

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Scalable International Collaboration for Innovation Capabilities	
Coordinator Aalto-korkeakoulusäätiö sr Tua Björklund, tua.bjorklund@aalto.fi	The proposed project aims to scale academic collaboration between Aalto University in Finland and two Latin American institutions: Universidad del Desarrollo in Chile and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia. The institutions have already initiated collaboration in the Design Factory Global Network (dfgn.org), which developed around Aalto University Design Factory. In addition, students from Universidad del Desarrollo and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana have remotely participated in the Product Development Project (PDP) course taught at Aalto University. In PDP, the students have collaborated across institutions to tackle innovation challenges from Finnish companies in a nine-month, 10-15 ECTS course. Each PDP student team has a Finnish sub-team and an international sub-team that tackles a unique industry challenge and produces a functional product solution during the course. This collaboration has been very successful, however, international interaction has been limited to mainly remote collaboration within the student teams.
Partners Universidad del Desarrollo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali	S-ICONIC will deepen and scale the collaboration across the institutions through 1. enabling short-term mobility for students and faculty to take part in teaching in both Finnish and Latin American institutions during the course in addition to online teaching, 2. leveraging the expertise of the different institutions in virtual and face-to-face coaching of cross-institution student teams, 3. creating and piloting shared teaching materials for international innovation capabilities, building on the identified synergies and co-teaching experiments during the short-term mobility periods, and 4. creating an iterative, process driven opportunity for all project participants to share knowledge and capabilities, with the opportunity to apply these in local contexts and thus develop their own competence through active implementation. These shared resources and new hybrid collaboration formats, developed in the project, will enable a greater number of students to benefit from insights and expertise from the different countries to develop intercultural skills and innovation capabilities for a globalized environment. These will be piloted in the PDP course and a new joint course, Global Innovation Practices, and scaled to open-access materials enabling institution and network-wide usage. Given the current hyper-connected nature of the world of work, exploring this content

	type is critical to ensure future graduates are exposed to international benchmarks and approaches that promote human-and planet-centric innovation.
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