PHOTONICS FINLAND Association's Action Plan for the period 1.1. – 31.12.2027

The action plan for 2027 has been prepared in close collaboration between the Photonics Finland board and office during the autumn of 2026. Budgeting has been integrated into the plan to ensure effective resource allocation. Photonics Finland continues aligns its activities with the Finnish National Photonics Roadmap 2025–2030.

The purpose of the association

Photonics Finland is the national technology cluster driving the growth of the photonics industry and research in Finland. The association connects companies, universities, research institutes, experts, students, and public authorities to foster innovation and competitiveness. Photonics Finland supports the development of new business and research opportunities and helps realize the full potential of photonics in sectors such as healthcare, energy efficiency, safety, manufacturing, and sustainability.

Photonics Finland acts as a national advocate for its members and strengthens Finland's international presence in photonics. The association serves as Finland's National Committee for Optics under the International Commission for Optics (ICO) and maintains global networks and partnerships with photonics clusters, companies, and research institutions, ensuring that Finnish photonics remains visible and influential worldwide.

The association is supported by two official advisory boards, the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) and the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which provide strategic guidance and strengthen collaboration between industry, academia, and other key stakeholders across the Finnish photonics ecosystem.

Membership and Structure

Photonics Finland is a diverse community consisting of corporate members, research and educational organizations, individual professionals, and students. This multi-level membership structure ensures broad representation across the Finnish photonics ecosystem and promotes collaboration between industry, academia, and public authorities.

The association is governed by a Board of Directors elected by its members and supported by the Photonics Finland office, which is responsible for implementing the association's activities and strategic objectives.

To support strategic decision-making and knowledge exchange, Photonics Finland operates two official advisory boards:

- Industry Advisory Board (IAB), providing industry-driven insights and guidance on business development, competitiveness, and innovation.
- Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), ensuring alignment with scientific excellence, emerging research trends, and long-term competence development.

Photonics Finland also supports its members by facilitating access to national and international collaboration opportunities, funding programs, and innovation networks. The association actively

promotes participation in initiatives such as Horizon Europe, Business Finland programmes, and other relevant European and global partnerships.

Connection to the Finnish photonics roadmap

The Finnish National Photonics Roadmap 2025–2030 provides a shared vision and strategic framework for the long-term development of photonics in Finland. Developed through broad engagement across industry, academia, and public stakeholders, the roadmap identifies key priorities for strengthening Finland's global competitiveness and leadership in photonics.

Its key themes include:

- National Photonics Pilot Line
- Continuing and Expanding the PREIN Flagship Program
- National Photonics Growth Engine
- Workforce Growth and Development
- Enhancing Finland's International Influence and Export in Photonics
- Strengthening the Photonics Ecosystem

Photonics Finland plays a central role in advancing these objectives by bringing together stakeholders across the ecosystem, facilitating collaboration, supporting roadmap implementation, and promoting the interests of Finnish photonics nationally and internationally.

Membership development

Photonics Finland is committed to providing high-quality services and tangible value to its members. Maintaining an engaged and active membership base remains a priority, while the association continues to attract new members from across the photonics ecosystem.

Particular attention is given to:

- Companies operating in the photonics sector
- Companies utilizing photonics technologies in their products, services, or manufacturing processes
- Researchers, professionals, and students interested in photonics

Through its activities, Photonics Finland supports networking, collaboration, visibility, knowledge exchange, and access to national and international opportunities related to research, innovation, education, and business development.

Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to FOTONI magazine and Photonics Finland newsletters
- Reduced participation fees for selected events organized by Photonics Finland
- Visibility through the association's website, publications, and communication channels
- Access to the Photonics Job Board and promotion of member job opportunities
- Membership benefits through cooperation with the European Optical Society (EOS)

From strategic priorities to established core activities

Over the past years, Photonics Finland has successfully strengthened its operational capabilities and expanded its role within the Finnish photonics ecosystem. Many activities that were previously highlighted as annual strategic priorities have now become well-established parts of the association's continuous operations.

Project implementation and coordination, member engagement, industry and research networking, communications, advisory board activities, international collaboration, and the organization of events and workshops are today integral elements of Photonics Finland's everyday work. These

activities continue to play a vital role in supporting members and advancing the objectives of the Finnish National Photonics Roadmap.

As these functions have become embedded in the association's normal operations, the strategic priorities for 2027 focus on selected development areas where additional effort and investment can generate significant impact for the Finnish photonics ecosystem.

The main activities of the association in 2027

The strategic priorities for 2027 are based on the Finnish National Photonics Roadmap 2025–2030, discussions held during the Photonics Finland Strategy Day, ongoing dialogue with members through the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), as well as needs identified through projects, events, and ecosystem activities.

