

Strategic research programme calls

Changing Society and Active Citizenship

Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth

Keys to Sustainable Growth

First call stage: 1 Dec 2016–11 Jan 2017 (16.15 local Finnish time)

Second call stage: 15 Mar–26 Apr 2017 (16.15 local Finnish time)

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland provides funding for strategic research, which refers to long-term, solution-driven research of a high scientific standard carried out to develop policies and functions of society in order to identify solutions to major societal problems and challenges. The funding is based on open competition and independent peer review.

Applications for strategic research funding are submitted using the Academy's online services. The call has two stages. The guidelines for both stages are presented in this call text. The first stage is open to all eligible applicants. The second stage is for applicants invited by the SRC to submit a full application.

This call text first describes the Academy's general application guidelines (based on the September 2016 call) in so far as they apply to the strategic research programme call. Thereafter, the call text goes on to describe the terms and conditions specific to the strategic research programme call.



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INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) is a body established within the Academy of Finland. This call text first describes the Academy's general application guidelines (based on the September 2016 call) in so far as they apply to the strategic research programme call. Thereafter, the call text goes on to describe the terms and conditions specific to the strategic research programme call.

1. ACADEMY OF FINLAND'S GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1.1 Publicity and ethics of research results

Any and all results produced with funding from the Academy of Finland must be made public. The research must be conducted following the principles of good scientific practice. The Academy is committed to following the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity and requires that Academy-funded researchers and sites of research respect the same guidelines.

1.2 Follow the Advisory Board on Research Integrity's guidelines

The ethical issues of the research must always be described in the research plan; they are reviewed as part of the scientific review. The **ethical issues and duties** to be considered at the application stage are listed on our website under [Ethical issues and applying for funding](#).

We require that all Academy-funded research is conducted following [the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity](#), including [the recommendations on ethical review in human sciences](#).

1.3 The Academy requires adherence to open access practices

We require that Academy-funded projects

- are committed to open access publishing
- make their research data and methods freely available for subsequent use.

The principles of open science must be pursued with due attention to research ethics and law. Data may for justified reasons come in varying degrees of openness, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential.

The funding application must include a separate [data management plan](#).

Learn more about the Academy's open science policy and recommendations under [Open science](#).

1.4 Conditions for receiving funding

The Academy of Finland will fund a research project only if the site of research undertakes to provide the researcher with the necessary basic facilities for research.

The Academy allocates the funding to the researcher's host organisation. Staff to be hired with Academy research funding must have an employment relationship with the site of research or the organisation receiving the funding.



Academy funding to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities) is seen as a discretionary government transfer. If the site of research is a research organisation, the funding is granted following the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers and the general conditions and guidelines for funding by the Academy. Since the funding is allocated not to individual researchers but to their host organisations, the organisation – not the researcher – is regarded as the recipient of the transfer (as per the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers), and will accordingly be required to assume all related obligations. The funded projects must also conform to other legislation, such as the Finnish Act on Public Contracts. The organisation receiving the transfer may use the funds only for the research stated in the research plan.

Academy funding is not granted to support economic activity.

For detailed conditions and guidelines (revised annually) on use of funding and reporting, see [How to use the funding](#) on our website.

1.5 Sites of research commit to the funding at the application stage

The Academy of Finland will fund a research project only if the application includes a commitment by the site of research. You must agree on this commitment **in advance** with a representative of the site of research. After the call has closed, we will request the commitment by the site of research from the person indicated in the application. Read more on our website under [Commitment by site of research](#).

For example, the site of research undertakes to secure the necessary basic facilities for the project, which are the same as those available to other research staff at the site: office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment), and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services.

In calls where [full costing](#) is applied, you must – before submitting your application – determine from your own organisation **the calculated coefficients**, and agree on them with the commitment issuer. The coefficients will be valid during the entire funding period. The funding for strategic research comes under the full cost model. The funding percentage is 100 per cent, which means that sites of research need not contribute to the funding with their own percentage.

At the application stage, sites of research must check that the site's coefficients, [VAT practice](#) and Business Identity Code have been entered correctly. Applicants must indicate in the online application form whether the other costs include VAT.

A prerequisite for Academy funding is that both the applicant and the site of research commit to the guidelines issued by the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity on [responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland](#). The site of research undertakes to submit to the Academy's Registrar's Office the final report of any investigations concerning violation of good scientific practice by the principal investigator (PI) or a researcher of an Academy-funded project.

If the funding is a discretionary government transfer awarded to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities), the site of research also undertakes to act as the recipient of the transfer on behalf of the applicant and will accordingly assume all related obligations.



1.6 How applications are submitted and become pending

In this SRC call, the non-negotiable deadline for letters of intent (first stage) is 11 January 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The non-negotiable deadline for full applications (second stage) is 26 April 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

The PI of the consortium is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline. To ensure smooth drafting and submission, please submit the application as early as possible.

According to section 17 of the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act and section 8 of the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector, the sender is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.

An application becomes pending at the Academy when the application and the obligatory appendices **have been submitted** in the online services. The system will indicate the successful submission by sending an email to the address provided by the applicant. The system will not accept applications that lack obligatory details or appendices.

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines.

For guidelines on how to submit an application in the Academy's online services, see the [How-to guide](#). If you run into problems in the online services at the time of submission, please contact us (the contact persons are named in the call text) before the deadline expires, either by phone or via [Questions and feedback](#) on our website.

1.7 Supplementing the application

You can make changes (e.g. change appendices) in an application you have submitted to the Academy, but you must make them **before the deadline expires**. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and save the supplemented application by the set deadline.

If you notice that your application lacks important information **after the deadline has expired**, immediately get in touch with the call's contact person, who can open the application so that you can add the information. We will take into account the additions insofar as it is possible in view of the review and decision-making process.

Do not submit any new appendices via the so-called additional information feature; such appendices will not be saved as part of the application.

1.8 Publicity of applications

Under the Finnish Act on the Openness of Government Activities, an application and its appendices are public information; research and interaction plans, plans of intent, abstracts and progress reports, however, are not. For example, the CV is a public document and as such must not include any confidential information.

1.9 Public project description

The popular description of the project is an important part of the application. The description is a way for the Academy and researchers to disseminate information on Academy-funded research to the research community, stakeholders and the public at



large. The description should therefore be as readable as possible, written for a nonscientific audience. It must give the reader a brief summary of the key points of the research. Read more under [Public description of project](#) on our website.

If a project is granted funding, we will publish the description of the project on our website. The description is written by the applicant when drafting the application. **We cannot edit project descriptions – it is the applicants themselves who are responsible for the content, clarity and style of the descriptions.** The descriptions will remain accessible on our website for several years.

Finnish- or Swedish-speaking applicants write their descriptions in Finnish or Swedish. All applicants must also write a description in English to facilitate international peer review.

1.10 Information on decisions

The dates for Academy funding decisions are posted on our website under [Funding decisions](#). You can also [search our decisions](#) for the funded projects, their public descriptions and the call-specific fact sheets.

Applicants will receive an automatic **email message** after the funding decision has been made. After receiving this message, you can log in to **the online services** with your user ID to view the decision. You can also read the conditions for the decision and read the expert reviews on your application, if such reviews have been drafted.

