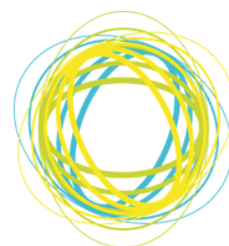


2024

Annual Report

UNIPID

FINNISH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



FOREWORD

2024 was a year of active engagement with member universities, collaborators, and other stakeholders for UniPID. Following the launch of the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South in 2023, UniPID developed a roadmap for mainstreaming and disseminating the guidelines, attended a series of events, and prepared funding applications to support the dissemination. These activities comprised embarking on conversations with many familiar and new partners in the Finnish scientific community and beyond, including foundations, funders, CSOs and sister organisations on higher education policy, internationalisation and research ethics. This important work in fostering responsible academic partnerships with the Global South continues as a joint effort with member universities and stakeholders as we seek systemic change to mitigate the inherent power imbalances and inequalities in our collaborations.

This year also marked the second round of the two-year contract with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland regarding the Development Policy Studies Mechanism. The mechanism enables us to support evidence-based decision-making and increase the impact of research. Due to the Ministry's restructuring, studies were reduced to one. Despite this, the publication event of the CEULA study attracted great attention and interest, with approximately 200 participants joining the the study launch in January 2025.

After a successful pilot in 2023, the Network launched the MOOC Essentials in Development Studies to a wider audience in the spring 2024. The MOOC provides access to high quality research-based e-learning to anyone interested in global sustainable development, including professionals working in development cooperation. In doctoral education, UniPID initiated a new collaboration with the Sustainability Transformations Doctoral Education Pilot SusTra.

In 2024, 'Consortium Europe-Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation' (CEA-FIRST) had its official launch on the road to to operationalize a fully functional AU-EU International Research Consortium (IRC) platform for an equitable and sustainable research and innovation partnership between Africa and Europe on Food and Nutrition Security for sustainable Agriculture within the EU Farm-to-Fork strategy.

In this annual report, you can review the width of virtual courses, project work, events, communications and policy dialogue that we have engaged with nationally and internationally during the past year. We look forward to working with you towards common goals in 2025!

The UniPID Coordination Unit



Table of CONTENTS

1	<i>Executive Summary</i>	6
	1.1 Member University Engagement and Strategic Development	6
	1.2 Education Support	6
	1.3 Research Support	7
	1.4 Policy Dialogue and Societal Impact	7
	1.5 2024 in Numbers	8
2	<i>Member University Engagement and Strategic Development</i>	9
	2.1. UniPID Board Meetings	11
	2.2 UniPID Planning Days 2024	11
	2.3. Working Group Activities	13
	2.4 Funding Applications	14
3	<i>Education Support</i>	16
	3.1 UniPID Virtual Studies	16
	3.1.1 UniPID MOOC Essentials in Development Studies	17
	3.1.2 UniPID Virtual Studies Study Module: Sustainability in Development	18
	3.1.3 UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Course Proposals 2024	18
	3.1.4 Virtual Studies Quality Management	19
	3.2 Master's Award in Development Studies	21
	3.3. A Global Learning Space: Empowering Students for Global Collaborations	23

4	<i>Research Support</i>	24
	4.1 Support for Responsible Global Academic Partnerships	24
	4.1.1 Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Partnerships with the Global South	24
	4.2 UniPID DocNet - Finnish Development Research Doctoral Network	26
	4.3 UniPID Projects Supporting Research Cooperation	27
	4.3.1 CEA-FIRST	27
	4.3.2 LEAP-RE	29

5	<i>Policy Dialogue and Societal Impact</i>	31
	5.1 National Policy Dialogue	31
	5.1.1 Coordination Group for Education in Developing Countries	33
	5.2 EU-Africa Policy Dialogue	33
	5.3 UniPID Annual Seminar 2024	34
	5.4 UniPID Communication Channels	35

6	<i>Member Universities, Observer Members and Partners</i>	37
	6.1 Observer Members	37
	6.2 UniPID's Main National Partners	37
	6.3 UniPID's International Key Partners	37

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Member University Engagement and Strategic Development

The UniPID Board met four times during 2024. The annual Board Planning Day was organized at the University of Helsinki on 29 May, hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. The Planning Day featured two sessions: The first focused on the roadmap to mainstreaming the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South, while the second focused on brainstorming and planning the UniPID annual seminar to be held during the autumn 2024.

This year, the Working Groups selected new virtual studies courses, supported planning the ethical guidelines' dissemination, evaluated UniPID's external funding applications, and oversaw UniPID's participation in externally funded, ongoing projects.

The network maintained an active dialogue with the Finnish higher education global networks to explore how to engage member university staff in existing UniPID activities and opportunities for joint actions. UniPID also took the initiative in exchanging ideas and benchmarking with member universities' networks and sustainability activities in 2024, resulting in joint events.

1.2 Education Support

UniPID offered nine virtual courses in 2024, including the MOOC Essentials in Development Studies, which was launched in the spring and offered twice during the year. There was a total of 194 course completions by students. The Call for Course Proposals 2024 attracted 12 applications, from which three new courses and one updated course were selected for the next academic year.

For the Master's Award in Development Studies 2024, 27 master's students from eight member universities submitted their theses for consideration. Additionally, the annual teacher's workshop took place

in May, where the Toolkit for Inclusive and Participatory Pedagogical Practices in Online Learning was discussed with instructors. In May, UniPID also collaborated with the global network SAFINET to host a seminar titled Exploring Virtual Learning for Global Collaborations as a continuation of a UniPID-hosted SANORD conference session on virtual education.

1.3 Research Support

This year UniPID focused on mapping out opportunities for further disseminating the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South, developing a roadmap with different workstreams as well as securing funding for creating an animated video to deliver the messages of the Guidelines in a different format and reach different audiences. UniPID kept on engaging as a mediator and facilitator within the European Union's long-term partnership with Africa framework, specifically strengthening cooperation in research and innovation on renewable energy, food and nutrition security, and sustainable agriculture. Finally, the network organized two workshops for the members of the doctoral network (DocNet). The first one, organized as part of the Development Days Conference, tackled the topic 'How to Make an Impact: Research-Based Policymaking and Advocacy.' The last one titled 'Decolonizing Research Practices' was organized in connection with the International Forest Policy Meeting 5 (IFPM5). Finally, UniPID embarked a collaboration with the Sustainability Transformations Doctoral Education Pilot SusTra.

