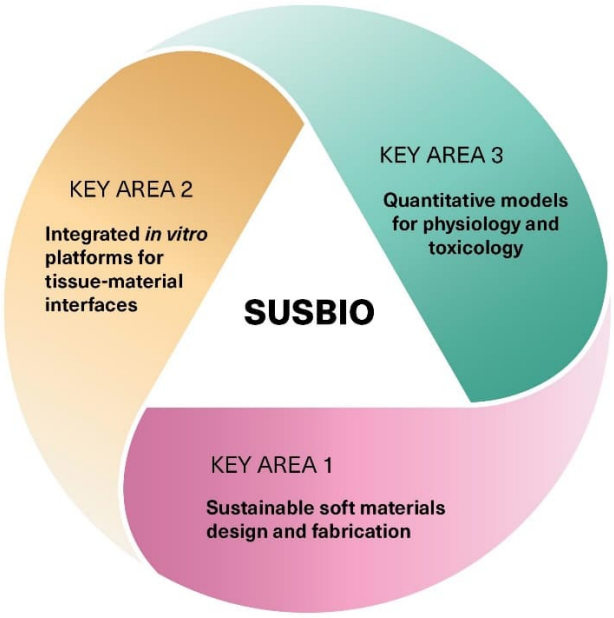
Call for proposals to advance Sustainable Biomedical and Toxicological Research in Tampere

Sustainable Biomedical and Toxicological Research (SUSBIO) is one of the profiling areas at Tampere University that were granted by the Research Council of Finland in the PROFI 7 Call. The key development subjects of SUSBIO project are to **emphasize and enhance cross-faculty collaboration between MET and ENS**. Scientifically, aim is to **develop novel sustainable soft materials**. Another aim is to develop **advanced *in vitro* methods** for studying human physiology and simulating complex disease mechanisms. These methods should be used **to study soft materials or utilize soft materials**. The goal is to find new ways to model human body, allowing deeper understanding of complex physiological processes, which will pave the way for the development of new therapies and diagnostics, and reduce the need for animal testing. In addition, with the help of new biodegradable functional materials, it could in long term be possible to reduce the accumulation of microplastics in different living environments.



SUSBIO is divided into **three key areas**:

1. **Sustainable Soft Materials Design and Fabrication** provides resource-friendly fabrication methods for dynamically responsive soft materials with tailored chemical and mechanical properties, and development of animal-free cell culture media and conditions.
2. **Integrated *in vitro* platforms for tissue-materials interfaces** provides combination of technologies to construct complex *in vitro* platforms with quantitative manipulation and measurement capabilities (electrical, mechanical, and biochemical cellular responses), using a combination of soft responsive materials and lab-on-chip.
3. **Quantitative models for physiology and toxicology** provides development of integrated quantitative models of human physiology, pathologies, and toxicology (e.g. cell monocultures, 3D-bioprinted co-cultures & tissue/organ-on-chip combined with data-rich measurements) to understand the evolution of the properties of micro- and nanoplastics in human cells and tissues. The gathered information will be used to influence to regulatory acceptance pathways for the *in vitro* models, and design of new materials.

Seed Funding Call 2027

We are seeking **proposals for seed funding projects** under the SUSBIO profiling action.
Application deadline: 30 November 2026 (24:00 EST / 22:00 UTC).

Funding details

- **Amount:** 25 000 € (fixed sum).
- **Funding may be used for:**
    - Salary support (full cost model applies, personnel side cost coefficient: 44%, overhead cost coefficient: 97%), and/or
    - other research expenses, which must be itemized in the proposal.

Project requirements

- Must address **SUSBIO aims and key areas.**
- Must be a **new opening** (not a continuation of an existing project).
    - Projects from previous years are eligible **if they have not been started and have not received funding from other sources**.
- **Multidisciplinary collaboration** is strongly encouraged.

Eligibility of applicants

- Applicants must:
    - Hold a **PhD**.
    - **Not** be a full professor.
    - Have an **active employment contract at TUNI.**
- External partners (outside the MET and ENS faculties) are also permitted, provided that they cover their own costs.
    - The added value and new collaboration opportunities brought by external partners to Tampere University and SUSBIO should also be justified in the proposal.
- Applicants who have received SUSBIO funding as main PI in 2023-2026 are not eligible.
- Postdoctoral researchers funded by SUSBIO are also not eligible.

Funding period

- May start immediately after the funding decision.
- All funds must be spent and costs paid by the end of November 2027.

Additional requirements

- Willingness to share the expertise in the usage of technology or data in question with the SUSBIO community in Tampere.
- Submit a 1–2 page project closeout report by end of May 2028.
- Present the project at the Annual seminar of the SUSBIO profiling action 2028.

Proposal guidelines

Template:	Use the attached template for your proposal.
Length:	Maximum of **2 pages**.
Language:	The proposal must be written in **English**.
Format:	Submit the proposal in **PDF** format.
Submission:	Send the proposal to jennika.karvinen@tuni.fi (with a title *SUSBIO Seed funding proposal 2027*)
Deadline:	**30 November 2026** (24:00 EST / 22:00 UTC).

Funding decisions will be made based on ranking in internal peer review. The main evaluation criteria are relevance and added value to Tampere University and the SUSBIO program. As mentioned above, the default assumption is that the proposed **collaborative projects are new openings focusing on the development of soft materials and on strengthening research at Tampere University within the scope of SUSBIO themes**.

For any further information, please contact jennika.karvinen@tuni.fi (SUSBIO coordinator).