Particular attention has been given to opportunities that can accelerate the growth of the Finnish photonics industry, strengthen the availability of skilled talent, increase collaboration across the ecosystem, and enhance Finland's international visibility and competitiveness. The following priorities have been identified as areas where Photonics Finland can provide the greatest added value to its members and the wider photonics community during 2027.

- **Maximizing the impact of the finnish photonics and semiconductor programme**
- **Student member engagement and service development**
- **Strengthening project portfolio and coordination capability**
- **OPD development and growth**

Maximizing the impact of the Finnish photonics and semiconductor programme

The Finnish Photonics and Semiconductor Programme represents a significant opportunity for the Finnish photonics ecosystem. During 2027, Photonics Finland will work to maximize the value created for its members by supporting access to programme-related activities, international networks, European value chains, pilot line initiatives, strategic partnerships, and funding opportunities.

A particular focus will be placed on activating member companies and increasing their participation in ecosystem activities, collaborative projects, international networking, and growth opportunities enabled by the programme. Strengthening industry engagement is also a key objective of the Finnish National Photonics Roadmap 2025–2030 and an important prerequisite for the long-term growth and competitiveness of the Finnish photonics sector.

Photonics Finland will maintain an active dialogue with Business Finland and other stakeholders to ensure that the needs of the photonics community are well represented. Through its extensive industry and research network, the association will contribute ideas, initiatives, and ecosystem-level perspectives that help strengthen the programme's relevance and impact for Finnish photonics companies and research organizations.

Student member engagement and service development

The availability of skilled talent is one of the most important factors enabling the future growth of the Finnish photonics ecosystem. While Photonics Finland has successfully developed services and activities for its broader membership in recent years, student engagement and student-specific services have received less attention and require renewed focus.

During 2027, Photonics Finland will establish a structured approach to student engagement and service development. The first step will be to better understand the needs, expectations, and interests of students, student organizations, and universities across Finland. The association will also review successful practices used by other professional and industry organizations and identify opportunities for cooperation.

Based on these findings, Photonics Finland will work together with students to develop a long-term plan for student activities, services, and participation. Particular attention will be given to strengthening student involvement in Optics & Photonics Days (OPD), increasing interaction between students and industry, supporting local student initiatives, and fostering collaboration between photonics students across Finland.

The objective is to build an active and sustainable student community that supports workforce development, strengthens the connection between education and industry, and contributes to the long-term growth of the Finnish photonics ecosystem.

Strengthening project portfolio and coordination capability

Projects play a central role in Photonics Finland's ability to deliver services, create value for members, and support the implementation of the Finnish National Photonics Roadmap. They enable collaboration between industry, academia, and public organizations while providing access to new knowledge, networks, funding opportunities, and international partnerships.

During 2027, Photonics Finland will continue to strengthen and develop its project portfolio to ensure that projects address the needs of members and contribute to the long-term development of the Finnish photonics ecosystem. Particular attention will be given to identifying strategic initiatives that support ecosystem growth, international collaboration, workforce development, innovation, and commercialization.

A key objective is to strengthen Photonics Finland's capability to take a more active role in project coordination. Coordinating projects would allow the association to have greater influence on project objectives, activities, and expected outcomes while creating additional resources to support ecosystem development and member services.

Achieving this objective requires further development of the association's operational capabilities, including project management, financial administration, contractual expertise, and other functions necessary for leading increasingly ambitious national and international initiatives. Through these efforts, Photonics Finland aims to strengthen its role as a trusted ecosystem coordinator and strategic partner within the Finnish and European photonics community.

OPD development and growth

Optics & Photonics Days (OPD) is the leading photonics event in Finland and an important meeting place for industry, academia, students, and public stakeholders. The event plays a central role in

strengthening collaboration, increasing visibility, and supporting the long-term development of the Finnish photonics ecosystem.

During 2027, Photonics Finland will continue to develop OPD by expanding opportunities for scientific presentations and academic participation. The conference programme will be enhanced through additional parallel academic sessions and an increased number of presentation slots, creating significantly more opportunities for researchers and students to showcase their work and engage with the wider photonics community.

Alongside the development of the 2027 event, particular attention will be given to the long-term strategic development of OPD. Photonics Finland will evaluate future growth opportunities, gather feedback from stakeholders, and develop a roadmap for the continued evolution of the event beyond 2027. The objective is to strengthen OPD's position as the premier photonics event in Finland while increasing its attractiveness, impact, and international visibility in the years ahead.

