UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Pooling Courses 2026 Info Session

20.11.2025

Ana Tarazona
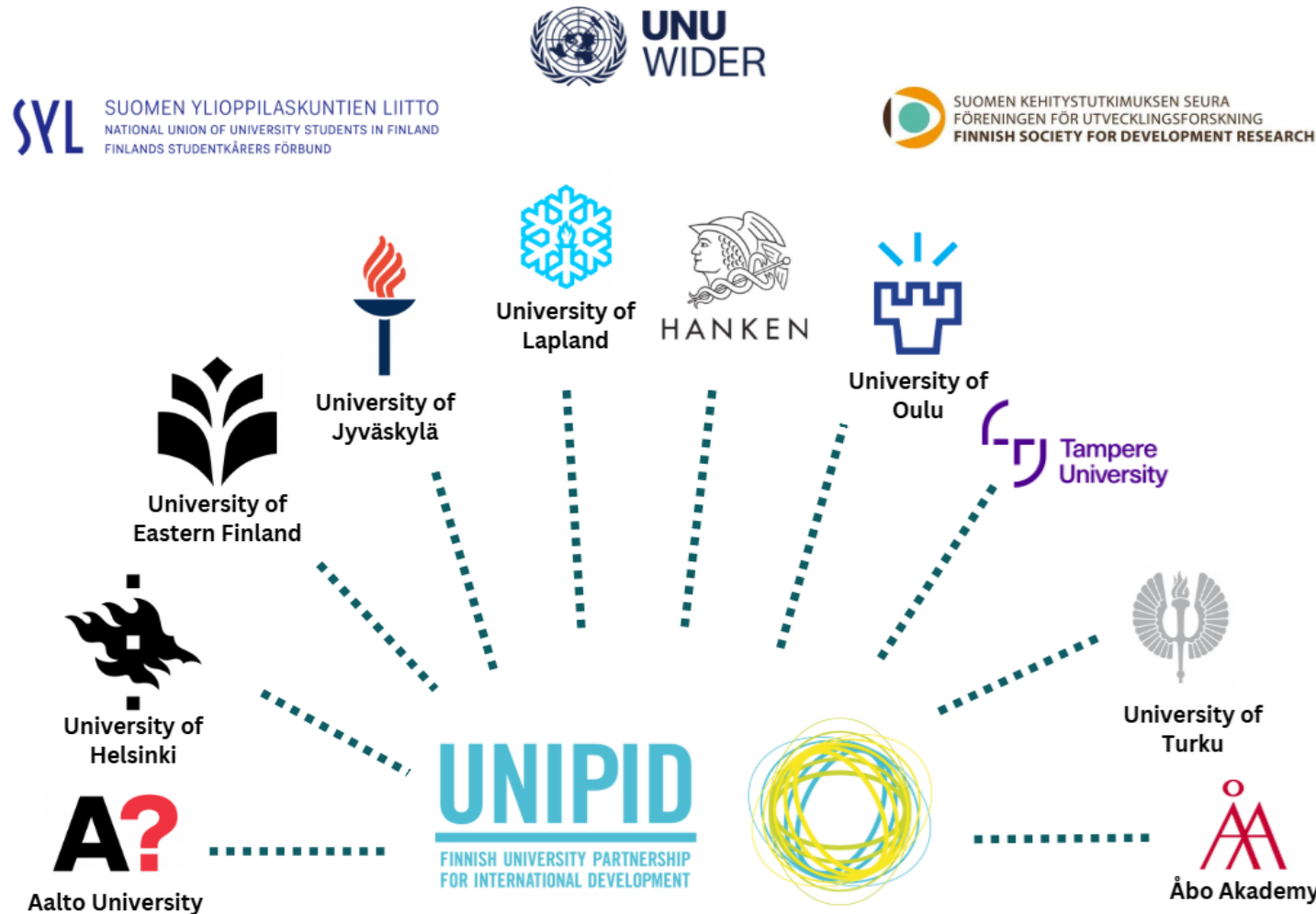Virtual Studies Coordinator

Kaisa Kurki
UniPID's director

Suggested agenda

1. What is UniPID?
2. UniPID's Education Services
3. UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Pooling Courses 2026
4. Tips and considerations when formulating a proposal
5. Round of questions and answers
6. Closing remarks.

What's UniPID?

- Network of ten Finnish universities to advance universities' global responsibility.

- UniPID offers services in three main pilars: Education, Research and Societal Impact.

UniPID's Education Services

UniPID Vision:

"Students can access high-quality courses on sustainable development pathways, and will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with peers from the Global South."

UniPID Virtual Studies Catalogue 2025-2026: https://www.unipid.fi/students/virtual-studies/

UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Pooling Courses 2026

What does pooling courses involve?

The method of pooling existing courses offered by UniPID's member universities contributes to the idea of **sharing expertise** in topics aligned with UniPID's mission, **avoiding overlap**, and **expanding the number of courses** available in UniPID Virtual Studies.

