



# Learning through collaboration: towards sustained North-South University partnerships

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# The demand for 'Finnish education'



**Highly trained, respected and free:  
why Finland's teachers are different**

**Implementing 21st Century Skills:  
learnings from a Finnish Classroom**

- Why to share and develop expertise through development cooperation?
- What is the link with commercial global education services or educational export?



# Global responsibility at University of Jyväskylä

*”Through education and research, the University participates in solving national and global problems. Global responsibility and sustainable development are emphasised in all activities.”*

University of Jyväskylä strategy for 2015-2020

In practice:

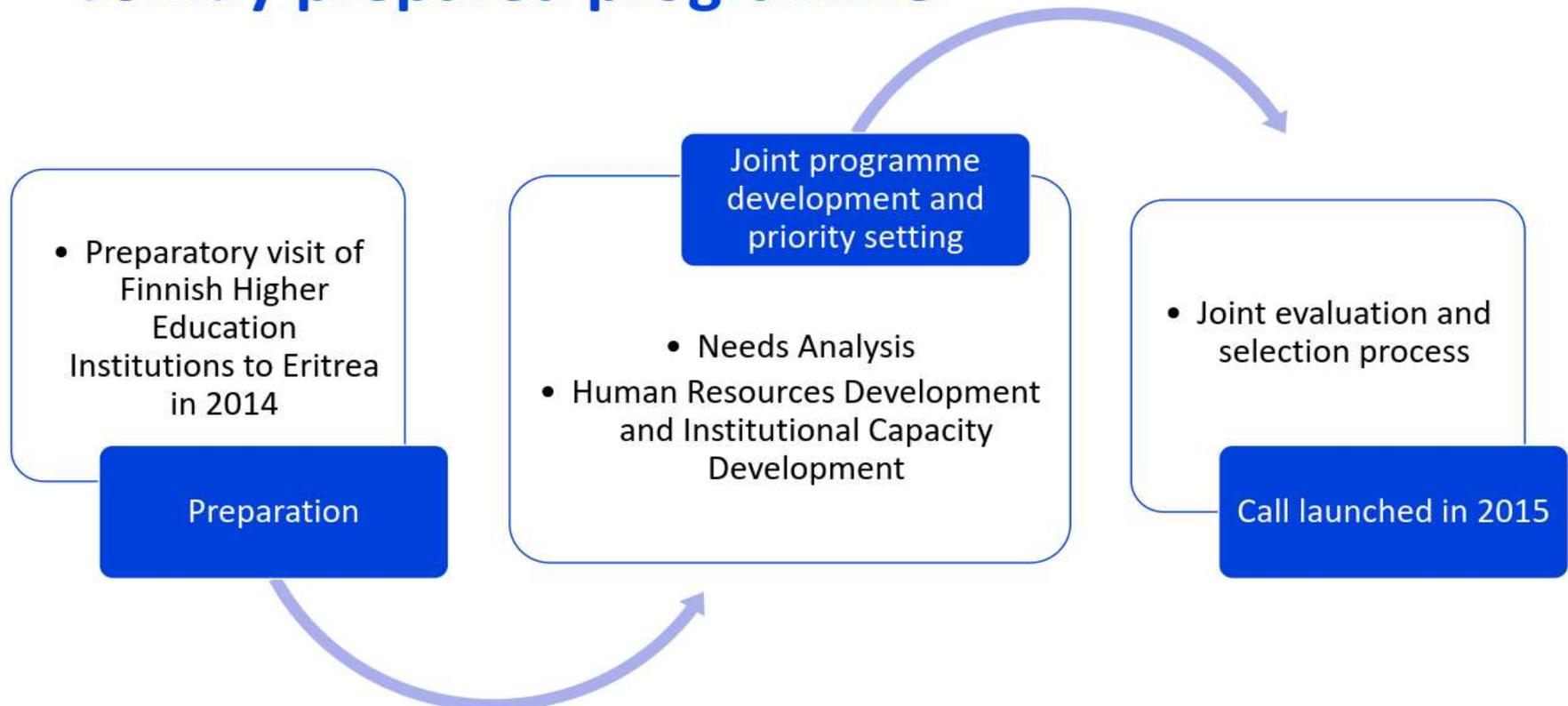
- International development cooperation programme for higher education funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- International Master’s programme and doctoral training
- Global education in curricula content
- Annual UN Sustainable Development Goals - SDG4 seminar (2011-)
- Conferences, networks and consultations





