

GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF DECISION MAKING

Objectives of the plan

The objective of the Government plan for analysis, assessment and research in support of decision making is to establish a systematic operating model to ensure the creation of a strong and horizontal knowledge base in support of decision making in society. Many of the challenges facing society are highly complex and concern several administrative sectors. To respond to these challenges, it is necessary to transcend administrative boundaries and generate research, foresight and assessment data that will serve the needs of the whole more effectively than in the past. The plan will steer studies and research towards specific priority areas selected by the Government that address its information needs and that of the ministries.

The aim of the plan is to create a basis for systematic and broad-based use of research data in decision making, steering and operating procedures. Through the implementation of this plan, an attempt is made to reinforce the knowledge base available to the Government and ministries, promote an evidence-based mode of operation and contribute to a comprehensive strategic picture.

Content and implementation of the plan for analysis, assessment and research and related responsibilities

The plan addresses the priority areas and key themes of the analysis, assessment and research activities to be funded under the Prime Minister's Office item 23.01.22 Analysis, Assessment and Research Activities (deferred appropriation of EUR 5 million for a three-year period) including the responsibilities for preparation and guidance as well as financial estimates. The topics of research to be addressed in the priority areas in connection with the key themes have a clear link to the information needs and current issues in the Government's decision-making process. The issues to be explored and areas of research defined for the key themes will be specified in more detail when the decision is made to invite tenders for projects related to a given subject.

The following table defines the priority areas and related key themes, complete with an estimated need for funding, and identifies the ministries responsible for chairing the relevant sections and each key theme.

PRIORITY	KEY THEME	RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY	ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIRED
I Education, sense of involvement and participation as a basis for well-being		Section chair Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	Total EUR 1,250,000
	1. Prevention of social polarisation: What factors should be considered in the efforts to provide integrated services and prevent the risk of intergenerational social exclusion a) in the life situation of young people who have run into trouble in the money and credit market; b) those who tend to withdraw from society; and c) to address the service needs of physically active and inactive citizens and promote their health in order to prevent the increase in cost to society?	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	EUR 600,000
	2. Effects of equal access to education – skills and competence, growth and well-being: What factors explain the sharp fall in skills and competence levels among Finnish youth and what should to be done to improve performance?	Ministry of Education and Culture	EUR 300,000
	3. Free and equal involvement – civic action and social inclusion: How successfully have the civil initiative and other forms of engagement been incorporated in strategic decision making and what are the reasons for non-engagement?	Ministry of Justice	EUR 350,000
II Work, expertise and entrepreneurship in alliance		Section chair Ministry of Employment and the Economy	Total EUR 1,100,000
	1. Potential offered by the Arctic: How will Finland's northern location and cold climate expertise promote adjustment to the environmental and social change in the Arctic and help identify and prevent the potential risks arising	Ministry of Transport and Communications	EUR 400,000

	from increased activity in the region?		
	2. Potential offered by scarcity and green growth: What can be done to accelerate and measure green growth using the tools offered by the bioeconomy and materials efficiency?	Ministry of the Environment	EUR 300,000
	3. Effectuality and options of employment policy measures: How can employment policy measures be used to improve the efficiency of the labour market and prevent unemployment from becoming structural in nature?	Ministry of Employment and the Economy	EUR 200,000
	4. Industrial Internet and automation: What are the opportunities and threats, development incentives and obstacles of the Industrial Internet and its impact on employment in the Finnish economy?	Ministry of Employment and the Economy	EUR 200,000
III Sustainable public finances		Section chair Prime Minister's Office	Total EUR 700,000
	1. Sustainability and the structure of public finances: What options are identifiable in the efforts to develop the tax system?	Ministry of Finance	EUR 200,000
	2. Sustainable public finances and fiscal policy: How should the fiscal policy rules be determined to ensure that they are as useful as possible in situations in which economic development clearly departs from what was expected (as a result of the business cycle or structural shocks)?	Ministry of Finance	EUR 200,000
	3. Analyses and assessments required for the evaluation of economic policy.	Ministry of Finance	EUR 100,000
	4. Development of land use and housing: What are the most effective policy instruments in influencing	Ministry of the Environment	EUR 200,000

	the urban structure and housing (special focus on economic policy instruments, competition perspective to zoning, letters of intent related to land use, transport and housing as policy instruments and the prevention of regional segregation)?		
IV A secure society		Section chair Ministry of the Interior	Total EUR 900,000
	1. Security in daily life, individual safety and security: What measures are required to promote a sound and responsible security culture across administrative boundaries among all population groups as effectively as possible?	Ministry of the Interior	EUR 300,000
	2. A safe and secure society as an enabler of success and general welfare: What is the change dynamics of Finnish society and the ability of various actors to respond to evolving needs in the various sectors (business and regional structure, security of supply, skills and competence, administrative structures, etc.)?	Ministry of the Interior	EUR 300,000
	3. New technologies as an opportunity and threat: What are Finland's key competencies and priorities in terms of cyber security? How will this affect the need for individual actors to raise their profile (administrative sectors of ministries, universities, business sector, etc.)? What should be done to develop Finnish expertise to guarantee the reliability and availability of the IT infrastructure critical to Finland as well as the reliability, integrity and	Ministry of the Interior	EUR 300,000

