ADVANCE NOTICE ON RRF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES**

Merja Särkioja 17.6.2021

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- Strategic overview
- Brief description of the funding opportunities 2021-2022
- Criteria and specific features of the calls
- Funding decisions
- Timeline

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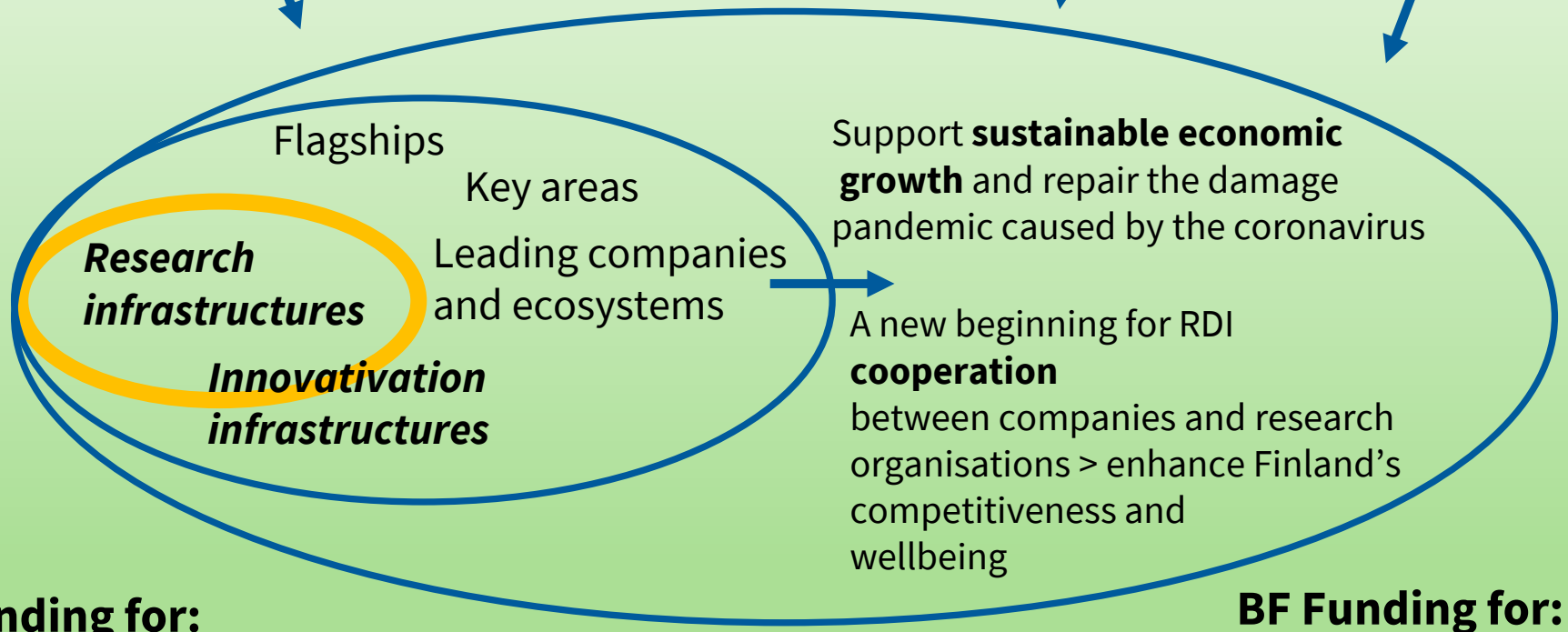
The RDI Roadmap

Strategy for National Research Infrastructures in Finland 2020–2030

Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland – Recovery and Resilience Plan

Compentence *Partnerships* *Green transition* *Digitalisation*



Support **sustainable economic growth** and repair the damage pandemic caused by the coronavirus

A new beginning for RDI **cooperation** between companies and research organisations > enhance Finland's competitiveness and wellbeing

AF Funding for:
Research infrastructures
Flagships
Key areas

Support mechnisms

BF Funding for:
Innovation infrastructures
Leading Companies and their partnerships

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Research infrastructures - 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.

