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Annual Report of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters 30 April 2025–29 April 2026

Issued by Permanent Secretary

Mats Gyllenberg

Cooperation in Finland, the Nordic countries and the Baltic region

In the introduction to my annual report last year, I expressed concern about the autocratisation taking place in the world and emphasised the role of academies of science in defending democracy and academic freedom. During the past operating year, the global situation has deteriorated further. Putin's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine continues for a fifth year, and Trump's equally unprovoked war against Iran has shaken the world economy. Under Trump's regime, the United States is well on its way to being transformed from a democratic state governed by the rule of law into a dictatorship.

The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters has continued to analyse world events in lectures and at symposia. Many of our symposia have been organised in cooperation with other actors.

The 2025–2026 operating year began with a conference on the geopolitical situation around the Baltic Sea, both past and present. The conference was organised together with the academies of science in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Peace Symposium in Uusikaupunki, organised in cooperation with the City of Uusikaupunki, focused on Finland's and Sweden's relations with Russia. Peter Ericson, Sweden's ambassador in Helsinki and formerly in Moscow, was the keynote speaker.

Every three years, the Society organises a joint symposium with the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg. This year the symposium took place in Gothenburg, and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters had been invited to participate. Among the topics discussed at the symposium were whether trust in science has declined, and threats to culture, cultural heritage and academic freedom. As a follow-up to this symposium, the Society will, during the next operating year, organise a Nordic symposium together with the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland on how creative freedom in the Nordic countries can be protected and fostered. Planning has also begun for a joint symposium with the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities in Stockholm during the next operating year.

The Society's event during the Night of Science in January 2026 focused on the consequences of Trump's policies. Vaccine resistance, Trump's ban on gender studies and on recognising more than two genders, and a general breakdown of democratic and legal principles in the United States were among the topics addressed.

The ambitious project on the history of science continues in cooperation with the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters and the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters each contribute €212,000 during the years 2025–2028. Other major funders include the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland and the Alfred Kordelin Foundation.

The collection of reminiscence material is a central part of the project on the history of science. In previous years, the experiences and stories of Finnish researchers, or researchers active in Finland, have been collected in written form. During the past operating year, the collection of reminiscence material has continued through researcher interviews. During the course of the project, a total of 200 researchers have been interviewed. Part of the interviews have taken place on the Society's premises at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7 in Helsinki.

During the operating year, the Society has naturally also paid attention to traditional basic research. The monthly meetings, with lectures by members, form the backbone of the Society's activities.

Symposia and other events

During the operating year, the Society organised ten symposia either independently or in cooperation with other actors. Detailed reports on these symposia will be published in SPHINX 2025–2026. A list of the symposia follows below.

14–15 May 2025, Hanaholmen – Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre, Espoo
In cooperation with the academies of science in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Society organised the conference "The 19th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation" on the theme *Bridging and Bonding – Migration across the Baltic Sea*.

14–16 August 2025, Kulttuurikeskus Cruselli, Uusikaupunki
The traditional Peace Symposium in Uusikaupunki is organised every two years in cooperation between the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters and the City of Uusikaupunki. In 2025, the theme was Sweden, Finland and Russia, maritime transport, and the crisis in Sudan.

22 September 2025, Åbo Akademi University
A symposium in memory of Nils Erik Enkvist on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The symposium was organised by the Society in cooperation with Åbo Akademi University.

13–14 October 2025, Wallenberg Conference Centre, Gothenburg
In cooperation with the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters organised an interdisciplinary symposium, *Culture and Science in an Unstable World*.

22 October 2025, Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7, Helsinki
The Society hosted a discussion on Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, to which Filosofiklubi had been specially invited.

24 October 2025, Finnish Literature Society, Hallituskatu 1, Helsinki
In cooperation with the Finnish Literature Society and the af Hällström Family Association, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters organised the symposium *Gustaf Gabriel Hällström 250 Years – The Early Period of Autonomy, the History of Science and the Noblesse de Robe.*

12 November 2025, Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7, Helsinki
To mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund, the Society organised a symposium at which many recipients of the FD Mikael Björnberg Prize gave lectures. Representatives of the Björnberg family had been specially invited.

3 December 2025, Biomedicum 1, Helsinki
In cooperation with the Biomedicum Helsinki Foundation, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters organised a symposium highlighting the background and significance of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The symposium was entitled *Lääketieteen Nobel-palkinnot 2025 – täsmähoitoja immuunitauteihin ja syöpään?*

22 January 2026, Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Helsinki
Night of Science: One Year with Trump's New Administration

30 March 2026, Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Helsinki
Nuclear Power Yesterday, Today and in the Future

Board and monthly meetings

The first monthly meeting of the operating year, on 19 May 2025, was held in the traditional manner at the Finnish Medical Society's Villa Aikala in Meilahti, Helsinki. The meetings in September, October and November took place in the Lisa Hagman Hall at the House of Science and Letters, Kirkkokatu 6, Helsinki, and the meeting on 15 December 2025 at Handelsgillet, Kasarmikatu 23. In January, we gathered as usual in Turku, this time in Åbo Akademi University's new Astra building.

