FIRI2021 – call info 3.3.2021

Merja Särkioja and Paula Leskinen

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Meeting guidelines

- **The event will be recorded**. The recording can be viewed on the Academy website for two weeks after the event. The slides will be sent by email to all that have registered to the event
- **Please use the raise hand –function to request the floor**. Remember to also lower your hand once you have finished speaking
- **Please make sure that your full name can be seen on the participant-list**. Please state your name when you take the floor
- **Please retain from using the chat function**
- **Please keep your microphone on mute** when it is not your turn to speak
- **Please keep the video camera off**, this reduces the load on the connections
- **Trouble seeing slides or hearing what is being said?** Try to leave the meeting and rejoin using the meeting link.

  Technical support **Jenni Sireeni, jenni.sireeni@aka.fi, tel. +358 50 515 1732**
- **If severe problems with Microsoft Teams occur, we will send all participants that have registered to the event a Zoom link** to an alternative meeting platform. Please rejoin as soon as possible with Zoom. If you have registered, but do not receive a link to Zoom check your junk mail for the link

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

FIRI2021- Call info program

13:35 The strategical context *(10 min)*

13:45 Background and highlights *(10 min)*

13:55 FIRI action plans *(25 min)*

14:20 Questions *(15 min)*

14:35-14:45 Break

14:45 How to write a good FIRI-application *(15 min)*

15:00 Questions and discussion

THE STRATEGICAL CONTEXT

Why have FIRI calls?

According the National Roadmap for RDI research and the networks must be grouped into larger competence centres and ecosystems

One of the aims of the FIRI Committee is to advance a sufficiently strong, long-term basis for the development and provision of high-quality research infrastructure services

To provide funding for the acquisition, establishment or upgrading of nationally significant research infrastructures

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Strategic overview of the call

Strategy for national research infrastructures:
-The vision is that high-class research infrastructure services increase the impact and international attraction of the Finnish research, education and innovation system
Finland's RDI Roadmap

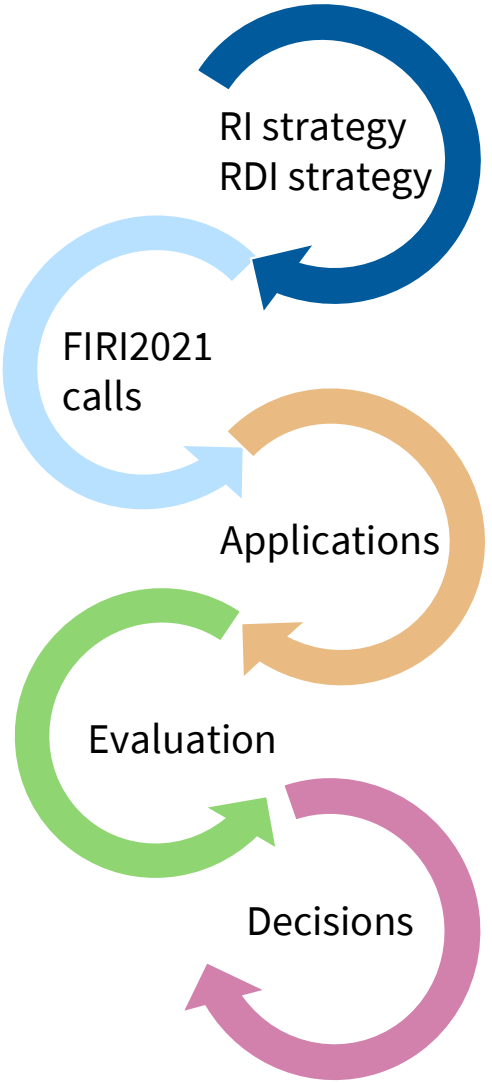
- the building blocks of Finland's competitiveness and wellbeing are strong competence, research and innovation
- The basic idea**:** research and the networks that utilize it should be grouped into larger **competence centers and ecosystems**

