

**THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE (SKIDI-KIDS)**

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

2010-2013

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1. Introduction

In autumn 2006, the Research Council for Health presented a research programme dealing with the health and welfare of children and young people, which the Research Council for Culture and Society was tasked with supporting. Of the initiatives submitted to the Academy for consideration in 2007, seven dealt with subjects related to childhood and the health and well-being of children. The initiative was granted negotiating power on 20 November 2007 for the further development of the subject. On 12 December 2007, the Academy of Finland organised a round-table discussion on the research programme, and on 13 February 2008, it organised an open research workshop at the Paasitorni Congress Centre in Helsinki.

On 26 February 2008, a preparatory working group was appointed for the programme to draw up a proposal for its start-up, and to study other possible national and international sources of funding that might be interested in financially supporting the programme. The Chairperson of the programme's preparatory working group is Professor Mikael Knip (Research Council for Health), the Deputy Chair is Professor Katariina Salmela-Aro (Research Council for Culture and Society), and the members are Professor Helena Gylling (Research Council for Health) and Professor Pekka Ruohotie (Research Council for Culture and Society). Directors Riitta Mustonen, Mikael Fogelholm and Pirjo Hiidenmaa also took part in the preparation of the programme, accompanied by Programme Managers Sirkku Saarikoski and Jukka Reivinen, Science Adviser Maiju Gyran and Project Officer Sanna Vitikainen. During the group's term of office, external consultants also participated in it.

At its meeting on 11 November 2008, the Academy's Board decided to launch the Research Programme for the Health and Welfare of Children and Young People (SKIDI-KIDS), and to allocate 8.5 million euros from the 2009 budget to programme funding.

2. Background and reasons for the programme

The development of children's welfare is part of childhood, which is changing socially and culturally. Children's environments and communities differ significantly from the environments in which previous generations grew up. The opportunities to take into account the needs of children and young people as defined by themselves have fundamentally increased as economic well-being has strengthened. UNICEF and the EU have compared the welfare of children in prosperous countries. According to reports, the situation in Finland is quite good, although the country is amongst the weaker ones in comparisons in relation to risky behaviour, such as the frequency of the use of intoxicants. Finland was also poorly positioned in the comparison of children's eating habits, physical activity and weight development. Furthermore, negative development was noted in Finnish children's relationships with family and friends and in their enjoyment of school.

There are indications of an increase in child inequality in Finland. A growing number of children and young people are in danger of being excluded from a balanced and satisfactory childhood, which will also affect their chances of achieving a good quality of life as adults. At

the same time, they are also at risk of being excluded from vocational training and working life. The values and attitudes concerning well-being and health, life styles, behavioural models and the factors that affect them are absorbed during childhood. The role of education as a preventer of marginalisation is a key factor, but its operating mechanisms may also produce and strengthen inequality. In the final evaluation of the Research Programme for Health and Other Welfare Differences between Population Groups (TERO, 1998-2000), the evaluation panel considered that research into the causes of inequality in health and welfare would be very important in the future. *Studying the causes of inequality and marginalisation in a research-based way is a theme running right through this research programme.*

Finnish young people are repeatedly very successful in comparative studies such as PISA that measure intellectual ability, but, at the same time, there are strong indications of school exhaustion and deficiencies in children's well-being at school. It has also been estimated that there is an increasingly large number of children in need of different support systems, which indicates that growth environments do not always support children sufficiently. Inequality and marginalisation in childhood can lead to serious negative multiplicative effects, the economic, social and human costs of which are considerable, both for the individual and the whole of society.

The aim of this programme dealing with the growth, well-being and health of children is to gather together a critical mass of research challenges on the themes of the research programme for diverse and extensive examination. As far as health is concerned, this programme concentrates particularly on health during childhood, the promotion of health, the risks threatening it, and social and societal factors affecting it.

In this programme, childhood is defined as encompassing the start of the life cycle from birth to the end of adolescence. Although the exact timing of adolescence is an individual matter, it is generally considered to end at the age of about 18. From a point of view of possible follow-up research, the upper age limit can be interpreted flexibly for reasons of expediency.

3. Aims of the programme

- to support high-quality research and researcher training targeted at children's health and welfare;
- to support comprehensive research into the factors both promoting and hindering children's positive development;
- through research, to study inequality in child health and welfare and the causes of marginalisation, and to look at ways of changing this trend;
- to promote interdisciplinary cooperation, cooperation between research groups, a multidisciplinary approach and an overall view of children's health and welfare;
- to gather together fragmented research capacity to create broad research environments;
- to promote the networking of researchers, both nationally and internationally;
- to collect high-quality research materials and promote their general use;

- to promote research projects in which children can actively participate.

