

University of Turku – Co-operation **with** Africa

Strategic examples: *UNAM/Namibia*
Resilience Academy/Tanzania, UNECA

Rector Jukka Kola

3.6.2020



**UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU**

Why Namibia?

- Growing middle class → **increasing investment in education** in Namibia
- Stable country with a low level of corruption → good entry point to African market
- Long common history Finland-Namibia → mutual trust and sustainable co-operation
- University of Turku (UTU) & University of Namibia (UNAM) have a long background in academic cooperation
- UNAM is a multidisciplinary university committed to co-operation
- Expected outcomes: research & education initiatives, mobility, competence of staff...
- Serves and implements UTU's strategic goals in **global responsibility**

UTU in Namibia

- **Strategic partnership agreement** on academic co-operation in education, research and development (4/2019)
- Previous activities e.g.:
 - Development of a training programme in dentistry
 - Bachelor's degree studies in teacher education
- Ongoing activities e.g.:
 - **Carbon Garden** reforestation project in Northern Namibia
 - History project on the 150 years of Finnish-Namibian relations
 - Research Academy – supervision and mentorship programme
 - Master's Degree Programme in **Software Engineering**
- Planned activities e.g.:
 - HEI ICI Innovation Diffusion for Healthy, Prolific and **Smart Countryside** 4/2020
 - Intra-Africa **Academic Mobility** Scheme 5/2020

UTU and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

- **Memorandum of Understanding (3/2019)**
 - to promote the development of research, science, technology, innovations, decision-making and skills
 - focus on SDG 9 to advance Africa's sustainable industry, innovations and infrastructures
 - as a consequence, UTU signed a MoU with the Nigerian governmental TET-FUND to implement UNECA's goals
- **Ongoing activities**
 - High-level visits and discussions of co-operation (UNECA, Nigerian Minister of Education)
 - UNECA and UTU jointly applied for funding from the MasterCard Foundation to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in Africa
 - UNECA invited UTU and Finland to participate in the UNECA Innovation Challenge for COVID-19
 - UTU participates in the Business Finland co-creation project application aiming at the development of the Nigerian maritime cluster
 - UNECA encourages Finland and UTU to establish a network 'Africa-Finland Innovation Platform for SDG9'

Tanzania Resilience Academy

- RA uses open, affordable and locally adaptable tools and technologies, with participatory mapping approaches to make **learning widely accessible**
- Access to digital data sets is a pre-requisite for understanding risks and developing evidence-based solutions for **resilient urban development**
- RA builds online learning materials and courses to educate the youth with relevant geospatial and **risk management skills and competences**
- Hundreds of students placed annually for industrial training to collect risk data through **community mapping methods**

Ardhi University (ARU)
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)
State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)
Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)
University of Turku (UTU, Finland)

Led by **four Tanzanian universities in coordination with the University of Turku**



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU

UNIVERSITY
OF TWENTE.



TU Delft
Delft University of
Technology



WORLD BANK GROUP

Resilience Academy services



Resilience
Academy

1

Climate Risk Database (CRD) with open access geospatial risk information of cities

SDG 4

QUALITY
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

2

Online, open access learning materials and courses for skills development

3

Student internship and industrial training services

SDG 11

INCLUSIVE
SAFE
RESILIENT

4

Research and innovations on geospatial data and climate resilience

Resilience Academy trains young people with **tools, knowledge, and skills** to address the world's most pressing urban challenges and to discover solutions **for resilient urban development**

<https://resilienceacademy.ac.tz/>





**UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU**