



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND SCIENCE POLICY

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30.5.2005

Research Funding

- I. Operating environment
- II. Forms of funding
- III. Funding decisions
- IV. Application processing
- V. Researcher mobility

Academy of Finland

- Promotes high-quality scientific research
- The Academy's operation covers all scientific disciplines
- An expert organisation on research funding
- Provides funding for research with around 200 million euros annually
- Academy-funded projects account for a total of some 5,300 person-years

Academy of Finland

Mission statement

*Promotion of welfare, culture and the national economy
by means of science*

- promotes high-quality scientific research
 - by long-term quality-based funding allocated for a fixed period, reliable evaluation, science policy expertise, and global cooperation
- strengthens the diversity of research and its capacity for renewal
- increases public understanding of science, raises its esteem and strengthens its position in society

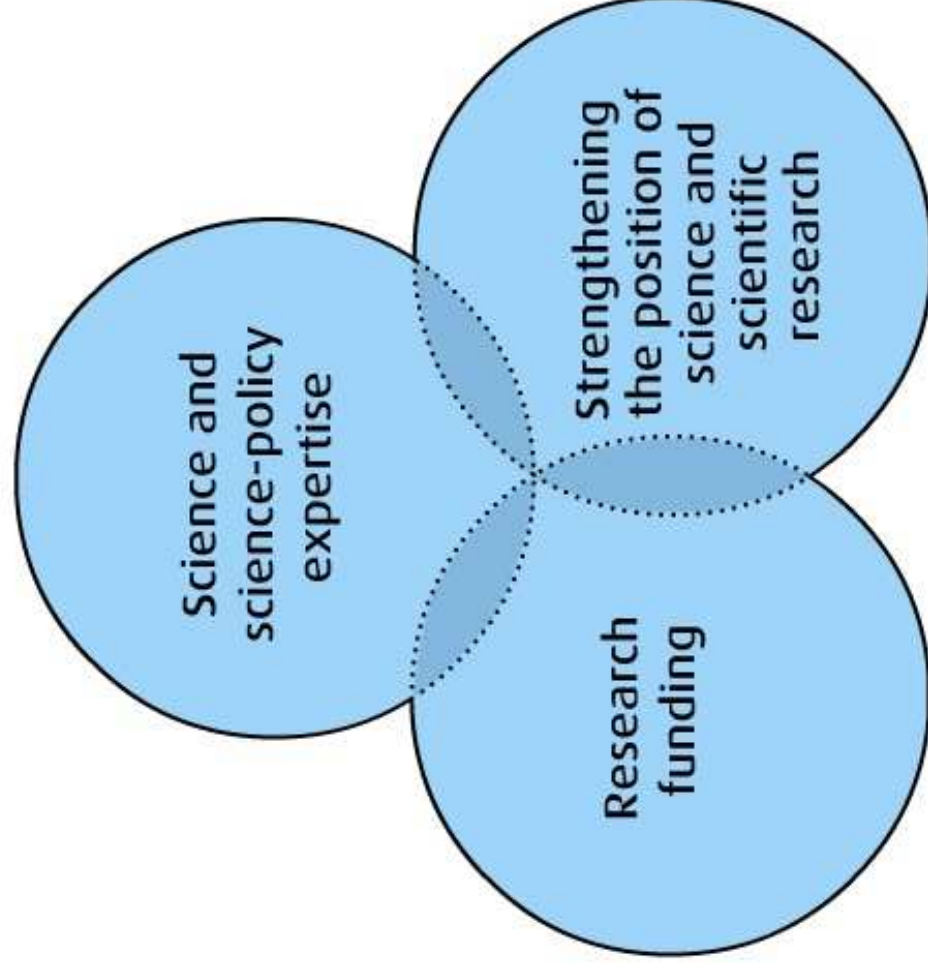
Academy of Finland's operating environment

Finland

- Finland continues to implement its future strategy based on knowledge and know-how
- University research has a key role
- Public and private investments in research
- The challenge is to ensure the viability of the research system and a sufficient supply of competent professional researchers

