

# DEVELOPMENT STUDIES NORTH–SOUTH

**Coordinator:** University of Helsinki, Finland

**Partners:** University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; University of Zambia, Zambia

**Study areas:** Social Sciences

## What are the main aims of your network?

The aim is to benefit both the coordinating institute and the partner universities through teacher exchange and intensive courses. The Institutes of Development Studies in Helsinki and Dar es Salaam aim at a deeper cooperation in terms of MA and PhD studies as well as research projects. The departments in Helsinki and University of Zambia are structuring an MA programme in Development Studies to supplement the already existing BA programme in Zambia.

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

The cooperation between University of Helsinki and southern partners began already in the 1980s in the form of research cooperation. During the past few years the cooperation has become more intensive through exchange contracts. The student exchange began in spring 2008 with one student going to Dar es Salaam. The first student from Dar es Salaam arrived in Helsinki in April 2008 and two more came in 2009. There have been several teacher exchanges, from all participating institutions. The first intensive course focused on non-governmental organisations, and took place in Dar es Salaam in August 2008. The second intensive course with the theme Alternative Approaches to Globalisation takes place in Lusaka in August 2009.

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

There is a common research project with the Institutes of Development Studies in Helsinki and Dar es Salaam. The master's programme in Development Studies is starting at the University of Zambia in 2009. The teacher exchange has offered the personnel in all institutions a great opportunity to learn about the working practices in a different academic culture.

The interest of both students and teachers towards the programme has been significant in all partner universities. There is definitely a demand for an exchange programme between the three countries.

## Your advice to forthcoming networks

Be aware that – especially at the beginning – the practical administration of the exchanges can be complicated for a small institute. Establishing clear structures and creating process descriptions is highly recommended and can help avoid much unnecessary last minute hassle. It also helps in creating smooth transitions with personnel changes at the institutions.