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Funding opportunities 2021-2022

Objective** is to promote **digitalisation** of research infrastructures and the **green transition

2021
20 M€

- Funding for infrastructure services with **national/international relevance**
- Part of the FIRI2021-call – *closed*
- Emphasis on digitalisation and green transition
- Compliance with the DNSH principle
- Funding period: 2022-2025
- Applicant: research organisations and their consortia

2022
30 M€

- Funding for infrastructure services with **local/regional relevance**
- Spesific call - *opens on spring 2022*
- Emphasis on digitalisation and green transition
- Compliance with the DNSH principle
- Funding period: 2023-2025
- Applicant: research organisations and their consortia

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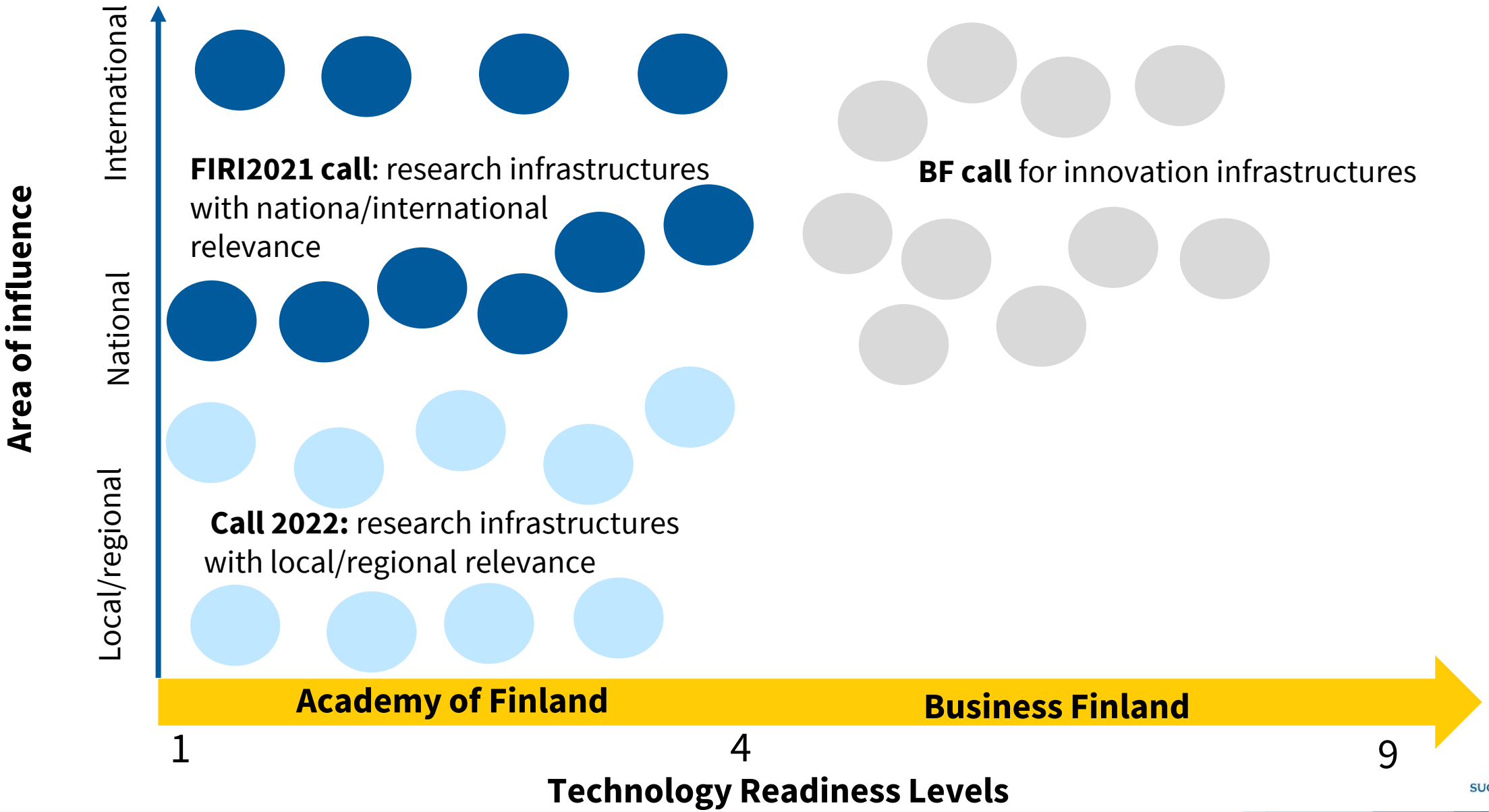
What kind of research infrastructures services are supported?



