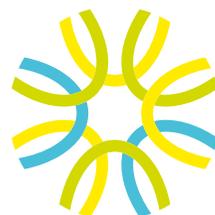
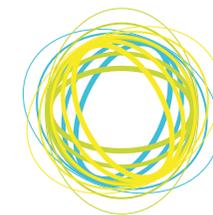


In 2018, FinCEAL has concluded six years of support to scientists in Finland working with Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia. To mark this milestone, the project has produced three policy briefs and reports on Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation with the regions.



FinCEAL+

UNIPID
FINNISH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



WHY?

There have been substantial changes in the policy and funding frameworks for Research and Innovation cooperation, nationally and internationally.

WHAT?

Three policy briefs and reports¹ analysing the current cooperation landscape with Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Southeast Asia, highlighting challenges, opportunities and recommendations.

HOW?

Policy review and analysis; and stakeholder interviews with ministry representatives, funding agencies, embassies and the Finnish academic community.

KEY FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR ALL REGIONS

Need for developing cohesive and long term roadmaps for STI cooperation , aligned with Agenda 2030

Cooperation is driven by a set of different policies not directly targeting the regions and often lacking a clear implementation plan, resulting in missed opportunities. A more long-term approach is necessary for developing sustainable cooperation with 3rd countries. In addition, HEI's global responsibility goals need special consideration.

Need for better implementation of existing strategies and agreements, with follow-up and dedicated human resources

Existing strategies and MoU's cannot be operationalized without adequate financial and human resources at the institutional level.

Capacity building cooperation is mentioned under the global responsibility actions in the internationalization strategy published by the Ministry of Education and Culture, but practical implementation is difficult due to scarce and unpredictable funding conditions.

Need for dedicated, national multi-stakeholder platforms of discussion related to STI cooperation with the regions

An inclusive, region-specific multi-stakeholder dialogue concerning STI cooperation could be established under the Forum for Internationalization. Enhancing communication between the research community and Finnish representation in the regions also needs more emphasis.

Need for more flexible national STI funding instruments

Flexible instruments that allow for cross-sectoral cooperation and funding for more novel, forward-looking themes and modes of cooperation are needed.

Need to continue supporting partnership building for academic cooperation

Focus on education export should not override other forms of collaboration (research, higher education, capacity building etc.). There is a need to continue supporting researcher mobility, joint thematic events and proposal preparation with partners from Africa, Asia and LAC.

¹ To be published in late 2018.

AFRICA	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)	SOUTHEAST ASIA (SEA)
<p>AIMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explore the different strategies and the current context for the Finnish-African STI cooperation landscape 2. To explore if the drive for private sector engagement has affected Finnish-African STI collaboration 	<p>AIMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess the Finnish policy and funding landscape concerning cooperation with the LAC region 2. To identify the barriers and opportunities related to cooperation with LAC and highlight important themes of collaboration 	<p>AIMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify the opportunities and challenges related to STI cooperation with SEA countries 2. To identify important themes of collaboration for Finnish academia with the region
<p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs' development policy plays the main role in STI cooperation with Africa. However, there are gaps in the alignment between the policy's increased focus on trade and its focus on STI cooperation with the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benefits of increased funding to the private sector have not crossed over to the research community ● The scientific community values knowledge exchange, research collaboration and global responsibility over financial gains in STI cooperation ● Opportunities for cross-sector cooperation are not fully explored – current funding instruments do not actively push for it or offer the flexibility to undertake it. Initiatives like the BEAM research funding need to be continued. 	<p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The policy and cooperation landscapes in regard to LAC have been shifting rapidly in recent years due to the end of bilateral development cooperation with the region and increasing emphasis on trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of continuity in strategies concerning LAC (no follow-up to Finland's LAC Action Plan, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2013) ● Strong focus on trade, including education export, while national funding for STI cooperation has decreased (bilateral funding cooperation discontinued) ● Potential for increasing STI cooperation in many fields, esp. on issues related to environmental, economic and social sustainability ● Different cooperation modalities support each other, thus maintaining a varied cooperation landscape is paramount 	<p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finland has a long history of development cooperation with certain SEA countries and is seen as a reliable partner ● Finland is known for its innovations in some countries in the region ● The SEA region is developing fast and has a lot of STI and research cooperation potential ● Existing STI networks, partnerships and experts between Finland & SEA offer opportunities for further collaboration <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A pure business focus limits available support for STI and research cooperation ● Weak Finnish involvement in the EU-ASEAN STI policy dialogues ● Limited Finnish presence and visibility in the region
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rethinking the current approach and exploring new frameworks like Transformative Innovation Policy ● Strengthen cooperation between the scientific community in Finland with Finnish bilateral dev. coop. initiatives ● As the Finnish priorities for cooperation change, clear communication on the roles and expectations of Finnish actors to their partners is important ● African partners are interested in holistic cooperation – need to better align interests on both sides 	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select and focus on R&I themes important for LAC and in which Finland has competences, building projects on mutual benefit ● Maintain bilateral research funding cooperation with the most important cooperation countries ● Increase joint Nordic activities towards LAC ● Continue active involvement in EU-CELAC STI policy processes and other bi-regional platforms 	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finnish business and STI actors in the region should actively work together ● Focus on region-specific, demand-driven STI and research collaboration themes in which Finland is strong, both in business and in STI ● Actively participate the EU-ASEAN STI cooperation policies and funding opportunities such as the EU-ASEAN Joint Funding Scheme