The renovation of the House of the Estates was finally completed, and after three years in exile the Society was able to return to the Chamber of the Estate of Peasants for the meetings in February and March.

The statutory annual meeting on 20 April 2026 was held in the meeting room Lolo on the Society's premises at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7.

Between 43 and 56 people attended the monthly meetings; the average per meeting was 49 participants. This is a slight decrease from the previous operating year.

After five of the eight monthly meetings, the members had a joint dinner at Börsklubben in Helsinki. After the May meeting in 2025, dinner was arranged at Villa Aikala, and after the January meeting in 2026 dinner was enjoyed at Restaurant Grädda, Piispakatu 15, Turku. The Christmas buffet on 15 December 2025 was served at Handelsgillet in Helsinki.

Below is a summary of the meeting programme and the decisions taken. Lectures and commemorative addresses are listed separately after the summary.

19 May 2025

The Board proposed six members to the Research Infrastructure Committee at the Research Council of Finland and appointed Ulrika Candolin as its representative on the National Committee for Marine Research for the period 2026–2029. The Board also decided that the application periods for the grants of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation and those of the Society would be coordinated to 1–31 January. In future, the Society will not appoint a grants committee for the Mathematical-Physical Section; instead, researchers in that section's fields should apply for grants from the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation or the Sohlberg Fund.

At the ordinary meeting, the sections announced their choices of election committees and prize committees for the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters' Grand Prize – Professor E.J. Nyström's Prize 2026, Theodor Homén's Prize in History of Finland 2026, and the Teacher Prizes 2026. The section chairs reported on the membership structure within their sections and emphasised which subject areas lack representation.

Board meeting, 18 August 2025

The Board appointed Heikki Tenhu, with Charlotta Wolff as deputy, as its representative on the Board of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies for the period 2026–2028. Regarding overheads for research grants awarded by the Society, the Board decided that the host organisation may charge research grants awarded by the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters a maximum of 10% of the amount granted.

The Board recommended that the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation award the project "Matemaattisen osaamisen syventäminen peruskoulun siirtymävaiheessa" €85,000 for one year and reserve a further €85,000 for an additional year. The additional funding is conditional on the project progressing according to plan, as shown in a detailed report.

15 September 2025

The Board approved CoFA's action plan and budget for 2026. The Board appointed the members of the prize committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's Prize in Chemistry 2026 and the prize committee for the FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Prize 2026. The Board also appointed Rolf Stenberg and Kai Nordlund as the Society's representatives on the Finnish National Committee for Mechanics for the three-year period 2025–2027. Jan Sundberg was appointed the Society's representative at the autumn meeting of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies on 22 September 2025. The Board also decided to nominate a candidate for the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities' Gad Rausing Prize 2026. It was decided that the Society would reimburse its members' travel and accommodation expenses in connection with the symposium in Gothenburg on 13–14 October 2025.

20 October 2025

The Board decided that the Society would fund the project *The History of Science in Finland* with a maximum of €212,000 during the years 2025–2028, provided that the project progresses according to plan. The Board proposed to the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation that, from 2026, the Foundation's doctoral grants be €32,000 and postdoctoral grants €36,000. Matti Lassas was granted resignation from the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's grants committee. Eero Saksman and Susanne Wiedmer were appointed members of the committee for the three-year period 1 January 2026–31 December 2028.

The Board made decisions on the organisation and funding of the following symposia: Night of Science, 22 January 2026: One Year with Trump; 22 October 2025: Discussion on Aristotle's *Metaphysics*; 23 October 2025: Presentation of this year's Nobel laureates in physics and chemistry; 12 November 2025: FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund anniversary symposium; 3 December 2025: *Lääketieteen Nobel-palkinnot 2025 – täsmähoitoja immuunitauteihin ja syöpään?*; 30 March 2026: Nuclear Power Yesterday, Today and in the Future; 29 May 2026: How to Speak about What Is Essential?

The Board nominated one person as recipient of the Antonio Feltrinelli Prize 2026. It was decided that, in future, section chairs would be invited to Board meetings.

17 November 2025

The Board appointed the members of the prize committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's prizes for the best doctoral dissertations in mathematics, physics, including astronomy, and chemistry approved at Finnish universities in 2025. The Board nominated one of its books published in 2025 for Science Book of the Year, awarded by the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing.

At the ordinary meeting, the Society decided to change Tomas Roslin's membership status from foreign member to ordinary member. Roslin belongs to the Biosciences Section. The discussion of proposals for new members continued. The submitted proposals were presented, and the section chairs, who also serve as chairs of the election committees, justified the committees' proposals. The matter was tabled until the meeting on 15 December 2025.

