

# CELTIC Proposers Day

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National Funding Outlook  
FINLAND



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**BUSINESS  
FINLAND**

[www.celticnext.eu](http://www.celticnext.eu)



# Business Finland

- Broad set of goals:
  - Promoting innovation
  - Promoting internationalization
  - Attracting investments and tourism
- Broad set of services & resources:
  - (Global trade promotion transferred to MFA january 2026 – cooperation continues!)
  - Networking, contacts & information
  - Advice and coaching
  - Thematic programmes
  - International programmes (like Celtic!)
  - R&I and business funding

# BUSINESS FINLAND





**BUSINESS FINLAND PURPOSE**  
We create prosperity for Finland  
by promoting the renewal and sustainable  
growth of companies  
and diffusion of knowledge in society



Business Finland is a **Finnish public organization** employing **500 people** and operating in **15 countries**.\*)



**Business Finland's customer portfolio**  
**24 000 customers**  
**4000 active funding projects**  
**2,6 billion** allocated funding



Among the customers  
**5 800 companies**  
aim for **international growth**



**The exports** of Business Finland's  
SME customers **grew by 45%** from 2020  
to 2023.



**In 2026** Business Finland's  
RDI funding allocation will be **790 M€**

\*) From beginning of 2026

# STRATEGIC THEMATIC CHOICES



## DIGITAL PIONEERING

Artificial intelligence  
Immersive technologies  
Robotics and automation  
High performance computing  
Data center ecosystems  
Photonics  
Radio and network  
technologies  
Quantum technology



## SECURITY

Space technology  
Cybersecurity  
Defense industry  
Semiconductor Industry  
Maritime industry and arctic  
expertise  
Critical raw materials and  
minerals



## CLEAN TRANSITION

Energy systems and  
technologies

- hydrogen
- modular reactors
- battery value chains
- renewable energy

Mobile machinery



## GOOD LIFE

Creative industry  
Travel  
Health technologies  
Food technology  
Biomaterials  
Biochemicals



## BUSINESS COMPETENCE

Customer understanding and intangible value creation  
Commercialization and international growth

# 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 Model)
  - 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
  - Radio and network technologies and their different business applications very much remain 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

- **NOTE:**

- Finnish participation to Celtic consortiums often include 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 e.g., [here](#)



## 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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**BUSINESS  
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**Thank you!**