

Enhancing competitiveness and wellbeing through knowledge

Finland is strongly committed to research and innovation. Public and private sector research and development has played a crucial role in Finland becoming one of the leading knowledge-based economies in the world. The Finnish higher education and research sector relies upon various networks and collaboration in and between the sectors. Smoothly functioning research organisations foster efficiency in the society and provide a stable environment for research.

Research environment

Finland's binary higher education system consists of universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS). Altogether, there are 14 universities and 24 UAS in the Ministry of Education and Culture sector.

Besides these, there are the Police College (Ministry of the Interior) and the National Defence University (Ministry of Defence).

Universities emphasise scientific research. UAS, on the other hand, focus on applied research and development work supportive of working life and regional development that takes the regional economy into consideration. In R&D: 70% of companies with R&D activities cooperate with universities and UAS.

Funding

Finland's R&D expenditure has consistently been above 3 % of GDP since the turn of the millenium.

Both the public and private sectors have invested strongly in research and development. The private sector funds around two thirds of R&D, while the

public sector provides one third of the funding. Total investments for R&D were EUR 6.5 billion in 2014.

The government is the main source of funding for universities and UAS. In higher education institutions the state budgetary funding is mainly directed towards education and to a smaller part to research.

National competitive public funding is mostly channeled through the Academy of Finland and Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation.

Performance

In recent years Finland has been at the top of many kinds of country rankings. International comparisons show that Finland ranks well in technological and scientific infrastructure, qualified personnel and partnerships with the public and private sectors (The World Economic Forum, Human Capital Report 2015, INSEAD, WIP Global Innovation Index 2015) as well as in higher education and in innovation (The World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2015–16).

Recent developments

Finland's binary higher education system has been undergoing a significant structural reform since 2005.

Under the new Universities Act, which came into force in 2010, universities became independent legal persons separated from the state, and they gained financial autonomy. The reform of the legislation on UAS proceeded in two phases during 2014–2015. UAS have been turned into independent legal entities and the responsibility for their core funding was transferred from local authorities to the state. Along with the restructuring of research institutions, key development areas focus on research infrastructures, open science and open access. ●

Read more:

<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Tiede/?lang=en>

<http://openscience.fi/>

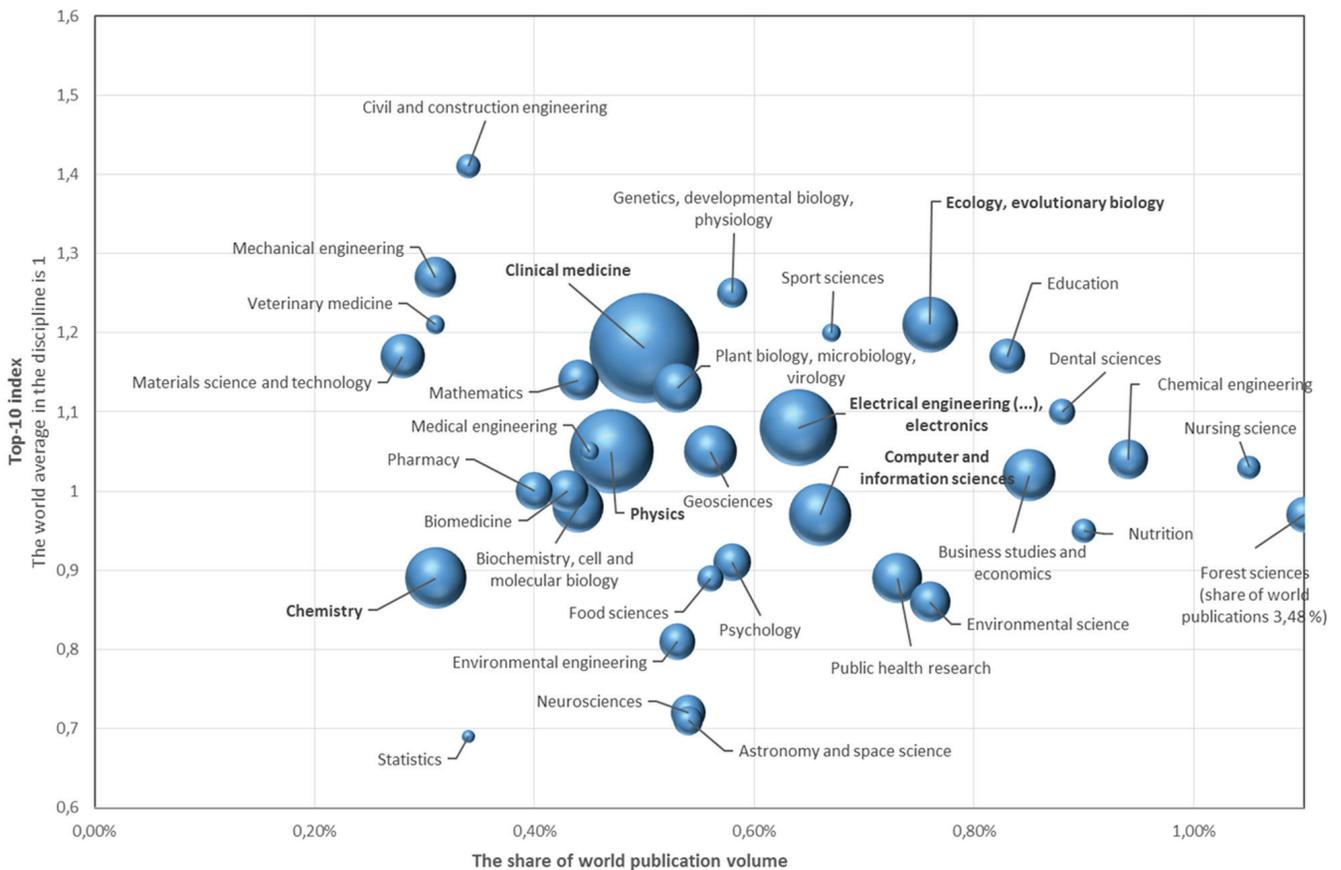
Towards a more dynamic higher education and research sector in Finland

Strengthening research by

- infrastructures
- open science
- international networks
- collaborative organisations and
- work sharing

Scientific publishing in Finland 2010–2013, volume and impact

The size of the bubble represents publication volume in Finland
Based on WoS -data, not including social sciences and humanities



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