



Research Council of Finland: Key Messages on FP10

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An ambitious investment is needed for the next EU R&I framework program (FP10)

The Research Council of Finland believes that a substantial increase in the R&I budget of the FP10 is a must for the long-term competitiveness of Europe. FP10 supports cutting-edge research and the development of new technologies as well as policy level decision-making. Excellence should be kept as the backbone of the whole framework programme. The programme should not be overloaded by policy-driven initiatives not foreseen in the Strategic Plan.

Continuity but simplification

The three-pillar structure of the Horizon Europe (HE), as well as the cluster approach for collaborative projects in Pillar II, is clear and rational. However, HE has too many special instruments, which too often seem to overlap and do not work together in synergy. This applies especially to Missions and Partnerships. In the FP10, we need a structure, which is easy to govern, provides plenty of opportunities for creating synergies and is more accessible and comprehensible for applicants.

Stronger frontier research - budget for bottom-up excellence should be increased

The Research Council of Finland considers important that excellence, competition, openness, and impact remain the basic principles of the new framework programme. Stronger position and increased budget for ERC, MSCA, Research Infrastructure and the Pathfinder in the FP10 is needed as curiosity-driven research has proved to lead to important breakthroughs. The scattered overemphasis on innovation should be replaced by well-planned channels for the take-up of research results towards the use of society.

Expand funding possibilities for lower TRL research in all collaborative projects

Pillar II holds the largest share of HE's budget and plays a critical role in addressing European and global societal challenges. The current emphasis on higher TRL projects, including those within Partnerships and Missions, limits the potential for farsighted and sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by Europe and globally. Such solutions also require that interdisciplinarity, including the social sciences and humanities, is strengthened.

Save FP10 for research, development and innovation

Too many spontaneous initiatives without R&I focus have been funded from the HE budget. The Research Council of Finland considers important that the coming FP10 funding will be reserved and allocated to high quality research and state of the art innovations. Excellence as the backbone of the framework programme should be maintained. The principles of academic freedom, open science and interoperability at all levels must remain at the heart of the next framework programme.

The Research Council of Finland (formerly Academy of Finland) is an expert organization in science and research. We fund high-quality scientific research, provide expertise in science and science policy, and strengthen the position of science and research in society. Our annual budget for research funding is roughly 500 million euros.