

Innovation Cluster Funding

1 Funding decision and its terms and conditions

The funding decision will come into effect once any special conditions laid down for entry into force of the decision have been fulfilled and the beneficiary has accepted the funding decision and its terms and conditions in the online service. In conjunction with acceptance, the bank account number into which the funding will be deposited shall be indicated. The person approving this decision must be authorized to sign for the organization.

These terms and conditions for funding are part of the funding decision, and compliance with them is the prerequisite for payment of the funding.

The funding granted under this funding decision is state aid authorized on the basis of Article 27 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty; OJL187 26 June 2014, p. 1).

These funding terms and conditions have been issued under section 11(4) of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers and section 3 of the Act on State Lending and State Guarantees.

2 Publicity of the funding decision

The following information will be public: the beneficiary's name, business ID, size, sector, region, form of financing, granting date, the amount of funding granted and the amount paid.

When the beneficiary disseminates information about the project or its results, it must disclose that Business Finland has provided funding for the project.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finnvera, Business Finland Oy, Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland, ELY Centres and TE Offices may exchange client information relating to the beneficiary.

The Funder may also require information from other authorities and funding bodies (such as the Finnish Tax Administration, municipalities, banks, capital investors, Sitra and the Foundation for Finnish Inventions) for the purposes of payment and supervision of funding. The Funder may, notwithstanding confidentiality provisions relating to business secrets, contact these authorities and funding bodies in order to obtain or provide information associated with the beneficiary and this project. By accepting the funding decision, the beneficiary agrees to the exchange of information.

The beneficiary must submit their annual statements, including appendices, for publication in the Finnish Patent and Registration Office, as laid down by law.

3 Accountable project leader

The beneficiary appoints an accountable project leader who is in an employment relationship with the beneficiary or holds a responsible position in the company. The accountable leader monitors the implementation of the project referred to in the funding decision. The accountable leader is responsible for ensuring that:

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- the funding decision has been accepted in the online service
- project accounting has been arranged in accordance with these terms and conditions
- working time monitoring has been arranged in accordance with these terms and conditions
- the decision and related terms and conditions are reviewed with financial management/an accounting firm and they have been sent to the auditor for information
- the project is implemented in accordance with the plan
- declared costs have been incurred by the project during the duration of the project
- the persons chosen to manage the matters pertaining to the project in the online service have access rights to the project.

4 Reporting

The accountable project leader is responsible for reporting on the project.

A salary specification (Y4) must be appended to the cost statement on the row reserved for the salary specification. Due to the confidentiality of salary information, the salary specification cannot be downloaded for viewing from the service like the other documents. An auditor's report must also be submitted as part of the final report. The forms are available on the Business Finland website.

Upon request, the Funder must be provided with additional information if required for project monitoring. Additional information may include copies of receipts, invoice itemisations and the selection criteria for purchased services.

The beneficiary must declare all project costs at the latest in the final cost statement. If it is necessary to make changes between the cost categories in the cost estimate, the beneficiary must apply to change the cost estimate in the Online Service. No new project costs can be presented after the approval of the final report.

The costs that have been initially approved on the basis of the interim report will be revaluated in connection with the final report. The Funder will only give its final approval to the costs after it has received the auditor's report.

5 Auditor's report

The costs are confirmed on the auditor's report. The beneficiary must submit an auditor's report covering the entire duration of the project and prepared by an independent auditor as part of the final accounting. The report template is available on the Business Finland website.

Reasonable costs arising from the auditor's report prepared by the project auditor can be accepted as direct project costs. If the billed and paid costs incurred by the audit are not included in the project costs confirmed by the auditor, copies of the invoice of the audit costs and receipt/bank statement must be submitted to the Funder.

The Funder has the right to deliver the auditor's report to other authorities for the purposes supervising funding.

6 Payment of funding

The Funder will provide the funding on the basis of approved reports and cost statements.

A minimum of 10 per cent of the funding granted for the project will only be paid after the approval of the final report. The final instalment will be paid if the project has accumulated an adequate amount of eligible costs.