4. Research themes

The programme contains three research themes, which should not be viewed independently but as mutually supporting fields of research. It is hoped that the programme will attract projects that cover several themes. It is also hoped that the programme will attract multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects.

The research data produced in the programme should help in the overall understanding and development of the welfare of children and their families on many levels (everyday family life, the decision-makers, service systems) and in the creation of simple and effective indicators to measure well-being. Through the programme it will also be possible to develop new, multi-formed research methods, by which the individual voices and views of children, for example, can be highlighted in research into health and welfare. So it is hoped that the programme will also attract projects in which children can actively participate.

4.1. Environments of childhood growth and development

In order to promote child health and welfare, research is needed, which produces an understanding of childhood growth environments and the factors that affect them. Here the term 'growth environment' is understood broadly, and includes physical, psychological, social and cultural environments, amongst others.

Subjects for the theme might include:

- the changing of children's social standing
- the diversification of the cultural background of society, immigration
- change in media environment
- the effect of the family's situation on children
- physical and psychological violence experienced by children
- the significance of daycare and school on children's well-being
- the significance of community spirit on development
- learning difficulties
- the significance of urban planning on children's well-being.

4.2. Service systems

Development work and research into service systems do not complement each other as best they could, because research is fragmented and so does not support service development. In order to develop service systems, research into the effectiveness and evaluation of systems is required. The research methods used for research on effectiveness, evaluation and

intervention also need development work. Research methods should also be developed from the perspective of the object of research, so that the voice of the child is heard.

Subjects for the themes might include:

- the fair allocation of services regionally and in different population groups
- the cost-effectiveness of services
- availability, use and efficiency of primary services
- the identification and early support of children and families requiring special help
- children's crises
- the significance of new technology in the development of service systems

4.3. Challenges for children's health and the promotion of health

Research into children's health is currently rather problem- and illness-based, concentrating sometimes only on the investigation of a limited phenomenon rather than promoting health in a wider sense. Comprehensive information on a population level on the state of children's health is just not available. Many of the risk factors in the physical and psychosocial development of children are unknown, because research is currently mostly segmented according to the prevailing division of disciplines. Challenges for the promotion of children's health include how to make negative development trends positive and which factors affect development.

Subjects for the theme might include:

- obesity, diabetes and metabolic syndrome
- the causes and prevention of the development of chronic illness in children and young people
- the causes and prevention of mental health problems such as depression and eating disorders
- the significance of genotype in health and health-related behaviour
- the significance of healthy lifestyles, including exercise and good nutrition
- intoxicant use
- the impact of psychological factors on somatic health

5. Programme implementation

5.1. Programme funding

The research programme will be implemented over four years, so the bulk of it will take place between 2010 and 2013. The Academy's Board has reserved 8.5 million euros for its implementation. The Finnish and international sources of funding cooperating with the programme will make their own independent funding decisions on the basis of negotiations

held with the SKIDI-KIDS programme steering group. A second call for applications for international cooperation in the programme may be organised in 2010. The details of the call for applications will be published later on the programme's website.

5.2. National funding cooperation

Funding cooperation for the programme has been agreed with the Ministry of Education and the Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation.

5.2.1. Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is involved in the Research Programme for Children's Health and Welfare from a viewpoint of **sports science research**. Sports policy particularly stresses physical activity for children and young people.

The role of physical exercise as a factor in the promotion of children's health and well-being is fundamental. **The Ministry of Education is hoping for innovative sports research from all three programme themes.** Through the programme, the Ministry of Education is seeking solid, comprehensive research data at a population level on the state of children's physical activity behaviour and overall physical activity, and on the impact of physical activity on children's overall well-being, including physical, psychological and social aspects.

The potential of physical exercise in the promotion of children's well-being is not only to do with health economics. It would be desirable to obtain research data on physical exercise as a factor in children's happiness and life management, from a point of view of the community and psychological well-being. The Ministry of Education considers it important that the programme takes into account children's participation, child-friendliness and a perspective of equality in a broad sense.

