

**BUSINESS
FINLAND**

**CELTIC-NEXT Autumn Call 2023
Proposers' Brokerage Day Event, 5 October 2023**

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Business Finland

BUSINESS FINLAND

- Merger of Finpro and Tekes (2018):
 - Promoting Innovation
 - Promoting Exports
 - Attracting Investments and Travellers
- Broad Toolset:
 - ~40 Offices around the Globe
 - ~700 Staff
 - Networking, Contacts & Information
 - Advice and Coaching
 - RDI and Business Funding (826 M€ in 2022)
 - Thematic Programmes
 - International Programmes including CelticNext



Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria for CelticNext in 2023 1/2

- Increased emphasis on international collaboration → good outlook for good CelticNext project proposals matching the national criteria
- Celtic proposals always compete with other (national) proposals
- Funding is available for SMEs, mid-caps (turnover < 300 M€) and large companies; and for universities /RTOs in collaboration with companies (Co-Innovation Funding Model)
- Funding micro size companies in long, extensive projects is an exception (subcontractor role is often better than partner role)
- Renewed Co-Innovation Funding Rules with more focus on international calls at place from the beginning of 2023

Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria for CelticNext in 2023 2/2

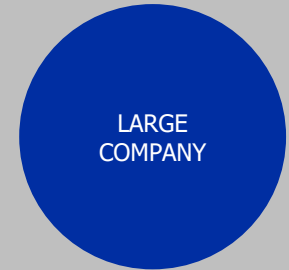
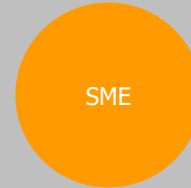
- Thematic focus
 - Digitalisation and connectivity very much remain in the national policy focus
 - *Digital Native Finland Mission*, targeting productivity development through digitalisation
 - *6G Bridge programme*, ecosystem support to value generation from 5GA and 6G
- Funding criteria
 - The eligibility criteria are the same as in national calls. Start-ups, SMEs, midcaps (<300M€ turnover), large companies, universities, research organisations each have their specificities
 - The composition of the FI consortium is a crucial viewpoint, and strong medium and midcap size company involvement is highly recommendable
 - Proposals are evaluated by Business Finland's experts on growth impact, novelty, management, and financial aspects
- Other considerations
 - No specific euro limit, project lengths up to 3 years
 - Concrete business outlook is expected to be generated in return for the RDI investment

The Finnish Sub-Consortium Funding Using BF's Co-Innovation Funding Model

Companies participate in research targeting new knowledge and innovations for business needs, **together with Finnish research organization(s)**

A Joint Project plan:

- Common goal + execution plan
- Need to collaborate on projects
- The projects are implemented in parallel



How Does Co-Innovation Funding Work

The consortium forms an entity which is able to solve the research problem

- The joint action must include at least one research organization and three companies, of which at least two have applied for funding for their R&D projects from Business Finland
- Priority is given to high-quality projects and ecosystems supporting the growth and internationalization of SMEs

Company funding is granted in accordance with the regular funding options or levels offered to companies

- For companies with a goal and plan to grow in the international market
- The company must have sufficient resources and self-financing to carry out the project

All companies make a participation notice to a public research project

- A duration for the research project is typically 2-3 years.
- The funding level for research projects is 80% (in Celtic Next - type international collaborations)
- Continuous application process, adapted to international calls

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Thank you !