

Act on public support for research

2003 No 3 3 February

Entry into force 7 February 2003. Amended by Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011) and Act No 149/2012 (entry into force 3 January 2013).

*Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.*

Section I Objective

Article 1 The objective of this Act is to strengthen research and academic education in Iceland by providing support to both fundamental and applied research and promoting cooperation between all those involved in research, as well as to ensure the availability of reliable and high-quality information on academic endeavours and research in Iceland.

Section II Award funds

Article 2 [*Research Fund and Infrastructure Fund*]⁽¹⁾

The role of the Research Fund shall be to support research [and research-based post-graduate studies]⁽¹⁾ in Iceland. To this end, the Fund shall provide grants [to students pursuing research-based post-graduate studies and]⁽¹⁾ for the defined research projects of individuals, research teams, higher education institutions, research institutes and companies. Grants from the Research Fund shall be awarded in accordance with the general priorities of the Science and Technology Policy Council and on the basis of a professional evaluation of the quality of the research projects, the competence of the persons carrying out the research and the resources at their disposal to execute the project. Decisions on the allocation of grants must be based on the professional evaluation.

[The role of the Infrastructure Fund shall be to support the development of research infrastructure in Iceland. The Infrastructure Fund shall provide grants for the purchase of equipment, databases and software, and of any other material considered important for progress in the field of research.]⁽¹⁾ Grants from the [Infrastructure Fund]⁽¹⁾ shall be awarded taking due account of the Research Fund’s applicable grant award policy.

...⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 1.

Article 3 [*Income of the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund*]⁽¹⁾

The income of the Research Fund shall consist of:

1. annual Budget Act appropriations;
2. donations from individuals and enterprises;
3. other contributions.

The income of the [Infrastructure Fund]⁽¹⁾ shall consist of:

1. the concession fee payable for the operation of cash prize lotteries or other similar

income;

2. other contributions.

^(a)*Act No 149/2012, Article 2.*

Article 4 [*Board of the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund*]^(a)

[The Minister shall appoint a five-member Board for a three-year term on the nominations by the Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council. The five persons nominated must possess experience and sound knowledge in the field of research and shall include one member of the Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council. Alternate members shall be appointed in the same manner. The Minister shall appoint the chair and the vice-chair from among the members of the Board.]^(a)

[The Board of the Research Fund shall also serve as the Board of the [Infrastructure Fund].^(a)

[The Board shall decide on grants from the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund after consulting with expert panels appointed pursuant to Article 5. If deemed necessary, the Board may seek expert advice to supplement that provided by the Funds' expert panels.]^(a)

[In the case of a tie vote by the Board ...^(a), the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

[Decisions by the Board ...^(a) on grant allocations pursuant to this Act cannot be referred to a higher administrative authority.

[The cost incurred for the evaluation of applications and the activities of the Board ...^(a) shall be covered by the Funds' annual income.

[The Board ...^(a), acting on a proposal by the Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council, may award recognition for exceptional achievement in the field of research from the Research Fund's financial resources.

^(a)*Act No 149/2012, Article 3.*

Article 5 [*Research Fund and Infrastructure Fund expert panels*]

[The Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council shall appoint, for two-year terms, expert panels in the principal academic fields the role of which shall be to advise the Board on allocations from the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund. The Chairs of the expert panels shall be specifically appointed by the Science Committee. The expert panels shall also serve as advisors for the Science and Technology Policy Council and its subcommittees as requested.

[Research Fund expert panels shall be comprised of as many as seven persons possessing extensive experience in the field of research. These persons may not be members of either the Science and Technology Policy Council or the board of any award fund operated pursuant to this Act. Expert panels shall evaluate applications based on their academic worth, the competence of the applicants and the resources at their disposal to execute the project, and on the likelihood of the project delivering measurable results and benefits.

[Infrastructure Fund expert panels shall be comprised of as many as seven persons possessing extensive experience in the field of research. These persons may not be members of either the Science and Technology Policy Council or the board of any award fund operated pursuant to this Act. Expert panels shall evaluate applications based on the importance of the equipment and materials in question for progress in research, as determined by the strategic priorities of the Science and Technology Policy Council.]^(a)

^(a)*Act No 149/2012, Article 4.*

Article 6 [*Grant award rules*]

[The Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council shall determine the grant award policy of the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund in accordance with the priorities of the Science and Technology Policy Council. The Funds' board shall publish the rules governing applications, the processing thereof and the award of grants no later than six weeks before the application deadline for each fund, and present the rules to the Minister. The rules shall specify application conditions and the priorities of the Science and Technology

Policy Council.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Article 7 [*Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation*