FIRI2021 calls are opened based on both strategies

The focus of the call is to promote the quality, renewal and competitiveness of research, to strengthen the versatile impact of research environments and to increase national and international cooperation. The call also highlights the national focus areas: green transition and digitality

The evaluation is based on the criteria and focus of the call

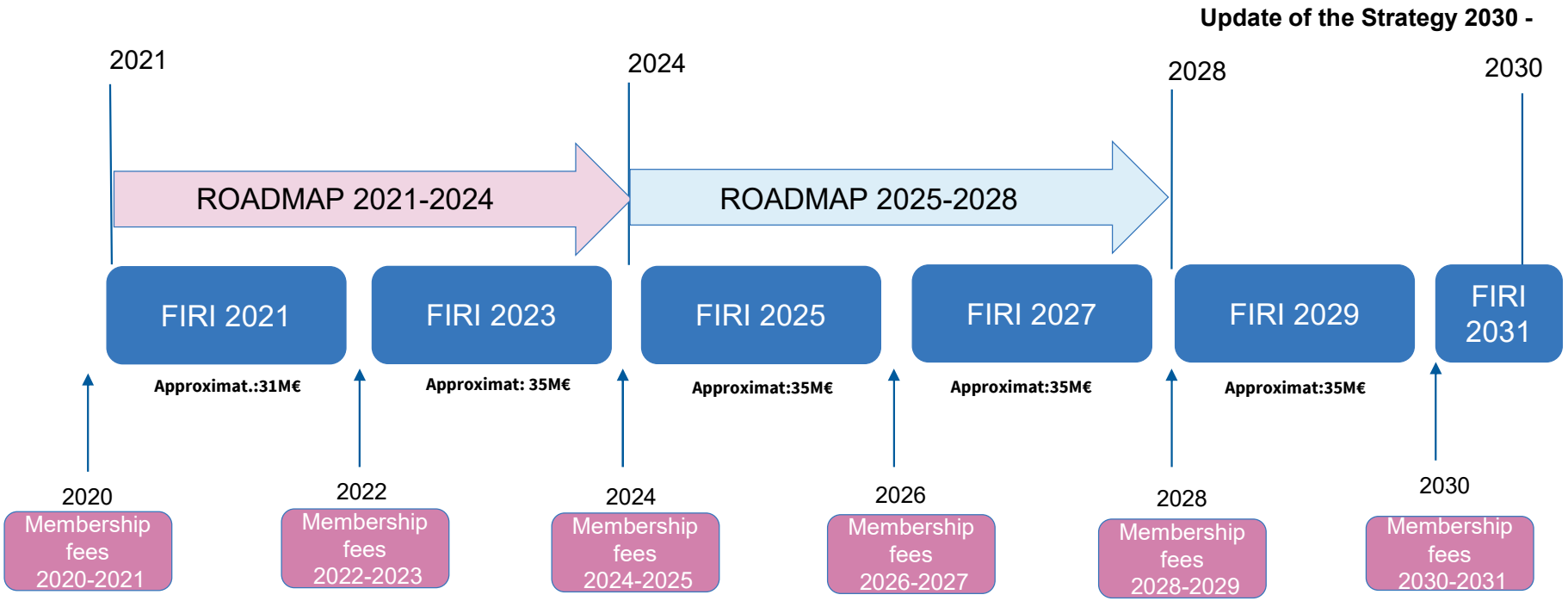
The FIRI Committee will make the decisions based on peer-review and other national research infrastructure policy dimensions



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Rotation of the roadmaps and FIRI calls

