

Multidisciplinarity in Funding Instruments at the Academy of Finland

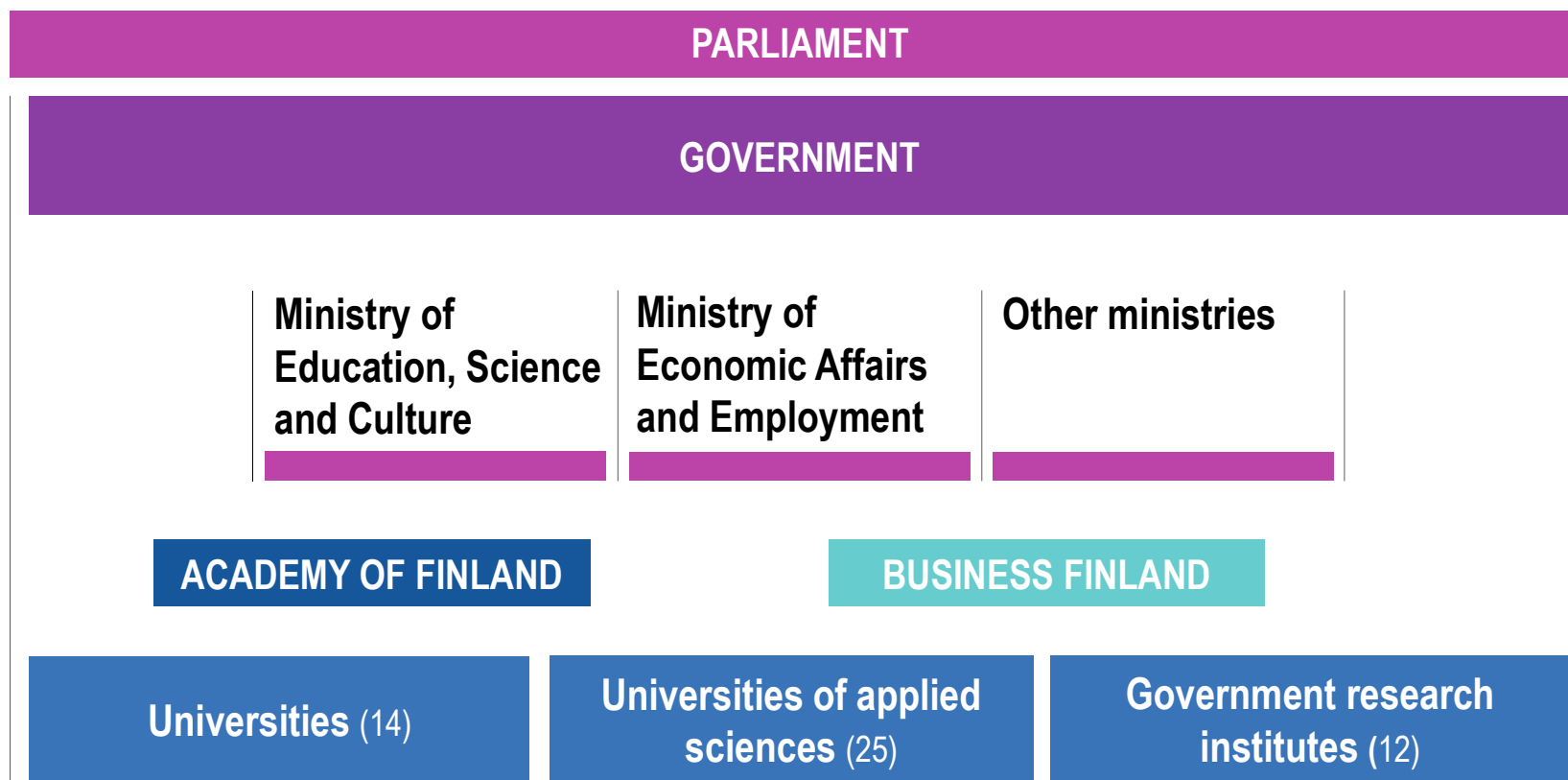
Tiina Jokela

Senior Science Counsel, PhD
The Academy of Finland

21.11.2018 Science Europe



Public research funding in Finland

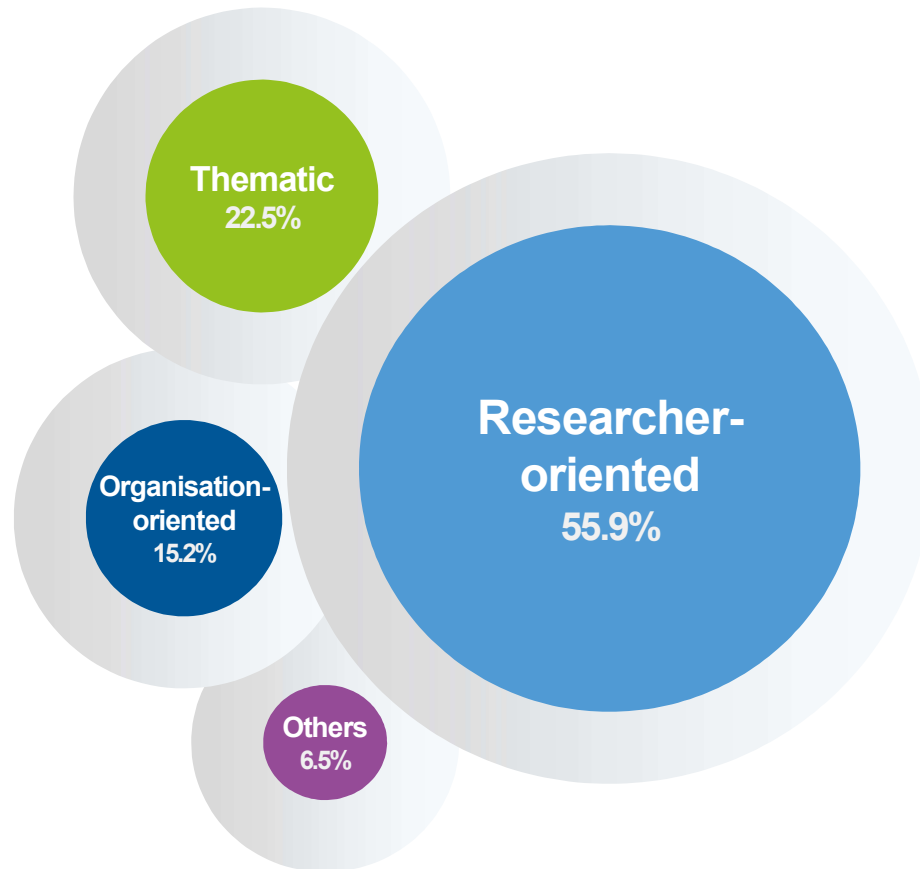


In addition: National Defence University, as part of the Finnish defence administration.



Academy funding in 2017, by instrument

The Academy of Finland is funding basic science in all research fields which enables promotion and funding of multidisciplinary research



Researcher-oriented funding

€246.8m

- Academy Professors
- Academy Research Fellows
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- Research costs of the above researchers
- **Academy Project funding**
- Centres of Excellence

Thematic funding

€99.1m

- **Academy Programmes and international cooperation**
- ICT 2023 programme
- **Strategic R&D funding**

Organisation-oriented funding

€66.9m

- Funding for research infrastructures
- Funding to strengthen university research profiles