Communication Activities

The goal for 2026 is to strengthen Photonics Finland's position as the leading organisation in the Finnish photonics sector and to raise the profile of the entire field. Key priorities include enhancing member communications, growing the membership base while deepening engagement among current members, developing media relations in a systematic and strategic way, developing communication about project activities and leveraging events to increase visibility, impact and a sense of community.

FOTONI Magazine

The high-quality FOTONI magazine will be published twice in 2026. Jouko Korppi-Tommola continues serving as the editor-in-chief of FOTONI. The FOTONI magazine will be available for Photonics Finland members in the designated Member Area of Photonics.fi website (and print).

Website

The website is located at www.photonics.fi . The development of the website will continue in 2026. The Society takes pride of keeping up the most important website of photonics field in Finland. The fundamental aim is to distribute basic knowledge of photonics, inform about the activities of the Society, events, Job Board as well as highlight new innovations and products/services of the member companies.

Website focus areas for 2026:

- Establish a dedicated Member Area (requires Login)
- Update the front landing page for better user experience
- Update the Join Photonics Finland –page to demonstrate member categories and benefits more clearly
- Start a Member Spotlight – news series to bring visibility for PF members
- Review the Resources shared on website publicly / in Member Area
    - Incl. Public / Member Area material banks, currently at https://www.photonics.fi/media-2/photos/ and videos https://www.photonics.fi/media-2/videos/

- Publish an annual photonics status report highlighting the importance of Finland's growth and expertise in photonics and linking it to current themes

Newsletter

The Photonics Finland Newsletter will be sent to all members approx. 6 issues per year (every other month). Clear structure with news – events – new members - member spotlights – international initiatives – impact of activities – projects and opportunities.

An online version of the newsletter is promoted on social media.

Mailing Service

The mailing service for members via email will continue, and efforts will be made to further develop it so that the member registry and mailing list are as up-to-date as possible and update in real-time. The email address for the mailing list is photonics-list@fos.fi. Every person on the list can send relevant optics-related messages to all members using this address.

Social Media

Currently, Photonics Finland's main social media channels are LinkedIn, Facebook, X, YouTube and Bluesky. The goal is to increase awareness of Photonics Finland's activities, member communications, and themes both nationally and internationally, as well as to communicate about current issues. We aim to increase the number of followers especially on LinkedIn. Current and potential social media channels need to be consistently reviewed throughout the year.

LinkedIn - An expert channel for photonics. Individual communication (Photonics Finland team) plays an important role in highlighting concrete activities of Photonics Finland, especially in relation to exhibitions and events, but also in bringing attention to national photonics emerging in the media. The Photonics Finland group serves more as a communication channel among members and those interested in the activities.

Facebook - Aims to reach individuals, both domestic and international, interested in or studying the field.

YouTube – Share videos to bring visibility for Finnish photonics. The outreach of this channel has potential to grow.

X (originally Twitter) - A voice for photonics, reaching various industry sectors/experts and showcasing the activities of members and stakeholders. @PhotonicsF

Photonics Job Board

The Photonics Job Board page (https://www.photonics.fi/jobboard/) and group, as well as LinkedIn channels (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9046550/), support each other in the search for new experts for Finnish photonics companies. In 2026 communications actions will be taken to activate member organizations and individuals to use and benefit from the Job Board.

What's Up Photonics Finland - Online (Teams) session

Short info-session, which is organized monthly and dedicated for all Photonics Finland members. Informal like a coffee break, no long presentations, 15 min. Topics are events, ongoing projects, funding calls, and many other upcoming opportunities. Also, to hear and share any info from Photonics Finland members.

Media relations

One of the focus areas for 2026 is building media relations to increase photonics visibility in national media and produce joint content with members that strengthen the entire ecosystem. Target media: technology and business media, regional newspapers, international photonics publications.

Media relations actions 2026:

- *Journalist visits and network building*
  - Journalist visit at OPD2026 (Q2)
- Updating media lists and active media profiling (themes, journalists, contacts)

Developing joint communications with members

- Publish a high-quality Image and Content Bank in the Member Area for members to use in their own communications
- *Photonics Impact Stories* – jointly crafted member success stories
- Joint press releases with members/the network in connection with key events (OPD2026, EOSAM, Photonics West)
- Photonics Finland's communications team strengthens collaboration with members' communications units by building a communications network.

Organize member communication training

In 2026, Photonics Finland will organize one media training session / webinar covering:

1. Meeting the media and securing media coverage
2. LinkedIn visibility and the power of networks
3. Popularising photonics

- **Goal:** improve members' readiness to interact with the media and produce material for Photonics Finland's channels. Delivered in cooperation with partners.

