

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

<p>Project title: Playful learning pedagogy in early childhood education and care: co-designed and co-taught blended intensive course by Finnish and Chinese universities</p>	
<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Helsingin Yliopisto</p> <p>Shuanghong Jenny Niu, jenny.niu@helsinki.fi</p>	<p>The project aims to facilitate cross-cultural collaboration between Finnish and Chinese teacher education students and educators in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). It involves a combination of online collaboration and a two-week onsite intensive course at Beijing Normal University (BNU) in China in 2024, and a similar course in Finland in 2026, hosted by the University of Helsinki (UH), University of Turku (UTU), and University of Oulu (UO). In the course ECEC teacher education students will learn and practice playful learning pedagogies in multicultural teams.</p> <p>The intensive course is preceded by a one-month virtual preparation phase participated by Finnish and Chinese teacher education students and educators. Onsite, teacher educators from both countries will teach students and guide their practice at university-affiliated ECEC centers, where implement playful learning pedagogies in a natural environment. The project participants are ECEC teacher education students, which is a group underrepresented in international mobility. By creating new kinds of mobility opportunities, the project will increase the international mobility figures of teacher education students in the participating HEIs.</p>
<p>Partners</p> <p>Beijing Normal University, China, University of Turku, University of Oulu</p>	<p>The cooperation in this project is based on the foundation of existing institutional partnerships between the involved higher education institutions (HEIs) within the Sino-Finnish Joint Learning Innovation Institute (JoLII) and Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning (GINTL) initiatives. In addition to promoting international mobility and intercultural competence, the project enhances students' skills in implementing playful learning pedagogies. This aligns with ECEC curriculum guidelines in both countries. ECEC plays a foundational role in children's learning and development, as recognized by the OECD (2021). This project emphasizes the importance of playfulness in ECEC as play has an essential role for children to explore, discover, and acquire new knowledge.</p> <p>In Finnish and Chinese ECEC, there is a well-established understanding of the interconnectedness between play, well-being, and learning. Recognizing the importance of playful learning, it becomes imperative to cultivate pedagogical skills in this domain early on, particularly during teacher education and teaching practice experiences. By equipping future educators with the tools and techniques necessary to facilitate playful</p>

learning, we empower ECEC teacher education students to create engaging and enriching environments where children can thrive and reach their full potential.

Glossary:

BNU = Beijing Normal University

ECEC = Early Childhood Education and Care

GINTL = Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning

HEI = higher education institution

JoLII = Sino-Finnish Joint Learning Innovation Institute

UH = University of Helsinki

UO = University of Oulu

UTU = University of Turku



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