1.4 Policy Dialogue and Societal Impact

UniPID took part in a number of national and international policy dialogue processes and activities in 2024, through the coordination of the development policy studies mechanism with the MFA, and by actively participating in the national coordination group on education in developing countries. Internationally, UniPID's policy work focused on the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology, and Innovation and its Research and Innovation Partnerships on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change and Sustainable Energy.

The network maintained an active social media presence, with LinkedIn being the most attractive platform for the UniPID community. The UniPID website attracted visitors primarily interested in the Virtual Studies course catalogue, the MOOC, and the Ethical Guidelines landing page.

1.5 2024 in Numbers

A large, stylized number '1' in a dark teal color with a yellow outline, positioned to the left of the 'RESEARCH SUPPORT AND POLICY DIALOGUE' section.

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND POLICY DIALOGUE

- 2** Seed Funding
- 2** H2020/Europe active projects
- 1** Development Policy Study

VIRTUAL STUDIES

- 9** Virtual courses
- 5** Hosting Universities
- 1** MOOC Course
- 194** Course completions
- 3** New courses funded; **1** updated

A large, stylized number '2' in a light blue color with a dark blue outline, positioned to the right of the 'VIRTUAL STUDIES' section.A large, stylized number '3' in a yellow-green color with a blue outline, positioned to the left of the 'SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT' section.

SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT

- 11** Newsletters
- 9301** Website users
- 774** X followers
- 1650** Facebook followers
- 1561** LinkedIn

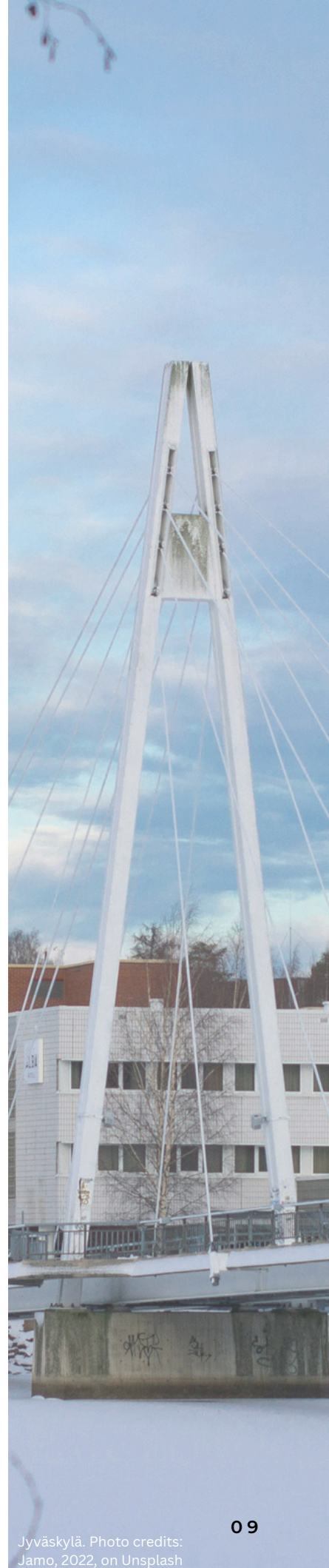
2 Member University Engagement and Strategic Development

UniPID is a network of Finnish universities, established in 2002 to strengthen the integration of global responsibility and Global South perspectives in universities' interdisciplinary education, research, and societal impact activities. The network promotes universities' international partnerships in support of sustainable development pathways. In 2024, the Coordination Unit was active in seeking potential new member universities, resulting in the Hanken School of Economics joining the network. Now UniPID is moving forward with ten member universities.

UniPID's core budget is based on annual fees paid by member universities and the expenditures totaled 153 110 € in 2024. In addition, UniPID coordinated and implemented a great variety of project activities with funding from Horizon Europe, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and EduCASE network and Sparkle funding from the University of Helsinki.

Member Universities:

Aalto University, Hanken School of Economics, Tampere University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki, University of Jyväskylä, University of Lapland, University of Oulu, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University.



The year 2024 was the fourth year of the University of Helsinki, specifically the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, coordinating the network. During the 2023–2024 academic year, the Coordination Unit initiated discussions regarding the next four-year coordination cycle, following the network agreement, and the rotative nature of the coordination between member universities. These discussions led to the decision to transfer the hosting institution to the University of Eastern Finland in 2026. To ensure a smooth transition, the University of Helsinki continued to host the network's coordination in 2025.

In the beginning of 2024, the Coordination Unit welcomed a new team member, project planner Aino Okinyo, who took over the coordination and support functions in the Horizon funded AU-EU partnership project in renewable energy and climate change. Project planner Antti Autio continued to work in the AU-EU STI policy collaboration in the new Horizon-funded AU-EU partnership project in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

During 2024, UniPID hosted several meetings with member universities coordinating the Finnish higher education global networks that were supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture strategic funding during 2021–2024. The discussions centered on how to continue activities post-funding and how to engage with UniPID activities. Additionally, the network participated in the FAPI (Finland-Africa Platform for Innovation) closing event “African Research and Education Day” at the University of Turku and also took part in the programme of the University of Eastern Finland's Global Development Day, where UEF showcased its initiatives in global development and launched its Global Development Report.

In addition, during 2024, the Virtual Studies coordinator, Ana Tarazona participated in various student events organized by UniPID member universities: the Welcome Fair for Students at the University of Turku, the Festival of Cultures at the University of Oulu, and the Welcoming Program for Exchange Students at the University of Lapland. Finally, UniPID also participated in the Student Engagement Fair organized by the Una Europa/University of Helsinki.

2.1 UniPID Board Meetings

The UniPID Board held four meetings in 2024. Member universities' representation was comprehensive, and the representatives remained active throughout the year. Two meetings were held online, and two were held in a hybrid format; online via Zoom and in person at the University of Helsinki.