	availability of data, including the management and long-term storage of culture and research-related digital data resources?		
V Public administration as an enabler		Section chair Prime Minister's Office	Total EUR 700,000
	1. Effects of the EU's new climate and energy targets for 2030: What type of legislative and policy proposals will arise and what are the implications of the objectives for Finland's economy and various sectors of society?	Ministry of Employment and the Economy	EUR 200,000
	2. Knowledge as a competitive advantage: What should be done to make the vast data resources possessed by various organisations more effectively available to users to benefit society and promote business, for example through use of geographic information and positioning technology?	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	EUR 200,000
	3. Improved assessment of the effects of EU initiatives: What existing arrangements are in place for assessing the impacts of the EU initiatives and what arrangements should be made to acquire forward-looking assessment data in support of decision making by Government and other national bodies?	Prime Minister's Office	EUR 200,000
	4. New policy instruments and support for a culture of experimentation: What experiences have been gained by countries applying a behavioural and experimental approach to policy guidance and what lessons could be learnt in view of developing the policy instruments	Prime Minister's Office	EUR 100,000

	available to government?	
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Implementation of the Government plan for analysis, assessment and research

The Government plan for analysis, assessment and research will be implemented as follows:

The (3-year deferrable) appropriation assigned to the Prime Minister's Office's main title 23 in the Budget is to be used: 1) for analysis, assessment and research to be commissioned by the Government and its ministries; and 2) for the payment of the expenses incurred as a result of said analysis, assessment and research activities. The appropriation may not be used for payments exceeding the cost of the fixed-term recruitment of personnel equivalent to 45 man-years at a government agency or institution (~1 person-year/EUR 110,000).

All projects to be carried out in accordance with the Government plan for analysis, assessment and research shall be put out to open tender and the contract awards based on objective non-discriminatory criteria. As a rule, the contract awards shall comply with the requirements for transparency and the equal treatment of potential suppliers derived from the principles of good governance. Transparency ensures compliance with the requirements for accountability in public activities and use of funds, while competitive bidding, with regard to procurement and funding, contributes to the sound application of the appropriations. The analyses, assessments and studies are put out to open tender with the contract notices published in electronic format. The Prime Minister's Office shall pay the costs of the contract notice in newspapers and magazines to be selected at a later date as well as the costs of translation and the publication of the notice in the Government web service. Additionally, the contract notices are published in the Hilma electronic notification system and the websites of the responsible ministries concerned. The Act on Public Contracts shall not apply to public service contracts for research and development services other than those where the benefits accrue exclusively to the contracting authority for its use in the conduct of its own affairs, on condition that the service provided is wholly remunerated by the contracting authority (Act on Public Contracts 348/2008, section 8(1)(6)).

The government working group for the coordination of research, foresight and assessment activities (Working Group) shall serve as the collective contracting authority and monitor performance in attaining the objectives of the plan for analysis, assessment and research. For each of the priority areas specified in the plan for analysis, assessment and research in support of decision making, the Working Group shall appoint an inter-administrative section to support the implementation of the plan. Responsibility for the chairmanship and secretarial services of the sections shall rest with the ministries identified in the Government plan for analysis, assessment and research. Participating in the activities of the sections will be the responsible ministries designated for each key theme in the plan for analysis, assessment and research as well as other ministries important to the oversight of activities in the given priority area. The Prime Minister's Office will participate in the workings of all the sections.

The contents of the contract notices related to the key themes will be determined by the Prime Minister's Office. The contract notices will be drafted by the responsible ministries with the assistance of the section for submission to the Working Group. Special attention in the application of the evaluation criteria will be paid to the relevance of the research plan with regard to the objectives of the Government's plan for analysis, assessment and research, the focus on topical problems and solutions as well as pre-planned communications.

Based on the evaluation of the applications, the responsible ministry will prepare a proposal for the contract award for review by the Working Group. The Prime Minister's Office will make the funding allocated to the key theme available to the responsible ministry.

The ministry responsible for the key theme involved will make a contract award decision and sign the contract with the party in charge of the project, handle the disbursements related to the project and project monitoring, and report on the use of funding and man-years to the Prime Minister's Office on an annual basis. Based on this reporting, the Prime Minister's Office will monitor the actual figures for funding and man-years foreseen in the plan for analysis, assessment and research. Additionally, the responsible ministries will handle data management and communications during the course of the project. The reports will be published in the publication series of the Prime Minister's Office to be established for the analysis, assessment and research activities.

The sections will serve as project steering groups in their respective priority areas, inform the Working Group on the progress made on the projects and forward the final project reports to the Working Group for information.

The Prime Minister's Office will issue more detailed regulations and instructions for the implementation of the plan for analysis, assessment and research.

Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen

State Under-Secretary Timo Lankinen