

THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND

The Future of Living and Housing (ASU-LIVE)

RESEARCH PROGRAMME
2011–2015

Programme memorandum



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FOREWORD

In February 2007, the research community submitted to the Academy of Finland an initiative for the launch of a research programme on living and housing. The Research Council for Culture and Society took the initiative to the Academy Board in autumn 2007 and in autumn 2008. At its meeting in October 2008 where it reviewed the Academy's 2010–2013 action plan and budget, the Board decided to grant budget authority for the preparation of a research programme on the theme of the Future of Living and Housing.

A working group charged with preparing the programme and consisting of members of the Academy's Research Councils was appointed in January 2009. The working group is chaired by Research Director Päivi Hovi-Wasastjerna (Research Council for Culture and Society), and its other members are Jouni Häkli (Vice Chair, Research Council for Biosciences and Environment), Professor Kirsti Husgafvel-Pursiainen (Research Council for Health) and Professor Hannu Hänninen (Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering). The Academy's Administrative Office is represented by Science Adviser Tiina Forsman (Culture and Society Research Unit); Mikael Fogelholm, Director of the Health Research Unit; Pirjo Hiidenmaa, Director of the Culture and Society Research Unit; Science Adviser Maaria Lehtinen (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Unit); Science Adviser Kyösti Lempa (Biosciences and Environment Research Unit); and Senior Science Adviser Jaana Roos (Programme Unit).

The working group consulted outside experts at a round table meeting in March 2009. These experts were Professor Sirkka Heinonen (Finland Futures Research Centre); Research Professor Anneli Juntto (University of Kuopio); Research Professor Markus Laine (City of Helsinki); Programme Manager Mika Lautanala (Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation Tekes); Senior Architect Aila Korpivaara (Ministry of the Environment); Coordinator Kimmo Kurunmäki (University of Helsinki); Director Jukka Pekkanen (Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries); and Professor Kauko Viitanen (Helsinki University of Technology).

The working group convened five times and in June 2009 organized an exploratory workshop, which attracted an attendance of 117 scientists and researchers. They were invited to comment on the ongoing preparations of the programme and develop its themes in three working groups.

At its meeting on 3 November 2009, the Board of the Academy decided to open the first call for the Research Programme on Living and Housing (ASU-LIVE) in autumn 2010. The Board of the Academy of Finland will decide on the programme's funding in November 2010 (funding decisions regarding projects to be funded will be made in 2011). The research programme is scheduled to run for four years.

1. BACKGROUND

There is no questioning the social significance and impact of living and housing, or the importance of the changes that have happened in living and housing. Housing must be understood more broadly than simply in terms of building construction or the settlement of large masses of people. Changes in family and age structures, in lifestyles and the workplace as well as energy issues and the challenges of sustainable development have put a whole new focus on questions of living and housing. Research concerns range from social and physical spaces to virtual environments. Requirements of accessibility, sustainability and variability have gained increasing prominence in relation to living and housing. More research is needed in the field of land use, other environmental aspects of housing as well as housing renovation and repairs. Despite their prominence and importance, housing issues have received only modest basic research attention in Finland when compared to many other European countries.

Launched in response to an initiative from the research community, the subject matter of the Research Programme on Living and Housing is rooted in current interests and concerns. The people behind the initiative come from different disciplines and universities, providing from the outset a multidisciplinary background for the programme. It cuts across the fields of biosciences and environmental research, natural sciences and engineering, health research as well as cultural and social research. All these disciplines are represented in the programme, and representatives of all four Academy Research Councils have been involved in preparing the programme.

The main focus of the programme is on basic research. It is expected to have diverse and varied impacts and, importantly, to work closely with end-users of the knowledge produced and applications developers. Various background reports have been compiled on the subject. In the field of applied research the programme has close contacts, among others, with three Tekes programmes, i.e. the Built Environment Programme 2009–2014, Space 2008–2102, and Sustainable Community 20087–2012. Among the programme partners that will have immediate application for the research knowledge produced are the Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation for the Built Environment and the Uusimaa Living Business Centre of Expertise. It is expected that by identifying common research themes and promoting user-driven research, the programme will help to foster greater synergy between the various researcher partners in this field.

The research programme will also promote the international networking of housing research. In the initial planning phases cooperation has been sought with Japan, which has a well-established tradition of housing research focused on health and ageing issues.

Basic research on housing has been largely neglected and there is therefore an urgent need for this research programme. Indeed the whole field of research is in need of support and development, for there is currently no more than one professorship in Finland in housing. The research field is widely dispersed, and therefore the programme can have an important consolidating and coordinating role. Ideally, the research programme will inspire new kinds of research projects, research teams and research consortia.

Living and housing constitutes such a wide and diversified research area that the programme has to be narrowed to a specific focus. The research programme will approach the housing issue by concentrating on the individual resident. Future housing and environmental planning require forward-looking and long-term research as well as a more in-depth analysis of past developments and the current state of the art.

2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The framework and themes for the research programme have been selected with a view to covering a wide range of recent housing trends and particularly various social, economic, technological and environmental issues related to housing. Projects funded under the programme are expected to espouse a genuine multidisciplinary approach and to produce research results that have wide-ranging applicability.

As well as producing high-level scientific results, the programme is expected to further deepen the dialogue between researchers and end-users of knowledge and to raise debate about the results of basic research at as early a stage as possible. At the same time, the aim is to support and promote the immediate application of new research results. The programme will also support doctoral training and subsequent research careers within this field, promote the international networking of researchers and advance national multidisciplinary cooperation.

The scientific goals of the programme are to:

- examine future living and housing as a whole, from the resident's perspective, including a range of related topics from environmental and consumer issues to cultural factors and factors influencing residents' health
- emphasize the connections of basic research with housing practices (building construction, urban planning, housing policy, regional and community planning, etc.)
- produce internationally significant research evidence on living and housing
- strengthen multidisciplinary competencies and research environments in areas that will promote the development of housing research in Finland

The programme's research policy objectives are to:

- create new national and international research networks;
- increase the mobility of doctoral students and researchers;
- promote coordination and cooperation with other national (e.g. sectoral research institutes, Metropol research, a Strategic Centre programme on building construction) and international partners
- raise public debate on the future of housing and facilitate informed decision-making

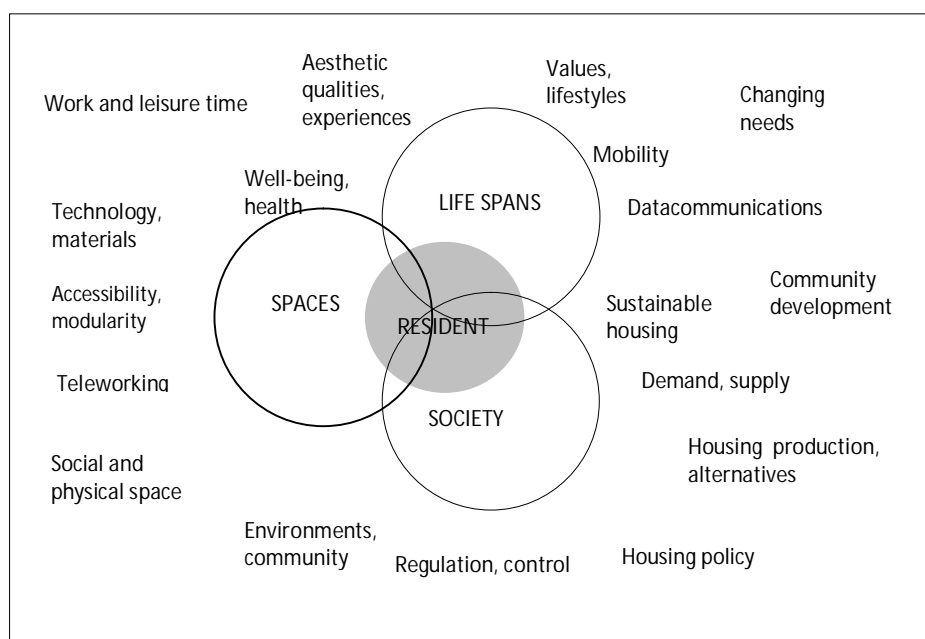
3. RESEARCH PROGRAMME'S FRAMEWORK AND THEMES

The research programme proposes to approach the future of living and housing as a substantive entity that comprises environmental issues from sustainable development to land use, logistics and services, and consumer issues from cultural needs through to health issues. Current forms of housing and housing needs have been influenced among other things by changes in family structures and in the workplace, the growth of teleworking, the development of housing prices, urbanization, population ageing, immigration and multiculturalism as well as the increasing number of holiday and second homes. The goals of ecologically and socially sustainable development have also changed housing and perceptions of good living. Along with these changes, housing planning has become an integral part of environmental planning. On the reverse

side of this coin, risks have continued to grow and escalate, instability in the housing markets has increased, the risks associated with the financing of housing have grown, social differences have increased, and poverty and even homelessness have increased.