Operations by task area

Academy of Finland's task areas



Operations by task area

Science and science policy expertise

- Science policy strategies
- Review of applications
- Evaluations and improvement of indicators
- Surveys and statements
- Cooperation with national and international science and research funding organisations
- Science policy publication series



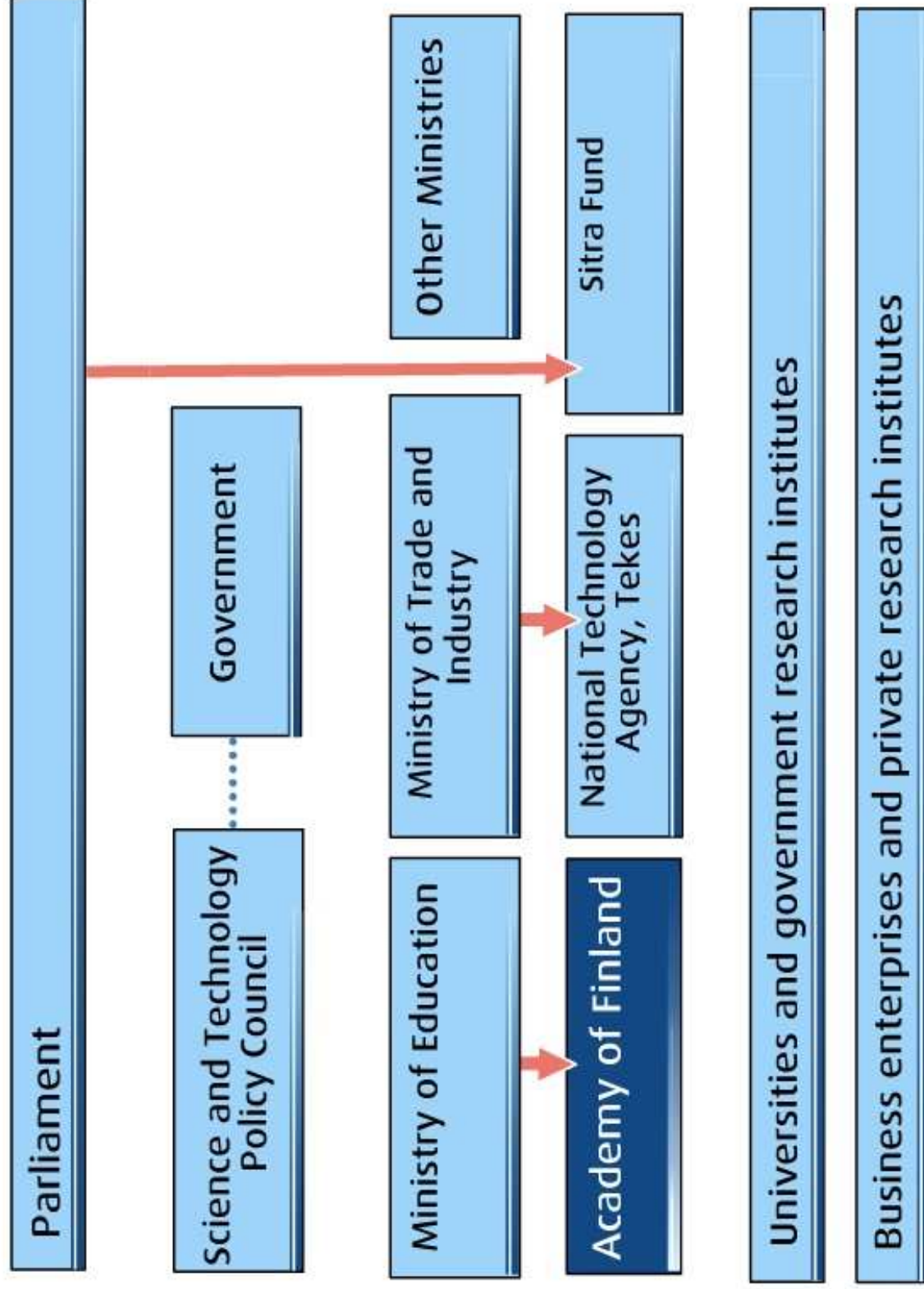
Academy's priority areas

- Supporting the development of innovative research environments
- Promoting professional careers in research
- Advancing gender equality in research
- Strengthening international cooperation and interaction

