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

FAPI
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 as 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.
Strategies of other Finnish universities

University of Oulu
Target: to strengthen internationality

University of Lapland
Target: internationality and sustainability

University of Eastern Finland
Target: Sustainable development and future

University of Arts
Target: Global cooperation and sustainable world

University of Vaasa
Target: Internationalization and sustainable development

Hanken strategy 2030
Target: Internationality

University of Turku
Target: Internationalization, Sustainable Development, networking and innovations

LUT strategy 2030
Target: Sustainable development and growth

University of Helsinki
Target: Internationalization, sustainability and global action

Hanken strategy 2030
Target: Internationality and sustainability

University of Vaasa
Target: Internationalization and sustainable development

University of Turku
Target: Internationalization, Sustainable Development, networking and innovations

Aalto university
Target: Sustainable development and future

University of Helsinki
Target: Internationalization, sustainability and global action

University of Vaasa
Target: Internationalization and sustainable development

University of Turku
Target: Internationalization, Sustainable Development, networking and innovations
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

Tampere University of Applied Sciences

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

Centria 2021-2024 (2030)

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

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)