

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Addressing reproductive health education and substance use among youth in Tanzania through participatory research and work life cooperation in higher education	
Coordinator Diakonia-ammattikorkeakoulu Oy Julia Jänis, julia.janis@diak.fi	The overall goal of this project is to address reproductive health education and substance abuse among Tanzanian youth through strengthened research capacities and diversified education ecosystems in higher education of two Tanzanian partner universities. The project will generate evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, healthcare providers, educators, and community-based organisations to improve interventions and programmes in the local contexts. The project consortium representing Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak) in Finland and University of Dodoma (UDOM) and University of Iringa (Uoi) in Tanzania has a solid background on joint development projects in capacity building of higher education thus laying a strong foundation for international collaboration. The project aims to 1) enhance the skills of Tanzanian HEIs' staff in diversified learning ecosystems, digital pedagogy and transformative learning, 2) develop the curriculum in all partner universities, 3) strengthen and reform the cooperation between Tanzanian HEIs and their work life partners, 4) increase the relevance of higher education in Tanzania for work life needs, and 5) increase the skills of students and staff in all partner universities in applied research methods, international cooperation and intercultural communication. The project leaves a lasting impact by building long-term research capacities, strengthening institutional partnerships, and fostering a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and knowledge sharing within and beyond academic settings. The project will co-create and implement a joint online course of 5 ECTS on Participatory Action Research and Participatory Research Methods for Master's students. Intensive workshop will be organised in Finland for Tanzanian HEIs with tailored contents for staff and students, focusing on digital pedagogy, participatory research and learning ecosystems involving work life collaboration. Students from all three HEIs will carry out field research in Tanzania on topics identified in cooperation with Tanzanian work life partners. The outcomes and recommendations of the research projects will be shared with different stakeholders in Tanzania. The results will include a permanent course of 5 ECTS on Participatory Action Research and Participatory Research Methods as part of each HEI's curriculum for Master's students. At least 50 students will complete the course, out of whom at least 13 will be able to participate in mutual short term international mobility between Tanzania and Finland. The staff of Tanzanian HEIs will have increased skills in digital pedagogy, transformative learning, and participatory research leading to high quality higher education and effective work life collaboration. A reformed structure will be created to facilitate the needs-based and evidence-informed
Partners University of Dodoma, University of Iringa	

	cooperation between Tanzanian HEIs and their work life partners. The project will produce at least 10 academic publications.
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