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Board functions and administration

Board meetings

The UniPID board had four meetings in 2014. Member universities were represented in a rather comprehensive and active manner throughout the year. As has been the case in the previous years, the third meeting of the year was conducted virtually through an Adobe Connect Pro connection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board meetings</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>Represented member universities</th>
<th>Represented observer members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.2.2014 Åbo Akademi</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9 / 10</td>
<td>1 / 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.5.2014 Urkin Piilopirtti, Pinsiö (during the planning days)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9 / 10</td>
<td>1 / 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9.2014 via an ACP connection</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9 / 10</td>
<td>2 / 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.11.2014 University of Helsinki</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8 / 10</td>
<td>1 / 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Planning days: Pinsiö, Urkin piilopirtti 22 - 23 May 2014

The Planning days are the most important board activity of the year and are designed to strategically develop UniPID’s functions. The planning days were organized 22 to 23 May 2014 alongside the second board meeting of the year at Urkin piilopirtti, Pinsiö. Many extensive issues were on the planning days’ agenda.

During the first day, the board met to create indicators for UniPID functions through group work. The indicators aim to measure UniPID’s most central functions such as support for education, research support, societal influence, administration and communications. The indicators have been developed further as the year has progressed. The next step will be to agree on development goals.

The second large theme of the first day was discussing the HEI-ICI and NSS-program evaluations and drafting the UniPID-comment to support the programs future development. The most central recommendations from the HEI-ICI- and NSS-programs were discussed in small groups in the very idyllic and sunny surroundings of Urkin piilopirtti’s sauna terrace, on the shore of Greater Lehmijärvi. Additionally, the evening session focused on the role of universities in development cooperation and the funding of development research. Based on the discussions, UniPID coordinator Johanna Kivimäki formulated UniPID’s official comment, which was delivered to the ministry the following morning.

The second day’s agenda included formulating the application for the continuation of FinCEAL and discussing how to further improve the Virtual Studies. The morning session had the board meet to discuss the continuation funding application of FinCEAL. The planning meeting discussed the schedule and focus areas of the application, paying special attention to the implications of the project’s Asia-extension and the placement of FinCEAL coordinators between member universities.
The last afternoon of the planning days was spent dwelling on UniPID Virtual Studies. The agenda included making the virtual studies available for international students and developing the virtual studies as a whole, with a focus on the minor programme. As another goal of the planning days besides strategic development, was rejuvenating the board, there was recreational time included in the schedule for the board and coordination unit to play mölkky, visit the sauna and have a grill dinner at the kota.

**Working group activities**

In 2014, UniPID’s doctoral training working group planned for a workshop to improve the guidance in development research, and a mapping of the available doctoral training programs and need for cooperation in the field of development research in member universities. However, these activities were moved on to the new board’s agenda for 2015-2017. A preparatory working group consisting of board members and representatives of the Finnish Society for Development Research organized and executed the preliminary assessment of Master’s Award in Development Studies submissions. Additionally, a working group was organized to evaluate both proposed Virtual Studies courses and Seminar grant applications.

**Nomination of a new board for 2015 - 2017**

Nomination of the new UniPID board for the term of 2015 - 2017 was done during fall 2014. Nomination letters were sent to rectors of member universities in October 2014, with a nomination deadline just before to Christmas. The new board consists of some new members accompanied by representatives with prior board experience. The new board will have an organizational meeting in early 2015.

**Project applications**

UniPID participated in a total of four project applications in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The relation between funding that was applied for and funding that was granted in 2014</th>
<th>Applied for</th>
<th>Granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FinCEAL Plus (Ministry of Education and Culture)</td>
<td>1 230 093,19 €</td>
<td>1 200 000,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RINEA (H2020)</td>
<td>1 927 364,00 €</td>
<td>1 927 364,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniPID share</td>
<td>291 740,00 €</td>
<td>291 740,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPICTLI (H2020)</td>
<td>1 183 504,00 €</td>
<td>0,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniPID share</td>
<td>130 224,00 €</td>
<td>0,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnish Cultural Foundation</td>
<td>100 000,00 €</td>
<td>tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniPID/JyU share</td>
<td>53 000,00 €</td>
<td>tbc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education support

