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DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH STRATEGY



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH STRATEGY

ACADEMY OF FINLAND IN BRIEF

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KUVAILULEHTI

Julkaisija	Suomen Akatemia		Päivämäärä	29.6.2006
Tekijä(t)	Suomen Akatemian kehitystutkimuksen strategiaryhmä			
Julkaisun nimi	Kehitystutkimuksen strategia 2005			
Tiivistelmä	<p>Kehitystutkimuksella on vakiintunut asema suomalaisessa tiedekentässä. Kehitystutkimus, joka kattaa alat terveyden- ja metsäntutkimuksesta antropologiaan ja kansainväliseen talouteen, on luonteeltaan ongelma-keskeistä ja soveltavaa, mutta ammentaa eri alojen perustutkimuksesta. Kehitystutkimus kuvaa ja tulkitsee kehityksen ulottuvuuksia, auttaa ymmärtämään kehityksen esteitä ja etsii keinoja näiden esteiden poistamiseksi.</p> <p>Suomen Akatemian kehitystutkimuksen strategiassa linjataan alan tutkimuksen kehittämistä ja rahoittamista. Akatemia on suunnannut rahoitusta kehitystutkimukseen (kehitysmaatutkimukseen) 1970-luvulta lähtien, ja vuodesta 1990 lähtien tuki on perustunut Akatemian ja ulkoasiainministeriön yhteistyöhön. Akatemian 27.9.2004 asettama asiantuntijaryhmä ehdottaa rahoitusyhteistyön jatkamista ja vuosittain haettavana olevan määrärahan tason nostamista 2.5 miljoonasta eurosta 3 miljoonaan euroon. Työryhmä ehdottaa määrärahan nimen muuttamista kehitysmaatutkimuksesta kehitystutkimukseksi.</p> <p>Kehitystutkimukseen sisältyy kehitysmaita koskevat tutkimuskysymykset kaikilla tasoilla ja eri tieteiden näkökulmista. Kehitystutkimus -käsitettä käyttämällä korostetaan lisäksi sitä, että maatason ylä- ja alapuolelle kokonaan tai osittain jäävät tasot ja niiden väliset, valtiosta riippumattomat yhteydet ja vuorovaikutukset tulevat entistä tärkeämmiksi. Kehitystutkimuksen ongelmanasettelut voivat nousta yhtä lailla paikalliselta kuin globaalilta tasolta ja eritasoisten kehitysilmiöiden yhteyksiä etsimällä ja analysoimalla.</p> <p>Kehitystutkimus sijoittuu tiede- ja yhteiskuntapolitiikan risteykseen. Strategian mukaan tutkijoilla tulee olla mahdollisuus hyödyntää ja kehittää osaamistaan kaikkien kehitystavoitteiden toteuttamiseksi. Viime kädessä päämääränä on YK:n vuosituhannen kehitystavoitteiden mukaisesti puolittaa köyhyys maailmassa ja luoda aikaisempaa terveellisempi ja virikkeellisempi elinympäristö maapallon kaikille ihmisille. Uusin konkreettinen tavoite on aikaisempaa syvempi yhteistyö pohjoisen ja etelän välillä ja kehitysmaiden omien voimavarojen rakentaminen ja vahvistaminen.</p> <p>Akatemia pitää tärkeänä, ettei kehitystutkimus marginalisoidu erityismäärärahalta rahoitettavaksi erikoisalaksi, vaan kehityksen tavoitteita palvelevaa tutkimusta edistetään kaikilla tieteenaloilla osana yleistä tieteen rahoitusta.</p>			
Asiasanat	kehitystutkimus, tutkimuspolitiikka, kehityspolitiikka, kehitys, kehitysmaa, monitieteisyys			
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DESCRIPTION

Publisher	Academy of Finland	Date 29 June, 2006
Author(s)	The Academy of Finland Working Group on Development Research Strategy	
Title	Development Research Strategy	
Abstract	<p>Development research, including disciplines from health and forest sciences to anthropology and international economics, is an established field of study in Finnish research and academic community. Development research is characterised as problem-oriented and applied, building however on basic research of the disciplines involved. Development research describes and interprets various dimensions of development, helps in understanding the obstacles to development, and in finding ways in which those obstacles can be removed.</p> <p>The Development Research Strategy defines development and funding policies concerning the funding of development research by the Academy of Finland. There has been a special Academy allocation for funding for development research (or development studies) since the 1970's. Since 1990 this support has been financed in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The expert working group on development research strategy, nominated by the Academy in 2004, recommends that this collaboration and the funding scheme be continued and that the annual level of funding to be granted to development research projects be raised from 2.5 million euros to 3 million euros. It is also suggested that the term 'development research' be used instead of 'development studies' for the field of study and the funding scheme.</p> <p>Development research is placed in the intersection of science policy and development policy. According to the strategy, researchers should be given the opportunity to use and to further develop their skills and abilities for the realisation of all development goals. Ultimately, according to the UN Millennium Development Goals, the aim is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to secure a healthier and more stimulating living environment for all the people in the world. The latest concrete goal is to deepen the North-South cooperation by creating global partnerships, based on a regulated, predictable and open international trade and finance system. Another concrete goal is to build and strengthen the development capacity, including research capacity, of the developing countries.</p> <p>The Academy of Finland finds it important that development research is not marginalised as a discipline to be funded by the specialised scheme only, and, consequently, that research which serves the goals of development be supported in all disciplines as part of the general research funding.</p>	
Key words	development research, research policy, development policy, development, developing countries, interdisciplinarity	
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I INTRODUCTION

The Academy of Finland has funded development research since the 1970s. Since 1990, the Academy has supported development research in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Funding is awarded to multi-year research projects in annual competitions in which applications are evaluated on their scientific merit. The thematic emphases in funded research projects follow Finnish development policy objectives. However, in practice these themes are understood broadly, and the competitions have been open to initiatives from across the research community. At present, 2.5 million euros in funding is awarded annually. In recent years, a systematic effort has been made to support the training of researchers.

The new strategic guidelines for development research respond to needs arising from the research policy environment and from the Academy of Finland's own operations. Development research constitutes an established field of scientific inquiry in Finland. It is therefore important to determine whether development research still requires special status within the Academy of Finland's overall research policy, and if it does, what kind. How can the Academy of Finland best promote the study of development in all research, and encourage recognition of the relevance for development of various kinds of research? It is also relevant to consider the changes that have taken place in the field itself, with regard to the study of development in both global and local contexts.

Over five years have passed since the Board of the Academy of Finland last commissioned the Subcommittee on Research on Developing Countries to draft a special research strategy. The strategy proposed by that committee incorporated the recommendations made by international experts in a 1998 evaluation of the development research field commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.¹ However, the proposed strategy was never put into practice in distributing research funding, and the recommendations of the Widstrand group, which carried out the evaluation, have not been taken into account systematically.

At the beginning of 2004, a new Development Policy programme was announced in a decision in principle of the Finnish government. The new programme follows previous policy guidelines but with new emphases. It places high priority on adherence to the UN Millennium Declaration and on coherence in all areas of policy. Also in 2004, the Evaluation Unit of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs commissioned an interim assessment of the research cooperation between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Academy of Finland.² This report presented a number of recommendations regarding the policy relevance of development research and the impact of research results.

On 27 September 2004, the Academy of Finland appointed a Working Group on Development Research Strategy. The Working Group was to set objectives for development research and its funding, both as part of the Academy of Finland's research policy and funding schemes and also in relation to Finland's development

1 Carl Widstrand, Anna Tibaijuka and Paula Uski: *Development Research and Development of Research Capacity: An Analysis of the Effects and Impacts of Research Funded Through the Finnish Development Cooperation Budget*, 1998.

