UFISA
User Centered Design for Innovative Services and Applications

North-South-South programme

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UFISA project

• Facilitating the development of joint teaching and research activities between universities in Finland and in Southern Africa
• The project focuses on an important multi-disciplinary area of education and development: user centered design of ICT services for different communities
• UFISA network partners:
  • Aalto University School of Science (coordinating institution) - Finland
  • University of Lapland - Finland
  • Laurea University of Applied Sciences - Finland
  • Namibia University of Science and Technology (former Polyt of Namibia)
  • University of Botswana
  • Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa
UFISA partners on the map
UFISA is part of the North-South-South (NSS) programme

- NSS opens up opportunities for cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) in Finland and developing countries, mainly in Africa
- Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, administered by CIMO (Center for International Mobility)
  - NSS programme started in 2004 and it is mainly focused on reciprocal student and teacher exchange
- The programme is based on networks between HEIs in Finland and South
UFISA funding and activities

• UFISA first project funding period 1.6.2012 – 31.8.2014, 96 432 €

• UFISA second funding period for 1.6.2014 – 31.12.2015: 78 300 €
  – Activities divided into five key areas:
    • Network meetings
    • Student mobility
    • Teacher mobility
    • Intensive courses
    • Dissemination measures
  – Main focus is on student and teacher mobility
UFISA project activities

2) 1.6.2014-31.12.2015

- 4 network meetings (Aalto, CPUT, Univ of Lapland, NUST) + skypemeetings
- 19 students in exchange
  - 10 outgoing from Finland to South (CPUT, UB, NUST)
  - 9 incoming from South to Finland (Aalto, Laurea, Univ of Lapland)
- 12 teachers in exchange
  - 6 outgoing from Finland to South (CPUT, UB, NUST)
  - 6 incoming from South to Finland (Aalto, Laurea, Univ of Lapland)
UFISA project activities
2) 1.6.2014-31.12.2015

• 3 intensive courses:
  – I UFISA IC at CPUT, South Africa, 27.5.-7.6.2013: ”Community-driven co-creation“ - 5 ECTS
  – II UFISA IC at University of Botswana, 10.-21.3.2014: ”Service Design with the Community” – 5 ECTS
  – III UFISA IC at Namibia University of Science and Technology:
    3-17.10.2014: Live Design, Transform Life -

The overall number of participants:
• I UFISA IC: 14 students, 7 teachers
• II UFISA IC: 15 students, 7 teachers
• III UFISA IC: 11 students, 6 teachers
Network meeting at CPUT and at University of Lapland
Student mobility

- For full-time Bachelor and Master level students
- Usually one complete academic semester (4/5 months)
- Studies have to be fully recognized as part of the degree at the home university
- No tuition fees allowed
- Student mobility scholarship covered travels, residence permit, insurance and a monthly allowance of 800 € (incoming students to Finland) or 400 € (outgoing students to South)
Marketing of new exchange study opportunities
Teacher mobility

- For academic staff at the partner institutions
- Usually 2-3 weeks exchange
- Teachers offer teaching as part of the host institution’s curriculum for a minimum of 5 hours per week
- UFISA teacher mobility scholarship covered
  - *travels and accommodation costs, flat rate for living costs*
Prof Heike Winschiers-Theophilus from NUST, hosted by prof Marko Nieminen
Intensive courses

• A joint two-week course organized at one of the Southern partner institutions
• Teachers and students from all partner institutions, project covered travels, accommodation and meals
• Has to be fully credited for the participating students
• Aims at diversifying and improving the quality of education through generating new knowledge
Intensive course at CPUT 2013
Intensive course at University of Botswana 2014
Intensive course at Namibia University of Science and Technology 2014
Dissemination events

- CPUT: Open Design Festival 12.8.-28.8.2015
- Youth for Youth -promoting social innovation Day, NUST, 16.9.2015
- Department of Industrial Design and Technology Degree Show, University of Botswana, Gaborone, 23.-24.4.2015
- Ideas Expo Conference and Exhibition, University of Botswana, Gaborone, 4.-6.6.2015.
- Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower Northern Trade Fair, Francistown, 27-31.5.2015
Challenges in project implementation

- **Financial & practical issues**
  - High travel costs (flights approx 900-1000€)
  - self-funding needed for the mobility arrangements (residence permit, deposits for accommodation before arrival)
  - In Finland, high living costs (approx 600-800€/month), private accommodation expensive, shortage of student housing in autumn (Sept-Dec)

- **Administrative issues**
  - insurances, opening bank accounts in Finland, payment transactions from Finland to South partners

- **Student mobility**
  - different semester timing
  - courses
    - Aalto: bachelor-level courses in Finnish, Master-level courses in English
    - Course pre-requisites
    - Master-level studies: South: typically project work/ Finland: courses or special assignments max 10-15 ECTS to be agreed with professor
  - Credit transfer: not big problems if study plan accepted/revised by home university
Outcomes and new openings

- Increased knowledge of the Southern education system and the partner institutions, new contacts
- Joint teaching activities in intensive courses
- Developing best practices for cooperation
- Incoming mobility: a possibility to attract talented students and to increase awareness of Finnish universities among in the Southern universities
- Outgoing mobility: offering Finnish students a totally different experience and a chance to get to know Africa, a growing market for many businesses
Outcomes and new openings

- Creation of new courses and study modules, re-structuring courses to include service design components
- Joint research activities, joint publications and conference presentations
- Social impact: involvement of local communities into the intensive course implementation
  - Supporting the goals of the Finnish development policy
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