

FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

FWF funding opportunities



**FUNDING
THE WAY FORWARD**

FWF funding opportunities

National and European Funding Opportunities Conference

European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole

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Objectives of the presentation

- A brief overview on some of the guiding principles of the FWF as a funding agency
- An overview of the diversity of available funding programmes
- Exemplary information on some specific FWF programmes with **Incoming options**
- Facts and figures

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF)



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The FWF is Austria's central funding organization for basic research with the following objectives:

- Strengthen Austria's international research capabilities across all disciplines
- Develop Austria's human resources for research based on the principle of research-driven education
- Promote interaction between scientists/scholars and all other areas of culture, the economy and society

Principles and guidelines of the FWF



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| FWF principles | Fundamental guidelines for FWF activities |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Excellence and competition▪ Independence | Strictly bottom-up approach, no prescribed research topics |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ International orientation | Quality based on international standards |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equal treatment of all research disciplines▪ Transparency and fairness▪ Gender mainstreaming, equal opportunities▪ Ethical standards | Principle for activities at all levels: design, decision, FWF office |

Key features of the FWF decision procedure

- Strict bottom-up principle: no subject specifications, no quotas, no preferences
- Multiple-assessor principle for all process stages and decisions
- Intensive interaction with the applicant for maximum transparency
- Independent international peer review as a basis for quality control
- Text of expert opinions as the most important basis for decision-making (ratings are only indicators)
- Discussion and decision-making on all projects in all disciplines in a board of trustees with representatives from all disciplines

Decision principles

- Quality → International research community
- Peer Review → International, i.e. only outside Austria
- Number of assessments → At least two per application
- Decision → Board of Trustees, exclusively on the basis of international expert opinions
- Grounds → Communication of the complete expert opinions to the applicant
- Checks and balances → Comparative discussion of all projects in all disciplines
- Decision meetings → Five per year

Eligibility / Principle of territoriality

The applicant's main **residence has been in Austria for at least three of the past ten years** at the time when the application is submitted, and/or the applicant has been **working continuously as a researcher in Austria for at least two consecutive years preceding the submission of the application.**

Exemptions: Lise Meitner Programme (Incoming/Reintegration); START Programme and in future "*Zukunftsprofessuren*" (open to incoming researchers and residents)

- International mobility:

**Lise Meitner Programm
(Incoming/Reintegration)**



Lise Meitner Programme Incoming/Reintegration

- **Target group**
 - (i) Post-doctoral researchers from abroad (**incoming** researchers)
 - (ii) Post-doctoral researchers who have left Austria and wish to return to an Austrian research institution (**reintegration**)

Lise Meitner Programme Incoming/Reintegration

The Lise Meitner Programme is designed to

- enable **highly qualified post-doctoral researchers from abroad** to work at **research institutions in Austria** and to provide them with a maximum of support for their research and career development.
- create added value by enabling **cooperation between the mentor and the grantee**, which will open up new areas of science and research and establish new research approaches, methods, processes and techniques at the host institution.
- integrate the Meitner grantee into the research institution and simultaneously contribute to **"brain gain" in Austria**.
- encourage **cooperation with the grantees' home countries**.
- provide opportunities for **researchers who have left Austria** temporarily to return to an Austrian research institution.

Lise Meitner Programme Incoming/Reintegration

Requirements

- **Completed doctoral studies**
- **Experience in the field of the planned research project**, applicants must be active in their fields (publication record in international peer-reviewed journals; depends on discipline)
- **No age limit**: track record must correlate with academic CV
- **(i) Incoming**: Applications may be submitted only by researchers who have been based in Austria **for less than three of the past ten years** at the time when the application is submitted and who have not been working continuously as researchers in Austria for two consecutive years preceding the submission of the application.
(ii) Reintegration: Applications may be submitted only by researchers **whose main place of residence has been outside of Austria for at least four years** at the time of application and who seek to re-establish themselves at an Austrian research institution.

Lise Meitner Programme Incoming/Reintegration

- **Programme specific**

co-applicant at the Austrian host research institution (= **host/mentor**): letter of recommendation with justification for selecting the applicant (“What kind of additional or new input can be expected?”), **career plan** together with the applicant

- **Application:** on rolling basis, no deadlines
- **Success rate:** ca. 25%
- **Funding:** contract of employment postdoc (€64,670, p.a.) or senior postdoc (€71,090 p.a.), removal allowance (€2,200), children allowance (€1,500 p.a./child), lump sum travel subsidies (up to €1,350 depending on distance), additional money €12,000 p.a. (up to €2,000/year may be allocated to coaching or personal development)
- **Duration:** 24 months

START Programme (Incoming/Domestic)

- 6 years (interim review after 3 years)
- **Target group**
 - Outstanding young researchers of any discipline
- **Aims**
 - Creation or expansion of independent research groups
 - Financial security for a period of six years
 - Qualification for leading scientific positions in Austria or abroad

START Programme (Incoming/Domestic)

- **Requirements**
 - PhD or MD between 2 and 8 years after doctorate, time spent raising children will be taken into account
 - Project must be carried out in Austria
 - Outstanding track record, international top publications
 - Prove of scientific independence and availability to perform research for the entire project duration
 - Research stay abroad (at least one year)
 - Letter of recommendation by department head or group leader

