



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Academy of Finland Ask & Apply Roadshow 2015

Programme:

- Academy of Finland and September 2015 call
- How applications are reviewed
- Q&A with our science advisers



ACADEMY OF FINLAND



ACADEMY OF FINLAND AND SEPTEMBER 2015 CALL

- 1. About us**
- 2. Funding for research projects**
- 3. Funding for research posts**
- 4. International calls**
- 5. Funding for research environments**



1. ABOUT US

Who are we?

- The Academy of Finland is a public funding agency for scientific research
- We provide funding for scientific research, researcher training and the improvement of research capacities
- In 2014, our funding budget totalled €316.8 million
- We have four research councils
 - Research Council for Biosciences and Environment
 - Research Council for Culture and Society
 - Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering
 - Research Council for Health
- Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee (FIRI Committee)
- Strategic Research Council (SRC)
- We have a staff of 143 people

Decision-making at the Academy

The Finnish Government

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Board of the Academy of Finland

**Finnish
Research
Infrastructure
Committee**

Research councils

1 chair, 10 members

Research Council
for Biosciences
and Environment

Research Council
for Culture
and Society

Research Council
for Natural
Sciences and
Engineering

Research
Council for
Health

**Strategic
Research
Council**

Our activities

- **Reviewing funding applications, making funding decisions**
- Evaluating research
 - science, research and individual disciplines
 - research programmes
- Drafting policy and providing funding for research infrastructures
- Science and research foresighting, impact analysis
 - developing science indicators
 - reviewing the state of scientific research in Finland
- Actively influencing European and Nordic science policy
- Drafting science policy lines and statements, engaging in science policy debate



Research funding by the Academy

- **Open competition, fixed-term funding**
- Granted to the best researchers and the most promising early-career researchers for cutting-edge scientific research
- Decisions based on:
 - **scientific peer review of the research plan and the applicant**
 - independent, international and high-quality peer review
 - science policy lines adopted by the Academy Board
 - equal treatment of applicants
 - open and transparent decision-making: criteria, processes and decisions all public

