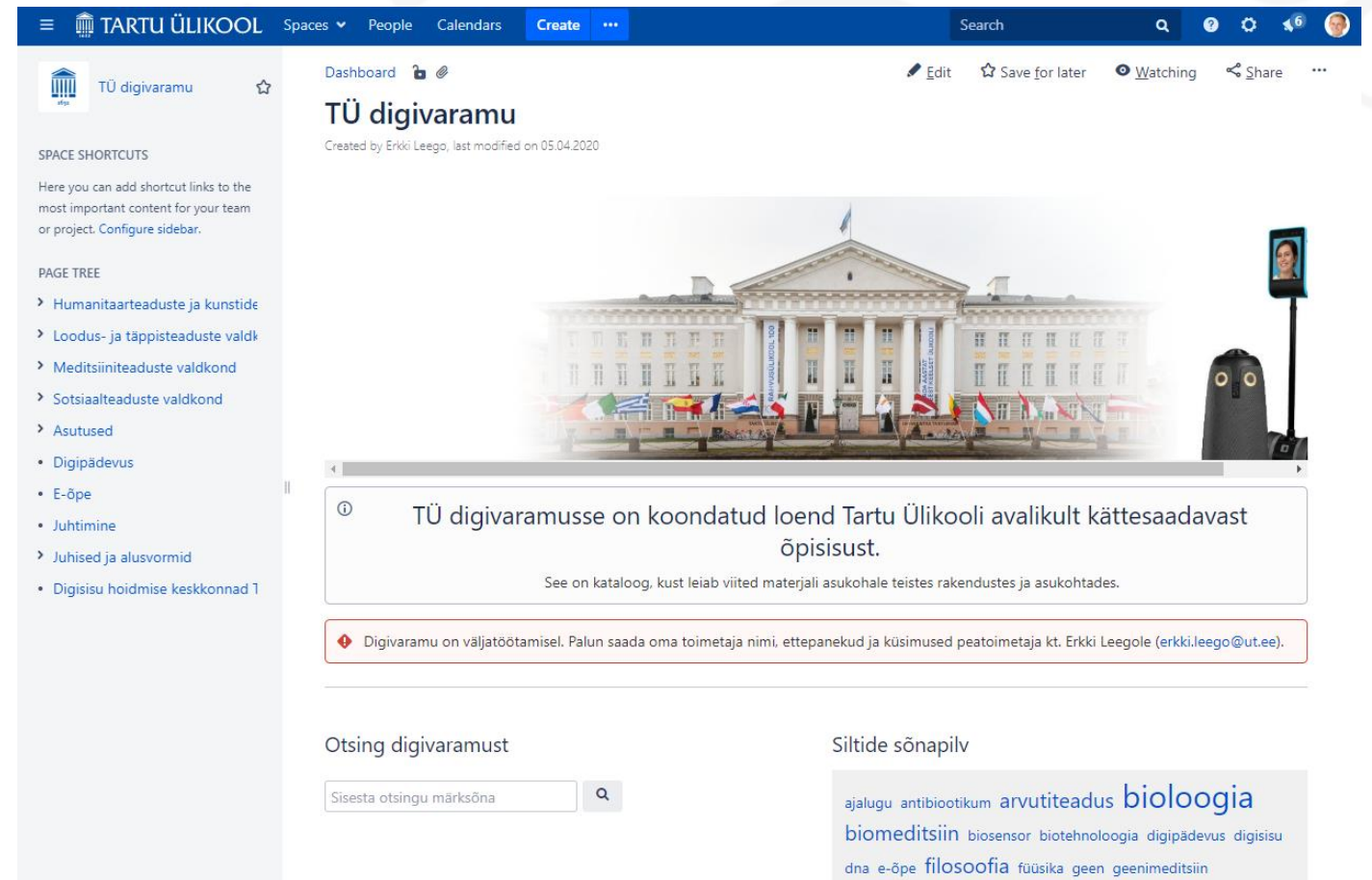- **Upgrade of capabilities**

BigBlueButton - webinars
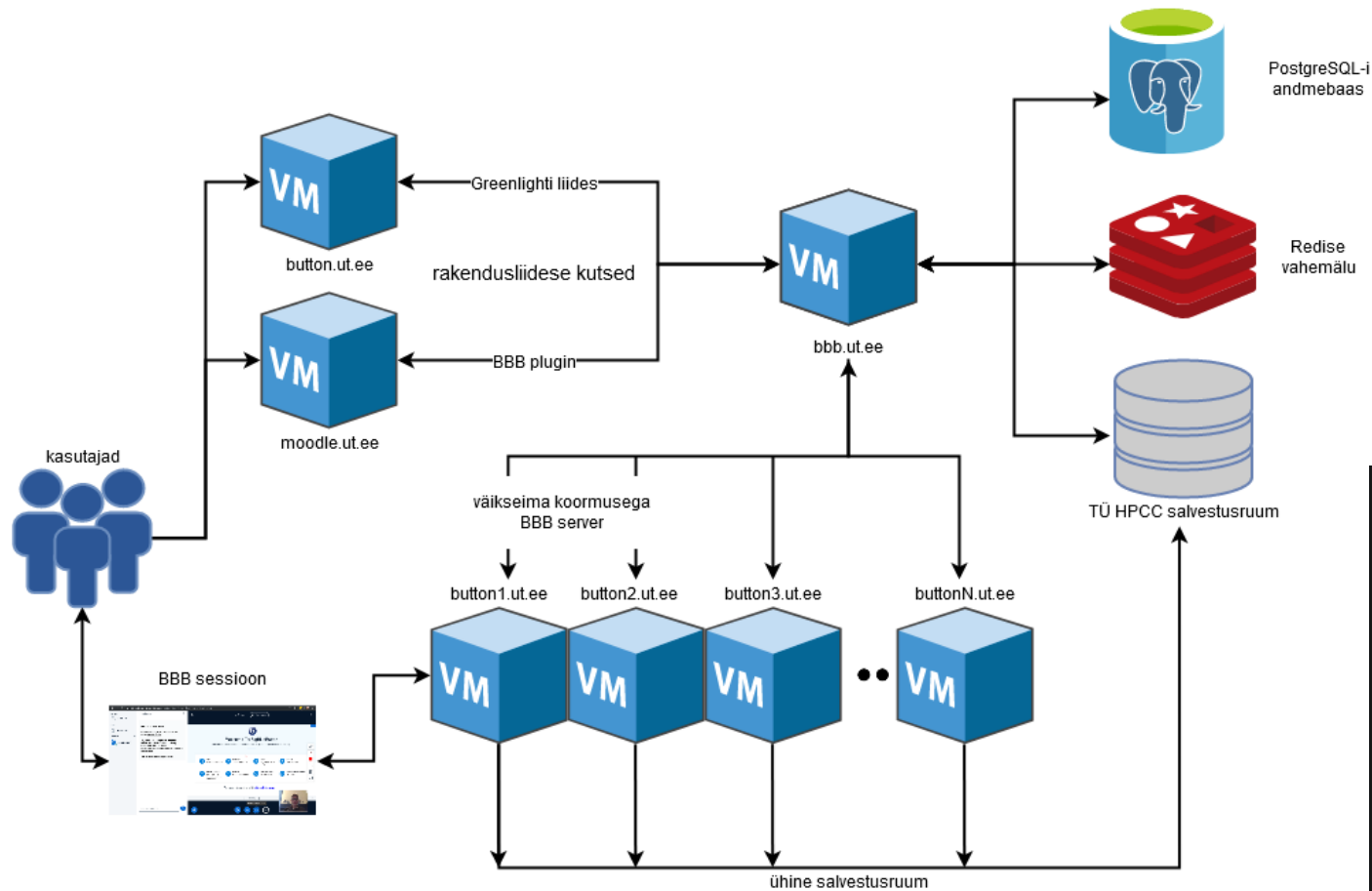
Swift transformation of architecture (within 1 week)

- From 1 server to N servers
- Per day 50 parallel webinars with ~600 participants
- Used in 647-s e-courses
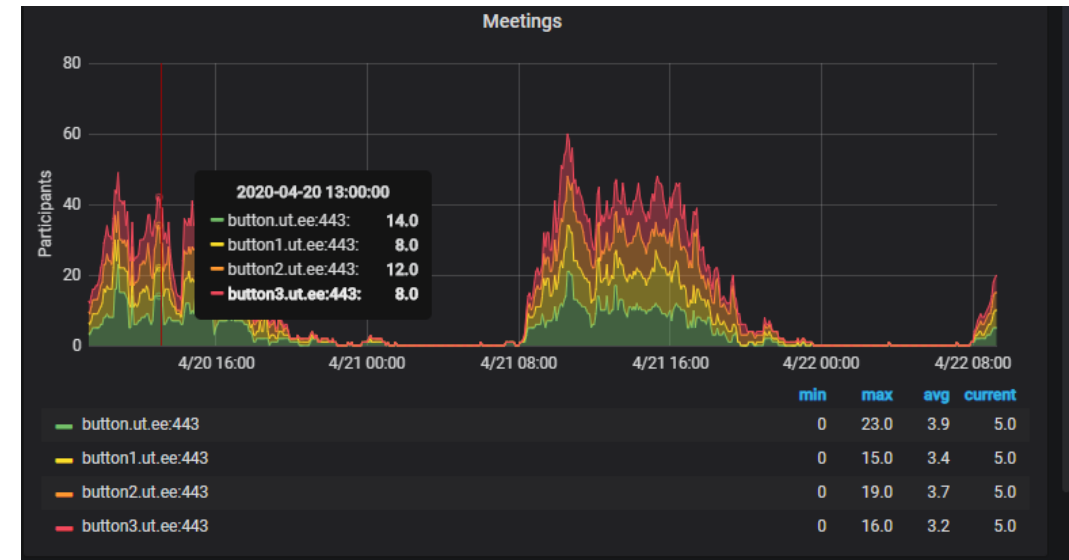
UT digital repository – fruit of time of emergency

- Collection of selected e-learning materials
- Service to society
- As there is enormous rise of digital content, there is great opportunity to choose from
- One of the goals is to raise awareness how to produce good quality digital recording

Learnings

- If you haven't experienced yourself, you can't really understand

- Confirmation of benefits of digital - independence from time and space

- Time of emergency accelerates creativity

- Smaller number of IT applications accelerate digital transformation

- People need a lot of guidance and support

- Ethical and data protection issues need to be addressed

- Online meetings are more efficient
  - Meetings are shorter, easy to share screen, easy to video record and share/reuse

- Chat is another important communication form

Expectations for future

- There will be thousands of clever people who smartly implement digital in their everyday lives and innovate new practices

- Hybrid meetings will be new normality
  - Some participants in physical room and some in virtual room

- Empowerment of teachers
  - New teaching methods, reuse of materials and recordings, flexible choice of location, automation of tests

- Empowerment of students
  - Flexible learning with no time, space, mentors and institution restrictions. AI supported personal learning path

- International cooperation necessities
  - Accessible digital repositories
  - International digital identity and authentication
  - Model for fair access to courses and teachers
  - Standardized learning marks

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

Where there is a will, there is a way!

Stay healthy!

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