

Strategic research programmes

Towards a Sustainable, Healthy and Climate-Neutral Food System
(FOOD) 2019–2025

Innovative Materials and Services to
Promote Resource Wisdom and Sustainable Development
(IMPRES) 2019–2025

The Changing Role of Public Authority and the Potential for Steering Society
(STEER) 2019–2025

Culture in an Increasingly Technologically Driven Society
(CULT) 2019–2025

Call for letters of intent: 19 Dec 2018–23 Jan 2019

(closes at 16.15 local Finnish time)

Call for full applications: 12 Mar–17 Apr 2019

(closes at 16.15 local Finnish time)

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland provides funding for long-term, solution-driven research of a high scientific standard that is aimed at identifying solutions to major societal problems and challenges. SRC funding is based on open competition and independent peer review.

Applications for SRC funding are submitted using the Academy of Finland's online services. The call presented in this document has two stages. The guidelines for both stages are presented in this call text. The first stage is open to all eligible applicants. The second stage is for applicants invited by the SRC to submit a full application.

This call text contains a description of the SRC programmes, a rundown of SRC-specific conditions that deviate from the Academy's general guidelines, and guidelines for both the first and second call stage. Appendix 1 lists the Academy's general application guidelines (updated according to the Academy's funding criteria from September 2018) in so far as they apply to this SRC call.

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1. CALL DESCRIPTION

The Finnish Government decided the 2019 themes and priorities for strategic research in its plenary session on 20 September 2018. Strategic research refers to long-term, solution-driven research of high scientific standard carried out to develop policies and functions of society with a view to identifying solutions to major societal challenges and problems. This document contains descriptions of and application guidelines for four funding programmes to open for application on 19 December 2018.

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) announces four programmes based on the 2019 themes for strategic research:

- **Towards a Sustainable, Healthy and Climate-Neutral Food System (FOOD)**
- **Innovative Materials and Services to Promote Resource Wisdom and Sustainable Development (IMPRES)**
- **The Changing Role of Public Authority and the Potential for Steering Society (STEER)**
- **Culture in an Increasingly Technologically Driven Society (CULT).**

In line with the Government's decision, the cross-cutting priority of the 2019 programme themes is **to strengthen the ethical dimension in research**.

Rapid advancements in technology must be backed up by active ethical thinking that reflects different worldviews and alternative futures. Technological advances require measures that will facilitate sound, responsible and sustainable research and the practical application of this research in ways that will serve the development of Finnish society and humankind as a whole. The aim is to integrate ethics in each programme and in all stages of the research and innovation process from the very outset.

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SRC PROGRAMMES 1.1–1.4

1.1 Towards a Sustainable, Healthy and Climate-Neutral Food System (FOOD)

This programme will seek a solution for moving towards a sustainable, healthy and climate-neutral food system. Here, 'food system' refers to the complex web of multilevel connections that tie together individuals, organisations, technology and the environment (land, air and water), other production factors (infrastructures, energy, fertilisers and pesticides, etc.) and biodiversity. Rather than part of the problem, the food system of the future must be part of the solution to climate change.

The food system has a pivotal role in achieving the goals of sustainable development. Agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions the world over. It also has significant impacts on the water supply and aquatic environments. In addition to climate impacts, other important subthemes include other environmental impacts and the impacts of various trends and needs for change on agricultural producers, regional economies and agricultural policy, and on consumers, culinary culture and consumption habits.

The agro-food sector and food prices have a major impact on income distribution, health and wellbeing. Agriculture and agricultural policy furthermore have considerable significance for regional economies. Eating habits and customs are an important part of a culture that contributes to building and strengthening communities from families to nations. Consumption habits mould our wellbeing and health and also influence land use, greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. The food system therefore is not only of environmental but also economic and social significance.

The development of a sustainable, healthy, safe and climate-neutral food system calls for research into such areas as the supply of agricultural production inputs, agriculture and retail as components of the food system, interaction between various operators and market dynamics, and opportunities for public regulation. In addition, research is needed into new ways of food production, changes in soil and land use, nutrient flows and cycles, and social issues relating to food systems such as changes in consumption habits, food shortages and the impacts of income and scarcity on healthy nutrition.

Although it is not possible to investigate the entire food system within the confines of a single project, it is important that research is undertaken from a systemic perspective. The food system is a dynamic whole that comprises such elements as investment, production, packaging, trade, consumers and waste treatment.

The programme duration is 3 + 3 years (first and second funding period). Consortia can apply for 3–5 million euros for the first funding period (1 Jun 2019–31 Aug 2022). Read more about the funding under section 3.5.

Contact person for the FOOD programme:

- Science Adviser Joonas Lehtomäki, tel. +358 295 335 121, firstname.lastname@aka.fi

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (FOOD)

- A. Which parts of the food system does the project focus on and what kind of integrated whole do they form?

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- B. How can the long-term achievement of a sustainable, healthy and climate-neutral food system be promoted nationally and internationally by changing the integrated whole under investigation? In what ways does the proposed project support these three objectives?
- C. What concrete support does the proposed research and interaction provide to policy-makers for the development of a sustainable food system?
- D. How does the proposed combination of research fields and network of interaction partners support the achievement of the programme's goals?
- E. How is the cross-cutting priority integrated in the project so that the relevant ethical dimensions permeate all research efforts and interaction in the consortium?

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1.2 Innovative Materials and Services to Promote Resource Wisdom and Sustainable Development (IMPRES)

This programme will aim to find solutions for replacing the unsustainable material foundation of our way of life with new materials and innovative services. Modern materials have revolutionised our way of life. However, many of these materials and their use are placing an unsustainable burden on the natural environment. There is a need now for new kinds of material and service innovations to allow development that is sustainable for both humankind and nature. The research under this programme will concern resource-wise innovations to reduce consumption that is harmful to nature and to develop new materials and services. It is expected to deliver means to facilitate the rapid and widespread dissemination of such innovations by making use of the opportunities provided by digitalisation, such as data management and artificial intelligence.

A key focus is on systemic change management and the promotion of resource wisdom. Funding will be made available to research concerned with the identification and exploitation of paradigm shifts in materials and their processing. In particular, research is needed into the impacts of such advances in materials on manufacturing, services, the labour market and employment, environmental protection, consumption habits, skills requirements, and education and training. It is essential that the research incorporates a strong ethical dimension: for instance, projects are expected to seek ways to achieve social and ecological justice in material production and service provision.

R&D gives rise to the need for new material solutions in fields such as energy generation, transport (vehicles and infrastructure), packaging and distribution systems, construction, healthcare and electronics. Product design must cater for circular economy requirements and the use of raw material supplies that is sustainable in terms of biodiversity, mining and water, for example. One possible direction for research might be to explore ways of using new and renewable materials and processes to tackle the environmental pressures arising from plastic particulates and nanoparticles or medical and chemical residues, for instance. This will require development throughout the chain, from new materials to their economic, social and environmental impacts.

Institutional structures such as norms, legislation and industrial value chains must change in step with the transition to a resource-wise economy. Research under this programme may examine desirable changes in the institutions that support this change and the potential need for new institutions and forms of cooperation. It could identify the production-related, skills-based and legislative obstacles that result in adherence to current technologies and approaches and hinder the introduction of new solutions and approaches.