Other targeted funding

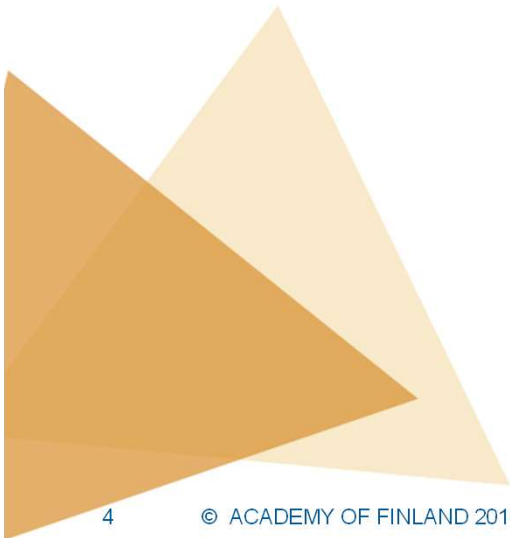
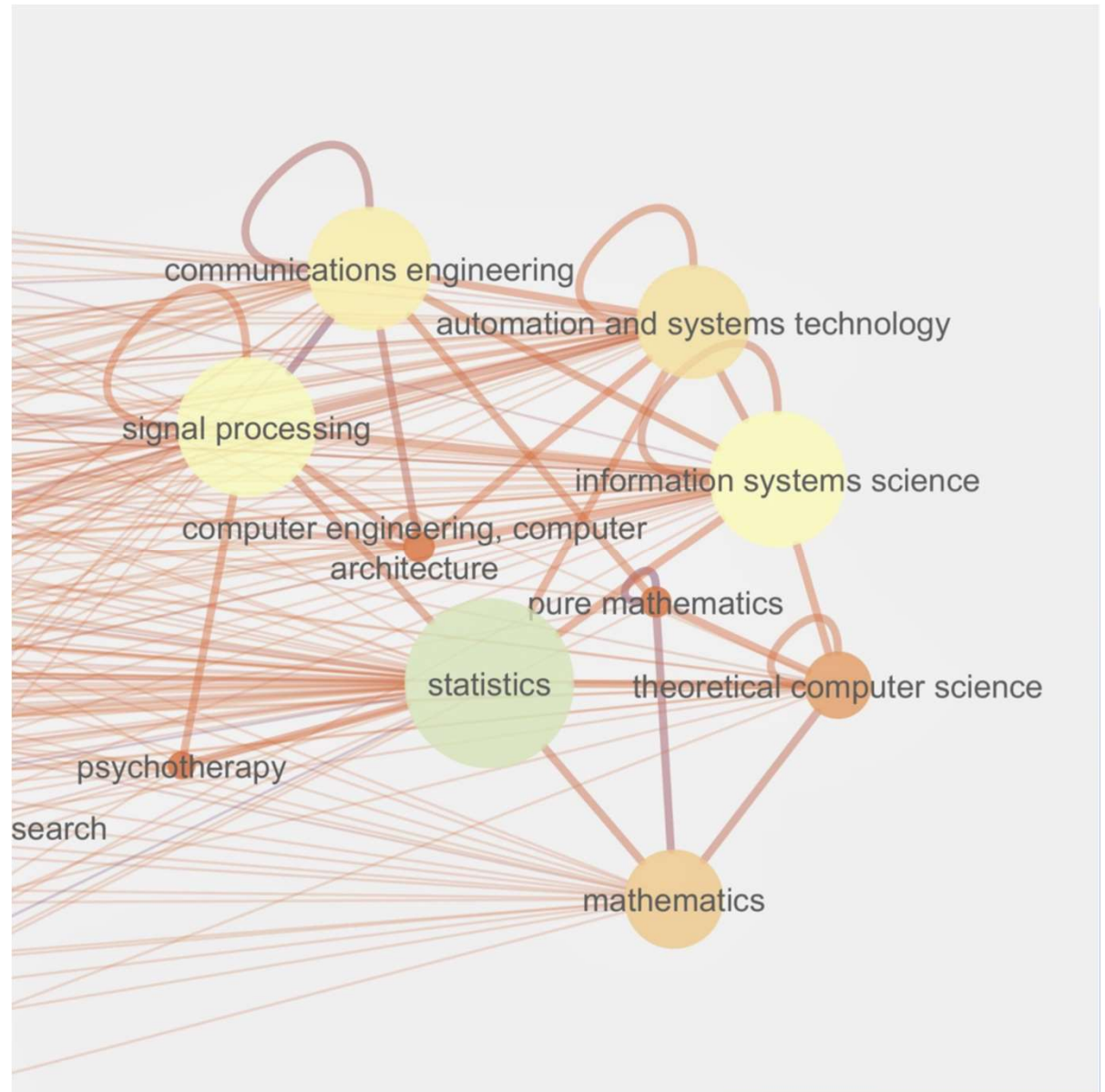
€28.6m