The Funder has the right to withhold funding in connection with the interim report if the sum to be paid is too small when compared with the total funding.

The beneficiary must apply for the final funding instalment when submitting the final project report and the final cost statement. Any funding that the beneficiary applies for after that will not be granted.

Entitlement to the granted funding or part of it will lapse if the beneficiary does not submit the requested reports or further information by the due date specified in the funding decision or separately notified by the Funder. Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland may order any funding already provided to be repaid immediately, with interest.

7 Monitoring of costs and project accounting

The beneficiary must arrange its accounting so that the costs arising from the project can be itemized and their connection with the accounting and the cost statements can be verified.

If the customer's accounting system does not permit the generation of cost-category-specific reports, the customer must draw up some other calculation that lists how accounting costs are allocated to cost categories (such as an Excel spreadsheet).

Accounting must include purchase invoices of project purchases. The invoices must specify the product or service purchased for the project. Business Finland does not accept the allocation of purchases for a project as a percentage of the total sum of a purchase invoice, for example.

The costs must be based on the corresponding expenditure payment records. This does not apply to computational costs allocated to the project. The expenses must be fully paid in money by the beneficiary when they are reported to the Funder. Procurements may not be paid by loans issued by the recipient of the payment. Invoice for work performed during the project may be paid after the project end date but before the costs are reported to the Funder.

Costs incurred from the auditor's report may be incurred and may be paid after the project has ended.

Project documents and other materials necessary for the supervision and auditing (including personal working time records with verifications, where required) must be kept for a minimum of ten years after the payment of the last project funding instalment.

The material of the projects funded by the European Union must be preserved at least until the end of 2033.

8 Working time monitoring

Every person working for the project must record the time they allocate to the project on an hourly basis for the entire duration of the project. Hours worked must be reported monthly for the days when the work was performed. Any working time monitoring conducted after submitting the salary specification in connection with the report will not be accepted. Working time monitoring also applies to persons who are paid trade income.

Persons to whom the Working Hours Act does not apply or who do not have specified working hours must keep records both of hours worked on the project and of total working hours.

The accountable project leader or the supervisor of each employee must confirm the working hours at least on a monthly basis. Entry of confirmation must be saved in the monitoring system.

The Funder has the right to refuse approval of the salaries in whole or in part if the working time monitoring has not been in compliance with the above terms and conditions or cannot be regarded as reliable.

9 Eligibility of costs

Eligible costs are the innovation cluster organization's expenditures that

- have arisen from the project during the duration of the project (accrual basis)
- have been entered in the accounts of the beneficiary
- are in net amount and VAT exempt.

Eligible costs in operational aid granted for innovation clusters include personnel and governance costs related to the following activities:

- promotion of cluster activities to facilitate cooperation, the exchange of information and the provision or channeling of specialized or tailored business support services;
- marketing of the cluster to promote the participation of new enterprises or organizations and improve visibility;
- management of the cluster's infrastructure; organization of training programs, workshops and conferences in order to support the sharing and networking of expertise and to foster transnational cooperation.

Investment aid may be granted for the creation or development of innovation clusters. Eligible costs include costs related to investments in tangible and intangible assets.

- Costs related to tangible assets are declared under section Machinery and equipment purchases.
- Costs related to intangible assets are declared under section Purchased services.

Several users must have access to the cluster's premises, infrastructure and operations on transparent and non-discriminatory grounds.

The updated project plan and cost estimate form a part of the funding decision and serve as the basis for accepting the costs. The beneficiary must be able to showcase the results achieved in the project. The Funder has the right not to accept costs presented in a statement if their relevance to the project is not clearly substantiated or they are too large in view of the project results.

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All costs based on the project plan must be reported and declared to the Funder. Final approval of the costs for a project can only be given after the costs have been approved.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of funding, principally only procurements and work ordered after the funding application was submitted may be approved for the project. However, if a procurement included in the project has been ordered before submitting the funding application, the relevant order or agreement must include a cancellation clause whereby the realization of the order or agreement is made contingent on the funding application being accepted. If there is no such cancellation clause, then such a procurement will not constitute an acceptable cost.