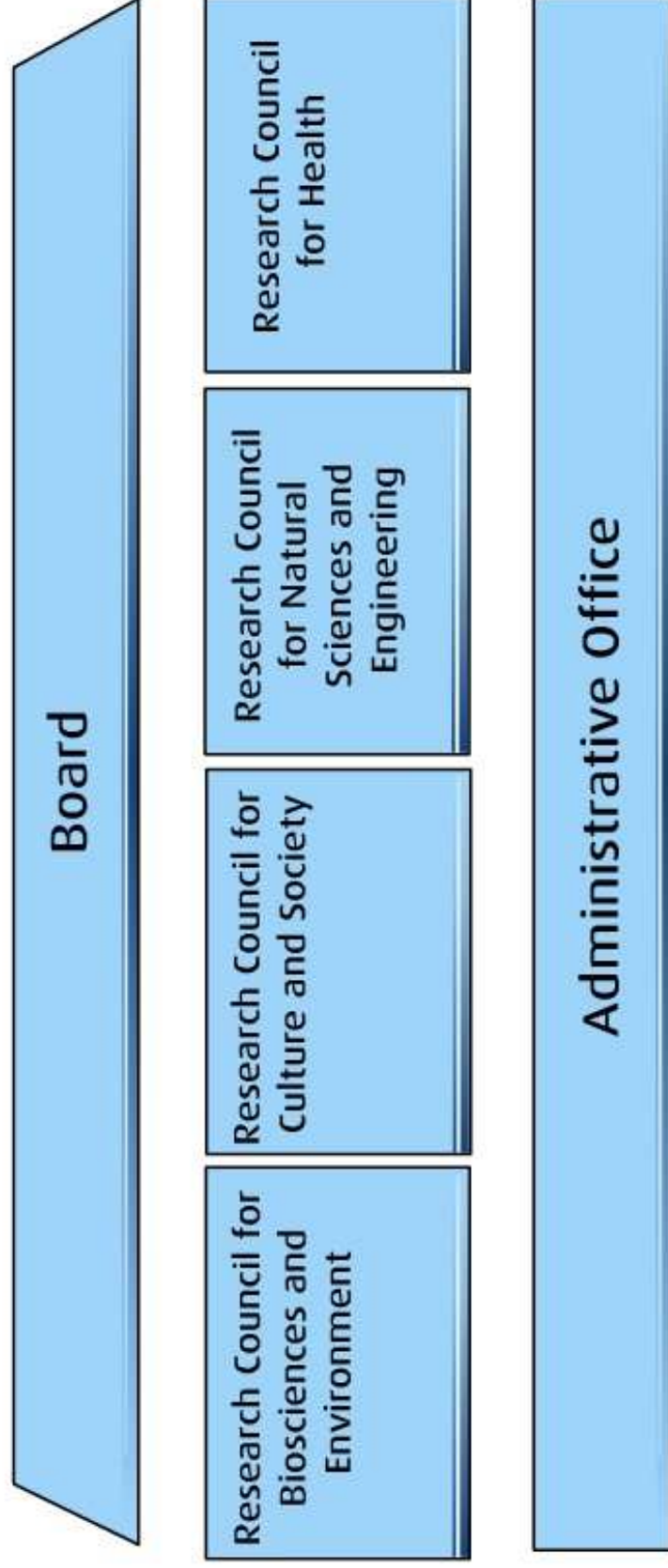




Public R&D funding actors

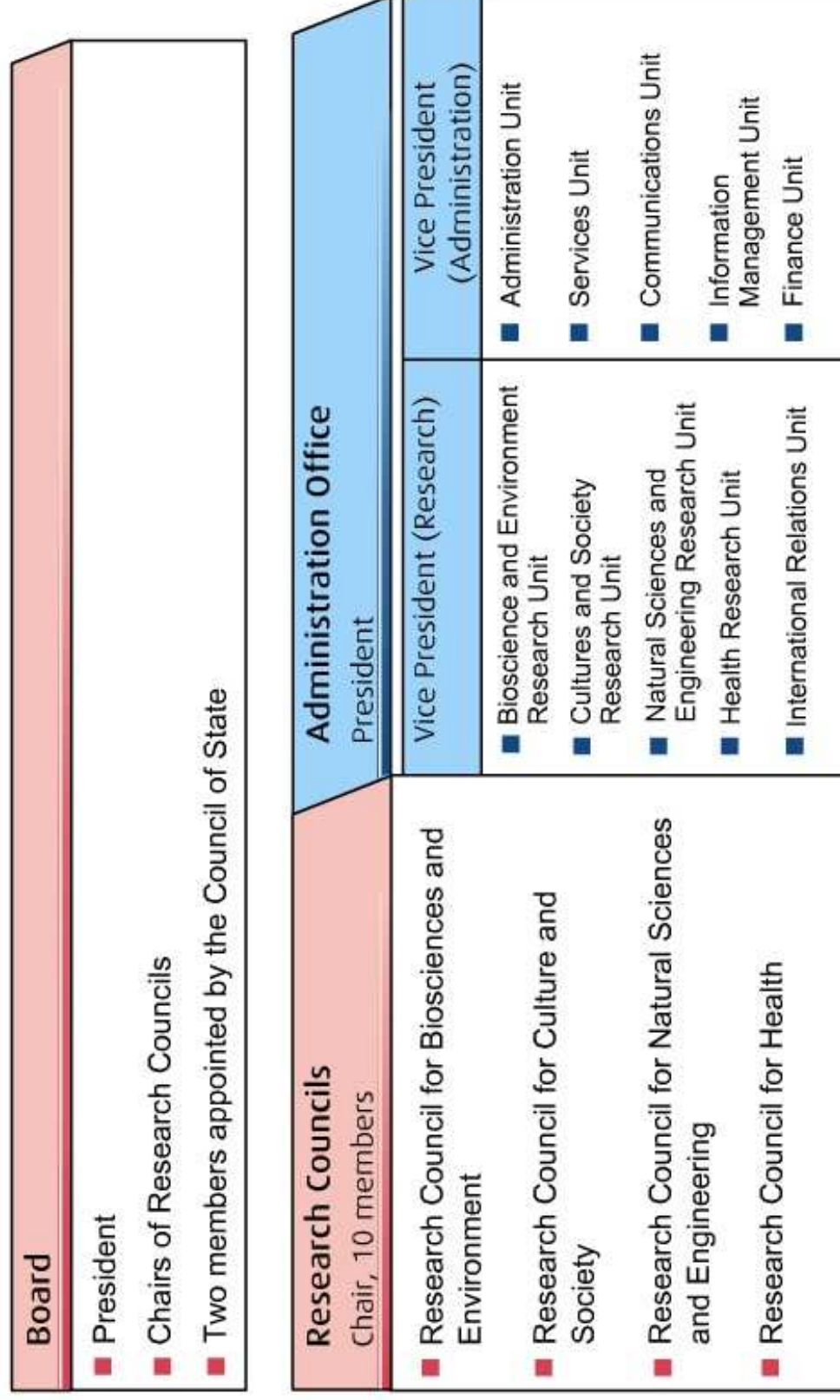


Academy of Finland organisation 1





Academy of Finland organisation 2



Research Council for Biosciences and Environment

Research Fields Hosted by the Research Councils

- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Genetics
- Ecology, biosystematics and biophysiology
- Forest sciences
- Agricultural sciences
- Food sciences
- Research into substances hazardous to the environment
- Research relating to the state of the environment and to environmental protection
- Geography and regional studies
- Research relating to environmental policy, environmental economics and environmental law
- Biotechnology, molecular biology, cell biology, biophysics and bioinformatics, and economic and technological relating to the above fields of research