Other important subthemes include identifying barriers to the creation of innovative domestic markets and skills-based exports and locating solutions to overcome these barriers. The aim is to determine the capabilities required in Finland to generate and exploit paradigm shifts in materials and to make use of these shifts to support Finland's competitiveness in international markets.

The programme duration is 3 + 3 years (first and second funding period). Consortia can apply for 3–5 million euros for the first funding period (1 Jun 2019–31 Aug 2022). Read more about the funding under section 3.5.

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Contact person for the IMPRES programme:

- Science Adviser Tuomas Katajarinne, tel. +358 295 335 067, [firstname.lastname\(at\)aka.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname(at)aka.fi)

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (IMPRES)

- A. What new material and service innovations are in focus in the project and what kind of aggregate will they constitute?
- B. How does the aggregate of new innovations promote resource wisdom and sustainable development nationally and internationally?
- C. How does the proposed research and interaction provide concrete support to relevant actors for change management in the context of paradigm shifts in materials?
- D. How does the proposed combination of research fields and network of interaction partners support the achievement of the programme's goals?
- E. How is the cross-cutting priority integrated in the project so that the relevant ethical dimensions permeate all research efforts and interaction in the consortium?

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1.3 The Changing Role of Public Authority and the Potential for Steering Society (STEER)

Research under this theme will seek ways and tools of steering social development in contemporary societal settings. The role of public authority and technology are changing and developing very rapidly. In these changed settings, it is necessary to re-evaluate public authority and responsibility and the opportunities and tools available for steering development so as to promote long-term social goals, such as people's health and wellbeing, equal access to high-quality education and culture, and socially, economically and ecologically sustainable development. Multilevel governance where authority is exercised by public, private and third-sector actors in a global context, is nonetheless blurring the boundaries of public authority and clouding the division of responsibilities. The theme will centre on the significant changes already visible at the interface of the public and private sectors and in the interaction between the two.

Changing practices are placing new demands on steering tools and on the conclusion of agreements. Research is therefore required on such topics as forms of competitive tendering and cooperation, the significance of preventative action, and the potential for steering by information and technology use. Research-based foresight is also required on various scenarios involving public authority and its role and their impacts on people, the environment, and the conditions and reliability of the economic system.

Processes and agreements should be examined from the viewpoint of public bodies, private companies and other actors. Furthermore, the research may address changes in international treaties that are increasingly affecting national decision-making. Focus should be given to studying topics such as the effects of incentives, the challenges and opportunities of impact assessment, competition and problems arising from asymmetric information. As things stand now, it is reasonable to suggest that new technologies will be particularly significant and that their use will often require changes in steering tools and the organisation of activities. Steering undertaken by society and the changing relationships between private and public authority can be examined from a social, economic, medical, legal, political or historical perspective, for example.

Important research questions under this theme include topics such as public procurement, land use, corporate subsidies, competition and innovation policy, energy and climate policy, and policies and regulation concerning individual sectors such as the telecom, electricity, pharmacy and pharmaceuticals markets. Questions of social steering and responsibility should also be examined in the context of service provision, such as growth and vitality services and social and healthcare services, care services for older people and people with disabilities, and early education and education and training.

The programme duration is 3 + 3 years (first and second funding period). Consortia can apply for 3–5 million euros for the first funding period (1 Jun 2019–31 Aug 2022). Read more about the funding under section 3.5.

Contact person for the STEER programme:

- Science Adviser Milja Saari, tel. +358 295 335 123, [firstname.lastname\(at\)aka.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname(at)aka.fi)

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (STEER)

- A. What are the project's main areas of focus with respect to steering society?
- B. How are decision-making and the operating environment and actors' roles changing in the sectors in focus? Why don't existing steering tools and models of execution meet current needs in the changed conditions?
- C. How does the proposed research support the development of steering tools, execution models and the division of responsibilities (private/public) in the selected sectors?
- D. How does the proposed combination of research fields and network of interaction partners support the achievement of the research programme's goals?
- E. How is the cross-cutting priority integrated in the project so that the relevant ethical dimensions permeate all research efforts and interaction in the consortium?

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1.4 Culture in an Increasingly Technologically Driven Society (CULT)

Technological development is shaping human activity more rapidly than cultural changes. Many traditional ways of doing things are disappearing while new ones are emerging at an unprecedented rate. Adapting to such rapid change is a challenge for both people and organisations, but at the same time it also presents new opportunities. Our understanding of knowledge, learning and civilisation are also evolving. Technological development influences the means and tools used to create and transfer culture from one generation to the next, for instance. Going forward, civilisation may be passed on through pedagogical, educational and interactive relationships dissimilar from any seen to date.

The relationship between technological development and culture is not a one-way street, however. Culture, cultural values and cultural goals are reflected in the kind of technology that is developed, while the benefits of technology largely depend on the culture in which the technologies are used and the social, economic and ecological impacts of those technologies. Since the nature of culture and technology is manifold, under this theme researchers are expected to bring to the table the perspectives of their respective disciplines for multidisciplinary engagement.

Technology both enables important positive transitions and creates multiple challenges. Research under this theme will seek to locate solutions for supporting interaction between technological advances, institutional and organisational structures and different cultures to ensure the inclusiveness of an increasingly multicultural and technologically driven society. Solutions are also needed for alleviating the social divisions associated with technological development.

The programme duration is 3 + 3 years (first and second funding period). Consortia can apply for 3–5 million euros for the first funding period (1 Jun 2019–31 Aug 2022). Read more about the funding under section 3.5.

Contact person for the CULT programme:

- Science Adviser Pilvi Toppinen, tel. +358 295 335 064, [firstname.lastname\(at\)aka.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname(at)aka.fi)

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (CULT)

- Which aspect of the tension between technology and culture is the project focused on? Why is it relevant?
- How does the project promote the interaction of technological development, institutional and organisational structures and cultures towards socially valuable goals?
- How can the interaction of technological development and culture be supported so that no one is left behind in an increasingly multicultural and technologically driven society?
- How does the proposed combination of research fields and network of interaction partners support the achievement of the research programme's goals?
- How is the cross-cutting priority integrated in the project so that the relevant ethical dimensions permeate all research efforts and interaction in the consortium?

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2. AT A GLANCE: HOW TO APPLY

These guidelines only apply to the funding instrument for strategic research managed by the Strategic Research Council (SRC). The strategic research funding differs from the Academy of Finland's other funding opportunities, for example, as follows:

- The funding is granted in programme format.
- The funding is only granted to consortia formed according to the structure defined by the SRC.
- The funding may be used to cover the consortium PI's salary during the entire funding period. The SRC requires that consortium PIs commit themselves with a sufficient level of input to heading the consortium.
- The funding is granted under the full cost model and the funding percentage is 100 per cent.
- The appendices to the application must be drafted in line with the guidelines provided in this call text.

The call has two stages (see Figure 1). The call for letters of intent (1st stage) is open to all eligible applicants. The call for full applications (2nd stage) is for invited applicants only. The SRC decides which consortia will go through to the second call stage.

The call for letters of intent opens on 19 December 2018 and closes on 23 January 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

The call for full applications opens on 12 March 2019 and closes on 17 April 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

Applications arriving after the deadline has expired will not be processed. The submission deadline is non-negotiable. The consortium PI is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.

