

TFK programme, funded projects 2022

<p>Project title: Pedagogics of biodiversity and environmental sustainability</p>	
<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Turun yliopisto</p> <p>Annika Saarto annika.saarto@utu.fi</p>	<p>Biodiversity loss and unsustainability are global challenges we face and they need to be solved in transdisciplinary, transnational collaboration. The overall educational need of this partnership is for future professional teachers, educators and environmental experts to gain transdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of dynamics related to biodiversity and sustainability, and how to apply this knowledge in the society with diverse pedagogical methods. We will achieve this by creating and piloting new collaborations among two Finnish and two southern African HEIs: University of Turku (UTU), Humak University of Applied Sciences (HUMAK), Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), and University of Namibia (UNAM).</p> <p>There are four main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening selected, mostly online courses to be available for students across the partnership. 3-6 courses per partner, corresponding to a total of 48 ECTS (4*12 ECTS) at the minimum. The selected courses deal with the themes of the project. 2. Piloting an intensive course where transdisciplinary, transnational student teams work to carry out a pedagogically embedded assignment where they apply their sustainability knowledge into practice. The course includes short mobilities in the 3 target countries. Mobility of teachers is integrated here and will serve as an opportunity for sharing knowledge, supporting the student teams, and planning further collaboration. 3. Producing jointly a series of online lectures and packaging them in the form of seminar/workshop sessions to be used as part of teaching during and after the project. 4. Making a roadmap for future collaboration after careful evaluation of this pilot. <p>As a result of the project, we will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - piloted collaboration in joint study modules and courses, including an intensive practical course for transnational, transdisciplinary student teams -carried out short term student and staff mobilities between Finland, Namibia and Botswana - exchanged knowledge, experiences and best practices online and through mobility
<p>Partners</p> <p>Humak University of Applied Sciences, University of Namibia, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	

- produced an online series of lectures, dealing with themes of sustainability, biodiversity and pedagogics and freely available online after the project's end
- evaluated and prepared a roadmap for future educational collaboration among the four HEIs, including the possibility to intensify the collaboration towards partly joined curricula

The results will support internationalization of students and staff of the 4 universities, both during the project (people involved in project activities) and afterwards, as the gained experiences and results are taken into use in future education activities and other HEIs are encouraged to apply similar methodologies. The project will offer academic and experiential exposure for students and will help them acquire practical research and community engagement skills. This pilot project is a first step in developing future strategic collaboration among the four HEIs.



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