Communications planning

- A proactive communications plan and yearly calendar aligned with annual events and Photonics Finland action plan
- Leveraging networks and projects (e.g., FiCCC, PREIN, PhotonQBoost) to increase shared visibility

Project activities

Project activities play a critical role in advancing Photonics Finland's objectives, contributing over 50% of the budgeted revenues. The effective management and continuous development of our project portfolio stand out as primary focal points for the Photonics Finland office and board. While the project portfolio for 2026 appears promising, our focus in the upcoming year is to actively pursue new projects for future fiscal periods. The paramount action for 2026 is to ensure the impeccable execution of our ongoing projects. Noteworthy projects in progress for Photonics Finland in 2026 include:

- PHOTONHUB EUROPE - https://www.photonhub.eu/
- Phorwards21
- 360 CARLA
- FiCCC
- PhotonQBoost

PHOTONHUB EUROPE, started in January 2021, 52+12 months

In order to accelerate the uptake of photonics technologies by European industry, and thereby help to boost competitiveness and to foster new business and business models, PhotonHub Europe has established a unique European full-service one-stop-shop Photonics Innovation Hub in a manner which is deeply rooted within the wider ecosystem of innovation hubs and manufacturing right across the European continent for maximum coverage, leverage, impact and long-term sustainability.

Photonics Finland role in the project is promotion of the Demo courses on hyperspectral imaging (online and on-site training in Joensuu) and funding opportunities for companies (for innovation or training).

PhotonHub has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program with 52 partners.

Phorwards21, started in January 2024, 36 months

Phorwards21 will create and implement a comprehensive industrial strategy for photonics in Europe. The action will be implemented by Photonics21 (the EU Commission's partner in the Horizon Europe Photonics Partnership) with its more than 3000 members from companies and research institutions as well as national photonics technology platforms and regional clusters. In addition to already initiated collaborations with end-user and other deep-tech partnerships, contacts with national ministries (Photonics21 Mirror Group) and financial actors such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Investment Council (EIC) and (corporate) venture capital companies will be strengthened to implement the European photonics strategy and thus establish European strategic autonomy in this critical technology. Specific end-user community-based roadmaps will be developed, focusing not only on research priorities but also on industrial implementation, including pilot lines and the creation of appropriate framework conditions. The project involves 17 partners from all over Europe. The role of Photonics Finland is to enhance the connection between technology providers and the application clusters, apart from taking part in other activities.

360 CARLA, started in January 2024, 30 months

The main goal is to engage a multidisciplinary population of university students and early-stage researchers in the pursue of a career in photonics through tailored 360 career development programs focused on photonics application verticals or technology trends that integrate symposiums, mentorship, innovation and entrepreneurship experience and underlying trainings. Combining these elements with a market focus will:

- appeal also students and researchers that might not be photonics aware
- provide participants with a round up view on the photonics careers for each field
- provide them an understanding of the landscape of the photonics ecosystem surrounding the corresponding application vertical, supported by a network of contacts and mentors, experience photonics innovation and entrepreneurship in that field and training tailored to them

The project is a follow-up project to the successful CARLA (https://carlahub.eu/) project. New partners have joined, such as Photonics Finland and the European Optical Society. Total project includes 14 partners and ICFO from Barcelona is coordinator.

FiCCC - Finnish Chips Competence Center, 48 months

The Finnish Chips Competence Centre (FiCCC, www.ficcc.eu) aims to create a gateway for Finnish chips ecosystem to connect with the wider European ecosystem and speed up the growth and competitiveness of Finnish and European semiconductor industry. FiCCC will focus on strengthening the European competence in two interrelated areas where Finland has the best capacities to contribute at the European level, i.e. technologies on: i) high performance energy efficient and complex system-on-chip design, especially at advanced (up to 7 nm and above) nodes and ii) specialized manufacturing and integration processes, including quantum technologies, MEMS, RF and optoelectronics, WBG semiconductors and ALD and MBE technologies.

The key target is to offer easy-to-access first-line support and widened access to technical expertise and experimentation in semiconductors. FiCCC will act as one-stop-shop, facilitating the Finnish stakeholders' access to not only Finnish semiconductor competences, but also EU Chips Pilot Lines, Design Platform, European Network of Chips Competence Centres and other relevant European initiatives. The aim is to assure that Finns interested in semiconductor technologies will have smooth access to all relevant European services. By doing this, FiCCC is also a lead-generating partner for European chips initiatives. Simultaneously, FiCCC will act as an interface for non-Finnish capabilities that are leading edge at European and global level. FiCCC will build on the proven capacities of the Finnish innovation ecosystem by facilitating access to semiconductors related skills and development and by supporting semiconductor related entrepreneurship and access to Chips Fund. These capabilities are vital for enhancing technological competitiveness in Europe.