The emphasis on user-centred housing, aesthetic values and accessibility has raised target standards for housing. At the same time, housing is increasingly impacted by social and cultural factors. People's housing needs change across the life span, and one group who are bound to assume increasing prominence in the future are active senior citizens. Internationalization and migration are generating new flows of cultural influences, which are reflected for instance in the ways in which housing is becoming part of individual self-expression. Changing housing needs are placing significant challenges most particularly on urban and regional planning, environmental engineering, architecture, housing production and the development of the resident's position as consumer. Promoting a sense of community in the living environment is also central to the development of modern housing.

The Research Programme on the Future of Living and Housing is structured around three closely related themes: lifespans, spaces and society. These themes and their interconnections locate the key subject areas in which the programme is expected to produce significant research results. The concept of housing as applied in the programme ties together questions of housing through to urban and regional planning, political decision-making and its impacts. However the main focus throughout is on the individual resident. It follows that the programme excludes such research questions that are concerned purely with construction techniques, material properties or, say, indoor air quality. It is expected that the research in the programme is multidisciplinary and people-oriented.



The future challenges of housing stem largely from the requirements of sustainable social and environmental development. In terms of people's everyday choices and the tools available to social regulation, the most effective solutions for reducing the carbon dioxide load, for example, are related to housing energy needs, housing choices, commuting between residence and place of work, travel during leisure and the development of the community structure. These phenomena are related to one another in

complex ways, and in order to intervene effectively it is important to have advance knowledge about both immediate and longer-term changes as well as their impacts on the environment and well-being.

A broad overview is needed of many of the social, ecological and housing market impacts of housing policy, because many buildings can be used for up to centuries. The renovation and development of existing residential areas (in many countries 1960s and 1970s concrete high rise suburbs are a serious problem) present a huge challenge from both a policy and research point of view, and are closely tied up with regional differentiation. Any changes are bound to happen slowly, for the annual building stock turnover rate is no more than around one per cent. This underscores the importance of long-term planning responsibilities and opens up a perspective on sustainable housing development as an intergenerational issue.

Urbanization and the tendencies towards increasing or decreasing urban density also tie up the housing issue with environmental questions. It is necessary to assess how successfully housing, environmental and economic objectives have been coordinated in Finland and what sort of objectives and measures are viable and sensible. Research knowledge is needed, among other things, on the impacts of the mechanisms used to control land supply and land use (particularly legislation and planning), on households' housing choices, decisions on location, housing costs, transport and service choices and consumption structures.

Research on housing is often focused on building construction, but in the future it is important that more attention is given to living, to what goes on inside dwellings and houses and within residential areas. In particular, more information is needed on cultural meanings in relation to living, on how those meanings shape people's choices and solutions. A closer understanding is needed of how the lifespans of buildings, housing and people intersect one another. Not enough work has been done to research the increasing impact of immigration and internal migration. Cultural issues and the modularity of housing are highlighted when living and housing is approached from the point of view of different population groups and the lifestyles of different age groups. The aims of various housing development concepts such as group building are being shaped by new ideas of living, space design and the need for resident involvement. At the same time, these concepts also reflect prevailing values and influences. To create a sustainable foundation for future living, it is necessary to gain a closer understanding of the significance of value choices to residents' activities and consumption behaviour. Research evidence is also needed about the impact of the aesthetic environment on people's well-being and housing-related health. Good planning is paramount.

Housing-related health depends most crucially on such factors as the location of the dwelling, good and accessible transport connections, the modularity and multifunctionality of housing, technological solutions, technological ease of use, and easy access to sports and other leisure activities. It is also important that various groups of residents have access to the home services they require.

One of the most critical areas of housing-related health in Finland is the quality of indoor air and related health hazards and illnesses. In addition to research into health hazards, more work is needed to understand the role of good planning, construction, renovation, the right materials choices and training in the prevention of health hazards. Older people, other special needs groups and people discharged from health care to home and receiving rehabilitation at home are some of the groups whose housing-related

needs must be identified. The need for research into safety and ergonomic planning and its importance to independent living in the community is underscored by the fact that the majority of people aged 85 or over live in regular housing.

