

# *What is decolonization in Fingo?*

- It means actively shifting power in partnerships: that requires *”identifying and dismantling the imbalance in the distribution of power between different actors (NNGOs and their partners, funders, actors at the community level) in order to promote global solidarity. The goal is to remove historical and structural barriers that maintain inequality and to ensure that development cooperation and its future modifications work fairly and equally”*  
fingo.fi/vallansiirto
- ...that requires: recognizing, making visible and working to address the legacies that colonialism, racism, and patriarchy continue to have’ in our day-to-day lives
- ...that requires: understanding what role are we ourselves play in modernism and how do we need to change

# What have we done so far?

## 2021 - 2022

- Learning from forerunners like **Moses Isooba**/Uganda NGO Forum, **Dylan Mathews** / Peace Direct, **Jason Hickel**, other **European umbrella organizations**

## 2023

- **Discussion serie**

- **Workshop 1:** What does shifting power in development cooperation mean, and why should it be discussed? - NETHERLANDS
  - **Workshop 2:** Power dynamics experienced by academia, diaspora, human rights activist from Kenya
  - **Workshop 3:** Self-reflection with GESTURING TOWARDS DECOLONIAL FUTURE trainer
- Ethical communication: joint communication guidelines with members, language (almost ready) and image guidelines coming
  - Dialogue with African civil society organizations like WACSI

# What have we done so far?

## 2024

- **Publishing** shifting the power website: <https://fingo.fi/vallansiirto/> (some in English)
- **Dreamweavers** workshops with African CSOs, artists and members
- **Vallaton** festival outside capital area

## 2025

- **Vallaton** in the World Village festival on peace
- **Shifting the power** -working group
- Inviting **African colleagues/members' partners** into advocacy, communication processes

Alongside works **Global Citizenship Education** with critical reflection on the role of Finnish people in global justice and sustainability and developing pedagogical means to do the reflection.

# Current challenges

- Isolated efforts
- "We already work locally-led. All is fine."/ "We would change, but the donors requirements won't let us"
- Scarce resources to work on anything that is not immediate
- Systemic reimagination vs incremental change of practices
- How to engage with partners/partner country CSOs?
- Risk of supporting right wing policy objectives -> space to work

# Successes

- Learning from forerunners
- Acknowledgement of historical injustice -> safe, innovative space to collaborate
- Artists are used to the approaches of questioning and imagining
- GCE and development cooperation finding common ground internally

# English links shared in chat

<https://fingo.fi/ajankohtaista/blogit/dreamweavers-transition-design-workshops-on-decolonising-aid/>

<https://fingo.fi/en/news/blogs/who-holds-the-lens-reimagining-power-in-monitoring-evaluation-learning/>

<https://fingo.fi/en/news/blogs/rebalancing-international-development-cooperation-the-urgency-of-shifting-power-in-monitoring-evaluation-learning-mel/>