1.11 Applicants and sites of research must confirm receipt of funding

After being granted funding, you must check and accept it in the online services without delay. The system will then send a notification to the commitment issuer at the site of research. That person must also accept the granted funding, and notify whether they wish to receive advance payments based on the funding decision. Advance payments can be made if they are determined to be necessary for the funded project.

The funds can be paid only after both the applicant and the representative of the site of research have accepted them as received. The system will then notify the funding to the finance administration of the site of research, whereupon the funds will be made available for use.

2. AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR SRC FUNDING

How to apply

These application guidelines only apply to the funding instrument for strategic research. The strategic research funding differs from the Academy of Finland's other funding opportunities, for example, as follows:

- The funding is granted in programme format.
- Funding is only granted to so-called SRC consortia, which must be formed according to the structure defined by the SRC.
- The funding may be used to cover the consortium PI's salary during the entire funding period.
- The funding is granted under the full cost model and the funding percentage is 100 per cent.
- The appendices to the application must be drafted in line with the guidelines provided in this call text.

The call has two stages. The call for letters of intent (the first stage) is open to all eligible applicants. The call for full applications (the second stage) is for invited applicants only. The Strategic Research Council (SRC) decides which consortia will go through to the second call stage.

The call for letters of intent opens on 1 December 2016 and closes on 11 January 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

The call for full applications opens on 15 March 2017 and closes on 26 April 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

Applications arriving after the deadline has expired will not be processed. The submission deadline is non-negotiable. The consortium PI is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.

Guidelines

For detailed guidelines on how to apply, visit these sections on the Academy's website and in this call text:

- 1) [Call texts](#)
- 2) [How-to guide to the Academy's online services](#)
- 3) Detailed guidelines on how to draft and submit a letter of intent, on its appendices and on the review > Appendices 1–3 of this call text
- 4) Detailed guidelines on how to draft and submit a full application, on its appendices and on the review > Appendices 4–6 of this call text.

Also read the Academy's [step-by-step guide to applying](#), which is a brief summary of the most important steps you will need to follow to submit your application

We require that you carefully read the call text and the guidelines mentioned above before submitting your application

3. HOW TO APPLY FOR SRC FUNDING

3.1 Structure of SRC consortium

The consortia funded by the Strategic Research Council – hereafter SRC consortia – are structurally different from consortia funded by the Academy of Finland under the Academy Project and Academy Programme funding schemes. In the strategic research programme call, consortia applying for funding must include **at least**

- three subprojects
- two organisations
- three research fields.

‘Subproject’ refers to the staff working at a certain site of research and contributing to implementing the consortium’s research and interaction plan. Often, a subproject is the same as a research team.

An **organisation** (e.g. university or research institute) may include several sites of research. For example, a university may have several campuses or other units that have different coefficients for overheads. ‘Site of research’ refers to an organisation where researchers and other staff of a subproject are employed.

‘Research field’ refers to fields that are listed in [the Academy of Finland’s research field classification](#). Applicants must select their research fields based on the main categories.

Figure 1 below shows an example of a possible structure for an SRC consortium.

3.2 How to carry out research and interaction

Applicants must present their intended research and interaction activities as **work packages (WPs)**. Particular attention must be paid to interlinkages between the WPs and to the added value of the consortium structure. In addition, applicants must thoroughly describe the consortium’s results and expected impact.

SRC consortia must be based on true collaboration where the research and interaction activities are distributed equally and appropriately between WPs so that the consortium brings definite added value for the individual WPs. The research work must not rely too heavily on only one site of research.

If the planned interaction activity is presented as a separate WP, the applicant must show that it covers the entire scope of the consortium’s activities. The consortium’s management and coordination may also be divided into a separate WP. There is no limit to the maximum number of WPs, subprojects, sites of research or research fields.

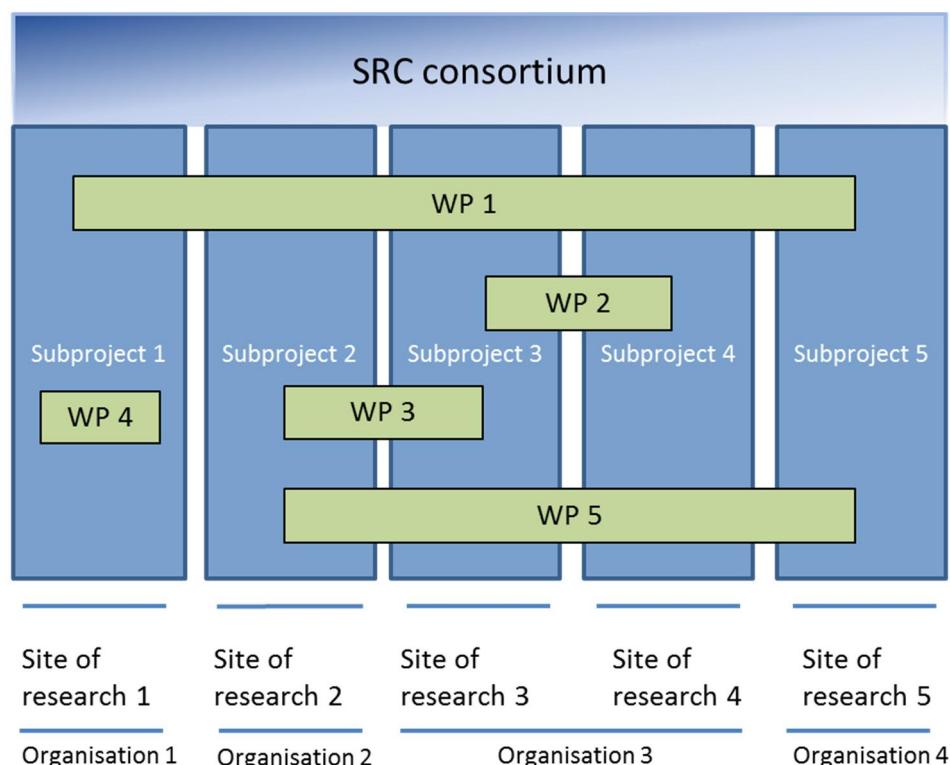


Figure 1. Example of SRC consortium structure.

The WPs may be carried out by people from more than one site of research. Correspondingly, one site of research may participate in several WPs. A subproject is made up of researchers from a single site of research. Subproject principal investigators may also lead WPs. Not all subprojects are obliged to lead a WP.

3.3 Who is eligible to apply?

Principal investigators (PIs) of SRC consortia and WP leaders must have a doctoral degree and qualifications at the docent or professor level. If the WP concentrates solely on interaction activities, the WP leader must be qualified in their own field, but they are not required to have a doctoral degree.

Subproject PIs must have a doctoral degree and they must work within SRC consortia. If the PI does not have an employment relationship with, for example, a university or research institute, they must give an account of how their salary will be covered during the funding period.

The funding for strategic research benefits the scientific community in Finland as well as Finnish society at large. SRC consortia may also include foreign sites of research, but their proportions of the total funding must not be significant.

