

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: INSPIRE	
Coordinator Ab Yrkeshögskolan vid Åbo Akademi John Dahlbacka, John.Dahlbacka@novia.fi	Training and inspiring the professionals who will solve global problems in collaboration with international peers is a goal of 21st-century education. This ambitious project is based on the previous success of Novia UAS and UMAG, two universities located on opposite sides of the world, with a strong focus on engineering. It aims to strengthen the international reach of the educational offer and broaden the view and global understanding of young professionals, who will in their future careers be part of teams that jointly solve climate change related challenges. The main goal of INSPIRE is to empower engineering students to learn and use the English language in authentic working environments through collaboration among educators, student exchange, and participation in joint courses. Collaboration among educators will explore the potential of Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) to increase English learning across technical classes. The student mobility will include participation by UMAG's students in the European Project Semester (EPS) and Novia UAS' students taking part in an internship at UMAG's Center for Studies of Energy Resources (CERE). The joint courses are existing courses of Novia UAS, which will be modified to include UMAG professors and students
Partners University of Magallanes (UMAG)	CLIL activities will include cross-cultural simulations, developed in two parts, to be implemented in the second and third years of the project. Communication between professors will be online, setting a path for continuous and wider collaboration across fields of expertise, beyond engineering. The EPS activity will give the opportunity for two students from UMAG to travel to Vaasa to join the EPS team for four months, gaining an invaluable perspective on their strengths and weaknesses, as well as the real possibility of pursuing an international career. UMAG will soon implement a hydrogen laboratory and has close links with industry, which will offer Novia UAS students a unique internship experience. The courses will have a direct impact on many students. Two courses from Novia on global teamwork will be redesigned to facilitate interaction between students from both universities.

	Both HEIs are located in areas with relatively low populations. Therefore, one of the main anticipated results is that both institutions will increase their international presence together and will be able to attract a larger number of international students. The experience gained in this project will build on the achievements of the previous TFK project, paving the way for the development of very valuable, internationally competitive engineering programs. Also, the importance of learning a foreign language, such as English or Spanish, will be highlighted. New opportunities for collaboration will emerge, for example, by adapting the European Project Semester to the context of UMAG in southern Chile.
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Latin America



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