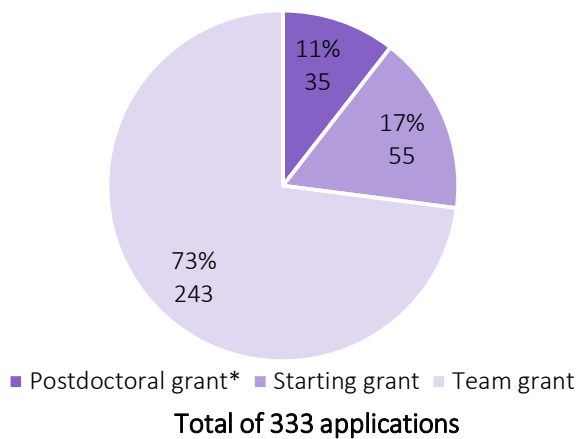# Summary of the applications of 2024 call of national research grants
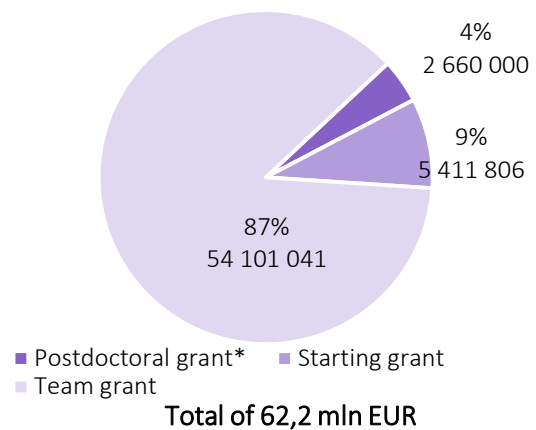
Maarja Sillaste
Department of Strategic Analysis
Estonian Research Council
31.05.2024

In 2024 call (PUT2025 – projects starting 2025) postdoctoral (going abroad), starting or team grants could have been applied for. 336 applications were submitted, **333** are now under review and 3 were rejected due to not meeting the requirements.

Number of applications — Total of 333 applications

Sum applied for 2025 — Total of 62,2 mln EUR

*going abroad

Figure 1. Number of applications and applied sum by the grant type

The applicants of the starting and team grants have the right to request a smaller amount than the fixed grant amount to carry out their project. In this call of applications 79% of the applicants requested fixed grant amount. 69 applicants requested a smaller amount, 57% of them up to 1000 euros smaller grant amount, and 43% of them 1001-50 000 euros smaller amount than the fixed grant amount.

Table 1. Number of applications by the groups of grant sum

Group of grant sum	Maximum possible sum (EUR)	Number of applications
Postdoctoral grant	76 000	35
Starting grant small	76 000	21
Starting grant large	117 000	34
Team grant small	192 400	143
Team grant large	270 000	100

Project period marked in the applications varies from one to five years. Postdoctoral grant can be applied for up to 3 years, starting and team grant for up to 5 years.

Table 2. Number of applications by the planned project period

Grant type	1 year	Up to 2 years	Up to 3 years	4 years	5 years
Postdoctoral grant	2	14	19		
Starting grant			2	12	41
Team grant			4	8	231

64% of the applicants are planning basic research, 36% applied research.

Table 3. Number of applications for basic and applied research

Grant type	Basic research	Applied research
Postdoctoral grant	23	12
Starting grant	36	19
Team grant	155	88
Total	214	119
Proportion	64%	36%

Applications are being evaluated by 17 expert panels consisting of international experts. All postdoctoral applications are evaluated in one expert panel consisting of Estonian experts.

Table 4. Number of applications by the expert panels

Expert Panel	Starting grant	Team grant	Total
LO1-1 Mathematics, Computer Science, and Informatics Expert Panel	2	14	16
LO1-2 Physics Expert Panel	2	17	19
LO1-3 Chemistry Expert Panel	6	5	11
LO2-1 Earth, Water, and Related Environmental Sciences Expert Panel	4	19	23
LO2-2 Cell and Molecular Biology Expert Panel	6	18	24
LO2-3 Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Expert Panel	2	15	17
TE1 Civil and Mechanical Engineering Expert Panel	1	9	10
TE2 Electrical, Electronic, and Information Engineering Expert Panel	2	10	12
TE3 Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology Expert Panel	5	13	18
TE4 Chemical and Environmental Engineering and Biotechnology Expert Panel		10	10
AR Medical and Health Sciences Expert Panel	4	24	28
PÕ Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences Expert Panel	2	17	19
SO Social Sciences Expert Panel	9	27	36
HU1 History, Archaeology, Ethnology, Folkloristics, and Anthropology Expert Panel	5	11	16
HU2 Linguistics and Literary Studies Expert Panel	2	13	15
HU3 Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Classical Studies Expert Panel	1	11	12
HU4 Arts, Cultural Studies, and Semiotics Expert Panel	2	10	12
PUTJD Postdoctoral Expert Panel			35

