



# HORIZON EUROPE MISSIONS

Proposals by the  
Academy of Finland



ACADEMY OF FINLAND



# THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND

**The Academy of Finland – the research council of Finland – promotes the renewal, diversification and internationalisation of Finnish science. We fund high-quality scientific research and provide expertise in science and science policy. The Academy of Finland also emphasises the importance of research impact and supports the utilisation of research knowledge across all sectors of society.**





## What are **HORIZON EUROPE MISSIONS?**

Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation framework programme for 2021–2027 aims to better engage European citizens in research and innovation through high-impact objectives called missions. These key missions are designed to transcend the boundaries between scientific disciplines and sectors, bring together actors from different fields and inspire new, alternative solutions.

The Academy of Finland's proposals for  
**HORIZON EUROPE MISSIONS**

**PLAYFUL  
EUROPE  
2030**

**CLIMATE-  
NEUTRAL  
EUROPE  
2045**

**CLEAN  
WATER  
FOR ALL**

European children and adolescents increasingly suffer from obesity, lack of physical activity as well as mental and social problems. To change this vicious cycle, the Academy of Finland proposes Playful Europe 2030 as a Horizon Europe mission. The key target is to support children and young people in recognising their bodily and social needs, and to offer healthy ways in responding to them. Playfulness is a basic human right of children and young people, and it needs to become a reality.

## WHAT MAKES THE MISSION IMPORTANT?

- **Mental illness** is the most significant health concern for children and adolescents. It's the global public health challenge of the 21st century.
- **Obesity and too little physical activity** at a young age causes multiple health problems and often leads to other diseases later in life.
- Physical and mental problems put a **heavy economic burden** on European health services.

