

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: Higher Education Development and Co-creation for Sustainable Futures in Vietnam	
Coordinator Turun yliopisto Joni Karjalainen, joni.karjalainen@utu.fi	Why Vietnam? Vietnam is one of the five most vulnerable countries to climate change worldwide. The Global Climate Risk Index ranks Vietnam as the 13th most affected country by climate change globally over the past two decades. Already, Vietnam desires to be a circular economy forerunner in Asia. Vietnam operates in the context of: • National Climate Change Strategy to 2050, with a pledge to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 as well as a Vision to 2050 to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of the natural, economic and social systems • Vietnam's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for the period 2021-2030, Vietnam's Socio-economic Development Plan for 2021-2025 • Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) policy on the operation of Open Educational Resources • Existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between Vietnamese and Finnish ministries specifically aimed to address labour force upskilling and upscaling educational content The aim of the project To address these issues, "Higher Education Development and Co-creation for Sustainable Futures in Vietnam" (TFK HI-SUSTAIN) project aims at enhancing the capacities of the VLU and HCMUT staff to provide high-quality learning opportunities by tackling local sustainability challenges in a future-oriented matter, with a global mindset, by applying online and blended learning methodologies as well as problem-based learning, suitable for the Vietnamese context. The project activities (1) Developing a futures studies online MOOC and futures focused study content at VLU and HCMUT that combine new study materials and innovative pedagogic modalities (2) Strengthening pedagogical expertise on futures studies through co-creating high-quality, problem-based learning for tackling global challenges in real life; and
Partners Aalto University, Van Lang University (VLU), Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT)	

	(3) Dynamic student and staff mobilities, and networking, for elevated internationalization of VLU, HCMUT, Aalto and UTU. Anticipated results The project introduces a new Futures Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), tailored to the Vietnamese context. The Futures MOOC, primarily aimed at Bachelor's level in VLU and HCMUT, will be tested during the student and staff exchanges of the project, and at the pilot stage, can potentially reach an estimated 200-400 students at VLU and HCMUT. In the future, it could offer access to thousands of students at each university. Co-creative pedagogies for futures studies will be co-developed and shared throughout the project. The existing Aalto Sustainable Global Technologies (SGT) Studio course serves as a platform to assist Vietnamese students and staff to immerse in real-life study projects utilizing futures tools and all partners to practice intercultural, team-based project efforts together with industry stakeholders.
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OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSTYRELSEN

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