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Evaluation Criteria of the call for RI services of *national/international* relevance

- **Scientific and educational significance**

The research infrastructure has scientific and educational significance

- **Wide and versatile impact**

The research infrastructure has wide and versatile impact on the scientific community and society at large

- **Ownership, organisational structure, and competence and know-how**

The research infrastructure has a clear ownership that is known to all parties. The staff must have sufficient expertise

- **Services and users**

The research infrastructure must have a clear access policy, and it must make its services openly available

- **Digital platforms and data**

The research infrastructure must offer feasible guidelines etc., in order to support open access to research data. RI must take into account the necessary changes brought about by the growth in **digitalisation and data intensity**

- **Responsible science**

The research infrastructure must take into account sustainable development **incl. green transition**

- **Budget and funding**

The research infrastructure must have a long-term funding plan for maintenance and development of services

The spesific criteria of the call for RI services of local/regional relevance is still under discussion

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Special features of both of the calls

Digitalisation

Does the research infrastructure take into account, the necessary measures brought about by increasing ***digitalisation and data intensity (digital shift)?*** *Are the described measures realistic and clearly described?*

Green transition

How well does the research infrastructure ***contribute to the production of data supporting the green transition?***

How well does the research infrastructure take into account the necessary ***steps for the transition towards carbon neutrality*** *in the construction and/or operation of the research infrastructure?*

DNSH-principle

According to the guidelines of the European Commission, funding granted under Recovery and Resilience Facility must respect the "do no significant harm" principle (DNSH). ***A separate report on this will be requested*** *from the most successful applications in the international review to support decision-making in autumn 2021.*

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Funding decisions

- The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee will make **the funding decisions in late 2021 and late 2022**

In addition to the results of the international peer review and the applicants' replies, the FIRI Committee will consider the following aspects:

- expected effects on national and international research infrastructure activity
- national perspectives concerning, for instance, the strategic development areas mentioned in the Strategy for National Research Infrastructures in Finland 2020–2030
- strategic commitment of research organisations to the research infrastructure (prioritisation)
- sustainability of the research infrastructure's funding base (based on the action plan)
- opinions of the Academy of Finland's research councils.
- According to the guidelines of the European Commission, funding granted under Recovery and Resilience Facility must respect the "do no significant harm" principle (DNSH). A separate report on this will be requested from the most successful applications in the international review to support decision-making in autumn 2021.

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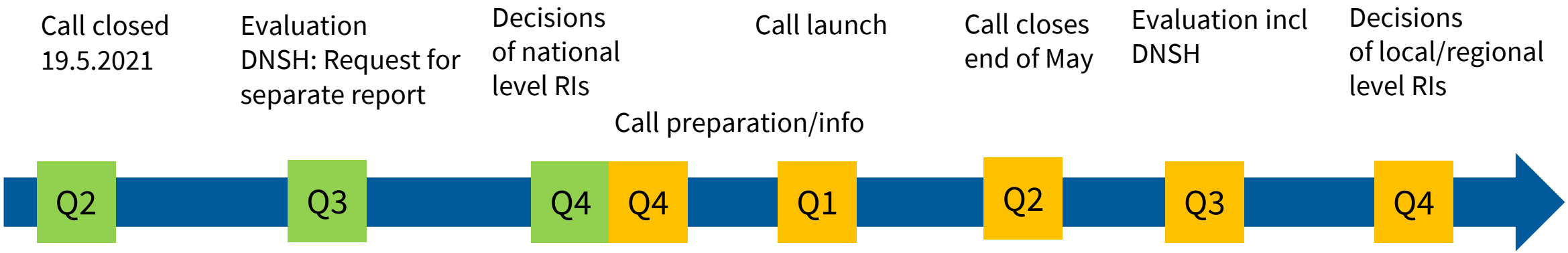
Timeline and next steps

AF: Call for infrastructures with national/international relevance 20 M€

AF: Call for infrastructures with local/regional relevance 30 M€



2021

2022

BF: Call for Innovation infrastructures

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Communication and contacts

- Call announcements and details on Academy website Calls for applications - Academy of Finland (aka.fi)
- Follow us on *twitter @aka_firi*
- Blog by Business Finland Executive Director **Teija Lahti-Nuuttila** and Academy of Finland Vice President for Research **Riitta Maijala** (in June)

- **firi@aka.fi**
- **Merja Särkioja**, Senior Science Adviser
- **Paula Leskinen**, Science Adviser

Thank you!

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