

CELTIC Proposers Day in Aveiro on 11.9.25

National Funding Outlook
FINLAND



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**BUSINESS
FINLAND**

www.celticnext.eu



Business Finland

- Broad set of goals:
 - Promoting internationalization & exports
 - Promoting innovation
 - Attracting investments and tourism
- Broad set of services & resources:
 - 37 offices around the globe
 - Transfer to MFA 2026 – cooperation continues!
 - Networking, contacts & information
 - Advice and coaching
 - Thematic programmes
 - International programmes
 - R&I and business funding (610 M€ in 2024)

BUSINESS FINLAND



BUSINESS FINLAND FUNDING IN 2024

Funding requested
875 M€

- 4947 applications
- 2075 rejected applications

Funding awarded
610 M€

- 3318 funded projects
- 2413 companies

RDI funding
383 M€

Business subsidies
50 M€

Research organizations
177 M€

Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria 1/2

- Emphasis on international collaboration → good outlook for high-quality Celtic 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)
- Long processing times in individual applications in 2025. The situation is now better and we do not expect similar challenges in the future calls.

Funding Outlook and Eligibility Criteria 2/2

- Thematic focus
 - Digitalisation and connectivity very much remains in the national policy focus and in Business Finland strategy
- 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 specific criteria.
 - The composition of the FI consortium is a crucial viewpoint, and strong medium and midcap size company involvement is highly recommended (participation of micro size companies in long, extensive projects is not always optimal - subcontractor better than partner role)
 - Proposals are evaluated by Business Finland 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

CO-INNOVATION FUNDING

The usual funding tool for Eureka Clusters Projects

For joint actions of research organisations and companies, in which they jointly develop new knowledge and innovations for new business needs.

How does Co-Innovation funding work?

The consortium is formed to solve the research problem

- The joint action must include at least one research organization and three companies. At minimum, two of the companies 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 follows normal funding terms and criteria

- Evaluation follows normal project evaluation criteria
- Funding is granted with normal terms
- 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
- Continuous application time; if necessary, there will be theme calls or submission deadlines.

Participation without a Finnish consortium

- Finnish participation to Celtic consortiums typically includes a Finnish university or research organisation, and Co-Innovation funding (as described) is applicable
- However, this is not the only possibility. Additionally, general Business Finland R&D funding can be applied for if a Finnish company participates in an international Celtic consortium without other Finnish partners.
- For more details, see [Funding for research and development](#).



Good proposal: CONSORTIUM

- Define a common vision – not just a project
 - Real motivation to participate is in the results of the project
 - Real co-operation; what are the participants sharing? Data? Components? IPR?
- Make it easy to understand why each partner is involved and what they do expect.
 - Are all members essential?
- Preferably 5-6 companies
- Need to scale results, often large corporations required
- Companies need to be economically stable
- Companies cannot be involved in too many parallel projects
- Trust - value chain



Good proposal: TOPIC AND IMPACT

- Novelty – Think big
- But still focused
- Focus on the industry driven problem to be solved
- Potential impact (turnover and export) high compared to the investment
- Path to exploitation – plan beyond the project
- What is the concrete product/service that creates export after the project?
- Which companies are doing the export? In what markets? Experience in export business?
- International collaboration with top research groups



Good proposal: **MANAGEMENT**

- Active internal communication
- Openness, transparency
- Early and continuous involvement of partners
- Schedules, everybody committed
- Steering group
- Dialog with Business Finland already in draft proposal phase
- All project plans of individual partners are synchronized with the joint Co-Innovation plan

Contact information FINLAND

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Thank you!