



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Asia Programme for HE Education Cooperation

Call 2019

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Asia Programme from 2012 to present

- 2007-2012 Asia Network programme for teacher exchange
- Evaluation in 2011; HEIs & funded projects were being consulted on their needs for future funding instruments
- The first Call in 2012, targeting **China**
- In 2015 **India** was added
- In 2017 & 2018 a complete change to new target countries: **Japan & South Korea**
- In 2019: **China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**

Asia Programme, essentials

- **A network programme**, providing funding for projects concerning **education cooperation** between **higher education institutions** or their units/departments in Finland and Asia
- The target countries may vary annually per call
- The intention of the programme funding is to function as **seed fund**, which permits launching of **first-stage promising or innovative initiatives** between the HEIs in Finland and Asia.
- It is hoped that the projects will create **new kinds of openings** or **operational models** for inter-country collaboration.

Asia Programme, basics

- Open to **all disciplines**
- In addition to HEIs, **partners may also include other actors**, such as enterprises, public or private organizations etc.
- Projects may aim for **education cooperation at one or more different degree levels** (first cycle, second cycle and/or doctoral studies)
- For following **forms of educational cooperation**:
 - Joint study modules / courses
 - Curriculum development
 - Joint/double degrees
 - Collaboration with the world of work
 - Mobility initiatives (teacher, personnel, student and/or trainee mobility)

Asia Programme, Funding

- The programme budget varies annually, in 2019: **EUR 500 000**
- Max. grant for an individual project is EUR 50 000
- The number of applied projects varies depending on the funding applied, individual project budgets vary from 15000 – 50000€
- Previous Calls:
 - 2012: 330 000€ / 8 projects for China
 - 2013: 300 000€ / 8 projects for China
 - 2014: 422 000€ / 10 projects for China
 - 2015: 575 000€ / 14 projects for China & 220 000€ / 5 projects for India
 - 2016: 305 000€ / 8 projects for China & 170 000€ / 4 projects for India
 - 2017: 500 000€ / 7 projects for Japan & 4 projects South Korea
 - 2018: 500 000€ / 6 projects for Japan & 2 projects South Korea

Principles of Project Funding

- **100% of the total project costs must be related to travel between Finland and Asia.**
 - 2012-2015 projects needed to allocate self-financing of 20%, but since 2016 this term was removed = currently **no requirement for self-financing**
- It will be seen as added value, if the Asian partners contribute to the funding of the project.
 - The financial contribution of Asian partners may mean for example, covering the travel expenses of their own students or personnel, or that the partners take care of the seminar- or event expenses that occur in Asia.
 - The self-financing by the Asian partners must be indicated by the partner institutions in the letters of endorsements that are an attachment to the grant application. The realised self-financing must be reported in the final report.
- **More in-depth cooperation within the Finnish parties** is emphasized and therefore the maximum amount of financing can only be given to applications, where several Finnish HEI's are cooperating in the project.

Funding, mobility costs

- **100%** of the total project budget must be related to **costs resulting from travel and subsistence** (travel costs/grants)
- These costs are incurred by the travel/exchanges **between Finland and the target country** by higher education **students, postgraduate students** and/or **teaching or other staff**.
- The application form (project plan & VA-järjestelmä) include an **estimated number of journeys** taken within the scope of the project, as well as **an estimate of the costs**. The Project Plan also itemises the **travel costs and how they are to be reimbursed to the travellers**.
- **Permissible as travel costs are costs related to the travel**, e.g. trips, accommodation, travel agency costs, visas, insurance and possible subsistence allowances (myös päivärahat) – not, however, wages or salaries for the duration of the mobility.
- The travel/mobility must be justified and cost-effective.
- **It is recommendable to set the grants for first- and second cycle students at the same level as they are normally in the participating HEIs for student exchanges to similar countries**