15 December 2025

The Board decided to grant the Finnish Physical Society a maximum of €4,000 to invite one or more of the 2025 Nobel laureates in physics to Finland. The management fee for 2026 was set at 0.6% of the market value of the assets. The Society will budget €650,000 for grants in the ordinary distribution in spring 2026. In addition, travel grants may be awarded during the year without an application period. The prize amounts for the Society's prizes were confirmed. The Board authorised the Permanent Secretary and the Treasurer jointly to make appropriate decisions on the investment of the Society's assets during 2026. The Board must be informed of such decisions.

At the ordinary meeting, the Society elected seven ordinary members and one foreign member; see under the heading "Members" below. After the meeting, a portrait of Mats

Gyllenberg, painted by Professor Juhani von Boehm, was unveiled in the banquet hall of Handelsgillet, Kasarmikatu 23, Helsinki.

19 January 2026

The Board appointed Erika Löfström as chair of the Teacher Prize Committee 2026 and nominated one person as recipient of the Volvo Environment Prize 2026.

At the ordinary meeting, the sections announced their choices of grants committees for 2026 and their representatives on the Nomination Committee 2026. After the meeting, there was a break, after which Ulrika Grägg, curator at the Åbo Akademi University Foundation and principal person responsible for Astra's art concept, presented the works of art in Astra. Åbo Akademi University then offered the Society's meeting participants a glass of sherry.

16 February 2026

The Board decided to continue the Maupertuis Programme during the years 2026–2028 with an annual contribution of up to €20,000, provided that the Society's contribution does not exceed the combined contribution from the French funders. The Board then made decisions on the 2026 Maupertuis grants. The total amount was €55,000, of which the Society contributes €20,000. The Board nominated one person as recipient of the Risto Pelkonen Human Rights Prize 2026 and another as recipient of the Balzan Prize 2026, as well as two people as new members of the international prize committee for the Millennium Prize. Jan Sundberg was also appointed the Society's representative at the spring meeting of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies on 26 March 2026, and Ulrika Candolin was appointed the Society's representative on the board and support association of Suomen eläin- ja kasvitieteen julkaisutoimikunta ry for the period 2026–2029.

16 March 2026

The Board approved and signed the Society's financial statements for 2025. The Board reviewed the budget for 2026 prepared by the Treasurer and proposes to the annual meeting on 20 April 2026 that the budget be approved. The Board decided on the award of the Society's research grants and made a proposal for the distribution of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's grants. The Board decided who would receive the Society's prize in 2026 and proposed recipients of the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's prize.

The Board decided that the Society would organise, together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, a symposium on Aristotle's *Metaphysics* in Stockholm on 11 May 2026 and approved the symposium budget.

CoFA's annual report was approved. The Board nominated two people as new members of the Young Academy Finland.

The Board decided that the Society would participate in a campaign ahead of the next parliamentary election, under the working title *Tiede- ja koulutuskentän kampanja*, and contribute €2,000 to it.

Board meeting, 13 April 2026

The Board decided to propose to the ordinary meeting on 18 May 2026 that, from 1 June 2026, a member may be awarded at most one travel grant per year. Unless there are special reasons, the journey must be made in economy class. The applicant's role at the conference must be stated in the application.

The Board nominated one person as recipient of The Björn Carlson Baltic Sea Prize 2026 and another as recipient of the Alfred Kordelin Prize 2026. Olli Vapalahti was appointed the Society's representative on Finland's national IUBS Committee for the three-year period 2026–2029. Mika Kajava represents the Society at the 2026 annual meeting of the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing.

The Board decided that the Society's event during the Night of Science on 21 January 2027 would have the title "Tiede pelastaa maailman – Science Saves the World". The following three themes were chosen: carbon dioxide capture, protection against asteroids, and vaccination.

The annual meeting on 20 April 2026

The Permanent Secretary presented his annual report for the period 30 April 2025–29 April 2026.

The Treasurer's report, the financial statements and the auditor's report, as well as the operational review report for 2025, were presented. The financial statements were adopted and the Board and the Administrative Council were discharged from liability.

The Treasurer presented the budget proposal for 2026. The meeting approved the budget.

Jan Sundberg was elected President of the Society until the annual meeting in 2027, and Pauline von Bonsdorff was elected Vice President. According to the statutes, the Society's President and Vice President are also Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Society's Board.

In electing Board members for the operating year 2026–2027 and their deputies, representing the sections, the meeting followed the sections' proposals as follows, with deputies in parentheses:

Mathematical-Physical Section: Susanne Wiedmer (Peter Johansson)
Biosciences Section: Pertti Panula (Ulrika Candolin)
Humanities Section: Charlotta Wolff (Jussi Pakkasvirta)
Social Sciences Section: Mikael Collan (Gunilla Holm)

The Permanent Secretary and the Treasurer were elected members of the Board for the five-year period 2026–2031.

Eija Kalso was elected the so-called ninth member of the Board until the annual meeting in 2027.

Christian Grönroos and Nina Tynkkynen were elected as the Society's representatives, and Master of Economic Sciences Patrik Lerche and Counsellor Henry Wiklund as external expert members of the Administrative Council.

