

## **FinCEAL Initiative Assessment Terms of Reference**

### **1. Background**

The Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) network aims to enhance Finnish universities' global responsibility and networking with partner institutions in the global south. From 2013 UniPID has been coordinating the FinCEAL Initiative, a project funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The main aim of the FinCEAL initiative has been to support the internationalization of Finnish research and science policy communities towards Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. Specifically, the project has had the following long-standing objectives:

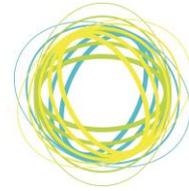
1. Support and consolidate the participation of Finnish researchers and science policy experts in bi-regional science policy dialogue processes;
2. Support and enhance Finnish participation in bi-regional research cooperation and funding;
3. Coordinate and network Finnish researchers and science policy experts working with Africa, Asia and the LAC region; and
4. Expand awareness of Finnish researchers in the three regions and highlight current Finnish research and scientific cooperation relevant to the regions.

The project has been funded in 3 different project periods, each running for 2 years. The initial phase of the project (2013-2014) covered only two regions – Africa and LAC. The last two phases (2015-2016 and 2017-2018) have also included Asia. The average budget for each project period has been between 1.2 – 1.3 M€. The coordination of the regional components has been divided between three UniPID member universities: the University of Jyväskylä coordinating the Africa component; the University of Helsinki, the LAC component; and University of Eastern Finland, the Asia component.

### **2. Objectives of the FinCEAL Initiative Assessment**

The objectives of this assessment are to evaluate the achievements of the FinCEAL Initiative against its objectives and to assess its contribution to enhancing research and innovation cooperation with the target regions. The assessment should for instance look to answer the following questions:

1. How has the project contributed to the internationalization process of the Finnish scientific community?
2. How has the process evolved and what has been learnt, and how has it contributed to the stated objectives?
3. How relevant and effective have the activities been?
4. What results have been achieved? (effectiveness, impact, cost)
5. How could things be done better in the future?
6. Are the results sustainable?



The intended users and stakeholders of the assessment are the Ministry of Education and Culture (the funding agency), the UniPID network and its governing Board, the FinCEAL Plus Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> and the broader scientific and science policy community.

### **3. Scope of the Assessment**

It is expected that the assessment will comprise the duration of the initiative (3 project periods since 2013 up to 2018). Focus should especially be placed on gathering input from the project beneficiaries (grantees, organizations and ministries that have partnered with the project in various activities) and stakeholders.

In the interest of harmonization, the assessment should also utilize and analyze the outputs and results that have been gathered in the FinCEAL Plus Grantee reporting data, FinCEAL Impact booklets, Annual Reports and the feasibility study on the FinCEAL Sustainability Strategy.

### **4. Approach and Methodology**

The approach and methodology of conducting the assessment will be mainly defined by the assessor. However, he/she will be expected to use the available data emerging from the sources mentioned in section 3. This data will be made available from the onset of the contract.

Other information, such as the project description documents for all the phases, will also be made available.

The assessor should also conduct interviews and consultations with the project management team, beneficiaries (scientific community), and stakeholder groups (e.g. representatives from the Steering Committee Meeting, funding agencies and/or ministries).

Following the initial evaluation of the data provided and interviews, the assessor will be expected to make an informed decision on whether to conduct extra meetings.

### **5. Deliverables and Schedule**

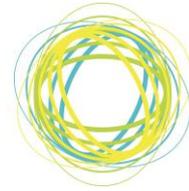
This is a short assignment with a timeline not exceeding June 2018. A tentative timetable is outlined below.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Hiring process				
Orientation and initial assessment of available data				
Inception Report, Feedback from FinCEAL core group				
Submit 1 <sup>st</sup> draft, Feedback from FinCEAL core group				
Submission of final draft				

### **6. Budget and Payment**

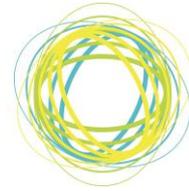
The available budget for the assignment is 10,000€ including VAT. The above sum is all-inclusive and the assessor will be expected to cover all costs pertaining to the evaluation within the given sum.

<sup>1</sup> The FinCEAL Plus Steering Committee is composed of the by the following institutions: UNIFI, ARENE, Buiness Finland - Tekes, MINEDU, MEE, MFA, EDUFI and AKA.



The payment will be carried out in two instalments. The 1<sup>st</sup> instalment should be billed within 2 weeks of the onset of the contract. The 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment should be billed within 2 weeks of the official acceptance of the final assessment report.

The terms and conditions pertaining to this ToR will be elaborated in a contract from the University of Jyväskylä,



## Appendix 1 Activities carried out within the project

The main stakeholders for the initiative have been Finnish universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and other national research institutions. The secondary stakeholders have been Ministries and Funding agencies (Academy of Finland, Business Finland - Tekes, SKR, etc). The initiative has also cooperated with other national and international organizations involved in the EU's bi-regional STI policies and actions.

To achieve the outlined objectives, the project has been carrying out the following activities:

1. Issuing Grants for researchers based in Finnish institutions - Open Travel Grants, Event Grants, Project Preparatory Grants and Target grants from 2013 to 2016.
2. Expanding the grant modalities to include Research Visit Grants from 2017-2018.
3. Issuing Targeted Travel Grants to enhance participation of Finnish researchers in bi-regional STI policy dialogue and events that expand awareness of Finnish expertise in the regions.
4. Organizing thematic networking events in Finland and regional side-events in Europe, Africa, Asia and/or the LAC region.
5. Updating, maintaining, and expanding the InfoBank, a database of Finnish researchers and research conducted on Africa, Asia or the LAC region.
6. Acting as a Policy Contact Point between the Finnish research community and policy makers nationally and at the EU level.
7. Disseminating information on the cooperation possibilities in the regions.