

## **Recommendation Regarding the Use of the Supplementary Funding Provided by the National Foundation for RTD for 2013**

In a letter to the beneficiaries of the National Foundation dated 6 February 2013, the Foundation's Board of Trustees announced that it would release an extra 20 million euros in 2013 to fund suitable projects. This was possible because of an additional endowment from the Austrian National Bank.

In accordance with Section 11 Subsection 1 Item 1 of the law on the Austrian National Foundation for RTD, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development was requested to make a recommendation.

The applications for supplemental funding submitted by recipients are basically consistent with the Austrian Council's recommendation regarding key areas for the allocation of funding from the National Foundation dated 14 June 2012 and are therefore eligible for support. The Austrian Council sees the additional endowment as an opportunity to provide greater support to initiatives which in the past have only been partly funded by the National Foundation due to a shortage of funds.

In addition, the Austrian Council also considers that the additional funding provides an opportunity to recommend initiatives that again have a greater emphasis on the National Foundation's guiding principles of quality, risk and sustainability.

### **Recommendation**

After discussing the applications at length, the Austrian Council recommended that the additional funding be allocated as follows:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Amount in millions of euros

| Institution  | Contribution 2013 | Programme or Initiative                         | Additional Funding 2013 |
|--------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| FFG          | 24                | BRIDGE and Competence Headquarters              | 3.0                     |
| FWF          | 18.19             | Priority Research Programmes (SFB, DK)          | 2.0                     |
| CDG          | 4.5               | CD Labs   | 2.5                     |
| LBG          | 5.62              | LB Institute for Lung Vascular Research         | 2.0                     |
| ÖAW          | 8                 | New Frontiers Research Infrastructure Programme | 1.5<br>reallocated      |
| AWS          | 10                | Licence.IP                                      | 3.0                     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>70.31</b>      |   | <b>14.0</b>             |

The 3 million euros recommended for the **FFG** should benefit the BRIDGE programme and should be used for joint infrastructure projects. The Austrian Council also recommends that a further 2 million euros be made available to the FWF to continue the doctoral colleges.

The **CDG** should receive 2.5 million euros to finance a further two laboratories, the CD Laboratory for Medical Radiation Research for Radiation Oncology and the CD Laboratory for Functional and Polymer Based Ink-jet Inks.

The Academy of Sciences (**ÖAW**) has submitted the New Frontiers Research Infrastructure Programme, which supplements and in some areas expands upon the New Frontiers Groups Programme, with which it shares the same basic aim. This should receive a total of 3 million euros from the National Foundation, 1.5 million of which should be diverted from the original application for the NFG and a further 1.5 million which will be provided from the additional endowment. It is also recommended that 3 million euros be provided for the initiative “licence.IP”: Technology Transfer from Universities to SMEs by means of “Inlicensing” as requested by the **aws**.

In addition, the Austrian Council proposes inviting funding recipients to a special round of applications where they can put forward suggestions for a system change that should lead to “long-term and high-risk” initiatives of the kind envisaged in the National Foundation law. The beneficiaries should also make clear in their suggestions how they could contribute to bringing about such a system change. A funding framework of up to 3 million euros per initiative could be provided, which would allow two initiatives from the beneficiary institutions to receive funding awarded in a competitive procedure.