For more and more people today, the place where they live is at once their home and their place of work. In the future increasing numbers will work from home either part-time or full-time, and this places very special requirements on the design and use of space at home. There is as yet a relative scarcity of research into teleworking from home, into what it requires of the space and what it means to the individual resident.

Multidisciplinary research into the future of housing has a broad foundation in society, culture, the environment and technology. The Research Programme on the Future of Housing will aim to cover all these aspects in as coherent a fashion as possible, focusing specifically on the individual resident.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Programme funding

The Future of Living and Housing research programme (ASU-LIVE) is funded by the Academy of Finland and coordinated at the Academy by a programme manager. The programme is planned to run for four years with funding to be provided during 2011–2015. The Board of the Academy of Finland will decide on the programme's funding in November 2010. Within the programme, the Academy will fund multidisciplinary research carried out by research projects and consortia. A consortium is a fixed-term set of independent sub-projects that are steered by a joint research plan. Through systematic cooperation, a consortium aims to generate greater added value than what is achieved through normal, independent projects.

4.2 National cooperation

Within the ASU-LIVE programme, the Academy of Finland will cooperate with Tekes' programme Spaces and Places (TILA). The focus of the TILA programme is on changing user needs in spaces and places for housing, working, learning, trading, wellbeing, entertainment and industry. This makes the programme thematically closely related to the ASU-LIVE programme¹.

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The ASU-LIVE programme also has thematic links to the sub-committees of the Government's Advisory Board for Sectoral Research², specifically to the Sub-committee on Regional and Community Structures and Infrastructures, but also to the Sub-committees on Sustainable Development, and Knowhow, Work and Well-being. Following the basic principles of sectoral research, projects that will serve common information and knowledge needs and the practical decision-making of ministries on a commission basis are funded within the programme structure. If the sub-committees fund projects that would fit into the thematic scope of the ASU-LIVE programme, these projects can be incorporated into the research programme as associate

¹ <http://akseli.tekes.fi/opencms/opencms/OhjelmaPortaali/ohjelmat/Tila/en/etusivu.html>

² www.minedu.fi/OPM/Tiede/setu/?lang=en

members. As far as possible, the research programme will also cooperate with the Department of Built Environment of the Ministry of the Environment.

The Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation, specifically the Built Environment Innovations (Rym-SHOK), cover development areas that are related to the future of living and housing. When possible, the ASU-LIVE programme will cooperate with the Strategic Centre Rym-SHOK, which is preparing three research programmes under the themes computer-modelled business operation processes, interior environment and energy-efficient community concepts.³

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4.3 International cooperation

The ASU-LIVE programme aims to establish cooperation with research funding agencies in countries that carry out high-standard research that is of interest to Finnish research on living and housing. The core joint call with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), implemented in January 2010 on the basis of a bilateral agreement, is closely related to the programme's thematic scope. The theme of the call was 'the future of living and housing'. In accordance with the agreement, the Academy of Finland and the JSPS will fund up to four two-year Finnish-Japanese research projects that can be incorporated into the ASU-LIVE programme. In addition to cooperation with Japan, the ASU-LIVE programme also aims to launch a bilateral call with the Netherlands, Sweden or Canada, for instance.

Joint Programming is a new approach designed to expand cooperation in research and funding in Europe in an attempt to strengthen the European Research Area. The point of departure for the activities is to respond to 'grand' European and global challenges through high-quality research. Joint Programming means broad-based preparation and implementation of extensive coherent bodies of research. Cooperation will be realised through existing forms, such as nationally funded research programmes. One of the themes highlighted in this context is 'the city of the future', which is thematically quite closely related to the ASU-LIVE programme. The Academy of Finland and Tekes will follow the development of Joint Programming.

4.4 Timetable

The Academy will fund individual projects and consortium projects for up to four years (2011–2015). The funding period will start on 1 September 2011 at the latest and end on 31 August 2015 at the latest.

