

# Finnish Mechanisms for Promoting ICT Research and Innovation Cooperation with Southern Africa

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Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research  
Cape Town 15.11.2011



# About this presentation

- Points made relate largely to Finnish-funded development cooperation activities in South / Southern Africa
- In the last decade, a cluster of Finnish-South African partnerships in the field of STI for Development, strong emphasis on ICT
- These have been mostly bilateral by nature, with some links to EU-Africa cooperation
- Developmental context and development impact as guiding principles – *STI for development*
- In Africa, both ODA and non-ODA funding important for funding collaborative research and innovation
  - Our role in the latter is mostly indirect



# Finnish programmes in South Africa (1)

- **Cooperation Framework on Innovation Systems Between Finland and South Africa (COFISA), 2006-2010**
  - Enhancing the South African National System of Innovation at national, provincial and rural levels
  - In cooperation with DST, nationally + in pilot provinces Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape
- **INSPIRE: Provincial Information Society Strategy Programme, 2007-2011**
  - Developing and implementing provincial information society strategies in two provinces of South Africa
  - In cooperation with DoC / PNC on ISAD and Provincial Governments of Limpopo and Northern Cape



# Finnish programmes in South Africa (2)

- **SAFIPA: South Africa – Finland Knowledge Partnership on ICT, 2008-2011**
  - Development and deployment of ICT applications and services for the benefit of South African citizens
  - In cooperation with DST and CSIR / Meraka Institute
  - Capacity building + funding for ICT innovation projects
- **MFA-Infodev-Nokia partnership “Creating Sustainable Businesses in The Knowledge Economy”, 2010-**
  - A global PPP between Infodev, Nokia and the MFA for enhancing mobile innovation and entrepreneurship in the developing world
  - Establishing m-labs for mobile application development in South Africa and Kenya in Africa



# Finnish regional programmes in Southern Africa

- **BioFISA (2009-2012)**
  - Finland and South Africa supporting NEPAD's ABI Initiative in Southern Africa (SANBio) in 12 member countries
  - Implementing organisation: CSIR in South Africa
  - Strengthening and building capacity for biosciences research and commercialisation – also a strong ICT component
- **Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme SAIS (2011-2014)**
  - Supporting the development of a regional innovation system and support mechanisms in Southern Africa
  - Participating Countries: Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia



# Finnish regional programmes in Southern Africa

- **TanzICT: Tanzanian Information Society and ICT Sector Development Project (2011-2015)**
  - Reviewing the Tanzanian ICT policy framework and strengthening arrangements for its implementation
  - Supporting ICT innovation and incubation processes: from idea to business
- **STIFIMO: Programme Of Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation Between Finland And Mozambique, 2010-2014**
  - A large-scale programme for enhancing Mozambique's STI system, supporting entrepreneurship and innovation



# Some characteristics of these interventions

- Designed to support countries **to implement** existing policies / strategies
- Localising the innovation systems perspective to serve economic and social development objectives
- Involving multiple actors; public, private, academia, users
- Building up African *applied* research and innovation capacity – focus on human and institutional skills and capabilities
- Typically a combination of Finnish TA and direct funding
- Bringing together Finnish and SA partners and expertise, including exploring research and innovation partnerships



# Other MFA instruments: HEI cooperation

- The Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HEI ICI)
  - 1-3 year collaborative projects between higher education institutions in Finland and developing countries
  - Enhancing higher education capacity in the developing world
  - improve the quality and position of higher education in developing countries
- North-South-South programme
  - Cooperation and networking between higher education institutions in Finland and developing countries
  - Reciprocal student and teacher exchange, joint courses



# The Finnish Innovation System: some opportunities for collaboration

- TEKES – Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation
  - Tekes funds company projects and public research
  - (Limited) opportunities for international partners in both
  - International cooperation, researcher mobility and exchange is encouraged
- The Academy of Finland – funding agency for basic research in Finland
  - Researcher mobility and international joint projects in all funding opportunities
  - Funding for international cooperation through targeted calls, research programmes or bilateral agreements ( e.g. South Africa)

