



26 March 2026

Research Council of Finland, 2026-33 Centres of Excellence Programme

GUIDELINES TO THE EXPERT MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Centres of Excellence are instructed to set up a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to help their work. The purpose of the Board is to advise and support the Centre in the implementation of its research plan. The Board meets four times total during their eight-year funding period, on the 1st, 4th, 6th, and 8th year of operation.

On the basis of the SAB meetings, the expert members of the Board write a report of up to four pages on the progress of the work of the Centre. The Board is not expected to conduct a conventional evaluation of the Centre, but rather to give a constructive, and if needed, critical report on the Centre's progress.

We kindly ask you to discuss the following items (if applicable):

- Scientific activity, production and progress of the CoE
- Development of the CoE profile, e.g. integration and co-operation between the research groups
- Has there been added value or synergies in being a CoE (as compared to working in separate teams)
- Institutional support/core facilities available for the CoE
- International visibility of the CoE
- International and national co-operation, e.g. visits to and from the CoE
- CoE's impact on wider society
- Aspects to which the CoE should draw attention when planning its future (including an exit strategy towards the end of the CoE funding)
- Researcher career development (e.g. researcher training, position of post-docs and senior researchers, gender equality)

Any other comments are also most welcome.

Please send the signed report, preferably as a pdf file, to the coordinator of the CoE who then distributes the report to all the parties involved as well as to the Research Council of Finland.