TFK programme, funded projects 2023

Project title: Wind-power to Hydrogen Interregional Synergies in Education and Research

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In February 2023, the Finnish government adopted a resolution with the aim of becoming the European leader in the entire value chain of the hydrogen economy, with the capacity to produce at least 10% of EU's emission free hydrogen in 2030. In line with the Chilean hydrogen strategy published in 2020, the Magallanes region aspires to become one of the world's new green hydrogen hubs, as a pioneer in the green hydrogen economy in the entire range of the power-to-fuels concept.

The project aims to create a new operation model between HEIs in Magallanes, Chile, and Ostrobothnia, Finland, exchanging experiences and learning from each other. The project activities are structured around the following focus areas i) a joint course; ii) working life collaboration; and iii) mobility. Through the design and pilot implementation of a course on wind energy and green hydrogen the objective is to increase knowledge and technical capacities to support the development of the hydrogen economy in both regions. International cooperation is essential to accelerate the development of the green transition. Enough and qualified workforce is a joint future challenge of the regions. Besides its input to RDI and its role as an educator, HEIs also have a role showing that there are interesting developments in the region for future professionals to highlight opportunities that the changes bring to the general public and to recent graduates. The experience will be followed up by the project team to consider the possibility of integrating lessons learnt in an updated version of the joint course including new experiences to share.

Each HEI's position and profile is strengthened as result of international networking opportunities and cooperation, adding a cross-cultural dimension to the learning also beyond the core project team. Latin America is becoming a more important partner of Finland also in terms of business, the number of Finnish subsidiaries in Latin America grew from 180 to 220 over the past five years. This adds to the importance for future professionals in Finland to know more about the region, to gain cultural competence and language skills. This project aims to increase the interest for international collaboration among both staff and students. The solutions for a future with more renewable energy are developed at a global level. In both regions, students, academics and alumni are mostly unaware of the developments in each other's region/country, in regard to the sudden and large investments in wind energy and green hydrogen. All three HEIs will actively participate in, arrange and involve relevant staff and stakeholders in planned activities on jointly agreed topics, for instance, in the online co-creation workshops and onsite seminars. All partners will have the opportunity to participate in mobility between Chile and Finland, learning how collaboration with stakeholders and development of the hydrogen industry has evolved.

