

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: DIGITAL PATHS, LIVING MEMORIES: A TRILATERAL EDUCATION NETWORK FOR INDIGENOUS DIGITAL HERITAGE	
Coordinator Lapin Yliopisto Rosa Maria Ballardini, rosa.ballardini@ulapland.fi	VIDA is a triangular academic cooperation initiative between Finland, Colombia, and Peru that addresses legal, ethical, and educational challenges of digitizing Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH). It responds to the need for comparative, interdisciplinary, and ethically grounded education on the digital governance of ICH, particularly in post-conflict and historically marginalized contexts. Bringing together BA, MSc, and LLM students, Indigenous representatives, and public officials, VIDA promotes a holistic vision of ICH digitization through a sustainable and inclusive academic environment that fosters curricular innovation, community participation, and institutional collaboration. VIDA's aims are to: - Train students to examine the socio-legal, ethical, political, and cultural challenges of digitizing ICH in contexts of conflict, transitional justice, and historical dispossession; - Strengthen the knowledge and advocacy skills of students and Indigenous peoples on the relationship between biocultural diversity, human rights, and Indigenous intellectual property in digital ICH; - Build capacity on sustainable inclusive governance for ICH digitization and promote the exchange of best practices. To achieve these aims, VIDA combines law and experiential pedagogy, with a deep understanding of digitization processes for ICH, in four core activities: 1) Study visit to Bogotá (2025), hosted by Universidad de los Andes (UANDES), focusing on participatory archiving, ethical metadata, and Indigenous-led heritage management in Colombia's transitional governance. 2) International Moot Court in Lima (2026), hosted by Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), addressing Indigenous intellectual property, traditional knowledge databases, and human rights, with Indigenous participation. 3) International school in Rovaniemi (2027), hosted by the University of Lapland (ULAP), exploring ethical digitization and Indigenous epistemologies through a Nordic lens. 4) Engagement and dissemination plan, including a website, social media, and lectures for policymakers, institutions, and international organizations, with Indigenous input.
Partners Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Universidad de los Andes (UANDES)	

	The anticipated results are: - Educational Impact: Students gain interdisciplinary skills in law, ethics, and Indigenous rights in digital ICH, preparing them for leadership in heritage governance; - Institutional Strengthening: HEIs improve curricular offerings and capacity for international cooperation, with focus on community participation and ethical digitization; - Policy and Practice: VIDA shares best practices for ICH digitization through academic, governmental, and Indigenous contributions; - Sustainability and Internationalization: Building on a 2022 partnership between ULAP and PUCP, supported by the TKF's funded INCLUSION project, VIDA adds UANDES to promote lasting academic collaboration in the Global South.
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