

U n i P I D

2015

Annual report

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1. Steering and Management

Board meetings

The UniPID board had four meetings in 2015. Member universities' representation was rather comprehensive and active throughout the year. As in the previous years, the third meeting of the year was conducted virtually through an Adobe Connect Pro connection.

Board meetings	Number of participants	Represented member universities	Represented observer members
University of Jyväskylä, 23.3.2015	18	9/10	2/2
Wuolle mansion, Hauho, 21.5.2015	13	6/10	1/2
Virtual meeting, ACP, 24.9.2015	14	8/10	2/2
UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, 9.12.2015	17	9/10	2/2

Planning days in the Wuolle mansion, Hauho 20–21 May 2015

The Planning days are the most important board activity of the year, designed to strategically develop UniPID's future focus areas and upcoming activities. The planning days were organized on 20–21 May 2015 alongside the second board meeting of the year in Wuolle mansion, Hauho. The agenda was organized around the current issues of importance for and upcoming activities of the UniPID working groups.

During the first day, in the **policy working group meeting**, the board discussed the past and current policy processes where UniPID had been or was active, to update the situation and identify possible actions for the future. Most importantly, UniPID's contributions to the reform of the HEI-ICI and NSS programme and the Ministry of Education and Culture's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Internationalization Strategy were discussed. Also the plans for the UniPID Fall Seminar 2015 were developed further.

In the **Virtual Studies meeting**, the most central theme under discussion was the development of a core curriculum for the UniPID Virtual Studies to guarantee the coverage of the most important thematic areas related to sustainable development. In addition, a possibility to create a "UniPID HEI-ICI project" for virtual studies' capacity building was brought up. Also the ways to involve doctoral candidates more in the Virtual Studies' teaching were discussed.

The evening session of the first day focused on UniPID's role in **supporting Finnish development research doctoral training** after the closure of the Finnish Graduate School in Development Studies, DEVESTU. Ideas for organizing a yearly workshop or summer school focusing on development research related methodologies and theories issues were discussed. Also a possibility for creating a continuous virtual seminar to facilitate doctoral candidates' peer networking was considered as a good option for support.

The second day's programme started with a **policy workshop** to develop UniPID stands and statements to support the preparation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' new development policy alignment, and the Ministry of Education and Culture's HEIs internationalization strategy. The UniPID Planning Days 2016 were closed with the second board meeting of the year.

In addition to the strategic development activities, the UniPID team spirit was strengthened during recreational time including a UniPID Quiz and a visit to sauna. The picturesque mansion surroundings by the lake also offered a pleasant environment to hold part of the sessions outdoors.



Working group activities

In 2015, UniPID's **doctoral training working group** advanced the plans for UniPID's support to development research doctoral candidates. Three working group meetings were organized, which resulted in the establishment of a Finnish development research doctoral network, UniPID DocNet.

As in previous years, the **Master's Award in Development Studies preselection committee** was formed, consisting of representatives of the UniPID board and coordination unit, as well as the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR). The committee planned and executed the preliminary assessment of Master's Award submissions.

The **virtual studies working group** evaluated proposed Virtual Studies courses, but was also active in planning the virtual study programme's core curricula development.

A short-term **selection committee** was also formed in November to evaluate the applications for **grants to support seminars** on global development in 2016.

The year 2015 was also quite busy for the **policy working group**, which was involved in several UniPID policy advocacy processes, including the Academy of Finland's Development Research strategy consultation, comment to support the Ministry of Education and Culture's Internationalization Strategy for Finnish Higher Education, and three statements with comments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the preparation of the new Finnish development policy alignments, as well as in planning the UniPID Fall seminar 2015.

Project applications

In December 2015, UniPID submitted an application for discretionary funding from the Ministry for Education and Culture for a project called **Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland (SIMHE-UniPID)**. UniPID applied for 214 032 €, and was granted 200 000 € for the project to be implemented from 1 February 2016 to 28 February 2017.