Guidelines

For detailed guidelines on how to apply, see the Academy's website and this call text:

- 1) [Call texts](#)
- 2) [How-to guides for the online services](#)
- 3) Detailed guidelines on how to draft and submit a letter of intent, its appendices and the review > section 4.1 of this call text
- 4) Detailed guidelines on how to draft and submit a full application, its appendices and the review > section 4.2 of this call text

Also read our [step-by-step guide to applying](#), which outlines the most important steps you will need to follow to submit your application.

We require that you carefully read the call text and the guidelines before submitting the application. If you are applying for funding for an organisation other than a university, a university of applied sciences or a research institute, please get in touch with the contact persons at the Academy in good time.

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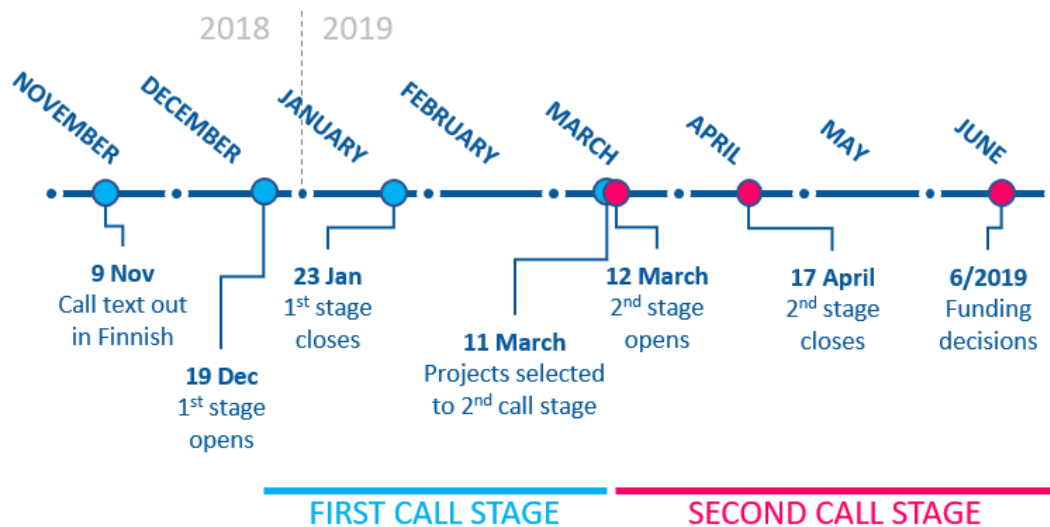


Figure 1. Call schedule for strategic research programmes 2018–2019.

2.1 Contacts

- Towards a Sustainable, Healthy and Climate-Neutral Food System (FOOD): Science Adviser **Joona Lehtomäki**, tel. +358 295 335 121
- Innovative Materials and Services to Promote Resource Wisdom and Sustainable Development (IMPRES): Science Adviser **Tuomas Katajarinne**, tel. +358 295 335 067
- The Changing Role of Public Authority and the Potential for Steering Society (STEER): Science Adviser **Milja Saari**, tel. +358 295 335 123
- Culture in an Increasingly Technologically Driven Society (CULT): Science Adviser **Pilvi Toppinen**, tel. +358 295 335 064

Email addresses: firstname.lastname@aka.fi

More information is also available at www.aka.fi/src.

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3. HOW TO APPLY FOR SRC FUNDING

The Strategic Research Council's (SRC) funding decisions are made following [the Academy of Finland's criteria for funding decisions](#) and [the SRC's funding principles](#). This chapter describes the key application guidelines for SRC funding, but applicants should also, where appropriate, familiarise themselves with the Academy's general application guidelines (see Appendix 1).

3.1 Structure and activity of SRC consortium

The consortia funded by the Strategic Research Council – SRC consortia – are structurally different from consortia funded by the Academy of Finland, for example, under the Academy Project and Academy Programme funding schemes. In SRC calls, consortia applying for funding must include **at least**

- three subprojects
- two organisations
- three research fields.

'**Subproject**' refers to the staff working at a certain site of research and contributing to implementing the consortium's research and interaction plan.

An organisation (e.g. university or research institute) may include several sites of research. For example, a university may have several campuses or other units that apply different coefficients for overheads. 'Site of research' refers to an organisation where researchers and other staff of a subproject are employed.

'**Research field**' refers to fields that are listed in [the Academy of Finland's research field classification](#). Applicants must select their research fields based on the main categories.

Each consortium must have **a PI, a deputy PI, an interaction coordinator and work package leaders**. In the full application, each subproject must have a named subproject PI, who is responsible for the subproject's funding at the site of research.

Figure 2 below shows an example of a possible structure for an SRC consortium.

The consortium's research and interaction activities are distributed equally and appropriately between **work packages (WPs)** so that the consortium brings definite added value for the individual work packages. Particular attention must be paid to interlinkages between WPs. In addition, applicants must thoroughly describe the consortium's expected joint results and impact.

The SRC recommends that interaction activities are presented as a separate WP, whose leader coordinates the consortium's interaction activities. The interaction must be planned so that it covers the entire scope of the consortium's activities. The consortium's management and coordination may also be divided into WPs. There is no limit to the maximum number of WPs, subprojects, sites of research or scientific disciplines.

The WPs may be carried out by people from more than one site of research. Correspondingly, one site of research may participate in several WPs. A subproject is

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made up of researchers from a single site of research. Subproject PIs may also be WP leaders. Not all subprojects are obliged to lead a WP.

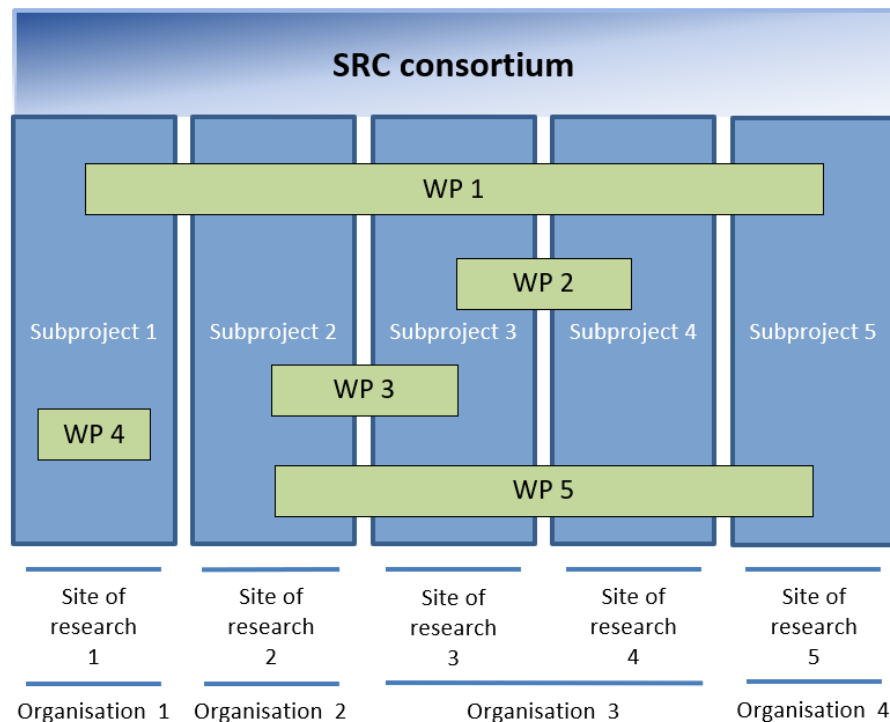


Figure 2. Example of SRC consortium structure.