The applicants select the field of research to their application, upon choosing more than one subfield by Frascati Manual, also the proportion of each subfield. In the table below are the numbers of applications by Frascati subfields, counting these proportions marked by the applicants.

Table 5. Number of applications by counting the proportions of the subfields

Frascati Manual fields of research	Number of applications
1.1 Mathematics	7,0
1.2 Computer and Information Sciences	17,4
1.3 Physical Sciences	20,7
1.4 Chemical Sciences	17,9
Exact Sciences total	63,0
1.5 Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	18,3
1.6 Biological Sciences	51,3
Biosciences and Environment total	69,6
2.1 Civil Engineering	5,5
2.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information	7,7
2.3 Mechanical Engineering	3,5
2.4 Chemical Engineering	11,5
2.5 Materials Engineering	2,8
2.6 Medical Engineering	6,1
2.7 Environmental Engineering	11,7
2.8 Environmental Biotechnology	1,6
2.9 Industrial Biotechnology	1,4
2.10 Nano-Technology	0,3
2.11 Other Engineering and Technologies	17,0
Engineering and Technology total	68,9
3.1 Basic Medicine	8,7
3.2 Clinical Medicine	4,5
3.3 Health Sciences	2,6
3.4 Medical Biotechnology	0,9
Medical and Health Sciences total	16,7
4.1 Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	8,9
4.2 Animal and Dairy Science	1,1
4.3 Veterinary Medicine	3,3
4.4 Agricultural Biotechnology	0,8
4.5 Other Agricultural Sciences	1,7
Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences total	15,8
5.1 Psychology and Cognitive Sciences	5,4
5.2 Economics and Business	5,4
5.3 Education	5,4
5.4 Sociology	6,8
5.5 Law	3,2
5.6 Political Science	4,7
5.7 Social and Economic Geography	2,1
5.8 Media and Communications	4,6
5.9 Other Social Sciences	2,5
Social Sciences total	40,0
6.1 History and Archaeology	13,3
6.2 Languages and Literature	17,0
6.3 Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	9,7
6.4 Arts (Arts, History of Arts, Performing Arts, Music)	7,3
6.5 Other Humanities	11,8
Humanities and the Arts total	59,1
TOTAL	333,0

Applications are processed and financed in seven fields of research, natural sciences is divided into two categories: exact sciences and biosciences and environment. Postdoctoral applications are processed by one panel, but each applicant still selects in the application their preferred field of research.

Table 6. Number of applications and sum applied for 2025 by field of research

Field of research*	Postdoctoral grant		Starting grant		Team grant	
	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)
LO1	7	532 000	10	886 715	36	8 230 516
LO2	7	532 000	12	1 267 158	51	11 401 884
TE	8	608 000	8	812 875	43	9 822 564
AR	3	228 000	4	467 875	24	5 353 573
PÕ	0	0	2	193 000	17	3 377 895
SO	4	304 000	9	901 261	27	6 122 623
HU	6	456 000	10	882 922	45	9 791 986
Total	35	2 660 000	55	5 411 806	243	54 101 041