The annual Budget Act contains appropriations for grants to be allocated to fundamental research and applied research projects under the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation. The Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation incorporates strategic plans for granting priority access to financial resources on a temporary basis. Projects must be carried out in the close collaboration of companies, research institutions and higher education institutions in individual or interdisciplinary fields, and based on high-quality research programmes. Project goals shall be determined in accordance with the general priorities and objectives of the Science and Technology Policy Council.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Article 8 [*Income of the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation*

The income of the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation shall consist of:

1. annual Budget Act appropriations;
2. other contributions.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Article 9 [*Board of the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation*

The Minister shall appoint the board of the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation for a three-year term. The board shall be composed of three members of the board of the Research Fund and three members of the board of the Technology Development Fund, the latter being appointed pursuant to Article 12 of Act No 75/2007, and an equal number of alternates. The Minister shall appoint the chair and the vice-chair from among the members of the Board.

The Science and Technology Policy Council shall define the priorities of the new Strategic Programme. The board of the Strategic Programme shall lay down rules governing applications and the evaluation and processing thereof in accordance with the priorities of the Science and Technology Policy Council.

In the case of a tie vote by the Board of the Strategic Programme, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

The cost incurred for the evaluation of applications and the operation of the Strategic Programme shall be covered by the available financial resources.

The Board's decisions on the award of grants under the Strategic Programme shall be final at the administrative level.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Article 10 [*Research results*

The results of research financed by grants from funds covered by this Act shall be made public through open access publication, and shall be available to everyone unless otherwise agreed. Grantees shall in all documents relating to their research results refer to the contribution of the funds to the project in question.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Article 11 [*Other projects*

The Minister may entrust the boards of award funds, cf. Article 4, with the award of grants from other funds as further decided.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Section III Icelandic Centre for Research

Article 12 [*Role*


The Icelandic Centre for Research is a government agency reporting to the [Minister].⁽²⁾ Its

role is to provide expert assistance and services in relation to the planning and implementation of the science and technology policy of the Science and Technology Policy Council. This shall include:

1. handling the administration of the Research Fund, the [Infrastructure Fund and the Strategic Research Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation]^(a), reporting to the [Minister];^(b)
2. handling the administration of the Technology Development Fund, reporting to the [Minister responsible for industrial development and innovation].^{1(b)}
3. handling the administration of other funds as further decided by the [Minister];^(b)
4. providing services to the expert panels and Boards of the abovementioned funds;
5. on behalf of the Science and Technology Policy Council and its committees, handling the collection of data and the dissemination of information on research, technological development and innovation in Iceland, as well as the collection of information and data concerning academic and technological developments on the international scene;
6. carrying out regular evaluations of the results of research, development and innovation in Iceland and representing Iceland in international comparative studies in this field when requested;
7. informing the general public about research activities in Iceland;
8. informing and advising individuals, institutions and enterprises about possibilities for obtaining grants, and promoting cooperation on research projects at home and abroad;
9. cooperating with similar institutions and agencies in other countries and supervising Iceland's participation in international academic efforts;
10. carrying out other tasks assigned to the Centre by the [Minister]^(b). The Centre may cooperate with other ministries and undertake academic or technological projects on their behalf as agreed upon.

^(a)Act No 149/2012, Article 5. ^(b)Act No 126/2011, Article 358. ^(c)Act No 149/2012, Article 6.


[Article 13]^(a) Director

 The [Minister]^(b) shall appoint the director of the Icelandic Centre for Research for a five-year term. The director must possess an academic degree and expertise in the Centre's field of responsibility. The director shall administer the daily operation of the Centre, serve as its spokesman and be responsible for its finances and for ensuring that its activities are in compliance with laws and administrative provisions. In addition, the director shall be responsible for hiring the Centre's other personnel. The [Minister]^(b) shall provide the director with terms of reference.

^(a)Act No 149/2012, Article 5. ^(b)Act No 126/2011, Article 358.

Section IV Miscellaneous provisions

[Article 14]^(a) Entry into force


 This Act shall enter into force forthwith. [...](#)

^(a)Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

[Article 15]^(a) [...](#)

^(a)Act No 149/2012, Article 5.

Transitional provisions

 [I. On the entry into force of this Act, the assets and liabilities of the Fund for Research-based Studies and the Equipment Fund as of year-end 2012 shall be allocated to the Research Fund and the Infrastructure Fund respectively.]^(a)

^(a)Act No 149/2012, Article 7.

¹ Minister for Industry and Commerce

☐[II. Those having been awarded grants from the Research Fund, the Fund for Research-based Studies, the Equipment Fund or the Strategic Programme for Science, Technology and Innovation prior to the entry into force of this Act shall retain all rights and obligations with respect to such grants.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 7.

☐[III. The current boards of the Research Fund and the Fund for Research-based Studies shall retain their mandates and continue to execute their tasks until new boards have been appointed for the award funds pursuant to Article 4.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 149/2012, Article 7.

Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.