

What does it mean to work as a postdoctoral researcher at a Finnish research institute?

Johanna Buchert, Programme Director, CEO of Luke
Kick-off event of the Postdoctoral Programme
for Research Institutes 18.5.2026



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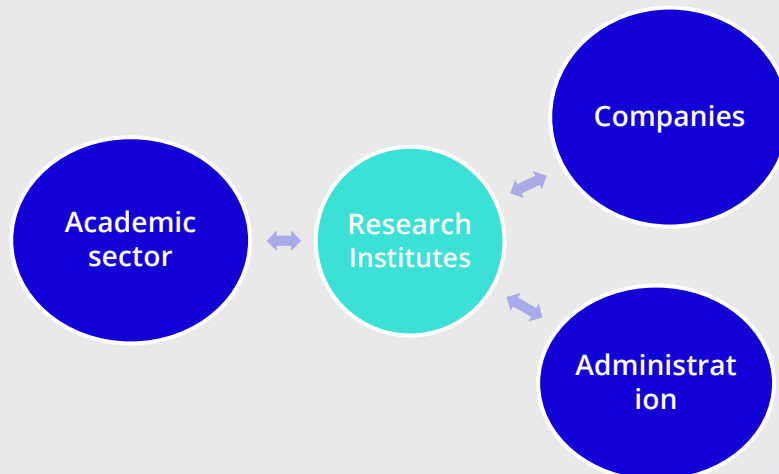
**Postdoctoral
Programme**
for Research Institutes

Finnish RDI-ecosystem and the role of Research Institutes

In the Research Institute you make science with impact!

Research Institutes

- support the renewal of businesses and decision-making in society
- maintain nationally and internationally significant research infrastructures and datasets
- increase the competence in areas important to society
 - e.g. the Postdoctoral programme
- in addition to research, research institutes carry out various expert and statutory tasks



