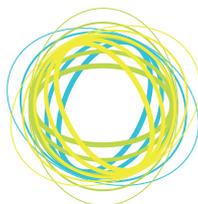


Adrián Monge Monge, Melissa Plath and Jarkko Mutanen

PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS – RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COLLABORATION BETWEEN FINLAND AND AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SDGs



PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS

Research and Innovation Collaboration between Finland and Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean for the SDGs

CONTENTS

Summary	3
1. Purpose and scope of the Green Paper	4
1.1. Purpose.....	4
1.2. Scope.....	4
2. STI collaboration frameworks towards SDGs.....	5
2.1. Finland’s research and innovation cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda.....	5
3. Bridging the gaps for supporting SDGs	6
3.1. Policy coherence and strategy alignment	7
3.1.1. The issues.....	7
3.1.2. Key supporting actions.....	8
3.2. Improve use of limited resources.....	8
3.2.1. The issues.....	8
3.2.2. Key supportive actions	9
3.3. Expand funding opportunities	9
3.3.1. The issues.....	9
3.3.2. Key supportive actions	10
4. Call for Action.....	10
4.1. Transformative action.....	10
4.2. Mid-term action.....	11
4.3. Short-term action	11
5. References	12

SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN 2015) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets out an ambitious set of global targets for “ending all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change, while ensuring no one is left behind”. As highlighted in the PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland’s Sustainable Development Policy (Berg et al. 2019), Finland has made significant progress towards achieving the SDGs nationally – though not without its own weaknesses and challenges. However, for the country to become a global leader in addressing the SDGs, greater emphasis must be placed on policy coherence, resourcing, and utilizing research data for decision-making.

During a public seminar with more than 40 stakeholders from academia, government, civil society and the private sector, three issues were identified as key for turning national experiences on SDGs into a transformative force abroad: policy coherence, improving the use of existing resources, and expanding funding opportunities.

Political coherence requires the alignment of policies, financial allocations, and implementation methods as well as tools for Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluating (MRV). The facilitation of national and international trans-sectoral **partnerships on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)** should provide the necessary information for evidence-based policy making and the tools to monitor impacts. **Participatory and systematic engagements** supporting policymaking will bring together key stakeholders, empower society at large, allow for fact-based discussions, and create ownership over issues and evidence-based solutions.

Current and foreseeable economic constraints require the diversification of funding sources for the SDGs, and emphasis should be put on **improving the use of existing resources by investing in good evidence-based policies, rooted in the knowledge on sustainability theory** (how and when societies manage resources sustainably). **Optimising the use of networks and dedicated platforms**, to influence policymakers and create new partnerships, can improve the use of existing resources. **Support for projects combining research and development priorities** is a cost-efficient investment.

Funding for research is highly competitive and the challenges of accessing funding from international projects and programmes is a recurrent topic. Despite improvements, Finland is still lagging behind other EU countries in attracting international funding for STI. Therefore, it is important to **review what the most successful countries and institutions are doing** to support their researchers in attaining strong partnerships and diversifying financial resources. Research institutions should **develop partnerships with actors from different sectors** utilizing collaborative funding models (particularly when it comes to supporting innovation around the SDGs). To counter the existing constraints, there is a need for increased **engagement between policymakers and institutional leadership to support additional funding**.

In the short-term, support for existing knowledge brokers influencing policymaking should be strengthened. This should be followed by an increase and diversification of resources for research related to the SDGs, particularly in collaboration with international partners. In the long-term, we recommend the establishment of an independent institution with a national mandate to support the establishment and development of international research partnerships, with emphasis on those addressing the SDGs. This institution will also support the use and uptake of evidence for policymaking and societal change which will work beyond the changing priorities of political coalitions. Lessons can be learned from the STINT model from Sweden in support of international cooperation and research partnerships.