UniPID's member university teachers may propose well-established courses that are **already included in degree programmes** of the member universities and **do not require additional funding** to be added to the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme.

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Why to offer my course for pooling into the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme?

Offering your course through UniPID Virtual Studies catalogue bring benefits for you and your home University. Some of the advantages are listed below:

- UniPID is a **high-quality network that promotes social responsibility, global sustainable development, and equitable academic partnerships.** Teaching within this network can positively impact your career. UniPID strongly recommends including **your involvement in the pooling initiative in your CV.**

- The pooled course can be taken by your students as part of the [UniPID "Sustainability in Development" study module](). This module consists of 25 ECTS credits, equivalent to 5 UniPID courses.

- The **responsible teacher(s)** of the course will gain access to **materials designed by UniPID to enhance the learning experience.** Additionally, UniPID organizes an annual "**Good Practices" workshop for teachers**, to which teachers of pooled courses are equally invited.

- **Your university will gain funding for the credits you award to students from other universities** as teaching collaboration is incentivized **by the Ministry of Education and Culture** in the universities' basic funding.

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Eligibility of the course pooling

Any course proposal that adheres to the [UniPID Virtual Studies learning objectives](#) is eligible to apply. Examples of relevant themes include (but not only): *academic freedom, development economics, local initiatives on development, sustainable tourism, decolonial studies, research in developments studies, environmental conflicts, global health, social protection systems, climate justice, and human rights*. We would also encourage proponents to present proposals with a strong interdisciplinary approach.

The responsible teacher(s) and the hosting department/faculty must specify how many times (from 1 to 3 semesters) the course will be offered within the UniPID VirtualStudies Programme.

To ensure sufficient course offering in the upcoming years, UniPID encourages courses to be offered across consecutive academic years, instead of consecutive semesters.

UniPID recommends offering the course more than once and allocating 15-20 seats for UniPID students.

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General Conditions for Pooling courses

- The prospective **contracting party** to sign the course agreement should be one of the **UniPID member universities.**

- Courses must be offered in **English** and in an **online** format.

- All online courses should be worth **5 ECTS** and their **target group** should include –**but not only- master's level students.**

- This call for pooling course proposals is exclusively for **existing courses.** Therefore, these courses must already be included in the **home institution's curriculum.**

- The selected courses for pooling should be **offered for the first time** in the academic year **2026–2027.**

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How to submit a proposal?

- All proposals should be submitted **via the specific form** for UniPID Call for Pooling Virtual Courses Proposals. The application page is available at: https://www.unipid.fi/vsforms/virtual-studies-call-for-pooling-courses-2026/

- The **submission period** for proposals starts on 6 November 2025 and ends on **12 January 2026**. The UniPID Board makes the final decision on the funding, and the **results** will be announced **by the end of March 2026** at the latest.

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Successful applications should include:

- ✓ Contact details of the applicant
- ✓ Contact details of the person at the home institution whit whom the proposal was discussed
- ✓ A document containing the virtual course proposal for pooling (6 pages max.).
  - ○ While the proposal format is flexible, we have designed a template to assist with its formulation. You can find the **template** [here](#). Other formats are also acceptable if all required components are included.
  - ○ Refer to the "Formulating a Proposal" section below for detailed information on the components.
  - ○ If the document size exceeds 1MB, please send it to unipid-info@uef.fi **AND** unipid-info@helsinki.fi
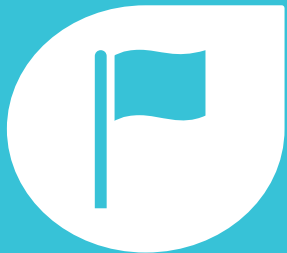
Tips and considerations when formulating a proposal

- Prioritize **methods** and **pedagogical approaches** that facilitate **teachers-student partnerships and interactions** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n2cUe4mJHc&t=274s .

- Is your course design **suitable for an online environment?** If not, would you be willing to customize the course to be suitable for online or hybrid format?

- Does the design encourage **students' interaction and collaborative learning** in virtual/hybrid environments?

- Consider including **easy and open access material/resources.** If your course if offered through UniPID platform, students from different Finnish universities may join the course, and may not have access to certain journals or libraries.

- Take in mind **different contexts, backgrounds and potential technical difficulties** for online learning (long videos, restricted-access articles, etc.)

- Consider **diversity in the learning material and course sources**. How about including perspectives from the Global South?

- Consider the balance between **flexibility and interaction.**

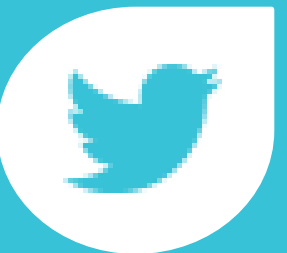# Round of questions and answers

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THANK YOU!