



ask & apply

2019

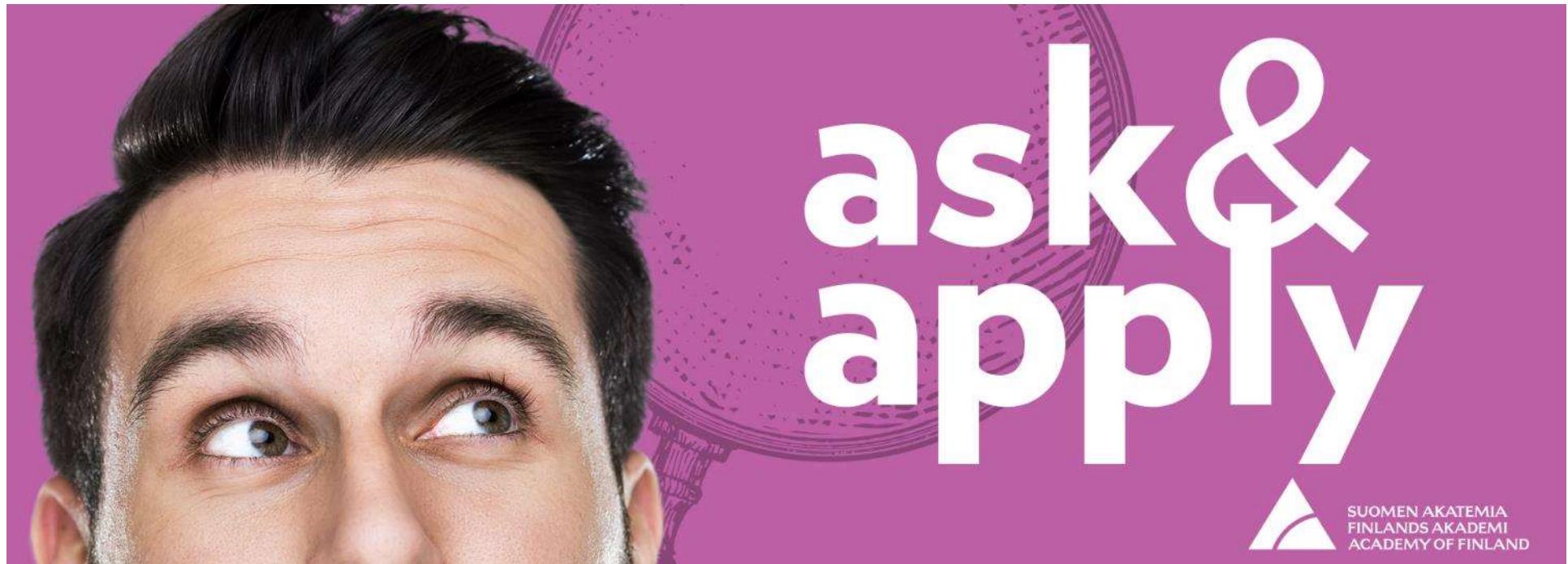


#askapply

Outi Ala-Honkola & Katrine Mahlamäki



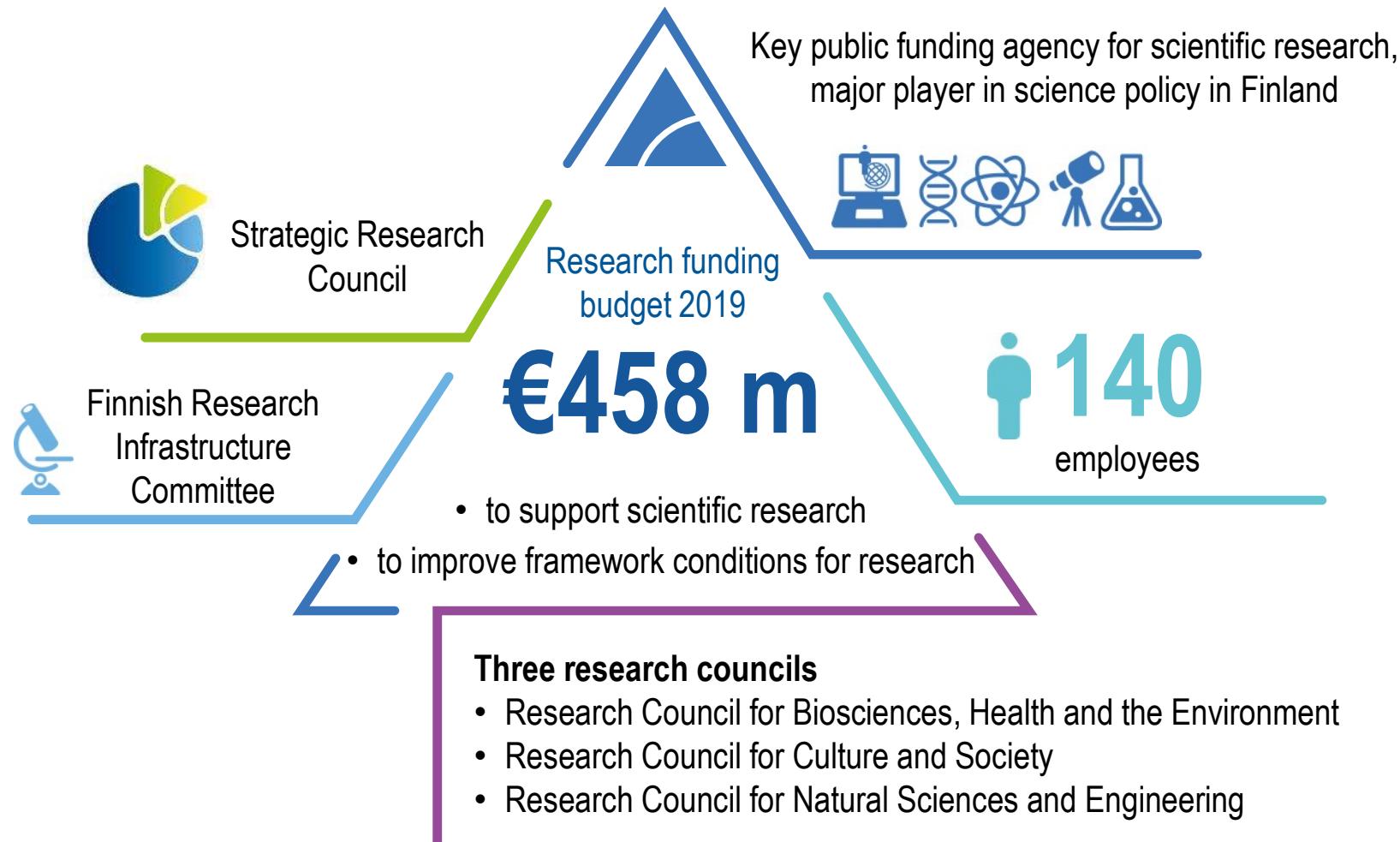
SUOMEN AKATEMIA
FINLANDS AKADEMI
ACADEMY OF FINLAND



TODAY'S PROGRAMME

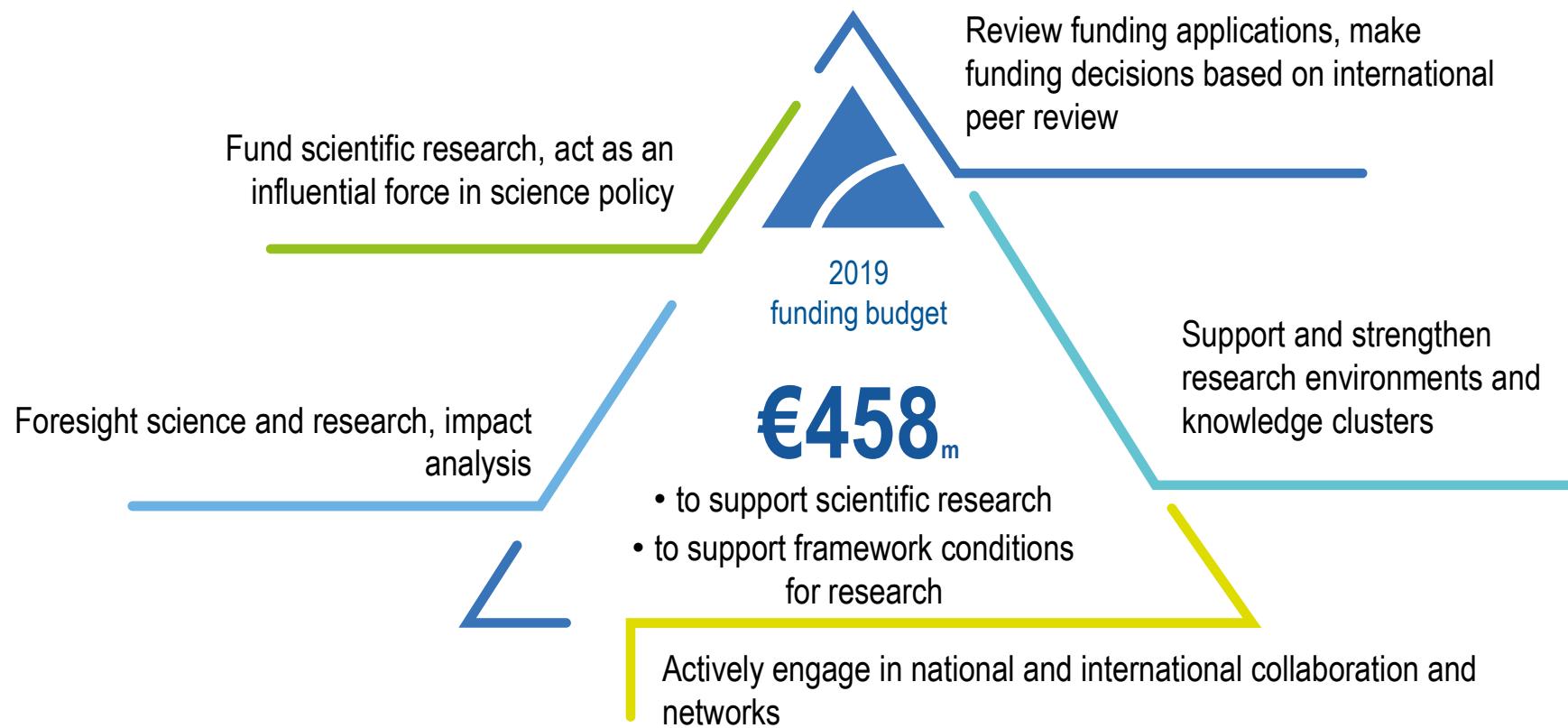
1. Academy of Finland
2. Funding opportunities in the September 2019 call
3. What's new?
4. Review process and criteria
5. Responsible science and impact
6. Ask our science advisers

ACADEMY OF FINLAND IN A NUTSHELL



Part of our funds come from the proceeds of Finland's national gaming company Veikkaus.

WHAT WE DO



WE PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE

WE PROMOTE

- cutting-edge and ethically sustainable research
- research impact and science renewal