2 Juho Saari: *”Ulkoasiainministeriön ja Suomen Akatemian tutkimusyhteistyötä koskeva väliarvio”*, 2004.

policy programme (see Appendix IV, Letter Nominating the Working Group on Development Research Strategy). The Working Group was also to recommend means of realising the strategic objectives and guidelines, both within a more general science policy framework and also in practice.

The Working Group met five times and adopted its proposal as the Strategy for Development Research at a meeting on 20 June 2005. Comments on the draft report were solicited from experts at universities and key research institutes, as well as from others active in the field. All provided extensive, knowledgeable feedback. Many of these comments and corrections were incorporated in the Working Group's final proposal.

Different actors in the field of development research have different development-related objectives. This report focuses on research jointly funded by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs through project grants. It describes the division of responsibility and tasks among various actors, emphasising the cooperation and coordination between the actors in a common working environment in which different activities complement each other.

The report aims in particular to clarify where development research fits overall within Academy of Finland funding schemes, identifying two complementary objectives: first, to "mainstream" development research – that is, to recognise in all Academy funding decisions the potential relevance for development of projects – and second, continuing current practice, to direct funding via special allocations for development research.

The report's conclusions and recommendations are presented in Chapter 6. A summary of the main points can be found at the end of each chapter.

2 THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND

The Academy of Finland is an expert funding organisation that promotes high-level scientific research. The Academy's central tasks are funding and evaluating research. High-quality research is also promoted through expertise in science policy and by fostering international research cooperation. The Academy's strategic aims centre on developing Finnish society, realising a European Research Area, and reinforcing global cooperation so as to ensure that welfare in the evolving knowledge society will be built on new knowledge created through research.³

The Academy provides many different forms of research funding, of which the most important are general project grants, research posts, funding for designated Centres of Excellence, and thematic research programmes. Each mode of funding has its own specific purpose and its place within the ensemble of Academy funding

3 "Academy of Finland Strategy 2003", Helsinki 2003.

schemes, and overlap between the various funding instruments is avoided. The Academy also aims to develop its funding instruments in response to changes in research fields and in science policy.⁴ Through its various schemes, the Academy provides over 200 million euros in research funding annually, which in 2005 represented 14 per cent of the Finnish government's total R&D funding. Operating under the auspices of the Finnish Ministry of Education, the Academy receives its funding from the state budget.

The Academy's operations cover all disciplines, and most of its funding decisions are taken by four research councils: the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment; the Research Council for Culture and Society; the Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering; and the Research Council for Health. Decisions regarding multidisciplinary research programmes are taken by special subcommittees composed of representatives of different disciplines. The Academy's Board oversees all funding schemes, bearing particular responsibility in the designation of national Centres of Excellence and in the selection of Academy Professors.

Development research grants are one source of Academy funding. What differentiates this form of funding from others is that these allocations are maintained in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Decisions to award project grants from the development research allocation are based on the same criteria as in the calls for proposals for general research grants. Projects must also be deemed "relevant for development." As in the general competition, proposals from across the research community are welcome. However, earmarking these grants for development research also provides a way to direct funding, offering the possibility of conducting specialised thematic calls for proposals. In terms of the procedures used in funding decisions, the grant allocations for development research can be compared with multidisciplinary or thematic research programmes that draw on the expertise of more than one Research Council, and in which the decision-making body is a programme subcommittee.

Finnish society is evolving in a European and global environment. Global welfare is also built on new knowledge created through research. The goal of development cooperation is to build global welfare. Consequently, both research and the cooperation among those who conduct and fund research are guided by the same strategic objectives as is development cooperation. Because of the global context of development, promoting development research is also one of the strategic objectives of the Academy of Finland.

4 "Tutkimusrahoitusinstrumenttien kehittäminen", *Publications of the Academy of Finland 4/05*, Helsinki 2005.

3 PRINCIPLES AND CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

The guiding aims of development research are to *understand and to explain development*. *Basic research* should produce knowledge about the nature, problems, and background of development, whereas *applied research* should focus on creating functional models to support development and solve problems. All of these areas must be understood broadly enough not to discourage new lines of scientific inquiry. On a practical level, development research faces two kinds of challenges. On the one hand, scientific expertise is required for solving problems linked to health, natural resources, economy and education. On the other hand, knowledge is needed about how international, national, and cultural systems operate, and about how they enable and place limits on development. Neither research direction rules out the other: rather, they complement one another.

Development research must be conceived as an open and multidisciplinary field of study that reflects the interaction of science with practice. The definition of development also changes over time. The new approaches being taken by international financial institutions are indicative of mainstream trends in this regard. Most recently, critiques of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) have brought public recognition of the importance of good governance, democracy, human rights and the reduction of poverty, along with economic activity and growth, in promoting development. The importance of sustainable development and the environment has already been acknowledged. At present, discussion is also focusing on the relationship between security and development. *Today, at all levels, development is recognized as an essential dimension of analysis of the processes of globalisation and social change, and of their interaction.*

3.1 Development research and research on developing countries

In Finland, the term *development research* (in Finnish ‘kehitystutkimus’) is now preferred over the phrase *research on developing countries* (in Finnish ‘kehityskaatutkimus’) to describe this field of study.⁵ To avoid confusion with natural scientific and technical terminology, it may sometimes be necessary to specify what is meant by development research. The term *research on developing countries* refers to study of one or more specific developing countries, or research on developing countries in general rather than on their development. Like development research, research on developing countries is multidisciplinary. The concept of developing country also reflects social and economic factors and is in this sense analytical, describing what is in principle an ever-changing group of countries.

Nowadays it is no longer adequate to take a country as the basic unit of study. Although the national level must still be considered and the state continues to play an important role, it has become increasingly important, in framing research questions about development, to consider both supranational and subnational levels, as well as

5 The Finnish terms ‘kehitystutkimus’ and ‘kehityskaatutkimus’, both date back to the beginning of *Development Studies in Finland* in the late 1960’s and 1970’s.

the nongovernmental connections between these. For this reason it is misleading to describe study of such questions as research on developing countries. In other words, *the problems analysed in development research may be equally well produced by local as by global factors*. None of these levels can be excluded from development research. Indeed, it can be useful to identify and analyse the connections among phenomena affecting development on different levels.

Knowledge of national, local and regional conditions remains important in development policy decision-making, and also provides the basis for high-quality scientific studies of development. Judgements about the quality of research are based on how systematic, comparable, and generally applicable the results are. Finnish development research is characterised by broad geographical coverage and a mastery of comparative methodology. Many country specialists have made a conscious effort to broaden their area of expertise by shifting focus to new countries and continents in order to test hypotheses they have made about another country or region.

It is important for the renewal of development research that researchers be allowed actively to seek new regions to study. There is no justification for focusing only on those countries with which Finland engages in bilateral development cooperation, for example. The criteria determining the choice of research object must first and foremost be scientific. But concentrating on certain countries or regions may make sense in light of the basic premises of the research. There is also no intrinsic value in trying to cover a wide geographic area without good scientific reasons for doing so.

3.2 A problem-centred, multidisciplinary approach

The need to promote development research results from the convergence of science policy and social policy. *Development research is problem-oriented research that aims at promoting human development. It describes and interprets various dimensions of development, increases our understanding of the obstacles to development and seeks ways to remove these obstacles.*

One example is the linkage of the Millennium Development Goals to human health and illness. Investing in health furthers many development goals. Interdisciplinary research dealing with all aspects of health care systems is needed because health care resources are often unevenly and inappropriately distributed. War and violence affect public health in developing countries. In addition to death and disability, these cause people to flee their homes, which in turn increases their susceptibility to illness and puts strain on health care systems. The study of conflict and democracy thus forms part of health research.