The programme call will be organised in two stages. The letters of intent to be submitted at the first stage are to be drafted as short plans. The letters of intent shall be submitted to the Academy's online services no later than 29 October 2010 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable. The programme steering group will make a proposal to the sub-committee on projects that on the basis of the letters of intent would best fit in with the programme's thematic areas and objectives. The projects selected to proceed to the second stage will be announced by early December 2010. Applicants who are requested to

³ www.rymshok.fi

submit full applications shall draft a complete research plan and submit it to the Academy's online services no later than 31 January 2011 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable. On the basis of the scientific review of the applications and considering the programme objectives, the programme steering group will prepare a proposal to the programme sub-committee on the projects to be funded. The programme sub-committee will make the funding decisions in June 2011.

Any other international calls and joint calls will be carried out according to a timetable to be agreed upon separately with the funding partners.

4.5 Programme steering group

The steering group of the research programme comprises members of the Academy's Research Councils, representatives of stakeholders and expert members. Other experts may also be invited to contribute to the steering group's meetings.

The composition of the programme steering group

Chair:

Professor Jouni Häkli, Research Council for Biosciences and Environment, Academy of Finland

Vice Chairs:

Professor Pauline von Bonsdorff, Research Council for Culture and Society, Academy of Finland

Members:

Professor Kirsti Husgafvel-Pursiainen, Research Council for Health, Academy of Finland

Professor Erno Keskinen, Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering, Academy of Finland

Expert members:

Professor Bo Bengtsson, University of Uppsala

Research Director Päivi Hovi-Wasastjerna, Aalto University

Programme Manager Sampsa Nissinen, Tekes

Research Director Anssi Salonen, Built Environment Innovations (RYM-SHOK)

Senior Architect Aulis Tynkkynen, Ministry of the Environment

The duties of the programme steering group are:

- to prepare the programme and submit to the programme sub-committee a proposal on projects to be funded;
- to make a proposal to Academy Research Councils on any additional calls and/or additional funding;
- to steer and monitor the programme;
- to steer and support programme coordination;
- to plan and organise the final evaluation of the programme; and
- to promote the application of the programme's research results.

4.6 Programme coordination

The research programme strives to support and promote the development of the selected projects into a coherent and cohesive structure through active information exchange and cooperation. Programme coordination is responsible for ensuring this development, and works together with the projects to promote the attainment of the objectives set for the programme. The aim is to ensure that the projects reinforce each other and that the programme can generate new multidisciplinary research knowledge. Consequently, the principal investigators of the projects selected to take part in the programme will be required to commit themselves to the programme objectives and to cooperate actively throughout the programme and during programme evaluation.

The principal investigators of the projects taking part in the programme shall:

- assume responsibility for and report on the scientific progress of the project and the use of the funds according to the instructions of the programme manager and relevant funding bodies;
- see to that the whole research team attends all meetings, seminars and workshops organised by the programme coordinator and facilitate exchange of information and cooperation between the research teams in the programme;
- take part in producing reviews, syntheses and information material around the research programme; and
- actively disseminate information about the programme's progress and results on public and scientific forums.

During the course of the programme, the research projects will participate in events arranged with the end-users of the research results and in any other activities designed to provide information to stakeholders.

The steering group and the programme manager appointed by the Academy of Finland are responsible for programme coordination. A project officer from the Academy will act as secretary to the steering group.

4.7 Final evaluation

The implementation and results of the research programme will be evaluated upon programme completion. The implementation of the evaluation will be planned in detail as the programme progresses, but the evaluation is likely to consider at least the following aspects:

- attainment of objectives;
- implementation (coordination, role of the programme steering group, participation in the programme);
- scientific quality of programme output;
- results and impact, integration of results and synthesis at programme level;
- evidence of the scientific, social and economic impacts pursued by the programme;
- researcher training and advancement of research careers;
- national and international cooperation; and
- communications.

The evaluation may be carried out as part of a more extensive evaluation of several of the Academy's research programmes together or of national programmes, and in cooperation with other national actors.

The research teams receiving funding are required to report on the progress of their projects on an annual basis in accordance with the decision of the programme steering group, and to submit a final report to the Academy of Finland upon project completion. The reports shall include information on, for example, scientific publications produced and theses and doctoral dissertations completed within the programme.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

The research programme has a two-stage call. Letters of intent shall be submitted to the Academy's online services no later than 29 October 2010 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable.

Applications with appendices are drafted in English at www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > Log in to online services. Select *New application* > The Future of Living and Housing.

Projects to be invited to submit their full applications will be selected on the basis of the plans of intent by early December 2010. Applicants who are requested to submit full applications will be required to submit their applications to the Academy's online services no later than 31 January 2011 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable.

