

FWF funding opportunities

National and European Funding Opportunities
Conference

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Barbara ZIMMERMANN

FWF – Austrian Science Fund

Strategy – Career Development

barbara.zimmermann@fwf.ac.at

+43-1-5056740-8501

www.fwf.ac.at

Aims

- 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

FWF – Positioning

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organisation for basic research, i.e. research that aims not to make profit but instead to develop scientific knowledge.

The FWF's corporate policy: Objectives

- To **strengthen Austria's international performance and capabilities in science and research** as well as the country's attractiveness as a location for high-level scientific and scholarly activities
- **To develop Austria's human resources for science and research** in both qualitative and quantitative terms based on the principle of research-driven education
- To emphasise and enhance the **interactive effects of science and research** with all other areas of culture, the economy and society

Principles and guidelines of the FWF

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, secretariat



Key features of the FWF decision procedure

- Strictly bottom-up approach, no prescribed research topics, no preference for specific researchers – no funding quotas
- Multiple-party checks in all steps of procedure and decisions (2 reporters, FWF office and Executive Board)
- Close interaction with applicants to maximise transparency
- Independent, international peer review as the basis for quality assurance
- Text of reviews as most important basis for decisions (ratings treated as mere indicators) – full content passed on to applicants
- Discussion of and decisions on all projects from all disciplines during an FWF Board meeting with representatives from all disciplines

Basic procedural principles

Eligibility:	if you request a salary for leading the project: principle of territoriality, except for: START, Lise-Meitner = Incoming
Language:	English
Applications:	Lise Meitner: no deadlines START: next call (expected): ~ July – ~ mid-September 2017
Processing time:	4-6 months (ø 4,6 months)
Decision meetings:	5 times/year

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, START Programme (contrary principle of territoriality)

What principles govern the review procedure?

Quality standard	International scientific community
Peer review	Exclusively outside Austria (ca. 35% USA/CDN, 35% EU, 18% D/CH, 12% rest)
FWF Reporters	Nomination of referees
FWF Executive Board	Request for reviews
Number of reviews	At least 2 (according to requested funding)
Decisions	Executive Board based on the reviews
Ex post evaluation	Peer review of the final reports

Basic principles of expert selection

Reporters	Selected on basis of qualifications and applications (FWF Board), subject-specific reviewer recommendations
Reviewer pool	No fixed set of reviewers, always selected specifically for applications, no reviewers from Austria
Reviewer search	Expert databases (including SSCI, Scopus), journals, rankings, web sites, etc.
Undesired reviewers	Exclusion of up to 3 reviewers
Review of competence	Abstract sent to reviewer
Declaration of interests	Confirmation of declaration regarding bias

The FWF Funding Programmes



EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS – FUNDING OF TOP-QUALITY RESEARCH

Stand-alone Projects
International Programmes
Special Research Programmes
START Programme
Wittgenstein Award



CULTIVATING TALENTS - DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Doctoral Programmes
Schrödinger Programme
Meitner Programme
Firnberg Programme
Richter Programme



REALIZING IDEAS – ENHANCEMENT OF THE INTERACTIVE EFFECTS OF SCIENCE WITH SOCIETY

KLIF
PEEK
Support for Scientific Publications and for Science Communication

FWF-Funding categories according to career levels

For experienced researchers

- Wittgenstein Award

With post-doctoral experience

- Independent proposal of stand-alone project
- Elise Richter Programme
- **START Programme**
- **Lise Meitner Programme**

Post-doctoral level

- Postdoc within FWF project
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- **Lise Meitner Programme**

Graduate level

- Doctoral candidates in FWF projects
- Doctoral candidates in FWF Doctoral Programme

Undergraduate level

- Student collaboration
- Composition of thesis

Mobility - Career Stage (Postdocs)

Lise Meitner Programme – incoming/reintegration

- **Project duration:** 24 months
- **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**).

Mobility - Career Stage (Postdocs)

Lise Meitner Programme

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

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**: reverse principle of territoriality: applicant must have been based in Austria for less than 3 years of the last 10 years (main residence), or working continuously as researchers in Austria for less than the 2 consecutive years prior to submitting the application
- **(ii) Reintegration**: post-doctoral 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 through the Lise Meitner Programme.

Lise-Meitner-Programme

- **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 (EUR 64,240.00, p.a.) or senior postdoc (EUR 70,610.00 p.a.), removal allowance (EUR 2.200), children allowance (EUR 1.500 p.a./child), lump sum travel subsidies (up to EUR 1.350 depending on distance), additional money EUR 12.000 p.a. (up to EUR 2,000.00/year may be allocated to coaching or personal development)
- **duration**: 24 months

Top-quality Research START Programme (incoming or domestic)

- **Project duration:** 6 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

- **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
- no full professorship
- letter of recommendation by department head or group leader

START-Programme

- **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)

Results 2015 – Facts & Figure

Start Programme / Meitner Programme

Funding Programme	2014								
	Decisions issued			New approvals			Approval rate		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
START Programme	75	21	96	5	3	8	6,7%	14,3%	8,3%
Meitner Programme	93	59	152	23	13	36	24,7%	22,0%	23,7%