Costs will be approved ex VAT, unless the beneficiary is not liable to pay VAT. The costs on which VAT is payable may also be declared if they are connected with VAT-exempt operations and the VAT will be payable by the beneficiary.

The Funder may, at its discretion, accept certain cost statement categories according to an accounting practice that is based on unit costs calculated using the beneficiary's own expenditure records. The use of this must be agreed on a project-specific basis.

The Funder or a party authorized by it has the right to audit the reliability of the accounting system. The Funder may also require that an independent auditor issues a statement on the reliability of the accounting systems.

10 Procurement procedures

When the beneficiary is a public procurement unit or the funding provided by the Funder or other public funding covers more than 50 per cent of the project costs, the beneficiary must observe the provisions of the Act on Public Contracts. When the total value of the procurement is at least 60,000 euros, the procurement must be tendered as a public procurement.

If a public procurement unit has made a procurement in violation of the procurement provisions, the procurement price will not constitute an eligible project cost.

The beneficiary must prove that competitive bidding has taken place by attaching a copy of the contract notice published in HILMA (hankintailmoitukset.fi) to the cost statement, or by providing justification for applying the direct award procedure.

11 Salaries, declared salaries

Eligible project costs in investment aid and operational aid are the salaries of personnel directly participating in and assisting with the activities in question.

The beneficiary may only declare the proportion of a person's salary that correspond to the total working hours allocated to the project and that is based on the monitoring of the working time. The Funder will compare each person's declared overall salary to the information in the Incomes Register. As a public authority, Business Finland receives its information from the Incomes Register.

Eligible costs include salaries subject to withholding tax for the effective working hours dedicated to the project by participants working on the project, for up to 11 months per year (specification template Y4).

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Effective working hours do not include absences on full pay, such as annual holidays, or the time spent on sick leave or maternity, parental or paternity leave.

The amount of salaries declared to the Funder

- may not substantially differ from what has been paid to the person in question for work of a corresponding level, either before the project or immediately after it
- must correspond to the compensation paid to the person by the beneficiary for other work during the project.

The Funder may, at its discretion, accept the payment of a reasonable salary to a person working for the project who has not been paid any salary for any work before the project.

The Funder will not accept any salary components that are paid to a person on the condition that funding for the pay component is received from the Funder or other funding bodies.

The beneficiary must notify the Funder if performance-related and/or other exceptional payment components are included in the salaries declared to the Funder. The Funder may, at its discretion, approve them if they are an established and important part of the beneficiary's salary payment regime. The beneficiary must always submit the details of the total amount of the exceptional salary components, the payment criteria and period for which the components are paid so that the proportion allocated to the project can be determined.

If the compensation paid is classified as trade income and not as salary, the beneficiary must declare it under Purchased services in the cost statement.

As a rule, the salaries of the beneficiary's managerial and administrative personnel are classified as overheads. Such salaries may, on a case-by-case basis, be accepted as direct costs, if the work performed is directly allocated to the project.

The beneficiary must report any project-related salaries paid to persons coming from abroad to work in Finland or persons working abroad. The information shall be entered in the salary specification form.

12 Indirect personnel costs

A percentage of the salaries paid for effective working hours and approved for the project that is laid out in the project cost estimate (max. 50%) can be accepted as indirect personnel costs.

- midweek holidays, holiday pay, sick pay and holiday bonus
- social security costs
- other employment costs, such as recruitment costs, personnel training, fringe benefits, workwear and protective clothing.

The Funder has the right to intervene in budgeted indirect personnel costs arising from employment relationships that are not subject to the same indirect personnel costs as conventional employment relationships. Such employment relationships may apply to individuals who do not come under the Working Hours Act (shareholders in management positions), persons coming from abroad to work in Finland or persons working abroad.