Key forms of Academy of Finland research funding

- General research grants
- Research programmes
- Centre of excellence programmes
- Research posts of Academy Professor and Academy Research Fellow
- Grants to postdoctoral researchers
- Research training
- Other support



Academy research funding and the research career

The stages of the career

- Researcher training stage
- Postdoctoral research stage
- Stage of becoming independent/established researcher

Academy research funding and the research career

Researcher training stage

- Subsidy to graduate schools and researcher training courses
- Research grants (project funding, research programmes etc.)
- Grants for researcher training and research abroad
- Doctoral studies of employed persons

Academy research funding and the research career

Postdoctoral research stage

- Grants to postdoctoral researchers
- Grants for researcher training and research abroad
- Research grants (project funding, research programmes, etc.)
- Start-up money for young persons

Academy research funding and the research career

Gaining independence and established researcher

- Academy Professorships
- Academy Research Fellow posts
- Grants to senior scientists
- Research grants (project funding, research programmes etc.)
- Centre of excellence programmes

General research grants

- Major form of Academy research funding
- Funding granted to high-level researchers and research teams
 - for hiring research and other personnel
 - for acquisition of material and equipment
 - for travel and seminar costs etc.
- Priority given to research teams composed of both senior researchers and doctoral students

Research programmes

General science policy objectives

- To develop research environments
- To coordinate scattered research capacities
- To promote multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and where possible transdisciplinarity
- To develop national and international cooperation between researchers, funding bodies and end-users of research results
- To promote researcher training and professional careers in research

Research programmes

A research programme is composed of a number of research projects that

- are focused on a defined subject area or set of problems
- are financed for a fixed period of time and
- have a co-coordinated management.

A research programme is the joint effort of researchers, funding bodies and end-users of research results.

International research programmes

A platform for international cooperation

- The Academy shall take steps towards the wider international networking of national research programmes, towards jointly funded research programmes and towards the opening up of programme components or possibly even whole programmes to the international research community.
- The Academy shall be well-placed to take part in and contribute financially to programmes run by foreign funding bodies.
- Programme initiatives from foreign funding partners shall be prioritised according to current needs. The choice of partners in cooperation shall be based upon needs for cooperation.
- The Academy shall support in various ways the participation of Finnish researchers in European and other international research programmes.
- The Academy shall participate in ERA-NET projects and submit new ERA-NET initiatives on an active basis.

Centres of excellence in research

Objectives

- To create the information base required for cultural, social and industrial development
- To create a solid base for a national innovation system
- Consists of factors affecting the development and use of new information and expertise
- CoE programme must be integrated into the Finnish research, training and technology policy, including sectoral research, and as applicable, enterprises
- To lay the foundation for the emergence of creative and efficient research and training environments that can generate top international research

Centres of excellence in research

A centre of excellence is a research unit

- Being at (or close to) the international cutting edge of research in its field
- Having distinctly common research objectives and a common management
- Training new researchers in the field
- Consisting of one or more research teams of high international standard

Research posts

- Academy Professor (39 posts*)
 - has proved to be a talented researcher and can contribute to the progress of research within his/her field of research
 - leads his/her own research team and supervises junior researchers
 - appointed for a maximum term of five years at a time or for an indefinite time
 - the Academy also awards research grants
- Academy Research Fellow (238 posts*)
 - successful postdoctoral research and scientific publishing are considered as merits in the filling of an Academy Research Fellow post
 - the post is intended for independent scientific work according to a research plan
 - work duties include teaching and supervision associated with their research work
 - appointed for a maximum term of five years at a time
 - the Academy may also award research grants

*(1 Aug. 2004)