- utilisation of research results and expertise

WE SUPPORT

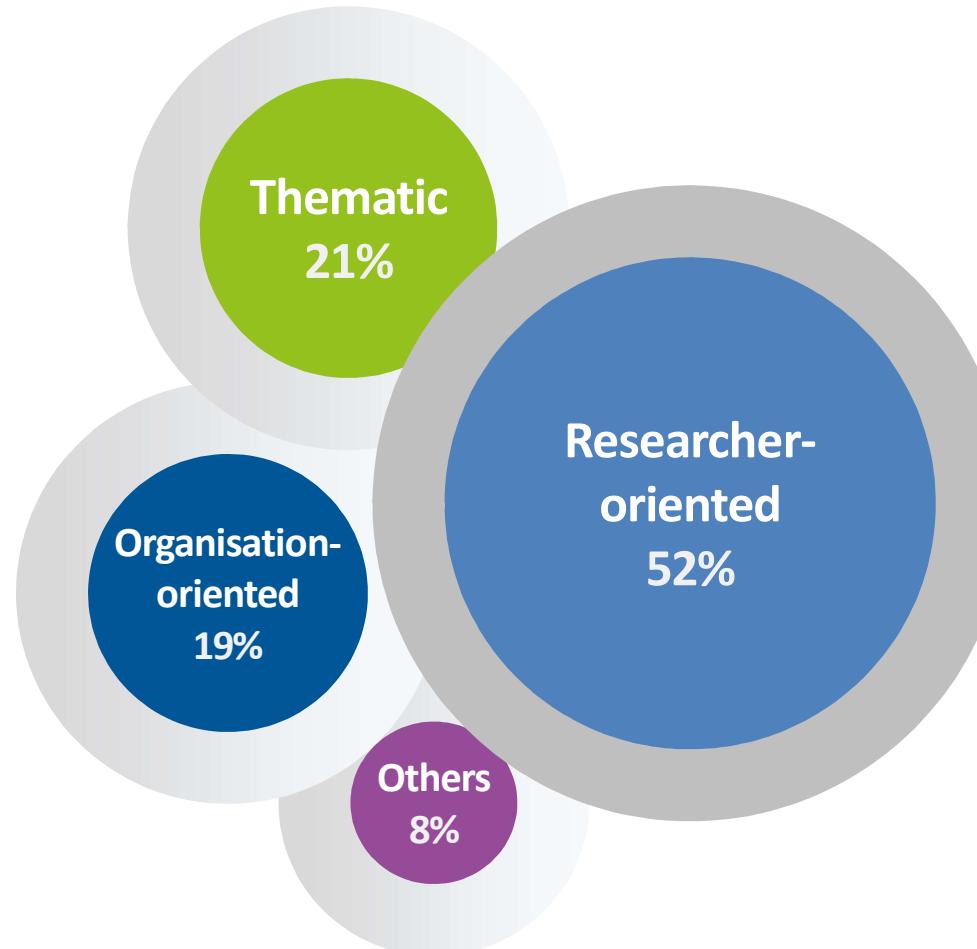
- opportunities for international research collaboration
- multidisciplinary and novel approaches to research

WE STRENGTHEN

- internationally attractive research environments
- Finnish and international research infrastructure activities



ACADEMY FUNDING IN 2018



Thematic funding

€90m

- Academy Programmes and international cooperation
- ICT 2023 programme
- Strategic R&D funding

Researcher-oriented funding

€224m

- Academy Professors
- Academy Research Fellows
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- Research costs of the above researchers
- Academy Project funding
- Centres of Excellence