¹The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (<https://www.stint.se/>)

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE GREEN PAPER

1.1. PURPOSE

This document brings forward a call to action for transformative partnerships in support of sustainable pathways. The recommended actions are based on the outcomes of a public seminar, the feedback of key stakeholders consulted during the preparation of the document, and the experiences accumulated by the FinCEAL Initiative². **These actions should become the BRIDGE to transform global social engagement into societal change.**

A public seminar titled: *Sustainable Development Goals and Partnerships for Transformation*, was organised by the FinCEAL Plus BRIDGES project and it was attended by more than 40 stakeholders from academia, government, civil society and the private sector, to discuss how to mobilise Finland's expertise in research and innovation in support of global partnerships (involving academia, government, civil society and the private sector) towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This document also aims to reflect on and support the recommendations of the PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy report (Berg et al., 2019), specifically when addressing the role Finland can play internationally in support of the SDGs. Strategic coherence (targeting both policies and funding) and the active participation of the academic community in support of policymaking processes, are fundamental for the development of transformative partnerships within Finland and abroad. The document also aims to support the recommendations of the Forum for International Policies in Higher Education and Research (KV-foorumi) and the Government's RDI Roadmap.

1.2. SCOPE

During the seminar, participants were asked to (1) identify key sectoral actors and what roles they could play to mainstream Finnish involvement in transformative partnerships and international policy dialogues towards achieving the SDGs; (2) discuss the best ways to influence national, EU, and global policy to maintain focus on the SDGs in cooperation with the Global South; and (3) suggest concrete actions to facilitate and mainstream partnerships between Finland and countries in the Global South in support of the SDGs.

Using the World Café Method, participants rotated between discussion tables and complemented the information produced by the previous group. The findings and recommendations from the seminar were later shared and discussed among key stakeholders to support the preparation of this report.

Section 2 of the document introduces the policy frameworks underlying Finland's multilateral interactions and national policies related to the SDGs, STI, and the Global South. Section 3 introduces key issues identified during the public seminar (policy coherence, improve the use of existing resources, and expansion of funding opportunities) that should be targeted to support the international, multi-sectoral partnerships needed for implementing Finland's sustainable development policy (transformative change nationally and abroad). Finally, section 4 brings forward concrete suggestions for transformative action that could be implemented in the short and long-term.

²The FinCEAL Initiative is a 7-year programme to support the internationalization of Finnish science, particularly with partners from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Initiative is funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture and implemented by the UniPID network.

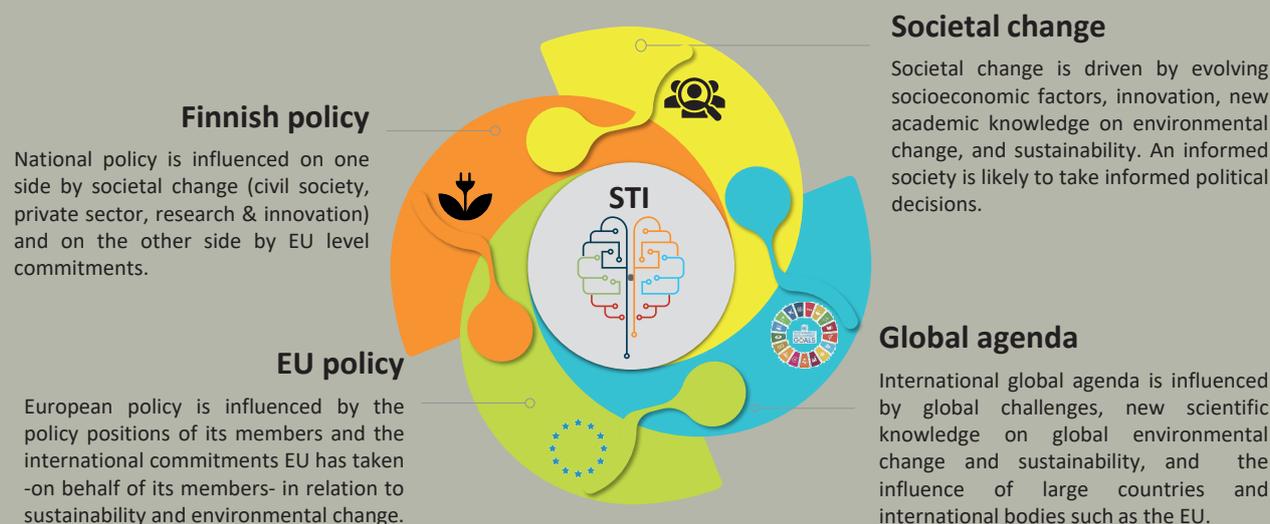
³FinCEAL Plus BRIDGES is the fourth project of the FinCEAL Initiative.