ROADMAPS:
ROADMAP 2021-2024 > UPDATE 2024 and NEW ROADMAP 2025-2028



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

BACKGROUND AND HIGHLIGHTS

Background / basics

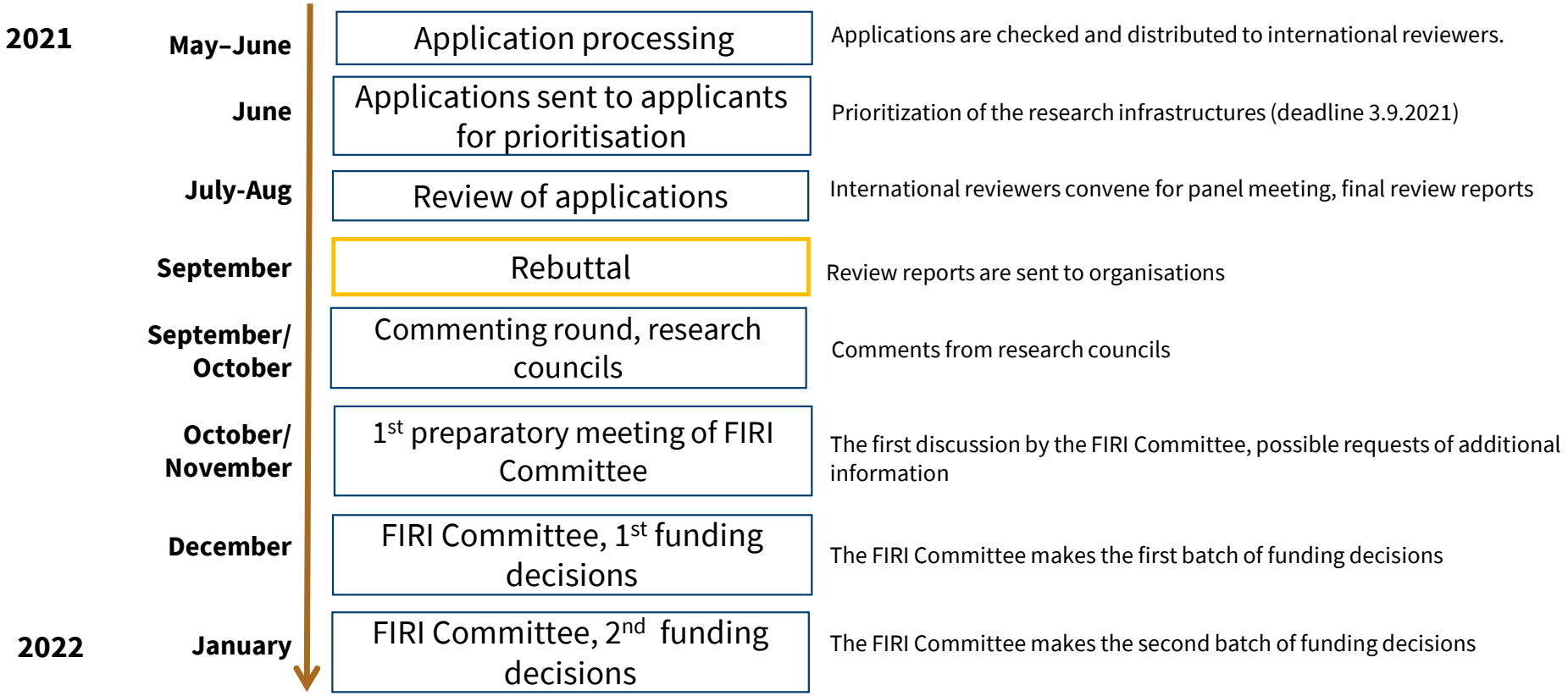
The Academy of Finland is opening two FIRI-funding calls in April 2021:

- **Research infrastructures on the National Roadmap for RIs 2021-2024 and projects of international memberships** (max. 5 yrs of funding 2022-2026)
- **Non-roadmap research infrastructures** (max. 3 yrs of funding 2022-2024)

- FIRI-funding is meant for acquisition, establishment or upgrading of nationally significant research infrastructures that promote scientific research.
- Ca. 30 M euros is available to be granted through the two calls

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Decision process FIRI2021 call