START Programme (Incoming / Domestic)

- **Call** ⇒ end of July – end of September / beginning of October
- **Success rate:** ca. 10 – 15 %
- **Decision:** based on at least 4 written reviews, suggestion by FWF board (May), **international jury** (June)
- „**Short list**“ ⇒ list proposed by FWF board ⇒ final selection of candidates for hearing by international jury
- **Hearing** ⇒ first day of meeting of international jury
- **Selection awardees** ⇒ second day of meeting
- **Parallel submission** ⇒ ERC StG bzw. ERC CoG
- **Funding:** €800,000 (min.) – €1,200,000 (max.), personnel and other project specific costs (for entire period), no personnel costs for project leaders (except for independent scientists: senior postdoc)
- **Duration:** 6 years (interim evaluation after 3 years)

“Zukunftsprofessuren” / Future Professorships (planning stage)

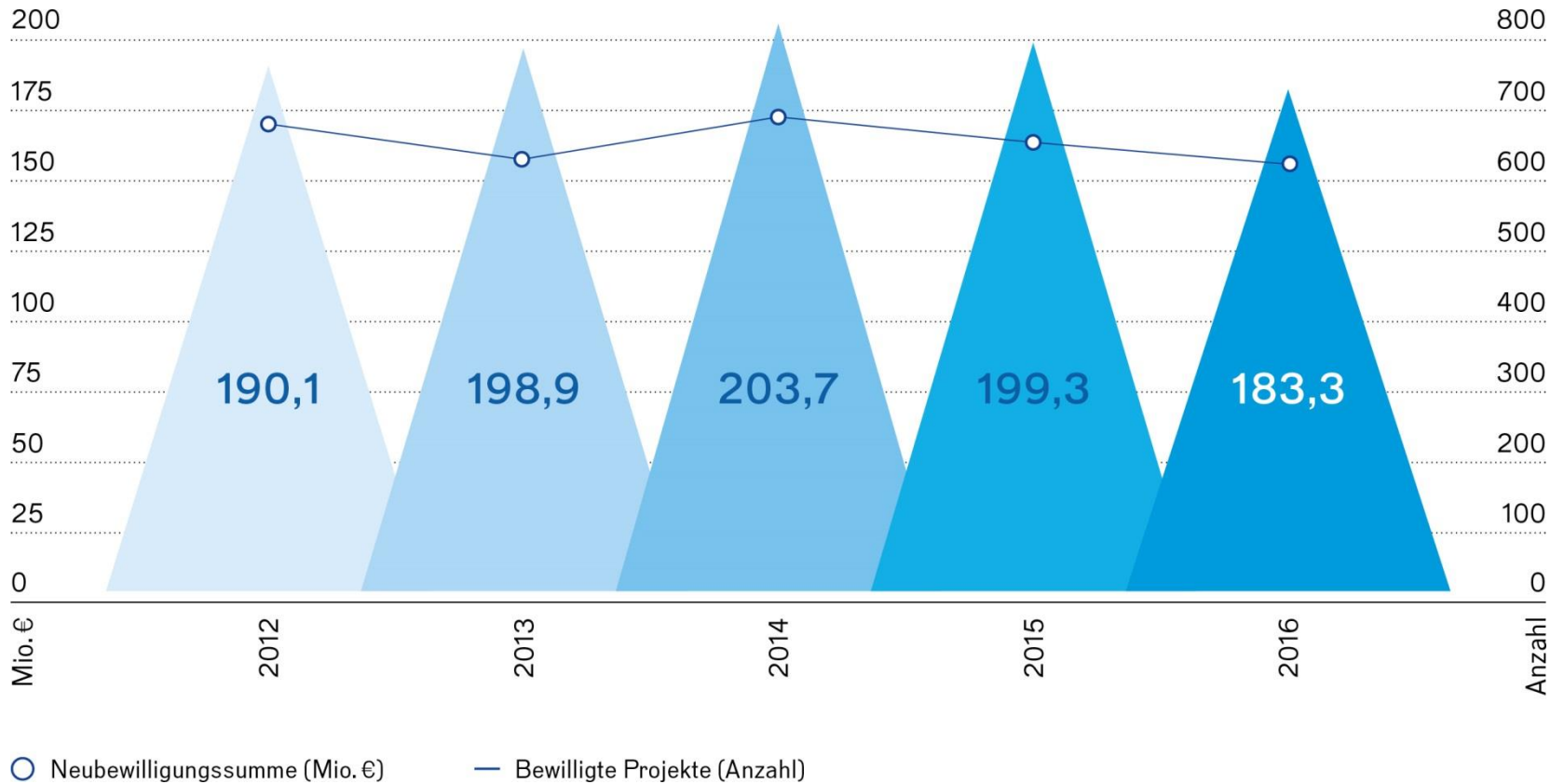
“Excellent minds for innovative research in Austria”

“Zukunftsprofessuren” / Future Professorships (planning stage)

- **Amount**
 - Approx. 25 posts p.a., max. 5 years, €800,000 up to max. €1.5m
- **Aim**
 - Sustainable promotion of innovative research by attracting excellent junior staff; strengthening of Austria as a research location, in particular through internationalisation
- **Target group:**
 - Excellent researchers from all disciplines at the beginning of their scholarly self-employment.
- **Eligibility for nomination**

All research institutions in Austria, max. 120 nominations p. a.