⁴[Yhteistyössä maailman parasta](#)

⁵[Kestävän ja kehittyvän yhteiskunnan ratkaisuja tuottava Suomi](#)

The underlying principle behind this exercise assumes that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) plays a central role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it drives both societal changes and the global agendas while simultaneously supporting policymaking at the European and national levels. Under fast-moving social and environmental changes, transformative partnerships in STI will support a fast-track channel to mainstream science-based policies, tools and methods.

Finnish STI at the centre of SDGs implementation



2. STI COLLABORATION FRAMEWORKS TOWARD SDGs

2.1. FINLAND'S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COOPERATION TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

In Finland, foreign policy related to international development is based on the Government Report on Development Policy (FORMIN 2016). Under this Framework, policy strategies should consider the country's development context, the 2030 Agenda, the UN conventions, the refugee crises, and Finland's available resources (Kagiri-Kalanzi & Avento, 2018). The Ministry has published Action Plans for Asia (e.g. for India, Southeast Asia, and China) and Latin America (FORMIN 2013) where regional and country-specific future actions are defined. According to public statements by Ministry officials, a similar strategy for Africa is in preparation. The Ministry also engages Africa and Asia through region-to-region development cooperation strategies and country-specific bilateral and multilateral cooperation strategies. The VN-TEAS programme, based in the Prime Minister's Office, has a mandate to undertake commissioned research for policymaking and provides research funding based on the annual **Government plan for analysis, assessment and research** since 2014, however, commissioned research related to foreign policy is limited.

The Ministry of Education and Culture supports STI cooperation through higher education and science policies. These policies aim at strengthening Finland's higher education and innovation systems by promoting Finnish competitiveness, learning, education and sustainable development (Kagiri-Kalanzi & Avento, 2018). Additionally, the Research and Innovation Council of Finland also supports international STI cooperation – for finding solutions to global problems and the increasing demand for goods and services – in its Vision and Road Map (Research and Innovation Council, 2017; Mutanen, 2018). The KV-Foorumi

recently provided 17 recommendations to promote the internationalisation of higher education and research (Kokko et al. 2020); three of those recommendations directly targeted globalisation and sustainable development.

In terms of implementation, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) supports international higher education cooperation between Finland and developing countries through different programs, one of which, the Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HEI-ICI), focuses on capacity building projects with partners from low- and middle-income countries (Finnish National Agency, 2020). EDUFI also supports Finnish graduate traineeships and doctoral scholarships (Ekroos K. & Liima-Toivanen M., 2018).

In addition, the Academy of Finland's (AKA) International Policy promotes "the internationality of research to further strengthen the quality, impact and renewal of science and research in collaboration with research organisations and other actors", which includes bilateral cooperation with specific partners (Academy of Finland, 2017). In response to several multilateral and bilateral initiatives by the Finnish research community and foreign funding agencies, AKA has decided to increasingly focus on multilateral cooperation while the region-specific, bilateral research funding calls have been reduced. The Programme in Development Research (Develop 2018–2022)⁶ and the Strategic Research Council (SRC) – both administrated by AKA – share common goals with the 2030 Agenda and projects funded are well in line with the 2030 Agenda (Lehtomäki & Husso, 2019). Development funding focuses on multidisciplinary, problem-based issues in developing countries and aims at making good use of Finnish knowledge and expertise in the field (Mutanen, 2018; Academy of Finland, 2018).

