

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Scalable Solutions for digital learning in reading and math: a comparative approach	
Coordinator University of Turku Pekka Räsänen, pjrasa@utu.fi	TRILA (Turku Research Institute for Learning Analytics), a key EDUCA flagship research consortium member, is building a research ecosystem to understand learning and learning difficulties better. This includes developing digital assessment tools and interventions on basic academic skills (reading and mathematics). Understanding cultural, social, and educational factors affecting learning is crucial for the research on learning variability and the validity and reliability of the tools to assess learning and development in learning. Cross-cultural research is needed to uncover all factors, especially by looking at the same questions in children's basic skills development from the Global North and South research perspectives. The Latin partner universities (Favaloro in Argentina and UCU in Uruguay) have signed a research collaboration agreement to strengthen research training and research on learning and learning difficulties. This TFK mobility project offers TRILA the opportunity to join this effort. This project aims to build an infrastructure and ecosystem for cross-cultural collaborative research on learning variability in basic academic skills in Finland, Uruguay and Argentina. The research units in this project, TRILA at the University of Turku in Finland, the Department of Psychopedagogy at the Universidad Favaloro in Argentina and the Department of Neuroscience and Learning at Universidad Católica del Uruguay in Uruguay, all have committed to looking for research-based solutions to the post-COVID learning crisis, which has increased dramatically the number of children struggling with learning the basic academic skills. This mobility project aims to offer the research staff of all three partners the possibility to participate in and build joint studies to improve the level of research in all three countries. Likewise, this project offers doctoral students of these three countries the opportunity to participate in high-quality courses, receive additional supervision, and become members of a larger international research community. This mobility project is part of a TRILA initiative to build a European-Latin American researcher network on learning disorders. The Finnish Research Council flagship programme EDUCA - Education for the Future (2024–2031) aims to advance education development with research-based knowledge and create a novel educational research ecosystem. The Flagship's mission is to generate new knowledge and understanding about learning achievement, variability in learning, and using digital technology in education. This aim combines two research
Partners Universidad Favaloro, Catholic University of Uruguay	

	profiles in the Strategy 2030 of the University of Turku, namely the Future Technologies and Digital Society and Children, Young People and Learning. The latter aims to develop a research ecosystem to produce scientific knowledge on promoting children and young people's well-being, reducing social inequality, reforming the welfare state, and ensuring expertise needed in the future.
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