*FIRI = Finnish Research Infrastructure

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Updated definitions

- Research infrastructure
- National research infrastructure
- International memberships

Action plans – general

Action plan for roadmap call

- Emphasis on the project to be funded
- Max. 20 pages
- NB: Description of research infrastructure on a separate page of the application (4000 characters)

Action plan for non-roadmap call

- Emphasis on both the research infrastructure and project to be funded
- Max. 25 pages
- Possible to apply for funding for costs stemming from planning of a new research infrastructure

BOTH CALLS the action plan is structured in the electronic application system (SARA)

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Progress report

- Applicants with ongoing FIRI-funding need to submit a **progress report** as an attachment to the application

The progress report contains the following information:

- Key information about the ongoing funding (decision number, name of FIRI-project, amount of funding granted)
- Funding period
- Short description of how the funded project has progressed (max. 2500 characters)
- Short description of connection between the funding being applied for and the project being executed with the ongoing funding

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Prioritisation

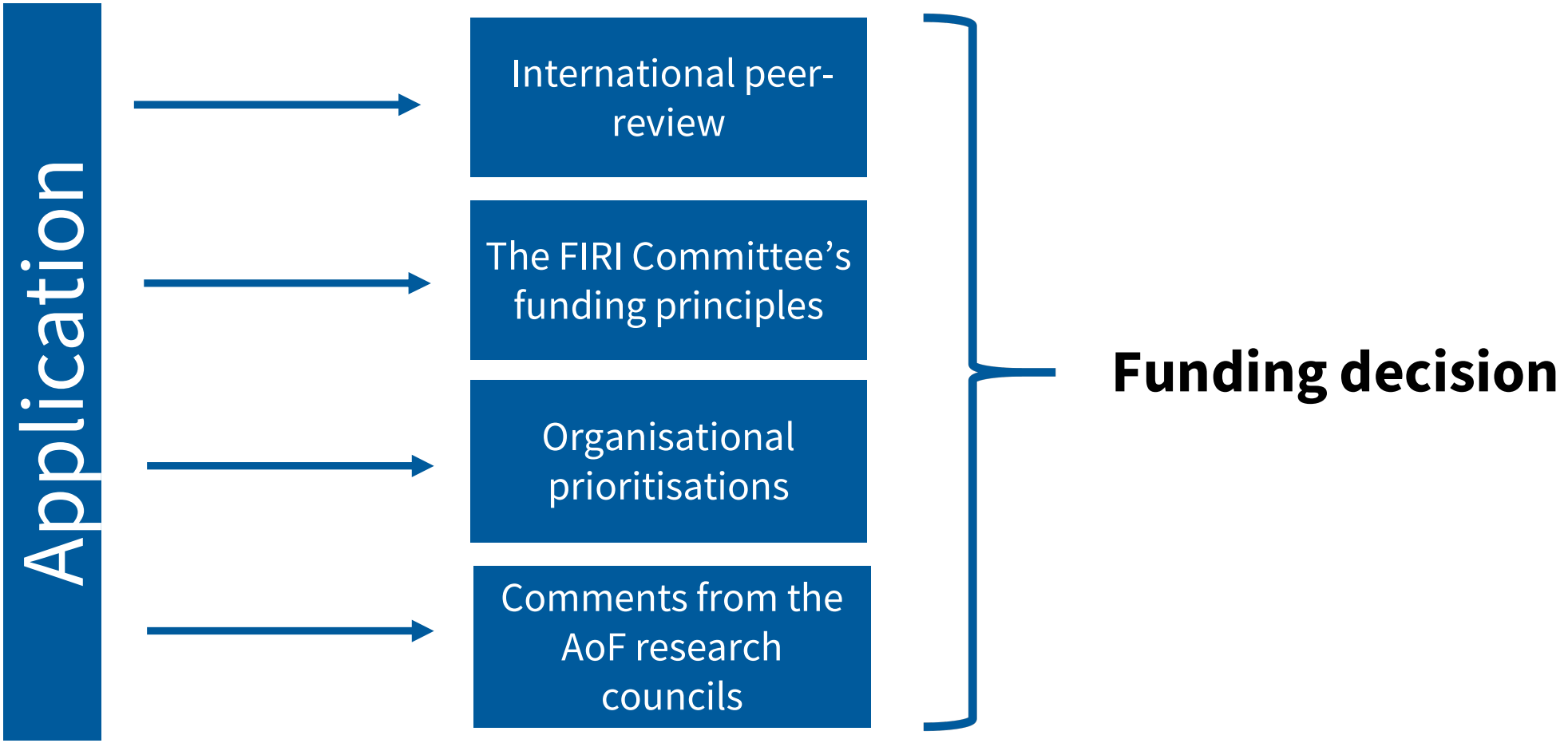
- Organisations prioritise their applications
- The AoF will send all relevant applications to the organisation once the call has closed (June)
- Organisations are asked to explain the reason for the chosen prioritisation, 1-2 sentences / group
- The deadline for submitting prioritisations is Sept. 3rd 2021