Finally, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Employment also supports STI within the framework proposed by The National Development Policy, the 2030 Agenda, and the Agenda for Sustainable Growth. The public funding agency for research and business – **Business Finland** – assists in the creation of technology and technological know-how, which can include partners in developing economies (**Emerging Market Growth Programme**). Through the Business with Impact programme (**BEAM**), Business Finland has also supported the development of Finnish SMEs in emerging and developing countries, with a focus in Africa and Asia (Kagiri-Kalanzi & Avento, 2018; Mutanen, 2018). The Ministry also finances the private sector through a variety of instruments, such as Finnvera's financial instrument, the Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF), the Finnish Business Partnership Support Programme⁷ (Finnpartnership), the Energy and Environment Partnership⁸, and Finnfund⁹.

3. BRIDGING THE GAPS FOR SUPPORTING SDGS

While the evaluation produced by the PATH2030¹⁰ project does an excellent job of evaluating sustainable development policy in Finland and producing recommendations for the future directions of this policy, it does not examine¹¹ the role international, multi-sectoral partnerships are having on implementing Finland's sustainable development policy. Nonetheless, the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships is

⁶The Programme is prepared by AKA and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The themes of the programme are based on Finland's development policy objectives and UN's sustainable development programme.

⁷Supports the start of business activities in developing countries.

⁸EEP in Southern and East Africa is a multi-donor fund for development of business ideas and models focused on clean energy and environmentally friendly business models.

⁹Finnfund is a development finance company that offers financing and investment loans to companies that have started their operations in developing countries.

¹⁰PATH2030 –An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy report (Berg et al. 2019)

¹¹Likely due to the necessarily limited scope of the assessment. See, e.g. Section 1, pg. 5-14, for a description of the study and its methodology and limitations.

stated in the KV-foorumi (Kokko et al. 2020) and the Government's RDI Roadmap (Valtioneuvosto 2020), making clear that Finland's substantial expertise and innovation in areas such as health, biodiversity, food security, forestry and sustainable agriculture can contribute to the global efforts to meet the targets set in the Agenda 2030.

In relation to partnerships and research, PATH2030 recommends that the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development¹² brings high-level decision-makers, researchers and representatives from civil society together in order to address current reform projects. Foreign policy recommendations emphasize that the "promotion of sustainable development should be mainstreamed in all ministerial foreign policy" and that there is "a need for transparent policy alignment regarding the Finnish positions in multilateral institutions" which should be drafted to support the participation of Parliament and stakeholders in influencing sustainable foreign policy (Berg et al. 2019). A recent report on Innovations in Sustainable Development¹³ (KIKKA project) studies the market opportunities for innovation in Finland. The report reiterates the need to bring together a wide range of actors (including universities), both in Finland and internationally to identify and develop solutions to the challenges of sustainable development. The report also mentions the importance of identifying open-minded and innovative partners for cooperation.

This section responds to the results from the stakeholder workshop organized by the FinCEAL Plus BRIDGES project and described in section 1. The workshop aimed to discuss how to mobilise Finland's expertise in research and innovation in support of global partnerships (involving academia, government, civil society, and the private sector) towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcomes from the workshop can be found from the UniPID website¹⁴ and will not be described in detail in this paper. Rather, this section highlights key issues arising from the workshop, and poses potential solutions for addressing these and for future consideration in the development and implementation of Finland's sustainable development policies.

3.1. POLICY COHERENCE AND STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

3.1.1. THE ISSUES

Global environmental change is happening at an ever-increasing pace, under the current financial and time constraints policy coherence is indispensable for addressing the main challenges ahead. Policy coherence will allow the government and society to (1) adapt to fast-changing socio-economic and environmental realities, (2) address an increasing number of environmental and socioeconomic crises, and (3) achieve long-term sustainability by working towards the achievement of the SDGs. Despite this, a key finding and recommendation from the PATH 2030 evaluation was the need for "greater proactivity and coherence of sustainable development policy" (Berg et al., 2019).

