

An aerial night view of a city with glowing network lines overlaid. The city lights are visible, and the network lines are white and glowing, connecting various points across the city. The text 'BUSINESS FINLAND' is written in large, white, bold letters in the top left corner.

BUSINESS FINLAND

Innovation and Growth Research 2022

THEMES 2022 - ATTRACTIVENESS, GROWTH AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Themes (Pick one of these research fields):

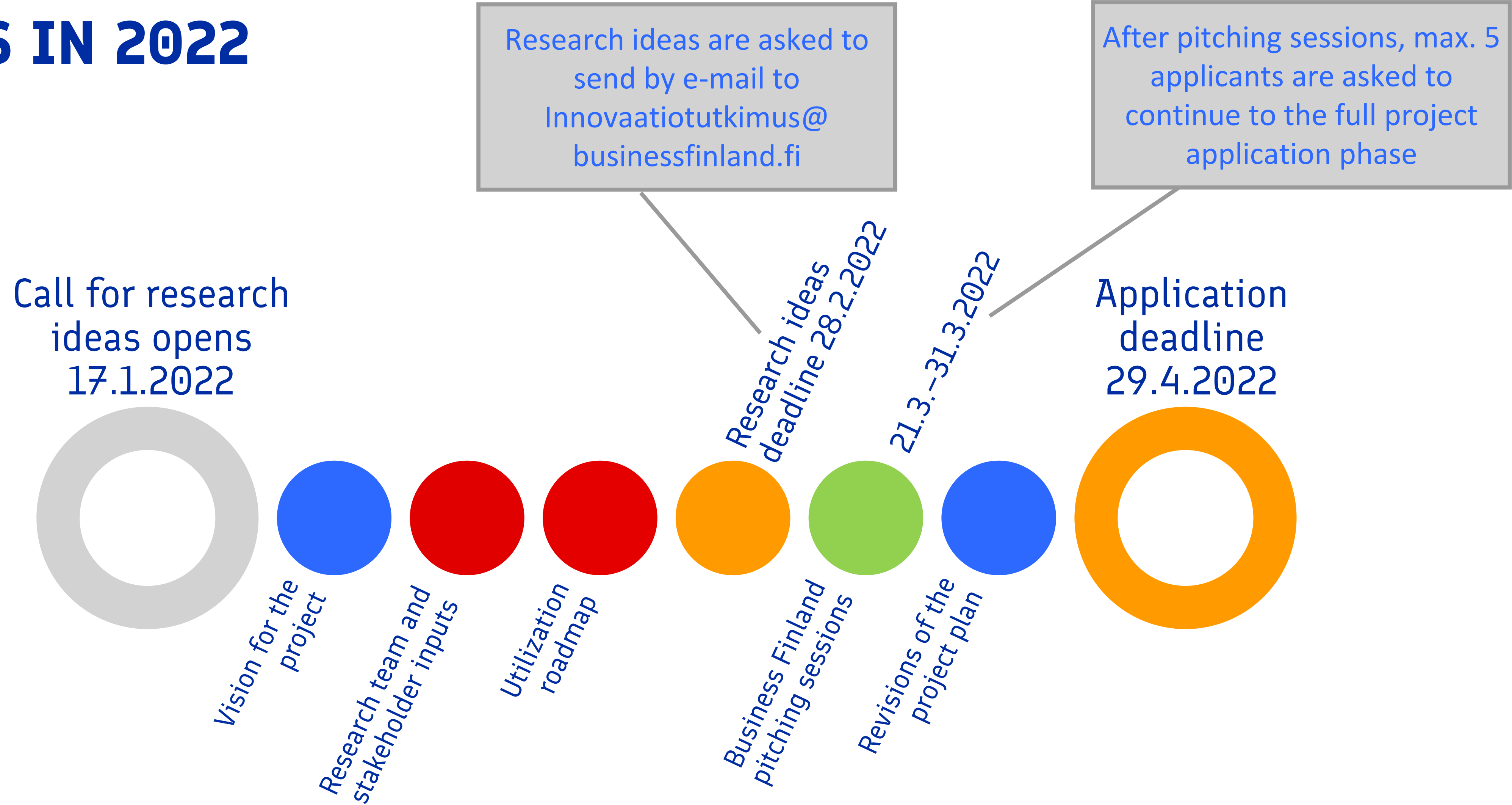
- I. Attractiveness of the Finnish economy and society
- II. Sources of the innovation-led economic growth
- III. Features of systemic change

