

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO COLLABORATE AS A PARTNER ON HORIZON EUROPE

The **HAMK EDU Research unit** at Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland, is looking to **join as a partner to a Consortium** planning and/or preparing a proposal to the following Horizon Europe call topic under **WIDERA**. More information about HAMK EDU's expertise and HAMK as an organisation is available below. For additional information, please contact us directly at martti.majuri@hamk.fi.

CALL TOPIC OF INTEREST

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03-01: ERA Talents

OUR EXPERTISE AND POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

The **HAMK EDU Research unit** promotes research-based skills development, learning and innovation, both in education institutions and in the workplaces. Here, we could contribute to the strengthening of R&I human capital base in Widening countries by increasing the individual innovation and entrepreneurial competences of researchers, research managers, and other target groups. We have a validated model for measuring qualitative and quantitative innovation competence on an individual and on a team-level (*Hero et al., 2017; Hero, 2019; Hero et al., 2022a; Hero et al., 2021*). Also, we have the competence to measure the regional effects of multidisciplinary innovation projects between academic and non-academic stakeholders, such as students, teachers, R&I personnel, SMEs, and large enterprises (*Hero et al., 2022b*). We can offer practical tools, such as multimodal training materials and processes, to boost R&I support capacity in academic and non-academic organisations. We have a good track record of providing skills and competences which serve specific demands arising from the business sector and strengthen the interoperability of careers between sectors, such as creative industries, deep tech, and international business. We have extensive experience on building impactful collaborations between the academic and non-academic sectors and their co-creation for learning and innovation (*Hero et al., 2022a; Hero et al., 2022b*)

Learn more about us at: <https://www.hamk.fi/en/research/smartedu/>

RELEVANT PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. **The SYNBEE project:** HAMK EDU is a beneficiary in the SYNthetic Biology Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (SYNBEE) project, funded under the European Commission's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme. The SYNBEE project aims to expand entrepreneurial ecosystems built around synthetic biology. Coordinated by Da Vinci Labs from Paris (France), the project brings together 14 leading business, research, and academic institutions from 8 countries (France, Finland, Latvia, Ireland, Germany, United Kingdom, United States) with the ambition to harness the entrepreneurial potential of synthetic biology as an industry. **Our main responsibility in the SYNBEE initiative is to enhance entrepreneurial education of**

young synthetic biology professionals across European innovation ecosystems, thus improving their employability while empowering entrepreneurs to build synthetic biology companies in Europe and potentially create future unicorns. Learn more about SYNBEE at: <https://synbee.eu/>

2. **The JATKOT project:** HAMK EDU coordinates a project funded by the European Social Fund+ which aims at **developing a model for a customer-oriented, genuinely competence-based model of continuous learning**. The model will include e.g., specific training services that are tailored according to the needs of the workplace, competence development and demonstration, the development of workplaces as learning environments, a mentorship programme, and cooperation between academia and industry actors.
3. **The EMBRACE project:** HAMK EDU coordinates an Erasmus+ Capacity Building project that aims to address the needs of Latin American partners in developing and implementing institutional reforms to modernize higher education. The project emphasizes co-creation with various stakeholders, including students, teachers, managers, and a minimum of 10 industry and society partners. Together, they will develop transferable models for **innovative education-industry collaboration**. The result of the EMBRACE project will be modern and resilient HEIs in Latin America with the capacity to leverage digitalization for creating inclusive and student-centered learning experiences. The new co-creation models will involve a variety of different stakeholders, contributing towards a robust and sustainable learning ecosystem. Learn more about the EMBRACE project at: <https://www.hamk.fi/projektit/www-hamk-fi-embrace/>
4. **Hero, L.-M.**, Lindfors, E. & Taatila, V. (2017). Individual Innovation Competence: A Systematic Review and Future Research Agenda. *International Journal of Higher Education*, 6(5), 103-121. <https://doi.org/10.5430/ijhe.v6n5p103>
5. **Hero, L.-M.** (2019). Learning to develop innovations. Individual competence, multidisciplinary activity systems and student experience (Doctoral dissertation). *Annales universitatis Turkuensis*, 475, Faculty of Education, University of Turku, Finland. <https://www.utupub.fi/handle/10024/147038>
6. **Hero, L.-M.**, Pitkäljärvi, M. & Matinheikki, K. (2021). Validating an individual innovation competence assessment tool for university–industry collaboration. *Industry and higher education* 35 (4), pp. 485 - 496. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09504222211017447>
7. **Hero, L.-M.**, Pitkäljärvi, M., & Matinheikki, K. (2022). Discovering the effect metrics for innovation projects. *Techne Series - Research in Sloyd Education and Craft Science A*, 29(1), 13–27. <https://doi.org/10.7577/TechneA.4603>
8. **Hero, L.-M.**, Lintula, N.-C., Wilkinson, S., & Pitkäljärvi, M. (2022). Regional effects of multidisciplinary innovation projects. Innovation education impact assessment model. *ISPIM Connects Athens – The Role of Innovation: Past, Present, Future*, on 28-30 November 2022. Event Proceedings: LUT Scientific and Expertise Publications. ISBN 978-952-65069-1-3.
9. **Friman, M.**, Schreiber, D., Mutanen, A., **Perälä, S.**, **Salminen, J.** (2021). Wicked problems: university research topic convergence despite divergence in local educational and innovation policies. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education* 22, 108–124. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSHE-04-2020-0121>
10. **Jussila, J.**, **Raitanen, J.**, **Partanen, A.**, **Tuomela, V.**, **Siipola, V.**, **Kunnari, I.** (2020). Rapid Product Development in University-Industry Collaboration: Case Study of a Smart Design Project. *Technology Innovation Management Review* 10, 49–59. <https://doi.org/10.22215/timreview/1336>