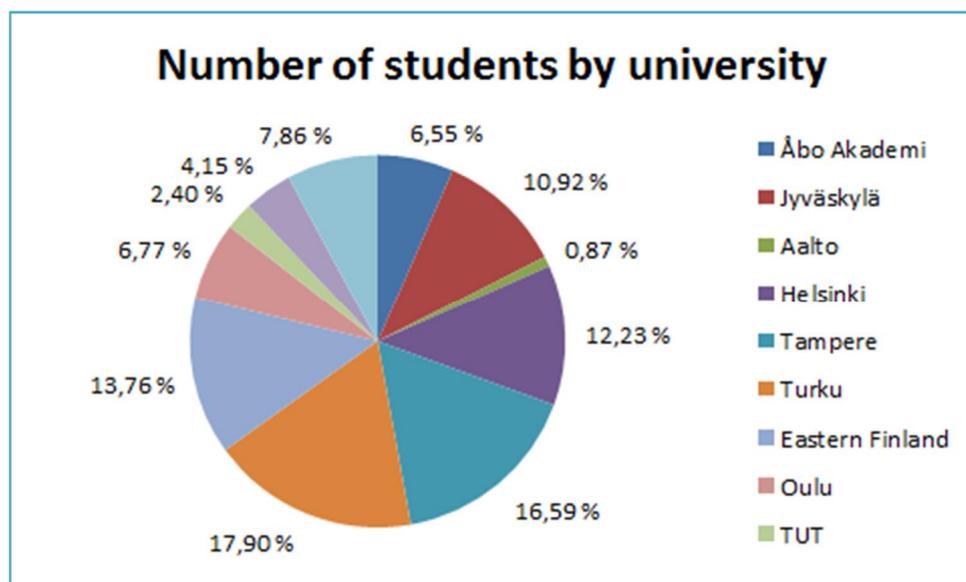
2. Education services

UniPID Virtual Studies

In 2015, a total of **15 UniPID Virtual Studies courses** were offered. In the spring semester seven courses were organized under the Virtual Studies. During the summer, one course was offered. The Fall semester featured seven courses. The courses were organized by six UniPID member universities.

The popularity of UniPID Virtual Studies has been growing during the past years. The total amount of students who completed credits in 2015 adds up to a total of **458 students**. A much larger amount of students applied to participate in the courses that could be admitted to participate. A total of at least 1206 students filled out the application form to participate in a course that took place in 2015. It is also worth noticing that interest towards the VS courses is not equally distributed among member universities. The member universities who offer courses have a larger amount of students participating when compared to other universities. This can be explained partly by the way in which the information about the Virtual Studies and specific courses is spread.

Courses offered by university in 2015	
University of Tampere	5
University of Helsinki	3
University of Turku	3
Åbo Akademi	2
University of Eastern Finland	1
University of Jyväskylä	1



The size of the sample: 458 students

The **evaluation of the Virtual Studies was continued in 2015**. The questionnaire, which aimed to identify strengths and development needs of the Virtual Studies, was administered for students and course coordinators to extend the evaluation from the academic year 2014–2015 to also 2015–2016.

In the spring 2015 Virtual Studies Call for Proposals, one new UniPID course was sought, with a funding amount of 6500 €. Additionally, update funding of 3500 € was offered for two courses. In total six applications were received, five for new courses and one for update funding. As the amount of applications did not match the amount of new courses and updates that were being sought, the UniPID board decided to fund the submitted update funding proposal and two proposals for new courses.

In October, UniPID’s Virtual Studies assistant toured four UniPID member universities – including Aalto University, University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu, University of Jyväskylä, and University of Oulu – invited by the student unions to promote UniPID Virtual Studies and discuss global responsibility as part of their Development Cooperation Week events.

On 2 November 2015 UniPID organized a Virtual Pedagogy workshop for course coordinators that was presented by Leena Hiltunen from the University of Jyväskylä. The aim is to continue offering these kinds of workshops for the benefit of all, especially new, course coordinators.

Master’s Award in Development Studies 2015

In total, 25 students participated in the competition for the [2015 Master’s Award in Development Studies](#). The students represented various disciplines and seven different UniPID member universities. As in previous years, the competition was co-organized with the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR).

