

THE ACADEMY'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2015

The Academy of Finland plays a pivotal role in raising international awareness and recognition of Finnish science and high-quality research. The Academy actively contributes its expertise in national and international science policy and provides responsible research funding.

The Academy is well-focused, consistent and selective in its international activities. It has close international funding cooperation with leading scientific powers both within and outside Europe. The Academy's cooperation with emerging scientific powers is mutually beneficial.

The impact of the Academy's international activities is seen in the improved opportunities for Finnish researchers to become involved in international research cooperation at the highest level.



MAIN FOCUSES OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Academy of Finland works to facilitate high-quality research, researcher training and the development of attractive research environments. The Academy's international activities support and promote the implementation of the national innovation strategy.

In line with its strategy, the Academy of Finland is target-oriented, consistent and selective in its international activities. The Academy aims at close international funding cooperation with leading science countries both within and outside Europe, and its cooperation with emerging science countries is seen as mutually beneficial. The Academy supports and facilitates internationally high-quality research, researcher training and attractive research environments.

The Academy of Finland International Strategy runs from 2007 to 2015.



Vilhonvuorenkatu 6 • POB 99, FI-00501 Helsinki, Finland
Phone +358 9 774 881 • Fax +358 9 7748 8299
www.aka.fi/eng • keskus@aka.fi
www.xpertsearch.fi • www.research.fi

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2007–2015



CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Finnish research has to compete ever harder as it strives to maintain its position in the production and application of new research knowledge. The world's leading scientific powers will retain their lead in the coming years. New emerging scientific powers will significantly step up their research effort, and developing countries, too, will gain an increasingly prominent role in the future. One of the tools in the bid to change the power relations within the international research system is to invest in the further strengthening of European research environments.

International cooperation is crucial to achieving the goal of higher-quality infrastructures and research environments.

High-quality research is essential for social welfare and well-being and for Finland's international competitiveness. As the significance of research continues to grow, the principles, priorities and means of national and international science policy are set to change as well.



MEANS

1 *Evaluation and monitoring of scientific quality*

The Academy of Finland considers peer reviews by international experts as an important tool to raise the standards of Finnish science and research and to maintain its areas of strength. Peer review recognition and feedback from the international research community supports the efforts of Finnish researchers to compete at the international cutting edge.

The Academy works actively with foreign funding bodies to further develop the peer review system in order to reliably and efficiently identify the highest-quality research projects and the most promising research talents. Peer reviews by international experts are necessary to determine the standard of Finnish research.

2 *Attractive research environments*

The Academy of Finland provides funding for national Centres of Excellence in research to support national and international networking and cooperation with top-tier groups. This improves their prospects to succeed in the international competition and to secure international funding. Effective cooperation increases the chances of foreign researchers to work in Finland.

The Academy also supports the efforts of other high-level Finnish research teams and units to strengthen their international collaboration and to develop more attractive and internationally competitive research environments.

The Academy supports the participation of universities and research institutes in Strategic Centres for Science,

Technology and Innovation through research funding based on high standards of scientific quality and open competition. This helps to give international visibility to Strategic Centres and to maintain the high quality of their work.

The Academy regards the Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro) as an important form of strategic cooperation with universities and is committed to working closely with Tekes to further develop the programme.

The Academy views research infrastructures as providing an important channel to international, world-leading research and know-how. The Academy plays an instrumental role in drafting and implementing national infrastructure policy. The Academy communicates Finland's views and opinions and is actively involved in formulating European infrastructure policy.

3 *Internationalisation of research programmes*

The Academy of Finland works to develop research programmes in close collaboration with national and international funding bodies with a view to enhancing their impact and further reinforcing Finland's areas of scientific strength.

The Academy contributes to those ERA-NETs that benefit Finnish research, that support the Academy's strategic objectives and that promote the development and internationalisation of Finnish and European research. The Academy carefully weighs the advantages of participation in ERA-NETs and avoids overlap in the start-up of national and international programmes.

4 *Internationalisation of the research career*

The Academy of Finland works closely with universities to promote the networking and collaboration of doctoral programmes in Finland and other countries. The Academy considers it important that doctoral programmes provide the skills and competencies that are needed for international research collaboration and for research work abroad.

The Academy supports researcher mobility in various ways as part of a consistent research career path. Special attention is given to the postdoctoral stage. To this end the Academy shall develop a mobility programme. Furthermore, the Academy works actively to remove obstacles and barriers to mobility in collaboration with European and national partners.

5 *Visibility of science*

The Academy of Finland is an active science policy expert and aims to increase international awareness of science as well as the research it funds. The Academy supports the work done by Finnish researchers abroad and their involvement in joint international projects. The Academy encourages Finnish researchers to contribute to the work of international science organisations and to seek management positions in the organisation of scientific conferences.

The Academy works to promote the international visibility of Finnish research by consulting internationally known and respected experts in its application review process.

The Academy seeks to ensure that all members of the global scientific community can join in and benefit from international scientific cooperation, that scientific knowledge is universally transferred and accessible, and that science is based on common global ethics.

6 *The Academy's role in the science policy field*

In the context of its international activities, the Academy of Finland is committed to developing strategic partnerships with universities and to continuing its close collaboration with ministries, research institutes, Tekes, Sitra, and business and industry. The Academy strikes strategic partnerships with foreign funding organisations. The Academy shall continue to strengthen its active role in EU research and development and to develop its selective cooperation with major scientific powers outside Europe.

The Academy's international activities, its strategic choices and its national and international collaboration open up opportunities for researchers to engage in joint international projects, enhance the impact of Finland's international activities and bolster the competitiveness of Finnish research on a Nordic, European and global level.

The Academy shall continue to develop its international activities and to critically evaluate the outcomes, resources and impact of those activities. The Academy's Research Councils make their own priorities and strategic choices concerning their international activities.