*LO1 - Exact Sciences; LO2 - Biosciences and Environment; TE - Engineering and Technology; AR - Medical and Health Sciences; PÕ - Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences; SO - Social Sciences; HU - Humanities and the Arts
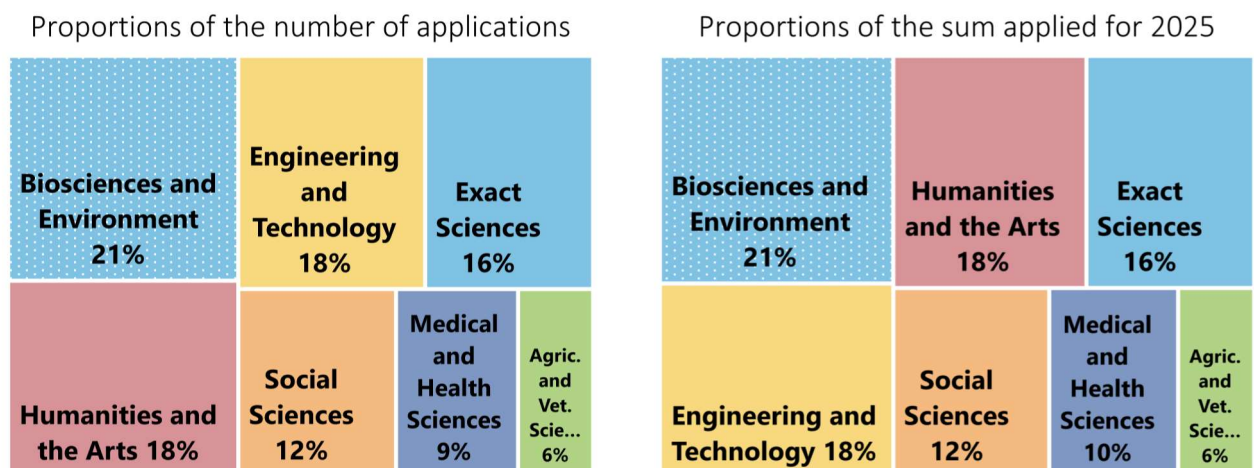

Figure 2. Number of starting and team grant applications and sum applied for 2025 by field of research

The applications were submitted by researchers from 14 positively evaluated R&D institutions.

Table 7. Number of applications and sum applied for 2025 by applicants` R&D institutions

R&D institution	Postdoctoral grant		Starting grant		Team grant		All grant types	
	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)	Number of applications	Applied sum (EUR)
University of Tartu	17	1 292 000	26	2 513 708	134	30 023 419	177	33 829 127
Tallinn University of Technology	7	532 000	13	1 356 393	44	9 814 343	64	11 702 736
Estonian University of Life Sciences	2	152 000	5	489 158	32	6 597 747	39	7 238 905
Tallinn University	6	456 000	4	386 000	15	3 660 376	25	4 502 376
National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics	3	228 000	2	204 750	8	1 927 200	13	2 359 950
Estonian Literary Museum			2	193000	2	384 800	4	577 800
Estonian Academy of Arts			2	151 922			2	151 922
Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre					2	384 800	2	384 800
The Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge					2	384 800	2	384 800
BioCC OÜ					1	269 281	1	269 281
Institute of the Estonian Language					1	192 400	1	192 400
Estonian Business School					1	191 875	1	191 875
National Institute for Health Development					1	270 000	1	270 000
Competence Centre on Health Technologies			1	116 875			1	116 875
TOTAL	35	2 660 000	55	5 411 806	243	54 101 041	333	62 172 847

39% of all the applicants (Principal Investigators) are female and 61% male.

Table 8. Number and proportion of applications by grant type, field of research and gender

Field of research	Male/ Female	Postdoctoral grant	Starting grant	Team grant	All grant types	Proportion in field of research
Exact Sciences	Male	7	5	33	45	85%
	Female	0	5	3	8	15%
Biosciences and Environment sciences	Male	3	5	34	42	60%
	Female	4	7	17	28	40%
Engineering and Technology	Male	6	7	33	46	78%
	Female	2	1	10	13	22%
Medical and Health Sciences	Male	1	2	13	16	52%
	Female	2	2	11	15	48%
Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences	Male	0	0	8	8	42%
	Female	0	2	9	11	58%
Social Sciences	Male	1	2	11	14	35%
	Female	3	7	16	26	65%
Humanities and the Arts	Male	5	5	22	32	52%
	Female	1	5	23	29	48%
All fields of research	Male	23	26	154	203	61%
	Female	12	29	89	130	39%
Proportion in grant type	Male	66%	47%	63%	61%	
	Female	34%	53%	37%	39%	

In the postdoctoral grant applications different destination countries were selected.

Table 9. Number of postdoctoral applications by destination country

Destination country of the postdoc	Number of applications
UK	6
Spain	4
Italy	4
Germany	4
Finland	4
Sweden	3
France	2
the Netherlands	2
Norway	2
the United States of America	1
Belgium	1
Latvia	1
Poland	1