Meeting platform	Date	Board members present	Represented member universities	Represented observer members
Zoom	11.3.2024	17	8	2
Zoom/University of Helsinki	29.5.2024	19	8	3
Zoom	9.10.2024	14	7	2
Zoom/University of Helsinki	12.12.2024	13	10	1

2.2 UniPID Planning Days 2024

The annual UniPID Planning Day is the most important Board activity of the year, as it has become the space where all member universities co-create on timely topics and activities to advance the goals of the network. In 2024, the Planning Day was organized on 29 May at the University of Helsinki, Viikki Campus. The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry hosting the UniPID Coordination Unit welcomed the Board to the Campus and Vice Dean for Education Janna Pietikäinen gave an overview of the Faculty. The session of the day gathered 8 member university representatives, 3 observer members representatives and the UniPID coordination unit.

The session was divided in two: first one, focused on capturing ideas for further disseminating the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South; while the second part focused on discussing ideas for the annual UniPID seminar.

Dissemination and outreach of ethical guidelines are essential to build awareness, develop skills, and drive concrete actions. This involves identifying needs, audiences, stakeholders, and channels for

implementation and follow-up measures. A persona workshop was organized, involving profiles of a student, a doctoral researcher, a professor, and a head of international affairs, to identify tailored dissemination tools, activities, and partnerships. Facilitators guided participants in considering diverse perspectives, fostering empathy, and brainstorming effective approaches to build literacy and engagement with the guidelines. The findings of the session supported the development of a roadmap for dissemination and outreach of the ethical guidelines.

In the second part of the Planning Days, ideas for the UniPID annual seminar were discussed. A suggestion was made to link the seminar to a larger event for greater visibility, specifically the UNIFI seminar on sustainability and responsibility in November 2024 at the University of Oulu. It was proposed that UniPID could host a keynote and organize its own event within the UNIFI framework. Other potential events mentioned included the GEP Forum by FinCEED and Education Finland and the SDG4 seminar at the University of Jyväskylä. The discussion highlighted the opportunity to align the seminar's theme with the UNIFI event, moving beyond the exclusive focus on global academic partnerships, and aligning it to larger discussions on global education, sustainability and higher education responsibility.

At the end of the day, the Department of Agriculture offered a guided tour to its drone laboratory with partnerships in East Africa and a visit to the cowshed with an introduction to animal welfare and animal nutrition.



2.3 Working Group Activities

The UniPID Board convenes working groups to support the implementation of the network's strategic priorities and guide its activities throughout the year.

In 2024, the Virtual Studies working group met twice. In the spring, the group selected the courses to be funded for the 2024–2025 academic year after evaluating the proposals submitted to the annual call. Later in the autumn, a second meeting was held to begin preparing the next call for course proposals and to discuss other relevant topics aimed at improving the Virtual Studies Catalogue.

The projects working group supports UniPID's participation in externally funded projects. The projects working group convened once to discuss the overall outlook on external funding, past project proposals and potential new calls for funding. The projects working group was consulted when preparing a funding application for a capacity building project and a proposal for ethical guidelines' dissemination and communication project. The projects working group supported the applications and gave their recommendations and suggestions related to their scope and partnerships. Unfortunately, the project proposals submitted were not approved for funding in the highly competitive calls (Erasmus+ capacity building for higher education, Nessling foundation, Finnish Cultural Foundation). See further details on the submitted proposals in the section 2.4.

During 2024, the Ethical Guidelines Working Group was consolidated into a permanent working group, facilitating the development of initiatives to disseminate further the guidelines launched in October 2023. The working group met twice in 2024 to create a roadmap for dissemination and outreach that focused on three potential roles UniPID could have on this work, passive, moderate and active (further explained in section 4.1 of the annual report). Each focused on a series of elements to potentially further develop across member universities, leading to an active role that included bringing together key takeholders outside of higher education institutions, including

the National Agency for Education (EDUFI), the Research Council of Finland (AKA) and the Finnish Development NGOs (Fingo). This work inspired the presentation of the guidelines in member universities, including University of Lapland in December 2024 and a scheduled event at the University of Tampere in 2025.

A clear message from the discussions has been the need for external funding, in order to nurture a more active role from the network, as agreed in the first meeting of the UniPID Board. Despite increased attempts to secure funding, by the time of writing the annual report, the work on the dissemination and outreach of the ethical guidelines has been limited to a more passive role due to negative decisions on project funding applications.

A joint working group with the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR) planned the activities for DocNet, particularly the first DocShop of the year, which was organized as part of the Development Days 2024. The same working group also planned the Master's Award in Development Studies 2024 and its award ceremony.

2.4. Funding Applications

UniPID Coordination Unit applied to four different calls in 2024:

In January 2024, the UniPID coordination unit submitted and successfully received funding to develop an animated introductory video on the Ethical Guidelines for Academic Partnerships with the Global South. For this purpose, a working group was created, including a representative from the research services and research integrity and sustainability unit from the University of Helsinki and the Faculty of the Arts at the University of Helsinki. The animated video was created by Redanredan Oy, which is the same company that developed the animated video for the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK)'s guideline videos.

In February, the coordination unit also submitted a project proposal to the Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education call with partners from Colombia, Mexico, and Spain focused on strengthening the capacity of higher education institutions in Colombia and Mexico to provide inclusive,

high-quality digital education, particularly for students with fewer opportunities, including those from rural and ethnic minority communities. By enhancing digital and intercultural skills, developing inclusive teaching protocols, and fostering international collaboration, the project aims to bridge the technological gap, reduce inequalities in education, and support the preservation of local cultures. Despite that the funding was not allocated, the partners agreed to improve and resubmit the application in the 2025 call.

In August, UniPID coordination unit assembled a consortium of national partners in Finland and submitted a project application for dissemination and outreach of the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South to the Maj and Tor Nessling Foundation call. The project proposal put a combination of actors together, including experts in sustainability expertise, research integrity and organisations such as Sustru, AKA and Fingo, to co-create a develop a workshop series and a communications campaign. The aim was to familiarise academic and practitioners on the guidelines and key elements of the guidelines to develop transferable skills in collaboration building. Despite the incredible success of bringing these stakeholders together, the project did not successfully receive funding.

In October 2024, the Coordination Unit prepared and submitted a similar project proposal to the Cultural Foundation of Finland. The project did not receive funding.