Researcher training

The Academy

- Funds research projects including PhD students working on their doctoral theses
- Supports national researcher training courses
- Grants funding to postdoctoral researchers with the aim to advance professional competence and independence of young researchers
- Funds researcher training abroad
- Supports doctoral studies of employed persons

Other support to research

- Subsidy for a researcher's return to Finland
- Subsidy for organising seminars and conferences
- Support to scientific societies
- Bilateral researcher exchange
- Preparation of international research projects



Academy research funding

General

- Based on competition
- Granted to the best researchers and the most promising young researchers
- Decisions on research funding based on careful scientific review of the applicant and the research proposal and on science policy lines
- Long-term funding granted for a fixed period

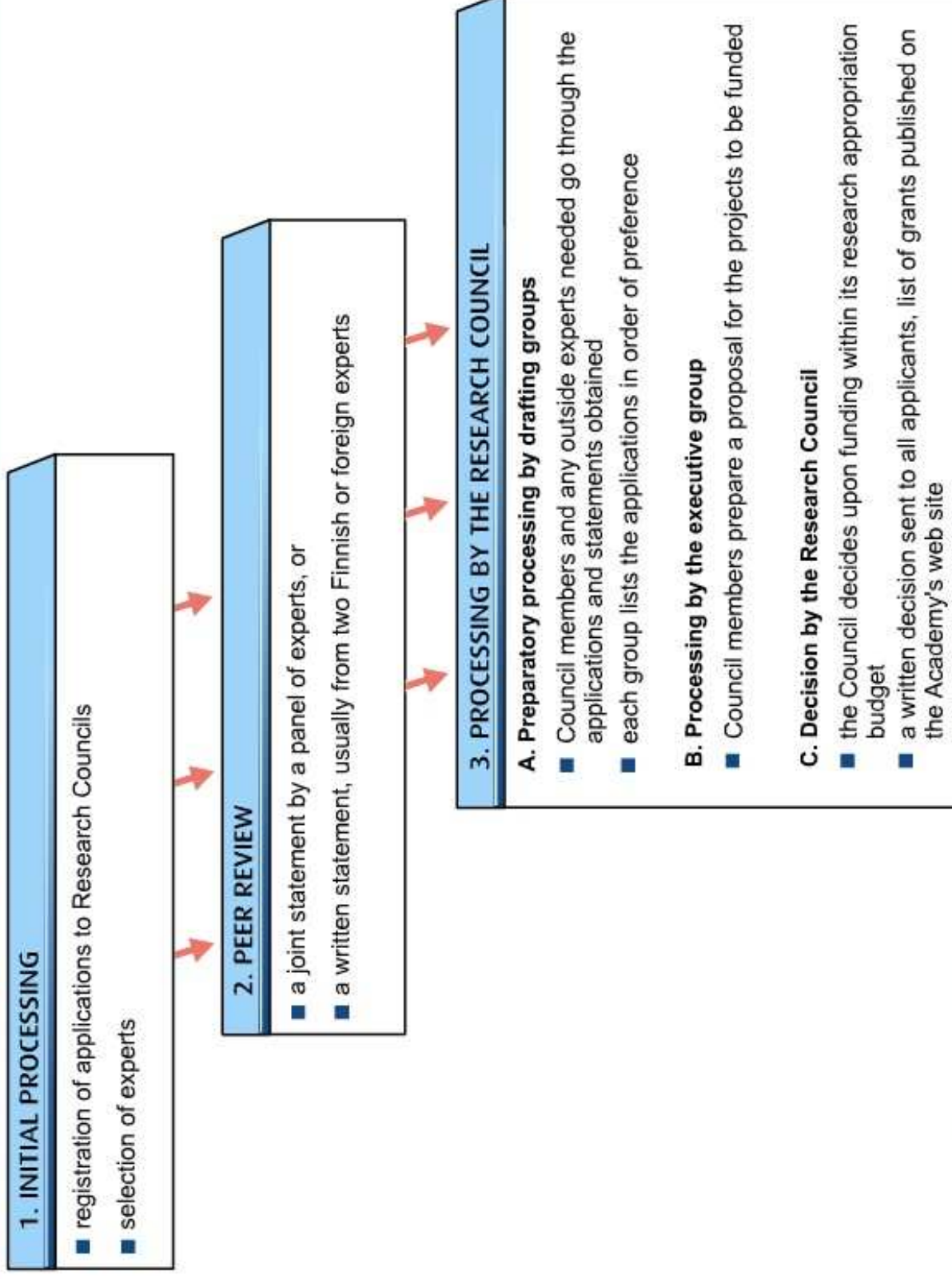
Academy research funding

Applications in 2003

- The Academy received applications worth 841.6 million euros
- The Academy made funding decisions worth 184.4 million euros
- Research councils processed 5,053 applications
- Several times more applications received than could be funded out of the Academy's resources
- Exclusion of many high-quality projects from Academy funding
- Heavy demands on selection procedure



Model of application processing



Assessment criteria applied by the Academy

Criteria

- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the research plan
- Competence of the researcher / research team
- Feasibility of the research plan
- National and international cooperation partners
- Significance of the research project for the promotion of professional research careers and for researcher training
- The Academy's other research policy objectives

Other criteria for research funding decisions

- Development of innovative research environments
- Advancement of research careers, focus on women and young persons
- Promotion of gender equality in research
- Implementation of extensive research entities
- Special objectives of research programmes
- Support to centres of excellence
- Applications and the significance of research to end-users
- Principles of good scientific practice
- Research funding received from the Academy of Finland or from other sources

Good application

- Read the guide for applicants and the call for applications every time
- What are you applying?
- Format of the research plan
- Abstract
- CV and publications
- Be realistic in the budget
- In english, please
- Research posts vs. other appropriations
- Send your application with all appendixs
- Don't hesitate to call to science adviser
- Comments from the reviewers (panelists / experts)

Research Funding

