



## Health and wellbeing competence and technology – Innovation funding supplementary call

The funding call is aimed for new innovative solutions in the health and wellbeing sector that can be scaled for export markets. The call is designed to support the initiatives included in the Health Sector Growth Strategy's roadmap, which aim to develop health sector ecosystems as well as new solutions and innovations for export markets. The call will fund research projects that lay the foundations for digital solutions, technologies, and approaches to health care. The progress of digitalization in health care and user-oriented well-being solutions, the growing international market in the sector and digital information resources are significant growth opportunities for Finland. The parties implementing the projects do not necessarily have to come from these sectors, but the results must promote the measures defined in [the Health Sector Growth Strategy for Research and Innovation Activities Roadmap for 2020–2023](#). The measures of the roadmap are intended to strengthen the ecosystems and export promotion of the health sector.

### Description of the supplementary innovation funding call

The supplementary funding call implements the [Sustainable Growth Program for Finland](#), which is part of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The program's measures will be carried out in 2021–2023. RRF funding promotes structural renewal in business and industry and the creation of a competitive edge based on Finnish companies' sustainable solutions. It is possible to create a competitive edge and increase productivity through new business models and even better use of data. The long-term goal is to provide Finland with new company-driven growth ecosystems that target global growth markets and seek net sales in the range of billions of euros. The aim is also to support the development of top expertise and the emergence of new innovative products and services.

The funding call is intended for companies seeking international growth and research organizations that support the development of companies through joint projects. The funding call is open to companies registered in Finland that pursue growth and internationalization and have sufficient financial resources, versatile expertise and a team for it. In addition, the companies must have a competitive advantage on the international market. Research organizations may apply for this funding as part of a co-innovation project.

### For which themes can funding be applied?

The purpose of the funding call is to strengthen the ecosystems and export promotion of health and wellbeing services and technologies.

The projects must be research-based and relate to:

- digital solutions in health security
- monitoring solutions for people's wellbeing
- digital support services for wellbeing
- technology-assisted living solutions for the elderly
- a new kind of use of data, and such advanced technologies as AI, and the extensive application of advanced technologies in the health and wellbeing sector
- promoting the objectives of the Health Sector Growth Strategy for Research and Innovation Activities Roadmap for 2020–2023.

The key application criteria include the innovativeness of projects, impact on the renewal of the company, targeted international net sales, the competence of the company, resources and the ability to implement the project, and the project implementation plan.

In addition, the projects funded through the Health and wellbeing competence and technology supplementary funding call must have a significant impact on the promotion of digitalization, since the aim of the call is to create digital solutions and practices for health care that can also be scaled for export markets.

### **What kinds of projects are eligible for this funding?**

In the Health and wellbeing competence and technology supplementary call, Business Finland funds new creative research through grants. The projects can be companies' independent research projects or Co-innovation projects carried out with research organizations. The projects must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Projects funded through grants:

- create new competence and information for companies and partnership networks
- take greater risks than normal and, if successful, involve a high market potential
- often require more development afterwards to commercialize the results

The funding for companies is based on Business Finland's existing funding instruments, terms and criteria. Business Finland grants a maximum of 50 per cent of a project's total costs for research projects by SMEs. For midcap and large companies, the funding is up to 40% of the total cost of the project, while the funding typically covers 70% of the project costs of research organizations. Read more about research and development funding:

- SMEs and midcaps: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/research-and-development/research-development-and-piloting>
- Large companies: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/research-and-development/research-development-and-piloting-big-companies>
- Research organizations: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/cooperation-between-companies-and-research-organizations>

### **Special criteria for RRF funding under the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland**

The EU RRF requires that the funded measures do not cause any significant harm to the environment. Each project funded through the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland must meet the "Do No Significant Harm" requirements. Applicants must be prepared to respond to DNSH questions as a mandatory part of the funding application. More information about the DNSH requirements is provided in Annex 1.

Annex 2 sets out the other criteria for projects funded through RRF, which must be met by the funded projects.

The Money Laundering Act and the EU's money laundering directives require a company or entity to identify its beneficial owners, to report their information for registration and to keep the information up to date. Pursuant to the RRF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Article 22), Business Finland is required to collect the following information about the beneficial owner(s) of the final recipient: first name(s), surname, and date of birth. The funding is conditional on the applicant having provided the Finnish Patent and Registration Office with information on the actual beneficiaries of the company.