Political coherence requires the alignment of policies, financial allocations, implementation methods as well as monitoring, reporting and verification tools. Unfortunately, policy coherence is often hindered by changes in political agendas, unexpected crises, inadequate tools to assess impact, and weak feedback mechanisms to sort out successful from unsuccessful interventions.

¹²Since 1993, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development has acted as a coordinating body of Finland's sustainable development policy at the national level. The Prime Minister or a minister has chaired the commission, and its members have represented various sectors of society from political decision-making to ministries, research institutes, interest groups and NGOs (Berg et al, 2019).

¹³https://tietokayttoon.fi/hankkeet/hanke-esittely/-/asset_publisher/kestavan-kehityksen-innovaatiot-tukemassa-agenda-2030-n-toimeenpanoa-kita-

¹⁴<https://www.unipid.fi/news/finceal-bridges-seminar-sustainable-development-goals-and-partnerships-for-transformation/>

The PATH2030 evaluation makes numerous recommendations for supporting policy coherence and strategy alignment in Finland¹⁵. These recommendations are critical, but there remains a need to better engage research and innovation with third sector actors in order to achieve both flexibility and coherence. The existing ecosystem currently lacks both a strong mediator to link science and policy actors and an efficient coordinator of inputs and recommendations from the scientific community.

3.1.2. KEY SUPPORTING ACTIONS

Science, technology, and innovation play a central role in the development and implementation of coherent policies. On one side, they support societal change, which is driven by current environmental challenges, availability of social services and health care, and new knowledge on sustainable living. These and other factors affect people's political choices and the subsequent policy agendas of elected governments. On the other side, STI helps to identify key megatrends affecting the viability of regional or global systems, while simultaneously supporting the definition of priorities as part of the global agenda. These two different streams of transformative change are usually connected by local and international partnerships in the pursuit of common goals.

Promoting partnerships between the public, private, and civil society sectors is one way to accelerate the development of science-based and commercial transformations. These initiatives will support the formation of international partnerships with the Global South that will provide mutual benefit. Finland can share know-how and experiences on bridging public and private expectations and benefit by creating market opportunities for innovations supporting sustainable development abroad.

Increased and systematic engagements to support policymaking so that it can respond to new evidence while maintaining alignment with strategic goals. An important set of players in the promotion of policy coherence are knowledge-brokers. These brokers include a variety of stakeholders and communication channels. Depending on their objectives, these brokers play a role in sharing timely information related to the sustainability of policies, popularising scientific outcomes or creating spaces for the sharing of information. Effective communication and the possibility to interact with other stakeholders will empower society at large, allow for fact-based discussions, and create ownership over issues and evidence-based solutions.

3.2. IMPROVE USE OF LIMITED RESOURCES

3.2.1. THE ISSUES

Under the existing and foreseeable economic constraints, limited resourcing – for the SDGs and activities needed for broad administrative and policy coherence (in Finland and abroad) – is not a temporary problem but rather, the new norm. Therefore, the diversification of funding sources, including private sector and international sources, is needed to support a long-term, flexible, and coherent policy. Consolidating funding opportunities is a long-term process and while this process is ongoing, special attention should be given to improving the use of the existing limited resources.

Ensuring the efficient use of limited resources also requires the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing implementation and results of previously planned interventions and the assessment of alternative policy strategies. Inadequate tools to assess impacts and weak feedback mechanisms for lessons-learning remains an issue.

¹⁵These include, amongst others: the achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals in future government programmes, launching a national roadmap to 2030, increasing the role of the Expert Panel on Sustainable Development, allocating public funds for sustainable development, allocating necessary human resources, and enhancing the impact and coherence of cross-administrative sustainable foreign policy (Berg, et al. pg. 60-66, 2019).

