

An aerial night view of a city with glowing network lines overlaid. The city lights are visible in the background, 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. Below it, the text "Innovation and Growth Research 2024" is written in a smaller, white font.

BUSINESS FINLAND

Innovation and Growth Research 2024

THEMES 2023 - INNOVATION, CAPABILITIES AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

Themes (Pick one of these research fields):

I. Internationalization, innovation and growth

II. New technologies - from innovation to well-being

III. New geopolitics and impact on the Finnish innovation environment

IV. Innovation and growth policy tools

RESEARCH THEMES 2024 – INTERNATIONALIZATION, GEOPOLITICS AND WELL-BEING

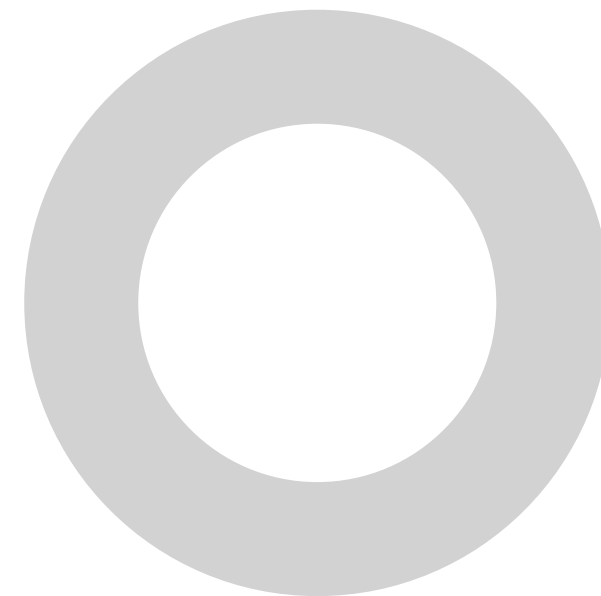
- 1. Internationalization, innovation and growth.** Innovation-based international growth for companies determine the competitiveness of private sector and business environment in the long-term. Main questions in this research topic are as follows: How to make Finnish innovations more international? How to build incentives that improve capabilities, create innovations that enhance internationalization of companies? Another question relates to the Finnish government's goal how to accelerate R&D to 4 % of GDP? What is the leverage, corporate incentives, and optimal public R&D policy portfolio compared to other countries (benchmark analysis)? What other factors should be considered as determinants of internationalization and innovation-based growth?
- 2. New technologies - from innovation to well-being.**

First topic related to this theme is related to a growing interest to measure how finally new technologies improve well-being in the economy? It could be examined what factors encourage sustainable innovation in companies or innovation capabilities, what is a role of broader innovative abilities related to sustainability, as well as for example public actions, regulation, and finally impact of sustainable development on the zero-carbon target and well-being?

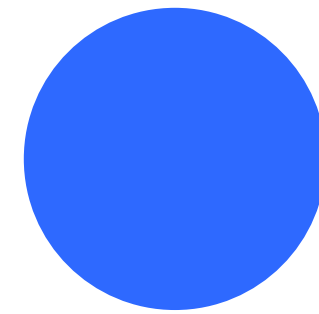
Another topic related to this theme is how new technologies such as the artificial intelligence or social media etc. create opportunities? As known, there are and will be also challenges and threats of the effects on citizens. With innovation policy, how can we support Finland's competitiveness with the help of these new technologies and prevent their disadvantages? How to make guidelines to govern these technologies?
- 3. New geopolitics and impact on the Finnish innovation environment.** Geopolitical atmosphere has changed radically in recent years. Ukraine war as well as economic and trade policy actions of China have tightened this atmosphere. For example, European Union has started to find ways to manage the frictions how Chinese practices are distorting EU market. On the other hand, China is important market for exports. Analyzing and understanding the changes in China dependencies would be essential. Moreover, new dimensions found by the NATO agreement as well as EU critical technologies raise a question what are new R&D options for example in space and defence industry (e.g. ESA & NATO co-operation)? What are the new industrial and innovation policy choices in this new situation?
- 4. Innovation and growth policy tools.** It is recommended to add in topics I-III what is a role of policy interventions? Therefore, it should be asked how these policy tools can help innovativeness, renewal and internationalization in the Finnish economy? *It is essential in this call to develop new methodologies how to measure impacts of interventions.* Also new methodologies based on AI-technologies are welcome.