Our funding opportunities

For research

Academy Projects

Targeted Academy
Projects

Research
programmes

Centres of
Excellence

For researchers

Postdoctoral
Researchers

Academy Research
Fellows

Academy Professors

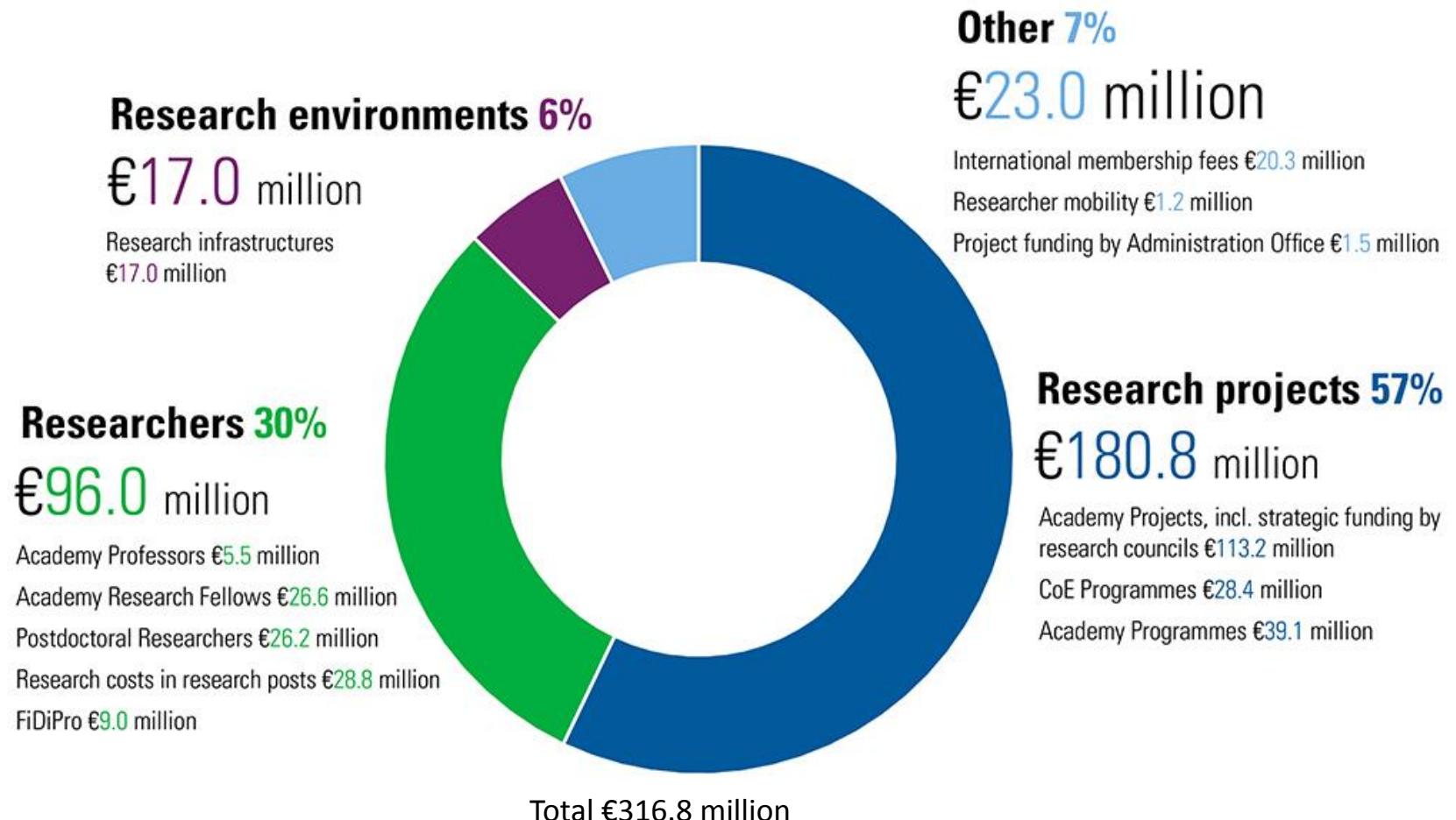
For research environments

University profiling

Research
infrastructures

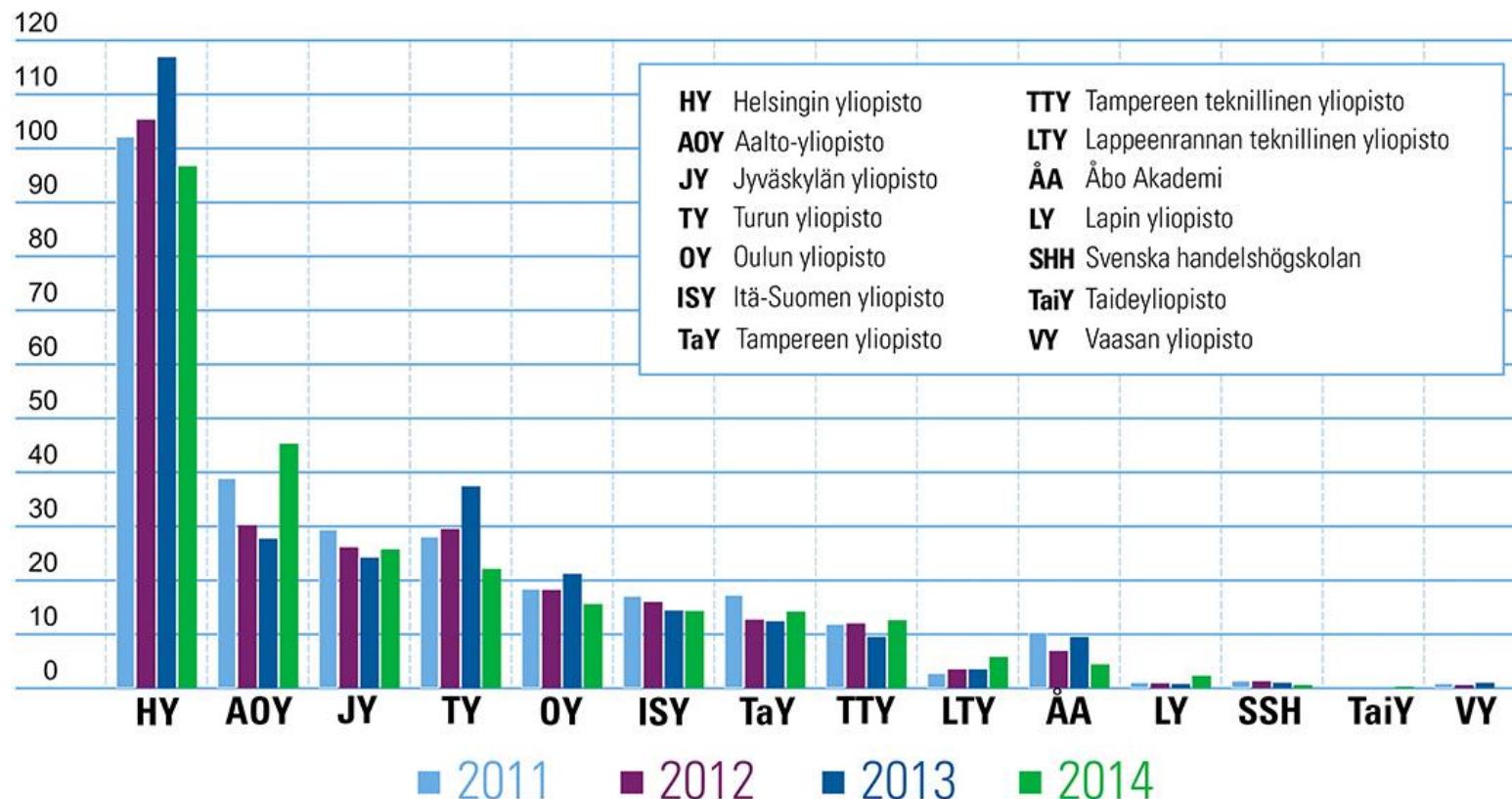
FiDiPro

Our funding in 2014



Suomen Akatemian rahoituspäätökset yliopistoittain 2011–2014

Milj. euroa



Open for application in September 2015

Funding for research projects

- Academy Project funding
- Targeted Academy Project funding
 - *thematic call*
 - *funding for development research*
 - *International joint projects*

Funding for research posts

- Research posts as Postdoctoral Researcher
- Research posts as Academy Research Fellow
- Funding for clinical researchers
- Research posts as Academy Professor
- Mobility grants

Funding for research environments

- SRC matching funds (open-ended deadline)

2. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Academy Project funding

- Our main funding opportunity
- Promotes the quality and diversity of research and its capacity for regeneration by providing funding for scientifically ambitious research
- The funding is granted to leading-edge researchers and research teams for:
 - salaries
 - acquisition of materials and equipment
 - travel
 - international cooperation



**Bottom-up
project funding**

Academy Project funding

Goal: To fund internationally high-quality research projects

Applicant: A researcher with the qualifications of a professor or an adjunct professor (docent)

Funding period: Normally four years

Funding starts: 1 September

For what? Primarily for teams of researchers who have completed their doctorate; for all project costs

**Bottom-up
project funding**

Academy Project funding in September 2014 call

- Notes on differences between research councils available in Appendix 2 of the call for applications
- Also read more on our website under [Research councils](#)

Research council	Success rate	Funding on average
Biosciences and Environment	16	€531,000
Culture and Society	13	€476,000
Natural Sciences and Engineering	16	€444,000
Health	20	€345,000

Academy Project funding

- As a rule, the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment strives to keep the total costs of Academy Projects as they are entered in the applications. If the Research Council does make reductions, these are primarily targeted at large-scale projects.
- In the September 2015 call, the Research Council for Culture and Society will grant a maximum of 600,000 euros per Academy Project.
- In the September 2015 call, the Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering will grant a maximum of 700,000 euros per Academy Project (175,000 euros per year).
- In recent years, the Research Council for Health has granted Academy Projects a maximum of 500,000 euros in funding.