Strategic research funding may also be granted to **non-research organisations**. Funding is not granted to support economic activity. It is granted under the condition that the recipient clearly separates between economic and other activities, and sets apart their costs, funding and income in order to prevent the funding from spilling over to economic activity. If the funding recipient cannot effectively prevent this from happening, the funding can only be granted in accordance with the EU's state aid rules

in the form of de minimis aid. The current de minimis limit for aid granted to organisations engaged in economic activity is no more than 200,000 euros per three years. New aid granted must not lead to a situation where the de minimis threshold is exceeded.

If a subproject is applying for de minimis aid, the application must include an account of state aids received. The account must include details on all de minimis aid the organisation has received during the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years. The account is appended as an attachment to the consortium PI's full application in the second call stage.

The SRC does not grant funding under the EU's Block Exemption Regulation.

Strategic research funding is not granted to sole-proprietor businesses.

3.4 Restrictions

In SRC calls, **the same person may be the principal investigator for one SRC consortium only**. In addition, a consortium PI cannot act as a WP leader in other consortia. A PI of a consortium that has received funding under the 2015 or 2016 SRC programmes is not eligible to apply for new funding under the 2017 and 2018 programmes. Directors of the Academy of Finland's Centres of Excellence cannot act as PIs for SRC consortia.

The same person may be a WP leader in only one application per each programme. Consortium PIs must check the eligibility of each WP leader and that the leaders are participating in only one application per each programme.

If a person has been entered as a consortium PI or WP leader in more than one application, that person will be removed from all applications before the review starts. In such cases, the applications concerned will proceed to the review without that person's details, CV and list of publications.

Persons who are currently funded by the SRC will not be granted overlapping SRC funding for the same purpose.

3.5 Changing consortium composition between first and second call stage

The composition of a SRC consortium may be supplemented between the first and the second call stage only if the supplementation has been suggested in the first-stage review report.

Consortium PIs, WP leaders and subproject PIs designated in the letter of intent may be changed only for very compelling reasons. Parties to an SRC consortium cannot be removed.

Any changes to consortium compositions made for the reasons mentioned above must be justified in the research and interaction plan of the full application. In addition, in such cases, applicants must contact the science adviser at the Academy of Finland before they submit their full application.

3.6 Salary costs

Funding awarded for strategic research can be used to cover the salaries of consortium PIs and possible coordinators for the duration of the funding period. However, the salary funding must not overlap with salary paid from other Academy funding.

Staff to be hired with SRC funding must have an employment relationship with their site of research. With regard to research personnel, the funding is primarily intended for the salaries of **researchers with doctoral degrees**.

3.7 Other eligible costs

The SRC's funding is granted for research and related interaction activities. The funding is not granted to support economic activity.

The application must include a **cost estimate** showing an estimate of the annual amount of funding needed by the SRC consortium. In the letters of intent submitted in the first call stage, the cost estimate is presented as a total sum. In the second call stage, each subproject will present its own cost estimate, itemised by type of expenditure. The cost estimate must be realistic and justified in the research and interaction plan.

In the SRC's calls, funding can be applied for to cover the salary and other costs arising from the implementation of the research and interaction plans.

Other eligible costs include the following:

- costs of implementing the interaction plan
- research costs
- travel expenses
- costs of collaboration and mobility in Finland and abroad (of key significance to the goals of the project)
- costs of preparing international projects
- publishing costs
- auditing costs.

Strategic research funding cannot be used to pay for acquisitions of significant infrastructures.

All acquisitions must be made in accordance with the Finnish Act on Public Contracts. Where necessary, the acquisitions must be put out to tender in compliance with the practices stipulated in the Act.

3.8 How the decisions are made

A consortium application is treated as one single application. When a consortium is granted funding, each subproject of that consortium will receive a separate funding decision and the funding will be allocated to each subproject's site of research.

Once the SRC has selected the consortia for the strategic research programmes, it will enter into negotiations with the consortia on their objectives and funding. The final funding decisions will be made based on these negotiations. The aim of the negotiations is to reach an agreement on joint objectives for the research and interaction activities and to nail down the final funding budget. At the end of the

negotiations, the representatives of the SRC consortia undertake to fulfil the agreed objectives by signing a letter of undertaking.

While the consortium project is ongoing, the consortium can apply to change the subprojects' funding plans without having to change the consortium's overall funding.

3.9 The funding periods are programme-specific

The strategic research programme **Changing Society and Active Citizenship** has a project duration of **four years**. The funding period starts on 1 September 2017 and ends on 31 August 2021. The research and interaction plan included in the application must be drafted to cover the entire four-year funding period. Funding will most likely be granted to 2–4 consortia. The total funding for four years is estimated at 2–5 million euros per consortium. In the SRC consortium's cost estimate, about 5 per cent of the costs for the entire funding period will be allocated for 2017, about 25 per cent for 2018, about 30 per cent for 2019, about 25 per cent for 2020 and about 15 per cent for 2021. The annual instalments are based on terms stated in the Government's draft budget concerning the funding instrument for strategic research.

The strategic research programmes **Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth** and **Keys to Sustainable Growth** have a project duration of **six years**. The research and interaction plan included in the application must be drafted to cover the entire six-year period. The programmes will most likely provide funding to 12–18 consortia in total. The funding will be granted for two periods. The first funding decision will be for the period 1 January 2018–31 December 2020. The total funding for the first three-year period is estimated at 2–4 million euros per consortium. At the end of the first three-year period, the consortia will go through a midterm review that will determine the funding for the next period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023. The six-year cost estimate of the SRC consortium must be drafted so that at least two-thirds of the total funding falls on the first funding period.

3.10 Applications will be reviewed by panels

The SRC's funding decisions are based on a review of the merits of the research and interaction plan and the applicant. The review puts particular emphasis on the added value generated by the consortium for the attainment of the objectives set for the programme concerned.

The letters of intent will be reviewed by programme-specific panels composed of Finnish and foreign experts in science and research relevance. The panels will consider how well the proposed projects match the programme objectives and assess their societal relevance and impact as well as the quality of the proposed research (read more in Appendix 3 and Appendix 6 of this call text).

The SRC will select the consortia proceeding to the second call stage at its own discretion and based on the panel reviews. Successful consortia will be asked to submit full applications.

The full applications by consortia invited to the second stage of the SRC call will each be reviewed in two programme-specific panels. The societal relevance and impact and scientific quality of the applications will be reviewed separately (read more in Appendix 6 of this call text).

Relevance panels composed of Finnish and foreign experts will review the proposed projects for their societal relevance and impact. They will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives.

International **scientific panels** will review the scientific quality of the research plans.

The projects to be funded will be selected by the SRC based the reviews of the relevance panels and the scientific panels. The SRC reserves the right to invite representatives of SRC consortia to be interviewed. The possible interviews, scheduled for 8–9 August 2017, will only concern the strategic research programme Changing Society and Active Citizenship.

Applicants have the right to submit their application in Finnish or Swedish, but **we ask that you to submit it (and the appendices) in English** in order to:

- facilitate international peer review
- ensure an equal preparation of funding decisions
- ensure a smooth processing of applications.