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Rebuttal

- The rebuttal process is being introduced to this call
- Once the panel reviewed the application, the applicants are sent the review and have one week to comment on possible misunderstandings in the review
- The FIRI Committee will take the rebuttals into account when making funding decisions

Funding decisions are based on several factors



FIRI action plans

Objectives for strategic development areas

- Responsibility and sustainable development
- Long-term perspective and dynamism
- Ownership and know-how
- Digital platforms and data
- Open access and collaboration
- Wide and versatile impact

> All of the above areas are covered in the action plan

1. Description

ROADMAP: Description of project

1.1 Project to be implemented with the funding applied for

- Describe project in concrete terms
- Describe how potential collaborators will participate in the implementation.
- What added will the plan bring to the operation of the research infrastructure?
- Describe new services, and how they are available

1.2 Description of membership fee contribution

- Justify why you are applying for funding for a membership fee.

NON-ROADMAP: Description of RI and project

1.1 Research infrastructure

Present the research infrastructure. Also describe the chosen lifecycle category (a/b) in more detail.

(a) planning/construction

(b) operation/termination

1.2 Project to be implemented with the funding applied for

Present the project and how it promotes and develops the research infrastructure's operations and services.

1.3 Description of membership fee contribution

- Justify why you are applying for funding for a membership fee.

2. Scientific and educational significance

ROADMAP

2.1 Project

How does the project promote the scientific and educational significance of the research infrastructure?

2.2 Description of membership fee contribution

How does the membership promote the scientific and educational significance of the research infrastructure?

NON-ROADMAP

2.1 Research infrastructure

How does the research infrastructure facilitate excellent science and promote scientific achievements and renewal nationally and internationally?

How is the infrastructure linked or how will it be linked to the national and international infrastructure and research landscape? How will the infrastructure strengthen it?

What value will the research infrastructure add for education both nationally and internationally?

2.2 Project

How does the project promote the scientific and educational significance of the research infrastructure?

2.3 Description of membership fee contribution

How does the membership promote the scientific and educational significance of the research infrastructure?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

3. Wide and versatile impact

ROADMAP

3.1 Project

What impact will the project seek? Describe, for instance, the following:

- effects on business and industry, the public sector and employment as well as connections with business activities and new business initiatives
- effects on the operation and development of knowledge and innovation ecosystems.

3.2 Description of membership fee contribution

- How will membership contribute to the wide and versatile impact of the research infrastructure?

NON-ROADMAP

3.1 Research infrastructure

Describe the expected/realised societal added value of the research infrastructure both within and beyond the scientific community, such as

- effects on business and industry, the public sector and employment as well as connections with business activities and new business initiatives
- effects on the operation and development of knowledge and innovation ecosystems.

3.2 Project

How will the project contribute to the wide and versatile impact of the research infrastructure?

