

recommendation

Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development



Institution	Title	Applied for total in EUR m	Scenario 1 Recommendation EUR 40 m	Scenario 2 Recommendation EUR 50 m	Scenario 3 Recommendation EUR 60 m	Reason – Comment
FFG*	Programm "Competence Headquarters"	10.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	The Headquarter Programme has been in place for some time, and comparably high amounts have been invested in this programme. The background research work shows that the average funding sum per funded project was just under EUR 1 million. With a view to a critical mass, the Austrian Council believes an allocation of funds with less than 4 projects does not appear very beneficial.
FFG	Bridge building programme / BRIDGE	20.00	5.00	7.00	8.00	Bridge is a long-established programme. The cooperation between science and economy is an attractive option. For this reason the Bridge Programme must be preferred in view of scarce resources. An allocation of funds as high as possible is recommended according to the resources available.
FFG	Research partnerships – Industry-related dissertations	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	This relatively new programme line promises a boost to human resources in terms of training; the industry shall be integrated in this programme, too. It is recommended this be financed with at least EUR 3 million.
FFG	R&D infrastructure funding	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	As the Austrian Council has already determined, an own funding mechanism for setting up research infrastructures of critical dimensions is not provided in Austria. These findings are also reflected in the focus points of the National Foundation recommended for 2016. A project of this kind, however, would have to have greater dimensions for a beneficial implementation, which currently exceeds the budgetary options of the National Foundation. In terms of a long-term and appropriately dimensioned financing, a consideration within the scope of the Research Financing Act would be conceivable. The Austrian Council believes the application itself is not specific enough. A prioritisation is indispensable for the scarce, limited funds. The application harbours the danger that, while all areas are actually considered according to the scattergun approach, not enough money is available for the individual areas.
FFG	Spin-off & Start-up Initiative as part of GIN	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	The establishment of the Global Incubator Network (GIN), in whose framework the Spin-off & Start-up Initiative is embedded, was only recently recommended during the course of the special tranche of the National Foundation 2015 for funding. The Austrian Council believes it first remains to be seen if the framework for this, the GIN, can be successfully established before further components of this concept are implemented.
FWF**	Special research areas and PhDs	17.10	7.00	10.00	12.00	The special research areas ("SFB") are a superb funding concept with very high quality and maximum requirement for research and teaching. Financing of the SFBs is an essential factor of top-quality interdisciplinary research in Austria. The PhD programme ("DK") received a very positive evaluation in 2014 with a view to its value for training highly qualified scientists. It is also evident that, although the PhD courses are among the core tasks of the universities, the additional and complementary financing of the structured PhD programme by the FWF appears to be essential for the universities until further notice.
FWF	Matching Funds for supporting young researchers and women	3.001	3.00	3.00	3.00	Matching Funds is an innovative governance model that promotes an efficient interconnection of federal and state funding, and it in particular pursues the priorities and recommendations of the RFTE.
ÖAW***	PostDoc Fellowships	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Austrian Council believes the PostDoc Fellowships concept is not especially innovative. There is already a series of comparable measures in this area, especially at European level. The actuality of the orientation towards Eastern Europe must also be questioned. Bringing researchers to Austria in particular requires appropriate framework conditions, such as suitable payment and Tenure Track.
ÖAW	goldigital: Projects for scientific digitalisation	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	The basic idea of an integration of the humanities, social sciences and cultural sciences is welcomed. Innovative and promising projects can be initiated here together with businesses.
ÖAW	HumanIS – Humanities and Information Science	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	The application, and its unique position in particular, are viewed critically here. The objectives are broad and not well focused.

*FFG = Austrian Research Promotion Agency **FWF = Austrian Science Fund ***ÖAW = Austrian Academy of Sciences

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LBG*	Start-up/expansion International Research Center for Open Innovation in Science	6.00	3.00	4.00	5.43	The Open Innovation priority of LBG is very welcome. The support of this important and well-prepared issue is imperative.
CDG**	10 CD labs	10.109	4.00	5.00	6.00	The CD labs are a proven mechanism in promoting the cooperation between science and economy and for promoting knowledge transfer. The Austrian Council believes the question remains as to how much this long-term and established initiative is also to continue being fed into by the National Foundation. This does not concur with the intention of the National Foundation to fund new and risky projects.
aws***	Venture Capital Initiative (VCI)	5.633	0.00	0.00	0.00	Basically, the Venture Capital Initiative does actually address a weak point of the Austrian RTI landscape. The fund's investments over recent years must now take effect in the system. The percentage of investments outside Austria is still too high. This trend must continue to be monitored. Additional funds are therefore not recommended for 2016 either.
aws	Social Business Initiative	6.75267	3.00	4.50	6.75	The initiative supports social businesses that address social and economic challenges with new and innovative approaches. The plan therefore focuses on the important trend of social innovations and links it with the start-ups concept. Social businesses make an important contribution to meeting the existing and future challenges of our society (education, migration, demographic change, etc.). It is recommended that the initiative be fully supported in line with the funds available.
aws	Entrepreneurship	4.50	2	2	2	The Austrian Council believes the initiative is extremely innovative and focuses precisely on the point where leverage is the greatest, i.e. young people. This is about a small pilot project, with which much can be achieved with relatively little funding. The explicit integration of existing projects must be positively emphasised here. The sustainability of the application in question was not, however, convincingly presented and requires further examination over time.
aws	Service Start-up initiative	5.8159	4.00	4.50	5.82	Knowledge-intensive service innovations are an important component of a knowledge-based society, as identified by the western industrial countries, and are therefore an important step towards Austria's innovation leadership. The support of service start-ups is therefore attributed a major effect. The application is the logical continuance of existing initiatives in an important start-up area. Capacity Building (and Acceleration) are key activities in this field in particular. The application scores points with its clear description and detailed illustration of the individual modules.
Total		125.91157	40.00	50.00	60.00	

*LBG = Ludwig Boltzmann Society **CDG = Christian Doppler Research Association ***aws = Austrian Federal Promotional Bank