STEPS IN 2024

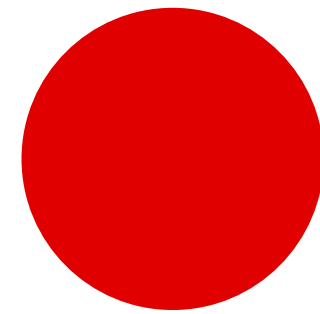
Call of ideas
opens 15.1.2024



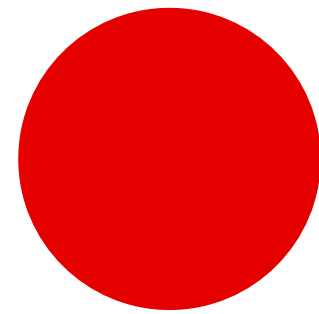
Vision for the
project



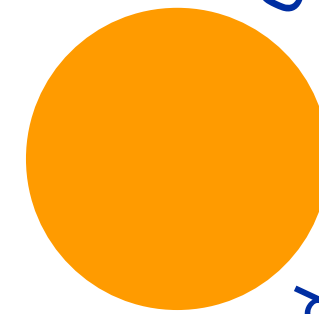
Research team and
stakeholder inputs



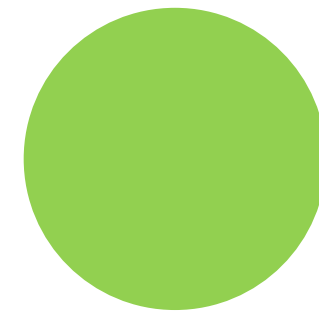
Utilization
roadmap



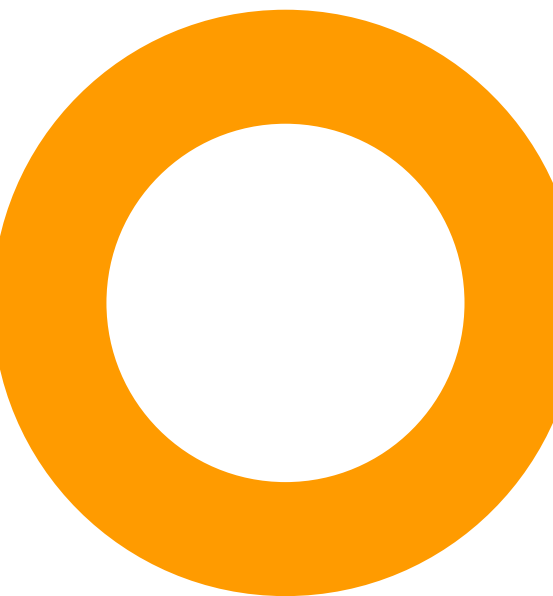
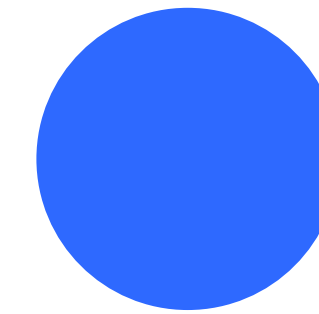
Business Finland
ask applicants to
send full project
application



