

12/10/2023

Instructions: how to prepare a state-of-play report

Research projects funded by the Strategic Research Council (SRC) will initially produce a state-of-play report. The report shall present in a non-technical and concrete manner the starting points and objectives of the project's research and interaction at the start-up stage. The report is a public document and targeted above all at an audience beyond academia. The reports will be published on [the strategic research website](#).

The consortium shall prepare the report based on the research and interaction plan presented at the call stage as well as the impact objectives specified jointly by the SRC programme. The report serves as a basis for further reflection and monitoring of the work of the consortium (in particular the impact stories used in annual reporting).

The report is written in Finnish and its length is 5–10 pages. The report is written on the SRC report template and delivered as a Word file by email to the Division of Strategic Research at the Research Council of Finland (strateginentutkimus@aka.fi) within six months from the start of the funding period. A more detailed deadline will be notified to consortia separately.

The report may contain not only text but also graphics and images, but they must be in an accessible format. Please submit all graphics and images also as separate files (ppt or jpg), so that they can be used in communications on strategic research.

Structure and contents of state-of-play report:

1. Summary

A summary of the below items, 2–3 paragraphs

2. Societal challenge

What societal challenge is the starting point for the research in the project? Which of the SRC programme's impact objectives does it address and how?

How does the research carried out in the project aim to help tackle the challenge? What concrete societal outcomes are you aiming for (1–5 outcomes)? For each of the desired societal outcome, please also describe the possible synergies with other projects in the SRC programme.

3. State of the art of the research

How does the project position itself in the international research landscape of the challenge? What is the state of the art of the research in this field, and how will the project advance it?

4. Multidisciplinary cooperation

Which scientific disciplines or research perspectives will be used to investigate the challenge and its solutions? Which boundaries between societal sectors will be crossed?

What opportunities for research collaboration do you identify with other projects in the SRC programme? What could your project contribute to other projects in the programme, and what would you like to gain from them?

5. Societal interaction and the promotion of impact

What kind of stakeholder cooperation and interaction does the project intend to engage in to reach the desired societal outcomes (item 2)?

Does your project have common stakeholders with other projects in the SRC programme? How do your project networks complement and support the networks of other projects in the programme?

6. References (if applicable)

Societal outcome/impact = an effect on, or change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life caused by the activity under consideration, either alone or in combination with other factors