SRC consortia must be based on true collaboration. The research work must not rely too heavily on a single site of research, research team or scientific discipline. This will require sufficient resources for managing and coordinating the consortium operations and for carrying out the consortium's interaction activities. The consortia should work towards a balanced gender composition.

3.2 Who is eligible to apply?

Principal investigators (PIs), deputy PIs and WP leaders of SRC consortia must have a doctoral degree, a title of docent or research experience at the docent level. The interaction coordinator must be qualified in their own field, but they are not required to have a doctoral degree.

Subproject PIs must have a doctoral degree and they must work in the SRC consortium. If the subproject PI does not have an employment relationship with, for example, a university or research institute, they must describe in the application how their salary will be covered during the funding period.

The SRC's funding for strategic research benefits the scientific community in Finland as well as Finnish society at large. SRC consortia may also include **foreign sites of research**, but their proportions of the total funding must not be significant.

The funding is not granted to support economic activity (i.e. all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market). If the funding is applied for by an organisation other than a university, a university of applied sciences or a research institute, the

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applicant must confirm their eligibility and the funding conditions from the programme's contact person in good time before submitting the application. Failure to do so will jeopardise the processing of the entire consortium application.

Strategic research funding is not granted to sole-proprietor businesses.

3.3 Restrictions

PIs and deputy PIs of SRC consortia cannot be granted funding in other SRC-funded consortia. The exception to this rule are the PIs and deputy PIs of the SRC consortia that started in 2016 (in SRC programmes "Skilled Employees – Successful Labour Market", "Health, Welfare and Lifestyles" and "Security in a Networked World"), because there is very little funding overlap in the programmes.

The same person may be a **subproject PI and/or WP leader** in only one application per each SRC programme. Consortium PIs must check the eligibility of each subproject PI and WP leader and that they are participating in only one application per programme.

If a person acts as a consortium PI or WP leader in more than one application, that person will be removed from all applications before the start of the review. In such cases, the applications concerned will proceed to the review without the person's details, CV and list of publications.

The SRC requires that consortium PIs commit themselves with a sufficient level of input to heading the consortium. Directors and subproject PIs (team leaders) of the Academy of Finland's Centres of Excellence cannot act as PIs or deputy PIs for SRC consortia.

SRC funding cannot be applied for by a person who has participated in the planning of the concerned programme to an extent likely to give them a comparative advantage over other applicants.

3.4 Changing consortium compositions between first and second call stage

SRC consortium PIs or WP leaders named in the letter of intent may be changed only for very compelling reasons. The composition of a SRC consortium may be supplemented after the first call stage only if the supplementation has been suggested in the first-stage review report. The contents of the research and interaction plan must remain essentially unchanged. Consortium parties cannot be removed.

Any changes to consortium compositions made for the above reasons must be justified in the research and interaction plan of the full application. In addition, in such cases, applicants must get in touch with the programme's contact person **before they submit their full application**.

3.5 Duration and amount of funding

The project duration in all four programmes open for application is **six years**. The research and interaction plan included in the application must be drafted to cover the entire six-year period. However, the funding will be granted in two parts (3 + 3 years).

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The first funding decision will cover the period 1 June 2019–31 August 2022. The progress of the projects will be reviewed at midterm, after which the SRC will decide on the continuation of funding for the period 1 September 2022–31 August 2025. It is not possible to transfer funding from one funding period to another. The six-year cost estimate of the SRC consortium must be drafted so that **two-thirds** of the total funding falls on the first funding period.

Each consortium may apply for 3–5 million euros for the first funding period. Funding will most likely be granted to 3–5 consortia in each programme.

The application must include **a cost estimate for the first funding period (3–5 million euros)**, with an estimate of the annual amount of funding needed by the SRC consortium. The cost estimate must be realistic. The cost estimate is justified in the full application's research and interaction plan, which also includes **a cost estimate for the entire duration of the project (first and second funding period)**. The cost estimate for the entire project may be equivalent to no more than 150 per cent of the cost estimate for the first funding period.

In the letters of intent (first call stage), the cost estimate is presented as a total sum.

In the full applications (second call stage), each subproject will present their own cost estimates, itemised by type of expenditure.

3.6 Salary costs

The SRC requires that consortium PIs commit themselves with a sufficient level of input to heading the consortium. Funding awarded for strategic research can also be used to cover the salaries of consortium PIs and possible coordinators for the entire duration of the funding period. However, the salary funding must not overlap with salary paid from other funding by the Academy of Finland.

Staff to be hired with SRC funding must have an employment relationship with their site of research. With regard to research personnel, the funding is primarily intended for the salaries of **researchers with doctoral degrees**.

3.7 Other eligible costs

SRC funding is granted for research and related interaction activities. The funding is not granted to support economic activity.

In SRC calls, funding can be applied for to cover the salary and other costs arising from the implementation of the research and interaction plans.

Other eligible costs include the following:

- costs of implementing the interaction plan
- research costs
- travel expenses
- costs of collaboration and mobility in Finland and abroad (of key significance to the goals of the project)
- costs of preparing international projects
- publishing costs (e.g. costs of open-access publishing).

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- auditing costs.

When the site of research is a university or research institute, as a rule, the funding must be applied for VAT included, in line with the guidelines of the site of research. SRC funding can also cover VAT costs, but only on certain conditions; read more on the Academy's website under [How to enter value added tax on the application](#).

The funding cannot be used to pay for acquisition of significant infrastructures.

All acquisitions must be made in accordance with the Finnish Act on Public Contracts. Where necessary, the acquisitions must be put out to tender in compliance with the practices stipulated in the Act.

3.8 Mobility plan

The researcher mobility carried out in SRC-funded projects must support the goals of the programme concerned. It should also support project implementation, reinforce the international networks of the researchers involved, and create new knowledge and know-how. Mobility plans are not necessary in the letters of intent. As regards full applications, applicants must outline the mobility plan both on the application form (in detail) and in the research plan.

3.9 Collaborators

'Collaborators' refers to both Finnish and foreign parties that will contribute to the research and interaction activities of the SRC consortium with their own funding. Collaborators and letters of commitment from such are not necessary in letters of intent. The project's key collaborators are named in the full application. Collaborators must also sign a free-form letter of commitment to be appended to the application.

3.10 Applications will be reviewed by panels

SRC funding decisions are based on a review of the merits of the research and interaction plans and the applicants. The review puts particular emphasis on the added value generated by the consortium for the attainment of the objectives set for the programme concerned.

The letters of intent will be peer-reviewed by programme-specific panels composed of Finnish and foreign experts in science and societal relevance. The panels will consider how well the proposed projects match the programme objectives and assess their societal relevance and impact as well as the quality of the research (see 4.1.4 and 4.2.5).

The SRC will utilise the panel reviews in selecting the consortia proceeding to the second call stage. Successful consortia will be asked to submit full applications.

The full applications will be peer-reviewed by two programme-specific panels. The societal relevance and impact and scientific quality of the applications will be reviewed separately (see 4.2.5).