11. **Kolho, P.**, Oikkonen, E., Pihkala, T. (2022). Entrepreneurship education practices in VET: The roles of the teacher and the local region. *Nordic Journal of Vocational Education and Training* 12, 50–74. <https://doi.org/10.3384/njvet.2242-458X.2212250>
12. **Kolho, P.**, Raappana, A., Joensuu-Salo, S., Pihkala, T. (2023). Teacher's Agency and the Cooperation With Entrepreneurs in Entrepreneurship Education. *International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training* 10, 318–339. <https://doi.org/10.13152/IJRVET.10.3.2>
13. **Lahdenperä, J., Jussila, J., Järvenpää, A.-M., Postareff, L.** (2022). Design Factory – Supporting technology students' learning of general competences through university-industry collaboration. *LUMAT: International Journal on Math, Science and Technology Education* 10, 127–150. <https://doi.org/10.31129/LUMAT.10.1.1672>
14. Vetoshkina, L., **Lamberg, L., Ryymin, E., Rintala, H.**, Paavola, S. (2022). Innovation activities in a university of applied sciences: redefining applied research. *Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education* 15, 289–302. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JARHE-10-2021-0380>

HAMK AS AN ORGANISATION

HAMK is a multidisciplinary, workplace-oriented higher education institution operating in the Kanta-Häme region of Finland. Together with our students, we are a community of 10 000 people working in the fields of bioeconomy, business, design, education, health, and technology. Our mission is to be the most inspiring and work-place oriented university of applied sciences in Finland.

Our four research units, namely HAMK Edu, HAMK Bio, HAMK Tech, and HAMK Smart, carry out around 130 research projects annually together our active network of local, national, and international partners. The research units' pooled competence builds our innovation ecosystems: **Smart Systems and Biotechnology, Smart Sustainable Built Environment, and Smart Future Education and Capacity Building**. These ecosystems are supported by our diverse research infrastructure that includes **laboratory facilities**, such as a Robotics Lab at our Riihimäki Campus, a 1500 m² mechanics laboratory for structural testing of building elements, and a state-of-the-art biotechnology laboratory at our Hämeenlinna Campus, as well as **real-life environments**, such as 1 800 hectares of observation forest at our Evo Campus, experimental greenhouses at our Lepaa Campus, and a Lighthouse-designated organic farm at our Mustiala Campus. We are also a part of **RUN European University** which brings together eight European higher education institutions from seven different countries.

We have been actively involved in EU-funded programmes (H2020, Erasmus+, RFCS, Horizon Europe) both as a partner and as a coordinator. In addition, we are currently coordinating several research projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund+, and the Interreg programme. Learn more about us and our research at www.hamk.fi/en/.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interested in our expertise? Contact HAMK EDU's Research unit Director Martti Majuri at martti.majuri@hamk.fi.