Christoffer Granholm, Authorised Public Accountant, was elected the Society's auditor for 2026, with Ernst & Young AB as deputy. Rune Stenbacka continues as operational reviewer, with Christer Carlsson as deputy.

Annual celebration on 29 April 2026

The annual celebration was held in the traditional manner on the birthday of Emperor Alexander II, 29 April 2026, at the Old Student House in Helsinki. A total of 193 people, including members, prize recipients, stakeholders and accompanying persons, attended the meeting.

After the President's welcoming address, the newly elected members received their membership diplomas. The President and the Permanent Secretary then presented the Society's scientific prizes.

The ceremonial lecture was given by Anne Kovalainen.

The quintet Cappella Praenestina performed the following four songs:

Orlando di Lasso (1532–1594): *Ave color vini clari*
Philippe de Monte (1521–1603): *O triste ennuy*
Josquin Desprez (c. 1450–1521): *Je ne me puis tenir d'aimer*
Orlando di Lasso: *Quid facies facies*

The evening concluded with a supper with the following menu:

Société Scientifique de Finlande
Dîner du 29 avril 2026
Ancienne maison des étudiants d'Helsinki

Potage de céleri fumé avec croquettes de pommes de terre aux écrevisses
***
Rôti de renne avec purée de pommes de terre au thym
***
Savarin à la framboise
***
Café ou infusion
***
Alcools

Vins

Champagne Le Bullet Brut, Gaston Burtin

2023 Chablis, Garnier & Fils

2023 Crozes-Hermitage Calendes, Ferraton Père & Fils

2022 Monbazillac, Mirabelle du Château de la Jaubertie

Lectures held at the Society's meetings during the operating year

Monday 19 May 2025, Villa Aikala, Finnish Medical Society
Tomas Lehecka: *Discover Language! Making Linguistics Accessible to Everyone*
Stefan Nygård: *Perspectives on Finland's History of Science and Knowledge – Näkökulmia Suomen tieteen ja tiedon historiaan*

Monday 15 September 2025, House of Science and Letters
Anna-Lisa Laine: *The Invisible Diversity of Microbes in a Changing World*

Monday 20 October 2025, House of Science and Letters
Ari Hyytinen: *Artificial Intelligence in Research: Some Observations and Examples*

Monday 17 November 2025, House of Science and Letters
Jussi Pakkasvirta: *The Nobel Peace Prize to María Corina Machado – Latin America and the Challenges of the International Situation*
Pauline von Bonsdorff: *László Krasznahorkai – What and How Do We Understand When We Understand Fiction?* Pauline von Bonsdorff spoke in Finnish with László Krasznahorkai's translator Minnamari Sinisalo about the knowledge and understanding conveyed by fiction and its language.

Monday 15 December 2025, House of Science and Letters
Susanna Paasonen: *The Importance of Ambiguity in Data Culture*

Monday 19 January 2026, Åbo Akademi University, Astra building
Pekka Vallittu: *Biomaterials Science – Interdisciplinarity for the Benefit of Humans and Nature*
Nina Tynkkynen: *When Ecosystems and Security Meet: Resilience, Cooperation and Tensions in the Baltic Sea Region*

Monday 16 February 2026, House of the Estates
Camilla Nordberg: *Language, Silence and Conditional Citizenship in the Neoliberal Welfare State*

Monday 16 March 2026, House of the Estates
Nønne Prisle: *Molecular-level characterization of atmospheric aerosols with ultrabrilliant X-rays / Molecular Characterisation of Atmospheric Aerosols with Ultrabrilliant X-rays*

Ceremonial meeting, Wednesday 29 April 2026, Old Student House
Anne Kovalainen: *The University, Society, the Economy – Where Is There Room for Bildung?*

Commemorative addresses held at the Society's meetings during the operating year

Monday 15 September 2025, House of Science and Letters
Ralph-Johan Back: Commemorative address for Arto Salomaa

Monday 20 October 2025, House of Science and Letters
Erik Bonsdorff: Commemorative address for Åke Niemi

Monday 15 December 2025, House of Science and Letters
Jouko Rikkinen: Commemorative address for Carl-Adam Hæggström

Monday 19 January 2026, Åbo Akademi University, Astra building
Ulrika Candolin: Commemorative address for Kai Lindström

Monday 16 February 2026, House of the Estates
Miska Luoto: Commemorative address for Kalevi Rikkinen

Monday 16 March 2026, House of the Estates
Kari Enqvist: Commemorative address for Matts Roos

Publications

An important part of the activities of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters consists of publishing scholarly literature.

Many of the Society's books have attracted considerable international attention. This year, Jan-Ivar Lindén's translation of Aristotle's *Metaphysics* into Swedish is especially worth mentioning. It is the first complete translation into Swedish and also includes an introduction, commentary and notes. In connection with the publication of the translation, the Society organised an event in cooperation with Filosofiklubi, at which Stefan Nygård and Jan-Ivar Lindén discussed the *Metaphysics*. At the Helsinki Book Fair, Lindén discussed this fundamental work with Pauliina Remes, a work that has shaped our thinking for more than two thousand years and still offers important keys to our understanding of the world and ourselves. Two symposia on the same theme will be organised during the next operating year.