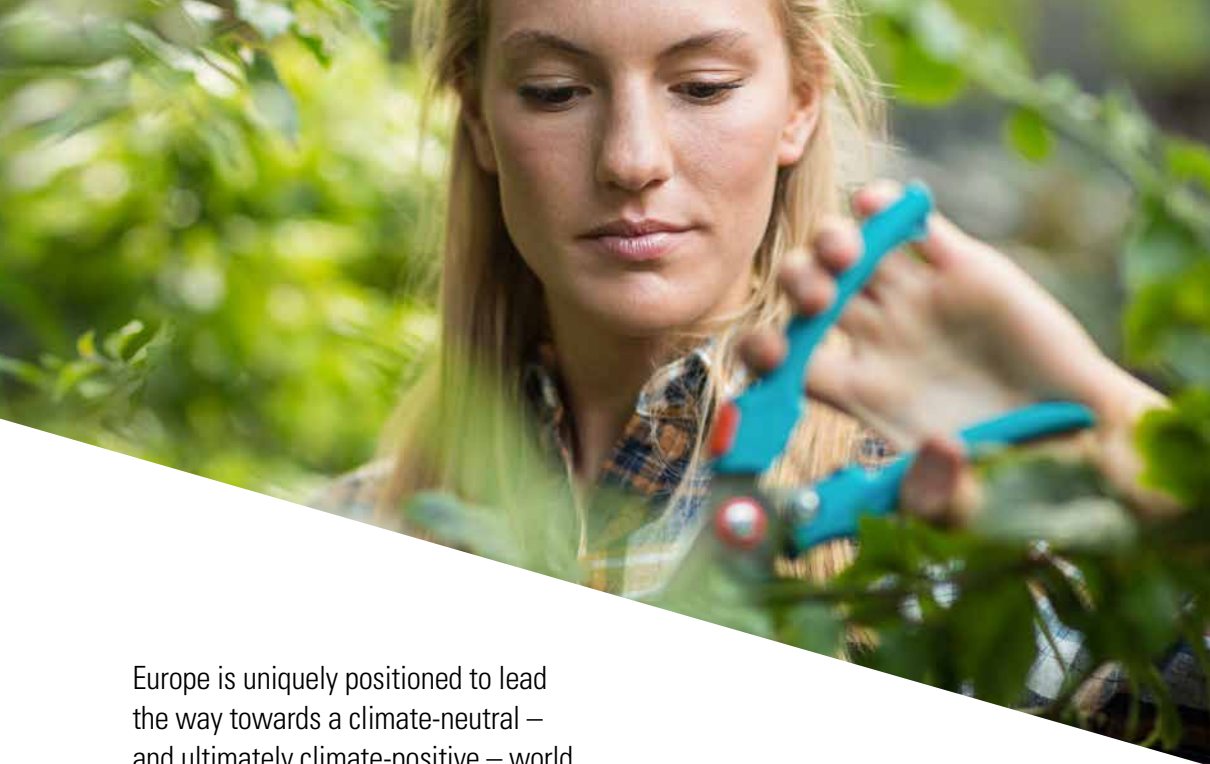


## PLAYFUL EUROPE 2030

## HOW TO SUCCEED?

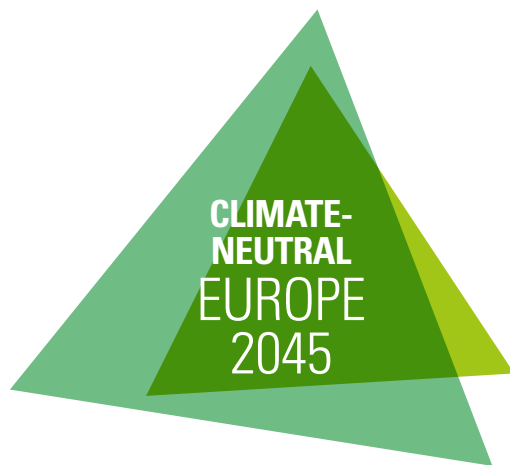
- **Learning by doing and moving.** Finding new ways to encourage the innate playfulness and creativity in children and young people to support healthy eating, physical mobility and social interaction.
- **Systemic actions** carried out in **cooperation** with the European Union, EU Member States, businesses, local communities, NGOs, researchers and all other relevant actors.
- Through multidisciplinary **research and innovation** actions that include especially children but also people of various age groups, schools and sports associations in their design and implementation.
- Public policies and funding to foster **social inclusion and equal opportunities** of children from different backgrounds.
- Urbanisation and city planning to enable **free and safe places** to meet and play close to people and their everyday lives.
- Imposing fiscal **policies and regulation** on food industry, the media and advertising.
- **Body positivity and cultural diversity** embedded in R&I projects.





Europe is uniquely positioned to lead the way towards a climate-neutral – and ultimately climate-positive – world through its internal cohesion and global influence, and its strong capabilities in science and technology.

The Academy of Finland’s mission proposal seeks to promote mitigation of climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) and black carbon emissions across the board. The main source of these emissions in Europe is fuel combustion in energy industries, transport, household and commerce. The land-use sector, especially agriculture, is another major contributor.



## WHAT ARE THE GOALS?

### PLAYFUL EUROPE 2030

- +180 minutes daily activity for pre-schoolers and +90 minutes for older
- Advertising of unhealthy foods for children prohibited
- <30 Body Mass Index for children
- -30% have mental problems as well as social, emotional behavioural difficulties



### CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPE 2045

- -95% black carbon emissions by 2030
- 3 times more carbon sinks by 2035
- -90% methane emissions by 2040
- -90% nitrous oxide emissions by 2045





## WHAT MAKES THE MISSION IMPORTANT?

- Climate change **affects everyone, everywhere** – and for the most part negatively.
- Warming effect on the climate poses **serious threats to the environment and human health**.
- **Increased melting of ice** in the Arctic region magnifies the negative effects.

## HOW TO SUCCEED?

- High-quality **research**, novel **technological solutions**, a **change in mindsets** as well as **policy solutions** at local, national, European and global levels.
- **Strengthening of key knowledge areas**: new technological solutions, industrial processes and services.
- **A better understanding** on how people make their everyday choices as individuals and as part of social collectives.
- **Focus shift** from a negative carbon footprint to a more positive handprint.
- **Engagement and collaboration** across all sectors of society and all member states. The EU has what it takes to become a true global leader in fighting climate change.
- **Emission reduction targets** must be specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound.

## CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

- Ecosystems and ecosystem services at least at current quality level
- 25% degraded fresh water ecosystems restored
- 75% surface water bodies meet WFD requirements
- +25% wastewater treatment solutions implemented



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Safe and clean water should be a basic right. However, freshwater ecosystems and resources are under growing and competing demand for different purposes and affected by climate change. The aim of the Academy of Finland's Clean Water for All mission is to maintain and protect water ecosystems and ecosystem services as well as to secure sufficient availability of good quality water for all uses in Europe. Solutions developed could also contribute in global water problems and international development.

## WHAT MAKES THE MISSION IMPORTANT?

- Urgent solutions are needed to **secure vital water ecosystems** and to guarantee access to water, which is increasingly under threat.
- **Ensuring access to water** is crucial in improving societal security and preventing political conflicts.
- Pollution, political conflicts, infrastructure development and resource extraction **further intensify changes** to the hydrological cycle and the ecosystems.

## HOW TO SUCCEED?

- **A multi-stakeholder approach** by the private sector, research and education institutes and the civil society.
- International, national and local decisions must be made based on **solid knowledge** of the problems at hand.
- **Integrated water resources management** at all levels to protect the health of European citizens and ensure the safety of our environment.
- Expanding international **partnerships**, cross-sectoral **cooperation** and capacity-building **activities**: water management, access to water, water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, waste water treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
- **Full integration of the social sciences and humanities in R&D programmes** related to water challenges should address public participation, behaviour and awareness.
- **Significant changes in behaviour and strong commitment** are needed from citizens to the transfer towards a circular economy and for solutions supported by legislation and regulation.





**ACADEMY OF FINLAND**  
THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF FINLAND

Tel. +358 295 335 000

Hakaniemenranta 6 • POB 131 FI-00531 Helsinki • [firstname.lastname@aka.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@aka.fi)

[aka.fi/en](http://aka.fi/en) | [etsixpertti.fi/en](http://etsixpertti.fi/en) | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [You](#) [TV](#)

ISBN 978-951-715-901-2 | Print: Erweko Oy 2018