*This project plan will be attached to the funding application. Subheadings may not be deleted or edited*

*The funding application must be completed in Business Finland’s online service by 9 March 2026 at*  [*https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/online-services*](https://www.businessfinland.fi/suomalaisille-asiakkaille/asiointipalvelu)

*Select Co-Research as the funding service. You do not need to include “Notifications of Participation in the Project” forms in the application.*

*Select “Näytönpaikka” from the drop-down menu under “Programmes and other Related Links”. Enter a name for your application in the following format: “Näytönpaikka – project name x”.*

**\* \* \***

**RISE TO THE CHALLENGE 2025: Project name**

**COVER SHEET – SUMMARY**

|  |
| --- |
| **PROJECT NAME**  **Public summary in Finnish and English**  Max 2000 (FI) + 2000 (EN) character summary of the project’s main content and objectives |

|  |
| --- |
| **DURATION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT (3 years):** xx.xx.2026 – xx.xx.2029  **DURATION OF POTENTIAL EXTENSION PHASE (2 years):** xx.xx.2029 – xx.xx.2031  **FUNDING REQUESTED FROM BUSINESS FINLAND FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT (total for all parties to a joint project + share of each party)**   * Total estimated costs and costs per party (€): * Total funding requested from Business Finland and per party (€):   **ESTIMATE OF FURTHER FUNDING REQUESTED FROM BUSINESS FINLAND IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT**   * Total estimated costs (€): * Total funding requested from Business Finland and per party (€): |

**Project Plan**

**In the case of a joint project, this plan describes the contributions of all parties involved!**

1. **Mission and Situational picture** (up to 2 pages)
   1. **Mission and novelty**

A concise description of the mission. What challenge/future need will be met and what is the uniqueness, significance and relevance of the idea to Finnish society?

* 1. **Situational picture**

What is the situation around the world and in Finland; what are the levels of expertise and skills gaps; are similar solutions being explored elsewhere? Alternative/competitive approaches. What is Finland’s competitiveness and intended competitive advantage, and why is this topic relevant to Finland?

1. **Impact and indicators** (up to 2 pages)
   1. **Impact of the whole project**

Assessment of the project’s impact (e.g. impact on RDI investments / new skills and centres of expertise / theses / number of students in the field / employment / productivity / patents / clean transition / digitalisation / etc.)

Your view of the new business opportunities potentially arising from the research and the estimated time frame for utilising the results.

* 1. **Indicators set for the first three-year phase of the project**

Achieving the indicators set for the project’s first phase is a prerequisite for the second phase . Describe the target levels for the indicators and their verification methods

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | | Objective & how to verify |
| Initial researcher resources and a plan for their development | | *For example: there will be a total of at least X new people in research groups by the end of Phase 1 of the project, of whom at least Y will be at postdoctoral level. Baseline in winter 2026: a total of Z people in research groups.* |
| Progress towards the mission in the first phase, i.e., implementation of the project in accordance with the roadmap and project plan | | *Achieving the most important project results and how to verify them in 3–5 bullet points.* |
| Identification of utilisation pathways and evidence of stakeholder commitment to the second phase of the research | | *For example:*   * *At least X companies committed as partners for the second phase of the project* * *At least Y PoCs with companies* * *At least Z invention disclosures* |
| Optional indicator | *For example:*   * *At least X peer-reviewed scientific publications published or under review* * *At least Y international funding applications* | |

*The weight of each indicator is 25%. The actual value of each indicator can range from 0 to 25% (for example, if 8/10 recruitments are realised, the indicator value is 20%). The actual values of the various indicators are added together. In order to be eligible for further funding, at least 75% of the total target set must be achieved.*

*For example:*

* + - *Indicator 1: 10/12 researchers recruited: 20.8%*
    - *Indicator 2: all substantive progress objectives achieved: 25%*
    - *Indicator 3:* 
      * *3/5 intended users engaged: 7.5%*
      * *2/3 invention disclosures: 8.3%*
    - *Indicator 4: 6/8 international applications: 18.8%*

*Total 80.4%; second phase ok.*

1. **Roadmap towards mission** (up to 2 pages)
   1. **Roadmap to completing the mission**

Visualized Roadmap for 2020–2035: What expertise will the project build on, what will be achieved during the project, what are the potential pathways to utilising the results, and what is the timeframe for utilisation? How might other disciplines be included later? How do you plan to build international cooperation? What kind of stakeholder cooperation will be built and how? In addition to the Business Finland project, what other actions will be taken to promote this matter, and how should the operating environment change?

* 1. **Other possible funding**

Preliminary funding plan for the applicant’s other projects in the same subject area for expanding the project and forming a research entity (Academy of Finland, EU and other international funders)

* 1. **What existing resources and networks can you leverage or join?**

Projects and initiatives supporting the project in Finland and around the world, especially in the EU.

* 1. **What other national and international efforts are needed to advance this issue?**

Possible legislative, standardisation, and other policy measures related to this topic

1. **Project team** (max 2 pages)
   1. **Project manager; their skills and experience**
   2. **Project team members, competences, and other human resources**

Describe initial resources and RDI capabilities, as well as a plan to strengthen them. Describe the applicant organisation’s commitment to strengthening its resources and the entire project.

Describe the versatility and level of expertise of the research group(s) in comparison with international standards. Describe the research team’s most important national and international networks. CVs can be attached.

1. **Project plan** (number of pages required, maximum 20 pages)
   1. **Description of activity**

Description of the project content and the roles of the various parties to the application; management and administration of the project as a whole. PLEASE NOTE! A joint project prepares a joint project plan, which describes the activities of all parties.

Use the work package template below to describe the implementation. Copy the required number of tables. Some work packages may be limited to only one of the project phases or continue for the entire five-year period.

* Describe the first three years in more detail and the following two years at a more general level.
* Describe the objectives for each work package: who does what and how, the associated costs, results, and outputs.
* One work package should focus on project management, communication, and preparation for the next phase and utilisation. One key output is utilisation and dissemination plans.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Work Package X** | *Work Package Name:* | | |
| *Start date (e.g. Month 1)* | *End date (e.g. Month 12)* | *Total workload (person-months)* | *Total cost of work package, €X,*  *of which purchases, €Y* |
| *Objectives* |  | | |
| *Description* | Describe who does what and how. | | |
| *Outputs* |  | | |
| *Trips* | Breakdown by work package or aggregated for the whole project | | |
| *Materials and supplies* | Breakdown by work package or aggregated for the whole project | | |
| *Equipment purchases and rentals* | Breakdown by work package or aggregated for the whole project | | |
| *Services to be purchased* | Breakdown by work package or aggregated for the whole project | | |
| *Other costs* | Breakdown by work package or aggregated for the whole project | | |

* 1. **Risk assessment** (up to 0.5 pages)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Risk | Probability/Impact  low/medium/high | Control measures |
| Risk 1 |  |  |
| Risk 2 |  |  |
| Risk X |  |  |

* 1. **IPR questions** (max. 0.5 pages)

Describe the situation. Does the project generate intellectual property rights that need to be protected?

[Funding criteria for public research](https://www.businessfinland.fi/4b13b7/globalassets/finnish-customers/01-funding/08-guidelines--terms/funding-terms/julkisen_tutkimuksen_rahoituksen_ehdot.pdf)

1. **How do you intend to continue towards your mission after the project ends** (up to 0.5 pages)