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- If a salary's social security costs are not paid to Finland, indirect personnel costs and overhead cannot be accepted as project costs.
- For persons that do not receive any holiday pay, a total of 30 per cent of all declared salaries are approved as indirect personnel costs.

The Funder has the right to verify all indirect personnel costs and pay the funding on the basis of actual indirect personnel costs when these remain under the level approved in the cost estimate. Indirect personnel costs must be calculated on request using a spreadsheet available on the Business Finland website.

13 Overheads

The Funder can accept as overheads a maximum of 20 per cent of the project-related salaries and indirect personnel costs.

Costs considered as overhead are not eligible under other cost categories. Such costs include

- the salaries of managerial and administrative personnel
- administrative costs, such as accounting services and general legal counselling
- IT, phone, office and facilities costs and the related depreciation as well as
- annual patent payments.

The Funder has the right to have the indirect cost percentage checked and to pay funding on the basis of actual overheads, if they fall below the level approved in the cost estimate. When requested, the overhead cost rate must be calculated using the overhead cost rate calculation available on the Business Finland website.

14 Travel expenses

Travel expenses declared to a project must be in accordance with the project plan, and any hours worked in relation to them must be reported in the project's working time monitoring. If other work was also performed during a trip specified in the project plan, the share of these hours must be deducted from the project's travel expenses in proportion to working time.

The travel expenses included in the project plan can be accepted in accordance with the following regulations of the Finnish Tax Administration:

- Decision of the Finnish Tax Administration on the tax-exempt compensation of travel costs
- Instruction of the Finnish Tax Administration concerning compensation for commuting expenses.

Travel costs that are connected with the identification of international partners or with the preparation of international follow-up projects are accepted as project costs if the preparation of the international project is included in the project plan.

15 Material and supplies costs

Eligible project costs are the costs of materials and supplies directly related to the cluster organization's activities in accordance with the project plan.

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Material and supplies costs based on procurement from an external supplier can be accepted as invoiced.

Internal material and supplies costs must be declared at cost price.

16 Machinery/equipment purchases

Eligible costs in investment aid are the purchase costs of tangible assets in accordance with the project plan. Tangible assets refer to land areas, buildings, plants, and machinery and equipment.

The Funder may accept as direct project costs those purchase costs of tangible assets that are primarily used for the project. If the tangible asset is also used for other purposes, the purchase cost is accepted to the extent that the asset is used in the project.

Second-hand machinery and equipment are eligible if no public funding has been received for purchasing second-hand machinery or equipment in the previous five years. It is the beneficiary's responsibility to identify the previous owners of second-hand machinery or equipment during the previous five years and to find out whether they were subsidized. The five-year period is calculated from the latest payment of subsidies towards the machinery or equipment received by the seller. Second-hand machinery or equipment is always deemed to have been purchased on the date on which the transaction was agreed (contract, order, delivery or payment).

What is stated of an instrument above also applies to the software required in the project.

Fixed assets acquired by means of a partial payment contract made with a financing company that is in accordance with the Hire Purchase Act or means of a similar arrangement can be accepted as an equipment purchase when the amount of the instalments paid is at least equivalent to the percentage of the Funder's funding of the fixed assets in question. In such instances, the fixed asset must be in the possession of the beneficiary.

The acquisition costs of personal computers, mobile phones and other equipment included in overheads are not accepted as equipment purchases.

17 Machinery/equipment depreciation/rental costs

Rental costs of buildings, machinery and equipment that are mainly used in the project are eligible in so far as they are used in the project.

SaaS/cloud service purchases must be declared as Machinery and equipment rental costs.

The costs of rental equivalent to the cost of fixed assets that have arisen during the duration of the project are eligible up to the value of equivalent purchase costs. Other rental costs, such as administration, financing, insurance, repair and other equivalent costs, are not eligible costs. If the above costs cannot be itemized, a maximum of 50 per cent of the total rental cost to the project are eligible as project costs.