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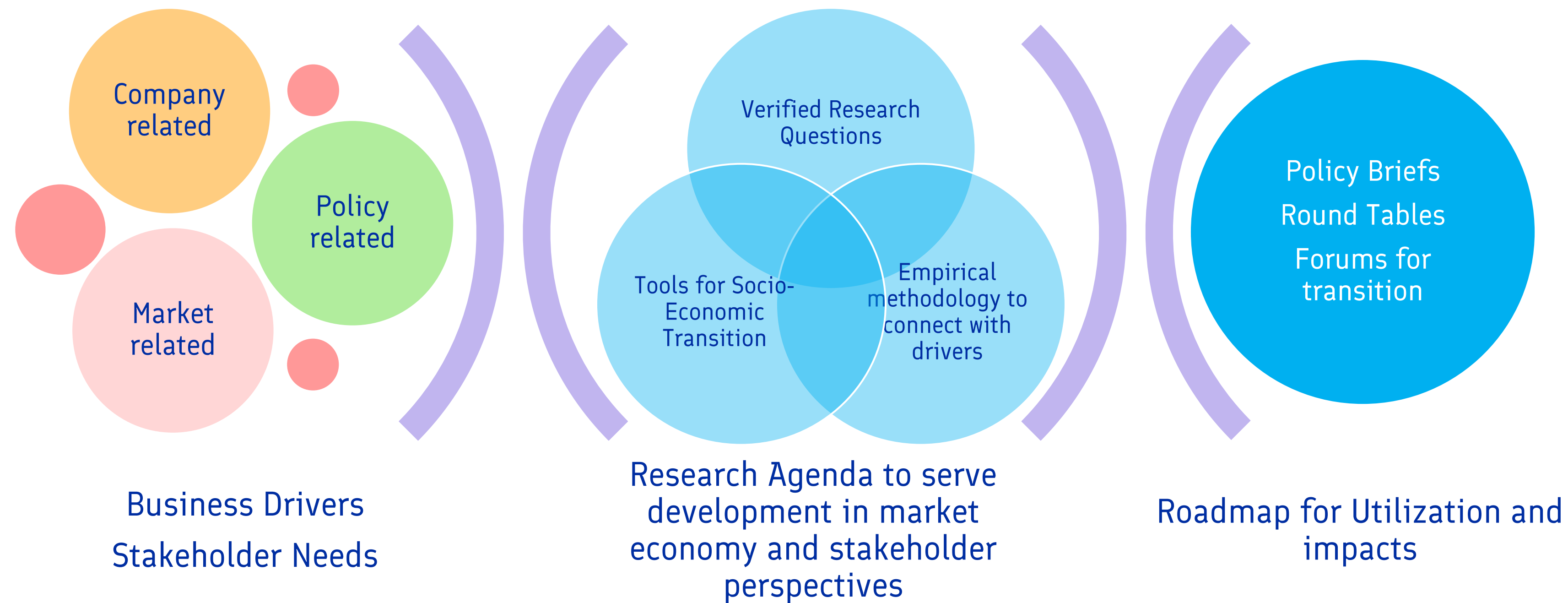
- I. Attractiveness of the Finnish economy and society.** Strengths of the Finnish economy relate to several institutions such as trade openness, the educational level and the skilled workforce, business management practices, and innovation capacity. However, Finland has also weaknesses such as labor market rigidities, lack of medium-sized enterprises, hiring of foreign labor as well low levels of tourism incomes, and the stock of foreign direct investment. On a societal level, the goal is that Finland becomes a more attractive and resilient business landscape that is agile in reacting to external challenges. For example, FDIs and high-skilled immigrants are needed to raise GDP, industrial dynamics, and R&D expenditures to 4 % of GDP. Therefore, the main focus of this theme is on how the attractiveness of the Finnish economy can be strengthened when compared to our competitors, for example, in the fields of foreign direct investments, tourism and immigration of high-skilled experts, and what would be the role of public interventions.
- II. Sources of the innovation-led economic growth.** Economic growth defines the level of people's living standards in the long-term. In terms of growth possibilities, countries that are involved in international competition and have a strong technological commitment are in the best position. Even if Finland has been active in both aspects, the economic growth in Finland has been slow since the financial crisis in 2008. This theme seeks answer what is the state of economic growth theory today and in what direction it is evolving. The aim is therefore to focus on new sources of economic growth. Main questions in this research topic are as follows: How to improve growth by focusing on sustainability, immigration and capabilities, internationalization of companies and trade, and creation of innovations that enhance new ideas in the economy? What other factors should be considered as determinants of economic growth?
- III. Features of systemic change.** Occasionally, Finland faces grand challenges when the sufficient economic or societal development is threatened, or new opportunities emerge in the global economy. In these situations, policy focus is on making interventions that systematically correct these threats or catch-up new opportunities. As one tool to make systemic changes, several governmental organizations, such as Business Finland, have started to develop mission-oriented innovation policies. In this theme it is possible to propose a case study utilizing the two first recently launched pilot missions of Business Finland that are 1) Increase in Productivity through Digitalization, and 2) Carbon Neutrality. The research questions are: How to make large systemic changes and/or transformations happen? What would be the right scale of choices and actions especially in a small open economy such as Finland? What should be the added value for companies and for the society?

