



15th January, 2020

Campus-based research infrastructure working groups
Faculties
Independent Research Institutes

National research infrastructure roadmap call 2020: Evaluation of applications at the University of Helsinki

The Academy of Finland (AoF) performs the renewal of national research infrastructure (RI) roadmap during 2020. For this purpose, AoF issues a national call, which also involves an internal evaluation process at the University of Helsinki. These guidelines outline the internal process.

University of Helsinki will process all RI roadmap applications prior to their submission to AoF. The internal processing takes place using short, preliminary applications. These can be submitted in two categories as follows:

- Infrastructures existing in the current national RI roadmap 2014-20 and existing national memberships
- New infrastructure initiatives and other non-roadmap infrastructures

The internal process concerns all applications, both those coordinated by the University and those in which the University is a partner. **If the application involves partners outside the University, they should be notified of the evaluation schedule given in these guidelines.** The task to notify external partners belongs to the principal investigator responsible for the project at the University.

Internal application process takes place in February-March 2020

The approval of the University to RI roadmap projects is decided based on an internal evaluation of preliminary applications. The preliminary applications have to be submitted latest on **Monday, March 2nd, 2020**. The applications are submitted using an E-form (E-lomake), see <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/102465/lomake.html>. In the E-form, the applicants are requested to fill in basic information about the project and its budget. The preliminary project plan (length up to 2 pages) will be uploaded as an attachment.

Evaluation of the applications

The preliminary applications related to new infrastructure initiatives and other non-roadmap infrastructures are first evaluated by the campus-based RI working groups (City centre, Kumpula, Life Sciences). The working groups will submit their prioritisations to the RI committee of the University (HY-infraposti@helsinki.fi) latest on March 27th. The RI committee performs the University-wide evaluation on week 15 and makes a proposal for the Rector on the UH approval. Criteria used in the evaluation are listed in Appendix 1.

RIs existing in the current national RI roadmap or existing national membership RIs will not be evaluated at campus level. For the internal processing of these projects, the applicants must specify in the application form to which roadmap or membership RI the project refers.

The Rector will make the decision on University's commitment on week 15, after which the UH letter of approval will be delivered to the applicants. The applicants attach the letter as a part of the submission to the Academy. **It is the applicants' responsibility to submit the applications to the Academy** as instructed in the call guidelines. It is possible to update the applications up until the submission to the Academy.

UH will arrange support to the applicants for preparing the applications. More details of this will be provided during the winter 2020.

January 15th, 2020**Commitment of the host unit (faculty, independent research institute) or -units to the RI proposal**

The roadmap exercise is used for collecting the significant national-level RIs on a roadmap, not for applying specific funding for RI development. Therefore, a successful application does not guarantee funding. However, when compiling the roadmap plan, the budget must be set as realistic as possible to ensure the feasibility of the RI. The roadmap plan outlines the scope of forthcoming funding applications and gives an estimate of the support needed from the University.

In preparing the budget, it is beneficial to consider the entire life cycle of the RI and what the costs of the RI are to the host units in the various development stages. The commitment of the host unit or units to the project and its costs will be confirmed as a part of preparing the application for internal evaluation. It is the PI's responsibility to inform the director(s) of the host unit(s) on the application during the preparation phase. Budgeting tools available at <https://flamma.helsinki.fi/fi/group/tutkimuksen-tuki/suomen-akatemia> can be used for financial planning.

The actual funding of RIs takes place using a combination of host units' own funding and external funding applied separately later on. The external funding calls (such as forthcoming FIRI calls) always feature a call-specific process for securing the commitment of the host units and the University.

If the budget presented in the final application to AoF differs from the one evaluated at the University, the applicant must contact the director(s) of the host unit(s) and vice Rector Paula Eerola prior to submitting the application to ensure the approval of the University.

Further information

Further information concerning the evaluation process and guidance for planning the projects at the University can be obtained from Marko Peura, Senior Adviser, tel. 02941 24296, email HY-infraposti@helsinki.fi.

More detailed information about the national RI roadmap process can be enquired from the Academy of Finland (Senior Science Adviser Merja Särkioja, tel. 029 533 5111).

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Appendix 1: Evaluation criteria for RI roadmap projects (AoF, UH)

The aim of AoF research infrastructure development is to upgrade the quality and improve the renewal, competitiveness and interdisciplinary approach of Finnish research. Another aim is to increase the appeal of Finnish research environments and boost the national and international collaboration of Finnish universities, research teams and researchers. The aim is also to support researcher training and the creation and application of scientific knowledge and intellectual capital.

Infrastructures on Finland's research infrastructure roadmap 2014-20 and Finnish memberships

Finland's roadmap for national research infrastructures is a list of key research infrastructures in Finland under development over the next 10–15 years. The list also concerns a major upgrade of existing research infrastructures. The roadmap infrastructures have gone through an interim evaluation, and a decision has been made (on 5th Feb, 2018) on how they are positioned on the roadmap. The updated roadmap contains 32 infrastructures classified according to their level of advancement.

New infrastructure initiatives and other non-roadmap infrastructures

A high-quality, state-of-the-art research infrastructure is an absolute requirement for cutting-edge research. The systematic development of research infrastructures and the launching of new initiatives are of crucial importance to the advancement of science in all disciplines. The new RI initiatives and other non-roadmap RIs applying for roadmap status must show that they aim to meet the national criteria, see (<https://www.aka.fi/fi/tiedepoliittinen-toiminta/tutkimusinfrastruktuurit/>).

UH internal criteria for the roadmap projects

In the UH internal evaluation, the following criteria are taken into consideration in addition to those stated by AoF:

- Linkage of the proposed RI to research, researchers and other infrastructure at UH
- Added value provided at the national level
- Accessibility and potential for use also from outside the host unit
- Linkage to UH strategy and research profile
- Long-term commitment of the host unit to developing the RI

The internal criteria concern especially the projects in the new RI openings category, but they are also taken into account in evaluating proposals in the national roadmap category.