Organisation-oriented funding

€81m

- Funding for research infrastructures
- Funding to strengthen university research profiles

Other targeted funding

€34m

- International membership fees
- Researcher mobility
- Application reviews, Academy Programme coordination, development and maintenance of research funding information systems

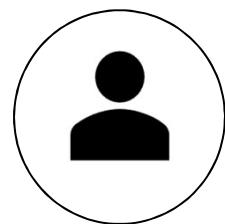
DECISION-MAKING AT THE ACADEMY



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

September 2019 call

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



For researchers

Individuals	Groups
Academy Professor Academy Research Fellow Postdoctoral Researcher Clinical Researcher Researcher mobility	Academy Project Centre of Excellence

Thematic funding
Academy Programme Targeted Academy Project Strategic research funding



For research environments

Research infrastructure University research profiling Flagship programme
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ACADEMY PROJECT FUNDING

FOUR-YEAR FUNDING



- Promotes the quality and diversity of research and its capacity for regeneration by providing funding for scientifically ambitious research
- Science-driven, bottom-up
- Granted to leading-edge researchers and research teams for:
 - salaries
 - materials and equipment
 - travel
 - international collaboration

ACADEMY PROJECT FUNDING

ELIGIBILITY IF ONGOING FUNDING

Applicant in the September call	Applicant's ongoing Academy funding	
	Academy Project PI*	Consortium subproject
Academy Project PI*	Not granted**	Granted for a well-justified reason
Consortium subproject	Granted for a well-justified reason	Granted for a well-justified reason

* Individual project or consortium project

** In the September 2019 call, Academy Project funding may be granted as of 1 September 2020 even if the PI had an ongoing Academy Project ending on 31 December 2020.

If the applicant has ongoing funding for a post as an Academy Professor, they will not be granted funding for an Academy Project.

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

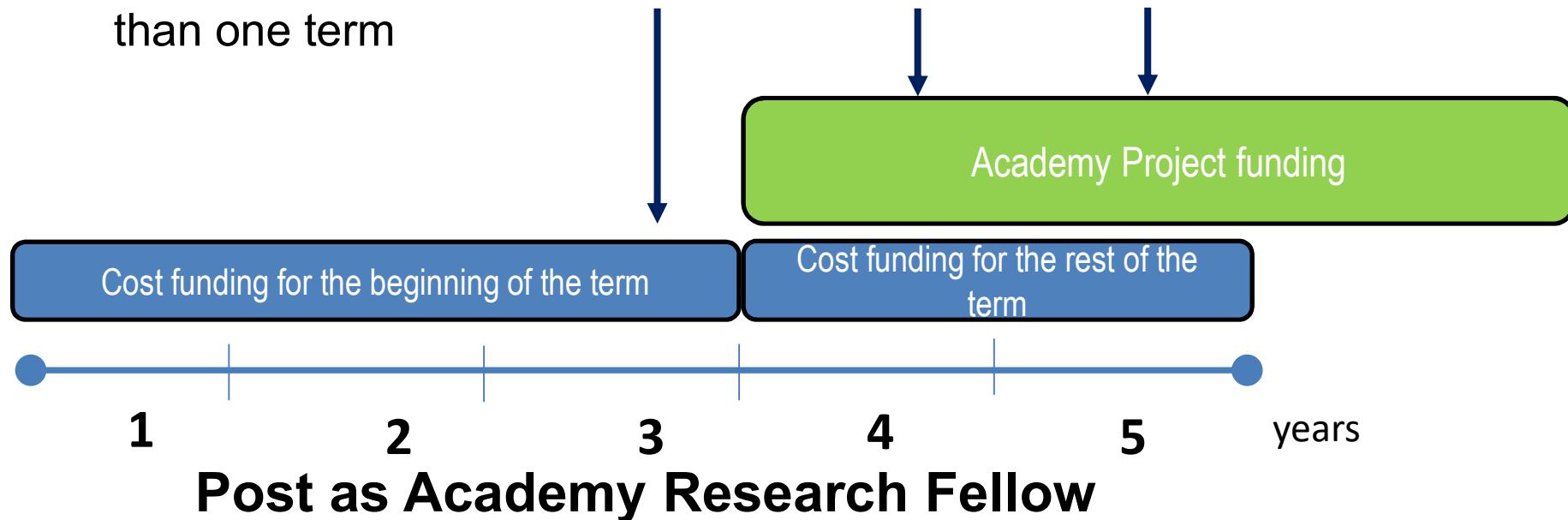
APPLY FOR ACADEMY PROJECT FUNDING

- An early-career researcher is an applicant whose doctoral degree certificate is dated 25 Sep 2009–25 Sep 2019 (medical specialists 25 Sep 2005–25 Sep 2019)
 - The same dates apply to all consortium parties
- Applications are reviewed along with other Academy Project applications
 - There is no separate call
 - Application and its review is the same as for Academy Projects



ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOWS AS ACADEMY PROJECT APPLICANTS

- Academy Research Fellows can apply for Academy Project funding on the third year of their term
- The aim is to support successful researchers with additional funding which enables reinforcing the research group and reaches further than one term



ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOWS

FIVE-YEAR FUNDING



Mobility requirement

- 3-9 years since PhD degree
- Have successfully engaged in scientific research and publishing after earning the doctorate
- Gaining competence for demanding research positions and establishing their status as independent researchers in the international research community
- Carry out independent scientific work
- Provide teaching and supervision in their field

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

THREE-YEAR FUNDING

- Max 4 years since PhD degree
- Gain qualifications as professional researchers
- Carry out their own research plan, supervise thesis writers
- Receive funding for their own salary and research costs



Mobility requirement

EXPERIMENT TO PROMOTE INTERACTION BETWEEN RESEARCHERS AND SOCIETAL ACTORS

- The Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering will earmark part of its Postdoctoral Researcher funding budget for **4 Postdoctoral Researchers** who during their terms **will work short-term in companies, university hospitals, ministries, associations, educational institutions or other research-relevant organisations**.
- The aim of the experiment is to facilitate exchange of information and promote the wider application of research results.
- This interaction may be carried out in several periods, but the total time spent must not exceed 6 months over the 3-year Postdoctoral Researcher term.
- During their visits, the Postdoctoral Researchers work according to their own research plan.
- You can find more details in [the call text](#).

