

# Africa-related Strategies in Finnish Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences



FAPU

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# Main results

- In general, in the strategies of Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences Africa is not mentioned .
- in their strategies, almost all universities place emphasis on internationalization and sustainable development.
- Despite not having Africa visibly in strategies, many universities cooperate in Africa.
- The University of Helsinki's Africa program is the first comprehensive action program on Africa in Finnish universities.
- The target of this Africa program is to establish sustainable and long-term cooperation having science, research and learning are the most important goals.
- In the focus of the University of Turku's strategy are internationalization, sustainable development and impact on changing world.
- Cooperation with Africa could be more prominently present and concrete in universities strategies, and in programs related to strategies.
- Universities' could profile themselves more clearly in their strategies towards Africa.



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# Strategies of other Finnish universities

**University of Oulu**  
Target: to strengthen  
internationality

**University of Lapland**  
Target: internationality  
and sustainability

**University of Vaasa**  
Target:  
internationalization  
and sustainable  
development

**University of  
Jyväskylä**  
Target:  
Internationality

**University of Eastern  
Finland**  
Target: Sustainable  
development and future

**University of Arts**  
Target: Global  
cooperation and  
sustainable world

**University of Helsinki**  
Target:  
internationalization,  
sustainability and  
global action

**University of Turku**  
Target:  
internationalization,  
Sustainable Development,  
networking and  
innovations

**University of Tampere**  
Internationality

**LUT strategy 2030**  
Target: Sustainable  
development and  
growth

**Aalto university**  
Target: Sustainable  
development and future

**Hanken strategy 2030**  
Target: Internationality  
and sustainability

# Africa-related cooperation in Finnish universities 1/2

- Global pilots funded by Ministry of Education and Culture (FAPI, GINTL, SAFINET, EDUCASE)
  - How to get all parties work for common goals?
  - Do global pilots exclude opportunities from researchers outside them?
- Universities are also competing between each other.
  - Joint goals versus their own goals.
  - Possibilities of efficient cooperation and division of labour in Africa-related matters.
- Broader cooperation locally and globally is needed to raise more prominent supplementary international funding.
- Africa-related university network to create a common national strategy.

# Africa-related cooperation in Finnish universities 2/2

- Existing network and knowledge have to be used efficiently.
- University of Turku (Namibia, Tanzania)
- University of Helsinki (Kenya, South Africa)
- Would it be more efficient to focus on certain countries or broadly to the whole African continent?
- Should one use existing contacts in Africa or to create new connections to new operators in Africa?

# University of Helsinki

## Africa Program backgrounds

- The strategy of the University of Helsinki focuses on **strong global impact**.
- The Africa program was created to strengthen this objective.
- Cooperation between universities has been very **Europe-oriented**.
  - Universities from Africa are wanted to have a more intense cooperation.
- Cooperation has been *project-oriented and rather fragmented in the past*.
  - The aim is to create **sustainable and long-lasting** cooperation.
- The University of Helsinki works as strategic **forerunner** in Finland in Africa-related actions with the help of the Africa program.

# University of Helsinki

## How the Africa program started



- 1. Mapping the actions related to Africa:
  - Researchers, projects, cooperation, study supply ...
- 2. Analysis:
  - Which parts of Africa the cooperation focused on, the scale of cooperation, what kind of research is emphasized...
- 3. Supporting and networking Africa researchers and operators

# University of Helsinki

## Main goals of the Africa program

- ✓ **Multidisciplinary**
- ✓ **Science, research and learning**
- ✓ **Openness, connectivity and inclusion**
- ✓ **Different expertise-clusters**



# University of Helsinki

## Africa program Actions

- Collaborations with various stakeholders 2022→
- Increasing collaboration between Finnish universities.
- Increasing collaboration with African partners (especially Kenya, South Africa).
- Finnish→ Nordic→ European→ Global cooperation
- Networking
  - webinars, e-mailing lists, annual Africa day etc.

# University of Turku

## International affairs

- The University of Turku has a long tradition to cooperate with Africa
  - Especially Namibia and Tanzania
  - Campus at the University of Namibia
- Strategy of University of Turku focuses on internationalization and sustainable development.
  - Internationalization is the main focus on the Strategy-2030 at the University of Turku everywhere at the university.
  - Creating innovations is one of the main emphasis of internationalization.
- The University of Turku coordinates the Finnish-Africa Platform for Innovation, SDG9 (FAPI) network.

*"The University of Tutku is currently one of the most active Nordic universities in Africa"*

Kalervo Väänänen (2019)

# International Programme of the University of Turku for 2021-2030

- Guidelines of the International Programme of the University of Turku
  - Ensuring internationally high quality research and education
  - Ensuring the attractiveness of the university
  - Strengthening responsible and sustainable partnerships
  - Strengthening community and multiculturalism
- Africa-related part of the international program was in preparation in late 2021.
- Actions in Africa:
  - Global South desk service
    - Increasing project funding for African cooperation.
  - African guidelines
    - Multidisciplinary research, education and innovation cooperation and mutual know-how.

# Universities of Applied Sciences with International Strategies

## **Turku University of Applied Sciences**

- Collaborating in different development projects in Africa

## **Centria 2021-2024 (2030)**

- Increasing degree-studies especially in North Africa
- Internationalization and sustainable development

## **Tampere University of Applied Sciences**

- International partners
- Cooperation with other partners at the University of Tampere
- Increase internationality

## **HAMK**

- Africa Action Plan 2020-2030

# Other Strategies at Universities of Applied Sciences

## **Savonia, Partnering sustainable growth (2021-2030)**

- Focusing strongly in internationalization
- United Nations SDGs
- Sustainable development and growth

## **Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences**

- Do not mention Africa in the strategy but:
- in Ethiopia, Nepal and Mozambique teacher education for 3.8 million euros (2020-2024)
- Mozambique, TEPATE (Theory-Practice Balance in Teacher Education) projekti
- Ethiopia, MOPEDE (Capacity Building for Modernizing TVET Pedagogy)



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