

7 September 2015

Recommendation of the Austrian Council On Use of the Funding from the Special Tranche of the National Foundation 2015

Preamble

The Foundation Board of the National Foundation RTD has already decided on funding to the tune of EUR 63 million for 2015. On the basis of the final annual statements, another EUR 22 million are also expected to be available.

For the awarding of this additionally available National Foundation funding for 2015, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development has recommended inviting beneficiaries to provide for the following prioritisation on the basis of the priorities decided on for 2015:

- (i) Reinforcing the research infrastructure**
- (ii) Measures for reinforcing complexity research and**
- (iii) Support for start-up initiatives**

prioritisation for awarding funding of the Nationalstiftung FTE 2015 and sees in the specific focusing of the topics the possibility of achieving critical values in the funding, as well as accelerating the cooperation between the beneficiaries of the National Foundation.

The Foundation Board has complied with this recommendation and has referred the beneficiaries in its invitation to apply for the special tranche 2015 to the prioritisation of the Council.

In accordance with § 11 para. 1 Z 1 of the RTD National Foundation Act, the Austrian Council for Research, Technology and Development was requested on the basis of the decision of the Foundation Board of 23 June 2015 to provide a recommendation for the use of the additional funding of the Foundation to the tune of EUR 22 million for 2015.

The applications of the beneficiaries for the additional funding by the National Foundation basically comply with the Council's recommendation of the prioritisation of the National Foundation of 6 March 2014 and can in principle therefore be supported. The Austrian Council has also analysed



the applications, in particular with regard to its orientation in accordance with the prioritisation formulated in its letter to the Foundation Board of 30 June 2015.

Recommendation

After in-depth consultation, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development recommends the financing of the following submitted applications within the scope of the special tranche of the National Foundation RTD 2015.

Institution	Programme or Initiative	Volume Applied For	Recommended Volume
FFG*	R&D Infrastructure funding	18 Mio. Euro	13 Mio. Euro
FFG	Complexity Science Hub Vienna	2 Mio. Euro	2 Mio. Euro
FFG**	Spin-off & Start-up – Initiative in the framework of the “Global Incubator Network”	3 Mio. Euro	–
FWF	Open Science Infrastructure	6.27 Mio. Euro	3 Mio. Euro
aws***	Programme for implementing a virtual international incubator “Global Incubator Network”	5 Mio. Euro	4 Mio. Euro
aws	aws industry.startup.net – alliances between start-ups and the industry	2.1 Mio. Euro	–
Total		36.37 Mio. Euro	22 Mio. Euro

*FFG = Austrian Research Promotion Agency **FWF = Austrian Science Fund ***aws = Austrian Federal Promotional Bank

The Austrian Council recommends financing the **R&D infrastructure funding initiatives** of the **FFG** with **EUR 13 million**. This project corresponds with the prioritisation recommended by the Austrian Council to reinforce the research infrastructure for the special tranche 2015. The **FWF** application for funding an **Open Science Infrastructure** will be financed with **EUR 3 million**. It is also an important form of infrastructure funding. For this reason, a joint communiqué will be sent out for these tenders; operatively, however, they will be processed separately, but under the shared virtual umbrella of “R&D Infrastructure Funding and OPEN SCIENCE”.

As the other priorities set by the Austrian Council are also to be covered, the R&D infrastructure funding unfortunately cannot be completely financed on the basis of the oversubscription of the special tranche 2015. With the requirement of a positive evaluation of the project, however, a

further financing within the scope of the National Foundation will be provided for in coming years.

Against the background of the future social and economic challenges and their increasing interaction, complexity research is a further important research priority that will have to be supported. The **Complexity Science Hub Vienna** also submitted by the FFG will therefore be recommended for financing with **EUR 2 million**.

The support of innovative start-ups by appropriate incubator models appears against the background of the current results of the Council Report on Austria's Scientific and Technological Capability 2015 to be a key factor and, in addition to research infrastructure and complexity science, has therefore been raised to priority level for this special tranche of the National Foundation. The joint application of **aws** and **FFG** for a **programme to implement a virtual international incubator "Global Incubator Network"** meets this requirement particularly well. It is therefore recommended this be financed with **EUR 4 million**. The spin-off & start-up initiative submitted by the FFG within the scope of the "Global Incubator Network" appears to build on the "Global Incubator Network" of **aws**, and therefore will be submitted again after it has been established.