18 Purchased services

Eligible project costs are purchased services directly related to the cluster organization's activities in accordance with the project plan. Eligible costs in investment aid also include costs related to investments in intangible assets. Intangible assets refer to patents, licenses, other intellectual property rights and know-how.

Services purchased from third parties can be accepted in accordance with the project plan and invoicing.

Purchased service costs can also include the following costs as direct project-related expenditures:

- the auditing of project costs
- information and data gathering
- in investment aid, patent or license purchases when they are used exclusively for the project
- applications for intellectual property rights
- other purchase costs of intangible assets.

Software required for the project is approved under Machinery and equipment costs or Machinery and equipment depreciations and rental costs, not under Purchased services.

Services purchased from domestic SMEs; for these purposes, a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) is defined as a Finnish company with fewer than 250 employees. Also fees billed by an independent contractor are declared under "Services purchased from SMEs".

Services purchased from domestic public-sector research organizations; a research institution is defined as a Finnish university, university of applied sciences or public research institute.

Services purchased from other domestic companies/entities; services purchased from domestic organizations other than those specified above are entered under this cost category.

Services purchased from the European internal market area; under this cost category are entered the purchased services from the European internal market area (an area formed by the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation).

Services purchased from outside the European internal market; services purchased from outside the European internal market are entered here.

19 Purchases from other companies in the same group and associated companies

19.1 Business Finland's definition of an associated company

Companies (here referring to all legal persons) are each other's associated companies if another company or person exercises control over another company or can influence its choice of procurement sources.

Companies are considered each other's associated companies if at least 20% of the other company's share capital or corresponding equity is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the other company. Companies are considered each other's associated companies also if at least 20% of the other company's share capital or corresponding equity is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the same individual.

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The Funder also considers direct or indirect ownership to exist in the hands of the following parties and stakeholders:

- members or alternate members of a company's Board of Directors
- responsible persons within the company
- employees of the company
- creditors of the company
- family members: an applicant's spouse or a cohabiting partner, the applicant's or their spouse's/partner's children
- close relatives, such as a grandchildren, siblings, parents, grandparents, or corresponding half-relatives.

Group companies and associated companies must also observe these funding terms and conditions. The beneficiary must ensure that the group companies and associated companies arrange project accounting and working time monitoring in a manner that is in accordance with these terms and conditions.

The group companies and associated companies must provide the beneficiary with an invoice for the services purchased for the project. The Funder may accept costs incurred by the seller for providing the service and paid by the beneficiary. Group-internal administrative costs and items paid as administrative fees are not eligible project costs.

The Funder will accept the paid purchased services without profit. In order to demonstrate the non-profit nature of the services, the group companies and associated companies must also provide the Funder with a separate project cost statement of the costs arising from the project.

The costs must be declared on the cost statement template Y3, salary specification template Y4 and the accountable project leader statement Y5. The accountable project leader statement must be signed by the persons authorized to sign for the group company and the associated company. The templates can be found on the Business Finland website.

The beneficiary must submit the cost statements of the group companies and associated companies and, as part of the final report, an auditor's report detailing the costs of the group company. The auditor's report must be prepared by an independent auditor. The report template is available on the Business Finland website. The Funder may, at its discretion, exceptionally accept purchased services without a separate cost statement even from associated or group companies.

In addition to direct project costs, indirect personnel costs and overheads connected with salaries are also eligible costs. A maximum of 50 per cent of the salaries allocated to the project are accepted as indirect personnel costs. Overheads are declared using the rate based on the number of personnel in the group and associated company:

- 1–19 persons: 20%
- 20–49 persons: 30%
- 50 persons or more: up to 50%.

Purchases from foreign group companies, foreign associated companies and costs arising in an overseas office:

The Funder may also accept as project costs purchases from foreign companies in the same group and foreign associated companies and costs to the beneficiary arising in an overseas office. This must be specified in the special terms and conditions of the funding decision. Only direct project costs are accepted as eligible costs. Indirect personnel costs and overheads are not accepted. Exchange rates on the date of payment are applied to invoices submitted in a foreign currency.