**Bottom-up
project funding**

Targeted Academy Project funding

Goal: To fund a specific field or purpose

- thematic topic
- international calls for joint projects

- Not a cluster of projects as in research programmes
- The same conditions as in Academy Projects (check exceptions in the call text)

Open for application in September 2015:

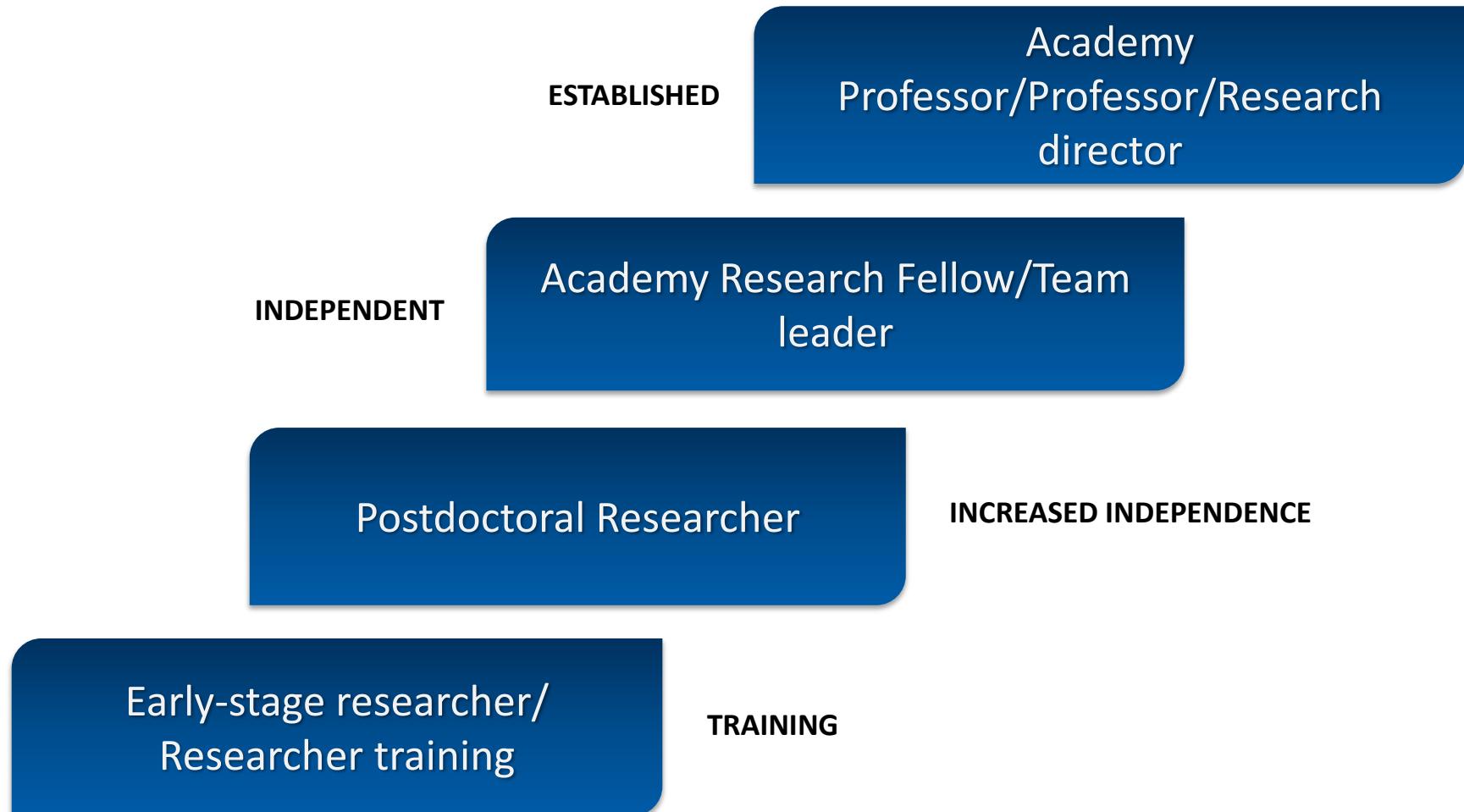
Targeted Academy Project funding by the Academy's research councils