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A relevance panel composed of Finnish and foreign experts will review the proposed projects for their societal relevance and impact. They will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives (see chapter 1).

An international scientific panel will review the scientific quality of the proposed research plans and the grounds for the research choices.

The SRC will select the projects to be funded based the reviews of the relevance panel and the scientific panel.

As an applicant, you have the right to submit your application in Finnish or Swedish, **but we ask that you to submit it (and the appendices) in English to**

- facilitate international peer review
- ensure an equal preparation of funding decisions
- ensure a smooth processing of applications.

The application and the appendices must be drafted according to the guidelines provided. For justified reasons, we may decide not to review or process an application. The reasons that are considered in these cases are presented on our website under [Review criteria](#).

3.11 How the decisions are made

The consortium application is treated as one single application. When a consortium is granted funding, each subproject of that consortium receives a separate funding decision and the funding is allocated to each subproject's site of research.

Once the SRC has selected the consortia for the programmes, it will enter negotiations with the consortia on their objectives. The final funding decisions will be made based on these negotiations. The aim of the negotiations is to reach an agreement on joint objectives for the research and interaction activities and to nail down the final funding budget. At the end of the negotiations, the representatives of the consortia undertake to fulfil the agreed objectives by signing a letter of undertaking.

While the consortium project is ongoing, the consortium can apply to change the subprojects' funding plans without having to change the consortium's overall funding.

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4. HOW TO APPLY

4.1 Letter of intent

The first stage of the SRC programme call, for letters of intent, opens in the Academy of Finland's online services on 19 December 2018. The first stage closes on 23 January 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The deadline is non-negotiable.

Draft the application in [the Academy's online services](#).

The consortium PI is responsible for drafting and submitting the letter of intent in the Academy's online services. To minimise the administrative burden on the process, **the letter of intent is drafted as an individual application** – not as a consortium application. Consortium PIs must check the eligibility of each WP leader and that they are participating in only one application per programme. The deputy PIs, WP leaders and interaction coordinators must be named in the application.

The consortium PI fills in all required fields of the letter of intent (see 4.1.3)

Consortium PIs must append to the letters of intent a research and interaction plan drawn up according to the guidelines provided as well as the CVs and lists of publications for themselves and the WP leaders (see 4.1.2).

The letters of intent will be reviewed by a panel of experts to assess the match with the programme, the societal impact and the scientific quality. Applicants are advised to carefully read through the review form (see 4.1.4).

According to a preliminary schedule, the projects going through to the second call stage will be selected on 11 March 2019. The names and project titles of successful applicants will be posted on the Academy of Finland's website.

The deadline for full applications (second call stage), submitted in the Academy's online services, is 17 April 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

4.1.1 Research and interaction plan in letter of intent

To ensure the uniformity and quality of the review process, applications must be comparable. Applications should therefore be drafted following the guidelines provided.

The research and interaction plan should be **six pages** long (Times New Roman 12 pt or corresponding) including a bibliography. The plan does not need to have a cover page. **The plan must be appended to the application in PDF format.** Name the appendix following the format *[consortium abbreviation]_research_plan*.

When drafting the research and interaction plan, please take into account that it will be reviewed by both Finnish and foreign experts from various fields and scientific disciplines. Hence, the plan must be written in English. The plan must be drafted according to the structure and headings provided below.

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LETTER OF INTENT:**Page structure of research and interaction plan (6 pages in total)**

Pages 1–2

- i. Project title (ABBREVIATION)
- ii. Name and site of research of consortium PI
- iii. Name and site of research of deputy PI
- iv. Names and sites of research of work package leaders
- v. Sites of research that do not have a work package leader
- vi. Name of interaction coordinator

1. Central idea of the project and objective for societal impact

Describe the central idea of the research and the purpose of the project by answering programme questions A-E (see chapter 1). The answers should explicitly demonstrate

- the challenge to be solved
- the scientific and societal objectives of the research
- the expected societal impact of the research.

Pages 3–4

2. Implementation of research

Divide the implementation of the research and interaction into work packages (WPs). We recommend that you devote a separate WP for interaction activities. The leader of that WP will act as the interaction coordinator for the whole consortium. The consortium's management and coordination may also be divided into WPs. A WP may be implemented by people from several scientific disciplines and sites of research. Describe the WPs so that the descriptions show

- the theoretical background and how the project is positioned in the scientific domain (at least three research fields); how the consortium justifies its methodological decisions; what research is needed
- the implementation and benefits of multidisciplinary research; how the multidisciplinary approach will contribute to renewing previous research in both a Finnish and international context
- the research methods, design and data; how the consortium justifies its methodological choices
- how the research will be implemented
- the interlinkages (added value of the consortium) and distribution of work between WPs
- the expected results and impact
- a responsible approach to research, research ethics and promotion of open science.

Page 5

3. Interaction

In the interaction plan, describe the goals, means, stakeholders and implementation of the interaction activities. Make sure that the description of stakeholders is realistic. The description should show

- with whom, why and how the consortium will collaborate to seek out solutions
- how the interaction partners benefit from the collaboration.

In addition, describe the consortium's competence as regards the promotion of societal impact.

Page 6

4. Scientific accomplishments, competence of consortium, key literature or bibliography

On the last page of the research and interaction plan, describe the merits and competence of the consortium PI and the WP leaders as well as literature or a bibliography of key importance to the plan.

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4.1.2 Other appendices to letter of intent

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with our guidelines. Also make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines. Draft the appendices in English and append them to the application **in PDF format** under *Appendices*.

An exception is the consortium PI's CV, which is appended under *Personal data/CV*.

CV and list of publications

Draft your CV in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity, **taking into account the nature of the call, your research career stage and the practices of your scientific discipline**. The CV should be a concise presentation of your most important scientific merits in terms of the call.

- The maximum length of the consortium PI's CV is four pages. Name the appendix following the format *[surname]_cv*.
- Append a list of the consortium PI's ten most important publications; you may include links to longer publication lists. Name the appendix following the format *[surname]_pub*.

Append the CVs for the work package leaders (no more than one page each) and lists of their ten most important publications. Name the appendices following the format *[consortium abbreviation]_WP[no]_[surname]*.

4.1.3 How to submit the letter of intent in the online services

Letters of intent submitted in the first stage of the SRC call are drafted as individual applications – not as consortium applications. The consortium PI is responsible for drafting and submitting the letter of intent in the Academy's online services. Only the PI's site of research issues a commitment to the application.

All guidelines for the online services are listed on our website under [Online services](#).

The consortium PI starts the application by logging in to the online services.

- Sign-up is required to use the online services.
- After login, select the SRC call under *Open calls* and click on *New application*.
- First select the language of the application and then *Individual application*.

Fill in all pages of the **application form**:

- 1) Personal data/CV (CV no more than four pages)
- 2) General description
- 3) Abstract
- 4) Consortium composition
- 5) Funding (first funding period only)
- 6) Appendices.

In the application, give an estimate of the consortium's **annual** total costs following the full cost model. The costs to be entered in the online services only concern the first

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funding period. Do not itemise the costs by type of expenditure; **enter all costs as a total sum under *Other costs***. All other rows of the cost estimate should be left empty.

The costs to be filled in in the online services must be drafted so that two-thirds of the total funding falls on the first funding period (see 3.5).