3. Education Support

UniPID supports multidisciplinary studies in global development through the Virtual Studies Programme, the Sustainability in Development study module, and the Master's Award in Development Studies. In 2024, UniPID offered nine Virtual Studies courses, including the MOOC Essentials in Development Studies, which was launched in the spring. Two students completed the Sustainability in Development study module, while 14 more registered to complete it as part of their studies. For the Master's Award in Development Studies, 27 students submitted their theses for consideration.

3.1 UniPID Virtual Studies

The UniPID Virtual Studies Programme is one of UniPID's most well-received activities. Its aim is to offer equal opportunities for students to learn about global development and sustainability, with a specific focus on Global South perspectives. The courses in the Virtual Studies Catalogue are available to students from UniPID member universities, as well as to students from partner universities in the Global South.

In 2024, 9 UniPID Virtual Courses were offered, 6 in the spring and 3 in the autumn, including the MOOC 'Essentials in Development Studies,' which is available in both semesters. These courses were organized by 5 UniPID member universities, with students from all member institutions, as well as from partner universities in the Global South, completing courses. Over 400 registrations were submitted to UniPID courses.

A total of 194 completions were registered in the UniPID database. However, it is important to note that in some cases, students register through their home university's own registration system instead of via UniPID. This means that some completions are not included in UniPID's statistics.

List of virtual courses offered during 2024:

Course title	Host University
Global Education Development	University of Oulu
Good governance, the rule of law and religious freedom	University of Eastern Finland
Globalisation and Corporate Responsibility	University of Turku
Climate Change and Trade in the Global South	University of Turku
Food entrepreneurship, sustainability, and innovation practices in Africa	University of Helsinki
Global Extractivisms and Alternatives	University of Helsinki
Migrant pedagogy in the era of global displacement	University of Helsinki
Global Policies and Local Challenges: Perspectives from the South	Tampere University
MOOC Essentials in Development Studies	University of Helsinki

3.1.1 UniPID MOOC Essentials in Development Studies

In Spring 2024, the MOOC Essentials in Development Studies was launched to the public, attracting a strong interest from students both within the UniPID network and externally. The course is integrated into the curriculum of Global Development Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki, and public access is also provided through the Open University.

The MOOC is designed to be offered twice a year, once per semester. In 2024, over 180 students enrolled in the course, with a total of 59 completions. Development meetings are held after each offering to discuss student feedback with the teacher and coordinating team. Ongoing revision and improvements are part of the plan to enhance the learning experience.

3.1.2 UniPID Virtual Studies Study Module: Sustainability in Development

Students at UniPID member universities are offered the opportunity to take a study module in development studies called 'Sustainability in Development.' This module is designed for students interested in integrating global challenges and sustainable development knowledge into their degree. It consists of a minimum of five courses, each worth 5 ECTS, totaling 25 ECTS credits. Students have the flexibility to select courses from the course catalogue to create a personalized study plan.

In 2024, 2 students completed the Sustainability in Development Study Module, and 14 students registered for complete it. This means that they are planning to finish the module during the upcoming semesters. Registration for the module is continuous.

3.1.3 UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Course Proposals 2024

The virtual courses offered via UniPID are selected through an open annual call, inviting teaching staff at UniPID member universities to submit their course proposals. The funding amount is €6,500 for new courses and €4,500 for updating existing ones. Courses are required to be offered three times in consecutive academic years, to be worth 5 ECTS credits, and to be taught in English.

In 2024, in addition to the regular call, UniPID introduced for the first time a call for pooling courses. This initiative aimed to incorporate well-established courses from member universities' degree programs into the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme without requiring additional funding. However, no courses were submitted for pooling in this initial call.



In 2024, the call resulted in proposals for 9 new courses and 3 for updating a previously offered course through UniPID. The UniPID Board's Virtual Studies Working Group evaluated the proposals, and the UniPID Board made the final funding decisions. Following the Working Group's recommendation, the Board decided to allocate a total of €24,000 to fund the following courses:

Course title	Responsible university	Category	Funding
Climate and Food Security in the Arctic with Global Consequences	University of Lapland	New	6 500 €
Global policies and local challenges: perspectives from the south	Tampere University	New	6500 €
Indigenous peoples, beliefs, and rights in the Arctic – in comparison to the Global South	University of Eastern Finland	New	6 500 €
Developing Curriculum for Climate Change Education in Global South	Tampere University	Updated	4 500 €

3.1.4 Virtual Studies Quality Management

As part of quality management, the UniPID Virtual Studies Coordination organizes an annual workshop on best practices for UniPID teachers. The purpose of this gathering is to facilitate the exchange of experiences from courses conducted over the past year. In 2024, the workshop also served as a platform to discuss the toolkit Transforming Learning in Virtual Courses through Teacher-Student Partnerships, as part of a project funded by the EduCASE platform. Teachers and project members engaged in discussions where feedback was collected to enhance the toolkit.

As part of Virtual Studies' Quality Management, feedback is gathered from teachers and students during and after each course. Once collected, this

feedback is shared with teachers, highlighting the most engaging and enjoyable aspects of the course from students' perspectives, as well as areas for improvement. In 2024, the Coordination Unit initiated the work for drafting the UniPID Virtual Studies Feedback Report 2021–2023.

The Coordination Unit followed up on efforts initiated in 2023 for UniPID to join the national cross-institutional study system RIPA. An addendum on teaching collaboration was drafted to the current network agreement to specify practices in Virtual Studies, based on the recommendations of the legal counsels and RIPA contact person at the University of Helsinki. After a review process with the member universities, the addendum was signed by member university rectors. UniPID is expected to be able to join the RIPA service as of 2026, allowing for registrations and completed credits to be transferred from member university to another via the service.



SAFINET-UniPID
Seminar on
collaborative online
international
learning in Tampere,
2024

During 2024, UniPID also met with different collaborators and other networks (e.g. SANORD, SAFINET, FAPI, GINLT, FinCEED, Climate University, Sustainability Studies Network and UnaEuropa) to benchmark, share ideas and discuss possible cooperation for developing the Virtual Studies programme and finding new ways for providing more possibilities for students and other participants to learn more about global responsibility, sustainable development and the Global South and to be able to collaborate with Global South universities in Virtual Studies. Following up on a UniPID-hosted session at the SANORD conference in Hamar in 2023, UniPID collaborated with SAFINET to organise a seminar in Tampere in May 2024, focusing on collaborative online international learning and comprising three presentations and a workshop.

