



FinCEAL Plus - Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe, Africa, Asia and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

1st March, 2017 – updated 28th November 2017 and 31st May 2018

CALLS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE FINCEAL PLUS PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT INSTRUMENT

1. Background

FinCEAL Plus Continuation is a project financed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture in 2017-2018 with the purpose of increasing support for Finnish researchers focusing on Africa, Asia and the LAC regions. The project aims to enhance Finnish expert participation and influence in the EU-Africa, EU-Asia and EU-CELAC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy dialogues.

The project focuses on supporting Finnish research and innovation cooperation under the thematic areas defined in the bi-regional STI dialogues:

- **Africa:** renewable energy, ICT, transport, health, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, climate change, and space;
- **Asia:** renewable energy, ICT, health, food security and safety, water management, cleantech, and nanotechnology;
- **LAC:** renewable energy, ICT for societal challenges, health, bioeconomy, climate change, biodiversity and sustainable urbanization.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Increase and consolidate the Finnish bi-regional cooperation towards Africa, Asia and the LAC region, with special emphasis on supporting Finnish researchers' involvement in European bi-regional networks;
- Support and consolidate the participation of Finnish experts in EU-Africa, EU-CELAC, and EU-Asia bi-regional research and science policy dialogues;
- Increase the knowledge about and visibility of Finnish cooperation towards the regions within Finland;
- Expand the awareness of Finnish expertise in the regions; and
- Expand and consolidate the Finnish research community's awareness of cooperation possibilities with the EU, Africa, Asia, and the LAC region.

In line with the planned activities and project objectives, we are pleased to announce the opening of the rolling call for FinCEAL Plus funding under the Partnership Support Instrument.

PLEASE NOTE! The Rolling Call for Grants for the Africa and the LAC region has closed on May 31st, 2018. No more grants for these regions will be issued. However, the Call remains open until further notice for grants relating to cooperation with Asia.

2. The Partnership Support Instrument

The Partnership Support Instrument is a new granting system that addresses the following two objectives of the project: 1) Supporting Finnish participation in joint research projects with partners from the target regions; and 2) Promoting awareness of Finnish expertise and know-how in the target regions. Essentially, the instrument offers small-scale financial support for building and maintaining Finnish scientific community's research and innovation cooperation initiatives with their peers in the target regions. The grants should not be used to supplement the funding of already-existing projects such as those funded by the Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HEI-ICI).

The scheme gathers together a number of funding modalities from the previous FinCEAL projects:

- Open Travel Grants,
- Event Grants
- Project Preparatory Grants – and adds a new activity:
- Research Visit Grants

2.1 Differences between this instrument and previous FinCEAL Funding calls

There will be a few differences in the way that researchers apply for funding in this call:

- Rolling Call basis - this will be the only call for funding and it will be open until further notice.
- Possibility to apply for multiple grants - researchers will be able to apply for multiple grants at the same time. The rules regarding how much funding can be allocated at once can be found in the specifications of the call section.
- Online application system - the project has adopted an online application system. The links to the application forms can be found in the specification of the call section.

3. Target group

The target group for the Partnership Support Instrument are senior and early career researchers and research teams in Finnish universities, universities of applied sciences and independent research institutions. All the grants, including the Research Visit Grants, have to be applied for by, and will be issued to a Finnish institution. This means that the applicant must be based in a Finnish research institution and must reside in Finland.

In the case of Event Grants, Preparatory Grants and especially Research Visit Grants, the funds can also be used to support partners from the target regions at the discretion of the team to which the grant was awarded and in compliance with the plan outlined in the accepted grant application.

4. Specifications of the Call

4.1 What you can apply for and eligible costs by grant modality

Open Travel Grants

The purpose of Open Travel Grants is to facilitate participation in thematic conferences, networking meetings, international dissemination events, and other events strategic for strengthening research cooperation with partners from the target regions. A portion of the funding is reserved for PhD students. PhD students who are at middle or late-stage of their PhD studies will be given priority. PhD students are required to send a recommendation letter from their supervisor as an annex to the application.

Eligible costs include travel, accommodation, per diem, and possible visa costs and registration fees for events. Travel should be with the most economical means possible. Per diem regulations for 2017 are available at: <https://www.vero.fi/en->

Event Grants

The purpose of Event Grants is to support the planning of workshops, seminars, conferences or other types of events related to the FinCEAL Plus Asia priority themes and science, technology, and/or innovation cooperation with Asia. The event should be open for participation from other Finnish institutions and international participants. The event can be organized in Finland or abroad. Please note you cannot apply an Event Grant for the organization of a consortium meeting or other event for a closed group. For consortium meetings or other events related to project preparation, please apply for a Preparatory Grant instead.

Eligible costs include travel and accommodation costs for invited speakers and expenses related to event organization (venue rent, coffee breaks, event promotion materials, part of the salary costs for the organizer). Travel of speakers should be by the most economic means possible and catering costs kept to a reasonable level.

Project Preparatory Grants

The purpose of the preparatory funding is to offer support for the preparation of applications for research funding from EU funding schemes. This mechanism is targeted to individual Principle Investigators or research groups involved in or forming a consortium, for activities such as arranging consortium meetings, paying salaries of staff involved in the writing process, and other direct costs that may be associated with the preparation of a proposal. This grant is meant for applicants who already have a consortium and are in the mid to late stage preparation process of their project. If you are looking for consortia partners, we advise you apply for an Open Travel Grant instead. Please also note that this funding cannot be applied for the preparation of funding applications to national funding bodies (Academy of Finland, TEKES, HEI-ICI etc.)

Eligible costs include costs directly related to the preparation of the application such as salary costs (overheads are not eligible), travel costs or costs related to the organization of a meeting (catering, rent of a venue).