- International membership fees
- Researcher mobility
- Application review, Academy Programme coordination, development and maintenance of research funding information systems

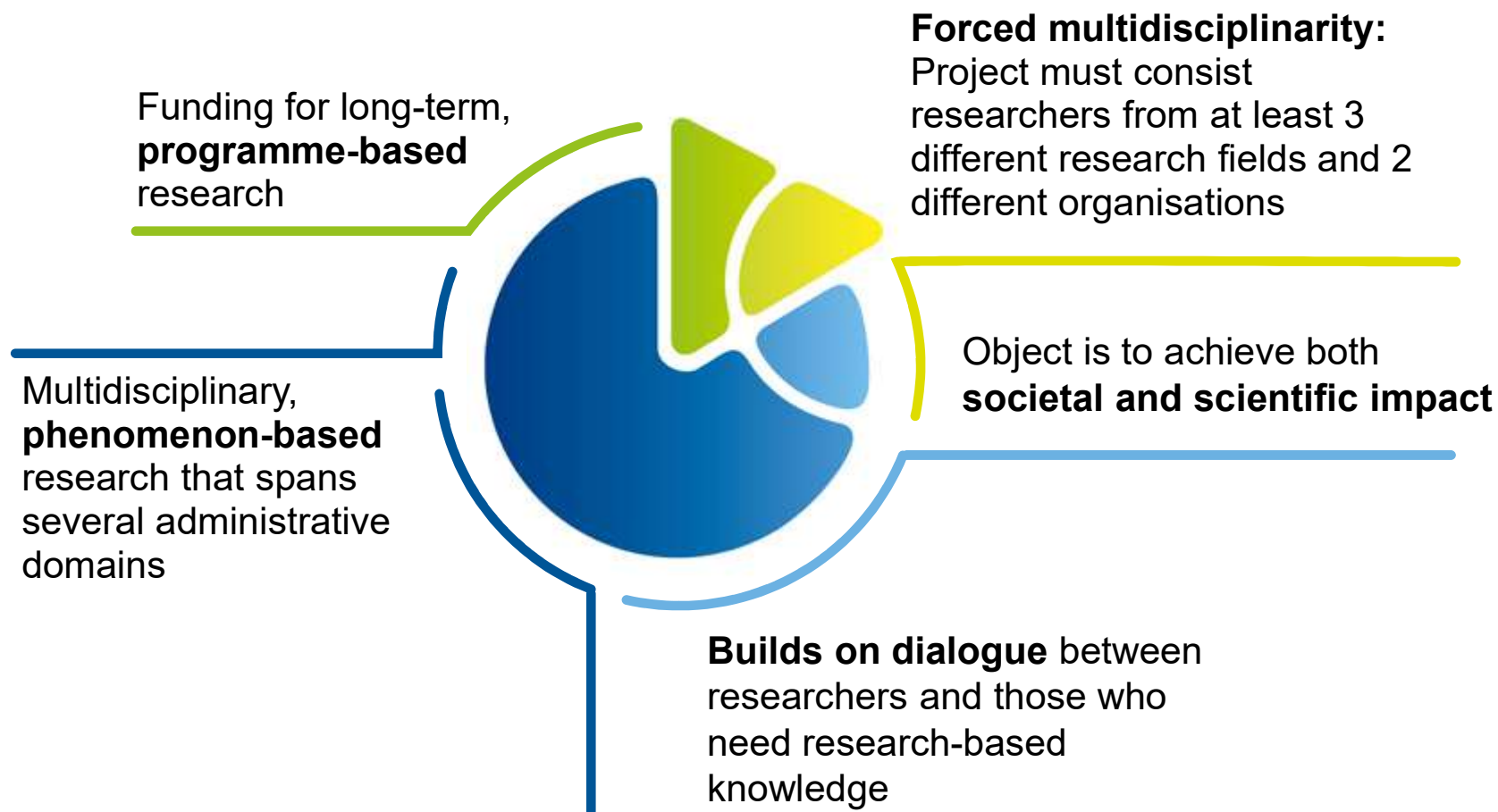


