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A balanced and high-impact, long-term and risk-enabling funding portfolio



The Research Council of Finland's funding portfolio can be divided into three categories, each with its own specific impact objectives. The categories were defined in 2024.

Long-term and innovative research

By funding long-term and innovative research, we can broaden and deepen scientific skills and competence, because we do not yet know what opportunities the future holds. With our largest category of funding, we can ensure free competition between researcher-driven research ideas and maintain the variety and high quality of the scientific foundation of the Finnish RDI system. This category includes the following RCF funding schemes: Academy Project Funding, Academy Professorships, Academy Research Fellowships, funding for clinical researcher, funding for postdoctoral researchers and funding for doctoral education.

Competence clusters and research environments

The aim of competence clusters and research environments is to strengthen and broaden the most internationally competitive areas of scientific expertise in Finland and to ensure that they become even more attractive internationally. Another objective is to strengthen the role of research infrastructures as a foundation for excellent, high-impact research. This category includes the following RCF funding schemes: Finnish Flagships, Centres of Excellence and joint projects in flagship areas co-funded with US funders.

**Themes and impact of research knowledge**

This funding category promotes the utilisation and impact of research-based knowledge. The funding is allocated thematically to purposes specified in the state budget and, based on the RCF's own selections, to strengthen the impact of research-based knowledge. Many funding calls implemented in international funding cooperation are also thematic in nature. This category includes the following RCF funding schemes: Proof of Concept Funding, Academy Programmes, Targeted Academy Projects, thematic special funding, international funding cooperation and funding to strengthen university research profiles.

