Academy of Finland

FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE
Academy of Finland in a nutshell

Key public funding agency for scientific research, major player in science policy in Finland

Funding budget 2017

€437m

- to support scientific research
- to improve framework conditions for research

140 employees

Four research councils
- Research Council for Biosciences and Environment
- Research Council for Culture and Society
- Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering
- Research Council for Health

Part of the Academy of Finland’s funds (€70.7m in 2017) come from proceeds of Finland’s national gaming company Veikkaus.
What we do

We draft science policy lines and statements, engage in science policy debate

We fund framework conditions for research and research environments (infrastructures and university profiling)

We review funding applications, make funding decisions

We do scientific and research foresight and impact analysis
- State of Scientific Research in Finland
- impact assessment
- foresighting

We influence European and Nordic science policy
One of the Academy of Finland’s science policy objectives is to promote open science.

Openness is a key principle in all science and research.
- The Academy is keen to stress that openness, in practice, improves the overall quality and impact of research.
- Open science forms part of the principles of good scientific practice.

The Academy is committed to promoting the practices outlined in Finland’s national Open Science and Research Roadmap 2014–2017.
Research Funding & Open Science

Academy is committed to Finnish Open Science and Research Roadmap 2014-2017

- Data management plans required
- To improve overall quality and impact of research and promote the good scientific practice
- Opening of data and methods required
  - Depends on research ethics & law
- Openly available publications required
- Results must be made public

Recommended archives and storage services
- FSD, FIN-CLARIN, CERN Zenodo, EUDAT, AVAA, Etsin, IDA

Funding for publishing costs provided

Opening of data and methods required

http://www.aka.fi/en/funding/responsible-research/open-science/
Open Science in Applications and Grant Review Panels

- The proposed actions advancing open science are described in the application:
  A. Research plan (publication plan & research data plan for research work)
  B. A separate data management plan (management, storage, access, opening, rights of the research data or brief account if not data at all)

- The review panels give their view on the planned open science activities:
  In September 2016 call question: Ethical aspects and open science
  Guiding questions: Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account? What is the intended level of open access to research results? Is the data management plan outlined in a sufficient way? (no rating)

- Research organisations and research infrastructures are expected to support delivering of open access publishing, open research data and methods
Recent Experiences

- In September 2016 call: 3000 applications with publishing plans and data management plans.
  - The separate DMP was received well by applicants but only after specific motivation and face-to-face guidance was given.
  - Critical comments: why DMP is needed, differences between research fields, DMP form

- Overall, reviewers were positive about the benefits of open science.
  - Support for evaluation & rating
  - Critical questions: differences between research fields, how important this is for scientific evaluation, promises vs. results

- Decision-making: process is currently taking place.
Current Issues

• Clear Mandate for Open Access
  - Green, gold and hybrid models (last one under monitoring)

• Open Science as part of good scientific practices

• National model for data management plan
  - Support for using the DMP during the research process
  - DMP framework for varying research fields or themes?
  - Development of funding

• Project reports: achievements on open science
Strategic Research: Societal Relevance and Impact

- The Strategic research council funds high-quality research that has great societal impact.
  - The research should seek to find concrete solutions to grand challenges that require multidisciplinary approaches.
  - An important element of such research is active collaboration between those who produce new knowledge and those who use it.
  - Seven programs running, annual funding ca 55 meur.

- Ongoing reports: narratives on the impact, indicators
  - Indicators include scientific and societal indicators, for example news media, social media, various kind of events but specifically a demand to evaluate what was the societal impact of the action / achievement.
  - All funded projects are required to have social media presence.
More information


- If you wish to have more information on Academy and open science or strategic research, please contact:
  Jyrki Hakapää, science adviser, strategic research unit
  email: jyrki.hakapaa@aka.fi
  phone: +358 29 5335 020
  Twitter: @hakapaa