During the operating year, Olli Lehto's book *Tieteen huipulla – Lars Ahlforsin elämä*, published in 2013 as volume 192 in the series *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk*, was translated into Japanese and published by Uchida Rokakuho, Tokyo.

Most of the Society's books are published in one of its series, of which *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk* is the oldest still being published. It has been published since the 1850s.

Juha Janhunen served as editor of *Sphinx*, Stig-Olof Londen of the series *Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk*, Jan Sundberg of the series *Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium*, and Mika Kajava of the series *Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum*.

Printing costs, including editing, distribution, salaries and fees, amounted to €73,785 in 2025, and sales income amounted to €6,192. State support for the Society's publishing activities was €24,500 for 2025 and €40,000 for 2026.

During the 2025–2026 operating year, the Society published seven volumes, comprising a total of 2,298 pages, as follows:

Bidrag till kännedom av Finlands natur och folk, edited by Stig-Olof Londen:

227 René Gothóni: *Mitt forskarliv*. 2025. 401 pp.

228 Olga Engfelt: *Vägen mellan öst och väst. Tito Collianders gränsöverskridande resa*. 2025. 235 pp.

Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum, edited by Mika Kajava:

148 Jan-Ivar Lindén: *Aristoteles Metafysik*. 2025. 403 pp.

149 Ilkka Kuivalainen, Leena Pietilä-Castrén: *Insula Pompeiana IX 3: The Wall Paintings, Mosaics, and Upper Floors*. 2025. 348 pp.

Commentationes Scientiarum Socialium, edited by Jan Sundberg:

84 Johanna Holm: *Authoritarian Regionalism and Democratic Development in the Post-Soviet Region: A Comparative Analysis*. 2025. 390 pp.

85 Richard Eveli: *Survivability of Territorial Autonomy: A Study of Contributory Factors that Explain the Preservation and Secession of Autonomous Territories*. 2025. 241 pp.

Sphinx, edited by Juha Janhunen:
Årsbok – Vuosikirja – Yearbook 2024–2025, 280 pp.

All new books are also published in digital form and are freely available at edition.fi/societasscientiarum.

Prizes and grants

The purpose of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters is to promote the sciences. This is done, among other things, by awarding prizes and research grants. This year's prizes were presented at the Society's annual celebration on 29 April 2026 at the Old Student House.

The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters' Grand Prize – Professor E.J. Nyström's Prize is the Society's principal prize. It is awarded for outstanding scientific merit and alternates annually between the four sections. This year the prize, €50,000, was awarded to Professor Tuomas Heikkilä of the University of Helsinki.

Professor Theodor Homén's Prize alternates between physics and the history of Finland. This year the prize in the history of Finland, €20,000, was awarded to Professor Juhana Aunesluoma of the University of Helsinki.

The Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's prize is awarded annually and alternates between mathematics, physics and chemistry. In 2026, chemistry was next in turn, and the €20,000 prize went to Professor Tanja Kallio of Aalto University.

The Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation's Prize for outstanding research achievement in mathematics is a newly established prize that is being awarded for the first time this year. The prize amount is €30,000 and is awarded to D.Sc. (Tech.) Jan Kronqvist of KTH Royal Institute of Technology. In the coming years, the prize will alternate between physics, chemistry and mathematics.

The FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Prize "to an outstanding researcher primarily in theoretical physics and related fields" was awarded to PhD Henry Hirvonen of Vanderbilt University. The prize amount is €10,000.

At the Society's initiative, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation last year established three prizes for doctoral dissertations: one for the best doctoral dissertation approved at a Finnish university during the previous year in each of the subjects mathematics, physics and chemistry. Each prize is €5,000. The prize recipients are Aleksis Vuoksenmaa (mathematics, University of Helsinki), Kristian Arjas (physics, Aalto University) and Santeri Larnimaa (chemistry, University of Helsinki).

The Society annually awards three prizes to teachers whose pupils have successfully continued with university studies in the relevant fields. Prize recipients may be nominated by individuals, such as colleagues and pupils, schools and other organisations. Each prize consists of a personal component of €5,000 for the teacher and a component of €2,000 for the school. The subjects vary from year to year. This year the prizes went to Frida Crotts, teacher of French at Vasa övningsskola upper secondary school; Reetta Kariola, teacher of biology at Lahden lyseo upper secondary school; and Piritta Malinen, teacher of visual arts at Kaurialan lukio.

In the regular application round in 2026, the Society awarded 44 grants and research grants from its own funds, totalling €663,171. The Society also funded twelve Maupertuis grants totalling €20,000: three grants of €2,400, five of €1,600 and four of €1,200. In addition, during the 2025–2026 operating year, thirty-six travel grants were awarded to members, totalling €81,970.

