TFK-ohjelmasta 2021 tuetut hankkeet

TFK programme funded projects 2021

Project title: Approaches to Digital Language Typology	
Coordinator **University of Helsinki** **Juraj Simko** **juraj.simko@helsinki.fi**	The project aims at designing a joint teaching initiative of three universities in three different countries. The University of Helsinki (UH), the Saint Petersburg State University (SPbU) and the Indian Institute of Technology in Guwahati (IITG) have conducted research in application of machine learning techniques to language typology. The core aim of the project is to design a joint graduate level module "Approaches to Digital Language Typology" pioneering the inclusion of this highly topical approach in the educational setting. The module will be taught by the teachers involved in the project from all three institutions, and will be made available as an open course in the future.
Partners St Petersburg University , Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	The current educational structure provides very little overlap between humanities and technology. The recent development of digital data processing techniques, including machine learning has opened novel avenues for addressing scientific questions formulated within humanistic disciplines. The students of technology, however, are not made aware of the vast richness of scientific questions generated by humanistic research, while the students of humanities are not exposed to possibilities that the recent advances in machine learning open up for their future research. The present teaching program is designed to contribute to bridging this educational gap. The UH international MA Programme in Linguistic Diversity and Digital Humanities aims at introducing digital methods to linguistic enquiries. In an MA program, SPbU provides a module on interaction between Phonetics and Speech Technology. IITG conducts research on modeling of phonetic features in under-resourced languages, and provides courses on typological features of less-researched languages.

	The funding will be used for a coordinated preparation of the joint study unit, and executing a three-semester long pilot sequence of courses with the possibility of students from all three institutions to physically participate in courses and field work in the three institutions, and for collecting material for the development and realisation of a future open digital teaching module.
	The project will be executed in three phases, two of which will be funded by this programme. The first phase involves preparation of teaching and assessment materials, and practicalities of mobility. Also the curriculum structure of the three partnering institutions will be investigated and Memoranda of Understandings will be sought among the three institutions. The following phase will initiate three semesters of pilot teaching and collection of materials for the future stages that will implement the programme in a MOOC form available for the students worldwide.
	During the course development, a strong focus will be on international and cross-disciplinary collaboration among the participating students, scientific awareness of relevant questions and available technological tools, as well as on sustainability issues related to endangered languages.