The application and the appendices must be drafted according to the guidelines provided. In accordance with a decision by the Academy of Finland Administration Office, applications that do not comply with the guidelines provided may be dismissed. Read more on our website under [Review criteria](#).

3.11 Mobility plan

Researcher mobility carried out in SRC-funded projects must support the goals of the programme concerned. It should also support project implementation, reinforce the international networks of the researchers involved, and create new knowledge and know-how. As regards the full applications, applicants must outline the mobility plan both on the application form (in detail) and in the research plan. Mobility plans are not needed in the letters of intent.

3.12 Collaborators

Here, 'collaborators' refers to both Finnish and foreign parties that will contribute to the scientific and societal impact of the SRC consortium with their own funding. As regards full applications, the key collaborators of the project are entered on the application form under *Collaborators*. The collaborators must also sign a free-form letter of commitment to be appended to the application. Collaborators and letters of commitment from collaborators are not needed in the letters of intent.

4. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Strategic research refers to long-term solution-driven research of high scientific standard carried out to develop policies and functions of society in order to identify solutions to major societal challenges and problems.

The Finnish Government decided the themes and priorities of strategic research for 2017 and 2018 on 6 October 2016.

The research to be carried out under the theme **Changing citizenship – society in a state of global flux** (the theme for 2017) should seek to shed light on information needs and challenges posed by global change to the functioning and stability of the Finnish political system. Answers and solutions will be identified to respond to the need for greater awareness of political systems in the context of the increasingly international operating environment. The objective is to foresee changes in a way that improves capabilities for bringing political institutions and citizens closer together, reinforcing engagement in the democratic process as well as increasing mutual trust between demographic groups and confidence in public institutions. The research will help identify and develop the necessary procedures for reconciling the fast pace of policy-making with the long-term approach required by social reforms. Evidence-based information and Finland's traditions of good governance create a sound basis for developing new operating models of international interest.

The theme **Reform or wither – resources and solutions** (the theme for 2018) calls for research into best ways of supporting change and reform in society and creating favourable conditions for such renewal. Quick changes pose major challenges to the resilience of society, organisations and individuals. To make the best use of ongoing transitions, it is necessary to be able to combine the resources of society, organisations and individuals in new ways. This will reinforce the capacity for reform and adaptation to changes. A key question to be addressed in the course of research is to determine how to promote the reform and renewal of society, organisations and individuals by harnessing existing and future resources in new ways. Among the resources to be assessed in the context of this theme are: stable society; efficient institutions; research and knowledge pools; skills, competence and education; natural resources; lifelong learning; and the skills and competence possessed by various communities.

The cross-thematic focus areas for all programmes are **harnessing scientific knowledge in decision-making** and **achieving sustainable growth**.

Based on these themes, the Strategic Research Council (SRC) decided on 21 November 2016 to launch three strategic research programmes.

One programme for the 2017 theme Changing citizenship – society in a state of global flux:

- **Changing Society and Active Citizenship**

Two programmes for the 2018 theme Reform or wither – resources and solutions:

- **Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth**
- **Keys to Sustainable Growth**

4.1 SRC programme Changing Society and Active Citizenship

Peoples' opportunities to participate in societal activities and influence the decision-making that concerns them have changed. Today, there are more channels for people get involved in policy-making processes as individuals, citizens and consumers, for example via web services. At the same time, however, there is increasing polarisation in participation due to factors such as socio-economic status, multiculturalism and health inequality. Finns do not have equal opportunities in terms of participation. Active citizenship requires a large enough knowledge base, sufficient skills and a will to get involved.

Global interconnectedness and multi-level governance are reshaping established structures and procedures. Part of the decision-making power has transferred from the national to the local and regional level on the one hand and to the international and supranational level on the other. Power is also being transferred to non-government actors. Businesses and other actors in the private sector offer services and practices that challenge existing services, structures and the distribution of work. International businesses are also changing the rules of the game at both the national and the international level. Simultaneously, other actors such as foundations, the civil society and networks of other players are taking their place alongside nation states and rethinking established practices. For example, collaboration between large cities in different countries has intensified, which has given rise to, for instance, new innovation clusters and new structures of power.

The new ways of governance and the changing opportunities for participation create a need to assess how and where people can influence matters that concern them. To facilitate this assessment, we need broad expertise and an in-depth understanding of political systems in a global context. It must also be noted that people and organisations have access to increasingly diverse information when they make choices concerning political, economic and societal issues. The amount and nature of available data are changing. At the same time, there is increasing differentiation in knowledge bases, which may lead to one-sidedness and exclusion.

Increasing interaction between citizens and policy-makers can contribute to improving the utilisation of multiform data both in policy-making and implementation and in the daily lives of businesses and citizens. In addition, Finland's traditions of good governance and the country's level of expertise create a sound basis for finding solutions of international interest that promote active citizenship and participation and lay the foundation for sustainable growth.

Programme questions (applicants answer all questions)

Focus and context

- A. Which significant phenomenon influencing the stability and function of Finland's political system as well as citizenship will the research address?

Solutions and effects

- B. Which solutions and governance practices can help strengthen active citizenship, increase mutual trust between demographic groups and build confidence in public institutions and business and industry? What are the impacts of the proposed solutions in different timeframes?
- C. Which procedures can help reconcile the fast pace of policy-making with the long-term approach required by social reforms?

Cross-cutting priorities

- D. How will governance be reformed to make it internationally interesting and supportive of the sustainable growth of Finnish society?
- E. What are the current problems associated with harnessing scientific information in policy-making? How can these problems be solved?

Research in this programme can address the following topics:

- stability, interaction and consistency of the system of government and policies (e.g. policy on economy and employment, climate and energy, natural resources and food, and social welfare and health)
- global governance challenges involving not only pressures affecting the role of the state but also the changes perceived by the citizens in their own status (such as issues related to international trade, environmental and security agreements, corporate social responsibility, and EU and other European integration)
- development of interests, dissemination of information and participation mechanisms in various sectors and at various policy levels (e.g. local, regional, national, European and global levels)
- how to reconcile agreements between labour market parties with the parliamentary system (e.g. research into union formation, contractual structures and decision-making, and international operational models)
- impact of the evolving citizenship, socio-economic inequality and differentiating knowledge bases on participation, communality and the public debate culture (e.g. technological, social and other innovations conducive to civic engagement, and new forms of civic activity)
- the implementation of choices, incentives, guidance and seamless service chains related to active citizenship in various services in the field of social welfare, health, education and employment (e.g. issues related to the reconciliation of different organisations and their jurisdiction).

The review will focus on the applicant's answers to the programme questions. The list of examples above is only meant as a support tool to illustrate possible research topics and approaches – it will not be included in the material to be provided to the reviewers.

4.2 SRC programme Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth

Many current global trends profoundly affect Finnish society. The slowdown in economic growth and economic uncertainties, climate change and other environment threats, pandemics and new kinds of health hazards as well as demographic transitions are all examples of changes to which Finnish society will have to learn to adapt. Some of these changes are foreseeable, but we will also need the ability to respond to unlikely and completely unforeseen changes. Resilience and adaptation are an integral part of the capacity of all societies, communities and individuals. It creates opportunities for sustainable growth and for effective resource use.

