

## **FWF funding opportunities**

National and European Funding Opportunities  
Conference

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## 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
- 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; its value relates primarily to its importance for science.

### 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

## 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	Principle of territoriality (except for: Lise Meitner Programme)
Language	English
Processing time	4-6 months (ø 4,6 months)
Decision meetings	5 times/year
Deadlines	None, except for: Special Research and Doctoral Programmes, Career Development Programmes, START and Wittgenstein, Programme for Arts-based research (PEEK) (6-8 months)

## 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

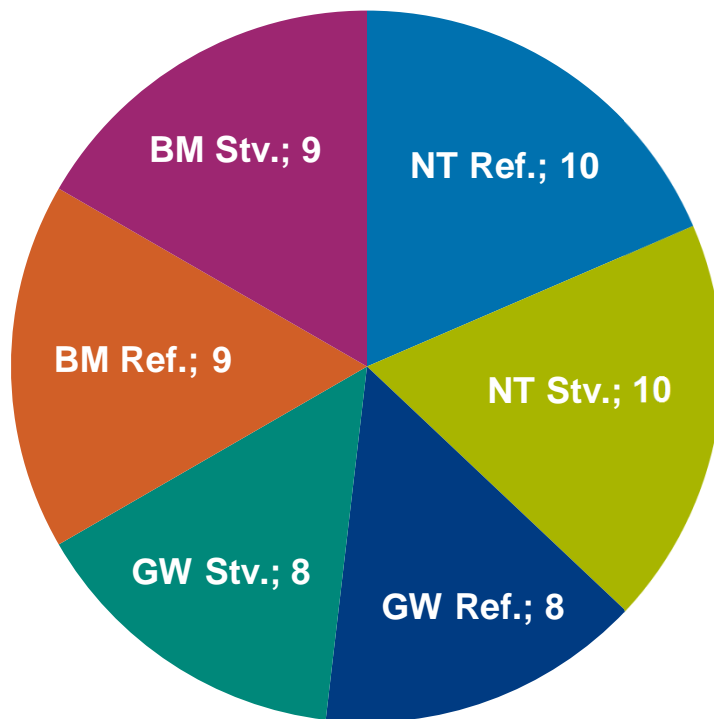
## Basic principles of expert selection

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 „core“ of the FWF funding machine

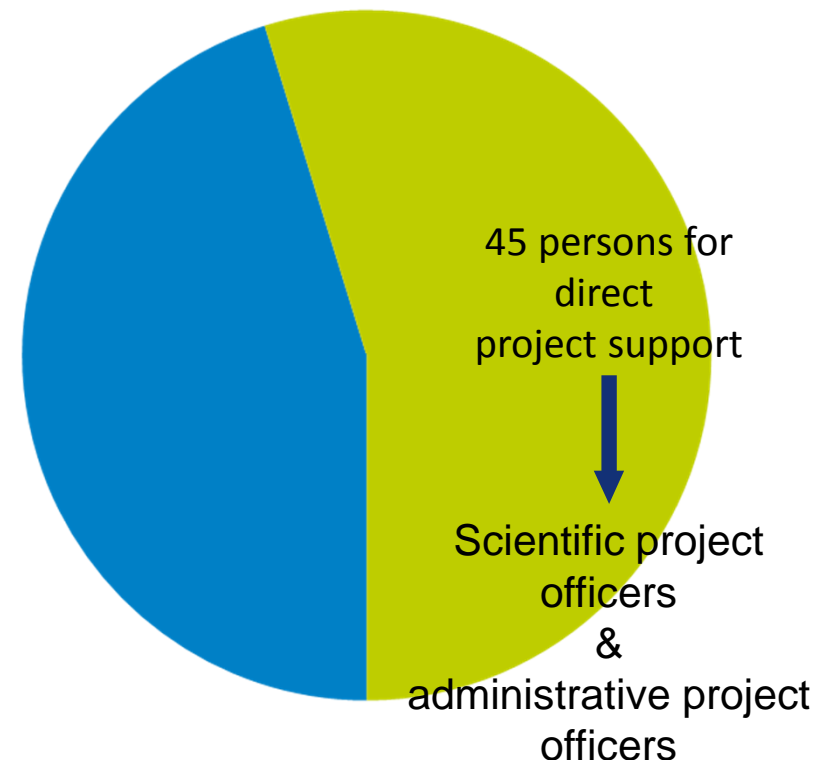
### FWF Decision Board

27 reporters (Univ.Prof.),  
27 alternates (Univ.Prof.)