Consortium PIs append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure that they are drafted in line with our guidelines.

All obligatory fields must be filled in before the application can be submitted. It is well worth submitting the application in good time **before the deadline expires (23 Jan 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time)**, because you can make changes to an application you have submitted while the call is open. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and save the supplemented application.

If you notice that your application lacks important details **after the deadline has expired**, immediately get in touch with the call's contact person (see 2.1), who may, at their discretion, open the application so that you can add the information. We will take into account the additions insofar as it is possible in view of the review and decision-making process.

4.1.4 How the letters of intent are reviewed

The review of letters of intent will focus on the following aspects:

- compatibility with the programme call
- scientific level
- societal relevance and impact.

The letters of intent will be reviewed by a panel of Finnish and foreign experts in various scientific disciplines, transdisciplinary approaches and research relevance. The applications must have high societal impact and be of a high scientific standard.

In reviewing letters of intent, the panel will reflect on the answers to these questions:

Strategic research programme call: letter of intent review questions
<p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why and how does the proposed research match the programme?• How significant is the contribution to policy or practice?• To what extent do the research idea and the applied methodologies aim at scientific excellence?• How does the research plan support multidisciplinary approach and what added value does the chosen approach bring?• Is the consortium competent to execute the plan?• Are the plans for interaction sufficient?

The panel will review and write a review report on each letter of intent assigned to it, based on draft reviews and the panel discussion. It will use the review scales for both societal relevance and scientific quality (see 4.2.5), but it will not give overall ratings.

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Instead, it will divide the letters of intent into three groups (A–C) according to how strongly it recommends that the application be invited to the second stage.

The SRC will decide which consortia are invited to the second call stage based on the panel's review reports and at its own discretion. Successful consortia will be asked to submit full applications.

4.2 Full application

The second stage of the SRC call, for full applications, opens in the Academy of Finland's online services on 12 March 2019. The second stage closes on **17 April 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time**. The deadline is non-negotiable.

The Academy of Finland is currently revamping its online services based on feedback from applicants. Applicants selected to the second stage of the SRC call will be sent the updated guidelines for the online services.

Full applications for strategic research funding are drafted as **consortium applications**. The applications and appendices of consortium subprojects will be joined together with the consortium PI's application. **The consortium application can be submitted only after all subprojects have tagged their applications as 'complete'**. Consortium PIs must follow the completion of the consortium application in the online services to make sure that the application is submitted on time.

The consortium PI's application must include the details, abstract and public description for the PI's own project, the consortium's joint research and interaction plan and the CVs and lists of publications for the WP leaders (as appendices).

The subproject PIs will complete their own applications, filling in their own subproject's cost estimate and funding plan as well as all other required fields.

The applications will be reviewed in two different panels. One panel will focus on scientific quality, the other on societal relevance and impact (see 4.2.5).

The projects will be selected in summer 2019. The names and project titles of the funding recipients will be posted on the Academy of Finland's website.

4.2.1 Research and interaction plan in full application

To ensure the uniformity and quality of the review process, applications must be comparable. Applications should therefore be drafted following the guidelines provided.

The joint research and interaction plan of the SRC consortium must be drafted to cover the project's entire funding period. The plan must not exceed **19 pages** (Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent). The plan does not need a separate cover page. **The plan must be appended to the application in PDF format**. Name the appendix following the format *[consortium abbreviation]_research_plan*.

The maximum length of the executive summary of the research and interaction plan is two pages; the summary must follow the structure of the plan. For purposes of the review, the research and interaction plan must follow the structure outlined on page 22 of the SRC call text.

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FULL APPLICATION (no more than 19 pages):**Page structure of research and interaction plan (1/2)**

Basic details

- i. Project title and abbreviation, date of plan
- ii. Names of consortium PI and deputy PI
- iii. Names and sites of research of work package leaders

Summary

Executive summary (no more than 2 pages)**1. Central idea of project and answers to programme questions A–E**

- how the project addresses the programme's objectives and programme questions A-E
- what new knowledge will be generated to reach the objectives and how that knowledge will be used
- added value created by the consortium's multi- and transdisciplinary collaboration; justifications for possible changes to consortium composition (if the composition changes: always get in touch with the call's contact person in good time before the call closes)
- aspired societal impact

2. Scientific objectives and their justifications as well as objectives for interaction

- research questions and hypotheses
- previous research around the topic; how the consortium is positioned in relation to the international scientific field
- theoretical background
- methodology behind multidisciplinary collaboration
- expected scientific results and potential for breakthroughs
- objectives for consortium's interaction activities
- publication plan

3. Research implementation, methods and data, listed by work package

- description of work plan (by work package), interlinkages between work packages
- justifications for chosen multidisciplinary approach
- presentation of data and methods that enable the research design
- integration of multidisciplinary methods and results
- description of ethical issues concerning the research topic, methods and data as well as information on possible research permits and pending permit applications

(continued on the next page)

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<p>FULL APPLICATION (no more than 19 pages):</p> <p>Page structure of research and interaction plan (2/2)</p>
<p>4. Implementation of interaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key actors and knowledge needs with regard to research utilisation • means, channels and optimal timing of interaction from the perspective of end-users and beneficiaries at various stages of the project • interaction with the media, including social media
<p>5. Consortium's responsibilities and competence as regards scientific and societal impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • merits and competence of the consortium PI and the WP leaders • competence as regards combining multidisciplinary methods and results • management, distribution of work and ensuring collaboration between WPs • justifications for gender imbalance (if necessary), and means to promote gender equality • critical points for success, alternative implementation strategies
<p>6. International collaboration and researcher mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • international connections and cooperation • plan for possible researcher mobility that will support project implementation
<p>7. Schedule and cost estimate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule for research and interaction activities • consortium's cost estimate (incl. both funding periods) and cost justifications by type of expenditure • costs arising from interaction activities
<p>8. Bibliography</p>

4.2.2 Other appendices to full application

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with our guidelines. Also make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines. Draft the appendices in English and append them to the application in PDF format under *Appendices*. An exception is the consortium PI's and the subproject PIs' CVs, which are appended under *Personal data/CV*.

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CV and list of publications

We ask that you draft your CV in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity, taking into account the nature of the call, your research career stage and the practices of your scientific discipline. The CV should be a concise presentation of your most important scientific merits in terms of the call.

Appendices to consortium PI's application

- consortium's joint research and interaction plan (no more than 19 pages), including a two-page *executive summary*; name the appendix following the format *[consortium abbreviation]_research_and_interaction_plan*
- data management plan (approx. 1–3 pages); name the appendix following the format *[consortium abbreviation]_data_management_plan*
- curriculum vitae drafted in line with guidelines by Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (4 pages); name the appendix following the format *[surname]_cv*
- list of the consortium PI's ten most important publications; the list may include links to longer publication lists; name the appendix following the format *[surname]_pub*
- **curricula vitae** (4 pages) and top-10 lists of publications **for WP leaders** who are not subproject PIs **and for interaction coordinators**; name the appendices following the format *[surname]_cv and pub*

Appendices to subproject PIs' applications

- curriculum vitae drafted in line with guidelines by Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (4 pages); name the appendix following the format *[surname]_cv*
- list of the ten most important publications; the list may include links to longer publication lists; name the appendix following the format *[surname]_pub*

Case-specific appendices

- letters of commitment from collaborators named in the application
- statement by ethics committee
- account of state aids received (applies to organisations engaging in economic activity)
- progress report on all Academy-funded research projects of the consortium PI and subproject PIs that have not submitted final reports
- invitation by foreign university or research institute, if part of the work will be conducted abroad in the form of researcher mobility

4.2.3 Please note before you begin submission

Full applications for strategic research funding **are drafted as consortium applications**. The consortium PI submits the consortium's joint application, which includes the subproject applications. The consortium PI creates the consortium in the Academy of Finland's online services, invites the consortium participants and follows

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the completion of the joint application. The applications and appendices of consortium subprojects will be joined together with the consortium PI's application.