The aim of the SRC programme *Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth* is to identify best ways of supporting comprehensive resilience through the use of the resources of society, communities and individuals and through new ways of combining these resources. This resilience needs to be supported by a versatile knowledge base and foresight, and by solutions based on these. Also needed are mechanisms and political decisions that encourage adaptation. Research under this programme should strive to understand the changes and prepare for them at individual, community and

society level. Research is also needed to identify obstacles to adaptation and resilience, such as institutional path dependencies and social and cultural practices, and to develop solutions to eliminate such obstacles.

Programme questions (applicants answer all questions)

Focus and context

- A. Which change phenomenon of societal significance will the research address, and why are adaptation and resilience important factors here?
- B. What are the obstacles to adaptation and resilience, and why?

Solutions and effects

- C. Which solutions can support adaptation to change and change management, and how can adaptation facilitate sustainable growth?
- D. In what ways will improved resilience affect society in different timeframes?

Cross-cutting priority

- E. How can the harnessing of information in decisions by individuals, communities or society be promoted in order to improve the conditions for adaptation?

Research in this programme can address the following topics:

- reconciliation of human activity and natural systems as well as environmental sustainability (e.g. oceans, aquatic systems, climate and land use, technology, legal acts and agreements)
- reconciliation of health and technological reform (e.g. issues related to the deployment, commercialisation, diffusion and scalability of health promotion software and devices, pandemic preparedness, more efficient use of medicines, reform of health services)
- how the welfare state adapts to a new operating environment, characterised by changes such as those affecting business competitiveness, age and household structures, social inequality, consumer behaviour and the sustainability of public finances
- how business and industry adapt to a world where emphasis is put on responsibility and environmental requirements and where financial mechanisms and markets are changing (e.g. demand-driven markets, the sharing economy, social innovations, neo-industrialisation and industrial digitalisation)
- factors explaining productivity differences in the production of goods and services within and between different sectors of society
- making good use of international good practices, experimentation and big data in anticipating and preparing for various changes in society

The review will focus on the applicant's answers to the programme questions. The list of examples above is only meant as a support tool to illustrate possible research topics and approaches – it will not be included in the material to be provided to the reviewers.

4.3 SRC programme Keys to Sustainable Growth

Finnish society is at present unable to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by global changes. Finland is performing well in many respects, but the country faces problems as regards business reform, translating innovations into practice and utilising knowledge, data resources and expertise, for instance. In order to capitalise on the

changes occurring at the global level, society, communities and individuals will need to demonstrate capacity to reform themselves. First and foremost, reform requires good resources. Among other things, Finland has a stable society, working institutions, knowledge, research and data resources, good education and abundant natural resources.

The aim of the SRC programme *Keys to Sustainable Growth* is to find solutions to how society, communities and individuals will be better able to utilise, develop and pool their resources and assets in new and sustainable ways. Such new ways of using resources will require both technological capabilities and know-how and, in particular, a culture that fosters desire for change and reform-orientation. Furthermore, the support for sustainable growth and resilience will also require a broad knowledge base and extensive foresight. Research under the programme should seek to identify opportunities provided by change and analyse the conditions for and obstacles to reform at the level of society, communities and individuals.

Programme questions (applicants answer all questions)

Focus and context

- A. Which societally significant need for reform will the research address?
- B. What are the obstacles to reform in the chosen area, and why?

Solutions and effects

- C. What new combinations of resources and actors or reformed procedures and structures, including elimination of obstacles, will facilitate sustainable societal growth, and how? What are the effects of the proposed solutions in different timeframes?
- D. How will the reform support adaptation to global trends in the chosen area?

Cross-cutting priority

- E. How can the harnessing of scientific information in decisions by individuals, communities or society be promoted in order to improve the conditions for reform?

Research in this programme can address the following topics:

- creating conditions for evolving business activities (e.g. value chains, start-ups, social companies, the dynamics of knowledge-intensive and growth-supporting innovation clusters and their connections to international networks, distribution of risk and added value, growth and reform of high-productivity organisations)
- management of risks related to the responsibilities of public authorities (e.g. management and financing of government debt, guarantee liabilities, environmental responsibilities)
- advantages and disadvantages created by changes to business and community structures (e.g. productivity and cost management of fusions)
- individual capacity for reform (e.g. childhood conditions, lifelong learning, functional capacity of the ageing population)
- translating sustainable-growth-promoting innovations into practice (e.g. social and organisational innovations, technological solutions, demand-driven markets)
- reforming societal institutions (e.g. the research, education and innovation system, the housing, capital and labour markets).

The review will focus on the applicant's answers to the programme questions. The list of examples above is only meant as a support tool to illustrate possible research topics and approaches – it will not be included in the material to be provided to the reviewers.

5. HOW TO APPLY

5.1 Letter of intent

In the first stage of the strategic research programme call, letters of intent can be submitted in the Academy of Finland's online services as of 1 December 2016. The call closes on 11 January 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The deadline is non-negotiable.

Draft the application in [the Academy's online services](#). Select one of the following calls under *Open calls*:

- ***Changing Society and Active Citizenship Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth***
- ***Keys to Sustainable Growth.***

The principal investigator (PI) of the SRC consortium is responsible for drafting and submitting the letter of intent in the online services. To minimise the administrative burden on the process, **the letter of intent is drafted as an individual application** – not as a consortium application. Consortium PIs must check the eligibility of each work package leader (WP leader) and that the leaders are participating in only one application per each programme. The WP leaders are listed on the application form.

The consortium PI fills in all required fields of the letter of intent (read more in Appendix 1 of this call text).

Consortium PIs must append to the letters of intent a research and interaction plan drawn up according to the guidelines provided as well as the CVs and lists of publications for themselves and the WP leaders.

The letters of intent will be reviewed in programme-specific expert panels that will assess the match with the programme, the societal impact and the scientific quality. Applicants are advised to read through the review form (see Appendix 3 of this call text).

According to a preliminary schedule, the projects going through to the second call stage will be selected on 13 March 2017. The names and project titles of successful applicants will be posted on the Academy of Finland's website.

The non-negotiable deadline for full applications (second call stage) is 26 April 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

The detailed guidelines on drafting letters of intent are available in Appendices 1–3 of this call text:

- Appendix 1: Submitting a letter of intent in the online services
- Appendix 2: Appendices to letter of intent
- Appendix 3: How letters of intent will be reviewed

5.2 Full application

In the second stage of the call, full applications can be submitted in the Academy of Finland's online services as of 15 March 2017. The call closes on 26 April 2017 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The deadline is non-negotiable.

Draft the application in [the Academy's online services](#). Select one of the following calls under *Open calls*:

- ***Changing Society and Active Citizenship***
- ***Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth***
- ***Keys to Sustainable Growth.***

Full applications for strategic research funding are drafted as **consortium applications**. The applications and appendices of consortium subprojects will be joined together with the consortium PI's application. **The consortium application can be submitted only after all subprojects have completed their applications (i.e. tagged them as 'complete')**. Consortium PIs must follow the completion of the application in the online services to make sure that the consortium's application can be submitted on time.