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Foreign group companies and foreign associated companies must provide cost statement forms and an auditor's report prepared by an independent auditor. The auditor's report on an official Business Finland template may be in Finnish, Swedish or English. The forms and auditor's report templates are available on the Business Finland website.

20 Ineligible costs

- entertainment expenses, donations, stipends or grants
- costs related to production and sales other than advertising and marketing the cluster, such as the costs of travel, brochures, advertising expenses or professional fairs
- financing costs
- the beneficiary's funding share for a project implemented in a research organization
- costs for which public funding that may not be combined with other types of public funding is allocated (for example, the salary costs of a person who has received a startup grant for the same period)
- salary costs for which a pay subsidy has been received
- services containing other public funding
- any financing, administration, insurance, repair, maintenance or equivalent costs arising from acquisitions financed through a part payment agreement
- costs (administration, financing, insurance, repair or equivalent) related to machinery and equipment rental that have arisen during the duration of the project to the extent that they exceed the equivalent purchase price
- costs that are not included in the project plan

21 Consideration of income

The payments collected on the use of the cluster's infrastructure and services and participation in its operations must correspond to the market prices or costs. Companies that have funded at least 10 per cent of the cluster's investment costs can be granted privileged access rights under more favorable conditions. Such privileged access rights must be in the correct proportion to the share of the investment costs paid by the company, and the terms and conditions of such rights must be made public.

The payments collected on the use of the cluster's infrastructure and participation in its services and operations are considered income received by the innovation cluster that may be taken into account when calculating the payable maximum aid. The beneficiary must keep records of the costs incurred from the cluster activities and the fees charged for the use of the cluster's infrastructure and services and participation in its operations. These records must be reported to the Funder in connection with cost statements and interim reports. The records must specify the portion of the overall costs that have been incurred from providing the services offered by the innovation cluster and the portion that relates to the innovation cluster's other costs. The Funder has the right to reduce the amount of funding or claw back any funding already paid to ensure that the overall amount of operational aid is not exceeded during the project.

22 Other public funding

The reports must specify all other public funding granted for the project by the state, municipalities and other public entities or bodies or foundations governed by public law. Funding granted by the European Union must also be reported.

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The combined total funding that the project receives from the Funder and other providers of public funding may not exceed the project's maximum limit for public funding. The overall amount of operational aid granted for eligible overall costs incurred by the cluster activities must not exceed 50% during the project. The maximum amount of investment aid is 50% of eligible costs. If necessary, the Funder will reduce its own contribution so that the maximum amount of public funding is not exceeded.

23 Monitoring of funding impact

The Funder will continue to evaluate the impact of the projects after their completion.

If necessary, the beneficiary must report on project results for five years after the completion of the project.

The beneficiary must, on request, provide details of the outcome of the plans and forecasts that it presented during the processing of the application and the realization of the project. Upon request, the Funder must be provided with a report on how the business targeted in the project has developed.

The Funder must have the opportunity to audit the beneficiary's annual accounts and auditing statements kept in the Finnish Patent and Registration Office database for a period of five accounting periods following the completion of the project.

The Funder has the right to commission an analysis of the beneficiary's annual accounts from another public funding agency.

24 Changes to the project

The beneficiary must obtain the Funder's consent for project changes. Consent must be sought from the Funder in writing in advance / before the change if the project's progress deviates from the plan:

- significant changes to the project plan
- changes to cost categories
- changes to the schedule
- changes to a reporting date
- changing the accountable project leader.

The beneficiary must immediately notify the Funder of other significant changes to the project, for example if there are changes to key personnel resources.

The Funder cannot process the application for a change if the beneficiary has neglected its registration, notification or payment obligations related to taxes or other regulatory obligations.

Changes of bank account are to be reported using form Y1 available on the website.

