Frequently asked questions about the ACTIVE call 2027

General

What does the two-stage review entail?

In the first stage, in general, two individual reviews on the applications are requested from panel members before the panel meeting. Applications that receive an overall rating of 4 (good), 5 (excellent) or 6 (outstanding) in at least one individual review will proceed to the second stage, to be reviewed at the panel meeting.

What kind of review feedback will applicants receive?

All applicants can view the reviews by individual reviewers, complete with subratings and overall ratings, by logging into the RCF's online services. If the application proceeds to the panel, the panel summary and the panel's overall rating will be added to the review report. The panel's assessment is based on the individual reviews and the discussion during the panel meeting. If the overall rating given by the panel is 4, 5 or 6, the panel's subratings will also be added to the review.

How to read the review report if a panel has discussed the application

The review report on an application is a composition of both individual and panel reviews and ratings. Parts 1–3 of the review report contain the reviews and subratings given by individual reviewers before the panel meeting. Section 4 is the review panel's summary assessment. The 'Overall rating' in the review report is the overall rating given by the panel.

Can I share the review report given on my application with others?

As a rule, the review report is a secret document under the Finnish Act on the Openness of Government Activities (section 24, subsection 1, paragraph 21). As a party, you will receive the review report on your application, because the report has affected the processing of your application.

The review report contains information other than that concerning the applicant themselves, such as the names of the reviewers and a possible assessment of partners or persons to be hired for the project. If the review report contains secret content other than content concerning yourself, you may not disclose it to a third party. Nor may you use such secret information for your own personal benefit or the benefit of another, nor for the detriment of another, with the exception provided for in the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. You must also take into account data protection legislation. Please do not disclose the name of the reviewer included in your review report, for example.

Can I contact the person who reviewed my application to ask for more detailed feedback?

Under the GDPR, publication or otherwise unauthorised disclosure of personal data without specific consent from the data subject is prohibited. In addition, according to the RCF's guidelines on review and decision-making, **contacting reviewers is prohibited**.

Reviewers, too, are obliged to treat applications confidentially and are not allowed to discuss them or the reviews with third parties, including the applicant.

Learn more about responsible evaluation in our review principles Guidelines and forms for reviewers.

When will the 2027 ACTIVE call funding decisions be made, and when can I start using the funding?

The decisions on the 2027 call within the ACTIVE programme will be made in spring 2027. The funding period starts on 1 September 2027. You will receive an email notification after the funding decision has been made. A positive funding decision is accompanied by the standard terms for funding. They contain instructions on how to receive the funding (section 1.2).

Who gives the commitment by the site of research?

The organisation's SARA administrator can define the commitment issuers for the organisation, from whom the applicant can choose a commitment issuer for their application. The applicant must agree on the commitment with the representative of site of research in advance. We will request the commitment by the site of research from the person indicated in the application (commitment issuer at the site of research). After the call has closed, the person indicated in the application as the issuer of the site's commitment request will receive an email notification requesting a commitment for the application.

What should I do if, after the call has closed, I notice that my application has the wrong commitment issuer?

Contact us immediately (via our helpdesk; select 'Application guidance, thematic calls') to give the correct issuer. We will change the issuer and send them a commitment request from the online services (SARA).

How soon after the call's closing date must the commitment of the site of research be given?

After the call has closed, the person indicated in the application as the issuer of the site's commitment request will receive an email notification requesting a commitment for the application. For the 2027 ACTIVE call, the commitment must be given within 14 days of the closing date, or the application may be inadmissible.

Is the research plan structure the same as in the previous ACTIVE call in 2026?

The structure of the research plan has not changed, but please note the mandatory appendix: Research security assessment. Use the template provided.

Write the research plan on our Word template and append it to the application as a PDF appendix. The link to the template is available in the call text.

Why can't I choose the review panel for the application?

All applications submitted to the 2027 ACTIVE call will be reviewed in a single, multidisciplinary review panel. The panel will review solely applications for funding from the ACTIVE programme. In this respect, the review process differs from the process used in the RCF's winter call.

How do I know if an organisation is eligible to apply and if it can act as the site of research?

We will not take a position on whether a certain type of organisation is eligible if the application is not yet pending. In other words, we do not give binding, prior opinions on eligibility. We will decide on the eligibility once the application is pending in our system.

How do I submit the cost coefficients to the RCF?

The organisation's information is updated centrally by a representative of the site of research

(your organisation) who has administrator access to the online services (SARA). Instructions on the features in the online services available to organisation representatives (PDF, in Finnish only).

Where can I get help if I have problems with the online services?

Comprehensive instructions for the online services (SARA) and various problem situations can be found on our website.

Can I apply for funding from both the 2027 ACTIVE call and the 2027 winter call?

Yes, you can. Please note, however, that a research project cannot receive simultaneous funding for the same purpose from two (or more) separate RCF funding schemes.

In practice, this means that you must submit separate applications to the 2027 ACTIVE call and the 2027 winter call, each with a different research plan.

How much funding can I be granted?

The RCF's funding comes to no more than 70 per cent of the total costs of the project. Three-year individual projects will be granted up to 450,000 euros, and consortia will receive a total of up to 650,000 euros. Pay particular attention to ensuring that the cost estimate is realistic and justified for the implementation of the research project.

Can the project's funding be used to pay the PI's salary?

Yes, but the salary costs, including indirect employee costs and overheads, may not exceed half of the funding applied for from the RCF.

How do I apply for funding for the PI's salary?

If the project includes salary costs for the PI, use the 'Principal investigator' category in the 'Salaries' section of the 'Funding for the project' tab in the RCF online services. In order for the costs to be eligible, the PI's tasks must be clearly specified and motivated. Justify the PI's salary on the tab 'Salary of principal investigator'.

Can I apply in the 2027 ACTIVE call even though I have previous ACTIVE funding?

You can apply in the 2027 ACTIVE call if your previous ACTIVE funding period ends by 31 August 2027, that is, before the beginning of the next period.