In addition to being problem-centred, development research is inherently multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. Problems of development are linked with complex, deep-rooted, structural practices. These cannot be understood without social scientific expertise. Familiarity with local conditions prepares researchers to identify problems of the economy, of natural resources, of health, of education, and of the relations between these, and to seek solutions to these problems.

Development research also requires culturally sensitive approaches. Changes in society and ways of managing these changes operate in a dynamic with worldviews, such as religions, that regulate values, norms and practices. Culture is thus an important resource for development.

Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity also mean that all scholarly disciplines have something to contribute to resolving problems of development. Because of the complexity of these issues, the latest findings in all fields of research should be applied to study and resolution of development problems. In their own activities, the Research Councils of the Academy of Finland should take note of and increase public awareness about research of relevance for development.

Because of its characteristic problem-centredness, multidisciplinarity, and interdisciplinarity, development research requires a special position among the Academy of Finland's research funding schemes. Responsibility for funding decisions on basic research is divided, respecting traditional disciplinary logic, among the Academy's different Research Councils. Development research challenges this division of labour by striving to produce and disseminate knowledge using all available research instruments. Supporting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research is also justified in the interest of scientific development in general. Indeed, the Academy of Finland's attention has recently been drawn to the special nature of interdisciplinary projects within its research funding schemes.⁶ Supporting fields of study that challenge traditional research categories opens up possibilities for actively seeking new connections among sectors, for framing new research questions, and for scientific innovation.

However, there are also other justifications for maintaining a special funding mechanism for development research, such as the need for policy relevance and the desire to encourage participation by researchers from developing countries. This special status is reflected in the Academy's contractual cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

3.3 Policy relevance

The concrete objective of development research is to establish the conditions for a good life in all communities that are caught up in a cycle of development-related problems. The international community has worked to reach mutual agreement on this objective since the beginning of the 1990s. The process culminated in the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. The ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development went even further in setting common goals and proposing means of achieving them. The Millennium Declaration expressed the commitment of the international community to meeting seven different development goals by the year 2015 (see Appendix I). The principle aim is to cut in half the proportion of the world population living in poverty and suffering from hunger. Additional objectives are to reduce child and maternal mortality; to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases, and to reduce their incidence; to provide primary education for all girls and boys; to promote gender equality; and to support sustainable development.

An eighth objective cuts across all of those already mentioned: to establish partnerships between North and South. The aim is to create a global partnership

6 Bruun, H., Hukkinen, J., Huutoniemi, K. & J. Thompson Klein: "Promoting Interdisciplinary Research. The Case of the Academy of Finland", *Publications of the Academy of Finland* 8/05, Helsinki 2005.

network, the basis of which is an open, predictable, rule-based, international system of trade and finance. These objectives frame the major question in development research and policy: in what kind of world can the problems of development be solved?

Discussions about *global governance and about the open cooperation it requires* have accompanied and supported efforts to reach consensus on development goals. In a world of open cooperation, the most important actors adapt to rules and institutions that have been jointly agreed on. The results of these discussions include the Copenhagen Consensus report (2004), the report of the Commission for Africa (2005) set up by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and a plan for achieving the Millennium Development Goals produced under the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs. Also worthy of mention is the report on the Helsinki Process (2005). A broad-based, problem-solving approach unites all of these discussions and reports.⁷ As the discussions in the UN General Assembly have demonstrated, meeting development goals demands political consensus and will, as well as broad agreement on the goals themselves.⁸

Other areas of discussion and extensive research that are not covered by the Millennium Development Goals include conflict prevention, crisis management, peace building, and humanitarian aid. Important documents on these questions from the perspective of development research are *The Responsibility to Protect* (2001), produced with the Canadian government's support, the UN Commission on Human Security report (2003), and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's recommendations for reform of the security sector (2005), which contains principles that appear new from a more practical standpoint.⁹ Reform of the UN and security issues were also central concerns of a panel set up by Secretary General Kofi Annan, which submitted its report late in the autumn of 2004.¹⁰ Other subjects that should be mentioned include human rights, democracy and good governance, all of which have been discussed extensively since the beginning of the 1990s and remain topical and interesting objects of research, despite the silence of the Millennium Declaration on these issues.

In conceiving a strategy for development research it is useful to place the *Finnish government's Development Policy programme* in this broader framework. The programme aims to initiate appropriate action in all those areas of international cooperation and national policy that affect the position of developing countries. These include foreign, security, trade, environmental, agriculture and forestry,

7 *Global Crises, Global Solutions*, ed. by Bjørn Lomborg, Cambridge University Press 2004; *Our Common Interest: Report of The Commission For Africa*, <http://www.commissionforafrica.org/english/report/introduction.html>; *UN Millennium Project 2005: Investing in Development. A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/index.htm>; *The High-Level Helsinki Group Report "Mobilising Political Will"*, http://www.helsinki.fi/netcomm/ImgLib/24/89/hp_report_2005_mobilising_political_will.pdf.

8 "2005 World Summit Outcome", *High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, UN General Assembly A/60/L.1*, 20.9.2005.

9 *The Responsibility to Protect*, <http://www.iciss.ca/menu-en.asp>; *Human Security Now* <http://www.humansecurity-chs.org/>; <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/39/31785288.pdf>; *Security System Reform and Governance*, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/39/31785288.pdf>.

10 "A more secure world: Our shared responsibility", *Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, UN General Assembly A/59/565*, 2.12.2004, www.un.org/secureworld.

education, health and social, immigration and information society policy. The primary goal is to reduce the incidence of extreme poverty. In order to achieve its development goals, the Finnish government is also committed to increasing the efficiency, productivity and impact of development cooperation, as well as the amount of development aid. In support of these aims, the operations of aid providers are being standardised and the provision of aid harmonised.

A concrete objective of development cooperation is to build developing countries' own resources. This includes research capacity. Indeed, the need to enhance the research capacity of developing countries is one justification for using development cooperation resources to supporting research. Above all, this requires promoting institutional cooperation between Finnish universities and research institutes and those in developing countries. Research capacity can also be supported naturally via research cooperation. The participation of researchers from developing countries is an important, although not absolutely necessary, dimension of good development research. This places special demands on the research policy of the Academy of Finland, and speaks in favour of a separate funding mechanism for development research. The Research Councils of the Academy have the expertise and ability to initiate strategic discussion about how, and in which areas, institutional cooperation with developing countries should be deepened in order to support development of their educational and research infrastructures.

Researchers must have the opportunity to utilise and develop their expertise so as to be able contribute to the effort to meet all development goals. Research must also be independent. Researchers must be able *to analyse critically both the internal coherence and the content of development policy and objectives*. The relationship between economic growth and the reduction of poverty provides a useful example. The role of economic growth in reducing poverty is generally acknowledged. But researchers must reconcile economic growth, as a development objective, with the principles adopted at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development: economic growth must be an objective that supports, rather than endangers, sustainable development, social justice and good governance. As worthy as the goal of reducing extreme poverty is, researchers must dare to call into question its effects on development, if reducing poverty also allows the gap between rich and poor to widen, as appears to be occurring at present in many countries.

The focus of development research should not be restricted only to formal, intergovernmental or multilateral development cooperation, leaving other kinds of cooperation almost unnoticed. For example, immigrants and refugees living in industrialized countries send twice as much money home to their countries of origin as governments provide in official development aid. The impact of associations, various ideological and/or religious movements and businesses is also significant. The effects on development and negative consequences of the flow of various forms of aid at the grassroots level offers an example of the kind of issue researchers studying development must be able to address.