Revisions of the
project plan



15.3.2024



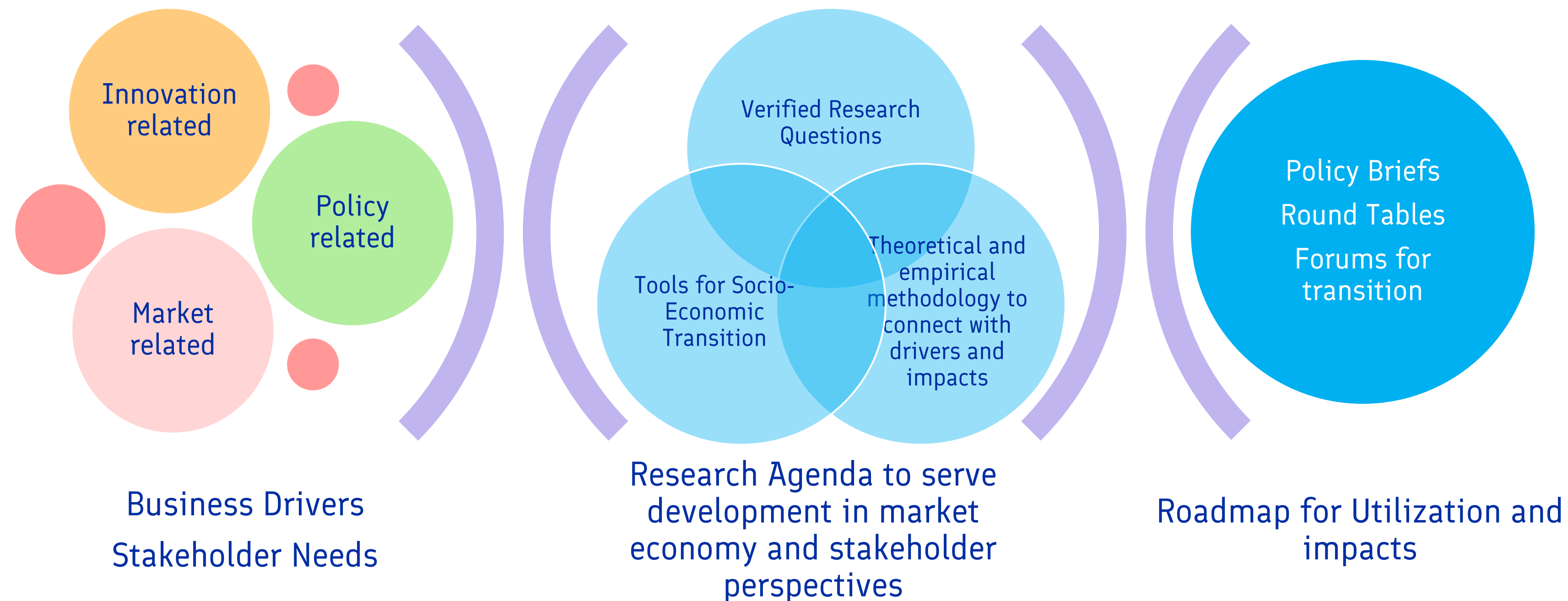
Application
deadline
15.4.2024

Research idea descriptions are asked to send to
<https://secure.businessfinland.fi/suojaposti>

Max. 10 applicants are asked
to continue to the full project
application phase

Elements of Utilization Roadmap

Research questions, methods and delivery must be innovation, market, and policy driven
The utilization plan should describe, e.g. with a timeline, how to cooperate with policy developers and policy makers already during the project (e.g. workshops or round table discussions) and what results can be expected (e.g. policy briefs and publications)



WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR CALL OF IDEAS – EVALUATION CRITERIA

Prepare an Idea description document on your research idea. The Idea description must consist of three parts described below. Send **one PDF document** including all three parts to <https://secure.businessfinland.fi/suojaposti> (deadline 23.2.2024, 23:59).

1. Idea description: Abstract and description of the project (max two A4 pages)
 - Weight **50 %** in evaluation. Evaluation criteria: novelty and relevance of the research idea, concrete implementation and methodology
2. Utilization (max one A4 page)
 - It is important to describe how to cooperate with policy developers and makers as well as other stakeholders
 - Weight **20 %** in evaluation. Evaluation criteria: versatility and adaptability to its purpose.
3. Team description, international collaboration, preliminary funding plan and composition of the steering group (max one A4 page)
 - Weight **30 %** in evaluation. Evaluation criteria: quality, credibility and interdisciplinary of research team, scale and scope of international collaboration, composition of the steering group considering the objectives of the research proposal.

Business Finland asks (15th of March 2024) max. 10 research ideas to send full project application in 15th of April 2024. Out of these, max 6 ideas can be funded.

WHAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR FULL PROJECT APPLICATION?

After the research idea phase, max. 10 applicants are asked to continue to the full project application phase. Compile a full application (including project plan max. 15 pages) **in case that Business Finland 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 Resources and knowledge of research team
- 3.2 Multidisciplinary approach

IMPACT STEPS FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH CALL

Inputs

- R&D and 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