MOBILITY REQUIRED TO BE ELIGIBLE

ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOWS & POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

- Mobility is of particular importance to early-career researchers in improving the quality of their research and supporting their career development.
- Apply for funding
 - for a post in a research environment **other** than the one in which you worked while completing your doctoral thesis

OR

- in the same research environment, provided that you have **at least six months** of work experience from some other organisation after PhD completion.
- **Real mobility** benefits your career development

CLINICAL RESEARCHERS

FOUR-YEAR FUNDING

- The aim is to promote clinical research careers and to encourage **medical doctors and other researchers working in clinical practice** to engage in research
- Funding for part-time salary (20–50%) and research costs
- At least 50% in clinical practice doing patient work
- No limitations for academic age, funding terms or mobility
- The nature of clinical work must be well described, even though it is not covered by the Academy of Finland



ACADEMY PROFESSORS CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

- Top researchers who contribute to the progress of research in their field
- Lead their own research team
- Provide supervision to junior researchers and teaching associated with their research
- Receive funding for up to five years at a time
- Schedule & process:
 - Letters of intent reviewed in September 2019 call panels
 - Second call stage in spring 2020

Sports science research projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture

- Applications submitted in the Academy of Finland's online services
- **Research plan should follow the guidelines for Academy Projects**
- Scientific review in the Academy's panels, decisions by the Ministry

Four main research themes

1. Promoting a physically active lifestyle
2. Ensuring equal access to physical activity
3. Increasing participation in sports and physical activity
4. Achieving results and responsibility in performance sports

- 3-year projects, max 400,000 € in total
- https://minedu.fi/avustukset/avustus/-/asset_publisher/liikuntatiede-tutkimusprojektit
- vera.mikkila@aka.fi

ERA-NET BIODIVERSA JOINT CALL BIODIVCLIM

2019-2020 Call on the theme "Biodiversity and Climate Change"

- This call will cover the following four non-exclusive themes:
 - 1) *Consequences of climate change on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people*
 - 2) *Climate-biodiversity feedback processes*
 - 3) *Potential of nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change*
 - 4) *Synergies and trade-offs between policies on biodiversity, climate and other relevant sectors, and the role of agents of change*
- Call opens on 2 September 2019, closes on 10 April 2020 (and with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals by 5 November 2019) [*Indicative schedule*].
- More information soon: <http://www.biodiversa.org/1587>

ERA-NET CHIST-ERA 2019 JOINT CALL

2019 Call on the following themes:

- **Explainable Machine Learning-based Artificial Intelligence**
- **Novel Computational Approaches for Environmental Sustainability**
- Academy budget estimated to be around 1 M€ (2-4 projects funded)

- Call opens in October-November 2019, closes in mid-January 2020
- More information: <http://www.chistera.eu/>

**SEPTEMBER
2019 CALL:
3–25 SEP**



WHAT'S NEW?

CALL TEXTS

- You can find the call texts in
<https://www.aka.fi/en/funding/apply-for-funding/>
- Call texts are tailor-made for each funding instrument and call
- You can find the [A-Z index of application guidelines](#) in the Apply for funding page
- New items in the call texts include "*Application parts and guidelines*" = tabs in SARA, "*How the application will be reviewed*", "*Funding decisions*" and call-specific contact information



Funding

Apply for funding

A-Z index of application guidelines

Use funding

Report on your project

Funding overview

Background and objectives

Who can apply?

Funding to be applied for and funding period

How applications are submitted and become pending, publicity of applications

Application parts and guidelines

How the application will be reviewed

Funding decisions

RESEARCH PLAN

- Line spacing changed from 1.5 to 1.15
- Structure of the research plan simplified based on applicant feedback

PARTS:

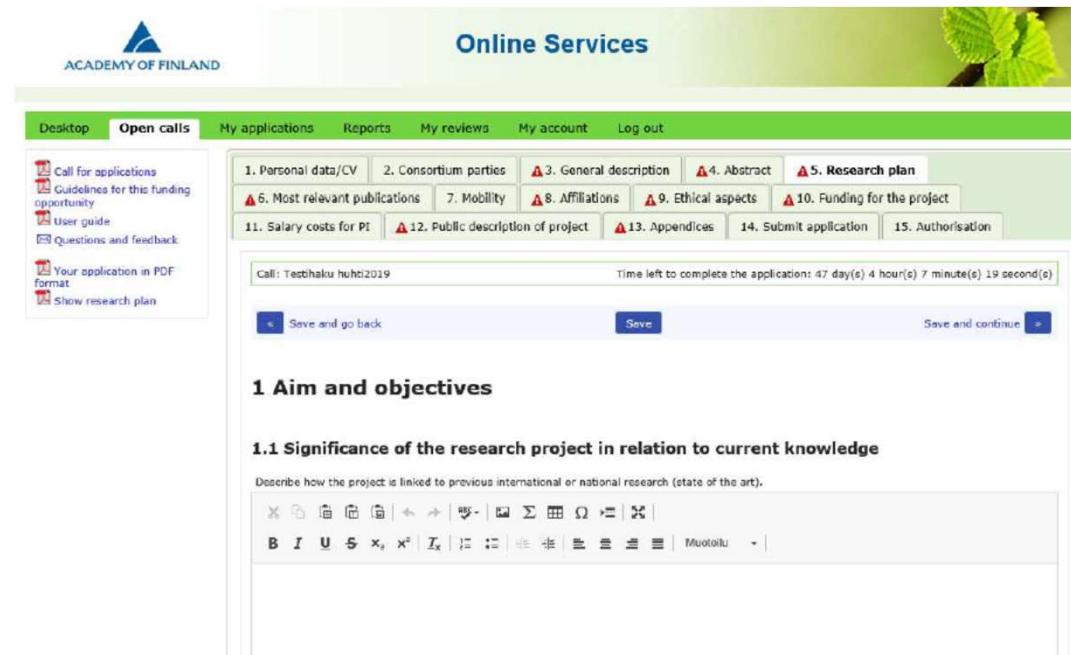
1. Aim and objectives
2. Implementation
3. Research team and collaborators
4. Responsible science
5. Societal effects and impact

Call texts include links to
[the research plan structure and guidelines](#)



RESEARCH PLAN AS A PART OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION

- Better comparability between different applications
- Reviewers are able to quickly find the information they need as they move directly from the review form to the specific section of the research plan



The screenshot shows the 'Online Services' application interface for the Academy of Finland. The top navigation bar includes 'Desktop', 'Open calls' (which is the active tab), 'My applications', 'Reports', 'My reviews', 'My account', and 'Log out'. A green banner on the right features a leaf icon. Below the navigation is a grid of numbered application sections: 1. Personal data/CV, 2. Consortium parties, 3. General description, 4. Abstract, 5. Research plan, 6. Most relevant publications, 7. Mobility, 8. Affiliations, 9. Ethical aspects, 10. Funding for the project, 11. Salary costs for PI, 12. Public description of project, 13. Appendices, 14. Submit application, and 15. Authorisation. The '5. Research plan' section is highlighted. The main content area shows a call titled 'Testhaku huhti2019' with a timer indicating 47 days, 4 hours, 7 minutes, and 19 seconds left. Below this are buttons for 'Save and go back', 'Save', and 'Save and continue'. The first section of the research plan is titled '1 Aim and objectives' and includes a sub-section '1.1 Significance of the research project in relation to current knowledge'. A text input field is provided with a toolbar above it containing various mathematical and scientific symbols.

MORE SPACE FOR THE RESEARCH PLAN

- New tabs in the online services:
 - **Mobility** – tailored in Academy Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Researcher calls; mobility requirement included in the same tab
 - **Affiliations** – includes all questions on infrastructures, centres of excellence and flagships
 - **Ethics** – now includes a question on research misconduct
 - **Salary** – the name of the tab for Academy Professor and Academy Research Fellow salaries was previously called funding for the project
 - **Research costs** – description of research costs for Academy Professor and Academy Research Fellow is removed from the research plan
 - **Salary of the PI** – description removed from the research plan
 - **Clinical work** – description removed from the research plan
- More information on tabs under "Application parts and guidelines" in each call text

1. Personal data/CV	2. General description	3. Abstract	4. Research plan	5. Most relevant publications	6. Mobility
7. Affiliations	8. Ethical aspects	9. Funding for the project	10. Salary of principal investigator	11. Public description of project	
12. Appendixes					

OTHER REFORMS IN SARA

- Research plan editor has been improved
 - developing the formula editor and writing/copying formulas directly into the editor (WYSIWYG*)
 - Images can be positioned within text
 - Maximum size for each picture is 4 MB

*WYSIWYG = What You See Is What You Get

- Retrieving the applicant's most relevant publications from the VIRTA service is automatically limited (max 10 or 20 publications)
- Read more in the renewed [how-to guides to online services](#)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & INFORMATION

DO YOU USE INFRASTRUCTURES?