Research Visit Grants from the target regions to Finland

This new modality will provide funding for Finnish research institutions to invite partner researchers from the regions for short-term visits. The invited expert should be either a senior researcher (already has a PhD) or a senior staff member. The aim is to support visits that could accomplish a number of aims, but in particular, that of building new funding proposals. The grants can be used to cover travel, accommodation and daily allowances of the visiting researcher, but the salary should be covered either by the home or host institution. The accommodation and daily allowances of the visiting researcher can be covered for a maximum of one month by the FinCEAL Plus Grant. In the case of a longer visit, supplementary funding should be secured. FinCEAL Plus does not restrict the duration of the visit itself.

Eligible costs include travel, accommodation and daily allowances for the invited researcher for a maximum of one month. Salary costs are not eligible. Travel of the visiting researcher should be by the most economic means possible and accommodation costs kept to a reasonable level.

4.2 How much can you apply for

The funding thresholds for the different modalities are:

- Travel Grants – max. 2000€,
- Event Grants – max. 4000€,
- Research Visit Grants – max. 5000€
- Project Preparatory Grants – max. 5000€

Researchers can submit more than one application at once, for instance, it is possible to apply for a Travel Grant and an Event Grant. However, the activities you apply funding for cannot be related. Example - you cannot apply for a Travel Grant to attend the same event that you are applying an Event Grant for, instead, your travel costs should be included in the Event Grant application. In other words, all the costs related to the same activity should be included in one application. The maximum amount of funding you can be awarded at any given time is 5000€. This also includes team members applying funding for the same activity. We encourage teams to send only application for a given activity.

As a general rule, FinCEAL Plus funds max. 80% of the total costs. An explanation on how to show these costs can be found in the budget estimation section of the application form. We encourage all applicants to seek institutional support or other supplemental external funding. Applications for 100% of the total costs need to be well justified. Applicants will be required to declare other funding granted or applied for the same activity.

5. Application and evaluation process

5.1. How and when to apply

Applications can be sent in at any time but applicants are advised to apply for funding **at least 2 months before** their planned activity. All funded activities must take place between **June 1st, 2017 and September 30th, 2018**. Funding for activities outside of this period cannot be applied for. Applications are submitted through filling in an online application form specific for each grant modality. Links to the applications forms are provided at the end of the Call in section 7. Please note that applications are not processed during holiday periods.

5.2. Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated on the last week of every month. Grantees will be notified via email during the following month. The list of recipients will also be published on the UniPID website.

The applications are evaluated according to the following main criteria:

- How well does the proposed activity relate to the overall objectives of FinCEAL Plus?
- How well does the proposed activity relate to thematic focus areas of FinCEAL Plus?
- How well has the applicant justified the importance of the activity in regard to his/her own work and the larger framework of international cooperation of the team/institution?
- How likely is it that the activity will lead towards concrete research cooperation with partners from the target region, especially new externally funded projects?
- To what extent does the activity increase the visibility of Finnish expertise in the target region?
- What is the overall quality of the application and how well-planned is the activity?
- Is the budget estimation realistic and in proportion to the proposed activity?

As secondary criteria, we also evaluate the following:

- Is the planned activity related to innovation cooperation and/or science, technology or innovation policies?
- Does the applicant have institutional support for the activity?
- Does the activity potentially benefit the Finnish research community beyond an individual institution?
- What is the role of the applicant in the proposed activity?
- Does the applicant or his/her team have projects registered in the FinCEAL Infobank?

6. Issuing of funds and reporting

6.1 Grant payment

The University of Eastern Finland is responsible for issuing grants for Asia (and related activities in Europe) and grantees will sign a consent form with the University of Eastern Finland. Further instructions on disbursing funds will be sent with the grant award notification.

As a general rule, the home institution of the grantee is required to invoice the grant. Only in exceptional cases can travel grants be paid directly to the grantee. Travel grants will be issued against accrued costs and not in advance. Research Visit Grants, Event Grants and Project Preparatory Grants are awarded in advance, before accrued costs. Grantees are required to arrange their institution to invoice the grant within 1 month of receiving the grant award notification (Research Visit Grants, Event Grants and Project Preparatory Grants) or within one month of attending the event (Travel Grants).

6.2 Reporting and accounting

Grantees are required to submit an online evaluation form to the Project Coordinator within one month of the end of the funded activity. Recipients must also be willing and dedicated to sharing information regarding the proceedings and findings from the activity to a wider audience, e.g. in the FinCEAL Plus events or newsletter.

To verify costs, recipients of Travel Grants are required to attach copies of all costs covered by with the grant to the grant invoice. For the other grant modalities, pdf copies of all costs covered by the grant must be sent to the corresponding FinCEAL Plus Coordinator within one month of the activity. The link to the evaluation form and detailed instructions on reporting are included in the consent form sent with the grant award notification.

7. Links to the application forms

- The application form for Open Travel Grants: <https://goo.gl/forms/kJ3jYLB1jxygjo152>
- The application form for Event Grants: <https://goo.gl/forms/5qcTCTuudAZUkmlD2>
- The application form for Project Preparatory Grants: <https://goo.gl/forms/nyGfCosKwXUqcjWl3>
- The application form for Research Visit Grants: <https://goo.gl/forms/F8RdKZ6nXZUzZR42>

Applicants can expect to receive an email confirmation of receipt **within one week** of submitting the application. If you do not receive an email confirmation within a weeks' time, please contact the Asia Coordinator.

8. More information

More information on FinCEAL Plus is available through our website: www.unipid.fi/finceal
For questions regarding the Grants that are not addressed by the Call, please e-mail the Asia Project Coordinator Jarkko Mutanen at jarkko.mutanen@uef.fi

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