The total amount of regular grants has remained more or less constant, but the number of grants awarded has fallen to less than three quarters of last year's figure. This is the result of a deliberate policy not to cut the budgets of well-justified projects. Travel grants have increased markedly both in number and amount. The number has almost doubled and the total amount has increased by 130%.

The grants were distributed as follows this year and last year:

	2025–2026	2024–2025

Section of Mathematics and Physics	3	65 000 €		10	67 000 €
Section of Biosciences	12	240 000 €	14	289 748 €	
Section of Humanities	15	197 840 €	20	150 594 €	
Section of Social Sciences	9	108 041 €	13	99 269 €	
Sohlberg's fund	5	52 290 €	4	42 000 €	
Maupertuis programme	12	20 000 €	10	20 000 €	
Travel grants	36	81 970 €	19	35 743 €	
Yhteensä	**92**	**765 141 €**	**90**	**706 804 €**	

The Maupertuis Programme, a collaborative project between French actors, the French Institute in Finland and the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, and the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation, awards grants and subsidies for researcher exchange between Finland and France and for conferences and symposia in these countries. It also funds cotutelle doctoral students. Cotutelle means that a doctoral student is registered at both a French and a Finnish university and completes a doctoral degree at both. In 2026, 18 individual travel grants of between €1,200 and €2,400 and four conference grants of €5,650 each were awarded. Of the grant recipients, eleven are women and an equal number are men. Of the total sum of €55,000, the Society contributed €20,000 and the French funders €35,000. Of the 18 mobility grants, eleven go to Finnish scholars visiting France and seven to travel in the opposite direction. Of the conferences, three are held in France and one in Finland. In addition, one cotutelle doctoral student was funded by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters cooperates closely with the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation. According to the Foundation's statutes, the Society's Board must annually submit its proposal for distribution to the Foundation's Board. In March 2026, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation distributed €2,867,209 in grants for research in astronomy, mathematics, physics and chemistry, including medicinal chemistry. This sum includes the funding of one cotutelle doctoral student within the Maupertuis Programme. At the Society's ceremonial meeting on 29 April 2026, Professor Tanja Kallio received the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's Prize in Chemistry of €20,000. One of the aforementioned teacher prizes is funded by the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation.

In recent years, the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation has also awarded a number of larger grants for particularly important purposes. During the 2025–2026 operating year, funding continued for the previously launched projects CoastClim, led by Markku Kulmala and Alf Norkko, and Super C, led by Päivi Törmä.

The Society also cooperates closely with the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation, whose purpose is to promote individual, advanced scientific research within the disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy and space science, as well as broader Swedish-language cultural work, primarily within these fields, for the benefit of Finnish and Nordic scientific and cultural life.

In 2026, the Foundation announced two-year grants for postdoctoral research in the above-mentioned disciplines. Finnish applicants with knowledge of Swedish could be awarded grants to conduct research in another Nordic country, and Swedes to conduct research in Finland. Three grants were awarded: one in mathematics, one in physics and one in chemistry. One Swede received a grant to conduct research in Finland, and two Finns received grants to conduct research in Norway.

The Foundation also established a prize to be awarded annually in turn within the fields of mathematics, physics, including astronomy and space science, and chemistry. The prize recipient must be a Finnish person with knowledge of Swedish or a Swede who, through future research, may be expected to advance science. The person must have passed the postdoctoral stage but not yet obtained an ordinary professorship. In 2026, the prize was awarded to a researcher in mathematics.

The Society's Permanent Secretary is a member of the Foundation's Board and chair of the expert committee that submits distribution proposals to the Foundation. The other members of the expert committee are members of the Society and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Members

At the end of the operating year, the Society had a total of 401 members. Of these, 290 were ordinary members and 106 foreign members. The Society also has three domestic and two foreign honorary members. The age and gender distribution in the various sections is shown in the following table:

Section	Ordinary members					Foreign	Honorary	Total
	Over 67	50–66	Under 50	Total	Women			
Math.Phys.	40	23	7	70	15	32	2	104
Biosc.	49	31	0	80	19	23	0	103
Hum.	40	27	3	70	26	34	1	105
Soc.Sc.	40	27	3	70	21	17	2	89
Total	169	108	13	290	81	106	5	401

The average age of all members is 72. The following diagram shows the age distribution.

At its meeting on 15 December 2025, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters elected the following persons as ordinary members:

Professor Susanna Fagerholm, University of Helsinki, Biosciences Section
Professor Tuomas Heikkilä, University of Helsinki, Humanities Section
Professor Mikko Karttunen, University of Eastern Finland, Mathematics and Physics Section
Professor Johan Lundin, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland, Biosciences Section
Professor Suvi Saarikallio, University of Jyväskylä, Humanities Section
Professor Olli Vapalahti, University of Helsinki, Biosciences Section
Professor Patric Östergård, Aalto University, Mathematics and Physics Section

Elected as a foreign member:

Professor Sebastian Hasenstab-Riedel, Freie Universität Berlin, Mathematics and Physics Section

During the operating year, the Society received several notices of bereavement. Six ordinary members and four foreign members passed away.