"Indicate what kinds of equipment, resources or data reserves provided by **national or international research infrastructures** the project will use. The menu includes infrastructures included in Finland's and/or ESFRI's infrastructure roadmap. Other possible infrastructures are entered in the free-text field."

- Please use the drop down menu and try to identify the correct RI whenever it is possible
- The list is used by the National Research Infrastructure Committee to monitor the need for research infrastructures services
- *If you think you are not going to use any equipment, data resources or archives during your research project – Please think again!*

APPENDICES

Obligatory:

- Complete list of publications
- Data management plan
- Finnish doctoral degree certificate or a certificate (in English) for a doctorate earned abroad (Academy Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers); do not append your transcript of records
- CV is appended under *Personal data/CV* (length 2 pages)

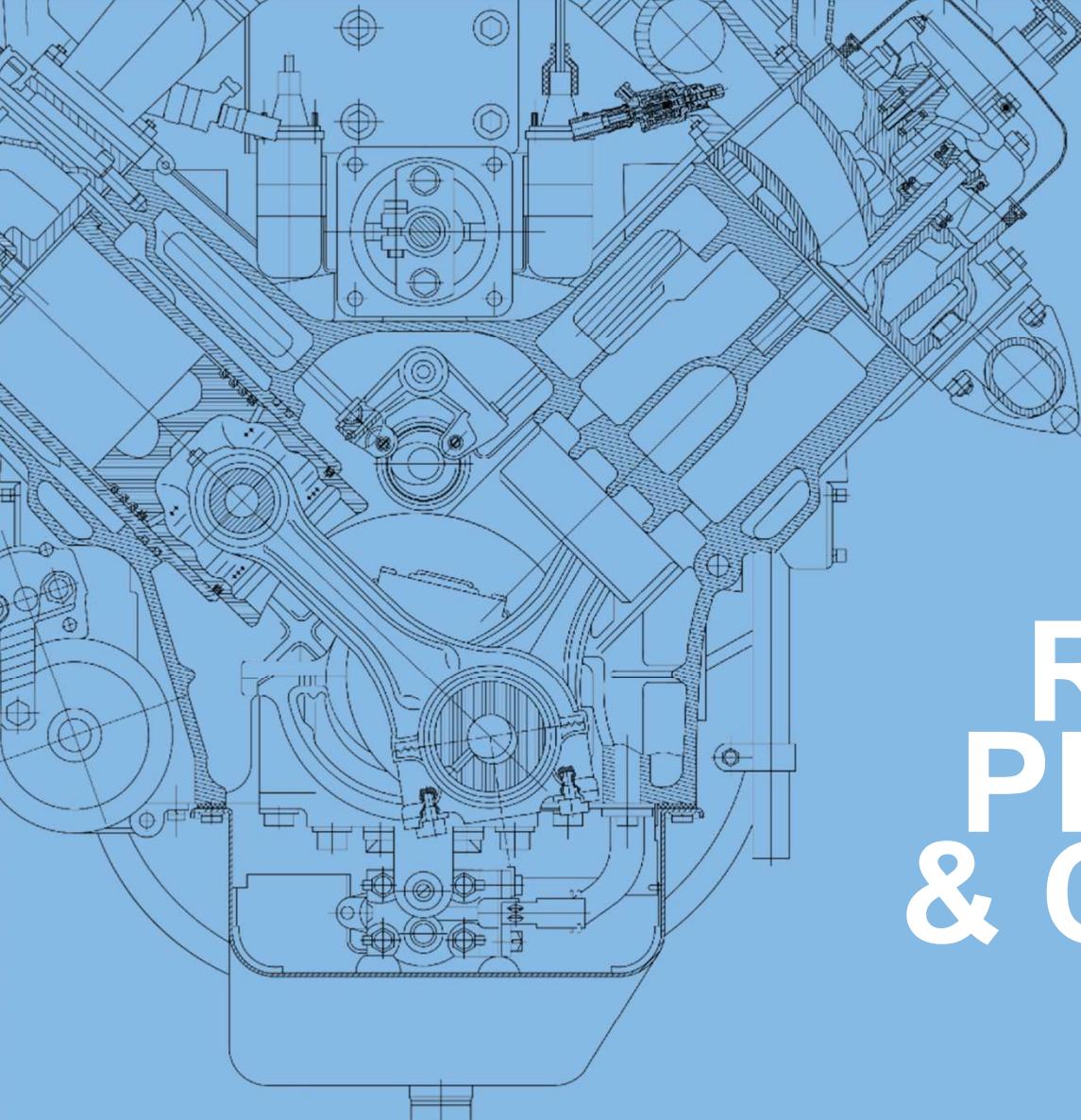
Case-specific:

- Statement by an ethics committee or animal care committee
- Progress report (if ongoing funding from the Academy)
- Invitation by foreign organisation; do not append any letters of recommendation
- Research plan (only if not written on the tab *Research plan*)

Read more about [Application parts and guidelines](#)

CHECKLIST

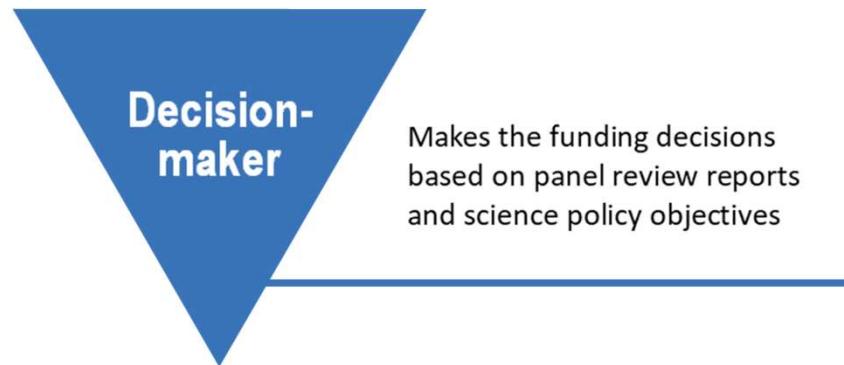
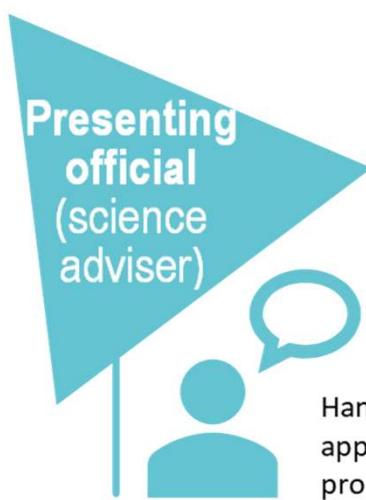
- Read the call text carefully > Apply for funding <http://www.aka.fi/en/funding/apply-for-funding/>
 - Choose the right funding opportunity → What are the objectives?
 - Read all guidelines and conditions
- Follow the right structure
 - [Curriculum vitae \(CV\)](#) and [Publication list](#)
 - The mobility plan is a part of your application
 - The [abstract](#) is a concise scientific account of your research
 - The public description of your project ≠ an abstract
 - [Progress report](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the [review questions](#) and other guidelines for reviewers
- Know the [\(research policy\) factors](#) that influence the research council's decision
- START YOUR APPLICATION NOW: SIGN UP, UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS (My account)
→ www.aka.fi/en > [Go to the online services](#)
- Send us your questions (you will find our contact information in the call text)
- TIP: see [A-Z index of application guidelines](#)



ask &
apply

REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

REVIEW PROCESS – WHO DOES WHAT



Applications for September 2018 were reviewed in **66 panels** with **over 680 international experts**

