Asia Programme for HE Education Cooperation
Call 2019

Sofia Lähdeniemi,
EDUFI
Asia Programme from 2012 to present

- 2007-2012 Asia Network programme for teacher exchange
- Evaluation in 2011; HEIs & funded projects were being consulted on their needs for future funding instruments
- The first Call in 2012, targeting **China**
- In 2015 **India** was added
- In 2017 & 2018 a complete change to new target countries: **Japan & South Korea**
- In 2019: **China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**
Asia Programme, essentials

- **A network programme**, providing funding for projects concerning **education cooperation** between **higher education institutions** or their units/departments in Finland and Asia.

- The target countries may vary annually per call.

- The intention of the programme funding is to function as **seed fund**, which permits launching of **first-stage promising or innovative initiatives** between the HEIs in Finland and Asia.

- It is hoped that the projects will create **new kinds of openings** or **operational models** for inter-country collaboration.
Asia Programme, basics

- Open to all disciplines
- In addition to HEIs, partners may also include other actors, such as enterprises, public or private organizations etc.
- Projects may aim for education cooperation at one or more different degree levels (first cycle, second cycle and/or doctoral studies)

For following forms of educational cooperation:

- Joint study modules / courses
- Curriculum development
- Joint/double degrees
- Collaboration with the world of work
- Mobility initiatives (teacher, personnel, student and/or trainee mobility)
Asia Programme, Funding

• The programme budget varies annually, in 2019: EUR 500 000
• Max. grant for an individual project is EUR 50 000
• The number of applied projects varies depending on the funding applied, individual project budgets vary from 15000 – 50000€

• Previous Calls:
  • 2012: 330 000€ / 8 projects for China
  • 2013: 300 000€ / 8 projects for China
  • 2014: 422 000€ / 10 projects for China
  • 2015: 575 000€ / 14 projects for China & 220 000€ / 5 projects for India
  • 2016: 305 000€ / 8 projects for China & 170 000€ / 4 projects for India
  • 2017: 500 000€ / 7 projects for Japan & 4 projects South Korea
  • 2018: 500 000€ / 6 projects for Japan & 2 projects South Korea
**Principles of Project Funding**

- **100% of the total project costs must be related to travel** between Finland and Asia.
  - 2012-2015 projects needed to allocate self-financing of 20%, but since 2016 this term was removed = currently **no requirement for self-financing**

- It will be seen as added value, if the Asian partners contribute to the funding of the project.
  - The financial contribution of Asian partners may mean for example, covering the travel expenses of their own students or personnel, or that the partners take care of the seminar- or event expenses that occur in Asia.
  - The self-financing by the Asian partners must be indicated by the partner institutions in the letters of endorsements that are an attachment to the grant application. The realised self-financing must be reported in the final report.

- **More in-depth cooperation within the Finnish parties** is emphasized and therefore the maximum amount of financing can only be given to applications, where several Finnish HEI’s are cooperating in the project.
Funding, mobility costs

• 100% of the total project budget must be related to costs resulting from travel and subsistence (travel costs/grants)

• These costs are incurred by the travel/exchanges between Finland and the target country by higher education students, postgraduate students and/or teaching or other staff.

• The application form (project plan & VA-järjestelmä) include an estimated number of journeys taken within the scope of the project, as well as an estimate of the costs. The Project Plan also itemises the travel costs and how they are to be reimbursed to the travellers.

• Permissible as travel costs are costs related to the travel, e.g. trips, accommodation, travel agency costs, visas, insurance and possible subsistence allowances (myös päivärahat) – not, however, wages or salaries for the duration of the mobility.

• The travel/mobility must be justified and cost-effective.

• It is recommendable to set the grants for first- and second cycle students at the same level as they are normally in the participating HEIs for student exchanges to similar countries.