UniPID Virtual Studies

In 2014, a total of 18 UniPID Virtual Studies courses were offered. In the Spring semester 8 courses were organized under the Virtual Studies. During the summer, one course was offered. The Fall semester featured 9 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 in 2014 adds up to a total of 559 students. A much larger amount of students applied to participate in the courses that could be admitted to participate. When the sign-up information of 16 of the 18 courses is analysed, it is found that a total of 1310 students filled out the application form to participate in the course. The sign-up information was not available for two very popular VS courses, Introduction to Development Economics and International Development Policy and Analysis. The increasing student interest towards Virtual Studies courses raises the question of breadth of UniPID’s course offerings and the available capacity. 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. One way this can be explained is in the way information about the Virtual Studies is spread.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Virtual Studies courses by university</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Eastern Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Helsinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Jyväskylä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tampere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Turku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Åbo Akademi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of students by university

Attention! The diagram has been generated from a sample of 463 students.
In fall 2014 UniPID adopted a new study attainment registration system. The new system makes it possible to register VS study attainments in the systems of the university providing the course. The new system requires the student to transfer the study attainment her/himself to her/his home university.

During fall 2014 UniPID commenced the evaluation of the Virtual Studies. A questionnaire, which aimed to identify strengths and development needs of UniPID Virtual Studies, was administered for students and course coordinators. The process will be continued in 2015 with in-depth interviews.

In the Fall 2014 Virtual Studies Call for Proposals two new UniPID courses were sought, with a funding amount of 6500 € per course. Additionally, update funding of 3500 € was offered for one course. Three applications were received, two for a new course and one for the update funding. Only the update funding application was funded, for the course Water and Society, provided by the University of Tampere. New application call will be organized in spring 2015.

Cooperation with UNCTAD vi

As a part of the internationalization of the Virtual Studies, UniPID started cooperation with UNTAD’s virtual institute (vi). In November 2014 University of Jyväskylä joined UNCTAD vi as a member. As a part of the preparatory process Vlasta Macku, Chief of the Virtual Institute was invited to be one of the speakers at UniPID’s and FinCEAL’s CCI seminar.

In October 2014 a Virtual Studies Course Proposal application round was organized under the rubric “Trade and Development”. The purpose of the application round was to develop courses which could be piloted for future UNCTAD Vi co-operation. Three course proposals were received, none of which were funded as they did not fully meet the criteria of the call. As the course proposal call failed, the last board meeting of 2014 decided to develop a “Trade and Development” -themed course with the know-how of the board personnel. This course is meant to be a part of future UniPID VS course offerings.

Master’s Award in Development Studies 2014

A record amount of thirty students participated in the competition for the 2014 Master’s Award in Development Studies. The students represented various disciplines and five different UniPID member universities. The competition was co-organized with the Finnish Society for Development Research.

The competition’s 1000 € main prize was
granted to Henry O. Salas Lazo (University of Helsinki) with his work “Local Voices and Perspectives: A Study on the Contextualisation of Women’s Empowerment in Lima, Peru”, from the discipline of Latin American studies. In addition to the main prize two honorary mentions worth 250 euros each were given to the second and third best submissions. Kukka Ranta (University of Helsinki) was second with her thesis in development studies: “Robbed sea - the Effects of European Union fishery agreements on the food security and livelihoods of Senegalese small-scale fishermen”. Lauri Heimo (University of Tampere) was placed third with this work in the discipline of social policy “The Idea of Conditional Cash Transfers”.

The reward gala was organized at UniPID and FinCEAL’s common “Cooperation Across Borders - Comprehensive Responses to Transecting Global Challenges” - seminar in Helsinki 12 November 2014.

The Master’s Award selection panel consisted of professor emerita Rauni Räsänen, professor emeritus Reijo Heinonen and professor emeritus Olavi Luukkanen. The preparatory Master’s Award Working Group, which consisted of six people, featured Nina Himberg, Karen Heikkilä and Marikki Stocchetti as representatives of FSDR and Satu Miettinen, Mikko Perkiö and Johanna Turunen as representatives of UniPID. Outi Etuaho acted as the secretary of the working group.
Research support

Support for seminars on global development

In 2014 UniPID commenced a new activity: supporting seminars on global development. The purpose of this seminar support is to provide small-scale support to seminars which handle development themes, with a special focus on supporting the national dialogue on development research, varied and multidisciplinary supply of development research seminars at the member universities, and participation opportunities for doctoral students.

In 2014 UniPID received a total of six applications for seminar support and handed out two support grants of 2000 € each. The parties who received support for their seminars on global development were:

- “Youth and political engagement in contemporary Africa”, 12 to 14 February 2014, University of Helsinki
- “Reading acquisition and learning with technology-enhanced tools in Sub-Saharan countries”, 25 to 30 August 2014, University of Jyväskylä.

