



## Policy for promoting international cooperation 2023–2030

The promotion of international research cooperation is a key way of supporting excellent, responsible and high-impact research as well as scientific renewal. The Research Council of Finland works closely with other national RDI stakeholders and with international partners to promote international engagement in research both as a funding agency and as an expert organisation in science and research.

Based on the [Research Council of Finland strategy 2030 - Bold research for Finland and the world](#), these policy guidelines set out the impact objectives for our international activities and the key steps to achieve these objectives by 2030. The guidelines were drawn up in reference to the Vision for strengthening the international dimension of Finnish higher education and research by 2035 prepared within the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture; the act on R&D funding that entered into force on 1 January 2023; and the Final Report of the Parliamentary Working Group on Research, Development and Innovation (1 March 2023).

The Board of the Research Council of Finland approved this policy on 8 November 2023.

### Impact objectives for the Research Council of Finland's international activities:

- **International research cooperation supports scientific renewal, promotes scientific breakthroughs and contributes to the resolution of global challenges.**
- **Finnish scientific research enjoys greater global visibility. Researchers based in Finland are active members of the international scientific community and desired collaborators.**
- **Researchers, research groups and competence centres based in Finland have much improved success rates in European Union RDI funding calls.**
- **Finland attracts increasing numbers of high-level experts from abroad.**
- **The Finnish scientific community aligns itself more closely with the international community in its defence of scientific autonomy, responsible research, democracy and human rights.**



**To meet these impact objectives:**

- **We will strengthen our support for international cooperation and mobility with our primary funding instruments.**

All funding opportunities available from the Research Council of Finland promote and support diverse forms of international cooperation and mobility. This support will be strengthened especially through funding instruments targeted at individual researchers and research groups, both with a view to enhancing the mobility of Finnish-based researchers and to attracting and facilitating the integration of international scholars in Finland.

- **We will engage in international collaborations with strategically selected partners.**

The Research Council of Finland will step up cooperation with leading science and technology countries outside the European Union. Apart from the quality of research and scientific renewal, other criteria and considerations in the choice of partners and themes for funding calls will include our value base in promoting international activities and engagement, the priorities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the foreign policy significance of partner countries, sustainable development goals and Finland's other international commitments, and national and Research Council thematic priorities, such as flagship areas. Cooperation must be reciprocal and based on mutual trust.

- **We will actively participate and contribute to research funding cooperation at Nordic and EU levels.**

In the Nordic and EU contexts, the Research Council of Finland stresses the importance of multinational funding cooperation that is aimed at supporting research excellence, solving major challenges facing society, and reforming and strengthening researcher networks.

Our cooperation with Nordic funding agencies will be focused on research themes that generate Nordic value added. Our participation in EU funding cooperation will be based on the interests of Finnish research, opportunities to resolve global challenges and prospects of opening up new thematic avenues.

We consider it important that, where possible, both Nordic and EU cooperation is also open to countries outside the EU and Europe.

- **We will actively contribute to European Union RDI programmes and take other steps to improve the prospects of Finnish-based researchers to succeed in EU funding calls.**

The Research Council of Finland will actively contribute to EU science and innovation policy, the EU research and innovation framework programme and the development of the European Research Area with a view to strengthening high-quality research,



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raising the success rates of Finnish organisations in funding calls, and promoting the networking of Finnish research. To these ends we will work closely with other RDI stakeholders in Finland as well as with Nordic and European sister organisations in different arenas. Our Brussels office plays a major role in this regard.

We will also work to improve Finnish organisations' success rates with funding applications by actively providing information and advice about funding options and by strengthening opportunities to prepare funding applications during Research Council-funded projects. We will develop our funding instruments in such a way that researchers are better placed to succeed in EU funding calls.

➤ **We will increase the international competitiveness and appeal of Finnish research environments and competence centres.**

The Research Council of Finland will work together with research and other organisations to enhance the international attractiveness of the Finnish RDI system, support the achievement of objectives related to the demand for expertise and promote the impact of research by providing funding for internationally competitive research environments and infrastructures, such as Finnish Flagships.

➤ **We will support Finnish involvement in the building and maintenance of international research infrastructures.**

The Research Council of Finland provides funding for international research infrastructures, which are an important platform for cooperation between researchers and research groups. Within these infrastructures we will continue to work to improve their services and efficiency and to take the best advantage of these infrastructure memberships domestically.

➤ **We will promote the visibility and responsible conduct of Finnish research.**

The Research Council of Finland supports the visibility and responsible conduct of Finnish research both as a funding agency and through participation in international organisations. Together with other Finnish stakeholders, we will continue to promote science diplomacy with a view to intensifying international collaboration, and to promote the integrity and global responsibility of science and research, among other things by supporting researchers whose safety is at risk.

The Research Council of Finland provides information and communication about Finnish research and its opportunities for cooperation, as well as about the Finnish science and innovation system.

