

## TFK programme, funded projects 2022

<p><b>Project title:</b> Business and sustainable economic development: African and European perspectives</p>	
<p><b>Coordinator</b></p> <p>Itä-Suomen yliopisto</p> <p>Dmitry Zimin dmitry.zimin@uef.fi</p>	<p>The goal of our project is to develop a joint online academic course, titled “Business and sustainable economic development: African and European perspectives,” and introduce it into the curricula of the University of Eastern Fin-land (UEF) and six African partner HEIs. The purpose of this course is to give our students practical knowledge about contemporary economic development and business climate in the participant countries. Firstly, this knowledge should ignite keen interest towards Africa among our Finnish/European students: our course will make them aware of economic potential and business opportunities in the African countries, thus creating an incentive for the students to connect their future career paths with Africa. Secondly, our course will present Finland and the EU as a whole to African students – future economic decision-makers in their respective countries. Finland will be presented to them as an attractive destination for African investments, as an important business partner within the EU, and as a leading innovation center in certain fields. Thirdly, our course will have an “Africa-to-Africa” dimension: students from one participant African country will be able to learn about economic life in other participant African countries. Overall, the project’s long-term aim is to foster closer economic ties between Finland/EU and Africa, in line with goals of Fin-land’s Africa Strategy. The project is also aimed at cultivating long-term collaboration between faculty and students from participant HEIs.</p>
<p><b>Partners</b></p> <p>Botswana Open University, University of Mauritius, National University of Lesotho, University of Malawi, University of Seychelles, College of Business Education</p>	<p>Our project includes six activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiation of course structure among project partners and creation of course materials with subsequent discussion of the results at the project’s first workshop to be held in Helsinki.</li> <li>2. Inclusion of our course into the curricula of partner HEIs, delivering the course to students for the first time, and evaluation of their exam papers and feedback.</li> <li>3. Discussion of the project’s results at the second workshop to be held in Dar es Salaam and improvement of the course contents on the basis of feedback from students and lecturers.</li> <li>4. Launch of the Afro-European Student Business Network, aimed at promoting cooperation between African and Finnish/European students.</li> <li>5. Series of open seminars to foster cooperation between members of staff of participant HEIs.</li> </ol>

6. Implementation of the project's communication plan and invitation of new HEIs to join our project consortium.

The project's anticipated results are:

1. Our academic course is ready for teaching and included into the curricula of participant HEIs.
2. UEF has strengthened its cooperation with the Tanzanian College of Business Education and established cooperation with five new partners in Africa.
3. The Afro-European Student Business Network is fully operational, and students have started to use it.
4. In the long term, our project will contribute to the strengthening of Finland's economic and academic ties with Southern African countries.



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