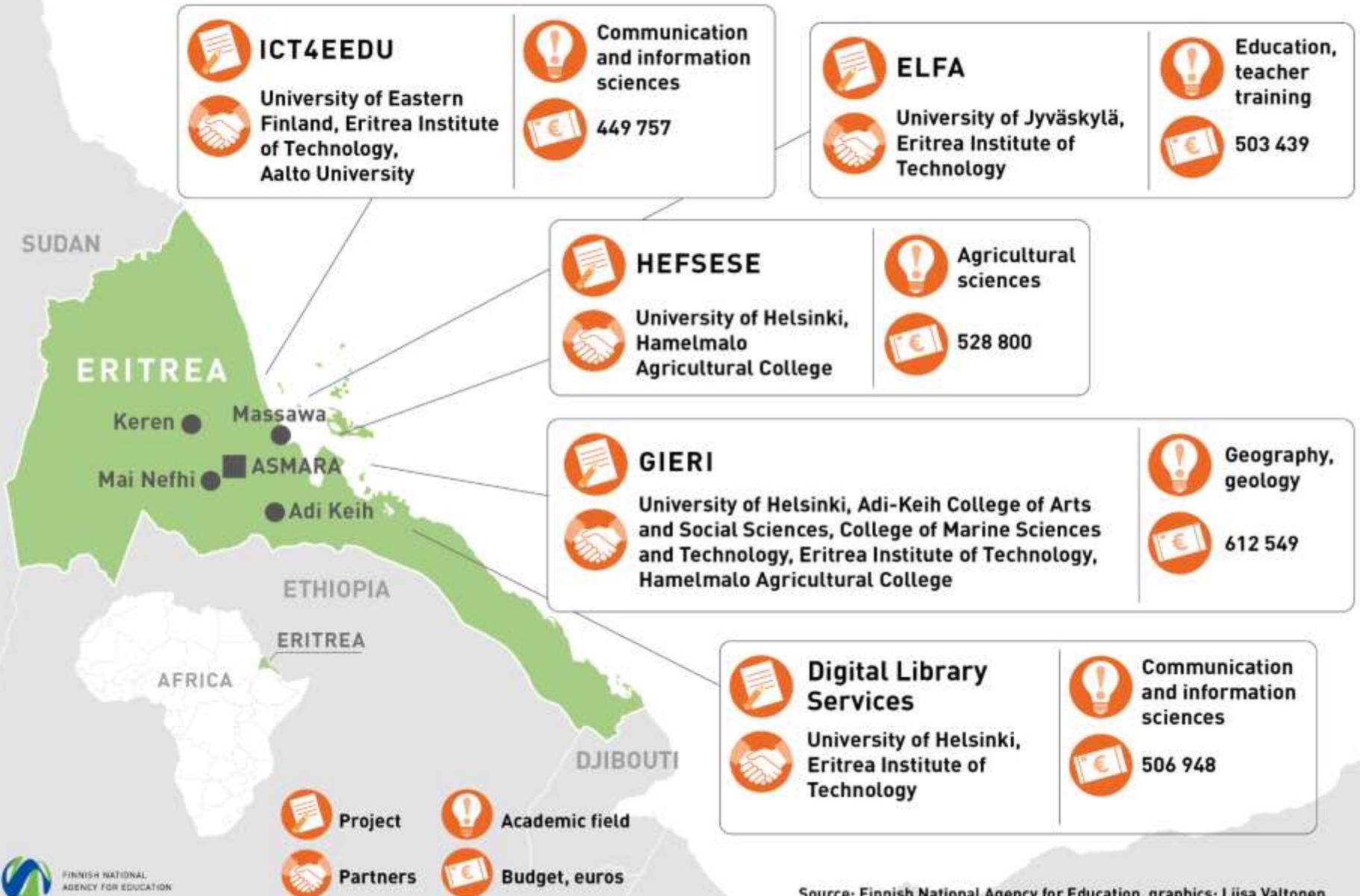
# Case: Finland-Eritrea higher education cooperation programme 2015-2017

