

Development Research Academy Programme



SUOMEN AKATEMIA

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Background

- Academy of Finland and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have jointly funded development research for many years (targeted Academy Project funding).
- Calls were not organized in 2015 and 2016.
- Need to renew the concept to a thematic, programme-like coordinated funding instrument.
- ➡ planning of the academy programme on development research was started in January 2017.
- Academy Programmes: science-driven, thematic, target-oriented coordinated bodies of research projects that are aimed at supporting scientific regeneration and increasing scientific and societal impact. Support multi- and interdisciplinary research of the highest quality, promote networking between researchers and provide platforms for international research cooperation.

Planning group 2017

- Prof. **Kai Lindström** (Åbo Akademi) Chair
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- Prof. **Jorma Toppari** (University of Turku)
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- Prof. **Juho Saari** (University of Tampere)

Objectives of the Programme (1)

- To produce new research-based knowledge on questions of global development, the causes and mechanisms of inequality and poverty in developing countries, and to seek means to abolish the obstacles of development and to strengthen the conditions for development.
- To strengthen and renew high-quality phenomena-driven problem-based development research in Finland in the long term.
- To support cooperation and research between universities and research institutes in Finland and in developing countries.
- To strengthen the research capacity of universities and research institutes in developing countries.

Objectives of the Programme (2)

- To respond to the goals of Finnish development policy and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development: to end poverty and to reduce inequality in the world.
- To disseminate new research-based knowledge to support decision-making, to stakeholders and for the general public, and to support better utilization of research-based knowledge.
- To bring together scattered strategic research capacity in Finland.
- To promote interdisciplinary cooperation in development research.
- To boost international networking of Finnish development research.

Themes of the call

- 1) Reinforcing developing countries' economies (employment, livelihoods).**
 - 2) Strengthening better-functioning societies (well-being, health, education, human rights).**
 - 3) Food security, biodiversity, environmental health, and sustainable use of natural resources.**
- Projects should focus on one or several of these themes, and
 - Support one or several of the 17 goals of the Agenda 2030,
 - Support the management of change that benefits the poor and promotes equality,
 - Target in the first instance the least developed and fragile countries,
 - Take note of the cross-cutting objectives: human rights, gender equality, reducing inequality, and climate-proofing.

Agenda 2030 goals

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Agenda 2030 goals (2)

- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Required international cooperation (1)

- Research projects are required to cooperate with researchers in universities or research institutes in developing countries, from planning phase to the implementation of the project.
- Person-months of the funded researchers of the project in Finland and in the development country should be equally divided.
- Projects can use AKA funding to pay the salary of the local researcher(s) in the developing country (subcontracting, “ostopalvelut”).
- Research projects can be conducted in developing countries that are eligible for official development assistance (see the OECD Development Assistance Committee ODA country list).
- Priority is given to the least developed and fragile countries.

Required international cooperation (2)

- The research questions should arise from the needs of the developing countries, preferably taking into account initiatives of the local actors.
- The research results should benefit in the first place the local partners' needs of knowledge.
- Projects should have both scientific and societal impact.
- An interaction plan is required as an appendix of the proposal:
 - Goals and means of the interaction,
 - Stakeholders,
 - Implementation,
 - Competence of the research team to further societal impact,
 - Communication plan.

Timetable

- Call announcement and Programme Memorandum will be published in early July.
- Call opens 1 September 2017.
- **Dead-line for proposals: 16 October 2017.**
- Scientific evaluation in November-December 2017.
- Funding decisions in January 2018.
- Funding period 1 February 2018 – 31 January 2022.

Funding of the call

- Total funding volume = 6 million euros.
- 4-year research projects will be funded.
- Maximum AKA funding for a **single project is 600 000** euros, and for a **consortium project 1000 000** euros for 4 years.
- An additional call may be opened later during the Programme.

Consortium or not?

- A consortium is composed of research projects/teams working at different sites of research or departments. It is a fixed-term body of independent subprojects that work under a joint research plan with a view to utilising systematic collaboration to generate greater added value than through normal project collaboration. The added value of the consortium must be described in the application. A consortium application is evaluated as a single application. Each consortium subproject has its own budget and will manage its own funds.

Scientific evaluation criteria

- Scientific quality, innovativeness and novelty of the research plan.
- Scientific and societal impact of the research.
- Competence of the applicant & the research team.
- Feasibility of the research plan.
- Quality and strengthening of the research environment.
- International and national research collaborations, researcher mobility.
- Project's significance for the promotion of professional research careers.

Coordination of the Programme

- The Programme will be coordinated to gain added value.
- Steering Group will lead the coordination. Daily coordination managed by a Programme Manager, a Science Advisor, and a Project Officer.
- All funded projects will be obliged to participate in the coordination activities, e.g.:
 - Seminars
 - Workshops
 - Training
 - Events for general public
 - Meetings with decision makers, stakeholders, NGOs
 - National and international networking activities
 - Participation in relevant national and international events and visits
 - Communication activities
 - Popularization of science

Requirements in a nutshell: a project should

- Address one or several of the objectives of the programme.
- Describe clearly which goal(s) of the Agenda 2030 it supports.
- Support the management of change that benefits the poor and promotes equality.
- Cooperate on equal basis with researchers and universities/research institutes in developing countries from planning phase to the implementation of the project, in the first instance in the least developed or fragile countries.
- Conduct research that benefits both parties.
- Describe the impact (incl. societal) that the research & cooperation makes in the developing country.
- Take note of human rights based approach and the cross-cutting objectives: gender equality, reducing inequality, and climate-proofing.

How to submit an application 1

- Read carefully the Programme Memorandum and the specific criteria for applications.
- Read both the general and the call-specific (academy programme) guidelines (www.aka.fi) and the call text.
- Make sure that your site of research will commit to supporting the project.
- **Find & contact your research partner(s) in developing countries as early as possible and start planning the project together.**
- Start drafting the application and its appendices as early as possible. You can draft appendices even before the call opens, and update the application form until the call closes.
- Draft the appendices (e.g. research plan, CV, list of publications, interaction plan) following the guidelines provided. Get to know the review form and the review criteria, and make sure to consider the criteria in your application.

How to submit an application 2

- Consult the administration at your site of research when filling in budgetary details. Justify each cost item in the research plan.
- Show the finished application to a colleague and make the most of the feedback.
- Submit the application **before the closing date (16 October)**. The system will only accept applications that contain all obligatory information. You cannot edit or submit the application after the deadline has expired.
- If you have any questions about submitting the application, please call or email the call's contact persons.

Contact persons for information

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Thank you for your attention!