Research Institutes carry out nearly 10 % of Finnish R&D work

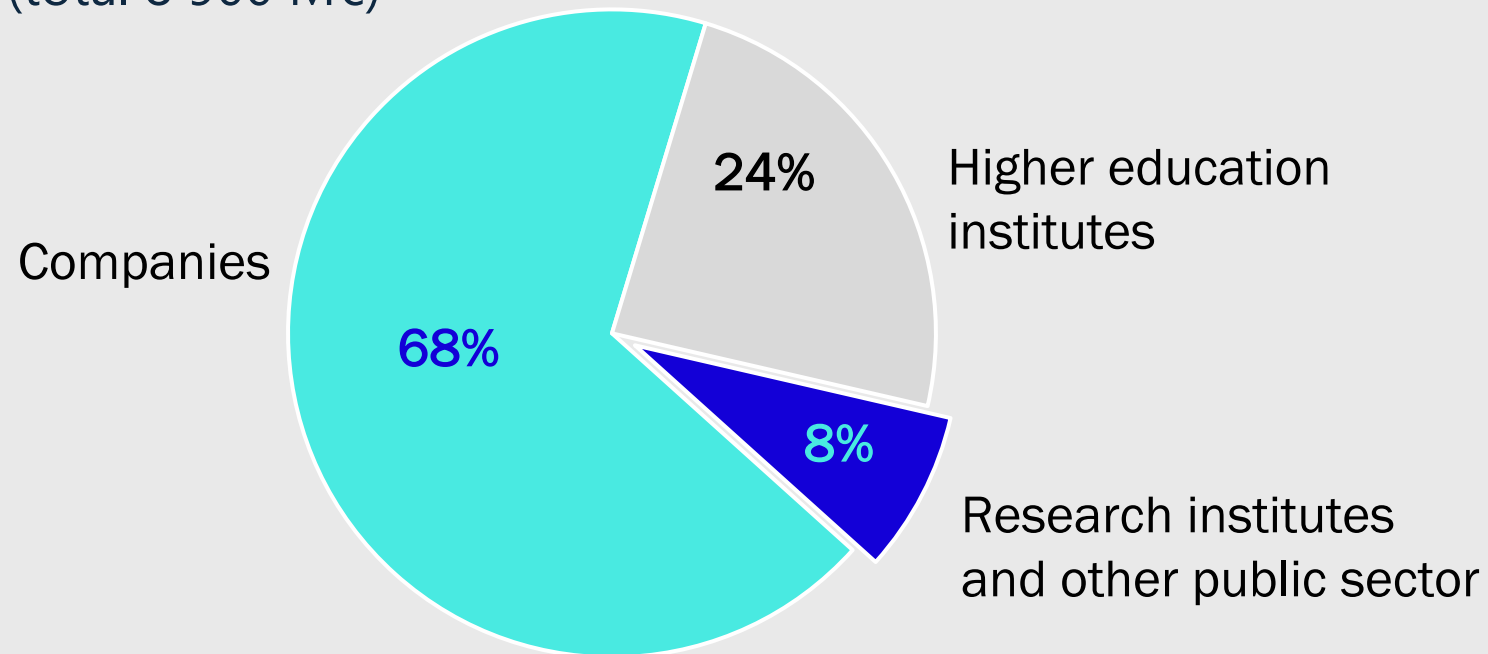


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- Focus in solution oriented research

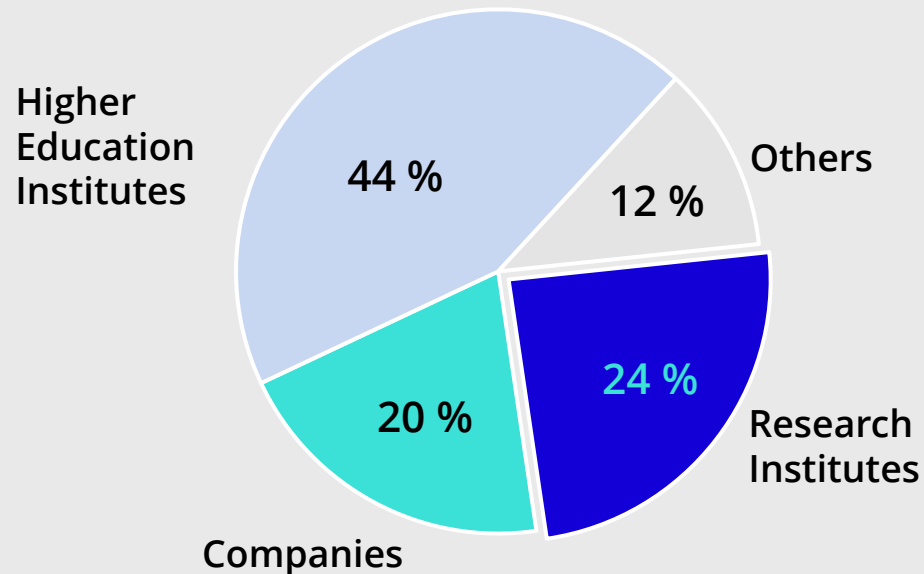
Source: stat.fi

Finnish research and development expenditure by sector in 2024
(total 8 900 M€)



Research institutes attract a significant amount of EU research funding

Horizon Europe Funding to Finland (by Feb 2026), total €1.47 billion



Top recipients and their share of total funding to Finland

Organisation	EU funding received	Share (%)
VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland)	€202,240,325	13.74%
University of Helsinki	€147,347,194	10.01%
Tampere University	€101,103,084	6.87%
Aalto University	€99,788,940	6.78%
University of Oulu	€80,231,039	5.45%
University of Turku	€64,613,243	4.39%
Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	€49,919,588	3.39%
University of Eastern Finland	€48,310,015	3.28%
CSC – IT Center for Science Ltd.	€40,767,167	2.77%
University of Jyväskylä	€38,563,685	2.62%
Business Finland	€29,499,241	2.00%
Finnish Meteorological Institute	€24,103,900	1.64%
LUT University	€22,773,747	1.55%
European Forest Institute	€19,653,257	1.34%
Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	€17,135,186	1.16%
Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)	€14,939,147	1.02%
HUS Group (Hospital District Helsinki-Uusimaa)	€12,241,730	0.83%

