The creation of new textile materials capable of interacting with environmental conditions and the human body has contributed to the growing field of smart-textiles and wearable technologies. The use of this novel material technologies combined with data science and design, has proven to be successful for the creation of smart garments with a potential use in a wide range of fields such as healthcare, sports, performance, training, and games among others. Collaboration between schools and between countries will enhance the development of innovative projects that target both the potential of the field but also its challenges.

Therefore, this project’s aim is to facilitate a joint educational program to discipline trainees in Finland and Chile in the field of Smart Wearables. We aim at strengthening the education collaboration between two higher education institutes (HEIs), Aalto University and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, through student/staff mobility and joint teaching activities in this project. This project will bring together these two universities’ competencies in industrial and textile design, electrical engineering, smart materials and AI together with human-centered design and data-driven methods to create an environment for high-quality teaching and learning. It will also provide opportunities for students from distant universities to work together on imagining the future of smart wearables considering situated knowledge, different cultural, economic and social contexts, and the potential of local materials.

This project will start in Aug.2022 and end in Dec. 2024. During this period, the activities of the project are threefold: i) student mobility, ii) joint course, and iii) dissemination events. The HEIs will play an active role in conducting research on disruptive technologies, in creating instructional materials in cutting-edge domains, and in developing the joint curriculum and deep knowledge in partner-specific areas.

The tangible results of this project will include mainly joint courses, student dissertations, and beyond this project, potentially joint proposals for international collaborative research funding and double degree schemes. Such solid expectations on the planned activities/results of the project and even the feasible next step after this project will strengthen the ongoing partnership of the involved HEIs who will establish collaboration on common interest.

Finally, no similar programs are being done connecting these countries and universities related to this particular field, therefore there is great potential to explore new collaborations that could later be expanded to more Latin-American countries.