Professor Åke Niemi died on 16 May 2025. He was born on 10 November 1936 and was elected to the Society's Natural History Section in 1977. He was Professor of Ecology at the University of Helsinki from 1977 to 1999.

Professor Carl-Adam Hæggström died on 29 May 2025. He was born on 2 July 1941 and was elected to the Society's Natural History Section in 2001. He was Professor of Botany at the University of Helsinki from 1998 to 2005.

Kalevi Rikkinen died on 21 November 2025. He was born on 14 May 1936 and was elected to the Society's Natural History Section in 1987. He was Professor of Geography at the University of Helsinki from 1973 until his retirement in 1999.

Kai Lindström died on 25 November 2025. He was born on 8 August 1958 and served as Professor of Ecology and Environmental Science at Åbo Akademi University from 2006 until his death. He was elected a member of the Society's Biosciences Section in 2008.

Professor Matts Roos died on 25 November 2025. He was born on 28 October 1931 and was elected to the Society's Mathematics and Physics Section in 1990. He served as Professor of Particle Physics at the University of Helsinki.

Professor Maijaliisa Rauste-von Wright died on 15 February 2026. She was born on 12 March 1936 and was elected to the Society's Social Sciences Section in 1989. She was Associate Professor of Education at the University of Tampere from 1988 to 1996 and thereafter Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Helsinki until her retirement in 2000.

The Society's foreign member, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Stanford University Dagfinn Føllesdal, died on 1 March 2026. He was born on 22 June 1932 and was elected to the Society's Humanities Section in 1975.

Foreign member Stuart Kornfeld died on 17 August 2025. He was Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He was born on 4 October 1936 and was elected to the Society's Mathematics and Physics Section in 1987.

Doctor of Laws Reinhard Mußgnug was born on 26 October 1935 and died on 12 November 2025. He served as Professor of Public Law at Heidelberg University and was elected a foreign member of the Society's Social Sciences Section in 1989.

Doctor of Philosophy Kristian Gerner was born on 25 May 1942 and died on 2 April 2026. He was Professor of East European History and Culture at Uppsala University from 1994 to 2002 and Professor of History at Lund University from 2002 to 2009. He was elected a foreign member of the Society's Social Sciences Section in 1991.

Foreign member Doctor of Laws Franz-Ludwig Knemeyer passed away on April 6, 2026. He was born on May 3, 1937, and was elected to the Society's Social Sciences Section in 1992. He served as a professor of public law, especially administrative law, at the University of Würzburg.

Board and positions of trust

During the 2025–2026 operating year, the Society's Board had the following composition, with deputies in parentheses:

President: Jan Sundberg
Vice President: Pauline von Bonsdorff
Permanent Secretary: Mats Gyllenberg
Treasurer: Niklas Bruun
Mathematics and Physics Section: Susanne Wiedmer (Peter Johansson)
Biosciences Section: Erik Bonsdorff (Pertti Panula)
Humanities Section: Charlotta Wolff (Jussi Pakkasvirta)
Social Sciences Section: John Sumelius (Mikael Collan)
Ninth member: Eija Kalso

The chairs and vice chairs of the sections, with vice chairs in parentheses, during the 2025–2026 operating year were as follows:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Susanne Wiedmer (Peter Johansson)
Biosciences Section: Dan Lindholm (Ulrika Candolin)
Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff (Matti Miestamo)
Social Sciences Section: Peter Söderlund (Åsa von Schoultz)

The Nomination Committee consisted of Mats Gyllenberg, chair, Susanna Fellman, Vineta Fellman, Urpo Nikanne and Dage Sundholm.

The election committees were as follows:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Susanne Wiedmer, chair, Markku Leskelä, Pekka Tanskanen and Ronald Österbacka.

Biosciences Section: Dan Lindholm, chair, Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Hannes Lohi, Vesa Olkkonen and Liselotte Sundström.

Humanities Section: Pauline von Bonsdorff, chair, Ruth Illman, Camilla Lindholm, Sami Pihlström and Holger Weiss.

Social Sciences Section: Peter Söderlund, chair, Niklas Bruun, Gunilla Holm, Åsa von Schoultz and Jan Sundberg.

During the operating year, the Administrative Council consisted of the Treasurer, chair, the Permanent Secretary, Eva Österbacka and Christian Grönroos on behalf of the Society, and Master of Economic Sciences Patrik Lerche and Counsellor Henry Wiklund as external representatives.

The auditor was Christoffer Granlund, Authorised Public Accountant, and the operational reviewer was Rune Stenbacka. Deputies were Ernst & Young and Christer Carlsson.

Members of prize and grants committees

During the operating year, the Society had the following prize and grants committees:

Professor E.J. Nyström's Prize: Arja Karivieri, chair, Helena Lehečková, Håkan Möller, Hannu Koskinen, Eija Kalso and Christer Carlsson.

