Profi 7 call info
18 January 2022

Profi team

Profi 7 dates 2022

- Info session 18 January

- Call text published 10 March

- Test call open 11 March–5 April

- Call open 6–27 April

- Panel meeting, incl. interviews 6 June, 7 June and 9 June

- Rebuttal period 20–30 June

- Decisions due late 2022 and early 2023

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Contents

As in call text

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Background and objectives

- The aim is <u>to support and speed up the strategic profiling of Finnish universities in order to improve the quality of research</u>.

- The funding is <u>fixed-term</u>.

- Another aim is to contribute to intensifying strategic <u>cooperation</u> between Finnish universities and with universities of applied sciences, research institutes, hospital districts and other relevant actors, and to clarifying the responsibilities between these actors.

- Funding can be applied for in one or several profiling areas. The area may:
  - continue the previously planned development of a profiling area
  - be completely new
  - combine old profiling areas.

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Background and objectives – key concepts

A **profiling area** is a research area or a thematic research module that a university intends to develop according to its strategy. It is a carefully chosen part of the research conducted at the university.

Profiling areas can be:

- existing high-quality research areas or thematic research modules

- emerging fields or thematic research modules with potential to reach top level research

- new fields or thematic research modules with a great deal of potential.

A **profiling measure** is an action that a university aims to carry out to develop a chosen profiling area. Universities may start several measures to advance the same area.

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Who can apply?

- The funding is applied for by research organisations (universities)
    - A person approved by the university submits the application in the Academy's online services
    - The applicant is responsible for the disclosure of the personal data contained in the application and, where appropriate, for requesting the consent of the parties concerned.

- One application per university
    - Consortium applications cannot be submitted in this call

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Funding to be applied for and funding period

- Academy prepared to provide total of €100m in funding
  - Parliament has allocated €50m to the call in the 2022 budget
  - The funding for 2023 depends on Parliament's decision to allocate the necessary funds to it in the 2023 budget

- Earliest possible start of funding period 1 Jan 2023; ends no later than 31 Dec 2028

- The call is implemented following the full cost model.
  - The Academy's funding contribution is 100%

- The funding is granted to support the profiling measures specified in the action plan included in the application.

- The Academy will not make advance payments on the funding.

- Funding for an initiated Profi area or measure may be continued by another Profi funding decision.

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Funding – annual instalments in the application

- In its budget proposal, the Academy will provide the Ministry with an estimate of how the Profi funding is likely to be distributed in the government budget to the appropriations of different years.
    - 10% in 2023, 20% in 2024, 20% in 2025, 20% in 2026, 20% in 2027 and 10% in 2028

- We recommend the above distribution

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Overlaps in funding periods

FUNDING PERIODS									
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Call 2017	███								
Call 2018	███	███							
Call 2020	███	███	███	███	███				
Call 2022		███	███	███	███	███	███		
Call 2024				░░░	░░░	░░░	░░░	░░░	░░░

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Submission and publicity

- Applications can be drafted and submitted starting on 6 April 2022. The deadline is 27 April 2022.

- Applicants can practice drafting the application in a test call, which is open from 11 March to 5 April.
  - Anyone with an account in the Academy's online services can use the test call

- The aim is to check, correct and supplement the applications by 6 May.

- The application becomes a public document after the funding decision has been made.

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Parts of the application (in the online services)

- Personal details

- Site of research

- Funding for the project

- Summary
  - max. 2,500 characters

- Action plan of up to 30 pages, depending on the number of profiling areas
  - **Max. 5 pages for description of strategy**   **NB! This is new!**
  - **Max. 5 pages for each profiling area**
  - Source Sans Pro 12 pt, line spacing 1.15 and marginals 20 mm

- Authorisation

- Submit application

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Edit 1.2.2022:
- **Max. 5 pages for description of strategy**
- **Max. 6 pages for each profiling area**

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Summary (2,500 characters)

- Executive summary of the application
- Estimate of funding for the profiling areas:

Table. Estimate of funding for the profiling areas.					
Profiling area	Received in PROFI 5* 2019–2023	Received in PROFI 6* 2021–2026	Applying for in PROFI 7 2023–2028	University's own** funding 2023–2028	Other funding*** 2023–2028
*Previous PROFI funding from the Academy of Finland, relevant to this application					
**University's own funding = core funding and own funds					
***Other funding = external funding except for PROFI funding					

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Descriptions of profiling areas, slides 14–17

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Justification for selection as a strategic profiling area

- On what grounds has the area been selected as a strategic profiling area and how is it linked to the university's strategy?

