ABOUT
SAIS 2

The Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme (SAIS) is supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland, in partnership with the Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat.
SAIS 2 is a regional initiative that supports the growth of new businesses through strengthening innovation ecosystems and promotion of cross-border collaboration between innovation role-players in Southern Africa. The Programme focuses on strengthening early-stage enterprises and young entrepreneurs, connecting innovation ecosystems, and promoting innovations serving socially or economically disadvantaged populations. The overall objective of SAIS 2 is “enhanced regional innovation cooperation and national innovation systems contributing to inclusive business and development”.

SAIS 2 will run for four years from 2017-2021. The programme activities are managed by a Programme Management Office (SAIS 2 PMO) located in Windhoek, Namibia and hosted by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology. The SAIS 2 PMO is supported by national Focal Points which are the national organisations mandated to promote and coordinate Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in the five SAIS 2 partner countries.
enhanced regional innovation cooperation and national innovation systems contributing to inclusive business and development.
The programme strengthens the operation and connectivity of local and regional innovation ecosystems through an approach that integrates three main components (i) SAIS 2 Innovation Fund (ii) capacity building, and (iii) knowledge and networking into activities delivered as interlinked projects under three SAIS 2 Result Areas.

RESULT AREA 1: Institutional capacity for regional cooperation – improved capacity of institutions and innovation support organisations in terms of expertise and delivery to support private sector innovation and enterprise development.

RESULT AREA 2: Innovation in Enterprises - improved capacity of early-stage enterprises and start-ups to enter new markets with new and/or improved products, processes and services.

RESULT AREA 3: Inclusive innovation – improved capacity of innovation support organisations and entrepreneurs to develop new and/or improved products, processes and services with and for socially and economically excluded communities.
SAIS 2 Innovation Fund uses a competitive Call for Proposals mechanism to identify and to support local innovation and entrepreneurship projects in SADC region. The support from SAIS 2 Innovation Fund is provided as a matching grant and the proposals are directed to three thematic windows that contribute to the Programme Result Areas:

**Window 1:** Developing Institutional Capacity For Regional Innovation Cooperation

**Window 2:** Scaling Enterprises Through Stronger Innovation Support Organisations

**Window 3:** Inclusive Innovation
SAIS 2 grants are targeted to increase collaboration, coordination and learning of activities, initiatives and resources among role-players working on innovation and early-stage entrepreneurship in SADC region. It follows that potential grantees can be innovation support organisations such as incubators, accelerators, innovation hubs and labs, technology transfer offices or NGO’s as well as projects and networks supporting innovation and early-stage entrepreneurship.

Alternatively, grantees can be entities tasked to advise policy-makers and other actors in innovation policy, entrepreneurship and the development of entrepreneurship ecosystem. The overall purpose is to assist organisations that can also proportionally increase the impact of the grant and capacity building provided by carrying these throughout the multiple beneficiary organisations within the given innovation ecosystem.
Advocating for capacity building of innovation support organisations and their clients to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem in SADC.
SAIS 2 advocates for building capacity of innovation support organisations and their clients in order to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem in SADC. The Programme will deliver three capacity building programmes together with world class experts to Innovation Fund grantees. The capacity building has been designed to align with the needs of SAIS 2 Innovation Fund projects funded under the three windows.
SAIS 2 is set to operate as a platform for various innovation role-players operating in innovation and early-stage entrepreneurship in the SADC region. The Annual Southern Africa Innovation Forum (ASAIF) fosters the regional dimension by offering a platform for role-players to tackle shared challenges such as poverty and unemployment through exchange of experience on what works in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

SAIS 2 also partners with national events and facilitates establishment of innovation communities through initiatives such as the Connected Hubs which is a network of innovation hubs and government agencies supporting early-stage entrepreneurship in the SADC region.
IMPLEMENTING COUNTRY PARTNER MINISTRIES

- Botswana- Ministry of Infrastructure Science and Technology
- Namibia- Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
- South Africa- Department of Science and Technology
- Tanzania- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Zambia- Ministry of Higher Education
- The Secretariat of Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs for Finland

SAIS 2 FOCAL POINTS

- Botswana-Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH)
- Namibia-National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)
- South Africa-Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
- Tanzania-Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)
- Zambia-National Technology Business Centre (NTBC)

FINISH EMBASSIES IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

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Web: http://www.finland.org.na

Embassy of Finland, Pretoria, South Africa
Web: http://www.finland.org.za

Embassy of Finland, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
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