Method to analyse multidisciplinary in proposals

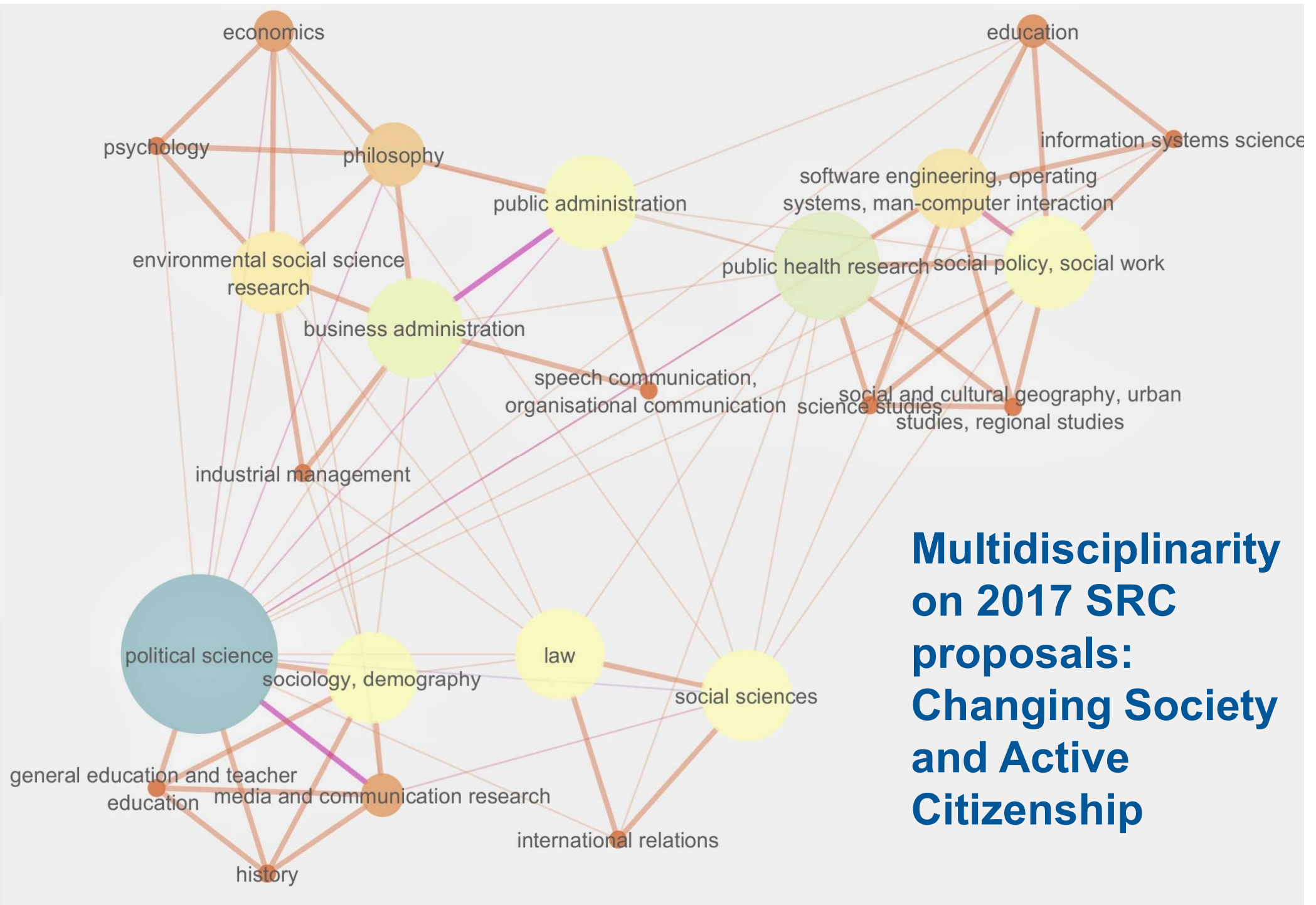
- Algorithm based analysis
- Analysis is based on research fields indicated by the applicant
- Proposal is monodisciplinary if only one research field is indicated