The application submitted by **the consortium PI** must include the details, abstract and public description for the PI's own project (see Appendix 4 of this call text) as well as the whole consortium's joint research and interaction plan and the CVs and lists of publications for the WP leaders (see Appendix 5 of this call text).

The subproject PIs will complete their own applications, filling in their own subproject's cost estimate and funding plan as well as all other required fields (see Appendix 4 of this call text).

The applications will be reviewed in two different programme-specific panels. One panel will focus on scientific quality, the other on societal relevance and impact (see Appendix 6 of this call text).

The projects to be included in the SRC's programmes will be selected in autumn 2017. The names and project titles of the funding recipients will be posted on the Academy of Finland's website.

The detailed guidelines on drafting full applications are available in Appendices 4–6 of this call text:

- Appendix 4: Submitting a full application in the online services
- Appendix 5: Appendices to full application
- Appendix 6: How full applications will be reviewed.

5.3 Contacts at the Strategic Research Unit

- Science Adviser Jyrki Hakapää, tel. +358 295 335 020 (as of 1 Dec 2016)
- Science Adviser Laura Kitti, tel. +358 295 335 152
- Science Adviser Elina Pajula, tel. +358 295 335 103

Email addresses: [firstname.lastname@aka.fi](#).

More information is also available at www.aka.fi/src.

6. SRC MATCHING FUNDS FOR HORIZON 2020

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland grants national matching funds to sites of research based on projects that have received funding under the Societal Challenges priority of Horizon 2020, the EU the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Projects eligible to receive SRC matching funds must have received funding in 2015 or thereafter.

The aim of SRC matching funds is to encourage research organisations to participate in preparing projects for upcoming EU funding calls.

SRC matching funds can be applied for by research organisations. **The application deadline is open-ended.**

The full application guidelines are available [on our website](#).

More information

- Finance Manager Sirpa Nummila (Finance Unit), tel. +358 295 335 081
- Senior Science Adviser Kyösti Lempa (Strategic Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 144

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Submitting a letter of intent in the online services

The letters of intent submitted in the first stage of the SRC's call are drafted as **individual applications** – not as consortium applications. The principal investigator (PI) of the SRC consortium is responsible for drafting and submitting the letter of intent in the Academy's online services. Only the consortium PI's site of research issues a commitment to the application.

All guidelines for the online services are listed on our website under [Online services](#).

The consortium PI drafts the letter of intent.

- Sign-up is required to use the online services.
- After sign-up, select the SRC call under *Open calls* and click on *New application*.
- First select the language of the application and then *Individual application*.

Fill in all pages of the application form.

- 1) Personal data/CV (CV no more than four pages)
- 2) General description
- 3) Abstract
- 4) Work package leaders (enter the WP titles in the description field)
- 5) Funding
- 6) Appendices

In the application, give an estimate of the consortium's annual total costs according to the full cost model. Do not itemise the costs by type of expenditure; **enter all costs as a total sum under *Other costs***. All other rows of the estimate should be left empty.

In the SRC programme **Changing Society and Active Citizenship**, about 5 per cent of the costs for the entire four-year funding period will be allocated for 2017, about 25 per cent for 2018, about 30 per cent for 2019, about 25 per cent for 2020 and about 15 per cent for 2021.

In the SRC programmes **Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth** and **Keys to Sustainable Growth**, the six-year cost estimate must be drafted so that at least two-thirds of the total funding falls on the first three-year funding period.

Consortium PIs append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure that they are drafted in line with the guidelines (see Appendix 2 of this call text).

All obligatory fields must be filled in before the application can be submitted. It is well worth submitting the application in good time **before the deadline expires**, because you can make changes to an application you have submitted while the call is still open. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and save the supplemented application by the set deadline.

If you notice that your application lacks important information **after the deadline has expired**, immediately get in touch with the programme's contact person, who may, at their discretion, open the application so that you can add the information. We will take into account the additions insofar as it is possible in view of the review and decision-making process.

Appendix 2: Appendices to letter of intent

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the guidelines provided. Also make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines. Draft the appendices in English and append them to the application in PDF format under *Appendices*.

An exception is the consortium PI's CV, which is appended under *Personal data/CV*.

CV and list of publications

We ask that applicants draft their CV in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity, taking into account the nature of the call, the research career stage and the practices of the scientific discipline. The CV should be a concise presentation of the person's most important scientific merits in terms of the call concerned.

- The maximum length of the consortium PI's CV is four pages. Name the appendix following the format *surname_cv*.
- Append a list of the consortium PI's ten most important publications; the list may include links to longer publication lists. Name the appendix following the format *surname_pub*.
- Append the CVs for the work package leaders (one page per leader) and lists of their ten most important publications. Name the appendices following the format *consortium_WP[No.]_surname*.

Structure of research and interaction plan

To ensure the uniformity and quality of the review, applications must follow a comparable structure.

The research and interaction plan should be six pages long (Times New Roman 12 pt or corresponding) including a bibliography. The plan does not need to have a cover page. The plan must be appended to the application in PDF format. Name the appendix following the format *consortium_research plan*.

When drafting the research and interaction plan, please take into account that it will be reviewed by both Finnish and foreign experts from various fields and scientific disciplines. The plan must be drafted according to the structure below. Please use the headings provided.

Page structure for the research and interaction plan (6 pages in total)

Project title (ABBREVIATION)

[page 1]

Name and site of research of consortium PI
Name and site of research of deputy consortium PI
Names and sites of research of work package leaders

1. Central idea of the research (approx. 0.5 page)

Describe the central idea of the research and the purpose of the project. What challenge will you be trying to solve? What are the scientific and societal objectives of the research? What is the expected societal impact of the research?

2. How the application matches the programme questions (approx. 0.5 page)

Describe how the application addresses the programme questions and what the project aims to do.

3. Research implementation (2–3 pages in total)

[pages 2–4]

Divide the implementation of the research and interaction into work packages (WPs). You may also divide the consortium's management, coordination and interaction into WPs. A WP may be implemented by people from several scientific disciplines and sites of research. Describe the WPs so that the descriptions show

- the theoretical background and how the project is positioned in the scientific domain (at least three research fields)
- the implementation and benefits of the multidisciplinary research
- the research methods, design and data
- how the research will be implemented
- the interlinkages (added value of the consortium) and distribution of work between WPs
- the expected results and impact
- the ethical issues and promotion of open science.

4. Interaction (1 page)

[page 5]

In the interaction plan, describe the goals, means, stakeholders and implementation of the interaction activities. Make sure that the description of stakeholders is realistic. In addition, describe the consortium's competence as regards the promotion of societal impact.

5. Scientific accomplishments and competence of the consortium as well as key literature or bibliography (1 page)

[page 6]

On the last page of the research and interaction plan, describe the merits and competence of the consortium PI and WP leaders. In addition, provide a list of key literature or a bibliography.

Appendix 3: How letters of intent will be reviewed

The review of letters of intent will focus on the following aspects:

- compatibility with the programme
- societal relevance and impact
- scientific level.

The letters of intent will be reviewed by programme-specific panels composed of Finnish and foreign experts in science, transdisciplinary approaches and research relevance. The applications must have high societal impact and be of a high scientific standard.