25 Reassignment, transfer of tangible and intangible assets and business restructuring

The beneficiary must obtain the prior written consent of the Funder if, during the project or within the useful life specified in the decision, the beneficiary wishes to

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- reassign the funding decision to a third party
- sell, give as security, or otherwise assign business or any part thereof generated in the project
- sell or otherwise assign material or immaterial assets or licenses which pertain to the funding
- change the investment's permanent purpose.

Prior to the reassignment, the original beneficiary must report and declare its share of the project. The auditor must submit an auditor's report on the declared costs. The Funder may give its approval if the targeted project impacts can, for the most part, be achieved and the loan repayment secured despite the changes.

If investment aid has been used for the procurement or modernization of assets, the asset in question may not be permanently used for a purpose other than that specified in the funding decision during the useful life specified for the asset which the investment aid concerns. Unless otherwise specified in the special terms and conditions to the funding decision, the useful life of assets is ten years.

Under clause Clawback of funding of these terms and conditions, the Funder may claw back paid funding if the beneficiary engages in measures that compromise the desired impacts of the project or if the beneficiary is in breach of this clause.

26 Beneficiary's disclosure obligation

The beneficiary must provide the Funder with accurate and sufficient information for the payment of funding and for monitoring the compliance with the terms and conditions.

The beneficiary must inform the Funder without delay of any change affecting the realization of the intended use of the funding or of any other change affecting the use of the funding.

27 Right of inspection

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland, the National Audit Office, the State Treasury, the Ministry of Finance, the Government Financial Controller's Function, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) have the right to obtain necessary information about the use of the support and to audit the finances and operations of the beneficiary as required for the payment of the funding and supervision of its use.

The audits can be performed by other authorities or auditors authorized by the Funder. An external expert may, at the Funder's request, assist in the performance of the audit. By accepting the funding decision and its terms and conditions, the beneficiary provides their written consent that it will fully cooperate to protect the financial interests of the Union and authorizes the European and national officials to exercise their powers comprehensively as well as agrees to ensure that any third parties participating in the management of the Union's assets will grant similar rights.

The beneficiary should assist with the inspection and provide the needed information for the inspector without compensation.

The auditor has the right to seize any material subject to audit, if auditing so requires. A written record must be drawn up of any seizure of materials during an audit. The record must state the purpose of seizing the material and what has been seized. The seized material must be returned without delay when it is no longer needed for the audit.

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The auditor has, to the extent required by the audit, the right to enter the premises managed or used by the beneficiary. This applies to the business, storage and other similar premises used for practicing a profession or a business, as well as other areas relevant to the granting of the funding and the supervision of its use. Audits may not be carried out in premises covered by domestic peace.

28 Discontinuation of payment

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland may order the temporary discontinuation of the payment of the funding on following grounds:

1. The Funder has reasons to suspect that the beneficiary does not provide the Funder with correct or adequate information or uses the funding in a manner that is in violation of the funding decision.
2. The grounds on which the funding was granted have essentially changed. Such changes include situations where
 - a) the beneficiary deviates from the project plan without a written authorization granted by the Funder
 - b) there is a substantial deterioration in the beneficiary's financial position in relation to the anticipated trend
 - c) the beneficiary loses its equity in full
 - d) the beneficiary initiates reorganization proceedings
 - e) the beneficiary neglects its registration, notification, or payment obligations related to taxes or other regulatory obligations
 - f) the beneficiary has failed to adhere to the repayment obligations concerning the loans granted by Business Finland.
3. the payment of funding must be discontinued under European Union legislation.

If the grounds for the discontinuation are not corrected within the time specified in the decision to interrupt funding, Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland has the right to discontinue payment of the funding and to claw back the funding already paid in whole or in part.

29 Repayment of funding

The beneficiary must, without delay, repay any funding or part thereof received through error, in excess or manifestly without cause.

Grants of less than 100 euros need not be repaid.

The beneficiary must contact the Funder before the repayment of funding.

30 Clawback of funding

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland may claw back any funding already paid if the beneficiary violates against these terms and conditions.