Partners:

- Kvanttinova Ltd, Espoo
- BusinessOulu Ltd.
- Tampereen uusi sirutehdas Ltd.
- Photonics Finland

PhotonQBoost, started in December 2024, 48 months

The main goal is to help European SMEs enhance sustainability, resilience, and global competitiveness by leveraging the power of Photonics and Quantum technologies. Recognizing the barriers SMEs face such as limited awareness and resources, PhotonQBoost seeks to bridge the gap, offering these businesses access to transformative solutions that can drive sustainability and boost their competitive edge in the global market. The overall budget of the project is 5 M€ including 3.6 M€ to be distributed to SMEs.

This project involves 13 partners from 9 countries from across Europe and EurA PT will be coordinating the project. Photonics Finland is majorly responsible for Communication and Dissemination work package, while taking part in other tasks e.g., matchmaking among European cluster members.

International Activities

- ICO is an international commission for optics.
  - Photonics Finland serves as the national ICO committee.
- European Optical Society (EOS) and Nordic Cooperation
  - Continuing and further developing European collaboration with EOS and other Nordic national optics societies.
- Photonics21
  - Photonics Finland is actively involved in the activities of the European Union's photonics platform, Photonics21, both in stakeholder and workgroup activities.
- EPIC – European Photonics Industry Consortium
  - Strengthening collaboration with EPIC to enhance the international visibility of Finnish photonics, support business networking, and create new opportunities for companies within European value chains and industrial ecosystems.

Photonics Finland actively seeks to participate in the preparation and implementation of Horizon Europe research projects.

Society's Finances

Photonics Finland's financial position is currently on a stable foundation, supported by responsible financial management and successful operational development over previous years. As the association's activities, services, and responsibilities continue to expand, maintaining sound financial management and ensuring sufficient resources remain key priorities.

The association's operations are built around three core pillars: membership fees, events, and project activities. Together, these provide the foundation for delivering services to members, supporting ecosystem development, and implementing strategic initiatives.

In addition to these core revenue streams, Photonics Finland continuously explores new funding opportunities and partnerships to support its long-term development and sustainability. These may include grants, sponsorships, collaborative initiatives, and other external funding sources aligned with the association's mission.

The association aims to maintain a balanced and sustainable financial structure that supports both its day-to-day operations and future growth while continuing to provide value to its members and the Finnish photonics ecosystem.

Resource Allocation

The Photonics Finland office is responsible for implementing the association's strategy, coordinating daily operations, supporting members, delivering projects, organizing events, and managing communications. As the scale and complexity of activities continue to grow, particular attention will be given to maintaining sufficient resources and operational capabilities to support both current activities and future development.

Resource allocation in 2027 will focus on project implementation and coordination, member services, communications, event management, ecosystem development, and the preparation of new strategic initiatives aligned with the Finnish national photonics roadmap.

Office Structure and Roles

Executive Director
Responsible for overall planning and leadership of the organization, participates in decision-making with the board, and manages the comprehensive operations of the association.

Head of Projects
Oversees the entire project portfolio, including PhotonQBoost, PhotonHub Europe (concludes 4/2026), Phorwards21 and 360 CARLA (concludes 6/2026), and pending SMART FORM (5-year project). In addition to managing ongoing projects, the role focuses on identifying and securing new project opportunities aligned with the Finnish Photonics Roadmap and EU funding programs.

Acting Head of Projects
Supports project development, implementation, and coordination during the parental leave period of the Head of Projects. Contributes to project preparation, stakeholder engagement, and the development of Photonics Finland’s project portfolio and ecosystem activities.

Communication Manager
Manages the planning and execution of communication activities, including newsletters, social media, and media relations. Leads strategic communication development such as the Membership Area and OPD2026 visibility, and supports member engagement through digital channels. Project managing FiCCC project on the behalf of Photonics Finland.

Project Manager
Focuses on project-related tasks, including planning, implementation, reporting, and acquisition of new projects. In 2026, responsibilities include FiCCC PIC adviser and PIONEER (Horizon/EAKR) (pending approval) project.

Events and Membership Manager
Responsible for member engagement and event coordination, including full implementation of Optics & Photonics Days (OPD), management of international exhibitions, and development of the Photonics for X event concept. Involved in PIONEER project implementation (pending approval).

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Photonics Finland board takes responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of activities throughout the year. Regular assessments will be conducted to gather insights that will inform adjustments and improvements to enhance the overall impact and efficiency of the association's initiatives.