

## **Statement of the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development regarding the white paper STRAT.AT 2020**

*The European Fund for Regional Development and Competition (ERDF) is one of the EU Structural Funds. The forthcoming funding period that runs from 2014 to 2020 requires a new partnership agreement, for which a new white paper was published in mid July 2012.*

*This document was the first written description of what should or must be the subject of the partnership agreement. In the public consultation process, the Austrian Council set out its position on the document in the form of the following statement.*

The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development welcomes the document formulated by METIS and WIFO and considers that it accurately depicts the domestic innovation system in the context of the Structural Funds' overall goals and priorities. Furthermore, this document should be seen as an excellent starting point for the future formulation of a partnership agreement.

The Austrian Council considers it important that all key actors in the innovation system are involved in the next stages of the process for programming the funding period from 2014 to 2020. An opening to national funding instruments must be guaranteed, as must a complementary alignment of national framework conditions with other EU funding programmes – in the context of innovation this in particular refers to Horizon 2020.

The Austrian Council points out that the Structural Funds in Austria, which are based on the strategy documents of the European Commission (the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Innovation Union and the joint strategic framework) can make an important contribution to achieving the goals formulated in the RTI strategy. The white paper highlights this importance and also draws attention to the challenges which will have to be tackled in the coming months in partnership with all those actors concerned.