Development researchers must be able to bring to public discussion the analytical clarity that falls by the wayside when attempts are made to emphasise the comprehensiveness of the problem of development by saying that "everything effects everything." For example, expanding the idea of human security, which refers to the safety of people rather than the security of states, to encompass all human rights

issues or social development in general, may lead to a dialogue in which the participants speak past each other, and to a development strategy that recalls a wish list rather than a programme of action. Even after the comprehensiveness of development is understood and its study is mainstreamed, researchers must be able to respond precisely to the question of what is required for development to occur in each society. Only when the necessary requirements for development have been identified can priorities for development policy be set.

3.4 Summary

Although it is inherently applied research, the grounding of development research in basic research in different fields gives it the potential to bring social reform. In a problem-oriented field of study, the frontier between basic and applied research remains permeable.

Because of the social and political relevance of independent development research it is reasonable that it is supported in part by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. However, the importance of development research for societal policy is not the decisive factor justifying the Academy's allocation of its own resources to the development research fund it sponsors jointly with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Every effort must be made to ensure that research relevant to development, which can often be characterized as basic research in the area, is identified by every Research Council.

There are also strong scholarly arguments for maintaining a separate grant allocation for development research. Development forms a distinct field of theoretical discussion and research. Two special characteristics of applied development research also speak in favour of the existence of a separate funding mechanism to support study of development: first, the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of development research, and second, the participation of researchers from developing countries. Because of these features, development research cannot progress as a distinct field without its own funding mechanism. In the long term, this would have negative consequences for all fields of scholarly research.

4 THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The environment in which development researchers operate includes a whole group of stakeholders with whom they must collaborate. Researchers must both *obtain information about these stakeholders' research needs* and *analyse and critically evaluate the effects of their activity in developing countries*.

To build working relationships that do not depend on random contact, research institutions and the research community must be networked and must coordinate their expertise in such a way that outside parties are able to obtain information about their work. Coordination between researchers and research institutes is also necessary for producing world-class development research. Partnerships and networking make it possible to exchange information and use resources efficiently (see Appendix II).

Until now, with the exception of the research community that has grown up around the University of Helsinki's Institute of Development Studies and Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), Finnish development research has been fragmented. However, research relevant for the study of development is being conducted at all Finnish universities and in many other specialized research institutes supervised by Finnish government ministries, such as the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES).

As a national organisation, the Finnish Society for Development Studies has served as a forum bringing together researchers from different universities and research institutes. It is currently preparing to resume its activities.

The grant fund jointly maintained by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs can be used to promote projects with provisions for research cooperation. These provisions should be noted when evaluating the research proposals. Still, the limited duration of project grants restricts their potential for ensuring long-term institutional cooperation, and cooperation has been primarily between individual researchers and research teams. But even this contact establishes the basis and need for more permanent cooperation. Information about the experiences of researchers who have successfully cooperated in projects should be collected and exchanged, in order to reinforce existing models and develop new forms of cooperation.

The Academy of Finland can also promote coordination and contacts among Academy-funded development research projects by creating project links on its website to provide up-to-date information.

4.1 Networking and stakeholders

Institutional cooperation among Finnish universities and research institutions, as well as between these and research institutions in developing countries, is above all the responsibility of the universities and institutions themselves. Concrete possibilities for cooperation have been identified, with the support of the Finnish Ministry of Education, through the UniPID (Finnish Universities Partnership for International Development) initiative coordinated by the University of Jyväskylä. UniPID was inspired by the concept of institutional partnership adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Finnish university rectors made a

commitment to the initiative in December 2002. Currently the most important partners include NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and the universities of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region. Through consortium agreements, Finnish universities aim to include in the partnership all Finnish research relevant to sustainable development.

UniPID has also identified possibilities for increasing interaction between the universities and the business world in the domain of sustainable development. Finnish firms' growing interest in drafting and implementing social responsibility programmes in the developing countries is a relatively new phenomenon in this context, to which researchers have paid little attention. Such programmes include, for example, projects to promote forestry, cooperation with UN organisations in the area of education, and joint environmental education programmes with the WWF (World Wildlife Fund). There exists also a whole group of firms, for example in the energy field, whose business is concentrated in domains that are critical from the perspective of social responsibility and with whom it is consequently in the interest of researchers to build bridges. Firms' social responsibility is taken into account in all of the European Commission's initiatives on sustainable development. Here, as in all cooperation between researchers and stakeholders, it is important to keep a critical perspective and the independence necessary to conduct quality research.

Cooperation with civil society is at least as important for development researchers. The Service Centre for Development Cooperation (Kepa), the umbrella organisation for Finnish NGOs, founded the Development Questions Researcher-Actor Network in 2004. The Network has a common electronic mailing list and its purpose is to promote regular contact between activists, employees of NGOs, researchers and students working in the area of development. The network organises two events per year, hosted by different groups.

4.2 International cooperation

Finnish development researchers are part of international networks. This must continue to be emphasised. Many documents produced by the Ministry of Education and the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland include objectives related to increasing international cooperation. The goals presented by the Council's working group in November 2001, in the "International strategy of higher education institutions," appear numerically ambitious. The aim is to double the number of foreign teachers, researchers, and experts working in Finnish institutions of higher education by 2010, and to raise the proportion of foreign students in Finnish doctoral programmes to at least 15 per cent. In November 2004, the Science and Technology Policy Council approved a document on the internationalisation of the Finnish research system.¹¹

In the EU, Finland is committed to attainment of the Lisbon objectives. One of these is the development of the European Research Area. Development research is a field of study in which European cooperation is already quite institutionalised. In Europe an organisation covering the entire continent, the EADI (European

11 "Suomen tieteen ja teknologian kansainvälistäminen", Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland 12.11.2004.

Association of Development Research and Training Institutes), has existed for over 30 years, and there are many national societies promoting development research. Finnish researchers have been actively involved in the EADI's activities from the beginning. Finnish development researchers should continue to participate in European research activities at the highest levels.

The EU has also earmarked specific funds for development research since 1983. It has supported scientific and technological cooperation between European research teams and non-member countries, which has been implemented, for example, through the section of the EU Framework Programmes for research known as INCO (International Co-operation). The DEV (Developing Countries) portion of the INCO programme focuses mainly on research cooperation with the poorest countries. The purpose of the programme is to support cooperation between research organisations in Europe and in developing countries. The connection between the EU's development cooperation and its funding of research is described in a 1997 communication of the European Commission entitled "Scientific and technological research - a strategic part of the European Union's development cooperation with developing countries."¹² According to this communication, research and technology must be used as the bases for partnership, to close the gap between industrialized and developing countries and to solve development problems. The Commission's communication "The International Dimension of the European Research Area" discusses the advantages, for both sides, of cooperation with non-member countries, and connects such cooperation to the EU's other policies and values.¹³ According to the EU's Sixth Framework Programme, non-member countries could also participate in its thematic programmes for the first time. The EU's new development research guidelines are laid out in a document published by the Commission in 2005 entitled "Research for Development: From Challenges to Policies." In accordance with the division of tasks within the Commission, development cooperation resources are to be used above all for enhancing the research and training capacity of developing countries, whereas research funding should be used to support existing capacity with the aim of producing knowledge to solve problems.

The INCO-DEV programme has so far focused on research on health, the environment, and safe food supplies, but has funded no social scientific research. INCO-DEV is not well known among Finnish development researchers, who have benefited little from its support. As a funding instrument, it is ill suited to the needs of small research teams or individuals. Here, the Academy of Finland can assist researchers. It is in the interest of the Academy to work actively to expand the disciplinary focus of the INCO-DEV programme and make it more flexible.

