

## **Recommendation regarding the Reform of Federal Grants**

The Austrian Council has established a working group for grant reform with a mandate to examine the federal grant programmes and draw up proposals for structural and content-related reforms.

The grant landscape in Austria is characterised by great potential, but also by a high degree of complexity and therefore requires optimisation. Together, the BMBWK, BMVIT and BMWA spend just under EUR 30 million on the 50 federal grant programmes. This dynamic development has its flaws. On the one hand, there are structural weaknesses (at least 18 institutions are involved in management and implementation, moreover, there is no central contact office for applicants), on the other, there is also duplication and overlapping in terms of content.

### **The Austrian Council therefore recommends:**

- Setting up a one-stop-shop for applicants
- Abolishing the smallest programmes and creating critical masses by bundling programmes
- Co-ordinating and eliminating overlaps between programmes
- Concentrating programme management at three institutions and consequently reducing administrative costs
- Transparent and standardised criteria for awarding funds
- In order to increase transparency the survey of 50 grant programmes will be published.