When reviewing the letters of intent, the panel will reflect on answers to the following questions:

Strategic research programme call: letter of intent review questions
<i>Guiding questions:</i> · Why and how does the proposed research match the programme? · To what extent is the research idea promising? · How does the project show high scientific quality? Do the research plan and the work packages support a multidisciplinary approach and what added value does the chosen approach bring? · How significant is the contribution to policy or practice? Are the plans for interaction sufficient? · How do the consortium and its distribution of work promote project implementation? Is the consortium suitable for multidisciplinary work?

The panel will rate all letters of intent assigned to it and issue a written review report on each application, based on preliminary review statements and the discussions in the panel. The panel will also give an overall rating for the application (scale 1–6).

When deciding the overall rating, the panel uses the review scales for both societal relevance and scientific quality (see Appendix 6 of this call text).

The SRC will decide which consortia are invited to the second call stage based on the panel's written reports and overall ratings and at its own discretion. Successful consortia will be asked to submit full applications.

Appendix 4: Submitting a full application in the online services

Full applications for strategic research funding are drafted as consortium applications. The consortium PI submits the consortium's joint application, which includes the subproject applications. The consortium PI creates the consortium in the online services, invites the consortium participants and follows the completion of the joint application. The applications and appendices of consortium subprojects will be joined together with the consortium PI's application.

The consortium PI's application includes details and appendices for the PI's own subproject as well as the project's abstract and public description. The consortium PI will enter the project's title, keywords, research fields and collaborators on behalf of the whole consortium. The consortium PI appends to their application the project's joint research and interaction plan, the CVs and lists of publications of work package leaders (WP leaders) as well as letters of commitment and all other required appendices.

The subproject PIs will complete their own applications, filling in their own subproject's cost estimate and funding plan as well as all other required fields. NB! WP leaders are not necessarily subproject PIs. **Costs that fall upon a single site of research, which may involve several WPs, are gathered into one subproject.** The cost estimate must be as realistic as possible. It must follow the cost coefficients (overheads, indirect employee costs, effective working hours) used by the site of research in question. Each site of research of the consortium parties must be asked for their commitment, as is standard Academy practice.

The cost estimate must be drafted as follows:

- In the SRC programme **Changing Society and Active Citizenship**, about 5 per cent of the costs for the entire four-year funding period will be allocated for 2017, about 25 per cent for 2018, about 30 per cent for 2019, about 25 per cent for 2020 and about 15 per cent for 2021.
- In the SRC programmes **Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth** and **Keys to Sustainable Growth**, the six-year cost estimate must be drafted so that at least two-thirds of the total funding falls on the first funding period.

All guidelines for the online services are listed on our website under [Online services](#).

The joint consortium application is started by the consortium PI. The PI logs in to the Academy's online services, selects the correct SRC call under *Open calls* and clicks on *New application*. First, the PI selects the language of the application and then *Application of consortium PI*. Then the PI enters the name and abbreviation of the consortium.

Under *Collaborators*, the PI describes how key Finnish or foreign collaborators named in the research and interaction plan and working with their own funding will contribute to the project. The collaborators will be asked to submit free-form letters of commitment to be appended to the application.

Under *Consortium parties*, the consortium PI enters the PIs of the consortium subprojects. NB! WP leaders are not necessarily subproject PIs. Please note that the consortium PI can enter the consortium parties in the application only after the parties have signed up in the Academy's online services. When the consortium PI starts writing the name of a subproject PI in the online application, the system will give a list

of persons with the same name who have already signed up in the online services. If the name of the subproject PI is not on the list, he or she must first sign up in the online services.

After this, the consortium PI sends the consortium parties a message via the system to indicate that they have been added to the consortium. The email message includes a link with which subproject PIs can log in to the online services to draft their own application and appendices (under *My applications > Incomplete*).

Subproject PIs (i.e. sites of research) will fill in their own online application forms. A subproject is made up of researchers from a single site of research. Please note that the online services will treat a subproject as a research team. A subproject's application form must include information on all researchers working on the subproject's different WPs. On the application form, each subproject PI enters the subproject's research costs and the cost coefficients (overheads, indirect employee costs, effective working hours) and VAT practice of the site of research as well as all other requested details.

Different sites of research within the same organisation may have different coefficients for overheads and indirect employee costs. In such cases, the site of research may choose whether the researchers are placed in the same subproject or in different subprojects, that is, whether the site of research will receive one or two separate funding decisions.

Under *Mobility*, the applicant describes how the subproject's researchers will be mobile in Finland and abroad during the funding period. The mobility must support the project. Learn more about how we support researcher mobility on the Academy's website at [Calculation of support to international researcher mobility](#).

After all obligatory fields have been completed, the **subproject PI tags the application as complete** so that the consortium PI will receive an automatic message indicating that the application is ready.

The consortium application (i.e. the application of the consortium PI and the applications of the consortium subprojects) must be submitted by the set deadline. **The consortium PI can submit the consortium application only after all consortium subprojects (i.e. the subproject PIs) have completed their own applications in the online services (i.e. tagged them as complete).**

The deadline is non-negotiable. All consortium parties can follow the completion of the application in the online services. The PDF version of the application is updated as information is saved in the system. **The PI of the consortium is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.**

All obligatory fields must be filled in before the application can be submitted. It is well worth submitting the application **in good time before the deadline expires**, because you can make changes to an application you have submitted while the call is still open. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and save the supplemented application by the set deadline.

Appendix 5: Appendices to full application

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the guidelines provided. Also make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines. Draft the appendices in English and append them to the application in PDF format under *Appendices*. An exception is the consortium PI's and the subproject PIs' CVs, which are appended under *Personal data/CV*.

CV and list of publications

We ask that applicants draft their CV in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity, taking into account the nature of the call, the research career stage and the practices of the scientific discipline. The CV should be a concise presentation of the person's most important scientific merits in terms of the call concerned.

Appendices to consortium PI's application

- consortium's joint research and interaction plan (no more than 19 pages), including a two-page executive summary; name the appendix following the format *consortium_research and interaction plan*
- data management plan (approx. 1–3 pages); name the appendix following the format *consortium_data management plan*
- curriculum vitae drafted in line with guidelines by Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (4 pages); name the appendix following the format *surname_cv*
- list of the consortium PI's ten most important publications; the list may include links to longer publication lists; name the appendix following the format *surname_pub*
- curricula vitae (4 pages) and top 10 list of publications for work package leaders who are not subproject PIs; name the appendices following the format *surname_cv and pub*

Appendices to subproject PI's application

- curriculum vitae drafted in line with guidelines by Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (4 pages); name the appendix following the format *surname_cv*
- list of the subproject PI's ten most important publications; the list may include links to longer publication lists; name the appendix following the format *surname_pub*

Case-specific appendices

- letters of commitment from collaborators named in the application
- statement by an ethics committee
- account of state aids received (applies to organisations engaging in economic activity)
- progress report on all Academy-funded research projects by the consortium PI and subproject PIs that have not submitted final reports
- invitation by foreign university or research institute, if part of the work will be conducted abroad in the form of researcher mobility

Research and interaction plan

The joint research and interaction plan of the SRC consortium must be drafted to cover the project's entire funding period. The plan must not exceed 19 pages (Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent). The plan does not need a separate cover page.

