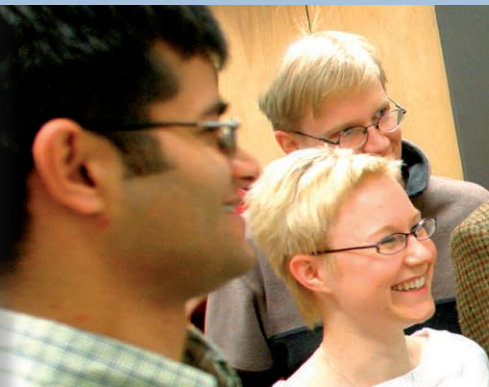


# WAVES OF INTERNATIONALISATION



ACADEMY OF FINLAND  
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE



## INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Academy of Finland is committed to promote the internationalisation of Finnish science and research. It works closely with other major funding agencies both in Europe and elsewhere to facilitate Finnish researchers' opportunities for high-quality research cooperation and to attract the most qualified research talents to Finland.



Over the past two decades, the Academy has worked consistently to develop its international cooperation, expanding its focus from bilateral agreements to active international programme collaboration and other forms of global cooperation. It has significantly contributed to the building of a European Research Area and particularly to ERA-NET and ERA-NET+ schemes and to planning for Joint Programming.

The Academy takes a long-term view to supporting the international cooperation of national Centres of Excellence and other high-level research teams and units in Finland, and more generally to financing the international activities that are an integral part of virtually all its research programmes.

The Academy works closely with other national and international funding agencies to develop research programmes and to promote networking. In this way, ultimately, the Academy enhances the impact of research projects and reinforces the key areas of scientific strength in Finland and in its partner countries. Good examples are provided by the BONUS, Sustainable Energy and NEURO research programmes.

Furthermore, the Academy provides funding for the work of science and research organisations in the form of membership fees, giving Finnish scientists and scholars the opportunity to work at internationally recognised research centres.

*This brochure gives examples of how the Academy's international activities have diversified over the years and how interests of internationalisation permeate all of the Academy's funding instruments.*

# ACADEMY OF FINLAND COMMITTED TO INVEST IN INTERNATIONAL BALTIC SEA RESEARCH

The Academy of Finland has funded basic research concerning the Baltic Sea for several years and will continue to do so in the future. Marine research is inherently an international exercise, and that is why the Academy is actively involved in designing and promoting European research aimed at understanding the state of the Baltic

Sea and how it has changed.

The Academy has national responsibility for coordinating Environment Theme in the EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research, which includes also funding for marine research. The Academy is a member of the European Science Foundation’s Marine Board.

## The history of BONUS represents the history of Baltic Sea research

Years	Steps
2012	BONUS 169 expected to start up. Future vision to be outlined after 2005–2011 ERA-NETs and ERA-NET+ conclude.
2009	European Council and Parliament expected to decide on Article 169 status. European Commission will submit a legislative proposal on an Article 169 initiative in the Baltic Sea region.
December 2008	BONUS ERA-NET concludes.
September 2007	First joint BONUS+ call opened. All BONUS EEIG members take part, including Russia. In June 2008, BONUS EEIG Steering Committee recommended that funding be awarded to 16 projects involving researchers from all Baltic Sea countries plus Norway and the Netherlands.
April 2007	BONUS EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping) established. Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and Lithuania first to join. Poland and Latvia joined in August 2007 and Germany in December 2007.
December 2006	ERA-NET+ funding allocated for BONUS in the transitional stage towards Article 169.
February 2005	Negotiations started on Article 169 status.
December 2003	BONUS ERA-NET launched under Finnish coordination with the participation of Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Russia joined initially as an observer member and from the end of 2004 as a full member.
Spring 2003	Finland submitted ERA-NET application to European Commission.
Spring 2003–2005	Baltic Sea Research Programme BIREME. Joint Finnish-Russian call. Other research funding agencies in the Baltic Sea region involved in ongoing research programmes that provide platform for cooperation. ERA-NET considered a useful form of cooperation.