- ICT 2023 programme, letters of intent
- Funding for development research (check status on our website)

**Funding targeted
by research
councils or the
Board**

3. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH POSTS

Four-tiered research career system



Research post as Postdoctoral Researcher

Goal: To advance the professional competence of researchers who have recently earned their doctorate

Applicant: 0–4 years since doctorate (+ 4 years since medical specialist training)

Funding period: Three years; only once

For what?

- salary (full-time work for 36 months)
- personal research costs (excl. other people's salaries)
- international or national mobility

**Mobility
Research topic**

Mobility is encouraged – well-motivated mobility plan important, invitation preferred

Remember: Detailed budget with justifications in the research plan!

Research posts as Postdoctoral Researcher, September 2014 call

- Fierce competition for this funding

Research council	Success rate	Funding on average
Biosciences and Environment	10	€278,000
Culture and Society	9	€253,000
Natural Sciences and Engineering	9	€258,000
Health	11	€270,000

Academy Research Fellows

- have successfully been engaged in scientific research and publishing after earning their doctorate
- get an opportunity to qualify for advanced research tasks or other expert tasks
- carry out independent scientific work
- provide teaching and supervision in their field
- receive funding for five years

**List of publications
Independence
Supervision**



Research posts as Academy Research Fellow

Goal: To support the best experienced researchers in developing their skills of academic leadership and establishing themselves as independent researchers

Applicant: 3–9 years since doctorate (+ 4 years since medical specialist training)

Funding period: Five years; only once

Funding starts: 1 September

For what? Researcher's own salary, costs of project

Know this:

1. The funding (= personal salary) is applied for in September.
2. Those selected can then apply for funding for research costs.

List of publications
Independence
Supervision

Remember: Detailed budget with justifications in the research plan!

Research posts as Academy Research Fellow, September 2014 call

- The funding consists of the Fellow's salary and research costs.
- The research costs vary between research councils; read more in the call for applications and on our website under [Research councils](#).

Research council	Success rate	Salary
Biosciences and Environment	11	€434,485
Culture and Society	13	€434,485
Natural Sciences and Engineering	10	€434,485
Health	13	€434,485

Funding for clinical researchers

- A strategic funding opportunity by the Academy's **Research Council for Health**
- **Goal:** to promote clinical research careers
- **Applicant:** a medical doctor in clinical practice
- **Funding period:** 0–4 years, further periods possible
- **Funding starts:** 1 September
- **For what?** Researcher's own salary (20–50%) and research costs
- Success rate has been 21–29%
- Please contact Science Adviser Sanna Marjavaara (Health Research Unit)

**Medical doctor
(MD, DVM or
DDSc)**

4. INTERNATIONAL CALLS

International activities

- Supported in all Academy funding opportunities:
 - Academy Project funding
 - Academy Programmes, CoE Programmes
 - Academy Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers
- Opportunities for international engagement:
 - Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro)
 - Funding for researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements
 - Joint project calls with foreign funding agencies
- Scientific infrastructure cooperation:
 - Finland's membership in international research infrastructures
 - Partnership and membership in ESFRI research infrastructures



Mobility grants

Bilateral agreements between funding agencies to promote researcher mobility:

- China/Taiwan
- Germany
- India
- Japan
- Russia
- South Africa

Applicant: A researcher with a higher university degree (primarily doctorate)

For what? A grant to cover travel and living costs

Grant duration: 7–360 days

Invitation money: Funding to invite a foreign researcher to Finland or organise a seminar in Finland (Japan, China/Taiwan)

The mobility funding is either a personal grant or a research grant. Personal grants are paid directly to the researchers, research grants via the sites of research.