The application round for 2015 seminar support was executed in October and November 2014. The 2015 application round received much attention and UniPID received a total of 12 applications. In 2015 the support was granted exceptionally to seven seminars, a total sum of 11 350 euros.

Participation in science policy processes

- Commenting on important domestic and international processes
  - Commenting on the evaluation of HEI-ICI / NSS programmes
  - Commenting on the introduction of tuition fees for students from outside the EU/ETA-region
  - Regular commentaries related to STI policy dialogue documents as a part of FinCEAL activities, as requested by the ministries
- Three international side events
  - Africa-EU Summit, including a comment and work on the prime minister’s speech at the meeting
  - EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue Expert Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security and Safety
  - EU-CELAC inter-regional conference “STI cooperation in Smart Cities” as a part of Team Finland and the visit of Minister of Employment and the Economy Jan Vapaavuori
- 49 FinCEAL travel grants with a special focus on events dealing with science policy
- 15 experts and/or central actors who were invited to deliver speeches in FinCEAL events
- UniPID also participated for example in the preparation seminar of EU-CELAC Academic Summit in Bukarest in May 2014, which was in organized in preparation of the 2015 summit. Johanna Kivimäki and Kajsa Ekroos participated.
Major activities from UniPID projects

**FinCEAL – DEVELOPING FINNISH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE, AFRICA AND THE LAC REGION**

- FinCEAL events
  - CCI-seminar 12 - 13 of November 2014, 160 participants
  - 21 domestic scientific seminars, working groups and networking events (2013-2014) with a total of over 900 participants.
  - Three side events with more than 220 participants (Belgium, Mauritius, Chile)
  - FinCEAL information session in 24 events (2013-2014)
  - A total of 132 travel grants, 49 of which focused on events dealing with science policy
  - A total of six H2020 preparatory grants
  - A total of nearly 80 projects recorded in the FinCEAL Infobank at the end of 2014. Additionally, a contact information database with the contact details of 350 experts on Africa and 320 experts on Latin American.

**ERAfica**

- ERAfica, funded through EU’s 7th Framework Programme, finished in November 2014.
- The project’s concluding conference was organized in Johannesburg in September 2014. Melissa Plath and Riitta Launonen from the Academy of Finland participated.
- Additionally Henry Maina (University of Helsinki), the coordinator of the FIBREPRO consortium, participated in the concluding conference with FinCEAL funding.

**CAAST-Net PLUS**

- As a part of UniPID responsibilities in CAAST-Net+ projects, UniPID participated in the planning and facilitation of six Horizon 2020 information sessions and training seminars of national contact points in Africa.
- The CN+ annual meeting was organized in Portugal in June 2014.
- The CN+ stakeholder conference was organized in Entebbe, Uganda in November 2014.
Events and stakeholder activities

**COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS – COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES TO TRANSECTING GLOBAL CHALLENGES?**

The CCI seminar, co-organised with the FinCEAL project, was UniPID’s largest event in 2014 and the concluding seminar for the FinCEAL project. The seminar was organized 12 - 13 November 2014 at Hotel Paasitorni, Helsinki. The goal of the seminar was to encourage and facilitate discussion on partnerships between international sectors, multidisciplinary research and cross-cutting themes. Special attention was paid to how Finland and Finnish actors have utilized the aforementioned methods to provide answers to global challenges. The two-day seminar gathered a total of 160 participants from different sectors, all of whom approached the theme from different standpoints. The main goal of the seminar was to strengthen the discussion and networking between different sectors. To support this, a diverse array of researchers, organizational representatives, entrepreneurs, ministry employees and other interest group representatives participated in the seminar.

The first day of the seminar was opened by Paul Engel, the Director of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). Engel commenced the day with an inspiring presentation on international cooperation, especially focusing on the Post-2015 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Engel stressed the political nature of the Post-2015 agenda compared to the previous MDG agenda. The Post-2015 agenda is not only concerned with financing, but it also touches upon resource use and markets in a wider sense. The post-2015 agenda also carries a strong will for change and a principle of universality, which affect actions both in the Global South and the Global North. This creates new challenges for partnerships and research cooperation. Partnerships have to support and create enabling climates for innovations, investment in local research and innovations, and the evaluation of the social consequences of innovations in the Global South. Engel wanted to remind the audience how important it is to understand the importance of local skills, ideas and solutions for sustainable development.

