

U n i P I D

STRATEGY 2014-2019

Finnish University Partnership for International Development – UniPID

The Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) is a partnership network between Finnish Universities. UniPID was established in response to the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, where institutional partnerships for development were encouraged. Following this Summit, in December 2002, representatives from eleven Finnish universities assembled at the University of Jyväskylä and decided to include and promote international development as a part of their international strategies. The UniPID network serves the development objectives of the global community and works towards meeting the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Post-2015 goals.

UniPID Vision

Education and research have a valued role in societal development and UniPID is a leader for universities in responsible global development.

UniPID Mission

UniPID is a network of Finnish universities, which supports the strategic global responsibility objectives of Finnish universities. UniPID strengthens and advances the interdisciplinary education, research and societal impact of universities on global development.

The Core Values directing UniPID actions

Equality, Participation, Interdisciplinary learning, Research-based knowledge, Sustainability, Diversity, Transparency

UniPID Objectives

UniPID aims to strengthen Finnish universities' global responsibility and enhance the interdisciplinary education, research and societal impact of universities on global development.

UniPID objectives are to:

- Enhance the realization of universities' global responsibility objectives;
- Strengthen and diversify Finnish universities' and international partner institutions' curricula and educational capacity in global development issues at under-graduate and post-graduate levels;
- Increase the interest in development studies, and in specialization and research on the field;

- Enhance institutional cooperation and individual partnerships beyond the institutional and national borders in higher education and research related to global challenges and development;
- Enhance Finnish universities' and researchers' impact on research and development policies;
- Impact the national and international research agenda and funding priorities, and increase funding for research on global challenges and development; and
- Increase the importance of higher education and research in facing global challenges, enhance the role of higher education institutions in development cooperation, and increase the funding and develop the instruments for HEI development cooperation.

Implementation of UniPID Strategy

UniPID addresses these objectives in three focus areas of activities that are based on the universities' basic functions and the UniPID mission: *Education, Research* and *Societal impact*. Universities' global responsibility objectives are supported throughout these focus areas and the activities under them. The concrete actions under these focus areas are defined in the UniPID three-year plans of action and the activities are detailed and planned accordingly in UniPID's yearly plan of action.

Education

- UniPID coordinates a joint virtual studies minor programme in sustainable development and offers funding for the member universities to produce virtual courses for the programme.
- UniPID also supports the training and networking of Finnish doctoral students in the field of development studies.
- UniPID promotes development studies and encourages research and specialization in the field by supporting and organizing seminars related to global challenges and awarding a yearly Master's Award in Development Studies.

Research

- UniPID supports research cooperation, networking and knowledge sharing between member universities and with international partners at both the institutional and individual researcher level. This is done through disseminating opportunities for research cooperation and funding, and organizing networking events, workshops and seminars.
- UniPID impacts the national and international research agenda and funding priorities by maintaining a dialogue with decision makers, gathering the research community's views and preparing policy comments, and facilitating Finnish researchers' participation in policy events.

Societal impact

- UniPID impacts national and international development policies and promotes and applies the knowledge and expertise of its member universities by facilitating researchers' participation in global development events, delivering research community's comments on development

policies, and supporting and organizing seminars related to global development, higher education and research.

- UniPID shares information and facilitates contacts between member universities and potential international partner institutions to encourage development cooperation related to research and higher education.
- UniPID strengthens communication between member universities and with other national and international stakeholders and global development networks.

UniPID stakeholders and operational environment

UniPID's principle stakeholders are researchers, students, and other university staff, but also cooperation partners, and the relevant decision makers in development and research policy and funding. The main institutional stakeholders are the member universities, research funding institutions and relevant ministries, national and international partner institutions and organizations, as well as other global development, higher education and research networks.

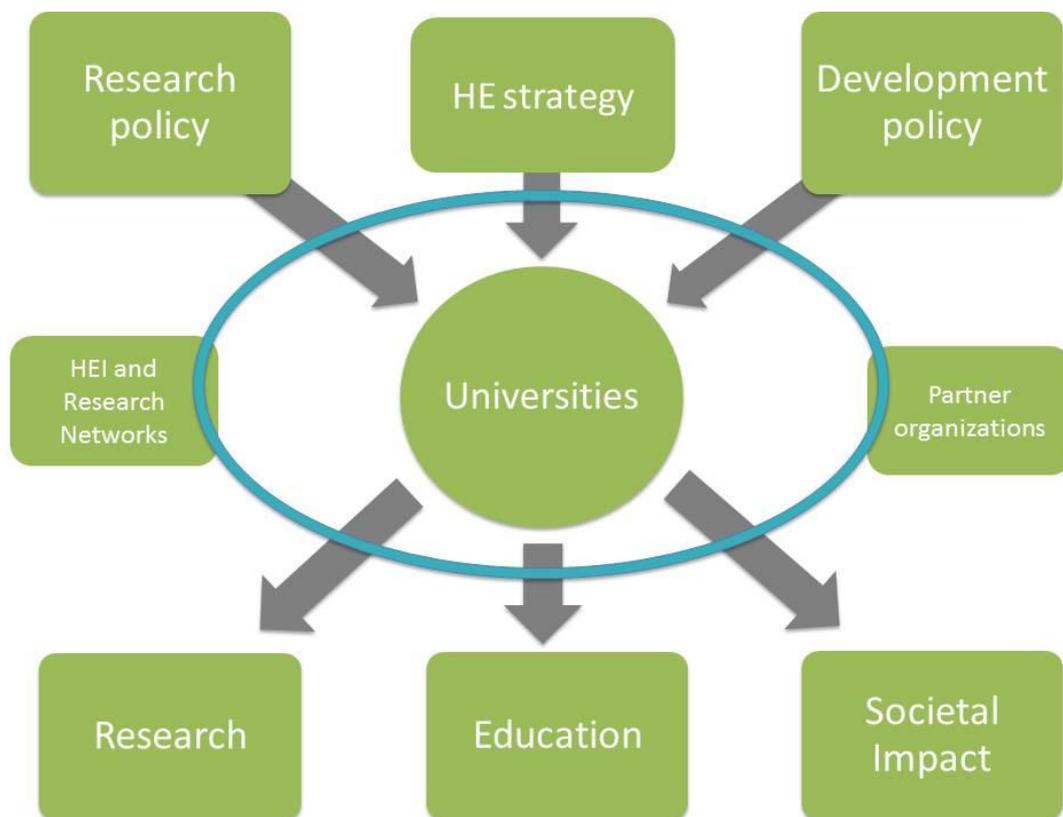


FIGURE 1. UniPID's operational environment and principle stakeholders. The blue circle illustrates UniPID's operational environment, where UniPID has an intermediary function between the universities and the other stakeholders.

UniPID has an intermediary role between the member universities and the other stakeholders. For instance, UniPID delivers and promotes member universities' study contents and teaching to the students, serves as a platform for international stakeholders to look for Finnish partners, and disseminates the knowledge and views of the research community to the decision makers.