

Project presentation: Arctic & Cerrado Online Training

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Focus on the Global South: EDUFI Programmes Coordinator Meeting

Project presentation:
Arctic & Cerrado Online Training





The ACOT project is financed by the Finnish National Agency for Education, as part of its Team Finland Knowledge Programme.



Arctic Cerrado Online Training



The ACOT logo is a large, stylized 'ACOT' where each letter is a collage of nature images: a palm tree, a bird, a waterfall, a toucan, a sunset, a hummingbird, and pink flowers. Below the logo, three people (a man, a woman, and a woman) are smiling and holding a brochure titled 'Branding in the Digital Era (138 H)'. The brochure features the ACOT logo and a list of topics.

ACOT (Arctic and Cerrado Online Training)
Project implemented by
University of Oulu, Oulu
University of Applied
Sciences and Uberlandia
Federal University.

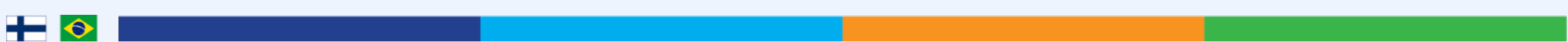




The ACOT Project



- The purpose of the ACOT project is to create and strengthen cooperation between the partner higher education institutions, create scalable online courses, and develop new operating models for cooperation.
- To establish a sustaining and long-term educational cooperation model including Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels

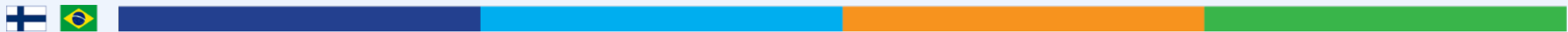


The ACOT Project



This will be done by the activities of the ACOT project, that are

- 1) creating and piloting three online courses;
- 2) staff mobility;
- 3) joint development of a new educational collaboration model; and
- 4) project management, evaluation, communication and marketing.



The ACOT Project



- The call received 72 applications and 26 were selected to receive funding (36%).
- The project started in August 2023 and ends in December 2025.



INTERUFU 2025
03 A 06 DE SETEMBRO



How did it start?



- First MoU signed in 2018: UFU (FAGEN) and University of Oulu (KSI)
- MoU between UFU (FAGEN) and Oulu University of Applied Sciences signed in 2022
- 2023 Call for the TFK Programme





The ACOT Project



So far, we have presented the project in three opportunities:

- FAUBAI 2025, in Brasilia, Brazil;
- INTERUFU 2025, online conference;
- EDUFI Programmes Coordinator Meeting



The ACOT Project



- We developed three online courses, all in English:
 - Managing Sustainability through Responsible Leadership: from 11/24 to 1/2025, 34 students completed the course / 49 enrolled students;
 - Managing International Teams and Projects: Spring 2025, 38 completed the course / 55 enrolled students;
 - Branding in the Digital Era: Fall 2025, 40 enrolled students until September 2025



The ACOT Project



- A new model for joint development and execution of online courses will be created.



The ACOT Project



Online learning
pedagogical model

Cross-organizational
course administration
practices

Marketing
collaboration

Feedback, lessons
learnt and
development
processes



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The ACOT Project



- The project included four work missions:
- 2024: Two visitors from Finland to Brazil, one visitor from Brazil to Finland
- 2025: Three visitors from Finland to Brazil, two visitors from Brazil to Finland





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International Office
FAGEN/UFU



Other interesting aspects



- Staff mobility (2 visits per organization)
- Feedback analysis (more feedback received than usually in courses)
- Opportunity to meet face to face with students – a great asset
- One step leads to another in continuous collaboration



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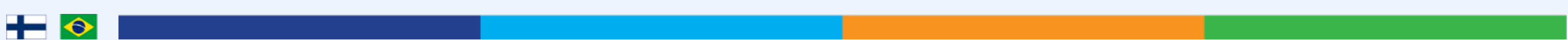


Lessons learned



1) Intercultural learning

- Diverse cultures add flavor to our work and provides new insights and aspects
- Out of the box thinking and challenges own ways of working
- Intercultural learning enriches all partner institutions
- Cultural differences multiplies the learning curve
- Helps to identify own blind spots



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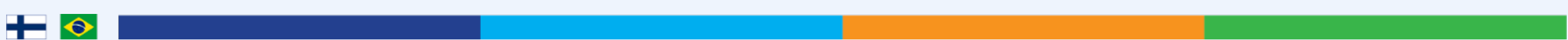


Lessons learned



2) Co-development and co-learning

- Moving beyond "knowledge transfer" to collaborative knowledge co-creation
- Joint curriculum and course design adds new perspectives
- Emphasizing mutual respect for local contexts and expertise is important
- Opportunity to meet face to face improves the quality of the work



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Lessons learned

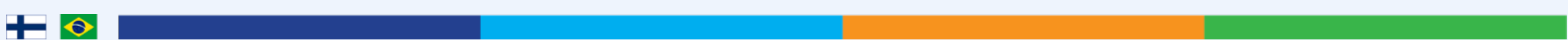


3) Reciprocity

- True partnerships are two-way: both sides learn, both sides benefit
- Importance of building trust and shared ownership of projects

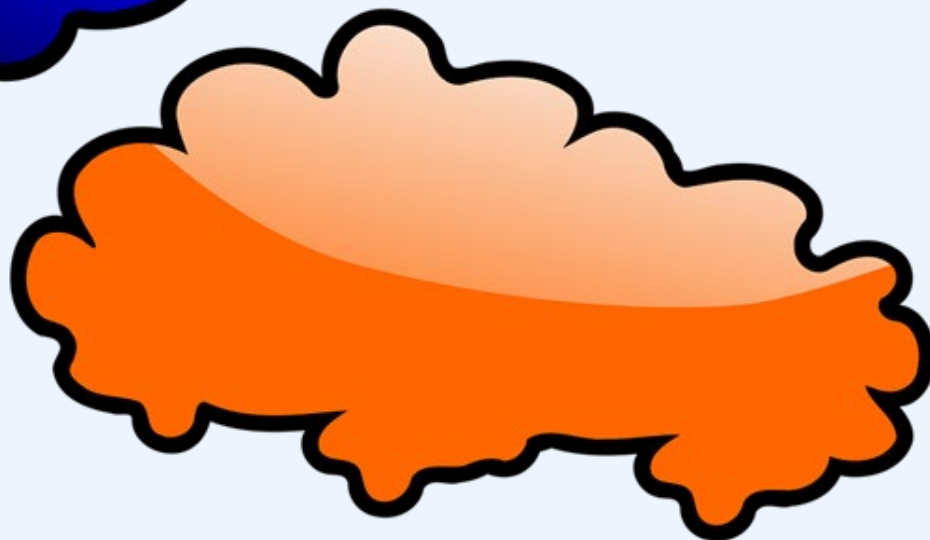
Example: Shared leadership models in international cooperation projects

- Building relationship takes time
- Reciprocal visits



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What did you learn from the
exchange missions? [Staff /
students]



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How did you overcome the
cultural differences?



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How did you deal with
institutional bureaucracy?



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Closing



- Final comments
- The ACOT project is a successful example of cooperation with international institutions to promote **internationalization at home**, offering an opportunity for students to interact and learn with colleagues from different places and backgrounds.