The research and interaction plan will be reviewed by a relevance panel of Finnish and foreign experts and by a scientific panel of foreign experts. The maximum length of the executive summary of the research and interaction plan is two pages; the summary must follow the structure of the plan. To facilitate the review, the research and interaction plan must follow the following structure and include the following information:

Structure of research and interaction plan

- i. Project title and abbreviation, date of plan**
- ii. Names of PI and deputy PI of the SRC consortium**
- iii. Work packages, their leaders and the leaders' sites of research**
- iv. Executive summary (no more than 2 pages)**

1. Central idea of the research

- how the project aims to address the programme's objectives and questions
- what new knowledge will be generated to reach the objectives and how that knowledge will be used
- added value created by the consortium's multi- and transdisciplinary collaboration; justifications for possible changes to consortium composition
- aspired societal impact

2. Scientific objectives and their justifications as well as objectives for interaction

- research questions and hypotheses
- previous research around the topic; how the consortium is positioned in relation to the international scientific field
- theoretical background
- methodology behind multidisciplinary collaboration
- expected scientific results and potential for breakthroughs
- objectives for consortium's interaction activities
- publication plan

3. Research implementation, methods and data, breakdown by work package

- description of work plan (by work package), interlinkages between work packages
- justifications for chosen multidisciplinary approach
- presentation of data and methods that enable the study design
- integration of multidisciplinary methods and results
- description of ethical issues concerning the research topic, methods and data as well as information on possible research permits and pending permit applications

4. Implementation of interaction

- key actors and knowledge needs with regard to research utilisation
- means, channels and optimal timing of interaction from the perspective of end-users and beneficiaries at various stages of the project
- interaction with the media, including social media

5. Consortium's responsibilities and competence as regards scientific and societal impact

- merits and competence of the consortium PI and the work package leaders
- competence as regards combining multidisciplinary methods and results
- management, distribution of work and ensuring collaboration between work packages
- critical points for success, alternative implementation strategies

6. International collaboration and researcher mobility

- international connections and cooperation
- plan for possible researcher mobility that will support project implementation

7. Schedule and cost estimate

- schedule for research and interaction activities
- consortium's cost estimate and cost justifications by type of expenditure
- costs arising from interaction activities

8. Bibliography

Appendix 6: How full applications will be reviewed

The full applications by consortia invited to the second call stage will go through a programme-specific review in two different panels. One panel will assess the applications' match with the programme and their societal relevance and impact, and the other will focus on scientific quality.

The relevance panels, composed of Finnish and foreign experts, will review the proposed projects for their societal relevance and impact. They will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives.

The scientific panels, composed of international experts, will review the scientific quality of the research and interaction plans.

Below is a list of the panels' review questions for the second call stage as well as the review scales and scale descriptions.

Review questions: societal impact

1 Project's relevance to the programme
Societal relevance of the project and match with the programme <i>Guiding questions:</i> How does the project contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme? Are the objectives and/or the implementation of the research societally important?
2 Project's interaction with society
Reaching stakeholders and networks, obtaining support to decision-making <i>Guiding questions:</i> Is the implementation of research activities and results good and efficient? Are the effects and scope of the intended interaction relevant and realistic from a societal perspective? Are co-creation, co-design or participative methods used well in the different phases of the project?
3 Competence and expertise
Competence and expertise of the consortium, including external collaboration <i>Guiding questions:</i> What are the merits and expertise of the consortium (incl. multidisciplinary expertise and external collaboration) in conducting socially relevant research that enables impact on society? Is the management and coordination of the consortium appropriate and high-quality? Does the consortium have appropriate competence to implement the interaction plans?
4 Overall assessment
List of main strengths and weaknesses of the project; additional comments and recommendations

Review questions: scientific quality

1 Research plan
1.1 Scientific quality and the framing of the phenomena <i>Guiding questions:</i> How does the project show high scientific quality and potential for innovative outcomes across disciplinary boundaries? How are the problem framing and the choice of disciplinary perspectives and methodologies justified? Is there a unifying principle, frame or concept that provides coherence? Does the proposal indicate synergistic or innovative outcomes from the interaction between disciplines in a solution-oriented way? 1.2 Research Plan <i>Guiding questions:</i> Are the objectives sound and well-presented and is the research plan realistic? Have relevant approaches, methods, materials and research partners been identified and appropriately incorporated into the research plan? Do you consider the application multidisciplinary, and are multiple organisations and research fields included in the work packages? Is the management plan appropriate and will it support leadership, coordination, interaction and exchange of information between work packages? Does the research environment support the project, such as with appropriate research and/or technology infrastructures? 1.3 Ethical aspects and open science <i>Guiding question:</i> Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account? Does the research support the principles of open science and open publishing? Is the data management plan worked out in a sufficient way?
2 Competence of applicants, quality of research collaboration
<i>Guiding questions:</i> What are the merits and scientific expertise of the consortium in both discipline-based research and, more importantly, multidisciplinary research? Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project? How does the collaboration (incl. international collaboration) contribute to the research activities and knowledge?
3 Scientific impact
<i>Guiding question:</i> What is the project's level of expected scientific impact? Is there potential for generating impact on multiple disciplines or for advancing further learning and collaboration across disciplinary divides?
4 Overall assessment
List of main strengths and weaknesses of the project; additional comments and recommendations

Review scales: relevance and scientific quality

Scale for rating the relevance of the application

6	extremely significant	research of crucial relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that an extremely significant contribution to policy or practice is likely; demonstrates exceptional novelty and innovation to address a solution to an important problem or a critical barrier
5	very significant	research of very high relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that a very significant contribution to policy or practice is likely; high potential to address a solution to an important problem or a critical barrier
4	significant	research of high relevance to users, i.e., such novelty or timeliness and promise that a significant contribution to policy or practice is likely
3	moderate	research of relevance to users, i.e. such novelty or timeliness and promise that a moderate contribution to policy or practice is likely
2	limited	research that will add to understanding but that might not be of sufficient relevance or urgency to influence policy or practice
1	poor	research is not considered relevant; proposal is in need of substantial modification or improvement

Scale for rating the scientific quality of the application

6	outstanding	demonstrates exceptional novelty and innovation; has potential to substantially advance science at a global level; includes high-gain projects that can include risks
5	excellent	extremely good in international comparison – no significant elements to be improved
4	very good	in general sound, but contains a few elements that could be improved
3	good	in general sound, but contains important elements that should be improved
2	fair	contains flaws; is in need of substantial modification or improvement
1	poor	contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application

About this document

This call for applications is based on a document that presents the criteria for research funding decisions by the Academy of Finland and that is annually approved by the Academy Board. It is also based on the funding principles decided by the Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland. The calls that will open in autumn 2016 come under the decision criteria adopted on 25 August 2016 and the funding principles adopted on 13 June 2016. The documents are available [on our website](#) (in Finnish).

Riitta Maijala, Vice President for Research at the Academy of Finland, approved the Finnish-language call for applications on 24 November 2016.

If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of information presented in the translated version of the call for applications, please refer to the official Finnish version.

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