30.1 Statutory clawback

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland will order the discontinuation of the payment of funding and the clawback of funding already paid if the beneficiary has

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1. failed to return funding or part thereof that must be repaid under section Repayment of funding
2. used the funding for a purpose essentially different from that for which it was granted
3. provided false or misleading information about a matter that has been essential to the granting of the funding, its amount or terms and conditions
4. otherwise essentially violated the provisions concerning the use of the funding or these terms and conditions in a manner comparable to paragraphs 1-3.

30.2 Discretionary clawback

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland has the right to order the discontinuation of the payment of funding and the clawback of funding or part thereof already paid if

- false or misleading information has been provided for the purpose of payment of funding or supervision thereof, information has been concealed, the provision of information has been refused or the information requested by Innovation Funding Agency has not been provided by the specified date
- the beneficiary has not complied with the terms and conditions for funding
- the beneficiary has not informed the Funder without delay of any change affecting the realization of the intended use of the funding or of any other change affecting the use of the funding
- the funding has not been used in compliance with the funding decision
- the beneficiary has refused to assist in the project audit
- the beneficiary has terminated the project for which the funding was granted, reduced or altered it substantially or transferred it to another party
- the beneficiary has been subjected to recovery proceedings, placed into liquidation or bankruptcy, or made subject to restructuring proceedings
- the beneficiary or its representative has been convicted of an offence or ordered to pay penalties, in accordance with section 22 of the Act amending the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers
- the clawback of funding is required under European Union legislation
- the beneficiary otherwise acts in a manner comparable to the matters in this section.

30.3 Interest

The beneficiary must pay interest on the amount to be repaid or clawed back. The interest is applied from the date on which the funding was paid. It is calculated as an annual interest to which three percentage points are added. The annual interest is determined in accordance with section 3(2) of the Interest Act (633/1982).

30.4 Penalty interest

If the beneficiary has not paid the amount to be repaid by the due date set by the Funder, an annual penalty interest must be paid on the outstanding balance of the loan. For the period after the due date, the penalty interest is in accordance with the interest rate referred to in section 4(1) of the Interest Act (633/1982).

30.5 Moderation of grant clawback

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland may decide that a part of the sum to be repaid or clawed back, and any interest or penalty interest on it, will not be clawed back if repayment full is

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unreasonable in light of the financial standing and circumstances of the beneficiary or in relation to the type of property acquired with the grant or in relation to the procedure on which the clawback is based or because of a change in circumstances. For an extremely weighty reason, Innovation Funding Agency may decide to totally waive the sum to be repaid or clawed back, or the interest or penalty interest on it.

30.6 Clawback time limit

The grant and interest or penalty interest on it will not be clawed back if ten years have elapsed from the remission of the final instalment of funding for the project.

31 Funder's right of offsetting

The funding to be repaid or clawed back and the interest on it may be deducted from the other funding provided to the beneficiary.

32 Misuse

If, during the course of the project, there is reason to suspect that the beneficiary or a person acting on the beneficiary's behalf has committed a criminal offence under the Criminal Code (19 December 1889), with the Funder as the injured party, the Funder will take the required action in the matter.

33 Order of application

1. Funding decision and any special terms and conditions thereof
2. Funding terms and conditions
3. Cost estimate
4. Project plan
5. Funding application and its appendices
6. Any other documents relevant to the funding decision

34 Scope of application and legal basis

- Annual state budget
- Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001)
- Act amending the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (1113/2018)
- Act on General Conditions for Aid Granted to Economic Activities (429/2016)
- Government Decree on Funding for Research, Development and Innovation Activities (1444/2014)
- Government Decree amending the Government Decree on Funding for Research, Development and Innovation Activities (125/2018)
- Government Decree on amending and temporarily amending the Government Decree on Funding for Research, Development and Innovation Activities (549/2020)
- Act on the Client Information System of Enterprise Services (293/2017)
- Act on the Provision of Digital Services (306/2019)
- Act Amending the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector (307/2019)