The second keynote was delivered by Vlasta Macku, from the UNCTAD Virtual Institute. Macku discussed the Vi experiences in capacity building and supporting development through training in economics. Macku emphasized the difference between traditional capacity building projects in the economic sector and the new approaches UNCTAD has adopted. Traditionally the activities have focused greatly on capacity building in the higher echelons of society, especially on the training of public sector officials. This approach has its background in the motivation to increase countries’
capacity to participate in bilateral and multilateral trade and economic agreements. Macku defended the position of new approaches which stress long-term cooperation rooted in local needs, which aims to increase economics knowledge outside the public sector, especially in the academia, the private sector and the civil society.

The session was concluded by Danai Mupotsa’s (University of Witwatersrand) commentary. Mupotsa questioned the commonly accepted terminology of development, including social innovations and capacity building, and the context with which these buzzwords are commonly associated. Mupotsa called for a greater context dependency, which would take into account the societal impacts of social innovations e.g. in the spheres of gender, education and politics.

After the lunch, the afternoon session consisted of thematic working group sessions, in which the participants had the chance to discuss the themes of the seminar in a more in-depth manner. UniPID organized its own working group under the theme Do Interdisciplinary, Intersectoral Partnerships work? The evening was finished by the award ceremony for the Master’s Award in Development Studies and a casual evening soirée, which featured dance and live music.

The second day was kicked off by two Finnish keynote speakers. The first was Kalervo Väänänen, the University of Turku rector, who discussed innovation partnerships. Väänänen highlighted his experiences in multidisciplinary international sector partnerships that University of Turku has participated in. Väänänen stressed that successful partnerships are born in situations where the partnership is created to meet both parties’ interests and needs. Väänänen remarked that universities should alter their current way of thinking and strive for a greater degree of innovation-mindedness. Universities should especially get rid of the idea that something can only be done if outside funding is secured. Funding from outside the university always brings with it outside interests, which introduce challenges to establishing sustainable partnerships.

Maria Ritola of Demos Helsinki picked up where Väänänen left off, introducing a practical example of a new kind of innovative cooperation via Demos Helsinki’s project “Smart Retro”. Ritola highlighted characteristics of innovative partnerships and forms of cooperation especially in the fields of sustainable livelihoods, climate change and resource economics in Western, high-income countries. Innovative ecosystems are inter-sectoral projects between numerous interest groups and actors, in which it is especially important to map out different actors and to take into account the different interests of everyone involved.

The afternoon consisted again of thematic working group sessions. UniPID organized a discussion session titled HEI partnerships for sustainable global development. The seminar finished with a panel discussion, which mapped out Finnish actors’ views towards partnerships and their role in meeting global challenges. In the panel ministries, the academy, the civil society and the private sector were represented. The panel sparked a lively discussion during which for example the tuition fees of non EU/ETA students were debated.
Development Research Day 2014 and cooperation with the Finnish Society for Development Research

UniPID has continued its close cooperation with the Finnish Society for Development Research throughout 2014. The coordinator for UniPID has been a member of the society’s board as a representative of UniPID. UniPID and the FSDR also continued their cooperation with the Master’s Award in Development Studies. The UniPID coordinator participated in the program committee of the 2014 Development Research Day and UniPID paid for the coffee service during the Development Research Day. The 2015 Development Research Day received support from UniPID through UniPID’s seminar support for global development.

Spring Forum for International Affairs in Higher Education 2014

UniPID organized a workshop on global responsibility at the Spring Forum for International Affairs in Higher Education, which handled the role of UniPID Virtual Studies as a potential proponent of universities’ goals of global responsibility. Johanna Kvimäki, the UniPID coordinator, acted as the chairperson of the workshop. Speakers at the workshop included Riina Vuorento (Ministry of Education and Culture), Henni Saarela (National Union of University Students in Finland) and Melissa Plath (UniPID). In addition to the workshop, Melissa Plath and Kajsa Ekroos organized a FinCEAL research support workshop, which handled the role of administration and researchers in international research projects. Besides the two workshops, UniPID had an information desk at the event to inform participants of UniPID and FinCEAL activities.

Cooperation with the Westermarck Society

UniPID participated in the organization one-day doctoral training workshop titled "From Modernity to Postcolonial Critique and Beyond" together with the Westermarck Society and the University of Helsinki project “Youth and political engagements in contemporary Africa”. The workshop was organized alongside the Edvard Westermarck memorial lecture in Helsinki 21 November 2014. Gurminder Bhambra, University of Warwick, acted as the lecturer and the director of the workshop.