3.2.2. KEY SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS

One of the best ways to improve the use of existing resources is to ensure that these **resources are invested in good evidence-based policies, rooted in knowledge on sustainability theory** (how and when human societies manage resources sustainably). However, there is a great challenge in ensuring the translation, transfer, and utilisation of research-based evidence, outcomes, and results to policymakers. Researchers and practitioners should evaluate the sustainability of ongoing governmental programmes while simultaneously promoting evidence-based solutions and alternatives. They should develop the tools and methods to monitor and evaluate the sustainability of alternative policy interventions, including support for state entities to internalise the lessons learnt (including impact assessments) during previous interventions. Here too, STI plays an important role as it provides evidence-based solutions while at the same time developing the tools needed to evaluate the synergies and trade-offs which are intrinsic to different policy strategies.

Improving the use of networks and dedicated platforms to both influence policymakers and create new partnerships, will optimise the use of existing resources. In order to promote transformative policies, it is important to identify and understand the pressure points (particularly the entry points for comments) influencing the policymaking process. Coordinating with other stakeholders the promotion of a transformative agenda will facilitate the dialogue with policymakers.

UniPID and FinCEAL have played an important role as support hubs by providing the necessary communication and financial bridges to facilitate interactions between different stakeholders. These interactions include not only the creation of spaces for transformative dialogue within Finland, but also supporting Finnish experts and institutions in joining the international discussion on sustainable pathways, and in applying for external funding.

In a direct reference to achieving the SDGs, the **government needs to restore and expand funding aiming to support projects combining research and development projects**. Similarly, other relevant sectors need to create conditions to combine research and development activities while introducing sustainability within production systems.

3.3. EXPAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

3.3.1. THE ISSUES

Although there is a clear need for more regular and comprehensive interaction between research and policy, there is still a lack of resources for doing so. Funding for research is highly competitive and the ability to procure external funding, especially from prestigious funding programmes, such as Horizon 2020, is increasingly necessary. Such programmes not only bring funding, but they also support international knowledge sharing and benchmarking.

Despite important improvements in the capacity of Finnish HEIs and research centres to attract international funding, the need to improve existing capacities and build new ones is a recurrent topic when discussing opportunities for new partnerships. Several HEIs still lack a flexible administrative system to support projects with varying administrative and reporting requirements. Similarly, researchers in Finland need to build capacities to navigate the landscape of funding opportunities, to negotiate and build strong consortiums, and to write competitive applications.

3.3.2. KEY SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS

At the national and institutional level, it is important to **review what the most successful countries and institutions are doing** to support their staff in attaining strong partnerships and diversification of financial resources. At the individual level, researchers need to learn from successful applications and interactions. National partnerships (including private-public partnerships) will present a more unified and coherent front when approaching potential partners or while being screened by consortiums looking for collaborators.

Beyond traditional research funding, the development of partnerships with actors from different sectors, with new kinds of funding models, can be a means for finding new ways to support innovation around the SDGs. Moreover, working with actors at different levels – from the local all the way to international – should be further explored to better connect research outcomes to action. The government goal to increase RDI investment to 4% of GDP by 2030 (Valtioneuvosto 2020) is only possible with private sector investment, flexible public-private partnership (PPP) proposed in the government’s RDI Roadmap is a step in the right direction.

Even if, as mentioned previously, limited funding at the national level is the new norm, **engagement with policymakers and institutional leadership in support of additional funding should increase**. This should go hand-in-hand with the promotion of STI and a transformative agenda based on scientific evidence and facts. As a point of concern, the promotion of sustainable pathways in cross-sectoral foreign policy is currently underfunded (Berg et al., 2019).

4. CALL FOR ACTION

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development has found that “To create transformative change, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has to address the root causes of inequitable and unsustainable outcomes. This means implementing policies and reforms that fundamentally change social institutions and relations to make them more inclusive and equitable, and that redistribute power and economic resources.” (UNRISD, 2017). Finland’s scientific community has the potential to play a critical role in achieving this transformative global change.

According to Agenda 2030, “bold and transformative steps [...] are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path” (Agenda 2030, pg.1). Scientific outcomes, results, and findings can provide better understanding of the issues around the SDGs and the evidence needed for making good policies. Moreover, international research and science partnerships can provide meaningful contributions to the global efforts to address the SDGs by providing new insights, comparisons, linking global and local actors, and influencing policymaking.