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- V. Researcher mobility**



International agreements

Support to researcher capacities and mobility

- The objective is to raise the quality of research by e.g. promoting the international mobility of researchers
- Researcher mobility funded by means of
 - support to research and studies abroad
 - research projects
 - research programmes
 - centres of excellence programmes
 - bilateral agreements
- ERA-CONNECT: the European Mobility portal and national Mobility portals



ERA-NET

ERA-MORE AND CONNECT

- ERA-MORE is the European Network of Mobility centres
- CONNECT is the Finnish national Mobility project
- Partners in CONNECT: Academy of Finland and University of Helsinki
- The CONNECT-Finland project provides up-to-date practical information and personal assistance to foreign researchers coming to Finland as well as to Finnish researchers going abroad or returning
- The project aims at developing the provision of information to researchers about job opportunities and research funding possibilities within the ERA
- The European Researcher's Mobility portal:
<http://europa.eu.int/eracareers>, and the national pages:
www.aka.fi/mobility
- Budget 199,992 €, 2003 - 2006



International agreements

- International agreements
 - treaties
 - bilateral agreements between the Academy of Finland and foreign organisations
 - agreements with 27 countries and regions and 39 foreign organisations
 - in addition to researcher exchange, agreements also provide a good platform for other types of cooperation (e.g. joint programmes)
- Implementation
 - researcher exchange
 - project, programme and centre of excellence cooperation
 - exchange of peers for scientific evaluations
 - seminars, workshops



International agreements

Academy's bilateral agreements

- Old and new EU Member States and Associate Countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland)
- NIS countries (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine)
- Asia (China including Taiwan, India, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea)
- Other countries (e.g. Argentina)
- Negotiations under way (e.g. Brazil, Chile)



International agreements

Cooperation forms in bilateral agreements

- Forms of cooperation involved in bilateral agreements:
 - Researcher exchange, some agreements include invitation money (28 agreements)
 - Project cooperation (23)
 - Programme cooperation (2)
 - Peer reviewer and panellist cooperation (16)
 - Researcher training, researcher training courses (11)
 - Exchange of information (24)

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The Academy of Finland provides funding for high-quality scientific research, serves as an expert organisation in science and science policy, and strengthens the position of science and research.

