



## Guidelines for impact story

For RRF-funded research projects and research infrastructure projects, at least one impact story must be prepared and attached as an appendix to the RRF report. The impact story should address the advancement of sustainable growth and must relate to at least one of the following three dimensions of sustainable growth:

1. Sustainability of public finances
2. Sustainable society
3. Sustainable well-being

### Content of the impact story

The impact story should address the following points:

1. Impact objectives

Include the impact objective(s) of the project in the impact story. These objectives may relate to, for example, mitigating climate change, fostering economic sustainability, or promoting social equality.

Example: "The objective of the project was to develop new technology that reduces industrial CO2 emissions in Finland by 30% by 2030."

2. Actions

Include the actions that have been implemented within the project to promote the selected dimension of sustainable growth, such as the development of research or innovations, trials, or pilot phases.

Example: "The project has developed and tested a new biodegradable material that reduces plastic waste."

3. Successes and challenges

Include both the successes and challenges encountered in the project.



Example: "The project successfully developed a prototype, but securing funding for commercialisation has been a major barrier."

#### 4. Impact mechanisms

Include the impact mechanisms identified by the project, i.e., how the project's actions and results may lead to achieving the impact objectives related to the selected dimension of sustainable growth.

Example: "Research has shown that the new technology reduces emissions at the processing stage, which in turn improves resource efficiency in production."

#### 5. Medium- and long-term impact and systemic effects

Include your projections of medium- and long-term impacts and how they may contribute to sustainable growth, taking into account systemic effects. How can the project's results spread more widely across society, the economy, or the environment? How can stakeholders, such as businesses, authorities, or international actors, support the achievement of the objectives?

Forecasting aims to provide a realistic assessment of the possible long-term effects of the project. In the impact story, this forecast should be based on research, i.e., the assessment of future impacts and their development should be carried out based on the project's and prior research results.

- Consider the broader impacts the project may have on the different dimensions of sustainable growth in the future.
- Define the anticipated development trajectories. For example, how may the project's results evolve over time, and are there any factors that could affect their spread?
- Assess the systemic impact. How might the project's results influence the broader context, such as other projects, societal structures, or economic systems?
- Use previous research. Justify the forecast with studies and observations to ensure the anticipated effects are realistic and plausible.
- Example: "The project's results could promote the adoption of low-carbon technology, potentially reducing industrial emissions by 30% over the next 20 years, particularly if similar solutions are adopted across the EU."
- Example: "The widespread adoption of the new technology could reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 5 million tonnes by 2040. However, its future uptake will require international regulatory cooperation and common rules for emission reductions."



## 6. EU-level impact

Highlight any potential impacts the project may have at the EU level or between EU countries.

Example: "The technology developed in the project could also support the EU's goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030."

## 7. Monitoring and evaluation

If qualitative or quantitative indicators have been or could be used to assess achievement of the selected dimension of sustainable growth, please describe them briefly.

Example: "The project has tracked CO2 emission reductions (in tonnes per year) and job creation in areas of Finland where the technology has been implemented."

## Structure and length of the impact story

- The project name and decision number should be stated at the beginning of the impact report.
- The structure of the impact story is flexible, but the content should cover the topics outlined in points 1-7 above.
- The impact story should be titled appropriately, with the selected dimension of sustainable growth clearly reflected in the title.
- Length: 3-10 pages (Font: Arial or Times New Roman, Font size: 12, Line Spacing: 1.5, Standard margins).
- The story may include tables, figures, links, and sources.
- Language: Impact stories are requested to be written in English.
- The impact stories are submitted in the online system under the decision's additional information section (My applications > Decided > Additional information).

We recommend utilising the materials from the impact story trainings held for RRF projects. The training materials have been sent via email to the principal investigators of the RRF-funded projects and to those who attended the training sessions. If needed, the confidential training materials can be requested by emailing [rrf@aka.fi](mailto:rrf@aka.fi).

## Purpose and use

The Council uses impact stories as part of the evaluation of the Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland and the RRF programme, the Commission's payment request reporting, as well as for communication purposes.