3.3 Description of membership fee contribution

How will membership contribute to the wide and versatile impact of the research infrastructure?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

4. Ownership, organisational structure and know-how

ROADMAP

4.1 Project

Describe the knowledge and know-how of the director (coordinator) and key personnel in terms of project implementation.

Describe the knowledge and know-how of other personnel in the research infrastructure in terms of project implementation.

How will the project influence ownership, organisational structure, division of labour and the development of skills?

4.2 Description of membership fee contribution

What effects will membership have on the ownership of the research infrastructure and/or the skills of the personnel?

NON-ROADMAP

4.1 Research infrastructure

Which organisation(s) own(s) the research infrastructure? How is ownership reflected in the infrastructure's activities? Is it a legal entity?

Describe the know-how of the personnel

Describe staff skills development plans and possible staff career paths.

4.2 Project

How will the project influence ownership, organisational structure, division of labour and the development of skills?

4.3 Description of membership fee contribution

What effects will membership have on the ownership of the research infrastructure and/or the skills of the personnel?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

5. Services and users

ROADMAP

5.1 Project

How will the project influence the access policy, service models and/or user base?

5.2 Description of membership fee contribution

What effects will membership have on the access policy, service models and/or user base?

NON-ROADMAP

5.1 Research infrastructure

Services
Describe the services up to 2030. Describe the access policy for the services.

Users
Define the user base of the research infrastructure

What is the research infrastructure's current or planned number of users per year on average?

What is the research infrastructure's current or planned utilisation rate (% of time available)?

5.2 Project

How will the project influence the access policy, service models and/or user base?

5.3 Description of membership fee contribution What effects will the membership fee have on the access policy, service models and/or user base?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

6. Digital platforms and data

ROADMAP

6.1 Research infrastructure and project – data management policy

- Separate appendix

- needs to be updated only if the project described in this application significantly changes it.

6.2 Research Infrastructure and project – increased digitalisation and data intensity

Describe the influence of the growth of digitalisation and data intensity on the infrastructure activities and project.

What is the significance of the data produced by the research infrastructure and/or project in terms of the digital transition?

NON-ROADMAP

6.1 Research infrastructure – data management policy

- Separate appendix

6.2 Research Infrastructure and project – increased digitalisation and data intensity

Describe the influence of the growth of digitalisation and data intensity on the infrastructure activities and project.

What is the significance of the data produced by the research infrastructure and/or project in terms of the digital transition?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

7. Responsible science

ROADMAP

7.1 Research Infrastructure and project – research ethics

7.2 Research infrastructure and project – equality and nondiscrimination

7.3 Research infrastructure and project – sustainable development and the green transition

Describe how the project advances goals in the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development

Is the data produced relevant to the green transition?

Will the activities of the planned project affect the achievement of the national carbon neutrality target in the operation of the research infrastructure?

NON-ROADMAP

7.1 Research infrastructure and project – research ethics

7.2 Research infrastructure and project – equality and nondiscrimination

7.3 Research infrastructure and project – sustainable development and the green transition

Describe how project advances goals in the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development

Is the data produced relevant to the green transition?

Will the activities of the planned project affect the achievement of the national carbon neutrality target in the operation of the research infrastructure?

8. Budget and funding

Total funding data for the research infrastructure for **2019–2026.**

Table 1. The research infrastructure's expenditure (e.g. personnel costs, rents, equipment acquisitions)

Table 2. The research infrastructure's revenue (e.g. contributions from own organisation, other organisations and the Academy of Finland)

- Fill in the information to the nearest EUR 1,000.
- Briefly describe the revenue and expenditure.
- The information will be used in evaluating the sustainability of the research infrastructure's funding base.

