**Project title:** Arctic & Cerrado Online Training

**Coordinator**

Oulun Yliopisto

Eija-Riitta Niinikoski, eija-riitta.niinikoski@oulu.fi

In the Arctic and Cerrado Online Training (ACOT) project arctic attitude meets Latin American culture as two Finnish higher education institutions (HEIs) and a Brazilian university located in the Cerrado area combine their expertise and expand collaboration in research into education, and design new models for cooperation. University of Oulu (UO), Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OUAS) and Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU) have a basis for the educational cooperation in the trust, that has been built already in the research collaboration.

The main target is to establish a sustaining and long-term educational cooperation model including Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels. This will be done by the activities of the ACOT project, that are 1) creating and piloting four online courses, 2) staff mobility, 3) joint development for a new educational collaboration model and 4) project management, evaluation, communication and marketing.

The online courses, that will be created and piloted are Managing International Teams and Projects, Branding for SMEs in different regions, Academic Entrepreneurship and Managing Sustainability through Responsible Leadership. After the project the courses will be online, scalable and offered in a continuous learning mode.

The aim is to offer the courses as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) providing a platform for many people to pursue their education.

The staff mobility, exchange visits support co-designing and joint development of online courses. During the visits educational material will also be gathered and produced. The visits help to understand current and future global challenges and to find solutions by research-based education. Personal meetings help to establish a virtual network for long-term cooperation.

The ACOT project presents opportunities for students of the partner HEIs as they will be involved in the pilot courses and in the future also for students of other HEIs, who benefit from the MOOCs that will be available after the project.

The partners will have a transparent management structure and decision-making process that further builds and strengthens trust among multicultural partners. During the project shared expertise will be enhanced by co-learning, joint development and effective internal communication. These actions will support designing the new educational collaboration model and its implementation. In the new model, HEIs of different continents will be working together. It will also connect in a concrete way universities and a university of applied sciences. It can be scaled for other disciplines and other courses.

The ACOT communication plan includes partners’ administrative staff and teachers, educational ministries in both countries, and other HEIs about the results. During the project, the target audience of marketing are the students at bachelor, master & doctoral levels in the partner organizations.

The University of Oulu is the lead partner of the ACOT project.

**Partners**

Oulu University of Applied Sciences

Federal University of Uberlândia