DEVESTU concluding seminar Postdevelopment as paradigm?

The UniPID coordinator participated in the planning working group of the Devestu concluding seminar Postdevelopment as paradigm? The Devestu concluding seminar will be organized in Helsinki 8 to 10 of June 2015.

NOLAN 2015: “Struggles over Resources in Latin America”

UniPID and FinCEAL participated in the programme working group of the NOLAN 2015 conference in 2015. The conference will be organized in Helsinki 11 to 13 June 2015.

Participation in essential international events

- IST Africa-conference, Mauritius
- EU-CELAC Academic Summit-preparatory seminar, Bukarest, Romania
- eLearning Africa—seminar, Kampala, Uganda
- SANORD-network annual conference, Karlstad, Sweden (including introduction to UniPID virtual studies and meetings of the SANORD network board and council)
- CAAST-Net + annual meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Nordic Africa Days, Uppsala, Sweden
Societal advocacy in 2014

UniPID participated in University of Jyväskylä’s development cooperation coordination group and in the organization of the University of Jyväskylä global responsibility seminar. UniPID contributed to the planning and practicalities of the seminar, in addition to introducing its activities as a part of the seminar programme. The seminar handled the global responsibility measures adopted by the University of Jyväskylä, including research and development cooperation projects in which the university and related actors participate in. Additionally, the seminar featured a panel discussion, in which Tiina Vihma-Purovaara (The Ministry of Education on Culture), Annica Moore (CIMO), Eva Kagiri (UniPID) and Rashad Kaparaju (JyU) discussed global responsibility. After the seminar UniPID organized a FinCEAL information session for the researchers present.

UniPID’s coordination unit and vice chairperson Jeremy Gould met with Minister for International Development Pekka Haavisto in Jyväskylä 10th of March 2014 when Haavisto arrived in Jyväskylä to deliver a lecture. In the meeting the minister was informed of UniPID’s activities and discussion was had regarding the role of higher education and research in development and development cooperation.

The UniPID coordinator Johanna Kivimäki participated in the meeting of the Finnish universities’ international directors, which was organized alongside the Spring Forum for International Affairs in Higher Education event. There she introduced UniPID’s activities and the means through which the network can support the universities’ work towards their objectives of global responsibility.

UniPID participated in 2014 in the functions of the Post 2015-working group. UniPID drafted a comment on Finland’s preliminary stance towards the Post-2015 development goals. To meet the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ request, UniPID named Jeremy Gould and Pertti Haaparanta to represent UniPID at the Post-2015 working group.

UniPID also drafted a comment during the planning days on the evaluation of HEI-ICI and NSS-programmes. The comment was delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UniPID vice chairperson Jeremy Gould presented the comment at the June 16 publication event of the evaluation, held at the House of Science and Letters. UniPID recognized the important role of both HEI-ICI and North-South-South in meeting the international objectives of Finnish universities, but voiced the criticism that the instruments should be developed so that they would better support the strategy of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the funding and incentive structure of the Finnish institutions of higher education. Additionally, UniPID criticized the proposition to combine the funding of development research with the funding of HEI-ICI and NSS, and stressed the importance of permanent, already-established partnerships.

UniPID was well represented in the “Hyvää työtä, vieläkin paremmin” consultation for Academy members. Organized by the Perjantai-group, this consultation handled the co-operation of researchers and universities with public administration, policymakers and third sector actors. A central theme was how researchers could more easily incorporate their research into policymaking and how new venues of discussion could be opened. This process will be continued in 2015.

UniPID has strived to support the development of the Ministry of Education and Culture’s international strategy. UniPID has discussed it with the ministry’s representatives in many different contexts. Responsible research partnerships were discussed also at the “HEI partnerships for sustainable global development” workshop, organized at the CCI seminar.

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

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. By the end of the year the number was closing in on 800. The number of UniPID followers on Facebook and other social media grew throughout the year as well.

For UniPID, developing communications was a central theme in 2014. In spring 2014 new brochures for UniPID and UniPID Virtual Studies were designed and printed. During the summer and fall the coordination unit focused on the further development of the UniPID website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Subscribers November 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UniPID newsletter</td>
<td>768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on Africa newsletter</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FinCEAL newsletter</td>
<td>579</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>UniPID-facebook</td>
<td>504</td>
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<tr>
<td>UniPID LinkedIn</td>
<td>56</td>
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