

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Engineering and Business	
Coordinator Ab Yrkeshögskolan vid Åbo Akademi Hanna Guseff, hanna.guseff@novia.fi	"The project initiative "Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Engineering and Business"" (SEEB) brings a new twist in the long collaboration between the Copperbelt University (CBU) in Zambia and Novia University of Applied Sciences (Novia UAS) in Finland. The new cooperation involves the School of Engineering of CBU and the Faculty of Business of Novia UAS, as well as other faculty members from both HEIs and external stakeholders. SEEB comes to complement previous partner cooperation based on a Team Finland Knowledge (TFK) project with focus on renewable energy, as well as a Higher Education Partnership (HEP) programme with focus on the biogas value chain and circular economy. Novia UAS and CBU have identified the educational need of improving the entrepreneurial skills of young, competent engineering students and training them in creating new solutions to tackle challenges in the society, while developing their business mindset and strategies. The project is built around Zambia's big challenge in managing waste, which affects the well-being of its people and the environment. Moreover, the project contributes to Finland's Africa strategy and development policy, which aim to strengthen and enhance Finland's presence and cooperation in Africa. The chosen project activities are in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) such as 4-quality education, 8-decent work and economic growth, and 11-sustainable cities. The main activities of the collaboration between Novia UAS and CBU around SEEB involve a joint course, workshops and mobility of staff and students both ways. In more detail, the two-year period includes: -mapping the connection of the partners' previous and current projects with the waste challenge theme -staff capacity building programme through needs assessment and mutual workshops -planning, design and implementation of a joint multidisciplinary course module, followed by assessment and suggestions for improvement, since the aim is to create an eligible course relevant to degree programmes of both HEIs, also accessible to a broader student audience -field visit of CBU to Finland in order to learn more about entrepreneurship approaches and participate in preparatory activities together with Novia UAS students and staff for an innovation camp taking place in Zambia towards end of project
Partners Copperbelt University (CBU)	

	-field visit of Novia UAS to Zambia to participate in the innovation camp. The expected outcomes of the project are: -improved institutional capacity to provide work-life relevant education for engineering students -strengthened students' and teachers' applied research and entrepreneurial skills -enhanced collaboration between academia and industry -increased awareness and understanding of global challenges and sustainable solutions -the incorporation of results into existing HEIs' curricula, courses and programs and -the promotion of qualities such as internationalization of the academic environment, culture of openness, diversity and global citizenship."
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