



THE FINCEAL INITIATIVE

Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation between Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean

Summary

The FinCEAL Plus Initiative started in 2013, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, with the aim of internationalizing the Finnish science community. Comprising three, two-year project periods, the FinCEAL initiative has considerably increased the opportunities for increasing cooperation between the Finnish scientific and international research policy communities, specifically those in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and to some extent, in Europe. The FinCEAL Initiative provides support at key moments in partnership building and policy making to leverage the expertise, knowledge, and success already existing in Finland for greater impact. There is currently no other instrument or mechanism providing similar support in Finland.

The specific aims of the initiative are to:

1. Strengthen Finnish participation in and understanding of the EU science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy dialogues with the target regions;
2. Support Finnish participation in joint research projects with partners from the target regions;
3. Promote awareness of Finnish expertise and know-how in the target regions; and
4. Gather and disseminate information on already existing Finnish cooperation and on new cooperation possibilities with the target regions.

FinCEAL Instruments & Activities

- **Partnership Support Grants:** providing holistic support throughout the different phases of partnership building by providing small-small funding for organizing events/workshops, research visits from the target regions to Finland, mobility, and preparation of funding proposals.
- **Targeted Travel Grants:** small-scale mobility funds to support and enhance the participation of Finnish experts in key bi-regional science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy dialogues and events.
- **Thematic Networking Events:** Events organized by FinCEAL to highlight Finnish know-how, inform about the EU bi-regional processes and support networking in the thematic priority areas of the project.
- **Infobank:** a multidisciplinary database on Finnish research collaboration with the target regions. www.unipid.fi/infobank
- **Policy Contact Point:** providing expert advice on national and EU policies and processes to national and EU actors.
- **Communication & Dissemination:** providing the Finnish scientific community with relevant information on the opportunities for collaboration, important policy processes, and relevant events of interest to the Finnish science community.