Sports may be children's favourite pastime, but polarisation has taken place in their overall activity and sporting behaviour. With a view to their health and well-being, some Finnish children exercise too little. It is hoped that research into physical exercise will provide new openings to increase the overall activity of children. The aim of the Ministry of Education is to improve the knowledge base and monitoring of the state of children's physical activity, and factors that help promote it or hinder it. Children's sporting environments are created to a significant extent by their families, daycare centres, schools and other educational institutions, sports clubs and different hobby groups. Children also take part in sports on their own initiative and independently of institutions. The Ministry of Education needs research data on the factors bringing change to children's sporting behaviour, on the extent of youth sports culture and on how children's sports organisations are targeting children's desire to indulge in physical activity. Research data is also needed on physical exercise for children under school age.

The Ministry of Education sees the programme as a significant opportunity to gather together expertise in child research, and to increase awareness on a national level of

children's health and welfare. The Ministry of Education also considers it a very important aim for the programme to promote cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach between different disciplines and research groups.

Additional information:

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5.2.2. The Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation

The purpose of the Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation is to support medical research and related research in the natural sciences, especially on the impact of psychological factors on physical condition and somatic health. Consequently, the Foundation chiefly supports research on psychosomatic disorders.

The Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation has joined forces with the Research Programme on the Health and Welfare of Children and Young People because it wishes to support research of a high standard that aims to promote the health and welfare of children and young people in a variety of different ways. The Foundation hopes for creative interdisciplinary research projects that strive to investigate the phenomena and structures that underpin the health and welfare of children and young people.

5.3. International funding cooperation

The research programme is involved in funding cooperation with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Canadian province of Alberta, and the Alberta-based Norlien Foundation (see Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 below). The Academy of Finland will fund research teams in Finland, with or without international collaboration. Joint projects with Canada consisting of team(s) from Finland and team(s) from Canada are, however, strongly encouraged.

In 2009, the Academy of Finland's Research Council for Culture and Society will possibly launch a bilateral call for applications concerning research on learning and education together with the Chilean research funding agency the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT). Projects funded through this joint call may be eligible to join the SKIDI-KIDS programme later on if their content is in line with the programme's themes.

5.3.1. Cooperation with Canada

The Research Programme is coordinated by the Academy of Finland and implemented jointly by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Norlien Foundation, the Alberta

Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (ACCFR), and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR).

For CIHR, the following Institutes are involved: the Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) – the Institute of Gender and Health (IGH); and the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA).

Through the programme, Finnish and Canadian research teams (i.e. international consortia) can apply jointly for funding for bilateral projects. Each funding body will support the research teams based within their own country. The total amount available from the Canadian partners is CAD 5.2 million over four years, beginning in January 2010. This amount may increase if additional funding partners decide to participate. The maximum amount for a single team grant is CAD 350,000 per year for a maximum of four years. CIHR and AHFMR contribution will pertain only to the project component that is carried out in Canada and relevant to CIHR-Institutes and AHFMR mandate and research priorities. The Norlien Foundation and the ACCFCR will fund only the project component that is carried out in Alberta and relevant to their respective mandate and research priorities.

The purpose of this programme is to create new knowledge that will provide new insights, explain mechanisms, evaluate preventive interventions, and improve the evidence base necessary to optimize clinical practice and policy decisions affecting mental health and addiction in children and youth.

The Canadian partners will support integrated multidisciplinary international teams of scientists to elucidate important research questions concerning the early origins of mental illness and addiction; the impact of daycare and other early child care environments on behavioural problems, mental health, and addiction; access to mental health, social, and educational services; and the population health impact of changes in psychotropic drug use in children and youth.

The CIHR-IHDCYH, CIHR-IGH, CIHR-INMHA, the Norlien Foundation, the ACCFCR, and the AHFMR will provide funding for applications that are determined to be relevant to the following research areas:

A - Early origins of mental illness

- Preconceptional, pregnancy, and early childhood influences on neurobehavioral development and mental illness in children and youth
- Neural mechanisms underlying the effects of the social environment on cognitive and behavioural development in children and youth
- Epigenetic effects of social environment during brain development
- Interactions of genes and early social environment on neurobehavioral development and mental illness in children and youth
- Family and community risk factors (including maternal mental health, domestic violence, recent immigration, and homelessness) for behavioural disorders and mental illness in children and youth
- Early-life interventions to prevent mental illness and behavioural disorders