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Academy's Sustainable Energy Research Programme (SuSen) is expected to generate new and innovative knowledge on energy technology, energy systems and energy efficiency. Furthermore, it will steer research towards sustainable solutions and contribute to building up greater know-how about future energy alternatives. It is a multidisciplinary undertaking in which energy is studied from various standpoints, including those of bio-energy, nuclear power, medicine and commerce.

The programme is scheduled to run from 2008 to 2011, and in addition to Academy funding it will be sponsored by the Maj and Tor Nessling Foundation,

Fortum, Neste Oil and UMP-Kymmene. Apart from these sources of national funding, the Academy has held discussions on international funding cooperation with agencies from several different countries. In 2008, agreement was reached on funding cooperation with Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. In addition, Poland and Luxembourg joined in through the MATERA ERA-NET. Nordic funding cooperation in the research programme is represented by Nordic Energy Research.

In 2008, the Academy opened a joint call together with Brazil.

**ERA-NETs:** The Academy has had responsibility for the coordination of two ERA-NET projects and it has been involved as a partner in fourteen. Several ERA-NETs have organised joint calls and had other forms of cooperation in conducting European research programmes. ERA-NET+ calls are now next in line.

**Nordic cooperation:** The Academy has provided funding for joint Nordic projects in stem cell research and for projects designed to promote the joint use of Nordic research infrastructures through NordForsk calls for proposals.

The Academy has been or is currently involved in Nordic Centre of Excellence projects in the fields of climate change, molecular medicine, food, nutrition, health, and welfare research as well as in the humanities and social science research.



## Examples of international cooperation

### Canada

One of the partners involved in the Academy's Research Programme on Neuroscience (NEURO) in 2005–2009 is the Canadian Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA).

### Russia

The Academy has bilateral agreements with three Russian science and research funding agencies. Joint calls have been implemented in various fields. More information: *Research Collaboration with Russia* brochure.

### Nordic cooperation

### Baltic cooperation

### European cooperation including ERA-NETs

### Republic of Korea

### Brazil

The Academy is working closely with the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development CNPq, a Brazilian research funding agency, to organise joint calls for research projects.

### Turkey

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Tübitak, and the Academy have signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU).

### Taiwan

### Chile

The Academy has had close cooperation with Chile since 2007. This has involved a joint call for research projects with the Commission for Scientific and Technological Research CONICYT.



### China

Cooperation with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). More information: *Research Collaboration with China* brochure.

All brochures are available at [www.aka.fi/publications](http://www.aka.fi/publications).



### India

Cooperation with the Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST). More information: *Research Collaboration with India* brochure.



### Japan

Cooperation with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). More information: *Research Collaboration with Japan* brochure.



