

TFK programme, funded projects 2023

Project title: Finland Southern Africa Midwifery Education	
<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Ab Yrkeshögskolan vid Åbo Akademi</p> <p>Anita Wikberg, anita.wikberg@novia.fi</p>	<p>The overall focus of the cooperation is on high-risk pregnancy and maternal mental health, to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality, and increase well-being and health of infants and mothers in all three countries. In Zambia and South Africa, maternal mortality (pregnancy, delivery or post-partum) and perinatal mortality (born dead or within the first week) are high and both regions face challenges in this matter. Finland has one of the lowest maternity and child mortality rates in the world and education is playing an important part in achieving this. Furthermore, the country is known for its successful welfare system and its quality education system with innovative pedagogical approaches, such as for instance the active use of simulation in education. Finland is becoming culturally more diverse and educational institutions need to prepare students to work in an intercultural way. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen global competences by for instance expanding the partnerships for education in health outside the comfort zone of Nordic and European countries. The aim of the project is to enhance students' and teachers' global knowledge and competences and intercultural skills through knowledge sharing in education practices.</p>
<p>Partners</p> <p>University of Zambia</p> <p>University of Venda</p>	<p>Teachers learn from each other through comparisons of teaching methods, curriculum and learning objectives, as well as course co-creation where experts from Finland, Zambia and South Africa bring in their expertise from different cultural backgrounds and practices. The project covers topics mainly in the field of midwifery; however, it includes students and teachers from public health care and nursing education.</p> <p>The project will consist of a kick-off event, online courses and workshops, production of online/digital/virtual educational materials, student and staff exchange, including study visits, lectures and practice, as well as a disseminating event. Expected results from this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved competences in virtual/digital teaching. • Enhanced understanding of different and good practices in the field of midwifery, public health care and nursing education. • Improved knowledge among teachers and students on high-risk pregnancy and maternal mental health, intercultural midwifery competences and health care systems. • Indirectly through education of professionals, partner HEIs contribute in the long term to the improvement of maternity and perinatal mortality in all three countries. • Improved/renewed curricula and teaching methods and models. • Improved cultural competences, intercultural collaboration and communication, especially for students. • Identifying potential to further deepen cooperation after the project is finished: apply for other funding (Erasmus global/ Erasmus+ etc.) to continue with common online courses, practice, mobility exchange, supervision of thesis, research and possible recruiting of students, teachers and experts.

