

29 January 2016

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROGRAMMES 2016

CALL FOR FULL APPLICATIONS

Supplement to application guidelines

The application guidelines concerning the second call stage of the funding programmes of the Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland were published in the call text for the first stage (call for letters of intent 5 Nov–9 Dec 2015, particularly Appendices 2 and 3). This document supplements the guidelines on preparing a full application. The headings indicate which part of the original call text the supplementation concerns.

1. USE OF FUNDING (call text pp. 4–5 and 21–22)

The Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers and the Academy of Finland's general conditions and guidelines for funding must be followed in the use, payment and control of funds granted by the Academy. Funding granted by the SRC may be used in accordance with item 29.40.54 in the 2016 state budget. The SRC's funding covers both direct and indirect research costs as well as costs of implementing the project's interaction plan (read more in the Academy's general conditions and guidelines for funding).

Under the general conditions and guidelines, the SRC's funding cannot be used for economic activity. This means that the funding cannot be used, for instance, to cover costs of the following commercialisation-related activities:

- proof-of-concept activities
- protection of IPRs
- market or patent surveys, other equivalent proof-of-concept activities where the results are made known only to the organisation (or research team)
- licensing or sales costs of inventions
- setting up a business.

De minimis aid to business companies

A consortium funded by the SRC can include companies that engage in economic activity to either promote the research or implement the interaction plan. In such cases, the funding will be granted in accordance with the EU's state aid rules, and primarily in the form of de minimis aid. The current de minimis limit is no more than 200,000 euros. The funding is granted following the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. If the consortium is applying for state aid to a business company, the application must include an account of state aids received. The accounts must be appended to the consortium PI's application as attached files.

If the consortium is planning to apply for funding for business activities in excess of the de minimis limit, the consortium should contact the Strategic Research Unit as soon as the second call stage has opened.

2. DESCRIPTION OF SUBPROJECTS AND WORK PACKAGES (call text pp. 31–35 and 40)

In the second call stage, the consortium budgets must be specified by site of research. The subproject applications and budgets must also be drafted separately for each site of research.

Each consortium must submit the CVs and lists of publications for key personnel engaging in the research or interaction activities as presented in the research plan and following the guidelines in the call text. This includes subproject PIs and heads of work packages, if the consortium has organised its research plan into work packages.

The application is drafted using one of two models:

	Budget proposal	Research plan	Appendices: CV and list of publications
Consortium model 1	Each subproject includes a budget for a single-site subproject.	Each subproject forms its own research team.	Appendices by consortium PI and subproject PIs
Consortium model 2	Each subproject includes a budget for all persons of a single site participating in the consortium.	The consortium is divided into work packages where all or some packages include people from several sites.	Appendices by consortium PI, subproject PIs and WP heads

The consortium model in the Academy's online services is based on model 1 above. Usually, applications for SRC funding have been drafted following model 1. If the consortium has drafted the letter of intent following consortium model 1, it must use the same model for the full application.

If the consortium has organised its research plan into work packages, where one or several packages include participants from several sites of research, the consortium must use consortium model 2 above. The consortium must also present its budget accordingly. The consortium cannot change over to consortium model 1.

The CVs and lists of publications of subproject PIs are appended to each subproject application. The CVs and lists of publications of heads of work packages are appended to the consortium PI's application as one file. The consortium PI attaches the file to his or her own application. In all CVs and lists of publications, the name, site of research and position (subproject PI or WP head) of the person in question must be indicated at the beginning of the document.

3. AGREEMENTS ON COLLABORATION (call text p. 31)

Consortia should append to their applications letters of commitment from any parties that have agreed to collaborate with the consortium. The agreement is made as a free-form letter that briefly lists the reasons behind the collaboration and the concrete ways in which the consortium's scientific work and interaction will be promoted through the collaboration.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Academy's Strategic Research Unit in good time before the call deadline.

Contacts at the Strategic Research Unit:

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Read more at www.aka.fi/src.