## Jointly prepared programme



→ The objective of the Eritrea HEI ICI Programme is to support **the development of sustainable institutional capacity** in Eritrean higher education institutions

# Higher education cooperation between Eritrea and Finland



Source: Finnish National Agency for Education, graphics: Liisa Valtonen



# Lessons learnt: foundation for future cooperation

## Joint design and priority setting

- Commitment
- Mutual ownership
- Mutual learning
- Trust

## Joint coordination and management

- Communication
- Complementarity of activities
- Flexible solutions
- Support of all levels
- Connections and networks

Source: EDUFI & NHERI 2018

# Eritrea Learning for All project (2015-2017)

## Key activities:

- Learning modules and research projects for academic staff
- Strengthening the College of Education resource centre
- Mobility for exposure and mutual learning
  - / Sharing and analyzing everyday educational practice
  - / Shared expertise
  - / Collaborative learning and professional development
  - / Joint research and publication





# Key lessons learnt from the first project cycle

- Engaging all partners at all levels from planning to implementation and review
- Shared management of projects and capacity building in project management – towards compatible organizational cultures and procedures
- Coordination between international projects located in the same institutional setting
- Working towards sustained partnerships
- Importance of building trust; building motivation and sustained partnerships occurs with time

# Towards meaningful, sustainable and ethical collaboration



*"... working together is more effective, more efficient and yields better results than working alone."*

- Efficiency, results and impact - mutual meaningfulness
- Trust: critique, questioning and border crossing (Riitaoja et al. forthcoming)
- Transparency
- Shared power and responsibility (Carbonnier & Kontinen 2015)
- Sustained partnerships beyond individual projects
- Learning: acquisition, awareness, embedding (Reid 2009)



# Principles of successful partnership development

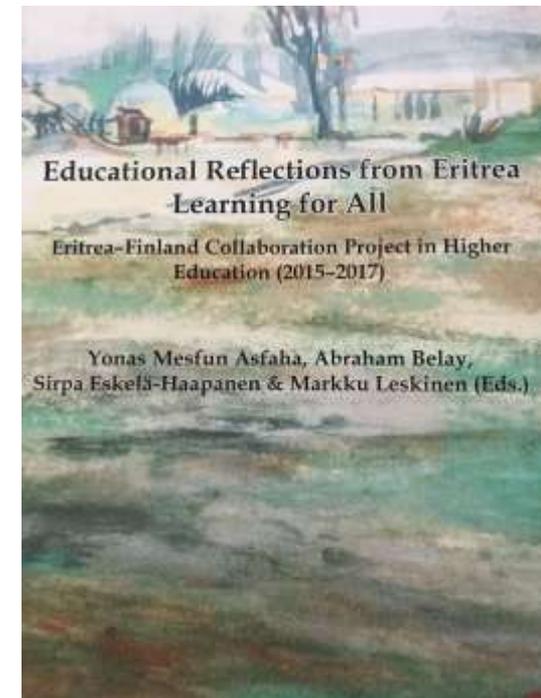
- Joint design and priority setting
- Joint coordination and management
- Mobility for exposure and mutual learning
- Efficiency, results and impact
- Responsible and ethical collaboration
- Sustainability





# Future prospects

- Partly shared interests and challenges of development cooperation and commercial services
- Identifying new, creative forms of cooperation and sources of funding
- Enhancing the role of research in cooperation





# Thank you!

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