

Health and wellbeing competence and technology – Innovation funding call

The funding call applies to innovative solutions in the health and wellbeing sector that develop digital solutions, technologies, and operating procedures in the field of healthcare. Project parties do not necessarily have to come from these sectors, but the results must promote the measures defined in the new roadmap of the health sector's growth strategy that strengthen the health sector's ecosystems and exports.

Description of the Call

The funding call implements the Sustainable Growth Programme 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.

A competitive edge and productivity must be created through new business models and even better use of data. The long-term goal is to build new company-driven growth ecosystems in Finland, targeting global growth markets and seeking net sales in the range of billions. In addition, the aim is to support the development of excellence and the emergence of new innovative products and services.

The call is aimed at companies seeking international growth and, in joint projects, at research organizations supporting their development. Companies registered in Finland that want to grow and internationalize and have sufficient financial resources as well as diverse expertise and a team can apply for funding. In addition, a competitive advantage in the international market is required. A research organization can apply for funding as part of a co-innovation project.

For which themes can funding be applied?

The Call aims at strengthening ecosystems and exports in health and wellbeing services and technologies. Projects may be related 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
- other promotion of the goals of the new roadmap 2020–2023 of the health sector's growth strategy

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

For which projects can funding be applied?

Business Finland provides funding for new creative research through aid. The aid is intended for providing funding for companies' independent research projects or Co-innovation projects carried out with research organizations. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Projects funded through aid:

- 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

For SME research projects, Business Finland's aid covers up to 50 percent of the total project costs. The aid is up to 40 per cent of the total project costs for midcap and large companies and typically 70 per cent for research organizations. Read more about research and development funding:

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

The instruments used are compatible with State aid rules. Funding for companies is based on Business Finland's existing funding instruments, terms and criteria. No funding will be granted for a project which does not fulfill the conditions of the State aid rules.

Special criteria set out in Finland's Sustainable Growth Programme (RRF funding)

In its funding decisions, Finland complies with all valid state subsidy regulations and guidelines of [Do No Significant Harm](#) (DNSH).

Investment P3C4I2 "Key programmes for international growth" measure "Health and wellbeing expertise and technology" links to intervention field "SME Development and Internationalization, including Productive Investment (015)" and supports the digital dimension by 40 %, as funded projects create digital solutions and practices for healthcare that can also be scaled to export markets. The advancement of digitalization in healthcare and user-oriented well-being solutions, the growing international market in the field and digital information resources are significant growth opportunities for Finland. The criteria for awarding grants will include, to a significant extent, criteria that promote digitalization.

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 "Programs and other connections", select "RRF – Finland's Sustainable Growth Programme" for your application and then the "RRF – 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

According to the preliminary plan, a total of EUR 4 million of funding will be granted in 2022 and 2023. Business Finland will make funding decisions following normal selection criteria. **Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2022 for funding granted in 2022.** The funding call for funding granted in 2023 will open at the end of 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 go to [Become a customer](#) web page.

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland

Date
November 1, 2021

Further information

Outi Tuovila, Laura Mustaniemi. Email addresses: firstname.lastname@businessfinland.fi

APPENDIX: More information about the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) requirement

Each project funded through the Sustainable Growth Programme 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 started; 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/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218(01)&from=EN)

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