

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: Bridging Boreal and Subtropical Forests: A Finland-Uruguay Knowledge Exchange for Climate-Smart Forestry Education	
Coordinator Karelia Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy Sini Rantanen, sini.rantanen@karelia.fi	This project establishes a strategic partnership between the Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) and Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay (UTEC) (Uruguay) focused on knowledge exchange in sustainable forestry, climate change mitigation, education, and geospatial technologies. Finland's expertise in sustainable forest management and digital forestry will support Uruguay's climate goals, particularly its NDCs targets of increasing native forest cover and silvopastoral systems. The collaboration emphasizes practical field applications and student mobility within existing academic programs. The initiative has three primary objectives: a) build Uruguay's technical capacity for monitoring forest carbon stocks using geospatial and field-based methods; b) foster comparative learning between Finnish and Uruguayan forestry systems through field activities; c) establish sustainable academic exchange pathways through enrollment in existing courses at both institutions.
Partners Technological University of Uruguay	Key components include field activities and reciprocal student exchanges. Finnish experts will deliver field workshops in Uruguay on forestry management including sustainable forest management, remote sensing, and carbon measurement techniques. Uruguayan experts will join field studies in Finland, learning about sustainable forest management and digital innovations. Student mobility is anchored in existing academic offerings. Uruguayan students will enroll at Karelia UAS in courses related to climate-smart forestry, carbon forestry, future forest management, etc. Finnish students will study at UTEC in programs related to sustainable land use and geotechnologies. A minimum of 4 students per institution will participate in exchanges. The project will deliver measurable impacts in three areas: enhanced technical capacity for Uruguay's forest carbon monitoring and sustainable forest management, strengthened institutional ties through academic exchanges, and practical knowledge transfer between boreal and subtropical forestry systems. Field activities will generate joint case studies and methodological guides, while exchanges will establish sustainable collaboration channels.

	During 28 months, the project blends virtual and in-person activities to strengthen capacities, foster collaboration, and promote sustainable forestry. Virtual knowledge exchange activities include: a) forestry dialogues (3 webinars): case studies on boreal vs. subtropical forest management and geospatial applications, including research presentations by students; and b) technical workshops (2 online sessions) of training in remote sensing, forest mapping, and field data collection. Embedding activities within existing curricula and developing replicable models, the project ensures sustainability beyond its initial timeframe.
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OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSSTYRELSEN

Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI
Hakaniemenranta 6, P.B. 380, FI-00531 Helsinki
Puh. /Tel. +358 (0) 29 533 1000, Faksi /Fax +358 (0) 29 533 1035
www.oph.fi