

Priorities for awarding the funds of the RTD National Foundation 2017

The RTD National Foundation plays a very important role in the Austrian RTI system as an additional funding source for long-term strategic measures. The Council therefore once again regrettably acknowledges that the funds provided to the National Foundation have steadily decreased in recent years, and on average are already significantly below the amount proposed in the annotations to the law. We therefore wish to make clear once again that a sufficient and sustainable allocation of funds is necessary for the National Foundation to perform its functions. The orientation here follows the principle of the National Foundation's long-term planning capability and continuity.

Following detailed discussion and on the basis of the priority areas of action identified in the Report on Austria's Scientific and Technological Capability 2015, the Council Board recommends the following content-relevant orientation for awarding funds 2017:

(Recommendation of the Austrian Council in March 2016)

- Strengthening the national human potential base
- Strengthening competitive funding in basic and applied research
- Strengthening the research infrastructure with initiatives with appropriate critical variables and risk potential
- Measures to strengthen location Austria for research-active companies
- Strengthening risk capital
- Strengthening innovation potential with "Open Innovation"
- Coordination and harmonisation of regional and federal RTI activities

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