Development researchers should also take advantage of the opportunities for cooperation and joint funding with other Nordic researchers offered through *NordForsk*, the institution responsible for Nordic cooperation within research and researcher training.

From an international perspective, most of the research support that comes from development cooperation funds is directed multilaterally to international research institutions and programmes. This is also true of the development policy research

¹² COM (1997) 174.

¹³ COM (2001) 346 (final).

budget of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (see Appendix III). Finnish development researchers have cooperated productively with several such international research institutions, which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and other funding instances have supported directly. Among these institutions are the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI, Nordiska afrikainstitutet) in Uppsala, Sweden; the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen, Denmark; the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht, The Netherlands, which concentrates on EU development cooperation policy; and the World Institute of Development Economics Research (WIDER), in Helsinki. Grants for field research from the Africa Institute, for example, have been decisive for the realisation of many young Finnish researchers' projects.

As broad and representative forums for international research cooperation, the scientific programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) offer development researchers numerous opportunities for cooperation. Finland participates in the following programmes: the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and Management of Social Transformations (MOST). The Academy of Finland oversees Finland's participation in UNESCO's scientific programmes.

The Academy of Finland funds cooperation within the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), where research focuses particularly on global environmental, population, economic, technological, and energy-related issues. The Academy of Finland handles the administration of IIASA cooperation and funds short research visits to the Institute.

New possibilities for interaction between researchers from Finland and developing countries have opened up with the establishment of the "North-South Higher Education Network" programme administered by the Center for International Mobility (CIMO). The goal of the programme is to create permanent relationships between universities in Finland and developing countries. The budget of the programme in 2004-2006 is 2.5 million euros, which comes from the development cooperation funds of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Although the programme focuses on teacher and student exchanges, it indirectly reinforces research cooperation as well, complementing Academy-funded development research.

4.3 Research policy in the Nordic countries

Sweden, Norway and Denmark devote considerably more resources to development research than does Finland, on the national level as well, even though Finnish research shows no less relevance for development policy. However, comparing the percentages of their entire development cooperation budgets the countries allocate to research, the difference is not as great (see Table 1). The other Nordic countries direct about five per cent of their development cooperation resources into research and higher education, both multilaterally and bilaterally. Of this funding, 10-15 per cent supports national development research. Five per cent of Finland's total development cooperation budget for 2005 would be 30 million euros, of which 10 per cent would be 3 million euros.

Table 1: Amount of development cooperation resources devoted to research funding in the Nordic countries in 2003-2004, in millions of US dollars¹⁴

	Development policy research budget	Funding for development research	Development cooperation budget	Development cooperation budget as percentage of GDP
Finland	8.5 ¹⁴	2.0	558.0	0.35
Sweden	120.0	12.0	2 400.0	0.79
Norway	76.9	7.7	2 042.0	0.92
Denmark	39.0	6.0	1 748.0	0.84

The other Nordic countries can also be credited with systematically reinforcing the research capacity of developing countries. For example, Denmark has over ten years' experience in the Enhancing Research Capacity in Developing Countries (ENRECA) programme, which is supported by bilateral development cooperation funds. This programme funds small-scale North-South projects involving research cooperation and bilateral exchanges between research institutions. The aim is to promote the long-term development of research capacity at selected institutions in developing countries, for example, by funding doctoral study by researchers from those institutions, in a framework based on three-year project grants. The researchers earn their doctorates from their home institutions. But a portion of their doctoral study takes place in Denmark. A good example of institutional cooperation is the Linked University Consortia for Environment and Development–Industry and Urban Areas (LUCED-I&UA), which includes consortia representing Denmark and southern Africa.¹⁶

One of the goals of Denmark's development policy strategy is to make research, and the knowledge gained through research, an essential part of the cooperation between Denmark and its partner countries. The Danish Council for Development Research (RUF, Forskningsrådet for Udviklingsforskning) has chosen such research themes as human rights, democratisation, good governance and stability.

The Research Council of Norway (Norges Forskningsråd) also supports development research, both with general funding instruments and through special thematic funding programmes. The themes of the latter programmes have included globalisation and marginalisation, economic policy and economic development, political development, democracy, human rights and conflict, health, education and the population, and the environment and natural resources management. Of these, globalisation and marginalisation are common themes of the entire programme. Poverty is the strategic topic of a new research programme.

The Department for Research Cooperation (SAREC) of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) supports research in the

¹⁴ The figures for overall development cooperation budget and GDP are based on OECD/DAC statistics (*Development Co-operation Report 2004*, OECD 2005); the information about development policy research budgets has been collected from various funding organisations. These figures are only indicative and not necessarily directly comparable.

¹⁵ Because of differences in statistical methods, the figures in this table on Finland's support for higher education and research through development cooperation are not directly comparable with the figures for the other countries. See also the charts in Appendix III.

¹⁶ www.duced-iaa.dk.

countries with which Sweden cooperates, as well as research that is important for the development of those countries. SAREC supports organisations that fund research, universities and research institutes, regional research networks and international research programmes, as well as Swedish research relevant to developing countries. The Forskningsrådet, a research council appointed by the government, decides how research and funding will be allocated. In taking decisions on research allocations in Sweden, the council has at its disposal five preparatory bodies representing different research areas.

SIDA's research funds are primarily used to enhance research capacity via bilateral cooperation. Distinctions are thus made between those countries with lagging research capacity and those with established resources for research. In order to receive support, research projects must focus on the reduction of poverty and on development. Research support is provided in all scientific fields. In 2003, Sweden engaged in bilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing the research capacity of nine countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

4.4 Making use of research results

The research community's links both with government – also outside the realm of development cooperation – and with the private sector must be developed. Special attention must be focused on communicating and making use of the results of development research. However, the latter is not entirely the responsibility of researchers. It is also up to decision makers, and those who formulate policy affecting developing countries, to actively seek out and utilize the latest scientific knowledge. In addition to submitting a report to the Academy at the close of each funding period, project leaders should send their publications and information about their most important research results to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs could foster dialogue about how to use the research results in policy planning. Full advantage should be taken of forums like the Development Policy Committee, which brings together policy makers, researchers and actors from other sectors.

Nor should contact between researchers and relevant segments of civil society and the business world be neglected. The same is true for the general public, the media, and schools. Development interests a wide segment of the population and researchers need to do their best to respond to this interest. The Finnish Society for Development Studies and UniPID can help to disseminate information about research results widely.

It must be emphasised, in the case of research funded by the Academy of Finland, that *it is ultimately the quality of scientific research that determines its usefulness in practice*. The most purely academic research, the results of which speak only to experts in the area, can in the long run prove the most relevant for supporting development. For precisely this reason, experts in the field are needed both in Finland and in developing countries.

The quality of research is often judged on the basis of where the results are published. However, the rankings of scholarly publications, which are based on quantity of citations and reflect the dominance of the American research tradition, do

not favour multidisciplinary development research. For this reason, in evaluating the quality of development research, the highest value should be placed on publications in periodicals or series that specifically focus on development research or area studies.

4.5 Summary

As Finnish development researchers become increasingly active, interest in development and development research is also growing. With both development research and concern about development on the rise, it is possible to shape the emerging architecture of the field. UniPID, international research institutions receiving Finnish funding, CIMO and the Academy of Finland can complement each other in supporting development research. At the same time, attention must be paid to structural weaknesses and to gaps in the fields of activity covered by the most important actors in the field, and new needs must be identified. The most pressing problems are the modest level of research funding, the lack of institutional cooperation, and the need for research training (discussed below). In order to improve the conditions for development research and optimize use of Finnish resources, it is important also to develop Nordic and European cooperation.

