



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

HEP Programme

The new Higher Education
Partnership Programme
2024-2026



What is the HEP Programme?

- Supports cooperation projects between HEIs in Finland and HEIs in partner countries to jointly strengthen and develop higher education
- Continuation to the HEI ICI Programme
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs finances the HEP programme from Finland's development cooperation funds
- The total budget of the HEP Programme 2024–2026 is 7.5 MEUR
- The expected impact: HEIs in the partner countries contribute to sustainable development by providing high-quality, inclusive and working-life relevant higher education

Key elements of the new programme

More equal partnership between HEIs in Finland and in developing countries

Strengthening of mutual learning between higher education institutions in developing countries

The funding model has also been changed to better reflect the principle of equal partnership

The mobility of staff and students is also a new element in the programme

HEP Call for Applications in February

- The Call for Applications will open in February (one-stage selection process) - the deadline will be in May 2023.
- Guidance for applicants will be offered through webinars in March/April 2023.
- The state grant for projects is a maximum of 700 000 euros.
 - If the Finnish HEI is partnering with another Finnish HEI *or* more than one HEI in a developing country, the state grant be a maximum of 1 100 000 euros.
- The number of projects to be financed is a maximum of 10 projects.

Eligible countries and themes

- Eligible partners are HEIs from the ODA eligible countries, paying due attention to Finnish partner countries and countries where Finland has other activities in the same sector.
- The themes of the HEP Programme are the following, and the projects would need to focus on at least one of them:
 - High-quality education of primary, secondary and vocational teachers (TVET)
 - Climate change, including energy transition and circular economy
 - Food security as enabler of sustainable development



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Thank you!

For any enquiries related to the HEP Call, please contact
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More information

<https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/hei-ici-programme>

