

CELTIC Proposers Day Leuven, 25 th September 2026 Funding updates in Finland



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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 in Finland

Continuous Call, Flexible budget for the CELTIC-NEXT

- No specific euro limit per project.
- Positive outlook for high-quality projects matching the national criteria.
- 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 conditions for the Finnish partners

- The composition of the FI consortium is a crucial viewpoint, and strong medium and midcap size company involvement is highly recommended.
- Participation of micro-sized companies in long and extensive projects is usually not optimal. In many cases, a subcontractor role may be more appropriate than a consortium partner.
- Proposals are evaluated by Business Finland experts on growth impact, novelty, management, and financial aspects.
- Competitive funding - applications processed continuously.

Funding outlook in Finland

Funding levels

- Small and Medium Enterprise: grant 50 % of the eligible costs.
- Large Company including MidCap: grant 40 % of the eligible costs.
- Research organisations: grant 80 % of the eligible cost.
→ Website for more information: [Co-innovation](#)

Please note

- If the project proposal is labelled by CELTIC-NEXT, the national coordinator should consult with Business Finland and agree on the recommendations, before submitting the national funding applications.



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 4-6 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

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