The previous section highlighted some specific challenges that are preventing Finland from having a transformative impact on the SDGs. This section suggests a number of actions Finland could take in order to overcome these challenges.

4.1. TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Transformative actions are radical proposals, aiming to identify ways to “address the root causes of inequitable and unsustainable outcomes”. These actions are part of a long-term strategy to address the issues of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Establish an independent institution with a national mandate to support the establishment and development of international research partnerships, with particular emphasis on those addressing the SDGs.

As seen in the previous sections, the need for funding, capacity, and knowledge brokerage and management is critical for addressing the key challenges in achieving policy coherence, improving the use of limited resources and supporting research. Greater engagement and exchange are needed between different scientific fields and disciplines, between scientists from different countries, and between the science community and policymakers to better support evidence-based policymaking.

Independent funding, brokerage, and coordination would support the development of transformative partnerships – international, multidisciplinary, and multi-sector – and the use and uptake of evidence for policymaking broadly and beyond the changing priorities of political coalitions. Through direct funding for supporting the development and deepening of research partnerships, this independent institution could provide reliable, low-threshold support for transformative partnerships. Moreover, this institution could play a critical role in helping to translate science for policy, communicate research outcomes with government actors, and support cross-ministerial learning and coordination.

4.2. MID-TERM ACTION

Mid-term actions are proposals for activities implemented to support long-term policy aims.

- Increase the resources for undertaking research related to the SDGs, particularly in partnership with international partners.

The need for scientific evidence and information on the issues related to the SDGs is clear. In particular, international cooperation is needed to provide evidence with a global impact, which can affect national policymaking. Increased resources are needed to undertake such research, and particularly for undertaking scientific research in cooperation with partners from around the globe. Increasing funding allocated to the Academy of Finland and BusinessFinland for supporting research and innovation activities with international partners is one essential action. In addition, increasing government support to Higher Education Institutions for actions supporting global responsibility and the SDGs is essential for a more widespread, comprehensive, and long-term impact. A special funding envelope for such activities would promote the active engagement of HEIs across their core activities and incentivize more holistic approaches to global responsibility, including within and with the local communities in which HEIs are situated.

4.3. SHORT-TERM ACTION

Short-term actions are immediate actions that can be taken, which address urgent needs. These are not strategic aims in themselves, nor should they be seen as long-term solutions, but rather as actions that can provide immediate relief to critical needs.

- Support the work of niche knowledge brokers.

As mentioned earlier, a number of knowledge brokers are already undertaking the work of coordinating and supporting policy-research exchange in niche areas. UniPID and the FinCEAL Initiative, the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, and the VN-TEAS programme are good examples of such actors. These actors are important for the promotion and encouragement of exchange and evidence-based policymaking. Until there is a more coordinated agency, with a strong mandate for such activities, support for these actors should be maintained and used as the base for transformative actions. Establishing or clearing lines of communication, establishing forums for engagement, and actively seeking policy advice with these actors can provide immediate support to government actors. Knowledge brokers often act as representatives for larger groups and can serve to collate and clarify messages that may be lost in more individual interactions. Initiating regular engagements with knowledge brokers for giving and receiving policy advice and dialogue is an immediate action that can be taken to take the “bold and transformative steps” needed for achieving the SDGs.

