TFK Program with Southern Africa

Advisory webinar

Iina Soiri
TFK Expert

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Why Southern Africa?

➢ The future continent – resilient, innovative, globally relevant!
➢ Large and diverse area – 16 SADC countries + Burundi and Rwanda
➢ Countries and HEIs are different, but they are also neighbors and used to cooperate with each other (triparty cooperation welcome)
➢ Finland has a lot of past and current cooperation
➢ 13 TFK partnerships were funded in 2022 (see map)
Why Southern Africa 2?

➢ Africa’s share of global research has grown from 1 % to 3 % - and still growing
➢ South Africa is the engine of the region, undergone an amazing transformation since 1994 – but still suffering from higher education inequality. There is a lot of competition for HEIs!
➢ Mapping of South African cooperation & links with Finnish HEIs have been updated – the matrix can be shared upon request
➢ All Finnish embassies – Dar es Salaam, Lusaka, Maputo, Pretoria, Windhoek (+Angola) - have focus in education and science
➢ Embassies have been informed on the program and very willing to help with local contacts and information
PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

➢ Continue the old vs. create some new – both welcome!
➢ Planning and co-creating together – new ideas and forms
➢ Be responsive to the initiatives from African HEIs
➢ Include less known, lower ranked potential smaller HEIs in your consortium – addresses inequality
➢ Which disciplines? Varies between countries, often linked to productive industries and historical strengths
➢ Fairness and equality – something for everyone – quality first!
➢ Local contribution a must (at least on my opinion)
➢ Aim from individual to institutional partnership
➢ African time – patiencia!
FORMS OF COOPERATION – SOME ADVICE

• Joint study units & courses
  – *Listen to the partners’ needs, suggest and adapt your ideas*

• Digital/virtual teaching
  – *Rapid development in this area on-going, remember infrastructural and connectivity challenges (price of data)*

• Curriculum cooperation
  – *Curricula in the region are constantly moving, but changing them might involve heavy bureaucracy (approval processes)*
FORMS OF COOPERATION – SOME ADVICE continues

- Joint/double degrees
  - Discuss with your partner/s, find out how the process works
- Mobility of students & staff
  - Most popular and welcome component, especially for post-graduates (Doctoral production varies a lot in the region). Apply fairness!
- Working life cooperation
  - A new very topical theme with many HEIs – linked to changes in curricula
Good luck!

Questions?

iina.soiri@formin.fi