Development researchers must demonstrate how their findings can be used in all policy making that affects developing countries. The high quality of the research and of the publication channels specialised in development must be emphasised. The publications and research results of projects receiving Academy funding should be sent to the Development Policy Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

5 THE PRINCIPLES OF FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

The existence of a special grant allocation for development research, jointly sponsored by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, should not lead to the marginalisation of the field. *The field of development research should be expanded and should assume a more prominent place within all Academy of Finland funding schemes. The Academy of Finland should actively seek ways to ensure recognition of the relevance for development of the research it supports and the seamless inclusion of projects relevant to development in the research funded by all the four Research Councils.* The Development Research Subcommittee and Steering Group can take the initiative with respect to the Academy's Research Councils. Building on their broad expertise, the Research Councils should also be able to present their own guidelines and initiatives. In this way, it would also be possible to increase cooperation among researchers and encourage the creation of multidisciplinary projects. Development researchers could then benefit from the latest knowledge in different fields.

In addition to projects supported by special development research allocations the Academy of Finland funds various initiatives with clear implications for development.

Such projects include the Academy-initiated thematic research programmes “Global Change,” “Marginalisation, Inequality and Ethnic Relations in Finland” and “Russia in Flux”. Development research is also supported with the Academy of Finland’s other funding instruments such as postdoctoral research project grants, Academy Research Fellowships and Academy Professor posts, grants for senior researchers, seminar and conference funding and grants for researchers to work abroad.¹⁷

A glance at the research projects funded by the Academy’s Research Councils indicates that they do support research on development or developing countries, although there are differences among the Research Councils (see Table 2). It is important that all Research Councils take into account the need to promote research in this area.

Table 2: Funding for development research by Research Council via the Academy of Finland’s other funding instruments

	Research Council for Biosciences and Environment	Research Council for Culture and Society	Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering	Research Council for Health
Postdoctoral researchers	2	3		
Academy Research Fellows	4	6	2	1
Academy Professors		1		
Senior researchers		1		
Research projects grants	3	5		1

Funding has been awarded by the Research Council for Culture and Society, for instance, to projects on the following subjects, all of which contain a developmental dimension: global intellectual property rights, international environmental rights, human rights and cultural diversity, infrastructure and welfare services in Russia, poverty in the Baltic countryside, business promoting sustainable development, global project strategies, theory and history of the global economy, the Bosnian diaspora, teaching multiculturalism, multiethnic communities, and identity politics and conflict resolution in a changing society. A development perspective may also be applied in many bioscientific and environmental, health and natural scientific and technological research projects.

None of this eliminates the need to continue funding *multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary development research with separate Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs allocations*. As for all other Academy research funding, the basis for awarding development research funding is *quality*, evaluated through peer review. In judging projects attention is also given to their impact and to the potential uses of their results.

17 “*Tutkimusrahoituspäätösten perusteet vuonna 2006*”, Academy of Finland, Helsinki 2005.

Grant funding is awarded in an annual open call for applications, in which both the Academy of Finland's general funding criteria and the principles presented in this Strategy are applied. Funding decisions are taken by a subcommittee appointed by the Board of the Academy, which is composed of members of the Research Councils. A steering group that includes representatives of the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, plus two outside experts, prepares the proposal for the subcommittee. Projects can be funded for up to four years. Funding can also be granted for preliminary research or for preparation of a proposal for collaborative research between Finnish researchers and their partners in developing countries. The objective in funding decisions is to ensure that project costs are sufficiently covered, especially to encourage multidisciplinary and international cooperation and the combining of basic and applied research.

5.1 Research themes

The objectives of the Finnish government's development policy are broad and comprehensive. *Hence it is possible for the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to share many objectives with regard to the joint fund for development research.* Research to be funded may treat subjects relevant to the Millennium Development Goals or to Finland's development policy, or it may critically examine development policy itself, development objectives, or Finland's relations with developing countries more generally, including relations within civil society and the private sector. Ultimately, however, the precise choice of research topic must be left to the researcher.

Development research should continue to focus on solving problems related to health, the environment, natural resources, and education, and also to aim at understanding better how the international, national, and cultural systems regulating development function. Until now research projects have focused on such subjects as water, forests, new technologies, the right to information and education, democracy, human rights, non-violence, and peace, as well as international trade provisions and investment agreements. Poverty remains an important international and multidisciplinary research theme that joins different researchers across the world.

However, if needed, as new research challenges emerge or are introduced by researchers themselves, funding can also be directed via thematic, research programme-type competitions. Recent initiatives worthy of mention that address current research needs have included the Helsinki University of Technology's Global Technology programme (2005), the "International environmental law and diplomacy" course sponsored by the University of Joensuu in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Academician Pirjo Mäkelä's "Programme for Globalisation Research" project (2004). If research funding is to be allocated thematically, theoretical and methodological approach, research cooperation and potential to enhance research capacity should all be considered in selecting programme themes. Funding for projects can be focused specifically on supporting international networking.

Development policy research commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and research funded through the Academy of Finland must be clearly distinguished. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is justified in emphasising policy relevance,

distinctly defined, as a criterion for funding the research it commissions. This, however, cannot be the case for projects it jointly supports with the Academy. Focusing only on countries identified as the most important partners in the Finnish government's development policy programme may also be legitimate in research commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. But such limits should not be imposed on projects funded jointly by the Academy and the Ministry. Still, when the justification for focusing on such areas derives from the logic of the project itself, it may make sense to concentrate on certain countries or regions that are also official development cooperation partners. Recognizing the impact of research and of development cooperation, and methodically developing means to evaluate this impact are in the interest of both government and the research community.

5.2 Multidisciplinarity and researcher cooperation

Problems connected with the economy, the environment, natural resources, health, education, and the relations between these cannot be understood without knowledge of local societies and cultures. Development research requires *special funding precisely because it is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary field of study*. It cannot depend on a resource distribution structure that divides disciplines into competing interest groups, an arrangement that tends to marginalise projects in multidisciplinary or emerging fields.

In evaluating applications for Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs project funding, the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity of projects should be regarded as special merits.

The composition of research teams is particularly significant for multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and problem-centred research. Bringing together representatives of different scientific fields ensures an integrated approach, and different regional specialists can provide comparative perspectives. But not all development research projects require a large team: some succeed on the efforts of one or two researchers. Such individual projects may still benefit from attachment to larger projects, in which researchers can together formulate and test hypotheses, collect and share data, and develop methodologies. However, efforts should be made to avoid a situation in which researchers seek to assemble unnecessarily large projects, while excellent small-scale projects are not supported simply because of their size. *Scholarly merit, coherence, and viability should be the primary criteria upon which funding is awarded to research projects.*

In order to unify and strengthen the field of development research, it is important to promote cooperation among researchers. Research units working at different universities should be encouraged to network actively, to seek new means of cooperating and to take advantage of synergies produced by combining resources. The Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs can use their joint allocations to support projects that provide for built-in research cooperation, which should be noted in evaluating applications.

5.3 Enhancing the research capacity of developing countries

One goal of development cooperation is to build developing countries' own resources. Enhancing research capacity is one way to support this aim over the long term. *Cooperation with researchers and research institutions in developing countries* is an integral part of development research and in itself contributes to development by enhancing research capacity. Research capacity includes both the ability to recognise research needs and also the skills and instruments necessary to produce and apply knowledge: researchers, research institutions, research funding, research instruments and communication instruments.¹⁸ *Enhancement of the research capacity of developing countries requires significant investment in research infrastructures, higher education and research institutions. This is above all the responsibility of the countries themselves. North-South cooperation can play a supporting and complementary role.*

The Department for Development policy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is preparing a programme of support for institutional cooperation between universities in Finland and those in developing countries. The pilot phase of the programme was initiated in the autumn of 2005. In the framework of institutional cooperation it should be possible to send Finnish undergraduate and postgraduate students to developing countries and to support the training of postgraduates from developing countries in Finland. Institutional relationships support research and educational cooperation between universities and research institutions in Finland and developing countries. Here, UniPID represents an important initiative, the long-term support of which will be beneficial for the realisation of development policy goals.