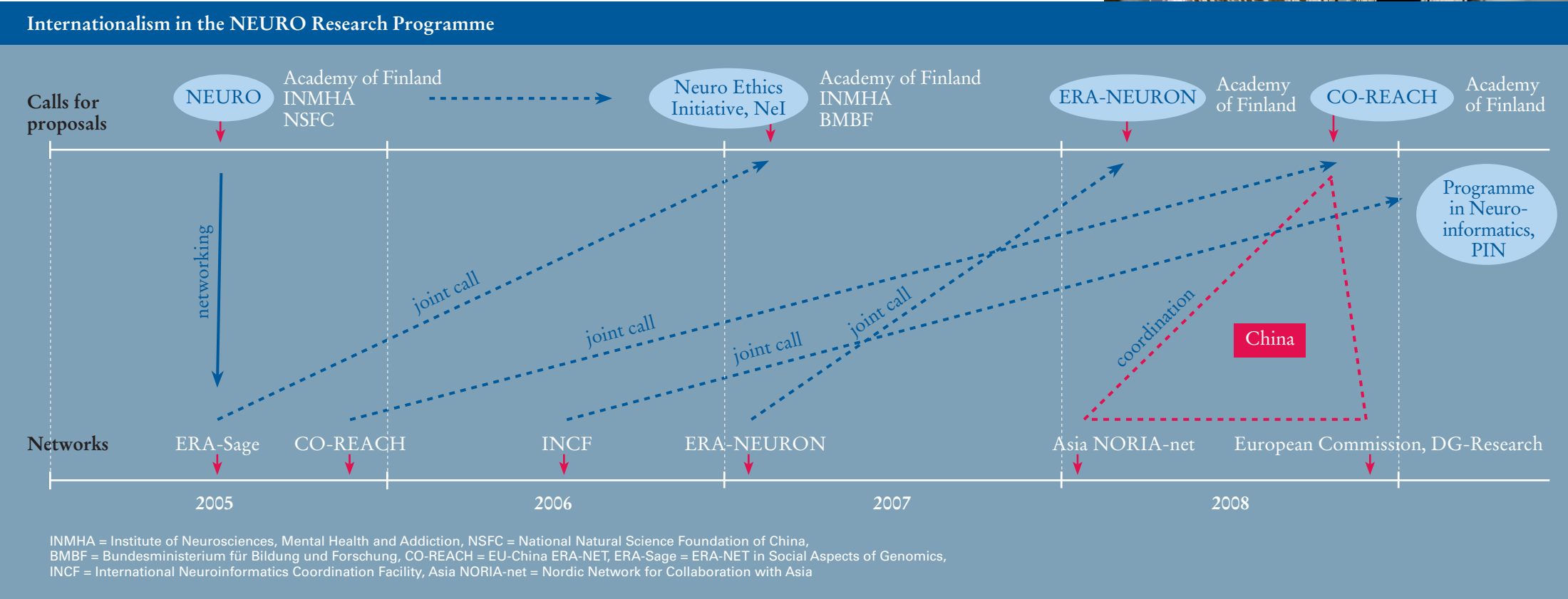
# RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON NEUROSCIENCE

The Academy of Finland Research Programme on Neuroscience (NEURO) is scheduled to run from 2006 to 2009. The programme is a joint venture among Finnish, Canadian and Chinese partners.

