

CELTIC Proposers Day in Barcelona on 24.02.25

National Funding Outlook FINLAND



Heikki Uusi-Honko
Chief Adviser, Development
and International Activities

Business Finland

www.celticnext.eu



Business Finland

The Finnish Government Organisation for Innovation Funding & Trade, Travel and Investment Promotion

- Broad set of goals:
 - Innovation, Internationalization & ~~Exports~~
 - Foreign Investments and Travellers
- Broad set of tools & resources:
 - Advice, coaching, info & contacts
 - National thematic prgms (like 6G Bridge)
 - International programmes (like Celtic-Next)
 - R&I and business funding (~700 M€)
 - ~~37 offices around the globe~~

BUSINESS FINLAND



N.b.: Foreign Offices & export promotion transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 2025

Current National Policies in Finland

- Broad parliamentary commitment to invest more in R&D
 - R&D Funding Law (2023) for public R&D investments targeting 4 % GERD in 2030
 - Business Finland R&D funding further increased proportionally 2024 onwards (govt program)
 - Active European policy implementation; e.g., considerable matching funding in Chips JU and EuroHPC JU
- Focus & thematics of Business Finland funding
 - Business Finland emphasises overall business impacts – short and long term
 - SME focus remains strong, but collaborations with large companies sought for
 - Funding instruments developed to stimulate RDI investments, and ecosystems around leading companies
 - Digitalisation and Green Transition at the centre
 - 5 Business Finland Missions, incl. *Digital Native Finland* – “boost the productivity impact of digitalisation”
- Organisational restructuring continues
 - BF was formed in 2018 in a merger of export promotion and innovation funding organisations
 - A fresh decision to integrate BF Global Network to MFA in 2025 and onwards
 - Does not affect the Celtic-Next participation

Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria 1/2

- Much emphasis on international collaboration → good outlook for good Celtic-Next project proposals matching the national criteria
- Funding is available for SMEs, mid-caps (turnover < 300 M€) and large companies. For universities /RTOs in collaboration with companies (Co-Innovation Funding Model).
- Renewed Co-Innovation Funding Rules from the beginning of 2025
 - Funding rate 80 % for public research organisations; their share of total max 60 %
- Funding for Celtic project varies from year to year, indicatively 5-10 million € (but can be zero, can be over 10 M€, depending on quality of applications)

Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria 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. Participation of micro size companies in long, extensive projects is seldom optimal (subcontractor better than partner role)
- Proposals are evaluated by Business Finland's experts on growth impact, novelty, management, and financial aspects. Competitive funding, applications processed continuously.

■ Other considerations

- No specific euro limit, project lengths up to 3 years
- Concrete outlook for future business is expected

Interactive Business Finland Funding Process

1

ADVICE

For the Finnish Applicant



Customer recognizes the need and criteria for BF-funding

"We create international growth but recognize some risks as well"



Advice for funding

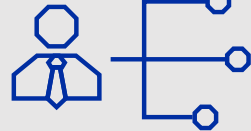
Coordination within project consortium

2

FUNDING APPLICATION AND DECISION



Customer is aware of the timetable and the contact person

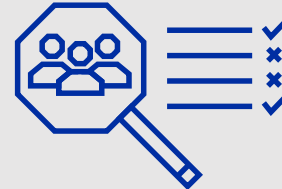


Funding advisor is responsible for funding proposal and (s)he organizes funding team work



Online funding application

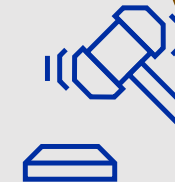
Coordination BF/Celtic Office & other NFBs



Customer and project evaluation, hearing as needed

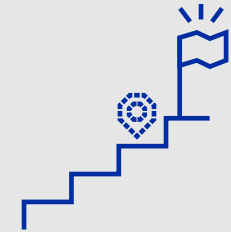


The overall evaluation of the project - funding proposal

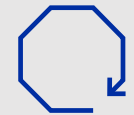


Funding decision, info to customer

FOLLOW-UP



Final report and the payment - the analysis how the targets were met.



Conduct the possible changes.

Project execution and the follow-up

- Business Finland's contact person for Celtic-Next

Hannu Nurmi

hannu.nurmi@businessfinland.fi

Tel. +358 50 5577 771



- Business Finland's Eureka National Project Coordinator (NPC)

Hanna Rinta-Erkkilä

hanna.rinta-erkkila@businessfinland.fi

Tel. +358 40 751 4278



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Thank you !