In addition, UniPID joined the Climate project fair during the UNIFI's sustainability and responsibility seminar held at the University of Oulu in November 2024, featuring UniPID Virtual Studies courses.



Marika Oikarinen, member of the UniPID Virtual Studies working group at the Climate University's project Fair in Oulu, 2024.

3.2 Master's Award in Development Studies

Each year, UniPID and the Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR) present an award recognizing outstanding theses in the field of global development studies. The winner receives a sum of €1,000, while up to five additional candidates receive honorary mentions. This award aims to encourage interdisciplinary development research within UniPID member universities.

For the 2024 Master's Award in Development Studies, theses completed during the previous academic year (1.8.2023–31.7.2024) were eligible for consideration. A total of 27 students from eight UniPID member universities participated, representing diverse academic disciplines. Following an initial evaluation process, six theses advanced to the final assessment stage.

The 2024 Master's Award Committee was composed of Professor Liisa Laakso from the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, who chaired the committee, alongside Anja Onali from the University of Helsinki and Professor Emeritus Barry Gills. The committee was responsible for selecting the final winner, while UniPID served as the secretary of the award. The award recipients, including the winner and those receiving honorary mentions, were officially announced in February during the 2025 Development Days Conference.



From left to right: Shalvi Sinha, Karoliina Himanen, Alice Alexis Chunga, Johanna Katariina Pajula, Marina Caregnato Garcia, Anja Onali, Barry Gills, and Liisa Laakso.

The master's thesis *"Contribution of social protection to resilience and well-being in humanitarian crises in Africa: A qualitative study on expert opinions"* written by Johanna Pajula's was awarded as the winner of the Master's Award 2024.

Additionally, the Award committee presented the certificates of honor the following theses:

Author's name	Title of the thesis	University
Karoliina Himanen	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) Related Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) and Humanitarian Health Work - A Qualitative Study on Expert Views	Tampere University
Alice Alexis Chunga	Broken Sisterhood Investigating Social Exclusion of Black African Feminist Women in the White Finnish Feminist Movement.	Åbo Akademi University
Shalvi Sinha	Contextualising Health Agency - Exploration of Narratives from Marginalised Women in Varanasi, India	University of Jyväskylä
Marina Caregnato Garcia	Does Speaking Order Matter for Equality of Participation During Meetings? Results from Experiments with Malawian Farmers	Aalto University
Albina Marchenko	"Proving Never Ends": Foreign Origin and its Impact on International Students' Wellbeing Behind Internationalization of Higher Education	University of Oulu

3.3. A Global Learning Space: Empowering Students for Global Collaborations

The UniPID Coordination unit received seed funding from the EDUCase - Platform to explore inclusive and pedagogical practices for co-creating virtual courses between Finnish Higher Education Institutions and their Global South Partners in 2023. The implementation of this project took part mostly in Spring 2024. The project put together representatives of student interns and consultants, the Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning (GINTL) Africa, the University of Namibia, the University of Oulu, and the European University Alliance Una Europa.

Central to this project was bringing students' perspectives and exploring the pedagogical underpinnings of Students As Partners in the development of virtual courses. This included unpacking the meaning of communication, participation, and engagement in an online setting, embedding diversity and inclusion literacy.

The project was founded in co-creation and dialogue between the different academic communities part of the initiative, resulting in the development of the Transforming Learning through Virtual Courses through Teacher-Student Partnerships, launched in late November 2024. The toolkit presents how this can be practically implemented using two frameworks: the Before, During, and After stages, as well as the Head, Heart, and Feet approach.



From left to right: Stinne Vognaes (Una Europa/UH), Kelly Brito Salas (UniPID), Marianne Reuse (Intern, UO), at Pedaforum 2024

The former represents the stages of the virtual course development, while the latter consists of a continuous reflection process of the teachers' and students' beliefs, feelings, and actions. The project was presented at Pedaforum 2024 in Hämeenlinna early June.



4. Research Support

UniPID fosters Finnish higher education institutions' and research community's collaboration with partners around the world in support of global sustainable development. In 2024, UniPID's research support activities focused on developing a roadmap for disseminating the ethical guidelines for responsible academic partnerships with the Global South, operationalising the AU-EU International Research Consortium (IRC) for Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture) and on monitoring science policy dialogues and research support actions between Europe and Africa

4.1 Support for Responsible Global Academic Partnerships

In 2024, UniPID focused a great amount of effort for developing a roadmap for dissemination and outreach of the Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Academic Partnerships with the Global South, and for participating in a series of events to raise awareness on the guidelines and key areas of change.

4.1.1 Ethical Guidelines for Responsible Partnerships with the Global South

Together with the Ethical Guidelines working group, the UniPID Board and external stakeholders, UniPID designed a roadmap following the elements below:

1. Dissemination and Awareness raising
2. Training and Education
3. Peer support and mentorship
4. Leadership and institutional support
5. Communication and collaboration

As the network aims to have a moderate to active role in the dissemination and outreach activities, the coordination unit mapped out out potential avenues, including participating in different events to discuss the guidelines as well as submit project funding proposals for obtaining resources to support the initiative.

Event name	Organizer	Session title/format
Spring forum for higher education international affairs, Kv-kevätpäivät	EDUFI & SEAMK	Roundtable: Networks in search of sustainable and responsible internationalisation
Research Day	UH, Faculty of Education	Poster presentation
Research Ethics group meeting	FinnArma	Presentation of the ethical guidelines
Africa Day	JYU - CAN	Poster presentation
KFPE Workshop series	UniPID & EADI	Workshop: Co-creating preconditions for inclusive and equitable funding in global academic collaborations
Etiikan päivä 2024	Research administrators network meeting	Presentation: What has happened after the launch of the Ethical Guidelines
Research Day	University of Lapland	Presentation: Ethical Guidelines
Networks-to-Networks meeting	EADI & UniPID	Meeting hosted invited speakers from Southern Voice and the Institute for Development Studies to present the findings of a two-track research on the areas of change for equity in research systems

The Coordination Unit also teamed up with UNU-Wider to create media pitches in international and national outlets. GlobalDev was reached to make the first media pitch on the ethical considerations when doing research in low- and middle-income countries, more especially on the impact of weak or uneven data protection. The discussion paper was published in January 2025.