B - Early origins of addiction

- Links between intrauterine exposure to alcohol (FASD), cigarette smoking, and drugs of addiction and later addictive behaviours
- Neural mechanisms underlying the effects of the social environment on later addictive behaviours
- Preconceptional, pregnancy, and early childhood influences on later addictive behaviors
- The roles of genetics, epigenetics, and gene-environment interactions in the development of addictive behaviours
- Family and community risk factors (including maternal mental health, exposure to domestic violence and other adverse experiences and chronic stressors, recent immigration, and homelessness) for later addictive behaviours
- Early-life interventions to prevent addictive behaviours

C – Early child care environment

- Impact of daycare and other early child care environment on behavioural development, mental illness, and addiction
- Child, family, and community characteristics and interventions that increase or reduce the risk of subsequent mental health and addiction

D - Access to mental health, social, and educational services for children and youth with mental illness, addiction, and behaviour problems

- Interventions to improve access to treatment and support services provided by mental health professionals, social workers, and educators
- Interventions to reduce wait times for evaluation, referral, treatment, and support
- Socioeconomic, language, and other barriers to access to care and services

E - Pharmacoepidemiology of psychotropic drug use in children and youth with mental illness and behavioural problems

- Effects of changes in antidepressant use on suicide rates
- Patterns of stimulant medication use and their associations with behavior, school performance, and social adaptation

CIHR-IHDCYH and CIHR-INMHA will support research in any of the 5 themes outlined above.

CIHR-IGH will support any application that explicitly includes an examination of sex differences or gender influences or both.

Norlien Foundation will support research in theme B only.

ACCFCR will support research in themes C and D; and may support knowledge mobilization activities related to themes A and B.

AHFMR will support research in themes A, B, D, and E

If an application is deemed relevant to more than one Canadian partner, the corresponding partners may consider co-funding the project to maximize the number of funded applications.

Please note that to foster Finnish-Canadian team development, CIHR-IHDCYH and the Academy of Finland will provide a list of researchers from both countries working in the area of mental health and addiction in children and youth.

5.3.2. Canadian funding bodies

CIHR is Canada's major federal funding agency for health research. Its objective is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system.

CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (CIHR-IHDCYH)

CIHR-IHDCYH promotes and supports research that improves the health and development of mothers, infants, children, youth and families in Canada and throughout the world. Through our support, researchers address a wide range of health concerns, including those associated with reproduction, early development, childhood, adolescence.

CIHR Institute of Gender and Health (CIHR-IGH)

CIHR-IGH is committed to research excellence related to the influence of gender and sex on the health of women and men throughout life, and to advancing the use of this research to address pressing health challenges.

CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions (CIHR-INMHA)

CIHR-INMHA supports research to enhance mental health, neurological health, vision, hearing, and cognitive functioning and to reduce the burden of related disorders through prevention strategies, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support systems, and palliation.

Norlien Foundation

The Norlien Foundation's Alberta Family Wellness Initiative is a catalyst for concrete action by changing the way Albertans understand and approach childhood development and its life-long impact on addiction and other negative health outcomes. The Initiative connects Albertans with the best knowledge available about experience-based brain development related to childhood development, addiction and health through relationship building, knowledge translation and dissemination, professional development, applied research, and evaluation.

Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (ACCFRC)

The Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research is an innovative resource that develops and mobilizes priority research evidence into policy. The Centre focuses on

research themes that are relevant to: early childhood development, middle childhood and youth well being, family capacity building, community capacity building and tracking long-term outcomes.

The Centre also manages The Child and Youth Data Laboratory, the world's first lab to focus exclusively on a population of children and youth. The CYDL will substantially advance our understanding of the impact of, and need for, government policies and programs to improve child health and well being.

Because children and their families in Alberta share fundamental needs with children living elsewhere, our research has relevancy and impact that extends to outside of Alberta, thus making The Centre an innovative nexus for the most important issues for children.

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR)

AHFMR supports a community of researchers who generate knowledge whose application improves the health and quality of life of Albertans and people throughout the world. The long-term commitment is to fund health research based on international standards of excellence and carried out by new and established investigators and researchers in training.

5.4. Timetable

The application process is divided into two stages. Letters of intent are to be submitted to the Academy of Finland by 30 January 2009, by 16:15 at the latest. The programme steering group will then select the projects from among the letters of intent that best fit the programme's scientific quality, aims and profile. The projects selected will be invited to submit their full applications by 15 May 2009 by 16:15 at the latest. International consortia selected to send a full application will also be invited to attend a mini-research symposium (on 25-26 March 2009) aimed at facilitating Finnish-Canadian team interactions and helping the teams to elaborate their joint research proposal. The funding period of the projects selected for funding will begin on 1 January 2010.