Panels also rank the applications

Decisions are also based on the research councils' policies

REVIEW PANEL MEETING

- Chair + 5–13 members depending on the number of applications to be reviewed (approx. 30–70 per panel)
- Each application is assigned to two panel members for draft review and to one extra read-only member before the panel meeting
- All members have access to all applications
- Final consensus review is based on discussion at the panel meeting
- Supporting external reviews are used, if necessary
- Confidentiality and conflicts of interest are taken into account
- Academy staff oversees the panel work: gives practical advice and reminds of the criteria
- [Guides for reviewers and review forms](#)

REVIEW PANEL MEETING

- Panels are assembled to match the group of applications
- The composition of each panel changes annually; there are also joint panels across research council borders
- We aim to review each application as well as possible



RESEARCH COUNCILS

- Make the funding decisions based on the results of the peer review, taking science policy into account
 - equal opportunities for the genders, advancing early-career researchers' careers, supporting researcher mobility, impact of research
- More information on science policy principles is available on the research councils' websites:
 - [Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment](#)
 - [Research Council for Culture and Society](#)
 - [Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering](#)

APPLICATION REVIEW PRINCIPLES



WRITE YOUR RESEARCH PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVIEW FORM

1. Quality of research described in the plan

1.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of the research Sub-rating (1–6)

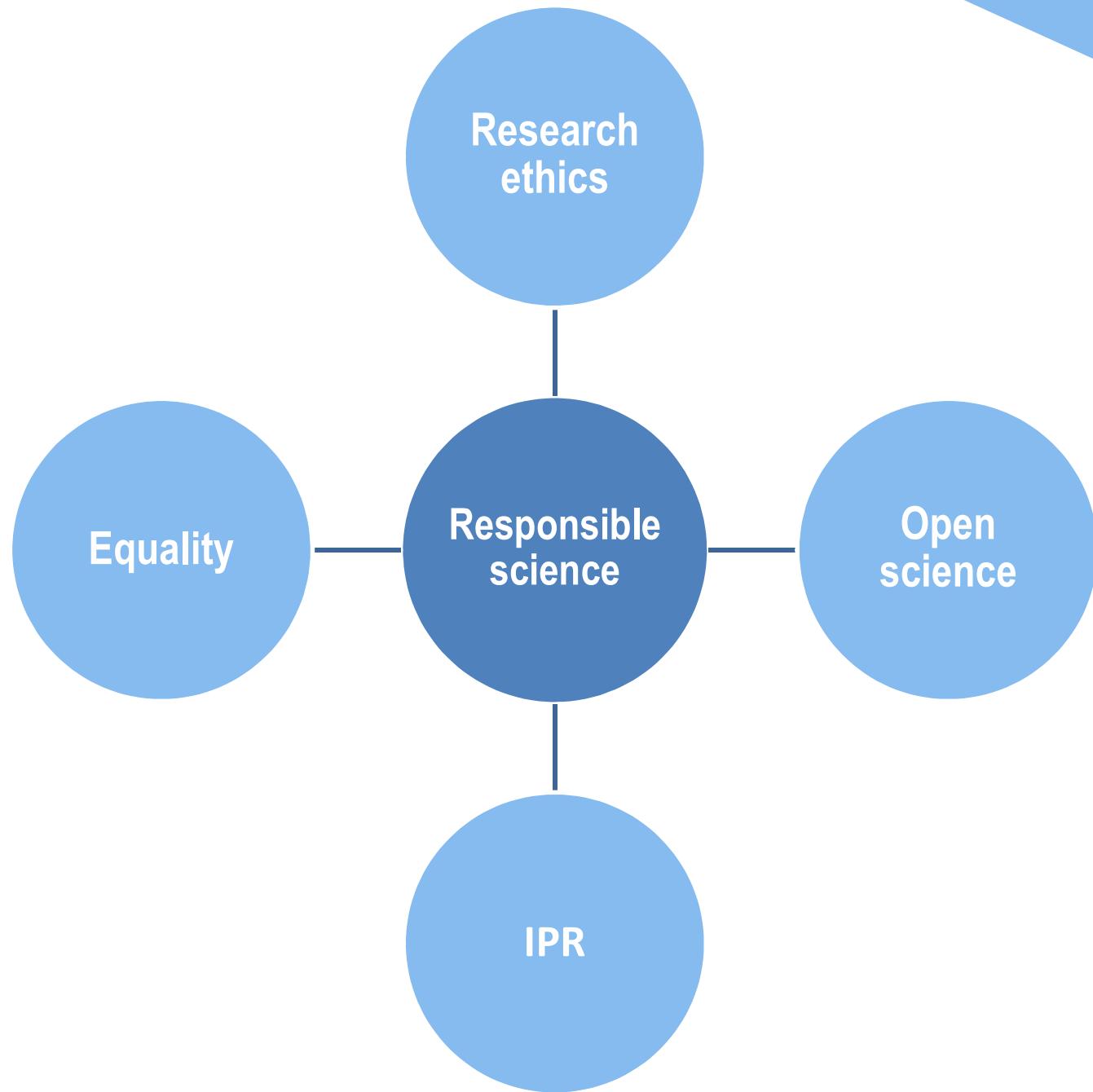
Significance of the project; Objectives and hypothesis; Ambitiousness and state of the art of the objectives (possible novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines); Scientific impact of the research; Potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes; etc.

E.g. Don't leave it for the reviewer to figure out what kind of impact your research will have, it should be clearly written within your research plan!

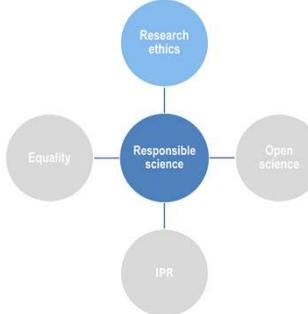
THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLICATIONS FOR THE REVIEW

- In accordance with the [DORA](#) declaration, the review emphasizes the quality of the research, not the impact factor of publications
 - The VIRTA service enables direct access to the publication for the reviewer
 - The review process takes into account also other research output and impact
- [Publication Forum classification](#) (JUFO) is meant for evaluating the average quality of large, university-level publication quantities, not for evaluating an independent researcher
 - Not used in the application's list of publications

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE & IMPACT



RESEARCH ETHICS

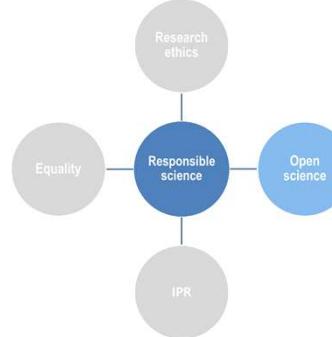


The term **research ethics** is a general concept that covers all ethical viewpoints and evaluations that are related to science and research.