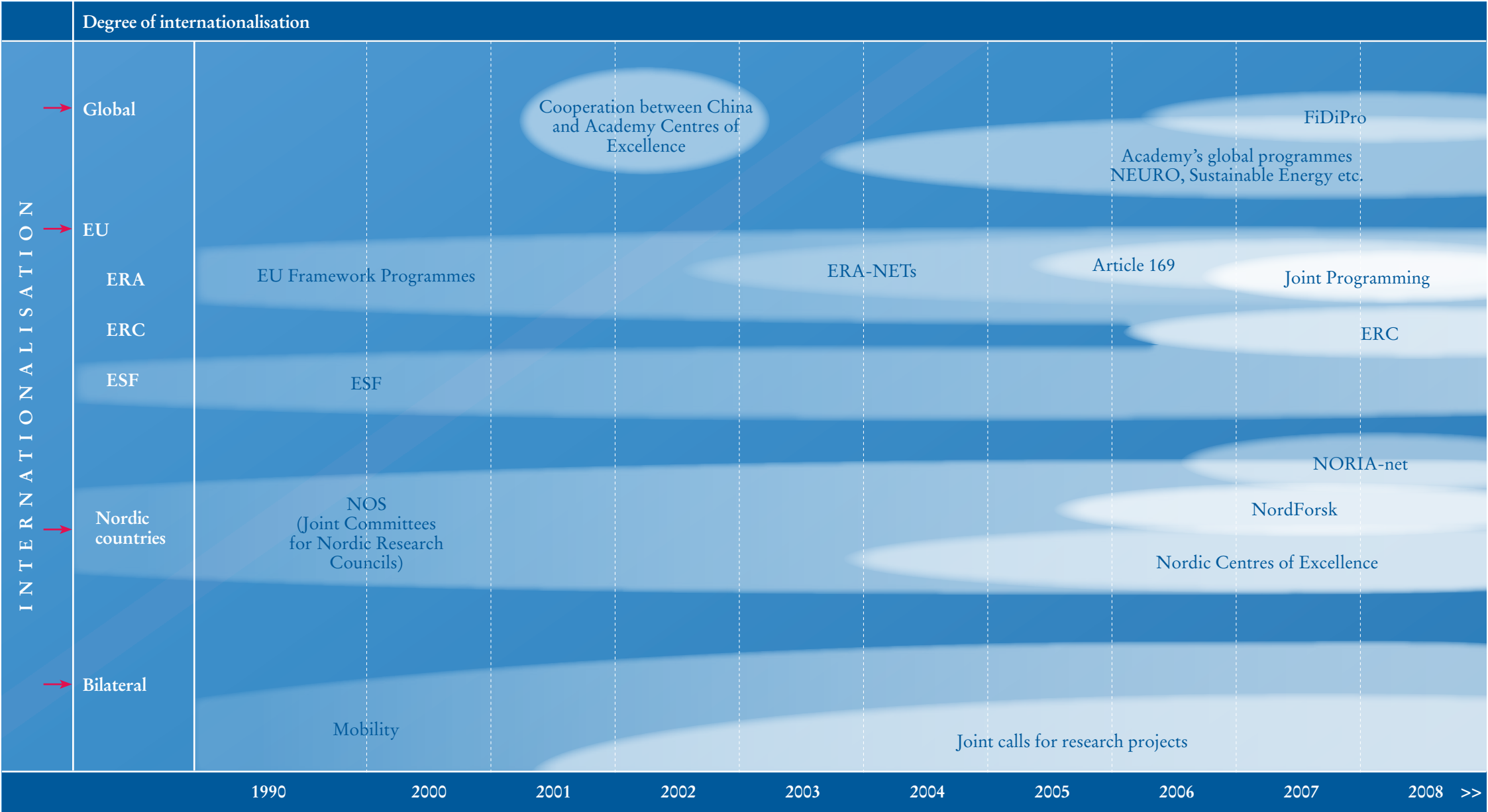
NEURO was preceded by a three-year research programme called Life 2000. Jointly administered by the Academy and Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, this was a major bioscience

programme in which neurosciences accounted for more than one third of the total budget of 14 million euros.

The Academy is also involved in ERA-NEURON, the Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research, which provides funding for disease-related neuroscience research. The first ERA-NEURON joint call for proposals was hosted by 15 European funding agencies, and plans are in place for the next call in 2009.



Examples of waves of internationalisation in 1990–2008





## FUNDING COOPERATION WITH KEY PARTNER COUNTRIES

The Academy of Finland is committed to facilitate high-quality research, researcher training, internationalisation and the practical application of research results. Its operation covers all scientific disciplines.

The Academy has close funding cooperation with major science countries in Europe and elsewhere. It has bilateral agreements with 26 countries and regions, and with 42 foreign organisations.



## FORMS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Besides enhancing jointly funded research projects and programmes, agreements provide platforms for other types of cooperation, such as

- Researcher mobility
- Centre of Excellence cooperation
- Exchange of information on peers for scientific evaluations
- Seminars, workshops



## Main focus of the Academy's international activities

The Academy of Finland works to facilitate high-quality research, researcher training and the development of attractive research environments. Its international activities support and promote implementation of the national innovation strategy. Over the years, the Academy has consistently maintained a policy of working more closely with international partners.

For more on the Academy of Finland's International Strategy 2007–2015, visit the Academy website at [www.aka.fi/publications](http://www.aka.fi/publications) > Brochures.



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