The competition’s 1000 € main prize was granted to **Tomi Lounio** (University of Helsinki) for his work *Population Dynamics and Livelihood Change on Ukara Island, Lake Victoria*, from the discipline of development studies. In addition to the main prize two honorary mentions worth 250 euros each were given to the second and third best submissions. **Noora Stenholm**

(University of Helsinki) received the second prize with her thesis in development geography: *Gendered perspectives on rehabilitation after involuntary resettlement in urban Sri Lanka*. **Paula Pankakoski** (University of Turku) placed third with her work in the discipline of East Asian Studies *Place and Belonging – an Ethnography of Rural Migrant Children in Beijing*.



Number of participants/university	
University of Helsinki	13
University of Jyväskylä	3
Åbo Akademi University	3
Aalto University	2
University of Oulu	2
University of Eastern Finland	1
University of Turku	1

The reward gala was organized for the winner in the Nordic Development Research Conference “A Changing global Development Agenda?” in Gothenburg 5 November 2015. The remaining honorary mentions were dealt and the domestic event was to be celebrated 11 February 2016 in conjunction with FSDR’s Development Day 2016. The Master’s Award

selection committee consisted of professor emeritus **Olavi Luukkanen** as a chair, professor emeritus **Reijo Heinonen** and professor emerita **Ulla-Maija Kivikuru**. The MA Award's pre-selection committee, which consisted of six people, featured Marikki Stocchetti, Ilona Steiler, Emily Höckert and Johanna Hohenthal as representatives of FSDR and Olli Vainio and Johanna Kivimäki as representatives of UniPID. Katarina Frostell assisted in assessing the one thesis that was written in Swedish. UniPID's Osku Haapasaari acted as the secretary of the working group.

3. Research support

Support for seminars on global development

In 2015 UniPID continued to grant support for member universities' seminars on global development. The application round for 2015 seminar support was executed in October – November 2014. The call received great attention and UniPID received a total of 12 applications and the **support was granted exceptionally to seven seminars, with a total sum of 11 350 euros**. The following seminars received a UniPID event grant in 2015:

Organizer and seminar	Funding
University of Helsinki: <i>The 8th NOLAN conference: Struggless over Resources in Latin America</i> , 11.–13.6.2015	2 000 €
University of Lapland: <i>Gender, Development, Resistance</i> , 7.–8.6.2015	2 000 €
Finnish Society for Development Research: <i>Development Day 2015</i> , 12.–13.2.2015	1 350 €
University of Tampere: <i>ICT4D2.0 : the Post–2015 Agenda</i> , 8.–9.10.2015	2 000 €
University of Helsinki: <i>Global Economic Governance Beyond 2015</i> , 11.–12.5.2015	2 000 €
University of Eastern Finland: <i>Responsive natural resources governance: Are we getting there?</i> , 16.–17.4.2015	1 000 €
University of Helsinki: <i>Disability and Global Justice</i> , 4.9.2015	1 000 €

The **call for proposals for 2016 seminar grants was organized during September–November 2015**, where a total of eight applications were received. Of these three were granted support for 2016.

UniPID DocNet – Finnish development research doctoral network

In 2015, UniPID's doctoral training working group managed to concretize the plans for supporting Development Research doctoral candidates after the conclusion of DEVESTU. UniPID established the **Finnish development research doctoral network, UniPID DocNet**. This is a membership based network for selected doctoral students and supervisors from UniPID member universities. The goal of *UniPID DocNet* is to support the interdisciplinary training and networking of doctoral candidates, who

work on a dissertation in development research, or related to global development, or developing countries.

The official launch of UniPID DocNet was planned for February 2016. However, already in November 2015 the first Call for proposals for the **UniPID DocNet Summer School grant** was opened with the deadline in January 2016. The grant worth up to 2000 euros was to be awarded to a UniPID member university, to support the organization of a development research-related summer school for doctoral students. An additional sum, maximum 1000 euros, was to be granted to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the participating doctoral students from UniPID member universities.

Major activities of UniPID projects supporting research cooperation



FinCEAL Plus project organized or co-organized **five domestic events** in 2015, including the FinCEAL Plus Kick-off seminar, CLIC Innovation & FinCEAL Plus Seminar on Renewable Energy, NOLAN Conference, the EU-SPRI Conference and the UniPID Fall Seminar.

In November 2015, FinCEAL Plus organized also **one regional side event** in Shanghai: *China-Finland Bi-regional seminar on STI cooperation in Cleantech and Environment*.