Thematic funding: Strategic research

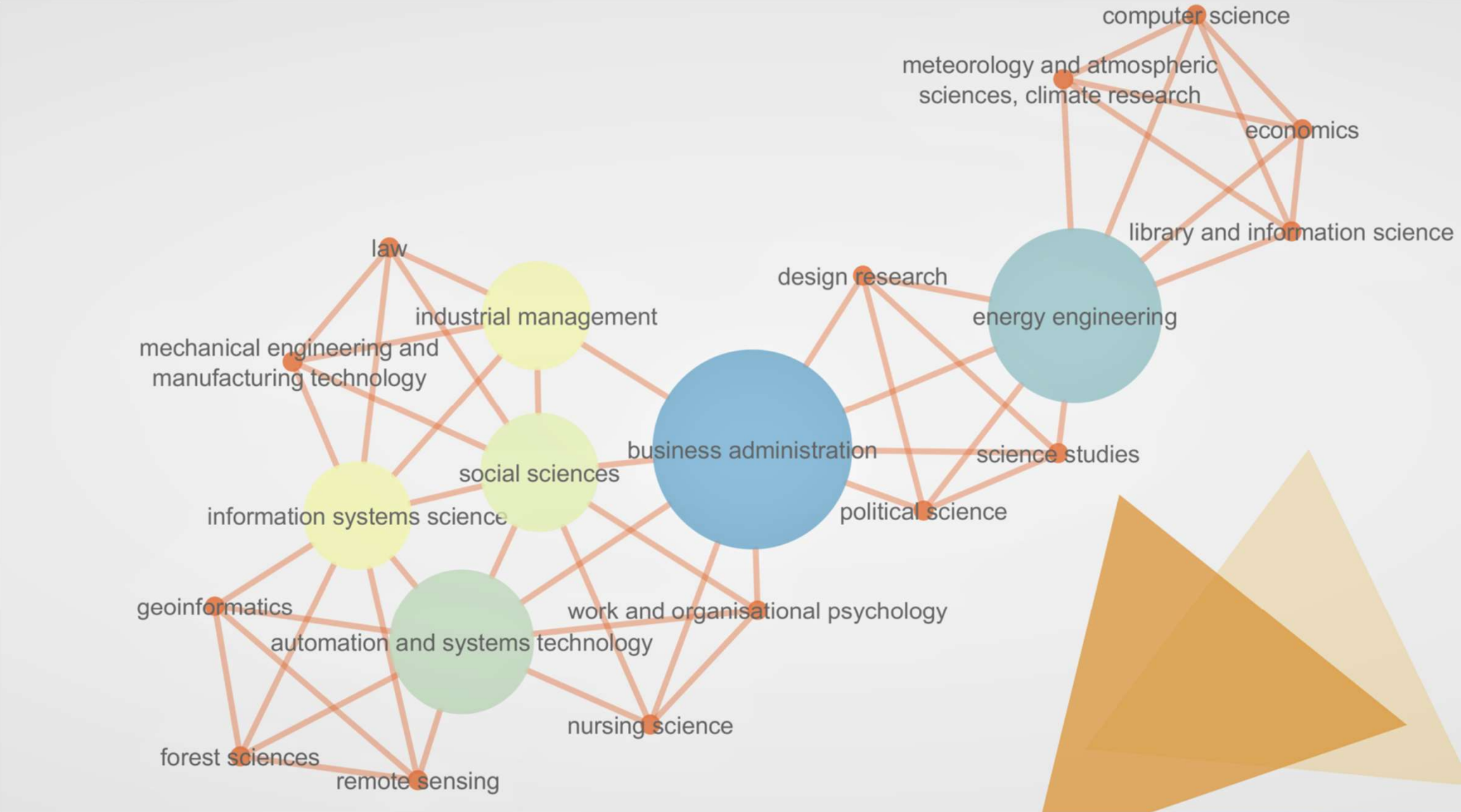


Learn more about SRC programmes and the projects: www.aka.fi/src



**Multidisciplinarity
on 2017 SRC
proposals:
Changing Society
and Active
Citizenship**

Multidisciplinary on 2017 SRC proposals: Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions



Thematic funding: Academy Programmes



- Support the regeneration of Finnish science by providing funding for research into **specific themes**
- Typical characteristics:
 - Science-driven
 - **Multidisciplinary**
 - **Promote science renewal**
 - International

The Academy programme: Computational Science

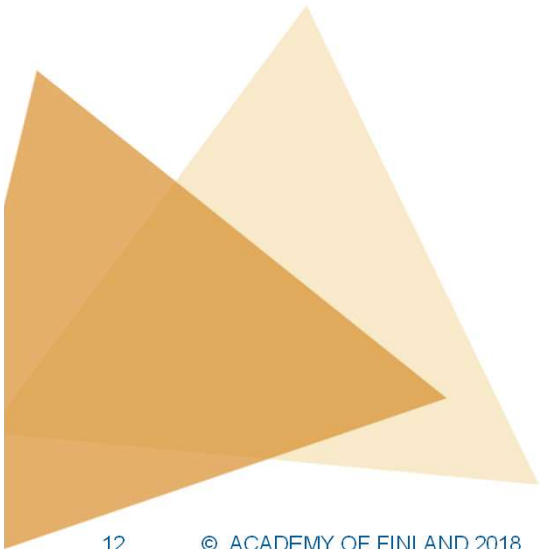
- The instrumental goal of interdisciplinarity in the program has been largely achieved
 - The funded research projects have successfully applied computational methods to understanding and solving complex problems in various domains of science and society, including domains that have not as yet fully exploited the advanced computing capabilities
- The added value of the programme was the multi- or interdisciplinarity and unlimited collaboration
- Enabled research spin-offs, changing of ideas and support from a wider international network of scientists

- Study executed by Dr. Huutoniemi as a part of programme evaluation 2018



Questions raised by the data

- Effect on evaluation of proposals?
- Effect on criteria for expert panelist?
- Effect on decision making?
- Recognition of new openings?
- Applicants experience and feedback?
- Need for reflection!



Next steps

- Validate used algorithms
 - Is analysed multidisciplinary in line with observed one in proposals
 - Compare results of algorithm based analysis with qualitative study
- Systemically follow development of multidisciplinary on proposals in a yearly manner
- Recognise novel combinations of research fields implicated in proposals
 - ➔ may indicate development of new research areas

Conclusions

- Data analysis showcases the change ongoing already today in science
 - Questions faced today request multidisciplinary from bottom-up research
- Data analysis tool is needed to recognize the changing environment
- Wicked problems span several administrative domains / research fields
- Multi- and interdisciplinary research promote renewal of science
- International (non-thematic) initiatives for promoting interdisciplinary research
 - ERC Synergy Grant
 - NordForsk's initiative: Nordic Programme for Interdisciplinary Research

Thank you!