Additionally, the coordination unit was invited to participate in the revision of the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Development Countries (KFPE) in November 2024. KFPE is recognized across Europe for establishing the first widely known guidelines for research collaborations with developing countries. This revision is the first with contributions from international interested parties, whereas earlier revisions only involved Swiss stakeholders.

Finally, and as mentioned in section 2.4 of this annual report, the coordination unit has been applying for external funding to have a more active role in further initiatives that will support the dissemination and outreach of the Ethical Guidelines. With funding from the Sparkle initiative of the University of Helsinki, UniPID commissioned an animated introductory video on the ethical guidelines from RedanRedan to utilize in the dissemination.

4.2 UniPID DocNet - Finnish Development Research Doctoral Network

UniPID DocNet is jointly coordinated and planned with the Finnish Society for Development Research. The aim of UniPID DocNet is to support the interdisciplinary training and networking of doctoral researchers in the field of development research. DocNet is a membership-based network for selected doctoral researchers and interested supervisors from UniPID member universities.

In 2024, UniPID DocNet welcomed 31 new members from 10 UniPID member universities, including Hanken School of Economics. The network now comprises approximately 130 members, with representation from all UniPID member universities.

DocNet's activities in 2024 included two workshops held in conjunction with larger conferences, providing opportunities for DocNet members and conference participants to engage in discussions on relevant research and career topics. The first DocShop of the year was co-organized with the FSDR as part of the Development Days Conference 2024 program. The topic of this DocShop was "How to Make an Impact: Research-Based Policymaking and

Advocacy." Later in the spring, another DocShop was organized in connection with the International Forest Policy Meeting 5 (IFPM5), where researchers and practitioners addressed the topic of "Decolonizing Research Practices."

During 2024, UniPID engaged in collaboration with the Sustainability transformations doctoral education pilot SuStra, led by the University Eastern Finland and consisting of eleven consortium members, among them 8 UniPID member universities. SusTra aims at producing information about social, cultural, organisation, and individual-level change processes when targeting a sustainable and just society without exceeding the planetary boundaries and training 40 doctoral researchers. UniPID will bring in Global South perspectives and ethical considerations in Global South partnerships to the training of future sustainability transformations, by inviting SusTra doctoral researchers to its DocNet activities and events. Furthermore, UniPID was invited to join the SusTra advisory board.

4.3 UniPID Projects Supporting Research Cooperation

4.3.1 CEA-FIRST

As a continuation from the LEAP4FNSSA project, UniPID was invited to take part in the Coordination and Support Action project call of the Horizon Europe to operationalize the AU-EU International Research Consortium for FNSSA (IRC). The funded project consists of 21 partners mainly representing academic networks as the IRC is meant to serve as a network of networks for research and innovation bi-regionally. The project officially started on 1 December 2023, with a title "Consortium Europe Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST), and takes place between 2023-2027.

This IRC is a member-based, multi-actor platform and will work towards increasing synergies and coherence while reducing fragmentation and duplication of research efforts. Its aim is to promote higher returns on investments and impact on business development in Africa and Europe, by linking actors, research and innovation projects, initiatives, and funding programmes. CEA-FIRST: 1) provides public access to a large knowledge



platform; 2) offers a sound method for analysis of R&I activities; 3) supports the updating of the FNSSA Roadmap; and 4) establishes operational working groups and thematic research calls. The final output will be a fully functional IRC, including governance bodies. CEA-FIRST also supports its liaison with the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD). It creates a learning environment, including communication channels, to support multi stakeholder networks and to strengthen R&I coordination.

UniPID leads two work packages in the project, namely WP3 “Strengthening Networking and Stakeholder Engagement” and WP5 “Implementing IRC through Stakeholder Engagement”, together with The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). The work packages aim among other things to pilot the first research co-funding call of the IRC to the European and African member universities and organizations of the IRC, including UniPID MUs. Through the project, UniPID continues to offer support services to the AU-EU HLPD Bureau’s FNSSA Working Group. Within this context UniPID drafted the Terms of Reference for the working group to be ratified in the HLPD Bureau’s meeting on 22 February 2024.

During the year 2024, UniPID co-organised a number of events related to science policy dialogue between Europe and Africa, and on operationalization of the IRC. These events include four AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue Working Group Meetings on FNSSA (in person meeting in Tema, Ghana, and three virtual ones); a side event at the 2nd RUFORUM Triennial Conference in Windhoek, Namibia;

four workshops on renewing AU-EU R&I cooperation priorities (in person in Brussels, Belgium and three virtual ones); a side-event and a plenary at the 15th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) Commemoration and 20th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform; a session at the Agrinatura General Assembly and Conference 2024 in Helsinki, Finland; and a session at the South Africa Science Forum in Pretoria, South Africa.

The launch of the operational IRC with its governance structures, such as the secretariat, is set to take place in Brussels, Belgium, on 13.3.2025 with UniPID aiming to continue the support actions to the AU-EU HLPD Working Group on FNSSA through this platform with additional funding provided. UH as the current legal representative for UniPID has taken the action to join the IRC in February 2025. Further discussion on the continuation of this work will take place with UEF in regard to the coordination unit transition process.

4.3.2 LEAP-RE

LEAP-RE, or the Long-Term Joint European Union - African Union Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy project, launched in 2020 with the aim to reduce fragmentation by aligning existing bilateral and multilateral frameworks. LEAP-RE will establish and jointly implement research, innovation, and capacity-building activities. The project will do so by creating a long-term partnership of African and European stakeholders in a quadruple helix approach: government (programme owners and funding agencies), research and academia, private sector, and civil society. Impact will be sought by creating a framework, methodology, and cooperation model. The project directly supports the implementation of the AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership in Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) and its Roadmap.

LEAP-RE is based on 3 programmatic pillars. Pillar 1 focuses on external research funding and capacity-building implemented through open calls for proposals. The calls for proposals are addressed to research and innovation operators (academic teams, companies, etc.) and focus on the themes identified in 6 roadmaps developed in the programme preparatory phase.

These calls for research and innovation projects are funded by 15 European and African research and innovation funding agencies and by the EU. The Academy of Finland participates in Pillar 1 of the project. Pillar 2 brings together European and African operators in 8 research and/or innovation projects. The projects were selected in early 2020 by the consortium before submission to the European Commission and are carried out by members of the consortium. Pillar 3 consists of the management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the LEAP-RE programme, and develops the future long-term collaboration model of the AU-EU partnership in renewable energy.