International calls

- The Academy is a funding partner in several international calls.
- A number of calls will open in late 2015 and early 2016. Read more in the call for applications and on our website under [Apply now](#).
- Academy Programme call:
 - The Academy of Finland, the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) will launch a call for joint projects to promote international collaboration in mineral resources research.
 - The call is affiliated with the Academy Programme *Mineral Resources and Material Substitution* (MISU, 2014–2019). The theme of the call is research into primary mineral resources, materials efficiency and recycling.

Calls by the European Union

- **European Research Council (ERC), all research fields**
 - ERC Starting Grants (deadline November 2015)
 - ERC Consolidator Grants (deadline February 2016)
 - ERC Advanced Grants (deadline September 2016)
 - More information: Science Advisers Maiju Gyran and Hannele Lahtinen
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility funding**
 - research projects involving mainly two-year mobility (Individual Fellowships)
 - short-term international and intersectoral mobility (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)
 - networks that implement international and innovative training programmes (Innovative Training Networks)
 - funding programmes for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers (Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes)
 - More information: Science Adviser Satu Huuha-Cissokho
- **Other Horizon 2020 calls**
 - More information from the national contact points; see the call for applications

5. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

SRC matching funds for Horizon 2020

- The Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland grants national **matching funds** to projects that have received funding under the Societal Challenges priority of Horizon 2020.
- 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.
- **Applicant:** SRC matching funds can be applied for by research organisations, such as research services or financial administration units.
- *Please note the application schedule.* Sites of research can submit applications as soon as they have received the final, signed funding decision from the EU Commission. The application deadline is open-ended.
- Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls > SRC matching funds for Horizon 2020*.

Research infrastructures

- A reserve of research facilities, equipment, materials and services that enable R&D at various stages of innovation
- Tasks of the FIRI Committee at the Academy of Finland:
 - monitors and develops Finnish and international research infrastructure activities
 - submits proposals (every five years) on long-term research infrastructure plans
 - selects and monitors research infrastructure projects
- [Finland's Strategy and Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2014–2020](#)
- Academy funding for research infrastructures €17 million in 2014, €16.7 million available in 2015

What is new in September Call 2015

- Call closes last week in September
 - Some exceptions, please check each deadline in the call text.
- We require open access publishing and openly available research data
- CV no more than four pages
- Consortium application submitted by consortium PI on behalf of subprojects
- Principal investigator's salary
 - The funding is granted only for well-substantiated research-related reasons that have been clearly presented in the application

Key issues in September 2015 call

- **Mobility** – must be well-motivated and research-driven
- **Open science** – open access publishing and open data
 - One of our science policy objectives is to promote open science. We are also committed to promoting the practices outlined in the [Open Science and Research Roadmap 2014–2017](#) and to considering open science promotion in providing funding for research projects.
 - We require that Academy-funded projects commit to open access publishing. We also urge projects to make their research data and methods freely available.
 - Funding is also available for research costs arising from publishing of research results. This funding is applied for on the online form under *Funding for the project/Services* and justified in the research plan.
- **Impact** – the potential impact of the research must be described in the application
- **Spend time on writing a good project description**

Promoting excellence in science and for society



Photos: Academy of Finland photo archives, picmax.fi

More information:

- Academy of Finland: www.aka.fi/en
- Finnish science policy: www.research.fi/en
- For mobile researchers: www.euraxess.fi
- Follow us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#)

THANK YOU!

More about our calls, guidelines on how to apply:

- www.aka.fi/en → [Funding](#) → [Apply now](#)
- contact persons named in the call text

www.aka.fi/AskApply