Finnish RDI ecosystem

PRIVATE SECTOR
Companies

	PUBLIC SECTOR							
	Ministries							Parliament
	OKM	TEM	MMM	STM	LVM	YM	VM	
Research performing organizations	Universities Univ. of Applied Science	VTT GTK	Luke FGI/MML Ruokavirasto	THL TTL STUK Fimea	IL	Syke	VATT	UPI
Research funders	SA	BF						
ICT services for science	CSC							

Research Institutes

- OKM = Ministry of education and culture
- TEM = Ministry of Employment and the Economy
- MMM = Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- STM = Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- LVM = Ministry of Transport and Communications
- YM = Ministry of the Environment
- VM = Ministry of Finance
- SA = Research Council of Finland
- BF = Business Finland
- CSC = IT Center for Science Ltd.
- VTT = VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd
- GTK = Geological Survey of Finland
- Luke = Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- MML = National Land Survey of Finland
- Ruokavirasto = Finnish Food Authority
- THL = Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
- TTL = Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
- STUK = Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority
- IL = Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Syke = Finnish Environment Institute
- VATT = Institute for Economic Research
- UPI = The Finnish institute of International Affairs
- Fimea = Finnish Medicines Agency

OTHER ACTORS
Private research organisations
Foundations
Learned Societies
The Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK
etc.

Finland's strategic target: 4% R&D Intensity (of GDP) by 2030

National strategic priorities for RDI policy and activities aim to boost sustainable growth, promote renewal and strengthen comprehensive security

The strategic choices are:

- data and data-based value creation
- disruptive technologies
- health and wellbeing
- climate, environment and the Arctic dimension, and
- security, resilience and defence

And two spearheads for developing the RDI system:

- increasing risk-taking capacity in RDI
- attracting RDI investments to Finland

Collaboration between research institutions and companies is long-term and organisation-based

Direct collaboration

- Solution-oriented research cooperation
- Research and technology infrastructures, and data sets available for company use
- Strengthening knowledge and competences in relevant fields
- Training

Shaping the business environment

- Participation in the development of legislation and other policy processes
- Safety-related tasks (e.g. weather services)

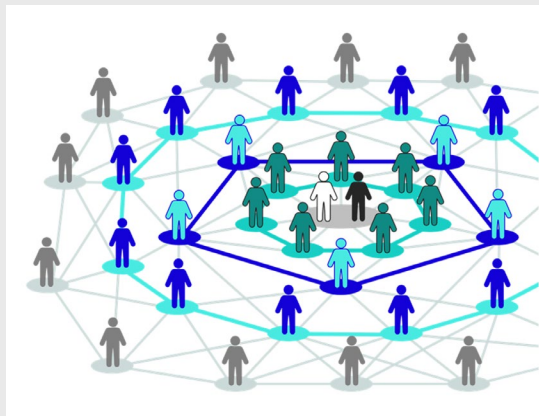
Export promotion

- "Opening doors" for companies through international networks
- Effective supervision ensures quality and supports export approvals

Tulanet is a cooperation body of Finnish Government Research Institutes

Tulanet works

- as a common voice of research institutes in RDI discussions
- as a platform for colleague networks of experts and managers



Tulanet is a network

- Management group consisting of each institute's chief executives
- The executive director coordinates, no other paid persons

Tulanet cooperation made it possible to secure funding for the Postdoctoral Programme



Finnish Institute of Occupational Health





Postdoctoral Programme

Great start for the Postdoctoral Programme!