UniPID participates in Pillar 3 of the project and co-coordinates Work Package 4 with African Energy Services Group. The Work Package aims to maximise the outcomes of the LEAP-RE programme by building a community, strategy, organisation, methodological assets, and tools to set the foundations of a long-lasting AU-EU partnership to address the post-2025 challenges and policy priorities is therefore the ambition of LEAP-RE. In 2024, UniPID undertook significant efforts to establish the basis for the future work of the programme. This included, organizing the third Stakeholder Forum in Milan in October 2024 and coordinating four clustering sessions in a hybrid format. The sessions focus on key thematic areas within the LEAP-RE projects such as the water, food, energy –nexus, energy systems modelling, and circularity. UniPID also organized an interactive roundtable discussion at the Sustainability Research and Innovation congress 2024 in Helsinki in May with the title Strengthening the AU-EU partnership to increase access to clean energy and to reduce carbon emission. As a key partner in the project, UniPID participated in meetings of the Project Management Board, which direct the strategic implementation of the project.

Due to challenges in building the long-term platform in LEAP-RE, Work Package 5 was dismantled by the decision of the Programme Management Board. This initiated the reorganisation of the Pillar 3, and the amendment was sent to European Commission in 2024 for approval. As the person months of the project are expected to remain the same for UniPID, it is expected that the Grant Agreement Amendment will not bring major changes to the actions coordinated by UniPID within the project.

5. POLICY DIALOGUE AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

UniPID actively engages in policy discussions and aims for having long-lasting societal impact through its activities. The Network advocates for research-informed policy making and continuously stresses the importance of higher education and research to address global development challenges. In 2024, UniPID participated in a series of national and international discussions, promoting a systemic approach to building responsible global academic partnerships, and promoting ways to incorporate global south perspectives and mutual learning into policy-making.

5.1 National Policy Dialogue

In 2024, UniPID was active in providing input to several policy processes and facilitated the Development Policy Studies mechanism between researchers and the MFA. UniPID contributed to the work of the national Coordination group for education in developing countries (KOKEMA).

UniPID continued to be represented in the Finnish Development Policy Committee (DPC) by Elias Pekkola from Tampere University and Irmeli Mustalahti (University of Eastern Finland) as his substitute. UniPID also continued as an observer member in the Finnish Scholars at Risk steering committee, represented by director Kaisa Kurki. Development Policy Studies mechanism for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In 2024, the second year of the 2-year continuing project with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on Development Policy Studies, suffered a significant impact with the internal changes in the Ministry due to the new government programme in Finland.



This resulted in a pause of the mechanism until Summer 2024, where the coordination unit was contacted to extend its coordination and support services to a study request for the trade unit at the Ministry for analysing the cumulative effects of the EU sustainability legislation and the impact on Finnish firms. As a result, the UniPID coordination unit provided the support it usually does for coordinating and administering the commissioned studies; however, the study itself was partly funded by resources outside this mechanism. The study was launched in January 2025.

5.1.1 Coordination Group for Education in Developing Countries

Professor Elina Lehtomäki from the University of Oulu and UniPID director Kaisa Kurki as her vice, represented UniPID in a national coordination group on Education in Developing countries (KOKEMA), established by the MFA and MEC. In this work, UniPID has collaborated closely with the GINTL network and UNIFI.

The coordination group convened six times during 2024. The topics discussed in the meetings included for instance UNESCO's work on teacher development (International Teachers Task Force 2030 with 167 members), shortage of teachers globally and the impact of digitalization, the independent evaluation of Finland's development collaboration in the education sector with recommendations for country-specific collaboration and the impact of development collaboration funding cuts on education sector collaboration, UN human rights council membership (declaration on right to education), Finland's national policies for digitalization of education and training with equal opportunities, accessibility, individual support and sustainable development as guiding values, guided by EU's digital decade targets for 2030, EU's digital education action plan 2021–2027 and EU's data strategy and regulation, UN Global Digital Compact process, Finland's role in EU's Global Gateway strategy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs updates on education sector collaboration in Mozambique and in Ethiopia, Asian Development Bank and ADB Education sector lending, EU's Greening education and education in EU's Global Gateway strategy, Association for the Development of Education in Africa that coordinates the policy dialogue among African ministries of education, among other current topics.

In December, UniPID submitted its report on advancing the actions in the KOKEMA roadmap to the coordinating Ministries. In addition, UniPID has continued discussions with the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Education and Development (FinCEED) on joint actions for training Finnish experts to respond to the global learning crisis and participated in the Global Education Partnerships Forum in November 2024. UniPID was further requested to nominate a representative from the Finnish academia to be appointed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the Council of the Nordic Africa Institute.

5.2 EU-Africa Policy Dialogue

In 2024, UniPID contributed to international science policy processes to support and advance Finnish research as well as Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation related to global challenges. UniPID contributed to shaping the policies and priorities of AU-EU science policy cooperation via the Horizon Europe projects in which UniPID participates. In this context, UniPID contributed to the LEAP-RE Stakeholder Forum Conference in Milan, Italy,, and a session at the Sustainability, Research + Innovation 2025 Congress in Helsinki titled *“Strengthening the AU-EU partnership to increase access to clean energy and to reduce carbon emissions”*. In the LEAP-RE network UniPID also organizes virtual clustering of projects to better understand future funding needs, and for mutual exchange of information among the LEAP-RE projects and external stakeholders. In 2024 UniPID coordinated six online webinars and four onsite sessions on clustering. The main focus of science policy dialogue in the CEA-FIRST project concentrated on the renewal of the AU-EU FNSSA Roadmap (2017-2026) which is nearing its completion. Within its 8-years of implementation the roadmap has funded research and innovation cooperation between Europe and Africa with over 1B€ from which 800M€ comes from the European Union (FP7, H2020, Horizon Europe, DeSIRA, and African Union Research Grants). CEA-FIRST project supports the update of the roadmap priorities for the upcoming 10-year cycle. Within the context of CEA-FIRST in 2024, UniPID contributed to organizing altogether 17 events in Europe, Africa and online, related to the Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation between the two continents.