Also **five FinCEAL information sessions** were organized alongside domestic events, and one during the Side event in Shanghai. In addition, also various Regional Advisory Group meetings were arranged in Finland during 2015.

In 2015, a total of **80 travel grants were granted** to Finnish researchers and experts, 51 of which focused on events dealing with science policy. A record number of **23 Event Grants were awarded with a total amount of 71 000 €**. The event grants were to support the organization of events in Finland or in the regions, with the goal to advance Finnish participation in bi-regional research cooperation. Also **four preparatory grants** were awarded to support the preparation of Horizon 2020 project funding applications. In 2015 also a total of **26 policy documents were commented** related to bi-regional STI cooperation.

In the end of 2015, a total of **145 Finnish research and capacity building projects** focusing on the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean were recorded in the **FinCEAL Infobank**. Additionally, in the end of the year, the **FinCEAL contact information database** included the contact details of 220 experts on Africa, 200 on Asia, and 400 on Latin America and the Caribbean.



In 2015, as a part of UniPID responsibilities in the CAAST-Net Plus project, UniPID participated in the planning and facilitation of **three Horizon 2020 information sessions and training seminars of national contact points in Africa**.

The **CAAST-Net Plus annual meeting** took place in Johannesburg, South Africa alongside the yearly SARIMA conference.



The Research and Innovation Network for Europe and Africa (RINEA) project had its **kick-off meeting** in April 2015 in Bonn, Germany.

As part of UniPID responsibilities, UniPID organized a meeting in Brussels, Belgium targeting funders from foundations and the private and philanthropic sectors to discuss **innovative funding models for research**.

UniPID also provided **mobility grants to 5 events** in Europe for researchers and experts from Africa, with the aim of supporting the elaboration of joint funding mechanisms and bi-regional research projects.

In addition, UniPID began undertaking a **bibliometric analysis** of EU-Africa co-authored papers in Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

4. Organization of and Participation in national and international Events

In 2015, UniPID and its FinCEAL Plus project organized or co-organized five major events in Finland and one in Shanghai, China, which gathered in total approximately 400 participants.

Event	Role	Participants
<i>FinCEAL Plus Kick-off Event, Helsinki</i>	Main organizer	100
<i>NOLAN Conference 2015, Helsinki</i>	Co-organizer, sponsor	120
<i>EU-SPRI conference 2015, Helsinki</i>	Special track organizer	not recorded
<i>CLIC Innovation and FinCEAL Plus seminar on Renewable Energy, Helsinki</i>	Co-organizer	50
<i>UniPID Fall Seminar 2015, Helsinki</i>	Main organizer	40
<i>China-Finland Bi-regional STI seminar, Shanghai</i>	Co-organizer	50

FinCEAL Plus Kick-off, Helsinki, April

FinCEAL Plus Kick-off Event [Finland's International Research Cooperation – Making the most of Horizon 2020](#) was organized in Helsinki on 15–16 April 2015. The first day in Helsinki Congress Paasitorni gathered together approximately 80 participants, mostly researchers from different universities and research institutions, as well as representatives of funding institutions and ministries, to discuss



the current state of international research collaboration especially with third countries at the national and European levels. On the second day, close to 100 people took part in the practical Horizon2020 training either virtually or on-site at Helsinki Think Company.

NOLAN Conference 2015, Helsinki, June

UniPID Coordinator and FinCEAL Plus LAC Coordinator took part in the Organizing Committee of the Nordic Latin American Research Network (NOLAN) Conference 2015 held in Helsinki on 11–13 June 2015. **The 8th NOLAN conference** was called ***Struggless over Resources in Latin America***. The 2,5-day Conference gathered together about 120 Latin American Studies researchers and other stakeholders from the Nordic countries and from all over the globe. UniPID and FinCEAL Plus both supported the organization of the event with event grants. UniPID and FinCEAL Plus also had an info table at the event, and the FinCEAL Plus LAC coordinator was an invited speaker at one of the working groups, as well as co-organizer of another working group.

EU-SPRI Conference 2015, Helsinki, June

FinCEAL Plus Africa Coordinator and UniPID project manager, in collaboration with VTT, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the University of Tampere, and Plan Finland organized a special track at the ***European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation (EU-SPRI) conference***, organized in Helsinki on 10–12 June 2015. The theme of the conference was *Innovation policies for economic and social transitions: developing strategies for knowledge, practice and institutions* and the special track focused on ***Innovation and Collaboration to Tackle Societal Challenges and Promote Development***. This conference was also supported by a FinCEAL Plus LAC Event Grant.