### FWF Office

89 members of staff





## Responsibilities within the FWF

### Reporters (Alternates)

- Nomination of reviewers
- Presentation of review results to the FWF Board, decision recommendation
- Cooperation in decision-making process

## Responsibilities within the FWF

### FWF Secretariat

- Advising of applicants
- Application processing
- Interaction with FWF bodies
- Organisation of review process
- Communication with reviewers and applicants
- Preparation of decision recommendations for the FWF Board

## 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

Post-doctoral level

- Postdoc within FWF project
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- Independent proposal of stand-alone project

Graduate level

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

Undergraduate level

- Student collaboration
- Composition of thesis

## Mobility - Career Stage (Young) Postdocs

### Lise Meitner Programme – incoming

- (12-24 months)
  
- **Target group**
  - highly qualified scientists of any discipline
  - non resident in Austria
  - no age limit
  
- **Aims**
  - strengthening the quality and the scientific know-how of the Austrian scientific community
  - creation of international contacts

## Lise Meitner Programme

- **Requirements**

- completed doctoral studies
- experience in the field of the planned research project
- 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 (time spent raising children and on non-typical career paths will be taken into account)
- 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
- **Programme specific**
- co-applicant at the Austrian host research institution (= host); letter of recommendation; justification for selecting the applicant (“What kind of additional or new input can be expected?”)

## Lise-Meitner-Programme

- **application:** on rolling basis, no deadlines
- **success rate:** ca. 30%
- **funding:** contract of employment postdoc (€ 62.500 p.a ) or senior postdoc (€ 68.690 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 up to € 10.000 p.a.
- **duration:** 12 – 24 months

## Top-quality Research

### START Programme (incoming or domestic)

- (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

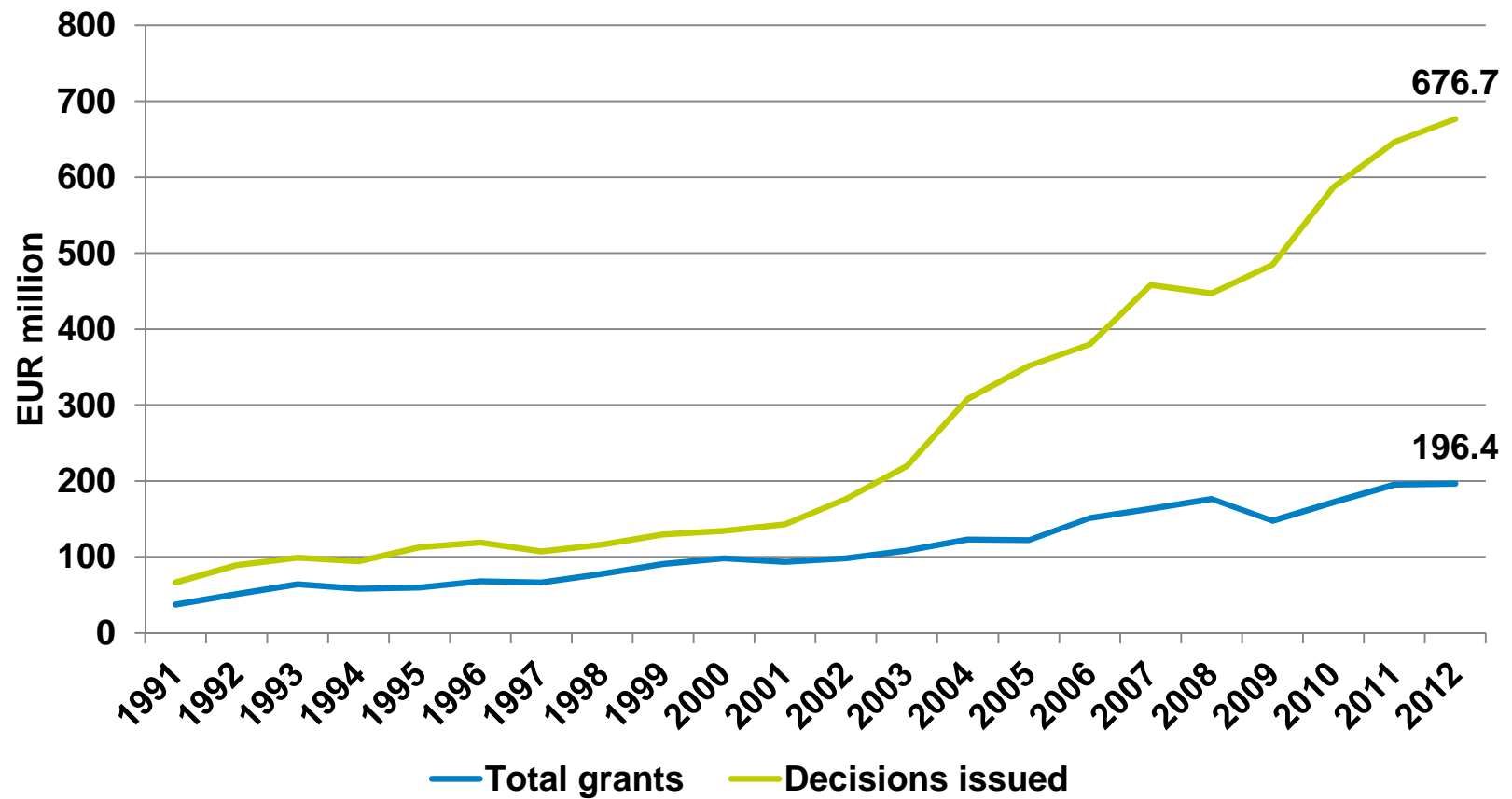
## START-Programme

- **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)