Professor Theodor Homén's Prize in history of Finland: Laura Kolbe, chair, Jussi Pakkasvirta and Ulrika Wolf-Knuts.

FD Mikael Björnberg Memorial Fund Grant: Kari Rummukainen, chair, Emilia Kilpua and Ronald Österbacka.

Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's Prize in Chemistry: Markku Leskelä, chair, Monika Österberg and Heikki Tenhu.

Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation's Prize for the Best Doctoral Dissertations in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry: Mats Gyllenberg, chair, Eero Saksman, Hannu Koskinen, Emilia Kilpua, Susanne Wiedmer and Heikki Tenhu.

Teacher Prize Committee: Erika Löfström, chair, Theo Kurtén, Marja-Liisa Helasvuo and Antti Mäkitie.

Grant committees for the Society's grants:

Biosciences Section: Cecilia Sahlgren, chair, Sarah Butcher, Seppo Meri, Craig Primmer.

Humanities Section: Urpo Nikanne, chair, Lars Hertzberg, Laura Kolbe, Jukka Sihvonen, Anna-Maria Åström.

Social Sciences Section: Marko Joas, chair, Eeva Furman, Anne Kovalainen.

Sohlberg Delegation: Mikael Fortelius, chair, Carl Ehlers, Hannu Koskinen, Miska Luoto and Indrė Žliobaite; deputies: Erik Bonsdorff and Dage Sundholm.

Grants Committee for the Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation: Peter Johansson, Dan Lindholm, Eero Saksman, Päivi Törmä, Susanne Wiedmer and Ronald Österbacka.

Expert Committee for the Ruth and Nils-Erik Stenbäck Foundation: Mats Gyllenberg, chair, Peter Johansson, Susanne Wiedmer and Professor Barbro Åsman, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The Society is regularly asked to nominate recipients of prizes awarded by other organisations. For this purpose, each section appoints every three years a prize nomination committee consisting of three to five members of the section, including a convener, with a three-year term. The committee's task is to submit to the Board a reasoned proposal for the recipient of the prize in question. The committee may also recommend that the Society not nominate anyone. On the basis of the committee's proposal, the Board sends the nomination to the organisation awarding the prize.

The prize nomination committees for the years 2025–2027 are as follows:

Mathematics and Physics Section: Markku Leskelä, convener, Johanna Tamminen, Juha Vaara.

Biosciences Section: Mikael Fogelholm, Seppo Meri, Martin Romantschuk, convener.

Humanities Section: Sari Kivistö, Henrik Meinander, convener, Martina Reuter, Janne Saarikivi, Ulrika Wolf-Knuts.

Social Sciences Section: Niklas Bruun, convener, Elina Pirjatanniemi, Sirpa Wrede.

Federation of Finnish Learned Societies

The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, TVS, is an important and independent expert body in matters concerning research and research policy. The Federation comprises 301 learned societies and four academies of science. The Federation receives state subsidies from the Ministry of Education and Culture. It distributes these state subsidies to learned societies for publishing activities, international activities, and the organisation of national and international scientific conferences. During the operating year, the Society was represented on the Federation's Board by Mats Gyllenberg, with Pauline von Bonsdorff as deputy, and Heikki Tenhu, with Charlotta Wolff as deputy.

Financial administration

The management of the Society's assets and funds is overseen by an Administrative Council subordinate to the Board. Further details concerning the Society's finances are provided in the financial statements and the Treasurer's report.

The Council of Finnish Academies, CoFA

The Council of Finnish Academies, CoFA, is a cooperative body for the country's four academies of science. Since CoFA is not a legal entity, one of the four academies acts as the academy responsible for CoFA for a period of five years at a time. CoFA's secretariat, which is led by an academy secretary and also consists of science secretaries and other

staff, operates under the responsible academy. Since 1 January 2023, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters has been responsible for CoFA. CoFA has a steering group consisting of the presidents of the four academies. CoFA's secretariat has premises adjoining the Society's office at Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 7.

CoFA publishes its own annual report, which is approved by the Society and CoFA's steering group.

Office and IT maintenance

During the operating year, the Society introduced the application system Rimbert®, developed by the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland. Rimbert® is a versatile tool for managing applications. Researchers submit their applications through the system, experts use it to assess applications, the Board's decisions are recorded there and requisitioning and payment of grants also take place through the system. Rimbert® also keeps track of whether grant recipients have submitted their reports on time and sends automatic reminders when necessary. Proposals for the election of new members are also submitted through the system.

The implementation of Rimbert® has entailed a great deal of work for the office, but in the long run the workload will be considerably lighter than under the previous application system. Feedback from members and other applicants has been exclusively positive.

The Society's IT maintenance and data support are handled by Kenneth Lundström at NuData. His expertise is of great benefit to the Society.

The office has two full-time employees: Office Secretary Anki Geust and Communications Officer Nadine Nousiainen. Their contribution has been crucial to the Society's ability to carry out such extensive activities successfully. On behalf of the Society and myself, I extend my warm thanks to them both.