CLIC Innovation & FinCEAL Plus Seminar on Renewable Energy, Helsinki, November



CLIC Innovation (Finnish Bioeconomy and Cleantech Cluster) and FinCEAL Plus organized a joint 1-day seminar **[Re-Energizing International Cooperation – Renewable Energy Research with Third Countries](#)** on November 19, focusing especially on research collaboration with Third Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean region. The seminar gathered together over 50 participants, mostly researchers from different universities and research institution, as well as representatives of funding institutions, ministries and foreign embassies, private sector and NGO representatives to share information on current initiatives, discuss the challenges and best practices related to cooperation with Third Countries, as well as to provide information in funding opportunities within the Horizon2020 framework.

China-Finland Bi-regional seminar on STI cooperation, Shanghai, November

FinCEAL Plus organized a regional side event [China-Finland Bi-regional seminar on STI cooperation in Cleantech and Environment](#) on November 4 in Shanghai, China, as part of the Nordic Design and Innovation Week 2015 (NDIW2015) Finland day. The high level event was organized in cooperation with China–Finland Strategic ICT Alliance. The event was supported by Team Finland, Ministry of Education and Culture, Tekes, Ministry of Employment and Economy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as other relevant entities from China and Finland.

The 1-day seminar gathered together over 50 experts on Cleantech, and Environmental Monitoring and Health, Urban Design and related areas from industry and academia as well as government representatives and other stakeholders from China and Finland and EU to present and discuss about key technologies in cleantech, environment monitoring and health aspects. The goal of the seminar was to provide opportunities for researchers and business and public sector representatives to get into detailed discussions on further cooperation. The after-event cocktails got together around 120 participants.



UniPID Fall Seminar 2015, Helsinki, December

UniPID, with the support of also FinCEAL Plus, and in cooperation with the Finnish Development Policy Committee and FSDR, organized its Fall Seminar on December 10–11, 2015, with the theme [Knowledge exchange for better policy and practice: A research – policy matchmaking event](#). With this seminar, UniPID sought to strengthen the communication between researchers and policy-makers to facilitate evidence-based policy and decision making. Both policy-makers and researchers



were sent a pre-event questionnaire to determine their interests in specific topics as well as needs in terms of knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The seminar was designed to begin with a day-long training workshop for researcher participants on collaborative practices. The second day was designed as a collaborative event where scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers could discuss research on pre-identified core themes and explore further collaborative practices and possibilities. The second day also included

plenaries, knowledge-sharing group work, and an informal panel session.

During the two days, the seminar gathered together **some 40 attendees** from a variety of disciplines and institutions. A full-fledged [seminar report](#) was produced summarizing the core insights and outcomes from the plenaries, discussions, and thematic knowledge workshops. The report was sent to the seminar participants, as well as interested policy actors.

Participation in international and national events

In addition to organizing various workshops and seminars and being present in national events, UniPID was represented by the different coordination unit members, as part of the different UniPID projects and activities, also in a great variety of international events.

Event	Role
FEBRUARY	
<i>Development Day 2015, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Info table
MARCH	
<i>Leadership project's ICT stakeholder seminar, Buenos Aires, Argentina</i>	Presentation
<i>Bureau of the HLPD meeting, London, UK</i>	Participation
<i>ASEAN-EU STI days, Paris, France</i>	Participation
APRIL	
<i>FinCEAL Plus Kick-Off Seminar, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Organizer
<i>ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development, Beijing, China</i>	Presentation
<i>RINEA Kick-Off meeting, Bonn, Germany</i>	Presentation
MAY	
<i>Spring Forum for International Affairs 2015, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Info table
<i>CARIMA Conference, Buea, Cameroon</i>	Presentation
<i>CAAST-Net Plus Annual meeting and SARIMA Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa</i>	Presentation
<i>NCP Training Workshop, Accra, Ghana</i>	Presentation, Organizer
JUNE	
<i>NOLAN Conference 2015, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Presentation, Working group organizer