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

8. Budget and funding – Table 1. expenditure

Expenditure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Personnel								
Equipment acquisitions								
Equipment maintenance (installations, maintenance contracts, repairs)								
Rents								
Other (specify on separate rows)								
Total								

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

8. Budget and funding – Table 2. revenue

Revenue	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Organisation funding								
Academy of Finland funding (existing)								
Funding now applied for from the Academy								
Other competitive funding								
Other public funding								
Access and service fees								
Other (specify on separate rows)								
Total								

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

9. Risk management

ROADMAP

Project

What are the critical points for success and alternative implementation strategies for the project described in the application?

Briefly describe the risks and a risk management plan.

NON-ROADMAP

Research infrastructure and project

What are the critical points for success and alternative implementation strategies for the activities of the research infrastructure and the success of the project?

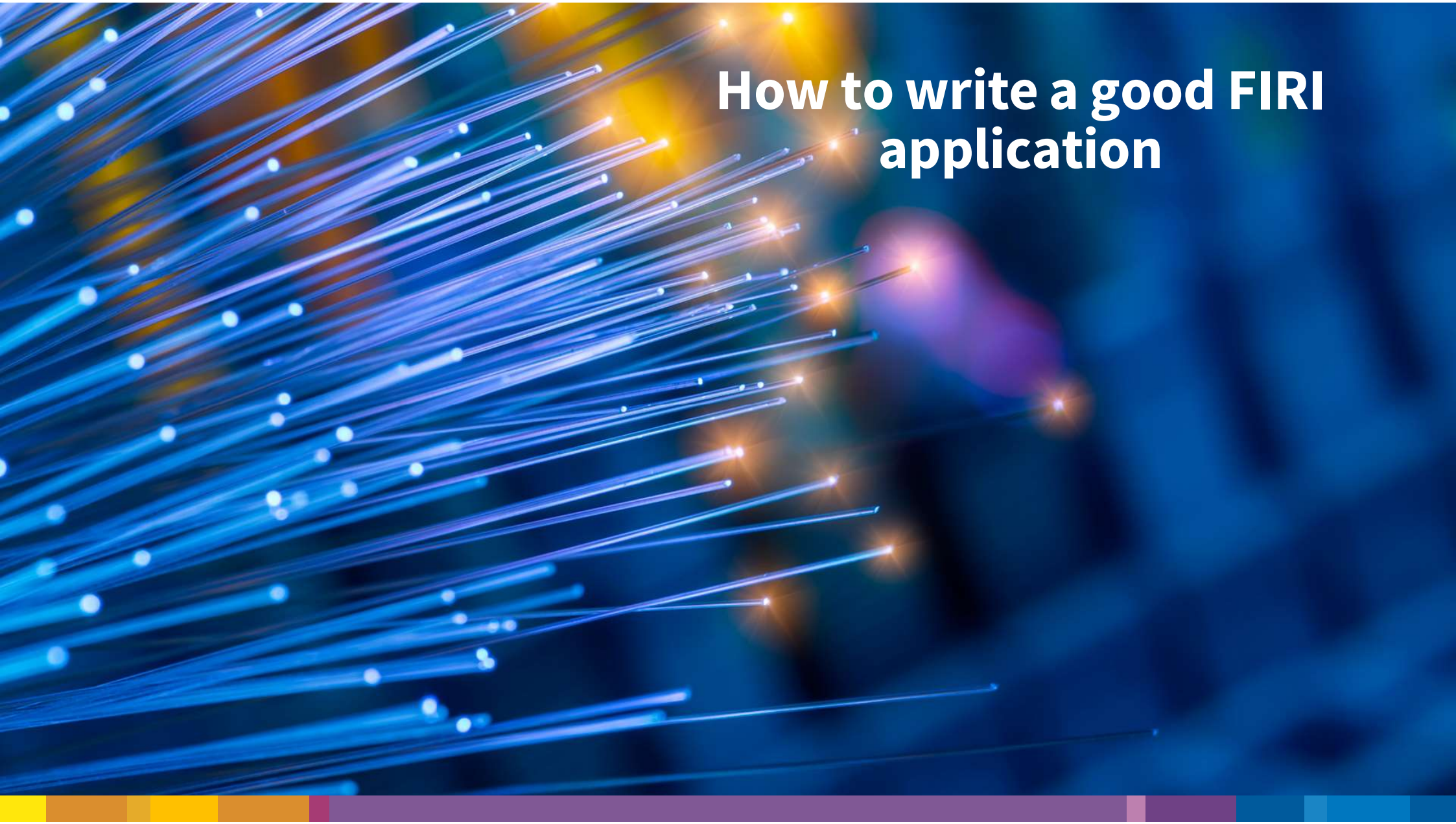
Briefly describe the risks and a risk management plan.

