

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: Virtual Studies for Global Sustainable Development in Southern African collaboration	
Coordinator Itä-Suomen yliopisto Kaisa Kurki, kurkikai@uef.fi	The main objective of the project is to increase collaboration and develop joint Virtual Studies based on the Collaborative International Online Learning (COIL) methodology between 4 Finnish and 4 Southern African universities and two university networks in Southern Africa and Finland. The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) as a coordinator, Tampere University (TAU), the University of Oulu (UO) and the University of Turku (UTU) partner in this project with the following Southern African universities: the University of the Western Cape (UWC) as the co-coordinator, Durban University of Technology (DUT), Stellenbosch University (SU) and the University of Namibia (UNAM). All Finnish institutions are members of the university networks UniPID and SANORD, whereas the Southern African universities are members of SANORD. The Finnish University Partnership for International Development - UniPID is a network of ten Finnish universities with the aim of supporting its member institutions in advancing universities' global responsibility and bringing Global South perspectives into their education, research and societal impact activities. UniPID runs a Virtual Studies programme with 10-15 online Master-level courses of 5 ECTS offered annually, offering equal opportunities for students to learn about global development and sustainability, with a specific focus on Global South perspectives. For the past years, UniPID has encouraged teaching collaboration with Global South partner universities.
Partners University of the Western Cape, Durban University of Technology, Stellenbosch University, University of Namibia, University of Oulu, University of Turku, Tampere University	The Southern Africa-Nordic Centre is a network of Southern African and Nordic universities designed to further academic cooperation and to strengthen the capacity of all member institutions to address local and global challenges of innovation and development. It augments many bilateral agreements and collaborative projects between institutions in both regions. The proposed TFK project will allow the partnering institutions to co-create and co-implement modules in courses in the multidisciplinary field of global sustainable development. The topics of the courses are aligned with both networks' goals of addressing local and global challenges and development. Altogether 8 virtual courses will be developed and offered during the project period. Staff mobility between the partners is included in the project to facilitate the planning of the collaborative teaching. Southern African partners' staff members are hosted by the Finnish partner universities for creating teaching and learning material. The project includes a professional development component to introduce the methodology of collaborative online international learning and build the capacity of the teaching staff to undertake COIL projects. Dissemination of the results and plans for scaling up serve to increase the impact of the enhanced

	understanding of the interconnected nature of global and local sustainable development, focusing on South-South collaboration and historically disadvantaged institutions.
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