The consortium PI's application includes details and appendices for the PI's own subproject as well as the project's abstract and public description. The consortium PI will enter the project's title, keywords, research fields and collaborators on behalf of the whole consortium.

Subproject PIs will fill in their own online application forms. Please note that in the online services a subproject is treated as a research team. A subproject is made up of researchers from a single site of research, even though they may be assigned to different WPs. A subproject's application form must include information on all researchers working on the subproject's different WPs. On the application form, each subproject PI enters the subproject's research costs and the cost coefficients (overheads, indirect employee costs, effective working hours) and VAT practice of the site of research as well as all other requested details. Research costs are entered only for the first funding period.

The application must also include a description of how key Finnish or foreign collaborators named in the research and interaction plan and working with their own funding will contribute to project implementation. The collaborators will be asked to submit free-form letters of commitment to be appended to the application.

The applicant must describe how the subproject's researchers will be mobile in Finland and abroad during the funding period. The mobility must support the project. Learn more about how we support researcher mobility at [Calculation of support to international researcher mobility](#).

4.2.4 How to submit a full application in the online services

The Academy of Finland is currently revamping its online services based on feedback from applicants. Only invited applicants draft full applications. Applicants invited to the second stage of the SRC call will be sent the updated technical instructions for the online services.

4.2.5 How the full applications are reviewed

The full applications by consortia invited to the second call stage will be reviewed by two different panels. One panel will assess the applications' match with the programme and their societal relevance and impact, and the other will focus on scientific quality.

The relevance panel composed of Finnish and foreign experts will review the proposed projects for their societal relevance and impact. The panel will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives.

The scientific panel, composed of international experts, will review the scientific quality of the research and interaction plans.

Below is a list of the panels' review questions for the second call stage as well as the review scales and scale descriptions.

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Review questions: societal impact

1 Project's relevance to the programme
Societal relevance of the project and match with the programme <i>Guiding questions:</i> How does the project contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme? Are the objectives and/or the implementation of the research societally important?
2 Project's interaction with society
Reaching stakeholders and networks, obtaining support to decision-making <i>Guiding questions:</i> Is the implementation of research activities and results good and efficient? Are the effects and scope of the intended interaction relevant and realistic from a societal perspective? Are co-creation, co-design or participative methods used well in the different phases of the project?
3 Competence and expertise
Competence and expertise of the consortium, including external collaboration <i>Guiding questions:</i> What are the merits and expertise of the consortium (incl. multidisciplinary expertise and external collaboration) in conducting socially relevant research that enables impact on society? Is the management and coordination of the consortium appropriate and high-quality? Does the consortium have appropriate competence to implement the interaction plans?
4 Overall assessment
List of main strengths and weaknesses of the project; additional comments and recommendations

Review questions: scientific quality

1 Research plan
1.1 Scientific quality and the framing of the phenomena <i>Guiding questions:</i> How does the project show high scientific quality and potential for innovative outcomes across disciplinary boundaries? How are the problem framing and the choice of disciplinary perspectives and methodologies justified? Is there a unifying principle, frame or concept that provides coherence? Does the proposal indicate synergistic or innovative outcomes from the interaction between disciplines in a solution-oriented way?
1.2 Research plan <i>Guiding questions:</i> Are the objectives sound and well-presented and is the research plan realistic? Have relevant approaches, methods, materials and research partners been identified and

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appropriately incorporated into the research plan? Do you consider the application multidisciplinary, and are multiple organisations and research fields included in the work packages? Is the management plan appropriate and will it support leadership, coordination, interaction and exchange of information between work packages? Does the research environment support the project, such as with appropriate research and/or technology infrastructures?

1.3 Good scientific practice

Guiding questions:

Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account? Does the publication plan support open access? Does the data management plan responsibly support the reuse of research data after the project has been completed?

2 Competence of applicants, quality of research collaboration

Guiding questions:

What are the merits and scientific expertise of the consortium in both discipline-based research and multidisciplinary research? Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project? How does the collaboration (incl. international collaboration) contribute to the research activities and knowledge?

3 Scientific impact

Guiding question:

What is the project's level of expected scientific impact? Is there potential for generating impact on multiple disciplines or for advancing further learning and collaboration across disciplinary divides?

4 Overall assessment

List of main strengths and weaknesses of the project; additional comments and recommendations

Review scales: relevance and scientific quality

Scale for rating the relevance of the application

6	extremely significant	research of crucial relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that an extremely significant contribution to policy or practice is likely; demonstrates exceptional novelty and innovation to address a solution to an important problem or a critical barrier
5	very significant	research of very high relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that a very significant contribution to policy or practice is likely; high potential to address a solution to an important problem or a critical barrier
4	significant	research of high relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that a significant contribution to policy or practice is likely

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3	moderate	research of relevance to users, i.e. such novelty or timeliness and promise that a moderate contribution to policy or practice is likely
2	limited	research that will add to understanding but that might not be of sufficient relevance or urgency to influence policy or practice
1	poor	research is not considered relevant; proposal is in need of substantial modification or improvement

Scale for rating the scientific quality of the application

6	outstanding	demonstrates exceptional novelty and innovation; has potential to substantially advance science at a global level; includes high-gain projects that can include risks
5	excellent	extremely good in international comparison – no significant elements to be improved
4	very good	in general sound, but contains a few elements that could be improved
3	good	in general sound, but contains important elements that should be improved
2	fair	contains flaws; is in need of substantial modification or improvement
1	poor	contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application



APPENDIX 1: INFORMATION ON APPLICATION PROCESSING AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

A1.1 Publicity of research results, research ethics and good scientific practice

All results produced with funding from the Academy of Finland must be made public. The research must be conducted following the principles of good scientific practice. The Academy is committed to following the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity and requires that Academy-funded researchers and sites of research respect the same guidelines. We also recommend that you follow the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. [ALLEA \(All European Academies\) published the revised edition of the Code of Conduct](#) on its website in spring 2017.

The ethical issues of the research must always be described in the research plan; they are reviewed as part of the scientific review. **The ethical issues and duties** to be considered at the application stage are listed on the Academy's website under [Ethical issues and applying for funding](#).

We require that all Academy-funded research is conducted following [the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity](#), including [the recommendations on ethical review in human sciences](#).

We require that Academy-funded projects

- are committed to open access publishing
- make their research data and methods freely available for reuse.

The principles of open science must be pursued with due attention to research ethics and law. Data may for justified reasons come in varying degrees of openness, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential.

The funding application must include a separate [data management plan](#).

Learn more about our open science policy and recommendations on our website under [Open science](#).