5.5. Programme executive group

The programme executive group is composed of Academy Research Council members, representatives of other funding bodies participating in the programme and expert members. Other experts may also be invited to contribute to the executive group's meetings. The composition of the programme executive group will be available in January 2009 on the programme website at www.aka.fi/SKIDI-KIDS.

The duties of the programme executive group are:

- to steer and monitor the programme,
- to prepare the process for evaluating applications,

- to submit a proposal to the responsible funding bodies concerning the projects to be funded,
- to submit proposals for supplementary calls for applications and/or additional funding to the Research Councils and other funding bodies if necessary,
- to submit proposals for projects to be added to the programme at a later date,
- to plan and organise the final evaluation of the programme,
- to steer and support programme coordination,
- to promote the utilisation of research results.

5.6. Programme coordination

The aim of the programme is to help the research projects involved develop into a coherent and cohesive structure through active exchange of information and collaboration. The leaders of the projects selected to take part will therefore be required to commit themselves to the goals of the programme and to cooperate actively throughout the programme and during the programme evaluation. The responsible leaders 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 funds according to the instructions of the programme manager and relevant funding bodies (including annual reports and final reports);
- ensure that the responsible leader and the whole research team attend all meetings, seminars and workshops organised by the programme, and facilitate exchange of information and cooperation between the research teams in the programme;
- take part in producing reviews, syntheses and information material on the research programme; and
- actively disseminate information about the programme's progress and results on public and scientific forums.

In cooperation with the projects involved, the programme manager of the research programme seeks to promote the implementation of the aims set for the programme. The programme manager coordinates the flow of information, promotes researcher cooperation between the projects and establishes social and scientific contacts both at home and abroad. Key means of communication include joint seminars, workshops, researcher training events and electronic media.

The Programme is coordinated by the Academy of Finland and Programme Manager Jukka Reivinen in cooperation with the other funding bodies involved.

5.7. Final evaluation

The implementation and results of the research programme will be evaluated upon completion of the programme. The aspects to be considered by an international expert group in the final evaluation include:

- Attainment of the programme's objectives
- Added value generated by the programme
- Scientific quality of the programme output
- National and international cooperation
- Researcher training and the advancement of research careers
- Scientific, social and economic impacts of the programme
- Implementation of the research programme (preparation, funding decisions, coordination, role of steering group, programme activities)
- Communications

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

6. Application procedure and project evaluation criteria

The call for applications is open both to individual research teams and to consortia made up of several research teams. This is a two-stage call. Finnish researchers are encouraged to initiate cooperation with Canadian research teams, though this is not an unconditional requirement for receiving funding. Funding applications submitted to the Academy are required to comply with:

- 1) The general guidelines applicable to all calls that will be given in the Academy of Finland's January 2009 call
- 2) The detailed guidelines on submitting an application that are available under www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > How to apply > Guidelines
- 3) The detailed information on the format and length of appendices that is available under www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > How to apply > Appendices
- 4) This research programme memorandum.

6.1. Letters of intent

The Academy's online service will open for applications on 19 January 2009 and **letters of intent shall be submitted via the online service no later than 30 January 2009 by 16:15**. The application deadline is strict. The evaluation criteria for letters of intent are how well the project ties in with the topic of the research programme, its contribution to realisation of the programme objectives and the project proposal's innovative value and applicability. The Academy will select the applicants that are invited to submit a full application by the beginning of March 2009. The Academy will post information on the selection on its website and notify applicants of its decision in writing.

Applications and appendices shall be written in English and submitted via the Academy's online service at www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > Log in to online services. Select *New application* > "SKIDI-KIDS letters of intent".

6.1.1. Letter of intent by one research team

- Online application form

Appendices to the application:

- a plan of intent, no more than four pages in length
- the CV of the responsible project leader, no more than four pages
- the list of publications of the responsible project leader, with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated.

6.1.2. Letter of intent by a consortium

Finnish consortium:

- Online application form

Appendices to the application:

- the consortium's plan of intent, no more than six pages in length
- curricula vitae for the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects, combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher
- lists of publications of the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects, combined as one document, with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated for each leader of a sub-project.