News
13.09 - Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence doing research on mitochondrial diseases
[Read more](#)

In cooperation
 Mobility of researchers [► Europe](#)
[► Finland](#)



Press releases
31.08. - Academy of Finland September round for applications
05.08. - The Academy of Finland participates in a European network on pathogenomics
29.07. - New way of thinking in European science funding European Young Investigators Awards (EURYI) Scheme
[Press archive](#)


Events
« [September 2004](#) »

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
36			1	2	3	4	5
37	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
38	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
39	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
40	27	28	29	30			

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*If you are a researcher planning your stay in **Finland** search here for **career opportunities** and other relevant **information and assistance***

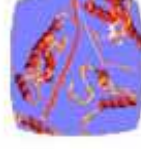
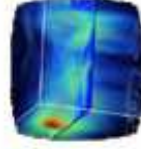
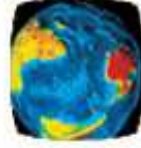
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→ Researchers Researchers Registration CV Search for research opportunities	Financing possibilities for foreign researchers	Researchers coming to Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working and legal issues Studying Accommodation and housing Living
Mobility centres and information offices Finland International	Job opportunities	Finnish researchers going abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical information European Mobility Centres
Women in Science	Research policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finland EU Good scientific practice 	Facts about Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction History Society and institutions Economy and industry Culture Climate Towns and municipalities
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ACADEMY OF FINLAND
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INFORMATION ON FINNISH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IMPORTANT STATISTICS, DOCUMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON DATA



Finnish innovation system Finnish science policy Finnish technology policy
Input R&D expenditure R&D personnel Government R&D funding Research and technology programmes Researcher training Centres of excellence International research cooperation Cooperation with business and industry Researcher mobility
Performance, impact, quality Finland's competitiveness Doctoral degrees Scientific publication Innovation High technology Patents Evaluation
Higher education, research institutes Universities Polytechnics Research institutes

Welcome

to the Finnish science and technology information service

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Performance, impact, quality

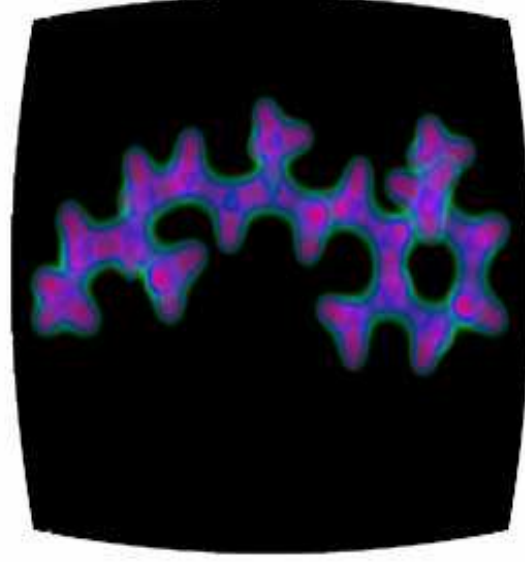
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Research.fi contains key statistics and other data on Finnish science and technology. There are also links for more in-depth information: statistical and other publications, documents and databases.

This service is jointly maintained and developed by [several authorities](#). A [description](#) of development of Research.fi.



*Total electron density of a retinal molecule
joined to the rhodopsin protein*

Suomeksi | Svenska

[What's new](#)

*Ministry of Trade and
Industry*
22.9.2004

A Technological
Agreement with China
Facilitates the Activities of
Finnish Companies in
China

Tekes
6.8.2004

Technology significant
underlying factor in
decisions to invest in
Finland

Ministry of Education
7.7.2004

Finland becomes 11th
ESO member state



More information on the Academy

- www.aka.fi/eng
- Academy of Finland Research Funding: Guide for Applicants
- Calls for application
- Brochures and the Annual Report
- Academy of Finland publication series
- The magazine ProAcademia
- Newsletters