In order for research to be ethically acceptable and reliable and its results credible, the research must be conducted according to **responsible conduct of research**.

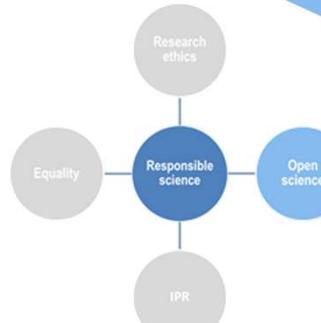
The Academy of Finland is committed to the [guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity](#) (TENK).

OPEN SCIENCE

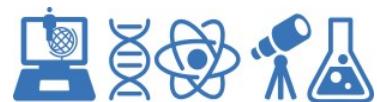


- The Academy is committed to the principles and practices of open science to promote scientific quality, societal impact and responsible science.
- Our goal is to make research publications, data and material, metadata and methods widely available for reuse. (NB good scientific practice and law)
- The Academy participates in [cOAlition S](#), a group of international research funders that supports open access to research publications in accordance with the Plan S initiative. Plan S initiative is planned to impact on calls launched after 1.1.2021.
- The strategic plans prepared by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies are under preparation.

OPEN SCIENCE IN APPLYING FOR FUNDING



Data management plans required



Open data and methods required

- Depends on research ethics & law

To improve the overall quality and impact of research and promote good scientific practice



Openly available research results required

- Peer-reviewed articles (others recommendable)



Funding for publishing costs provided

- gold, hybrid

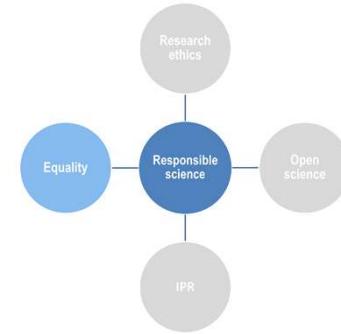
Recommended archives and storage services

- FSD, FIN-CLARIN, CERN Zenodo, EUDAT, AVAA, Etsin, IDA

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Academy promotes **gender equality** both in the contents of research (mainstreaming gender perspective) and in researchers' careers (equal participation and opportunities)

- both are essential parts of responsible science

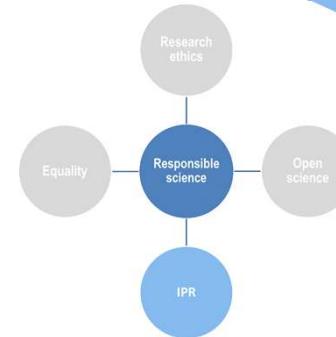


Goals:

- scientific excellence
- inclusive research and science policy
 - gender equality and anti-discrimination in general

IPR – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Intangible rights belonging to the creator
 - Copyrights, patent rights, rights in trademark, utility model rights etc.
- Project partners must agree in writing on the rights of ownership and use of results, materials and data
- Find out what the practices and guidelines are in your site of research!



OUR MISSION



- To fund **high-quality** science with **impact**
- Science should be **ethical** and **sustainable**
- Academy of Finland has **committed to the principles of sustainable development** and requires funded projects to take into account the principles of sustainable development when following good scientific practice

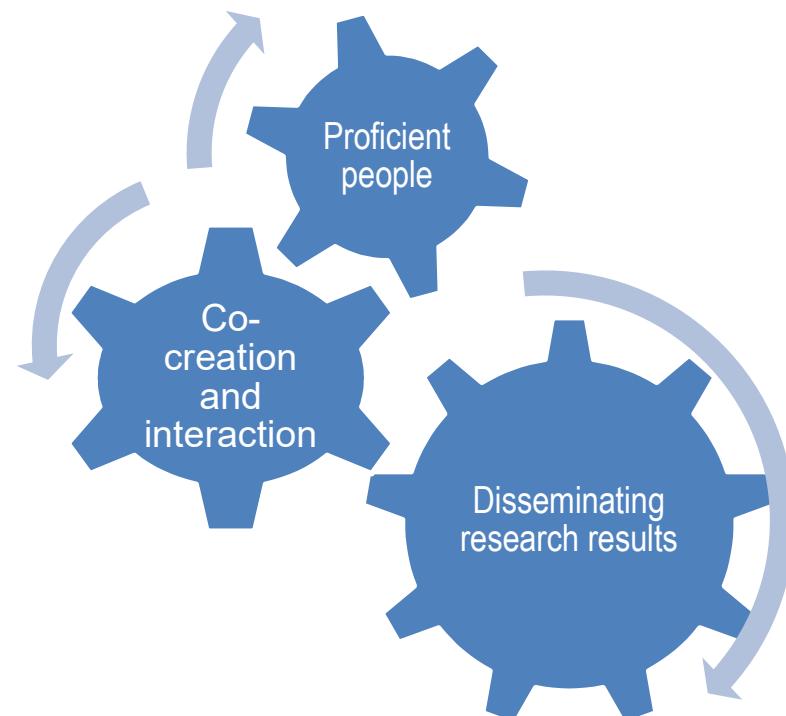
SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

- potential for scientific breakthroughs and for promoting scientific renewal
- e.g. methodological developments, new links between disciplines, renewal of scientific theories or concepts

SOCIETAL IMPACT

- reach, potential utilisation value and application areas of research results beyond the scientific community
- how the project will promote sustainable development objectives
- e.g. contribution to policy development, enhancing quality of life and health

THE PROGRESSION OF IMPACT:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- A transition is needed – research and innovation are crucial for making it happen
- Role of the Academy of Finland:
 - Link activities to the Agenda
 - Raise awareness of the research community
 - Communicate the solutions that research brings to the world

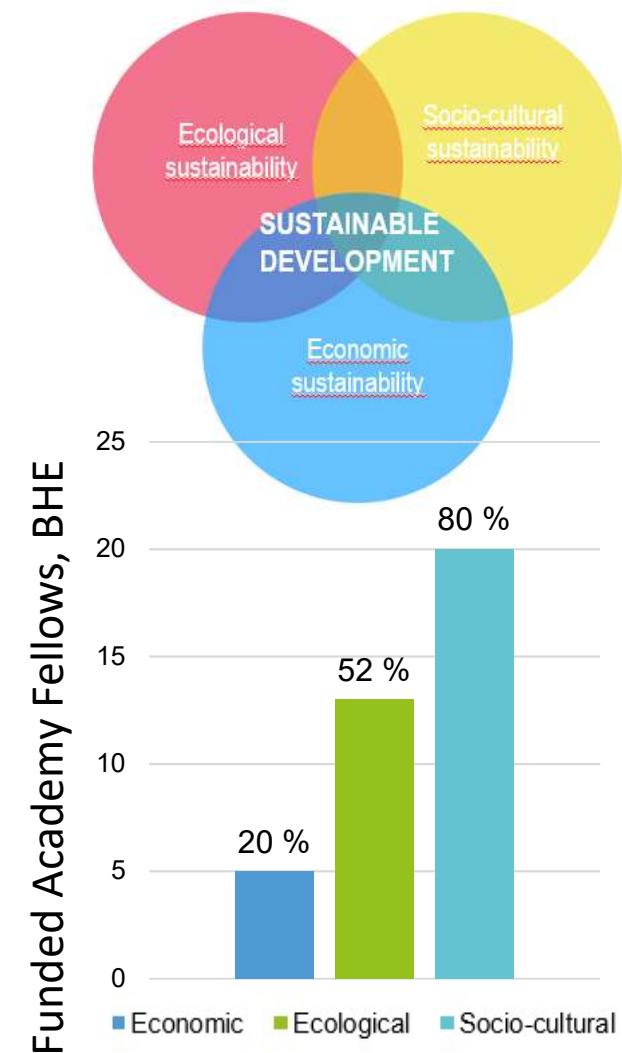


Finland implements the global Agenda2030 through the Society's Commitment to Sustainable development (2050 Objectives)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BIOSCIENCES, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