5.3 UniPID Annual Seminar 2024

UniPID Annual Seminar 2024 was organised in liaison with the UNIFI (Finnish Universities Rectors' Council) sustainability and responsibility seminar at the University of Oulu on 5 November. The seminar titled *"Strengthening Agency in the Pluriverse of the Academic Worlds"* started off with a panel discussion with Tiina Seppälä, University of Helsinki, as its chair exploring the topic "From globally relevant research to science diplomacy – In search of a Finnish approach to strengthening global academic partnership for a sustainable future". Four panelists brought in their perspectives on equity and diversity in global collaborations, Faith Mkwesha highlighted Ubuntu philosophy as an approach for a constructive dialogue among different epistemologies, whereas Samuli Reijula drew from theoretical philosophy to discuss different epistemologies, approaches, and scientific communities. Tuija Veintie has conducted research on indigenous perspectives, sustainable education and epistemic pluralism and discussed creative means of knowledge making to reduce power imbalances and address sensitive topics. Tapio Nykänen from the University of Oulu stressed that funding for research partners is needed to build fair partnerships. After the panel, participants had to change to brainstorm how to implement the insights from the panel.

UniPID also joined the general discussion in the main programme of the UNIFI seminar, including parallel sessions and workshops. UniPID Board Vice Chair Prof. Elina Lehtomäki took part in the panel discussion titled *"How can universities foster social responsibility through leadership?"*. UniPID Board members Riina Subra, Osku Haapasaari and Ilkka Jormanainen as well as UniPID Virtual Studies teacher Marika Oikarinen gave lightning talks in the parallel sessions to ignite the discussion on joint actions.





5.4 UniPID Communication Channels

UniPID utilises different communication and social media channels: the UniPID webpage, the newsletter, two mailing lists (UniPID and DocNet), and social media channels Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. During 2024, most of the UniPID communication channels experienced either a slow increase or a light to moderate decrease in terms of the number of visits or total impressions/interactions. The LinkedIn page continues to be the channel with impressive growth.

The UniPID webpage was visited by 9301 users, representing a significant decrease compared to the previous year of approx. 57 %. The most visited pages were the Virtual Studies Course Catalogue, the MOOC Essentials in Development, the Global Education Development virtual course and the Ethical Guidelines for Global South academic partnerships. The busiest time on the website was August, most likely due to the start of the academic year in fall.

Regarding the UniPID Newsletter, 11 were sent during 2024. By the end of year there was a slight decrease of 9.8% in the number of subscribers. The most popular items included updates on changes within the UniPID coordination unit, the Virtual Studies catalogue—particularly the MOOC "Essentials in Development Studies"—internship opportunities at the Coordination Unit, as well as UniPID events and funding opportunities.

In 2024, the number of subscribers to the UniPID general mailing list increased by 9.3%, ending the year with a total of 176 registered email addresses. The DocNet mailing list saw a significant increase, corresponding to the high number of new members joining the Doctoral Network. By the end of the year, the DocNet mailing list had 124 registered emails, representing a 20.2% increase compared to the previous year.

On social media, UniPID X account decreased in number of followers. This can be due to various institutions and individuals closing their accounts and transferring to other similar platforms. Facebook also presented a small increase, up to 1650 followers. In both accounts, the most impressions and interactions were on updates and changes at the coordination unit as well as events. Lastly, the LinkedIn account continued to show the most growth of all UniPID communication channels with a 57% increase in the number of followers. Most of the followers in LinkedIn are based in Helsinki, Tampere, Jyväskylä and Turku.

Channel	Subscribers/likes January 2024	Subscribers/likes Jan 2025	Change percentage
UniPID mailing list	161	176	9.3 %
DocNet mailing list	99	124	20,2%
UniPID newsletter	866	781	-9.8 %
UniPID Facebook followers	1615	1650	2.17 %
UniPID LinkedIn Page	994	1561	57 %
UniPIDX (Former Twitter)	812	774	-4.7 %

6. MEMBER UNIVERSITIES, OBSERVER MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



6.1 Observer Members

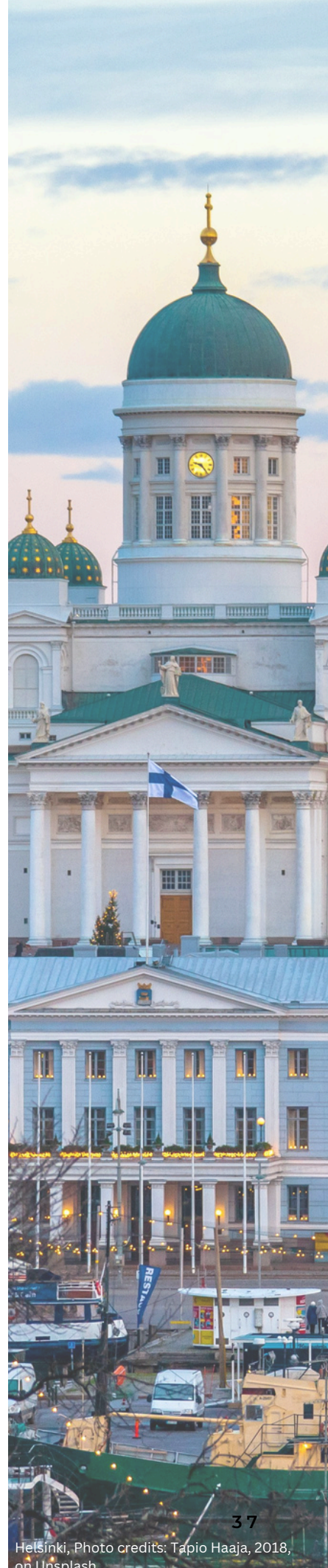
- Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR)
- National Union of University Students in Finland
- UNU-Wider

6.1 UniPID's Main National Partners

- Ministry of Education and Culture (MINEDU), Finland
 - Research Council of Finland
 - Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), Finland

6.2 UniPID's International Key Partners

- Southern African-Nordic Center (SANORD)
- European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)
- Nordic Africa Institute (NAI)
- The Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO)



CONTACT

**UniPID - Finnish University Partnership for
International Development
Coordination Unit**

PL 27 (Latokartanonkaari 7, Room 538)
00014 Helsingin Yliopisto

unipid-info@helsinki.fi

UNIPID

FINNISH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

