



**International Co-Investigator Scheme
Agreement**
between the **Research Council of Norway (RCN)**
and the
Academy of Finland (AoF)

1. The Research Council of Norway is a national strategic and funding agency for basic and industry-oriented research. It administers a wide range of schemes, including funding activities for research projects and network-building.
2. The Academy of Finland (AoF) promotes excellent, responsible and high-impact research as well as the practical utilization of research in society. AoF grants funding in open competition for scientific research and researcher training and to improve framework conditions for research.
3. The International Co-Investigator Scheme opens, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries and thus strengthens cross-border cooperation. The parties entering a Co-Investigator Scheme Agreement reciprocally open their national research project funding schemes to collaborative proposals involving research from the other country.

The aim of this Agreement is to arrange a pilot for testing the International Co-Investigator Scheme between RCN and AoF.

The Agreement applies to the following calls for proposals:

At AoF the Agreement applies to one call for proposals in the various fields of engineering and technology to be launched in the second half of 2020.

At RCN the Agreement applies to one call for Researcher projects to be launched in spring 2021 and two calls for Collaborative and Knowledge-building projects to be launched in autumn 2020 and spring 2021. For Collaborative and Knowledge-building projects the participation and financing of Finnish project partners is subject to certain and limitations that will be identified in the call text, especially concerning for-profit entities.

After the funding decisions of the relevant calls have been made, the parties will evaluate the success of the pilot.

4. The International Co-Investigator Scheme principle can be applied if the involvement of a co-applicant from the other country adds significant value to the overall project. The leadership of the project remains in the country where the project is submitted. Researcher consortia need to apply only to the party where the main applicant is established for funding to cover the costs of the entire international collaboration.
5. RCN covers the following costs of the Finnish project partner according to the applicable regulations of the RCN:
 - Salaries and social security costs of the project staff members based on the Finnish wage scale

- Research costs (consumables, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)
 - Indirect costs are covered at a flat rate of 25% of the actual salary costs (including social security costs)
6. The following costs of the Finnish project partner(s) are not covered by RCN:
- Equipment
7. AoF covers the following costs of the Norwegian project partner according to the applicable regulations of the AoF:
- Salaries and social security costs of the project staff members based on the Norwegian wage scale. Indirect employee costs (including social security contributions) can be max. 50% and are paid on top of the employee's gross salary.
 - Research costs (consumables, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)
 - Indirect costs are covered at a flat rate of 25% of the actual salary costs (including social security costs)
8. The following costs of the Norwegian project partner(s) are not covered by AoF:
- Equipment
9. This agreement serves to simplify the process of applying for funding for collaborative research, by allowing collaborative projects to be funded through normal national procedures. Funding decisions on the proposals will be made according to the normal procedures of the party from which funding is sought.
10. Each party shall pay its grant in full to the institution of its national applicant, and this institution shall then be responsible for disbursing funds to the international collaborator(s) based on an agreement between the project partners. The national applicant is responsible for the whole project budget, also for the money spent abroad.
11. Monitoring and evaluation of research grants will take place according to the normal procedures of the funding party, but the parties will make the results of any evaluation available to each other in a suitable way if desired.
12. The ambition of this arrangement is to achieve a balanced flow of research funds between the two countries, so that neither of the research communities served by the parties are financially disadvantaged by the scheme. The flow of money between the two countries will be monitored by the parties.
13. The agreement enters into force with the signature of both organisations involved.

The Research Council of Norway

Date: 27.5.2020

Signature: 

Position: Vice President

The Academy of Finland

Date: 28/5-20

Signature: 

Position: Chief Exec.