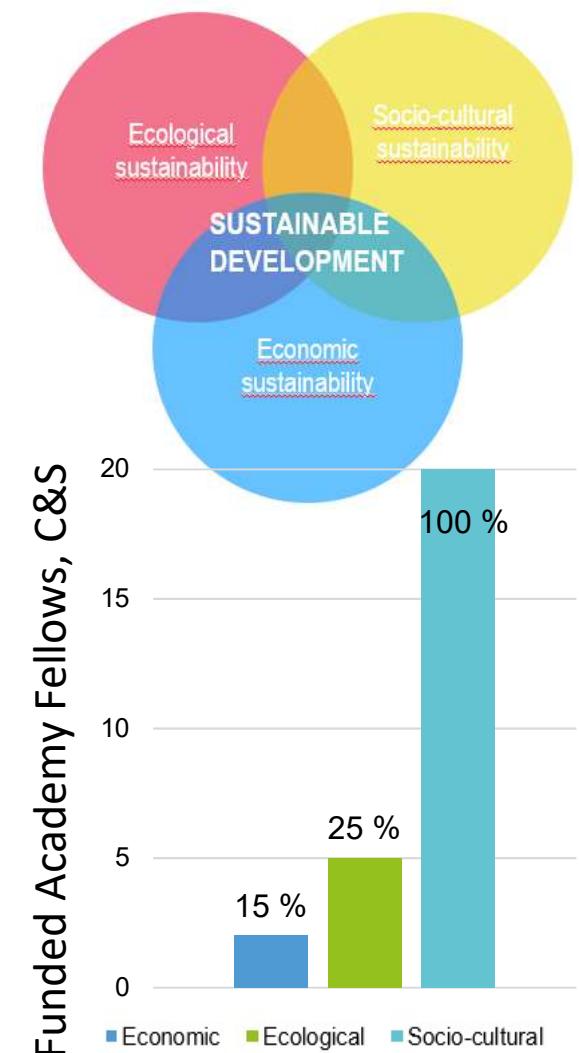
- Economic sustainability:
 - *"Using study results in commercialization"*
 - *"Reducing the costs of cancer treatment"*
 - *"Long-term trials, where researchers are employed for a long time"*
- Ecological sustainability:
 - *"Restorative experiences in natural environments promote greater ecological behaviour"*
 - *"Ecologically friendly practices in everyday operations"*
 - *"Informing conservation strategies in a world impacted by habitat loss and climate change"*
- Socio-cultural sustainability:
 - *"Protecting livelihoods of communities relying on forest"*
 - *"Lessening the burden of infectious diseases"*
 - *"Enabling behaviours that maximise personal wellbeing"*



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

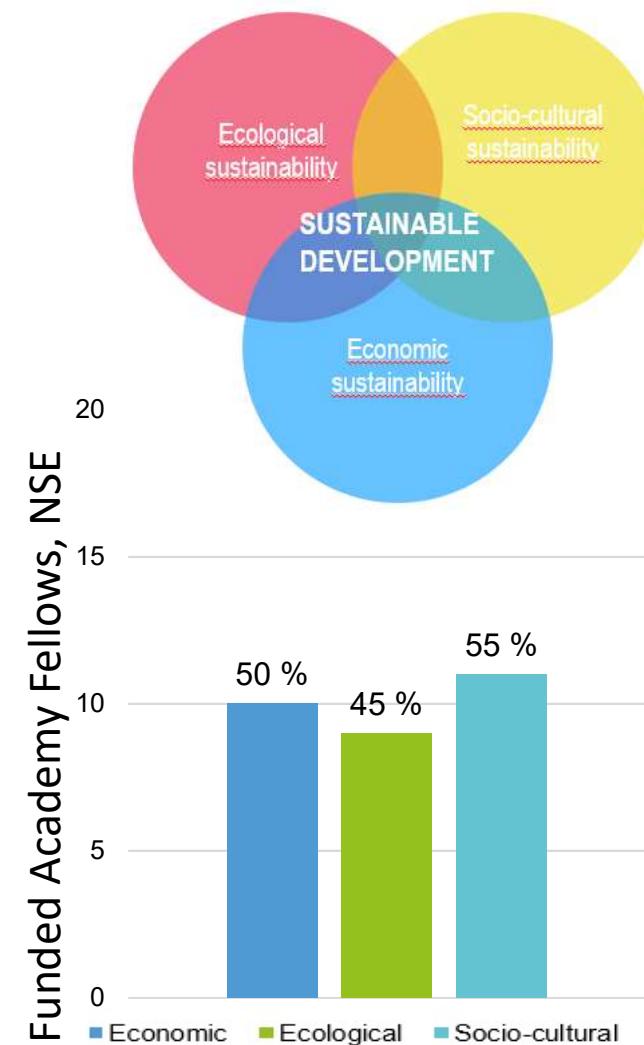
- Economic sustainability:
 - *"Creating sustainable employment opportunities for individuals with disadvantaged background"*
 - *"Promoting stock market participation"*
 - *"Promoting financial independence"*
- Ecological sustainability:
 - *"Deeper understanding on planetary consciousness in terms of ecological urbanism"*
 - *"Responsible travelling"*
 - *"Paper use"*
- Socio-cultural sustainability:
 - *"Cross-generational thinking"*
 - *"Development of good educational practices"*
 - *"Increasing the merging between society and science"*



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

- Economic sustainability:
 - *"Making quantum devices cheaper and more equally accessible"*
 - *"Developing longer-lasting satellite missions"*
 - *"Using research results commercially"*
- Ecological sustainability:
 - *"Contributing towards ecologically friendly future society"*
 - *"More sustainable use of the space surrounding our planet"*
 - *"Reducing uncertainties of climate change projections"*
- Socio-cultural sustainability:
 - *"Developing medical technology"*
 - *"Improved communication and human-computer interaction techniques for disabled people"*



TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- Read the call text carefully
- Pay attention to impact and responsible science
- Ask for help: research services at the site of research, colleagues, contact people in the call text, helpdesk
- Write clearly, focus on describing your methods and implementation



ask
&
apply

Live Q&A on Twitter on Tuesday 17 Sep at 14.00-15.00
#AskApplyChat

THANK YOU!

firstname.lastname@aka.fi

www.aka.fi/en



#askapply