Finnish-Canadian consortium:

Finnish-Canadian consortium has to prepare a joint letter of intent. The Finnish consortium leader will then submit the letter of intent via the online services of the Academy of Finland.

- Online application form

Appendices to the application:

- the consortium's plan of intent (research program), no more than six pages in length.
- curricula vitae for the Finnish consortium leader, as well as the responsible leaders of the sub-projects (Finnish and Canadian co-applicants), combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher. For Canadian researchers, please also include information on grants held (source, type, title, amount/year, and duration)

- lists of publications of the Finnish consortium leader, as well as the responsible leaders of the sub-projects (Finnish and Canadian co-applicants), combined as one document, with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated for each leader of a sub-project.
- For Canadian applicants: the first 2 pages of the CIHR Research Module (please visit the CIHR funding opportunities database for more details).

International consortia selected to send a full application will also be invited to attend a mini-research symposium (on 25-26 March 2009) aimed at facilitating Canadian-Finnish team interactions and helping the teams to elaborate their joint research proposal.

Please note that to foster Finnish-Canadian team development, CIHR-IHDCYH and the Academy of Finland will provide a list of researchers from both countries working in the area of mental health and addiction in children and youth.

6.2. Full applications

The Academy's online service will open for the projects invited to the second round of application on 20 April 2009 and **the deadline for applications is 15 May 2009 at 16:15.**

Applications and appendices shall be written in English and submitted via the Academy's online service at www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > Log in to online services. Select *New application* > "SKIDI-KIDS".

6.2.1. Full application by one research team

- Online application form

Appendices to the application:

- an abstract, no more than one page in length
- a research plan, no more than 12 pages
- the CV of the responsible project leader, no more than four pages
- the list of publications of the responsible project leader, with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation, if relevant
- a progress report for any research projects with Academy funding that the responsible project leader is involved in and for which no final report has yet been submitted.
- an invitation from a foreign university or research institute if the research is conducted abroad.

6.2.2. Full application by a consortium leader

Finnish consortium:

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

Appendices to the application:

- an abstract drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than one page
- a research plan drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than 15 pages
- curricula vitae for the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects, combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher
- lists of publications of the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects, combined as one document, with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated for each leader
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation, if relevant
- a progress report by the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects on their Academy-funded research projects for which no final reports have been submitted, combined as one document
- invitation by a foreign university or research institute, in case the research is conducted abroad.

Finnish-Canadian consortium:

- an abstract drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than one page
- a research plan drafted in accordance with the consortium guidelines, no more than 15 pages
- curricula vitae for the Finnish consortium leader, as well as the responsible leaders of the sub-projects (Finnish and Canadian co-applicants), combined as one document, no more than four pages for each researcher. For Canadian researchers, please also include information on grants held (source, type, title, amount/year, and duration) and funds requested)
- lists of publications of the Finnish consortium leader, as well as the responsible leaders of the sub-projects (Finnish and Canadian co-applicants), combined as one document with the ten most important publications in terms of the research plan clearly indicated for each leader
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation, if relevant
- For Finnish applicants: a progress report by the consortium leader and the responsible leaders of the sub-projects on their Academy-funded research projects for which no final reports have been submitted, combined as one document

- invitation by a foreign university or research institute, in case the research is conducted abroad
- For Canadian applicants: the first two pages of the CIHR Research Module and a complete CIHR Budget Module, combined in one document (more details will be published in January on the CIHR funding opportunities database).

6.2.3. Application by responsible leader of a sub-project of the consortium

- Online application with which funding is applied for only for the research team of the responsible leader of the sub-project
- No appendices are to be appended to the application of a sub-project. The consortium leader collects and combines all appendices of the consortium as part of his/her application.

6.3. Evaluation criteria

The scientific quality of the applications will be reviewed by an international panel of experts. The criteria applied include:

- project compatibility with the research programme,
- scientific quality and innovativeness of the research plan,
- feasibility of the research plan,
- national and international contact network of the applicant/research team/consortium,
- researcher training and advancement of the research environment,
- competence and expertise of the applicant/research team/consortium, and
- in the case of a consortium application, the added value generated by the consortium.

The detailed guidelines given to experts reviewing applications are available on the Academy's website at www.aka.fi/eng > For researchers > Reviewing applications? It is useful to read these before submitting an application.

7. More information

More information is available on the programme website: www.aka.fi/SKIDI-KIDS

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