5. REFERENCES

- Academy of Finland (2017). Quality, impact and renewal in international cooperation: Academy of Finland international policy for 2017–2021. Available from: <https://www.aka.fi/globalassets/40akatemia/academy-of-finland-international-policy-23-feb-2017-valmis.pdf>
- Academy of Finland. (2018). Academy Programme for Development Research 2018- 2022, Memorandum, 2018 Available from: <https://www.aka.fi/globalassets/32akatemiaohjelmat/kehitystutkimus/academy-programme-for-development-research.pdf>
- Berg, A., Lähteenoja, S., Ylönen, M., Korhonen-Kurki, K., Linko, T., Lonkila, K-M., Lyytimäki, J., Salmivaara, A., Salo, H., Schönach, P., Suutarinen, I., (2019) PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland’s Sustainable Development Policy, Valtioneuvoston kansia, Publications of the Government’s analysis, assessment and research activities 2019:23, Available from: <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161601>
- Ekroos, K., Lima-Toivanen, M. (2018). Finnish research, higher education and innovation cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean: roadblocks and recommendations for future action. UniPID, University of Helsinki and VTT. Available from: https://www.unipid.fi/assets/policybriefs/brief_2_LAC_web.pdf
- Finnish National Agency for Education. (2020). HEI ICI Programme. Available from: <https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/hei-ici-programme>
- FORMIN (2013). Finland’s Latin America and Caribbean Action Plan. Available from: <https://eulac-foundation.org/en/content/finlands-latin-america-and-caribbean-action-plan>
- FORMIN (2016) Finland’s Development Policy: One World, Common Future - Toward Sustainable Development. Available from: https://um.fi/documents/35732/48132/government_report_on_development_policy_2016
- Kagiri-Kalanzi, E, Avento, R. (2018). Report: Bridging Existing and New Approaches for Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation between Finland and Africa, UniPID, University of Jyväskylä. Available from: https://www.unipid.fi/assets/Africa_report_web.pdf
- Kokko, T., Spens, K., Aholainen, R., Hakala, J., Hokkanen, J., Holmström, S., Lundin, K., Lähdeniemi, S., Paakkanen, I. Vihma-Purovaara, T. (2020). Yhteistyössä maailman parasta: Korkeakoulutuksen ja tutkimuksen kansainvälisyyden edistämisen linjausten 2017–2025 seuranta ja kehittäminen. Available from: <http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162059>
- Lehtomäki, J., Husso K., (2019) Strategic research paves the way to a more sustainable future, Academy of Finland. Available from: <https://www.aka.fi/en/strategic-research-funding/blolgeja/2019/kestavampaa-tulevaisuutta-strategisen-tutkimuksen-keinoin/>
- Mutanen, J. (2018). Finnish Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation with Southeast Asia – Opportunities and Challenges. UniPID, University of Eastern Finland. Available from https://www.unipid.fi/assets/Asia_report_WEB.pdf
- Research and Innovation Council. (2017). Vision and Road Map of the Research and Innovation Council Finland. Available from: https://valtioneuvosto.fi/documents/10184/4102579/Vision_and_roadmap_RIC.pdf/195ec1c2-6ff8-4027-9d16-d561dba33450/Vision_and_roadmap_RIC.pdf.pdf
- UN General Assembly (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available from: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E
- UNRISD (2017). “Transformative Policies for Sustainable Development: What does it take?”. Research and Policy Brief 23. Available from: [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/6456C5E375AEE153C1258176003FBF05/\\$file/RPB23-Transformative-Policies-Flagship2016.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/6456C5E375AEE153C1258176003FBF05/$file/RPB23-Transformative-Policies-Flagship2016.pdf)
- Valtioneuvosto (2020). Kestävän ja kehittyvän yhteiskunnan ratkaisuja tuottava Suomi: Kansallisen TKI-tiekartan tavoitteet ja päämäärät. Available from: <https://minedu.fi/documents/1410845/4449678/Tutkimus-%2C+kehitt%C3%A4mis-+ja+innovaatiotoiminnan+tiekartta/259864dc-a31c-cbcf-30ad-e2222724ccfa/Tutkimus-%2C+kehitt%C3%A4mis-+ja+innovaatiotoiminnan+tiekartta.pdf>

This green paper is an output of the **Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe, Africa, Asia and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region (FinCEAL)** initiative, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The paper is a product of the authors, and the responsibility for the accuracy of the data, findings, interpretations and conclusions rests with the authors.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Adrián Monge Monge, Project Coordinator, Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID)

E-mail: adrian.mongemonge@helsinki.fi

Melissa Plath, Project Manager, Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID)

E-mail: melissa.plath@jyu.fi

Jarkko Mutanen, Project Coordinator, Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID)

E-mail: jarkko.mutanen@aalto.fi