- 12 research institutes
 - 92 new postdoctoral researchers
 - 2–3 year-positions between 2025–2028
 - 40 million € funding based on a multi-annual R&D plan
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- Almost all postdoctoral researchers have been recruited, selected from over 4,500 applications
 - About 40% of the hired postdocs relocated to Finland from abroad
 - 50% have a nationality other than Finnish
 - The postdocs and their research topics are presented on <https://tulanet.fi/postdocs/>



Objectives of the Postdoctoral Programme

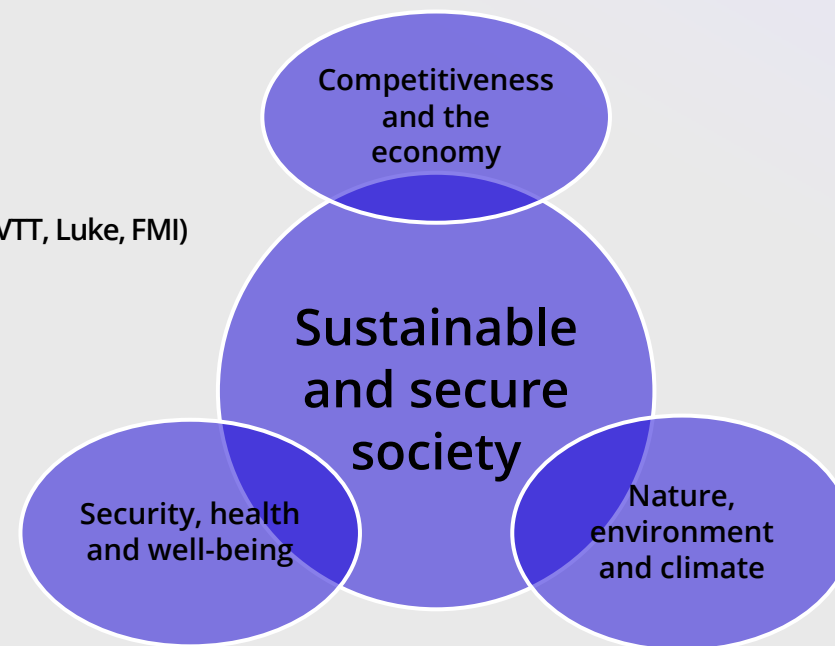
To support sustainable solutions, companies' RDI investments, and Finland's competitiveness

- by producing research knowledge and solutions relevant to companies and society
- by increasing expertise in sectors that are important to business and society
- by promoting cooperation between research organisations, the public sector and industry
- by increasing the national and international mobility of experts
- by facilitating the transition of highly skilled researchers to industry and the public sector in Finland

Postdoc research aims at impact

Impact objectives of research projects

- Sustainable economic growth, productivity, competitiveness (VATT, VTT, Syke, TTL)
- Promoting sustainable infrastructure, industry and innovations (VTT, GTK, Syke)
- Sustainability of consumption and production methods (incl. bioeconomy and circular economy) (VTT, Luke, FMI)
- Carbon-neutral and sustainable energy system (VTT)
- Sustainable food production and system (Luke)
- Sustainable land use and forestry, biodiversity (Luke, NLS)
- Sustainability transition (VTT, Luke, TTL)
- Adaptation to climate change (FMI, NLS, Finnish Food Authority)
- Combating the triple crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution) (Syke, Luke)
- Sustainable use of waterways and water (Luke, Syke, NLS)
- Health and well-being (THL, Finnish Food Authority, TTL, VTT, Fimea)
- A safe, resilient and just society (Syke, NLS, THL, STUK)
- Safe communities (THL)



The projects include for example the development of technologies and methods, modelling and qualitative research

Your hosting institute and the Programme is here to support you



to carry out impactful research

to network

to collaborate with companies

to help communicating the impact of your research

to find your career path

The Programme



Thank you

Tulanet — Cooperation body of Finnish
Government Research Institutes

www.tulanet.fi/postdoc

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