- How is the area associated with the university's other profiling areas?

Measures, resources, schedule, follow-up, risk management

- Description of the profiling measures and justification for the amount of funding being sought.

- A short description of how the university will monitor the increase in research quality as well as the progress and impact of the profiling measures

- Description of the implementation risks and risk management

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Level of research

- What is the current international level of research in the profiling area at the university?

- Current strengths

- Core expertise of key personnel in the profiling area

- What is the aspired international level of research in the profiling area?

- Compared to the premise, how significant will the change be?

- How will the university ensure a sufficient level of research renewal?

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National and international collaboration

- Research environment including national and international collaboration

- Reasons for and research-related <u>added value</u> of existing and planned national and international strategic collaborations in the profiling area.

- As part of the added value and justifications, describe the division of labour formed or to be formed through the cooperation
  - You need not describe the division of labour generally at national level

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Societal impact

- What is the relevance and significance of the measures as regards promoting knowledge transfer, competence-based growth and other needs in society?

Authorisation

- You can authorise another person to edit or view your application.

- Start the authorisation by entering the person's name in the field.

- The person must have an account in the Academy's online services (SARA).

- You cannot authorise more than one person at a time to edit a field in your application, and you cannot edit that same field while the authorisation is active.

- Do not authorise yourself.

- Technical instructions on the authorisation process: How-to guides for the online services.

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Review – panel of experts

- Composed of international experts

- Focused on the action plan's
    - significance, especially in terms of implementing the university's strategy
    - concreteness, e.g. how objectives will be reached, schedules, resources
    - realistic measures, also as regards raising the standard of science

- The <u>review form</u> helps in drafting the application

- Panel meeting + interviews with university management/representatives in June

- The panel
    - prepares a review report
    - gives an overall rating + a rating for each profiling area to support the university's decision-making
    - ranks the applications

- The review report is based on
    - the application and the interview

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Review – rebuttal

- The universities are given opportunity to comment on the panels' review
  - They can point out factual errors or misunderstandings
  - The idea is not to write a statement of defence
  - No more than 2 pages
  - The comments are public information

- Rebuttal period 20–30 June

Funding decisions

- The funding decisions are made by the Academy's <u>General Subcommittee</u> (appointed by the Board)

- The Subcommittee has access to:
  - the applications
  - the panel review reports and the comments on them (rebuttal)
  - final reports on previous Profi rounds + interim reports from March 2022

- The Subcommittee's decisions is based on:
  - peer review

- The Subcommittee also considers:
  - the relationship between the funding applied for and the planned actions and the university's overall research funding
  - the universities' reports on the progress of previous measures

- Decisions due in December 2022 and January 2023

- Decisions communicated in January 2023 after all decisions have been made

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Decision schedule

- €50m of 2022 budget authority decided in December 2022

- €50m of 2023 budget authority decided in January 2023
  - The funding for 2023 depends on Parliament's decision to allocate the necessary funds to it in the 2023 budget

- Same funding period for both sets of decisions (earliest start date 1 January 2023, ends no later than 31 December 2028)

- Decisions communicated in January 2023 after all decisions have been made

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Call documents, next steps

- Materials from Profi 7 call info session (18 Jan 2022) will be posted on the Academy's website after the session

- Help us ensure the smooth flow of information on the call:
  - Please make sure that we have your university's **Profi contact person's name and contact details** (telephone number, email address) → profi@aka.fi

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