Applications for funding from the programme can be submitted by consortia composed of two or more research teams. The application procedure takes place in two stages. The following guidelines shall be complied with in applications for Academy funding:

1. The guidelines applicable to all calls announced in the Academy's October 2010 call for applications
2. Detailed guidelines for submitting applications: www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > How to apply > Guidelines
3. Detailed guidelines on the structure and length of appendices: www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > How to apply > Appendices
4. This programme memorandum.

The Academy of Finland applies the full cost model to research programme funding. The full cost model affects the way funding applications and funding decisions are made, how funding is used and the way use of funds is reported. For more information, see www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > How to apply > Full cost model.

5.1 Letters of intent

The Academy's online services opens on 4 October 2010 and letters of intent shall be submitted online no later than 29 October 2010 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable. Only the requested appendices are appended to the application and they shall be drafted in accordance with the Academy's guidelines.

The evaluation criteria for applications at the letter of intent stage are how the project ties in with the topic of the programme, how the programme objectives are to be realised as well as the project proposal's novelty and applicability. The Academy will make decisions by early December 2010 on projects that will be requested to submit full applications. The Academy will post information on the decisions on its website and notify the applicants of the decision in writing.

Letter of intent of the principal investigator of the project:

- online application form

Appendices:

- plan of intent, no more than four pages
- curriculum vitae for the principal investigator, no more than four pages
- list of publications for the principal investigator; clearly indicate the ten most important publications in terms of the proposed research plan.

Consortia

Only the consortium leader submits a letter of intent.

Appendices:

- plan of intent of the consortium, no more than six pages
- curricula vitae for the consortium leader and the principal investigators of the sub-projects, combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher
- lists of publications for the consortium leader and the principal investigators of the sub-projects, combined as one document; clearly indicate the ten most important publications in terms of the proposed research plan for each sub-project principal investigator.

5.2 Full applications

For projects invited to the second application stage, the online services will open on 10 January 2011, and the application deadline is 31 January 2011 at 16.15. The application deadline is non-negotiable.

Only the requested appendices are appended to the application and they shall be drafted in accordance with the Academy's guidelines.

Individual projects

Full application of the principal investigator of the project

- online application form

Appendices:

- abstract, no more than one page
- research plan, no more than 15 pages
- curriculum vitae for the principal investigator, no more than four pages
- list of publications for the principal investigator; clearly indicate the ten most important publications in terms of the proposed research plan
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation, if relevant.

- progress report by the principal investigator on his/her Academy-funded research projects for which no final reports have been submitted, combined as one document
- invitation from a foreign university or research institute, if the research will be conducted abroad
- if the application is directly affiliated with a Strategic Centre, the applicant shall state this and attach a statement by the executive director of the Strategic Centre

Consortia

Full application of the consortium leader

- online application form in which funding is applied only for the consortium leader's own research team.

Appendices:

- abstract drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than one page
- research plan drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than 15 pages
- curricula vitae for the consortium leader and the principal investigators of each sub-project, combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher
- lists of publications for the consortium leader and the principal investigators of each sub-project, combined as one document; clearly indicate the ten most important publications in terms of the proposed research plan for each sub-project principal investigator
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation, if relevant.
- progress report by the consortium leader and the principal investigators of the sub-projects on their Academy-funded research projects for which no final reports have been submitted, combined as one document
- invitation from a foreign university or research institute, if the research will be conducted abroad
- if the application is directly affiliated with a Strategic Centre, the applicant shall state this and attach a statement by the executive director of the Strategic Centre

Application of the principal investigator of a sub-project to the consortium

- online application form in which funding is applied only for the research team of the principal investigator of a sub-project
- no appendices are appended to the application of a sub-project. The consortium leader will collect all appendices of the consortium as part of his/her application.

5.3 Evaluation criteria

An international panel of experts will review the scientific level of the applications. The evaluation criteria include:

- project/consortium compatibility with the research programme;
- scientific quality and innovativeness of the research plan;

- feasibility of the research plan;
- national and international networks of the research and researcher mobility;
- researcher training and advancement of the research environment;
- competence and expertise of the applicant/research team/consortium; and
- promotion of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research.

The detailed evaluation guidelines for experts reviewing applications are available on the Academy's website at www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > Reviewing applications.

6. MORE INFORMATION

This programme memorandum is available on the Academy of Finland website at www.aka.fi/live

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