

# CAPACITY BUILDING IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Coordinator:** University of Oulu, Finland

**Partners:** University of Namibia, Windhoek College of Education, University of Zambia, University of Cape Town, University of Dar es Salaam

**Study areas:** Education, Teacher Training

## What are the main aims of your network?

The main aim of the project is to ensure capacity building in teacher education and educational management between the University of Oulu and the selected institutions of higher education in Southern and Eastern Africa. The training of teachers is one of the pillars of sustainable development and national capacity building in any country in the world. Quality in teacher education for teaching future citizens will, in the long run, contribute to alleviation of poverty, promotion of equity, democracy, professionalism, ethical conduct and good governance. In order to reach the goals, attention is paid to the contents and structures of education as well as to gender equity and the challenges and development of multicultural societies. This project also aims at exchanging best practices in teacher training and development.

In addition to improving the quality of teacher education, the project seeks to stimulate international understanding and cooperation in and through the participating institutions. Furthermore, one goal is to improve skills in educational leadership and management in order to contribute to the development of good governance, which has been seen as one of the major issues in Finland's development policy programme.

## What kind of activities are there in your network?

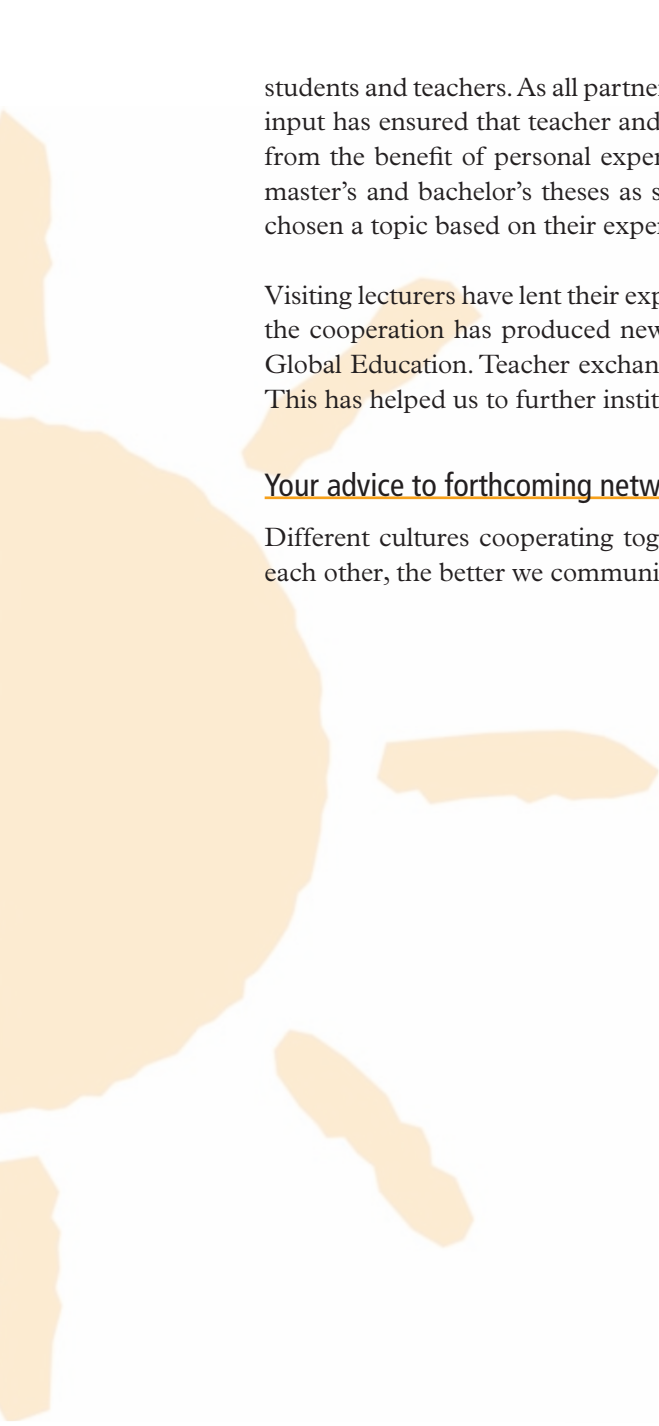
The network activities include student and teacher exchange and expert collaboration. The activities are related to undergraduate and graduate university studies as well as academic teaching and research collaboration.

The length of the cooperation between the network universities varies. Cooperation between the University of Oulu and the Namibian institutions (University of Namibia and Windhoek College of Education) has already a rather long history whereas links with the University of Zambia and University of Cape Town were specifically established within the North-South programme in autumn 2004. University of Dar es Salaam was contacted during the initial preparations for the application for the North-South-South programme, but by using already existing connections within the project.

## What sort of successes and challenges have you encountered during your project?

The network has successfully started and continued the mobility between the institutions with





students and teachers. As all partner institutions have been committed to the network, their work input has ensured that teacher and student exchanges have been positive experiences. Besides from the benefit of personal experience, mobility has produced visible results in the form of master's and bachelor's theses as students have conducted research during their exchange or chosen a topic based on their experience.

Visiting lecturers have lent their expertise to the receiving institutions. In the University of Oulu, the cooperation has produced new course content such as Education and Development and Global Education. Teacher exchanges have also produced, as a by-product, research projects. This has helped us to further institutionalize the cooperation.

### Your advice to forthcoming networks

Different cultures cooperating together always face challenges, but the more we know about each other, the better we communicate and cooperate.