<i>EU-CELAC Academic Summit, Brussels, Belgium</i>	Participation
<i>EU-SPRI Conference 2015, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Working group organizer
OCTOBER	
<i>Nordic-Latin American Contact Seminar, Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia and Lima, Peru</i>	Presentation
<i>Towards an EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture, EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy</i>	Panel Member
<i>ICT 2015, Lisbon, Portugal</i>	Networking coordinator
<i>RINEA Workshop for Non-Traditional Funding Parties, Brussels, Belgium</i>	Organizer
<i>ERAfrica Meeting for Interested Partners, Bonn, Germany</i>	Presentation
<i>NCP Training Workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i>	Presentation, Organizer
NOVEMBER	
<i>China-Finland Bi-regional seminar on STI cooperation in Cleantech and Environment, Nordic Design and Innovation Week 2015, Shanghai, China</i>	Organizer, presenter
<i>Nordic Development Research Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden</i>	Working group organizer
<i>CLIC Innovation and FinCEAL Plus seminar on Renewable Energy, Helsinki</i>	Organizer
DECEMBER	
<i>SANORD-network annual conference and Council Meeting, Windhoek, Namibia</i>	Presentation
<i>UniPID Fall Seminar 2015, Helsinki, Finland</i>	Organizer

5. Societal advocacy in 2015

Participation in processes related to development policy and universities' global responsibility

In April 2015, UniPID commented on UNIFI's report on the process for structural development and profiling of education and research in Social Sciences. In the comment, UniPID underlined the importance of networks in maintaining the national scientific dialogue and cooperation. Also UniPID's status as an autonomous interuniversity network was underpinned.

In June, UniPID produced a [statement to support the preparation of Ministry of Education and](#)

[Culture's Higher Education Institutions \(HEIs\) Internationalization Strategy](#). In the statement, UniPID highlighted the importance of creating better directions and indicators with matching funding to encourage universities' global responsibility. This implies also policy coherence between the different ministries and guaranteeing the support for the partnerships with HEIs and researchers in the global south. UniPID also requested better evaluation of the impacts of the planned tuition fees for the non-EU or ETA region students.

In June UniPID delivered also a [statement to support the preparation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' development policy alignment](#) and in October and December comments were provided on the alignment draft document, as invited from the ministry. UniPID presented its concern for the reduced funding for Development Research and the HEI-ICI and NSS programmes, and for the suddenly increased funding for the private sector cooperation, which may risk the sustainability and quality of Finnish development cooperation. UniPID underpinned that education and development of skills, as well as research and access to information are key to achieve the cross-cutting objectives and they support also all the main thematic goals of the alignment.

In October, UniPID was also invited to nominate representatives as members of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' **Development Policy Committee** for the period of 2016–2019. Development Policy Committee is a multistakeholder committee to advice and evaluate Finnish development policy. UniPID board selected Jussi Pakkasvirta from the University of Helsinki as the member of the committee and Katarina Frostell from Åbo Akademi as the vice-member.

Participation in science policy processes

In 2015, UniPID continued to contribute to and comment on important domestic and international science policy processes to support and advance Finnish development research and research cooperation with EU and third countries related to global challenges.

UniPID conducted an inquiry directed to scientific community to contribute to **the Academy of Finland's Development Research strategy consultation**. UniPID also coordinated and delivered **regular commentaries related to bi-regional STI policy dialogue** documents as a part of FinCEAL Plus, RINEA and CAAST-Net Plus project activities, as requested by the ministries and other bodies.

To foster Finnish scientific community's participation in the bi-regional cooperation between **EU and Africa**, UniPID participated in the following STI Policy consultation processes and partnerships:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Pre-Bureau meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal national working group on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC) Roadmap for the African Union Commission & South Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)

In the sphere of cooperation between **EU and Latin America and the Caribbean**, UniPID participated in the following STI Policy consultation processes and partnerships:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Co-leadership: Cross-cutting issues Working Group, subgroup on Early Career Researcher Careers- Co-leadership: ICT Working Group- Collaboration with other thematic WG's by sending experts to their workshops, etc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU-CELAC Academic Summit |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC) Roadmap for Brazil, Mexico and CELAC countries |

To advance Finnish involvement in the bi-regional cooperation between **EU and Asia**, UniPID participated in the following STI policy processes and partnerships:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ASEMME5- ASEMFM12- ASEM11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC) Roadmap for Japan, Korea, China, ASEAN, and India |

In the FinCEAL Plus Kick-off seminar in Helsinki, two internationally recognized **STI policy experts** were invited to deliver speeches. As part of FinCEAL Plus project, UniPID organized also one **international side event related to science policy in Shanghai, China**, where the president of the European Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula was invited to deliver a keynote speech.