The participation of researchers from developing countries in projects jointly supported by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs should be viewed favourably. In funding decisions, it is seen as a merit when a high-quality research proposal provides for cooperation with researchers from developing countries. The Academy could additionally initiate a broader strategic conversation about the fields and means in which institutional cooperation for research and training should be developed in order to enhance the research capacity of developing countries.

5.4 Researcher training

Researcher training plays an essential role in renewing fields of study and in good research cooperation. This applies to both Finnish and foreign postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers. In order to provide high-level researcher training it is important to make use of the best resources in a given field.

The field of development studies has its own national doctoral programme, known as Devestu (the Finnish Graduate School for Development Studies), which in 2003-2006 offered five students the opportunity to study with funding from the Ministry of Education. The programme also accepted two students funded by the University of Helsinki for the years 2005-2009. More than ten students received official affiliate status, allowing them to participate in the programme as full-fledged

¹⁸ See "Enhancing Research Capacity in Developing and Transition Countries", Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries, Berne 2001.

members while they conduct research with outside funding. The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Helsinki coordinates Devestu. Its co-sponsors include eight departments from five different universities: the Universities of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Jyväskylä, and the Helsinki School of Economics. Devestu organises seminars and researcher training courses, some in cooperation with Nordic and other partner universities, and offers students active, personalised supervision in small groups.

Training of importance for development research is also provided in such graduate area studies programmes as the Graduate School for North and Latin American Studies, which offered scholarships funded by the Ministry of Education to five students for 2002–2005, and the Graduate School of Contemporary Asian Studies, where six students were funded for 2002–2005. Both schools will be able to continue sponsoring same number of graduate students until 2009.

Because the doctoral programmes offering training in development studies are still rather new, it is not yet possible to evaluate their activities as an integrated whole. But student feedback about them has been positive. The biggest problem for these doctoral programmes is the cost of fieldwork. The scholarships are small, and the students cannot afford to finance their fieldwork periods themselves. For this reason they have had to seek funding from a variety of sources. Because the sums in question are small, yet their impact on the students' training is decisive, this problem should be attended to immediately. Providing supplementary funding to graduate schools for field research should be seen as enhancing the internationalisation of researcher training. Internationalising these doctoral programmes is part of the Academy's strategy, and it is increasing its allocations for this purpose.

In its internationalisation Strategy from 2004, the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland stated that, "we must invest in research careers, in researcher training, in internationalising the recruitment pool of researchers to be trained, and in removing obstacles facing foreign researchers wishing to work in Finland." The report emphasises the importance of international networks and channels of cooperation, as well as balanced reconciliation of global, European, and national perspectives. In light of these objectives, it is troubling that the number of foreign postgraduates in Finland remains so small.¹⁹ Many more postgraduate students would come from the developing countries, in particular, if means to finance their studies could be found.

In the spring of 2004, a survey of the needs of foreign researchers and doctoral students living in, or moving to, Finland was conducted.²⁰ According to the survey, the reasons researchers and students were coming to Finland included the lack of opportunities to pursue a research career, the weakness of the research infrastructure, economic problems or other difficulties in their countries of origins. Finland's attractions included the quality of its research environment and stable living

19 This is can be seen, for example, in Henriikka Katila's Academy of Finland report, "Yhteenveto tutkijakoulujen jatkohakemusten tiedoista: 15.2.2005 päättynyt tutkijakouluhaku", 11.10.2005.

20 The project was coordinated by the Academy of Finland and funded by the European Commission. Of the 859 researchers who responded to the questionnaire over half were from countries classified by the OECD/DAC as developing countries, with about one-fourth from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. See *Mobile Minds: Survey of foreign PhD students and researchers in Finland*, Publications of the Academy of Finland 1/05, Helsinki 2005.

conditions. Even though the overall number of researchers in Finland is relatively small compared to many other EU countries, the number of researchers from developing countries among them is significant. This also demonstrates the potential of international researcher exchanges.

The Academy of Finland should encourage research teams and individual researchers to connect their activities with researcher training projects both in Finland and in developing countries. Researcher training is so important that more resources should be devoted to it. In light of the various kinds of expertise required, significant gaps in researcher training also remain to be filled. Perhaps the most important of these is the need for postgraduate training in development economics.²¹

The educational opportunities in Finland for researchers from developing countries must be improved. Supporting postgraduate students does not appear to be a priority for funding agencies. CIMO's North-South programme supports the mobility of undergraduate students and teachers. There is an urgent need to determine how longer-term training of researchers from developing countries can be supported, either by developing CIMO's programmes or through other mechanisms. For example, CIMO Fellowships could be used as an instrument for funding postgraduate students from developing countries, and could be integrated as an independent part of the North-South programme in the future. The EU's Erasmus Mundus programme also offers opportunities for cooperation with developing countries.

The effects of possible tuition fees should be mentioned in this connection. Should the government decide to charge tuition to students from outside the EU/ETA region, it will be important to create a system for subsidising students with limited means who come from developing countries.

5.5 Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs funding framework

Support for development research through the Academy of Finland is based on cooperation with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in the framework of which both allocate resources to support research, and participate in the preparation of the research funding decisions. In practice, the Academy allocates funds every third year, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in all other years. Currently 2.5 million euros are allocated annually. This sum is modest compared with other Nordic countries. Still, the supply of funding has until now responded fairly well to demand.

In Finland, the field of development research is growing and changing. This can be seen, for example, in the activities of UniPID and in Keva's Development Questions Researcher-Actor Network, as well as in the initiatives of universities and other institutions of higher education. New researcher training programmes will soon produce a new generation of researchers who will participate in funding competitions. Consequently, there is reason to increase support for development research, also as part of the general increase in funding for development cooperation.

Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs annual project grant allocations should be raised to three million euros. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would

21 Pertti Haaparanta's memo, "Suomalaisen taloustieteellisen kehityskaatutkimuksen kehittamisestä ja hyödyntämisestä suomalaisessa kehitysyhteistyössä" (2004). *There are a few students writing doctoral dissertations on development economics in the National Graduate School of Economics.*

contribute two-thirds of the total budget for research and the Academy of Finland one third. The allocations are made to the Development Research Subcommittee once a year, and funding decisions follow an open call for proposals organised each January, after which outside evaluators assess project applications. Both developments in the field and also the number of applications for the Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs research funding should be closely monitored. A reasonable level of funding should be guaranteed in the future.

5.6 Summary

The Research Councils of the Academy of Finland have all supported research on development and developing countries, although with differences among them. It is important that in all funding schemes, the Research Councils take note of and endeavour to publicize research relevant to development. At the same time, it is important for development researchers themselves to apply for other Academy funding, in order to benefit at all stages of their careers from the Academy's support for research, researcher training, and research cooperation.

Doctoral programmes are a new and important means of supporting Finnish development research. Both the number of postgraduate scholarships and the number of researchers from developing countries coming to study in Finland should be increased, and funding for postgraduate students' fieldwork should be provided, which will require additional resources.

Joint allocations for development research by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs should increase. The supply of grant funding should continue to respond to the demand for support and to changes and new challenges in the field of development research.

In evaluating development research projects and their results, their potential impact and applications should be considered.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most development research is inherently applied research, although it draws on basic research in different disciplines. The frontier between basic and applied research is permeable. The key is to make use of methodologies and results from all fields of study. For this reason it is important to support the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the field.