Development of funding

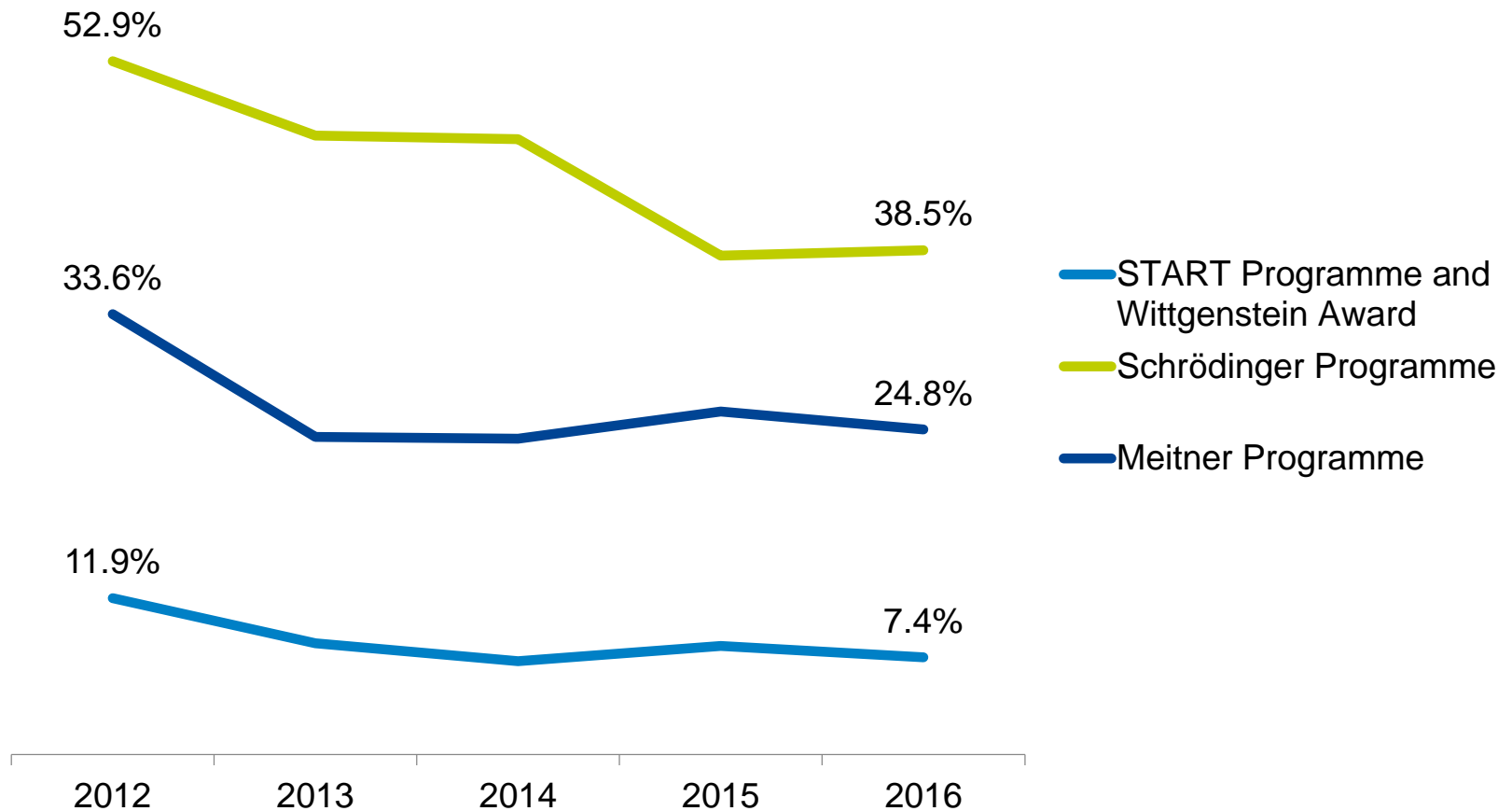


Results 2016 – central figures

- 2,569 applications reviewed (2015: 2,617)
- Total grants applied for: €790 m (2015: €818.2 m)
- 624 new projects approved (2015: 655)
- Totalling million €183.3 m in grants (2015: €199.3 m)
- 3,989 individuals receive funding from the FWF (2015: 4,110)

Facts 2016 – main data

Approval rates (total)



Mobility and Women's Programmes

Administrative and operative project support:

Robert Gass: +43-1-5056740-8502

Alexander Hanisch: +43-1-5056740-8506

Reinhard Schmidt: +43-1-5056740-8504

Claudia Tasch: +43-1-5056740-8510

Susanne Woytacek: +43-1-5056740-8505

Scientific project support:

Simone Recchi: +43-1-5056740-8508

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