A1.2 Research funding and equality

In accordance with [the Academy of Finland's criteria for funding decisions](#), Academy-funded research shall contribute to advancing the research careers of women and to promoting gender equality in research.

A1.3 Conditions for receiving funding

The Academy of Finland will fund a research project only if the site of research undertakes to provide the researcher with the necessary basic facilities for research.

The Academy allocates the funding to the researcher's host organisation. Staff to be hired with Academy research funding must have an employment relationship with the site of research or the organisation receiving the funding.



Academy funding to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities) is regarded as a discretionary government transfer. If the site of research is a research organisation, the funding is granted following the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers and the general conditions and guidelines for funding by the Academy of Finland. Since the funding is allocated not to individual researchers but to their host organisations, the organisation – not the researcher – is regarded as the recipient of the transfer (as per the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers) and will accordingly be required to assume all related obligations. The funded projects must also conform to other legislation, such as the Finnish Act on Public Contracts. The organisation receiving the transfer may use the funds only for the research stated in the research plan.

Academy funding is not granted to support economic activity (i.e. all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market). If the funding is applied for by an organisation other than a university, a university of applied sciences or a research institute, the applicant must confirm their eligibility and the funding conditions from the programme's contact person in good time before submitting the application. Failure to do so will jeopardise the processing of the entire consortium application.

For detailed conditions and guidelines (revised annually) on use of funding and reporting, see [How to use the funding](#) on our website.

A1.4 Sites of research commit to the funding at the application stage

The Academy of Finland will fund a research project only if the application includes a commitment by the site of research. You must agree on this commitment **in advance** with a representative of the site of research. After the call has closed, we will request the commitment by the site of research from the person indicated in the application. Read more on our website under [Commitment by site of research](#).

For example, the site of research undertakes to secure the necessary basic facilities for the project, which are the same as those available to other research staff at the site: office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment), and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services.

In calls where [full costing](#) is applied, you must – before submitting your application – determine from your own organisation the **calculated coefficients**, and agree on them with the commitment issuer. The coefficients will be valid during the entire funding period. The funding for strategic research comes under the full cost model. The funding percentage is 100 per cent, which means that sites of research need not contribute to the funding with their own percentage.

It is not possible to transfer funding from one funding period to another. The annual instalments of strategic research funding may be changed by up to 15 per cent, according to the Academy's general funding conditions. However, we do not recommend it, because the annual spending of SRC consortia should follow the original plans as closely as possible.

At the application stage, sites of research must check that the site's coefficients, [VAT practice](#) and Business Identity Code have been entered correctly. Applicants must indicate in the online application form whether the other costs include VAT.



A prerequisite for Academy funding is that both the applicant and the site of research commit to the guidelines issued by the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity on [responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland](#). The site of research undertakes to submit to the Academy's Registrar's Office the final report of any investigations concerning violation of good scientific practice by the PI or a researcher of an Academy-funded project.

If the funding is a discretionary government transfer awarded to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities), the site of research also undertakes to act as the recipient of the transfer on behalf of the applicant and will accordingly assume all related obligations.

A1.5 How applications are submitted and become pending

The non-negotiable deadline for letters of intent (first call stage) is 23 January 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The non-negotiable deadline for full applications (second call stage) is 17 April 2019 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

The PI of the consortium is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline. To ensure smooth drafting and submission, please submit the application as early as possible.

According to section 17 of the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act and section 8 of the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector, the sender is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.

An application becomes pending at the Academy when the online application and the obligatory appendices **have been submitted** in the online services. The system will confirm a successful submission by sending an email to the address provided by the applicant. The system will not accept applications that lack obligatory details or appendices.

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines.

For guidelines on how to submit an application in the Academy's online services, see our [how-to guidelines for the online services](#). If you run into problems in the online services at the time of submission, please contact us (the contact persons are named in the call text) before the deadline expires, either by phone or via [Questions and feedback](#) on our website.

A1.6 How to supplement the application

You can make changes (e.g. change appendices) in an application you have submitted to the Academy, but you must make them **before the deadline expires**. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and save the supplemented application by the set deadline.

If you notice that your application lacks important information **after the deadline has expired**, immediately get in touch with the call's contact person, who can open the application so that you can add the missing information. We will take into account the additions insofar as it is possible in view of the review and decision-making process.



Do not submit any new appendices via the so-called additional information feature; such appendices will not be saved as part of the application.

A1.7 Publicity of applications

Under the Finnish Act on the Openness of Government Activities, an application and its appendices are public information; research and interaction plans, plans of intent, abstracts and progress reports, however, are not. For example, the CV is a public document and as such must not include any confidential information.

A1.8 Guidelines for public project description

The popular description of the project is an important part of the application. The description is a way for the Academy and researchers to disseminate information on Academy-funded research to the research community, stakeholders and the public at large. The description should therefore be as readable as possible, written for a nonscientific audience. It must give the reader a brief summary of the key points of the research. Read more under [Public description of project](#) on our website.

If a project is granted funding, we will publish the description of the project on our website. The description is written by the applicant when drafting the application. **We cannot edit project descriptions – it is the applicants who are responsible for the content, clarity and style of the descriptions.** The descriptions will remain accessible on our website for several years.

Finnish- or Swedish-speaking applicants write their descriptions in Finnish or Swedish. All applicants must also write a description in English to facilitate international peer review.

A1.9 How the decisions are announced

The dates for Academy funding decisions are posted on our website under [Table of calls and funding decisions](#). You can also [search our decisions](#) for the funded projects, their public descriptions and the call-specific fact sheets.

Applicants will receive an automatic **email message** after the funding decision has been made. After receiving this message, you can log in to **the online services** with your user ID to view the decision. You can also read the conditions for the decision and read the expert reviews on your application, if such reviews have been drafted.

A1.10 Applicants and sites of research must confirm receipt of funding

After being granted funding, applicants must check and accept it in the online services without delay. The system will then send a notification to the commitment issuer at the site of research. That person must also accept the granted funding and notify whether they wish to receive advance payments based on the funding decision. Advance payments can be made if they are determined to be necessary for the funded project.

The funds can be paid only after both the applicant and the representative of the site of research have accepted them as received. The system will then notify the funding to the finance administration of the site of research, whereupon the funds will be ready to use.



About this document

This call for applications is based on a document that presents the criteria for research funding decisions by the Academy of Finland and that is annually approved by the Academy Board. It is also based on the funding principles decided by the Strategic Research Council (SRC). This call that will open in December 2018 comes under the decision criteria adopted on 20 September 2018 and the funding principles adopted on 5 November 2018. The documents are available [on our website](#) (in Finnish).

Riitta Maijala, Vice President for Research at the Academy of Finland, approved the Finnish-language version of this call text on 9 November 2018.

NB! If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of information presented in the translated version of the call for applications, please refer to the official Finnish version.

How to contact us

Postal address	PO Box 131 FI-00531 Helsinki
Street address	Hakaniemenranta 6
Switchboard	+358 295 335 000
Fax	+358 295 335 299
Registrar's Office, phone	+358 295 335 049
Registrar's Office, office hours	8.00–16.15
Email	kirjaamo@aka.fi
Website	www.aka.fi/en
Contacts	Contact persons listed in this call for applications (firstname.lastname@aka.fi)
Questions and feedback	Get in touch via Questions and feedback on our website