The Academy of Finland and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs have cooperated successfully to fund research on development. Both the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Academy of Finland consider the continued allocation of research funding to be consistent with their own objectives. Consequently, current practice should continue, while taking into account new challenges and possibilities.

The Working Group on Development Research Strategy recommends:

1) regarding joint Academy of Finland/Ministry for Foreign Affairs project grants,

- that the term ‘development research’ be used to describe the field,
- that the project grant budget be increased to three million euros per year,
- that priority in awarding project grants be given to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects,
- that funding be awarded both to projects providing for broad, varied and multi-level cooperation and also to small projects,
- that funding be distributed via thematic competitions proposed by the Development Research Subcommittee and Steering Group in accordance with research needs,
- that projects’ scientific merit, coherence and viability constitute the criteria for evaluating the quality of proposals,
- that the potential impact and applicability of research is mentioned in project evaluations and research reports, and
- that a project’s potential to enhance research capacity be viewed as an advantage, when the participation of researchers from a developing country or countries would also have scientific benefits for the project;

2) regarding institutional cooperation,

- that in budget negotiations between the Ministry of Education and universities, attention be paid to the promotion of cooperation with universities in developing countries,
- that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs support long-term cooperation between universities in Finland and in developing countries, and
- that information be compiled about successful research cooperation in projects funded by the Academy of Finland, in order to reinforce existing cooperative models and develop new modes of cooperation;

3) regarding international funding,

- that the Academy of Finland inform and advise Finnish researchers about the funding opportunities available through the EU research programmes and NordForsk,
- that efforts be made to promote increased multidisciplinary and flexibility in EU programmes; and

4) regarding researcher training,

- that the number of scholarships available to doctoral students working in the field of development research be increased,
- that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education together seek additional means of funding postgraduate study in Finland for students from developing countries, and
- that instruments be created to fund both the internationalisation of doctoral training and also postgraduate students’ fieldwork in developing countries.

APPENDIX I

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- *Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day*
- *Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education

- *Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling*

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

- *Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015*

Goal 4

Reduce child mortality

- *Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five*

Goal 5

Improve maternal health

- *Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio*

Goal 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- *Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS*
- *Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases*

Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

- *Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources*
- *Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water*
- *Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020*

Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development

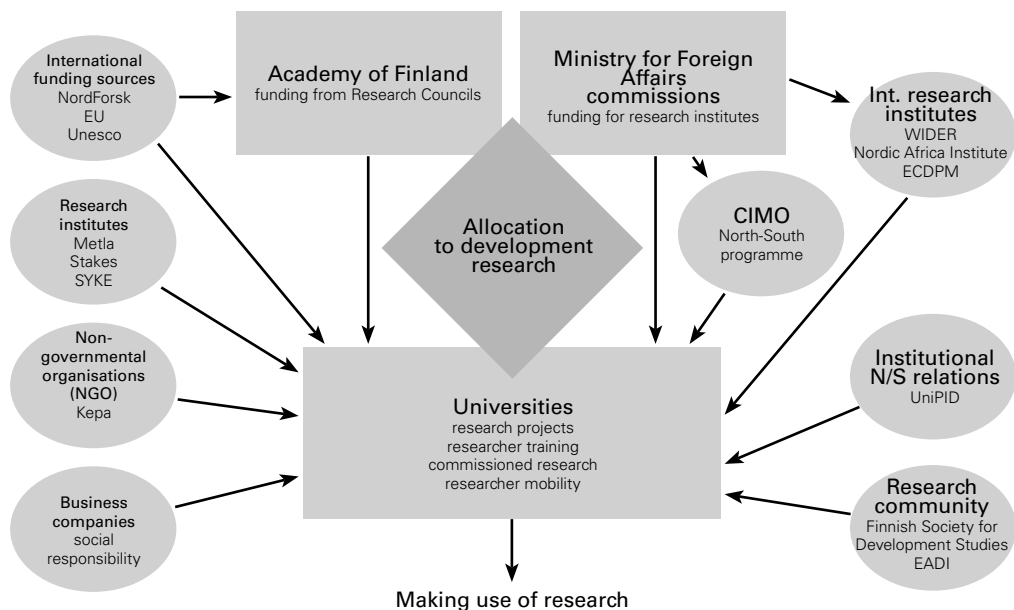
- *Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory, includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally*
- *Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries;*

cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction

- *Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States*
- *Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term*
- *In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth*
- *In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries*
- *In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies*

Source: Development Policy Programme: Government decision-in-principle 5 February 2004.

APPENDIX II



APPENDIX III

Development cooperation	Institutional cooperation	Research projects	Academy of Finland	Research institutes	Research institutes
Bilateral cooperation in the research and higher education sector	North-South higher education network programme CIMO 850,000 €	Commissioned research 200,000 € MOSSE programme OECD/DEV coherence project 200,000 €	Programme for Development Research 1.8 M€	Nordic Africa Institute 336,000 € ECDPM 110,000 €	CGIAR 1,340,000 € UNRISD 220,000 € WIDER 330,000 €
ForMin various departments	ForMin/KEO				ForMin/GLO
Other funding (cooperation of research and higher education sector)		Development policy research funding			

ForMin funding from development cooperation funds for research and higher education sector in 2004

APPENDIX IV

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

NOMINATING LETTER

27 September 2004

ACADEMY OF FINLAND STRATEGY WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

The Academy of Finland has today appointed a working group the task of which is to prepare a proposal for a strategy for the Academy's development research and set the guidelines relating to calls for proposals for development research grants as part of Academy research funding. In its work, the Working Group has to particularly take into account the cooperation between the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the funding of development research.

For this purpose the Working Groups is to

- set objectives for development research as part of the Academy's research policy and funding
- set objectives for development research allocations in relation to Finland's development policy programme and the research policy guidelines of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- define the general needs of development research and assess the special needs for targeted research funding
- make proposals for the promotion of development research as an interdisciplinary and international field of scientific inquiry
- make proposals for the realisation of calls for proposals, research reporting, monitoring of the use of funds and evaluation
- make proposals for strengthening the research capacity through, for example, cooperation between doctoral programmes
- make other proposals it sees necessary for the implementation of the development research strategy.

The Chair of the Working Group is President Raimo Väyrynen and its members Professor Eila Helander, Academy of Finland Research Council for Culture and Society, Counsellor of Education Heidi Kuusi, Ministry of Education, Professor Liisa Laakso, University of Jyväskylä, Deputy Director-General Juhani Toivonen, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (reserve: Head of Unit Sinikka Antila), Academy Research Fellow Olli Varis, Helsinki University of Technology, and Professor Timo Vesikari, Academy of Finland Research Council for Health.

Science Advisor Riitta Launonen acts as secretary of the Working Group.

The term of the Working Group expires on 1 April 2005.

Vice President, Research

Anneli Pauli

Vice President, Administration

Juha Sarkio

Development research is an established field of study in the Finnish academic community. In development research the problems to be studied may derive from the local as well as global level, or from a search and analysis of the connections between development phenomena at different levels. It is a problem-oriented and interdisciplinary field of study, incorporating approaches of all participating disciplines. Development research is placed in the intersection between science policy and development policy.

The Strategy for Development Research of the Academy of Finland outlines the development and funding of research in this field. The strategy sets out to define the objectives of development research in the Academy's research policy and funding, as well as in a wider academic and development framework. It goes on to suggest ways of promoting development research as an interdisciplinary and international field of study.

The strategy is focused on research funded jointly by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The different roles and specialisations of various actors in the field and their division of labour are also brought in.



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

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