

1.10.2024

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

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CO-RESEARCH

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1. Background

Business Finland offers funding to both companies and research organizations for Research, Development and Piloting projects, Co-Innovation projects and Co-Research projects according to the roadmaps of the leading companies. This financing is called partnership financing. The roadmaps are the leading companies' views on what kind of solutions, technologies and skills the leading companies need to achieve their defined missions.

These guidelines apply to **Co-Research partnership funding** for both a single research project and a joint project implemented by several research organisations. There are separate instructions on partnership funding for joint projects between research organisations and companies (Co-Innovation).

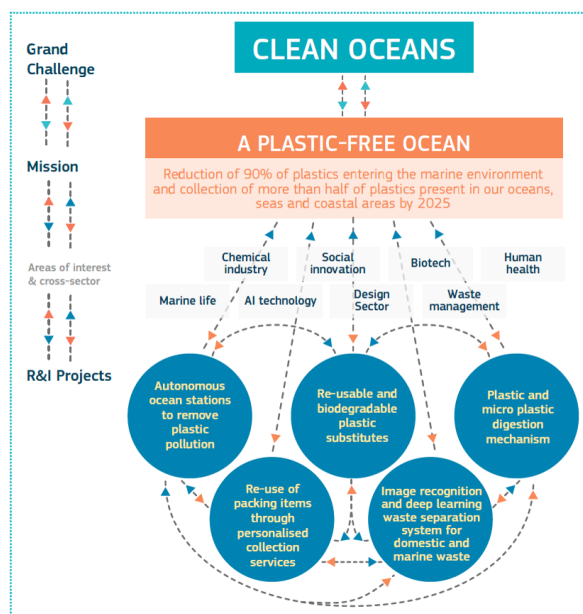
More information:

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/funding-for-leading-companies-and-ecosystems>

2. Leading company partnerships

2.1. The roles of a leading company and partners in solving the mission

EXAMPLE OF A MISSION: A PLASTIC-FREE OCEAN



Leading company defines the mission and roadmap and leads the cooperation

Partners and partnership projects contribute to solving the mission

Image from M. Mazzucato's report "A problem-solving approach to fuel innovation-led growth"

2.2. Financing principles and the role a leading company

The leading companies are required to have measurable and significant cooperation with research organisations and/or SMEs. The leading company must support and encourage research bodies and/or SMEs to participate in solving the mission of the leading company through their own projects.

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The leading companies draw up their respective roadmaps for cooperation. The leading companies update their roadmaps according to the needs that they have identified. Partnership projects must be in accordance with the roadmap drawn up by the leading company and support the implementation of its mission. Business Finland is prepared to use partnership funding to fund other members of each leading company ecosystem on the basis of separate applications with a maximum of EUR 50 million (but no more than EUR 20 million for challenger companies) over a five-year period, based on a roadmap drawn up by leading company. Business Finland funds individual projects or joint projects according to its normal funding criteria (grants to companies 40-60%, loans to companies 50%, research funding 60-80%): <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding>

Organisations participating in the partnership funding application must contact the representatives of both a leading company and Business Finland before submitting the application. Leading company's task is to comment to Business Finland on the suitability of the partnership project for the roadmap and its significance in the mission resolution. The names of the contact persons of the leading companies and Business Finland can be found on the page: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/whats-new/calls/2025/partnership-model-funding-call-for-co-research-projects-1-2025>

The leading companies must actively participate in the preparation/sparring of partnership projects. In this case, the leading companies will be able to comment on the suitability of the project on the roadmap and define their commitment to cooperation.

Business Finland evaluates the possibility of partnership funding based on the following criteria:

- How well does the applicant's/consortium's proposal address the skills and technology gaps identified in the roadmap?
- How is the applicant consortium committed to the objectives of the thematic ecosystem roadmap and to building cooperation?
- How relevant is the role of the applicant consortium in the development and renewal of the ecosystem of the subject area?
- The leading company's commitment to cooperation

Business Finland can fund a project that meets its funding criteria even if it is not approved as a partnership project of the leading company ecosystem. Business Finland may also choose not to fund a project, even if it is closely included on the leading companies' road maps, but it otherwise does not meet the requirements for Business Finland's funding.

2.3. Partnership funding for research organisations' Co-Research projects

Research organisations can apply for funding for Co-Research research projects **in accordance with leading company's roadmap**, either for a single research project or for a joint research project of several research organisations.

- The topic must be one of the themes that are in line with a leading company's roadmap. The need for new research-based knowledge and competence has been identified for the topic.
- At least three companies must participate in directing the research. Leading companies may be involved, but from the point of view of building the ecosystem, it would be advantageous if, in addition to these, at least two other companies were also involved. In a competitive situation, it is clearly to the advantage of the proposal if there are even more other companies.
- The degree of commitment of companies is measured by the number of committed companies and their funding for the research project or joint project. Companies should aim to contribute at least 10% of the costs of the research project or joint project.
- The funding level is 60%. If a single research project involves close international cooperation, the funding can be 70%. The increased funding level in the joint project only applies to those parties to the joint project who, in their own sub-projects, are contributing to the fulfillment of the criteria for close international cooperation.

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Research organisations participating in the partnership funding application must contact the contact persons of both the relevant leading company and Business Finland before submitting the application. In Co-Research joint projects, the coordinator is primarily responsible for contacts with the above-mentioned entities.

Research organisations can also participate in joint **Co-Innovation projects** between several companies and research organisations. More information about this funding:

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/whats-new/calls/2024/partnership-model-funding-call-for-co-innovation>

3. Applying for funding

The basic information of the applicant and the application is filled in Business Finland's online service <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/online-services>. Each party to the joint project submits its own application.

- Select "Co-Research" as the funding service.
- Attach to your application a "**Notification of participation in the project**" form filled in by **the leading company**, in which the leading company describes its view of the significance of the research project. Business Finland can discuss the project's relationship to the roadmap with the leading company.
- The application must also be accompanied by the "Notification of participation in the project" forms filled in by the companies participating in the project steering group.
- The name of the project should be in the format: "**Partnership model** – [*actual project name*]".
- In the free-form cover note field on the last page of the online service ("Summary and sending"), enter **which leading company's roadmap the project is related to and with which contact persons (the leading company, Business Finland) discussions have taken place.**

4. Timetable

The call ends **on 31.3.2025.**