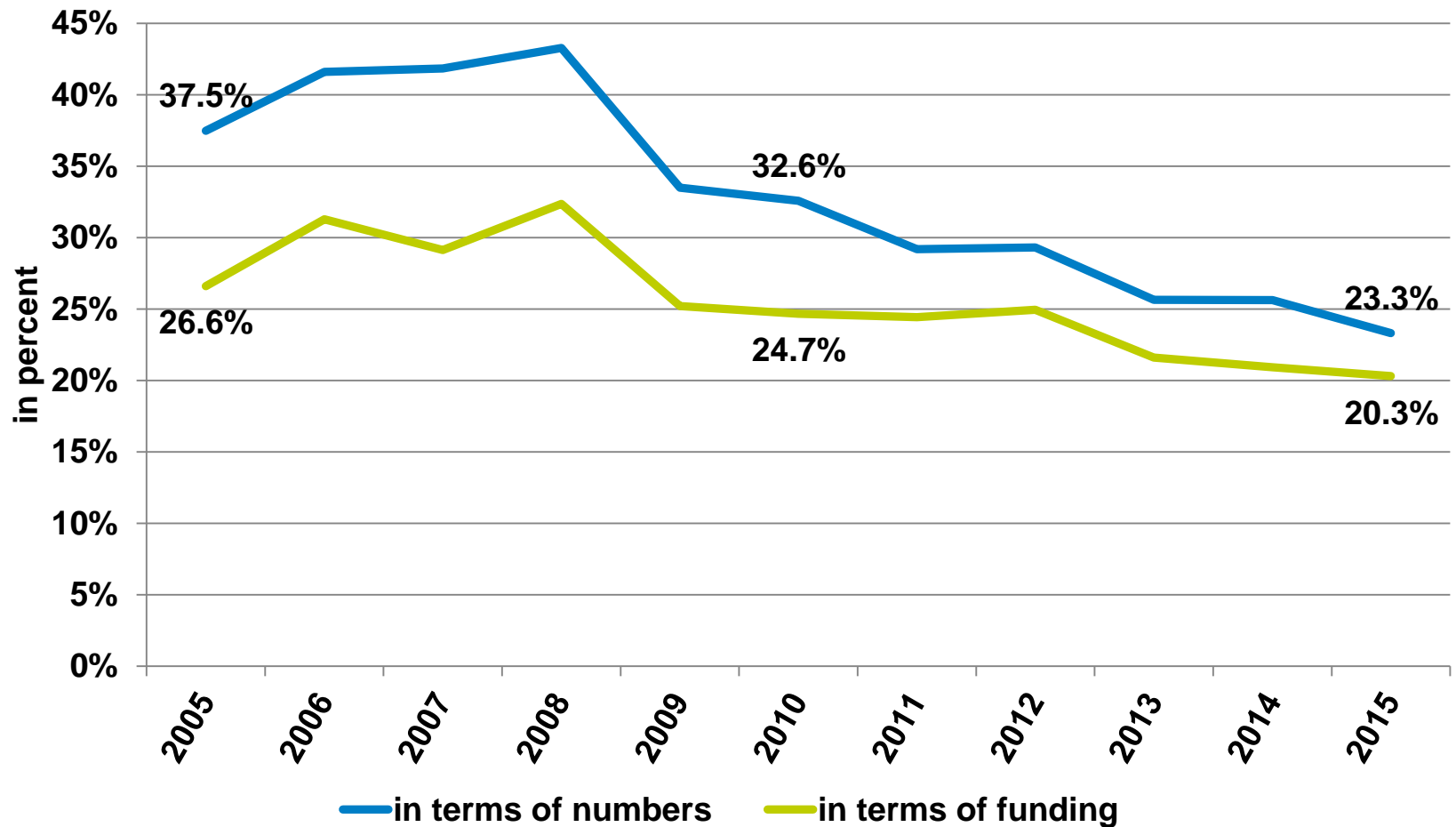
Funding Programme	2015								
	Decisions issued			New approvals			Approval rate		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
START Programme	59	23	82	5	3	8	8,5%	13,0%	9,8%
Meitner Programme	124	61	185	36	13	49	29,0%	21,3%	26,5%

Results 2015 – Facts & Figures

- 2,617 applications reviewed (2014: 2,432)
- Total grants applied for: €818.2 million (2014: 795.6 M)
- 655 new projects approved (2014: 691)
- Totalling 199.3 million € in grants (2014: 203.7 M)
- Total volume approved: €204.7 million (2014: 211.4 M)
- 4,110 individuals receive funding from the FWF (2014: 3,973)
- Approval rate (based on volume; excluding SFB/DK): 20.3 % (2014: 20.9 %)

Development of approval rate 2005 - 2015

(without SFB, NFN, DK)



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:

Barbara Aichmayer: +43-1-5056740-8509

Simone Recchi: +43-1-5056740-8508

Barbara Zimmermann: +43-1-5056740-8501

START Programme

Programme management:

Mario Mandl: +43-1-5056740- 8605

Thank you for your attention!

NEUES ENTDECKEN

TALENTE FÖRDERN

IDEEN UMSETZEN

**WIR STÄRKEN
DIE WISSENSCHAFTEN
IN ÖSTERREICH.**