STEPS IN 2022



Elements of Utilization Roadmap

“Research questions, methods and delivery must be business, market, and policy driven”



WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR PITCHING? – EVALUATION CRITERIA

Prepare an Idea description document on your research idea. The Idea description must consist of three parts described below. Send **one document** including all three parts to email address [innovaatitutkimus\(at\)businessfinland.fi](mailto:innovaatitutkimus(at)businessfinland.fi) (deadline 28.2.2022).

1. Idea description: Abstract and description of the project (max two A4 pages)
 - Weight **50 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). **Evaluation criteria: novelty and relevance of the research idea**
2. Utilization roadmap (max one A4 page)
 - Can be partially co-produced with identified potential beneficiaries
 - Weight **20 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). **Evaluation criteria: versatility and adaptability to its purpose.**
3. Team description, preliminary funding plan, international collaboration and composition of the steering group (max one A4 page)
 - Weight **30 %** in evaluation (pitching phase). **Evaluation criteria: quality, credibility and suited division of labor and international collaboration, balanced composition of the steering group considering the objectives of the research proposal.**

Business Finland invites max. 12 ideas to present a 15 min. pitching + 30 min sparring and discussion session (Weeks 12-13 (21.3.–31.3.2022)). Out of these, max 5 ideas will be asked to continue to the full project application phase.

WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR FULL PROJECT APPLICATION?

After the pitching sessions, max. 5 applicants are asked to continue to the full project application phase. Compile a full application (including project plan max. 15 pages) **in case that pitching discussions support it** by using our online service: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu/>

1. Description of planned work

- work packages
- research team
- project schedule

2. Stakeholders and funding plan

- Description of supplementing funding (by other stakeholders)
- Stakeholder commitments (preliminary indications for commitment)
- Utilization roadmap
- Composition of steering group

Note: Contents of the idea gathering should equal with the final project plan (and evaluation frame)

Commitment for external funding and international experts: https://www.businessfinland.fi/globalassets/finnish-customers/01-funding/08-guidelines--terms/forms/ilmoitus_projektiin_osallistumisesta___notification_of_participation_in_project.docx

EVALUATION FRAME - WHAT WILL BE APPRECIATED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATIONS?

1. Impact and Relevance (50 %)

- 1.1 Relevance to the call themes as well as innovation and growth policy
- 1.2 Quality and credibility of the research plan
- 1.3 Quality and credibility of the utilization roadmap with the stakeholders

2. International collaboration (20 %)

- 2.1 Quality and volume of international collaboration (top research groups and stakeholders) *(1) international joint activity; 2) commitment to take part to the project by international experts*

3. Research team (30 %)

- 3.1 Multidisciplinary approach in research team
- 3.2 Resources and knowledge of research team

IMPACT STEPS FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH CALL

Inputs

- Volume of Innovation funding
- Top-skilled and internationally oriented research work
- Competence base sourced from innovation environment actors, Business Finland's strategy and impact assessment

Innovation research / Project activities

Project activities / funding criteria

- Challenge-based research agenda, which develops new methodologies for stakeholders
- Utilization roadmaps with system level impact
- Team CVs for credibility and development of research groups
- Policy Briefs for creating basis for dialogue between stakeholder groups
- Round Table Discussions for supporting the dialogue
- Transition Arenas for creating new innovation activities

Outputs / direct and indirect results in Finland

Project activities

- The quantity and quality of innovation research increase and meets the global context
- New innovation policy tools are established based on strong impact analysis
- Exchange of know-how between research sector, innovation policy actors and companies is enhanced to support renewal of businesses
- Finnish innovation environment's capabilities to catalyze emergence of new growth increases

Impacts

- Radical innovations and new business models renew economic structure
- Sustainable growth of companies and the economy – What are the driving forces of new economic growth?
- New tools for companies to improve resilience
- Public and private RDI funding and activities generate overall increase in capabilities, productivity and sustainability