Through the FinCEAL Plus project, UniPID awarded in total **51 travel grants** to researchers with a special focus on events dealing with science policy in 2015.

Participation in events and meetings with societal advocacy purpose

In March 2015, various members of the UniPID board participated in the meetings organized by CIMO related to **the HEI-ICI and NSS programmes' evaluation** process. UniPID also kept track of the state of the preparation of the renewed programme throughout the year.

In October, invited by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Development Policy Unit, UniPID Coordinator participated in the **stakeholder discussion on the Finnish development policy alignment** preparation.

In October, UniPID Coordinator participated virtually in a meeting **Higher Education Institutions and the study possibilities for the Refugees and Asylum seekers in Finland** organized by CIMO. The aim of the event was to share good practices and ideas about the study possibilities and other

support that HEIs could offer for the refugees and asylum seekers. UniPID expressed its willingness to support any national coordination of the support activities between Finnish universities.

UniPID continued its close cooperation with the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR) throughout 2015. As in previous years, the UniPID coordinator acted as an active member of the **society's board** and participated in the program committee of the conference. UniPID coordinator also participated in **University of Jyväskylä's working groups** on *Sustainable Development* and on *Preparation of International Issues*. UniPID also continued to keep in contact with the **Perjantai-group** scanning possibilities for further cooperation.

In December, the **UniPID Fall Seminar** culminated UniPID's year of societal advocacy with a firm step towards strengthening the cooperation between researchers and policy-makers to facilitate evidence-based policy and decision making.

In addition to these processes UniPID continued to actively participate in advocacy work with Finnish ministries and interest groups. The **FinCEAL Plus project** has had an important role in this advocacy work and it has also been central in supporting the opportunities of researchers and institutions to increase cooperation with partners in the Global South.



6. Communications

The communication of relevant calls, virtual studies and events towards the scientific community and students was conducted mainly through the UniPID website, the mailing list, newsletters, Facebook and LinkedIn. Throughout the year the number of subscribers to UniPID's mailing list and newsletters increased. The number of **UniPID followers on Facebook and other social media** grew throughout the year quickly as well. Especially the profile updates related to the Master's Award in Development Studies results, the 3rd Joint Conference on Development Research in Gothenburg and the representation of UniPID in the Finnish Development Policy Committee received considerable attention, reaching more than 500 people each.

In total, **29 UniPID, FinCEAL Plus and Focus on Africa Newsletters** were sent out in 2015. The performance of the Mailchimp-based **newsletters** was solid throughout the year. Mailchimp lists the average opening rate of newsletters in the field of education and training as 21.96 %. Out of the 28 newsletters sent in 2015, 27 exceeded this score, with 9 of them performing even better, exceeding 30 % in opening rates.

Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015, **16 324 users visited the UniPID website** on a total of 29 217 sessions. In total, the page views added up to 104 143 during the year. The busiest traffic was in August–September 2015, which coincides with the beginning of the new academic year. The least amount of traffic was received in July, when many enjoy their summer vacations. The most popular page was the [Virtual Studies front page](#), which accounted for 19.29 % of all page views. The second most popular page was the [UniPID front page](#), which received 9.30 % of views.

For UniPID, developing communications continued to be in the focus in 2015. The coordination unit decided to keep better track of performance reports that services such as Facebook, Google Analytics and Mailchimp provide, in order to gauge the interest of the audience and to keep the provided content interesting and fresh.

	Subscribes/likes December 2015	Change percentage from Nov 2014
UniPID mailing list	600+	
UniPID newsletter	816	+6.25 %
Focus on Africa newsletter	175	+1.74 %
FinCEAL newsletter	593	+2.42 %
UniPID Facebook	735	+45.8 %
UniPID LinkedIn	126	+125 %