Questions? Comments?

Please use the raise hand function to request the floor.

…and then we'll have a small break.

ACADEMY OF FINLAND



How to write a good FIRI application

How to write a good FIRI-application

General tips:

- Remember that only RIs of **national level** (not local) can be funded in the FIRI calls (see definition of a national research infrastructure in the call text)
- Read the evaluation questions before writing the action plan
- Make sure that all of the information that is requested is found in the action plan (and clearly stated)
- Please strive to find a balance between **general and detailed description**

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

How to write a good FIRI-application

Particular points:

- Please describe the landscape from the research infrastructure perspective not from the research perspective
- Please, fill in the budget part of the action plan using tables similar to the example tables presented
- It is of crucial importance that the users, the usability and services provided by the infrastructure are described clearly

- *The public description will be used **as is** in the press releases etc. Please write it accordingly*

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Further questions or comments? Contact us at:

Senior science adviser

Merja Särkioja

merja.sarkioja@aka.fi

tel. 029 533 5111

Science adviser

Paula Leskinen

paula.leskinen@aka.fi

tel. 029 533 5145

firi@aka.fi

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Research infrastructure - definition

Research infrastructures refer to a reserve of research instruments, data and related services that strengthens the impact and increases the international attraction of the Finnish research, education and innovation system. Research infrastructure services enable R&D activity, support researcher training, and maintain and develop research and innovation capacity, thus promoting the quality, renewal and competitiveness of research, strengthening the versatile impact of research environments and enhancing national and international cooperation.

- Research infrastructures are research-relevant equipment, information networks, databases, multidisciplinary research centres, research stations, collections, libraries and other memory organisations, as well as services related to their use. Large scientific research infrastructures are often shared and international, offering opportunities for cooperation for both domestic and foreign researchers and other actors.
- Research infrastructures may be based at a single location (single-sited), scattered across several sites (distributed), or provided via a virtual platform (virtual). They can also form mutually complementary wholes and networks.

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

National research infrastructure - definition

A national research infrastructure is a nationally and/or internationally significant research infrastructure that reinforces the quality of research and education. A national research infrastructure also has impact on business and industry and the wider society. The ownership and organisational structure of a national research infrastructure is clear, and the key skills needs of management and personnel are known. A national research infrastructure must have a long-term plan for maintaining and developing its services. The services and data produced by the research infrastructure must be openly available. A national research infrastructure must take into account the needs for change created by digitalisation and data-intensive activities. A national research infrastructure must also consider sustainable development in all its operations. The funding base for a national research infrastructure must be sustainable and cannot rely too heavily on competitive funding from the Academy of Finland.

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Research organisation - definition

A research organisation refers to an organisation whose primary goal is to conduct independent basic research, industrial research or experimental development or to disseminate its results widely by means of education, publication or knowledge transfer. Research organisations are, for example, higher education institutes, research institutes, technology transfer organisations, innovation intermediaries, and research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities, regardless of their legal status (organised under public or private law) or financing source. When such an entity is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities. The enterprises exercising a controlling interest in such an entity (as shareholders, members, etc.) may not enjoy any preferential access to the results generated by the entity.

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

International research infrastructure - definition

In the present call, an international research infrastructure refers to international research infrastructures where Finland is a member through a state treaty or research infrastructures whose membership fee is paid by the Academy of Finland.