### **Business Finland's general funding terms and conditions**

Business Finland will make funding decisions following normal selection criteria. The funding instruments used are compatible with the State aid rules. Funding is not granted for projects that do not meet the requirements of the State aid rules. The funding is subject to Business Finland's [general funding terms and conditions for companies' research and development projects](#).

After the funding decision has been made, the name of the beneficiary will be published, along with the amount of funding and the public description of the project. During reporting, other public funding (granted by the Government, municipality or other public organization, institution or foundation) must also be reported. In addition, funding granted from the EU's resources must be reported. The proportion of funding obtained from Business

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland

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Finland or other public funding must not exceed the maximum amount of public funding permitted for the project. If necessary, Business Finland will reduce its funding so that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

**How to apply for funding?**

Basic applicant and application information is completed normally in [Business Finland's online service](#).

- Select the funding service.
  - Companies: "Research, development and piloting" or "Co-innovation"
  - Research organizations: "Co-Innovation"
- Under "RRF- Suomen kestävä kasvun ohjelma" (Finland's Sustainable Growth Program), select the "RRF- Terveys ja hyvinvointi" (Health and Wellbeing) identifier in the menu.
- Respond to the questions related to environmental impact. Every project provided with RRF funding must fulfill the "Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)" requirements. The EU RRF requires that no measures do any significant harm to the environment.

**Funding schedule**

Health and wellbeing competence and technology – Innovation funding supplementary call is a continuation of the call in early 2022, which funded projects to the tune of EUR 2 million. **Funding applications for the supplementary call must be submitted by October 17, 2022.** We aim at making the decisions during 2022.

**Contact us**

Please contact your Business Finland contact person or [our customer service](#) (Label your email with: RRF – Health and wellbeing innovation funding call) well before submitting your application.

If you are a new customer, please visit the [Become a customer page](#).

**Further information**

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## APPENDIX 1: Additional information on the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) requirement

Each project funded through the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland must meet the “Do No Significant Harm” requirements. The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) requires that no measures do any significant harm to the environment. Economic activities are considered to cause significant harm to the following:

- a) climate change mitigation,
  - *where that activity leads to significant greenhouse gas emissions;*
- b) climate change adaptation,
  - *where that activity leads to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets;*
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, where that activity is detrimental
  - *to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or*
  - *to the good environmental status of marine waters;*
- d) the circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling, where
  - *that activity leads to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources such as non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water and land at one or more stages of the life cycle of products, including in terms of durability, reparability, upgradability, reusability or recyclability of products;*
  - *that activity leads to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or*
  - *the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term harm to the environment;*
- e) pollution prevention and control,
  - *where that activity leads to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into the air, water or land, as compared with the situation before the activity commenced; or*
- f) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, where that activity is
  - *significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or*
  - *detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest.*

Instructions for responding to DNSH questions and example responses are available in: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218(01)&from=EN) p. 16

The extensive DNSH pre-assessments prepared during the preparation of the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland are available in Appendix 3 to the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland (<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163176>) in appendix 3, pages 497–502.

## **APPENDIX 2: Criteria for projects funded through RRF**

In funding decisions, Finland complies with all valid state subsidy regulations and guidelines, and addresses DNSH technical guidance C(2021) 1054 final. In order to ensure that the measure complies with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01), the eligibility criteria contained in terms of reference for upcoming calls for projects shall exclude the following list of activities: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use<sup>[1]</sup>; (ii) activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks<sup>[2]</sup> and not significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (iii) activities related to waste landfills, incinerators<sup>[3]</sup> and mechanical biological treatment plants<sup>[4]</sup>; and (iv) activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause harm to the environment. The terms of reference shall additionally require that only activities that comply with relevant Union and national environmental legislation can be selected.

The projects must comply with the EU and national environmental legislation. The projects to be funded must fulfill the selection and eligibility criteria set out in DNSH technical guidance 2021/C58/01 and the criteria set for the promotion of the digital change presented in intervention field 015 in Annex VII to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 on establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Except projects under this measure in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

<sup>[2]</sup> Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible should be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447.

<sup>[3]</sup> This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in plants exclusively dedicated to treating non-recyclable hazardous waste, and to existing plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants' waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

<sup>[4]</sup> This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in existing mechanical biological treatment plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting to recycling operations of separated waste to compost bio-waste and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants' waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