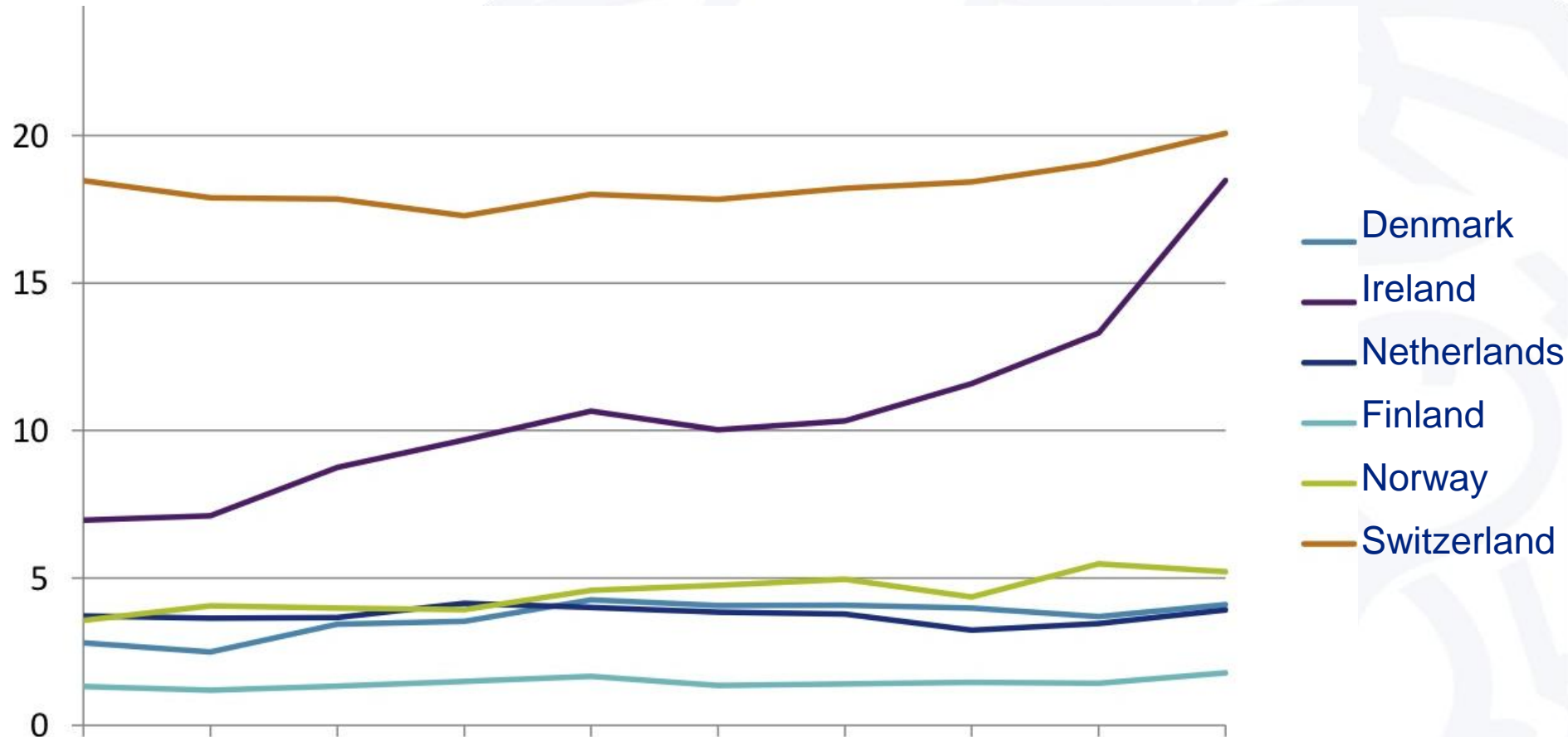


# Some experiences in supporting Finnish-Southern African collaboration

- Through bilateral / regional programmes: initial contacts, seed funding for collaboration, mobility actions, some joint projects
  - Targeted collaboration has added clear added value for Finnish and local partners
- Restrictions on funding basic research activities from ODA, applied research / innovation is more flexible (and needed)
- Supporting Africa in developing its own innovation systems (policies / institutions / programmes / instruments) a necessity
  - Cooperation between different actors crucial (public, private, academia, user communities)
- Raising interest in Africa in Finland is (still) challenging



# Share of foreign-born S&T personnel in certain countries %



Source: OECD, EUROSTAT



# Thank you!

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