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Quality, impact and renewal in international cooperation: Academy of Finland international policy for 2017–2021

The Academy of Finland's strategy, revised and adopted in 2015, draws attention to the quality, impact and renewal of science and research. The strategy also emphasises the importance of international engagement for high-quality science and research.

The strategy forms the basis of the Academy of Finland's international policy for 2017–2021, which was adopted by the Academy Board on 23 February 2017. The international policy has been prepared taking into account discussions with key stakeholders, the results of an extensive stakeholder survey, a background memorandum on the Academy's current international activities and an internal preparatory process. The implementation of the international policy will be supported by an action programme to be launched in 2017.

The policy is based on the premise that international engagement is an important tool for supporting and reinforcing the quality, impact and renewal of research. Though science is an inherently international activity, there is a continued need for measures to promote, diversify and expand that internationality even further. Another starting point for the policy is that the strengthening of the internationality of research requires close collaboration between researchers, research organisations and funding agencies as well as national and international actors.

In addition to collaborating with other relevant actors to advance the internationality of research, the Academy of Finland supports researchers in applying for international funding, participates in European and global organisations and networks, and disseminates information about Finnish research and the Finnish science and research system.

The Academy's international policy presents six areas, in which the Academy will take measures to promote the internationality of both Academy-funded researchers and the Finnish research and innovation system at large in 2017–2021.

- 1. The Academy of Finland promotes the internationality of research to further strengthen the quality, impact and renewal of science and research in collaboration with research organisations and other actors.** The primary responsibility for supporting the internationality of research rests with research organisations. The Academy targets its funding based on international peer review at the most talented researchers and their research projects, and at supporting the internationality of that research.
- 2. The Academy of Finland develops its funding opportunities to provide more effective support for increasingly diversified internationality.** The internationality of research can be promoted through a variety of ways, such as with joint projects, data and publications, through research visits, or by establishing international research infrastructures. In the future, digitalisation and open science will further diversify the modes of internationality. In the review of funding applications, the Academy will take into account the international merits of the applicants, underlining the fact that international collaboration reinforces the quality and impact of research as well as science renewal.

- 3. The Academy of Finland encourages international researcher mobility.** The Academy's funding can be used during the funding period for research spells abroad and for returning to Finland. International mobility is of particular importance to early-career researchers in improving the quality of their research and supporting their career development.
- 4. The Academy of Finland enhances the international competitiveness and attractiveness of Finnish research environments.** The Academy contributes to increasing the international appeal of the Finnish research and innovation system by co-funding internationally competitive research environments and infrastructures with research organizations and other relevant actors.
- 5. The Academy of Finland stresses the importance of multinational funding cooperation.** The Academy engages in international funding cooperation in particular through European and Nordic networks with a view to promoting excellent research, supporting the establishment of high-quality research infrastructures and strengthening the societal impact of research. By engaging in multinational funding cooperation, the Academy also collaborates with non-EU countries. In terms of bilateral funding cooperation, priority will be given to countries that the Academy together with other national actors and research organisations has defined as partners for active collaboration. Bilateral calls for research projects will be implemented primarily within the framework of Academy Programmes.
- 6. The Academy of Finland works with other relevant actors to increase the international visibility of Finnish research, improve the international opportunities of Finnish researchers and promote responsible research.** The Academy supports the development and visibility of research as well as promotes science diplomacy, research integrity, open science, sustainable development and global responsibility. The means to achieve this include both research funding and participation in the work of international organisations. The Academy produces data and disseminates information on Finnish research and its areas of strength. The Academy also provides continued support for researchers who are applying for international funding.

