

ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Development Plan 2021–2026

1. Introduction

The development plan is based on the tasks assigned to the Estonian Academy of Sciences (hereinafter *the Academy*) by law and defines them in accordance with the main trends in society. According to law, the Academy represents Estonian scientists, providing scientists and their partners with a cooperation platform, contributing to solving social and economic development issues facing the country, and promoting innovation.

The changes that occurred in the Estonian society and the whole world during the period of the previous development plan 2014–2020 point to the need to provide science advice and science-based recommendations regarding health, emergence from the economic crisis, funding of science and innovation, etc. in a stronger and more operative way. It also emphasizes the necessity to be present at different levels of society, from giving science advice the government to increased visibility in society and the media.

2. Main trends

2.1 The Academy and Academicians

- Members of the Academy actively express their views on the means and ways of addressing different issues faced by society, incl. in professional and social media and presentations related to their research fields.
- In selecting new Academicians, we are guided primarily by academic excellence of the candidates, their visibility in society and activeness in addressing issues related to their disciplines.
- We strive for a representation of as many different research fields as possible in the Academy membership in order to ensure broad-based competence of the Academy as a whole.
- We continue the established traditions and select, according to possibilities, outstanding cultural figures and society's opinion leaders for our membership.
- We involve more extensively the Academy's foreign members in the activities and programmes run by the Academy.
- Through developing the professional, technical and IT capabilities of the Office of the Academy, we ensure support for the activities of academicians and the performance of the Academy's essential functions at the contemporary level.

2.2 The Academy and the Estonian Scientific Community

- We represent Estonian science and scientists in national research policy making, in discussions on funding research, development and innovation actions, as well as in establishing centres of excellence and national applied research funding programmes.
- We expand the participation of top scientists in the Academy's activities and in scientific advice activities, selecting them into positions of research professors, inviting them on the Academy's committees and involving their competence for better functioning of the society and in areas where professional advice is needed.
- We continue cooperation with the Academy's institutions and research organisations associated with the Academy and take action for more effective promotion of science in society.
- We develop versatile opportunities of mobility for researchers between research, business and public sector, by incorporating relevant principles in legislation as well as creating and launching the necessary measures.

- We maintain and strengthen relations with Estonian researchers working abroad and involve foreign researchers working in Estonia in analysing and solving issues that are important for Estonia.
- We are involved in organising competitions for national research awards and prizes, contribute to evaluation, involve top scientists in the field.
- We take care of enhancing the reputation and attractiveness of the career in researcher.

2.3 The Academy and the Estonian State

- We are involved in science-based policy making.
- We develop and expand scientific advice for the state and its institutions, involving members of the Academy and top scientists from universities, research institutions and companies, and from abroad if necessary.
- We initiate and support national development programmes aimed at addressing socially important issues, contributing to them by providing scientific expertise.
- We participate through our members in the work of national committees and company councils and recommend top scientists to join them.
- In possible crisis situations, we support the government in forming and organising the activity of working groups and advisory councils necessary for managing the crisis.

2.4 The Academy and Society

- We are strongly committed to representing scientific positions and science-based worldview, organising debates and expressing our views in the media.
- We strengthen the Academy's capacity in influencing societal trends, providing in-depth analysis on complex and controversial issues and introducing the international experience of academies.
- We are present in different parts of Estonia, organising presentations by academicians and other top scientists in counties and companies, visiting schools, arranging lecture series.
- We present to the public the leading ideas of contemporary scientific thought and culture, involving for that scientific societies and associations of scientists active in Estonia.
- We continue publishing internationally recognised scientific journals.
- We organise debates and seminars focused on key issues in Estonian education, culture and history at the Academy and its associated scientific societies.
- We create opportunities for the best student researchers for direct contacts with top scientists.
- We represent cutting-edge knowledge and scientific culture through organising research competitions for students and schoolchildren, and through participating in their juries.

2.5 The Academy and International Partners

- We strengthen relations with foreign academies and consortia of academies, participate in their management teams and are particularly involved in joint activities which aim to provide scientific advice and best knowledge to countries, regions and the European Commission.
- We systematically communicate in Estonia the solutions and recommendations developed in sister academies and consortia of academies, as well as reports and reviews published by them.
- We continue bilateral exchange programmes with partner academies, curating and enriching researcher mobility also in areas that are not priority for big research programmes, but have an important cultural significance or otherwise broaden perspectives for scientific cooperation.

3. In summary

The Academy considers it important (i) to go beyond the classical framework of representing cutting-edge science and to address the society, (ii) to make its members and support structure capable of providing the best possible science-based knowledge to the country, (iii) to be present and visible wherever the voice of top scientists needs to be heard, (iv) to become a platform of sharing the best ideas from Estonia and (v) to amplify innovative ideas from the academic community in Europe and around the world.