

Helsinki Capital Region Research Collaboration: Research funding for Impact Assessment Research for the years 2024-2028

The City of Helsinki, the City of Espoo, the City of Vantaa and the University of Helsinki and Aalto University have agreed to implement a scientific cooperation for the development of the Helsinki Capital Region in 2024-2028.

Research grants can be awarded for research projects of a maximum duration of two (2) years, carried out at the University of Helsinki or Aalto University and focusing on cities in the Helsinki Capital Region. The total amount of funding available each year is approximately EUR 400 000, which can be used to fund 2-4 projects.

Funding is now available for the period 2025-2027, as described below. Funding decisions are made for one year at a time. The project may have a funding reserve of up to two years (24 months).

As described in the agreement, the funding will be available for research that studies the impact of different city policies or activities or is strongly related to and influences the activities of cities. The methodological focus of funded projects should be quantitative empirical evaluation research, causal research, studies in a randomized experimental setting, or modelling and simulation of the impact of future policies and policy options. Research using predominantly qualitative methods will not be funded, but qualitative research may be a complementary part of the research.

For the period 2025-2027, a research project can be funded on one of the themes listed at the end of these instructions (see the end of the document).

To apply for research funding, the first step is to complete an initial two-page Research Idea Form, in which you will briefly outline your main ideas for the objectives and implementation of the research. The actual longer research plan will be requested at a later stage from those projects that are to be submitted for funding.

The cities are particularly interested in supporting new and experimental research approaches. In addition, the cities' wish is that that research projects will use different types of numerical data that cities produce in their own activities.

How to apply for funding

The study can be a completely new project or a complementary part of an existing project. The funding period can start at the earliest on March 1, 2025 and can last for a maximum of two years (24 months). The Research Idea Form and in the later phase the longer research plan should include a description of where and how the research results can be used once the results are available.

To receive research funding:

- A completed Research Idea Form (max. 2 pages) and a budget attachment must be submitted by **24:00 October 22, 2024.**
- **October 23 – November 1, 2024,** Forms will be reviewed and applicants will receive feedback.

- **On November 8, 2024, time: 14:00-16:00**, the best projects will be invited to present their research ideas, in the presence of a jury composed of representatives of all partner organizations.
- **In December 2024**, the projects to be funded in 2025 will be decided.
- By **January 20, 2025**, funded projects must submit a detailed study plan of 5-10 pages, including contact persons from the cities' side. The final project budget and implementation schedule will be determined at this stage.

The official administrative budget decision for the funding will be made in early 2025.

The Preliminary Budget Appendix, due by Oct 22, 2024, will be prepared according to your organization's model and must identify the project:

- Salary costs
- Purchased services and other purchases specified by use
- Other costs specified by use
- Administrative overheads (max. 20% of total costs)
- Self-financing of the project (at least 20% of the total cost)

Conditions for funding

- The research must cover the cities of the capital region Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa or at least one of them.
- A self-financing rate of 20% is required for the funded project.
- The funded project must organize interaction with the cities. At least part of the interaction must be in Finnish. The staff of the collaboration will help to find contacts in the cities.
- The funded project must produce a research report of about 10-15 pages in Finnish for the cities. Other publications may be in accordance with the universities' own objectives and academic publishing.

Funding is available for

- salary costs directly related to the project
- data acquisition and other costs of conducting the research
- purchased services directly related to the research or publishing
- organizing project events
- administrative overhead may not exceed 20%

Funding will not be provided for

- salary of an external researcher in another organization
- purchase of equipment for long-term use at the universities

Research reporting to funders

- At the end of the funding period, the project will produce a 10–15-page research report in Finnish for cities, including possible research-based recommendations for cities.
- The project should organize continuous interaction with city experts and at least twice a year a cooperation meeting to which city experts are invited. At the end of the project, the last

cooperation event may be a larger public seminar which the collaboration staff will help to organize.

- The use of the funds must be reported once a year and a receipt from the official project accounts must be attached.

An information session on research funding will be held **on Thursday, October 3, from 11-12 on Teams**, where you'll have the opportunity to ask questions. To receive a link to the event, please register by October 1, using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/BfAn3waVKj>

For further information,

Jari Järvenpää, Secretary General / Helsinki Capital Region Science Collaboration

jari.p.jarvenaa@hel.fi

p. 040 355 7304

For the period 2025 -2027, a research project may receive funding for the following urban research topics

Research on segregation and ways to influence it

Possible perspectives include the effectiveness of planned suburban regeneration and infill development, the effectiveness of housing policies, project-based resource allocation in the neighbourhoods, and the promotion of social sustainability.

The effectiveness of needs-based funding for city services

Some city services have had a funding model that varies according to the population composition of the area, while others do not yet have such resources. How might needs-based funding of services such as early childhood education, primary schools, secondary education or cultural and leisure services best support cities' goals of tackling inequalities?

Learning outcomes in primary schools and how to influence them

Expanding the knowledge base on factors that influence learning outcomes. Possible perspectives include digitalization and learning, leadership and pedagogical and didactic solutions, learning environments or social and emotional skills. Also, spatial differences in learning outcomes and differences in learning gaps or school readiness.

Drop-out risk in upper secondary education: developing proactive tools for teachers and learners

Is it possible to find identifiers from the data in the customer information systems of secondary education institutions that predict a learner's poor retention and potential risk of dropping out?

Well-being effects of cultural and leisure services

The (preventive) impact of cultural and leisure services on the health and well-being of residents.

Impact of new rail solutions

Impacts on, for example, overall mobility, commuting or vitality and economic activity of the neighborhoods, or impacts on more sustainable mobility, transport modes and emissions.

Impacts of supporting the vitality of city centers or sub-centres

For example, policies that target city centers or the impact of development measures in suburban sub-centers such as train station areas. Also, for example, the importance of private cars and parking for businesses in city centers.

Evaluating innovation activities supported by cities

For example, incubating early-stage business ideas, supporting innovation ecosystems, building or managing skill or business clusters.

Urban densification and climate change adaptation

A study of the impacts of implementing densification and adapting to climate change. Also, a study of the impact on the soil.

Transfer of employment services to municipalities and monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness

Effectiveness of employment services, research on the employment of job seekers and the shortening of unemployment period.

The effectiveness of the municipal system of integration services

Evaluation of services related to immigration and integration. Allocation of resources and costs of integration services.

My own proposed topic: Empirical impact assessment study of the city's activities

You can also propose another research topic that meets the criteria for funding.