

TFK programme, funded projects 2022

<p>Project title: Circular bio-economy: From concept to practice</p>	
<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Lapin Yliopisto</p> <p>Anna Stammer-Gossmann astammle@ulapland.fi</p>	<p>Cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) that serves and promotes working life and regional development has been in policy trend globally in recent years. The CIBIECO project aims to strengthen the partnership between HEIs in Finland and Argentina concerning the circular bio-economy. The concept of circular economy, which offers new ways to achieve more sustainable economic growth in its theoretical base and practical implementation, is still a field in its infancy. There are still many structural, legal and cost-related challenges to implementing this concept into the practice.</p> <p>Objectives. The proposed project focuses on four critical fronts: 1. Education: To develop and integrate a new field of study based on research and the needs of working life in a comparative context; 2. Knowledge exchange: To assess the knowledge transfer from concept to practice in both polar regions and identify best practices; 3. Working life cooperation: To enhance the co-production of knowledge between education and the regional enterprises; 4. Long-term partnership: To develop ideas for future educational and research activities.</p>
<p>Partners</p> <p>University of Lapland, Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi, Finland, Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kokkola, Finland, National University of Rio Cuarto, Argentina, National University of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands,</p>	<p>Activities. The project will achieve these objectives by developing a joint intensive course on circular bio-economy and integrating the issue of circularity into the Arctic Studies Programme (ASP) curriculum at the University of Lapland (UoL); through students and staff mobility; organizing workshops in cooperation with the partner enterprises in both countries; launching a project photo exhibition in the Science Centre Exhibition to increase the public awareness to the issue of circularity.</p> <p>The anticipated results. Development of a new thematic field in education and realization of a virtual intensive course based on the present status of processes in circular bio-economy in Finland and Argentina will enrich curricula of involved HEIs and promote the ideas of circularity. Integration of the course materials into the ASP that broadly approaches international students' audience will support the steadily growing students' interest in the Arctic issues and contribute to the quality of the teaching with a spatially and contextually broader context.</p>

The cooperation between Finnish and Argentinian institutions will advance universities' global responsibilities and strengthen their response to global challenges. Sharing the expertise and experiences from local practices within the proposed partnership will contribute to answering specific questions related to circularity and bio-economy in these two regional contexts.

Particularities of two polar regions also exemplify more general trends in the management of natural resources that are important for regional processes and issues of sustainability at large. Regardless of geographical and cultural boundaries, future studies on circularity could apply the project results in their theoretical and practical framing.



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