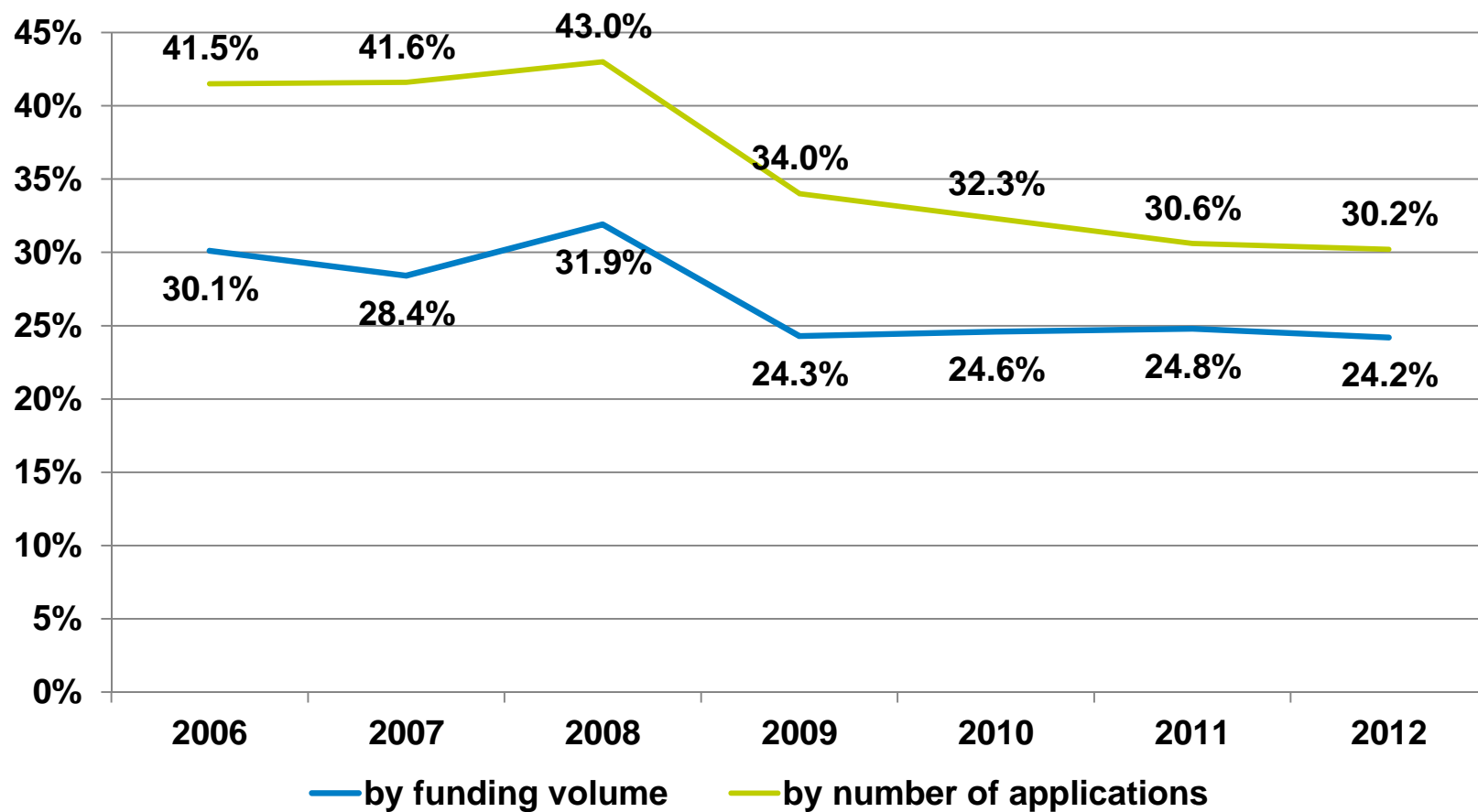
## FWF facts and figures (2012) – Overview

- 2.216 grant decisions issued
- 684 new grants approved; total volume of funding approved: 196.4 million €
- Overall approval rate: 24.2 % (based on total funding requested) / 30.2 % (based on number of applications)
- 81 % of total funding volume earmarked for personnel costs
- 81 % of total funding volume awarded to universities
- Top 3 federal provinces: Vienna (118.7 million €), Styria (24.7 million €), Tyrol (23 million €)
- Top 3 research institutions: University of Vienna (42.3 million €), TU Vienna (20.5 million €), MedUni Vienna (17.1 million €)
- 3.852 scientists and researchers on the FWF “payroll”
- 5.116 reviews received from 63 countries
- Net administrative expenses: 0.9 % based on grants requested; 3.5 % based on grants approved

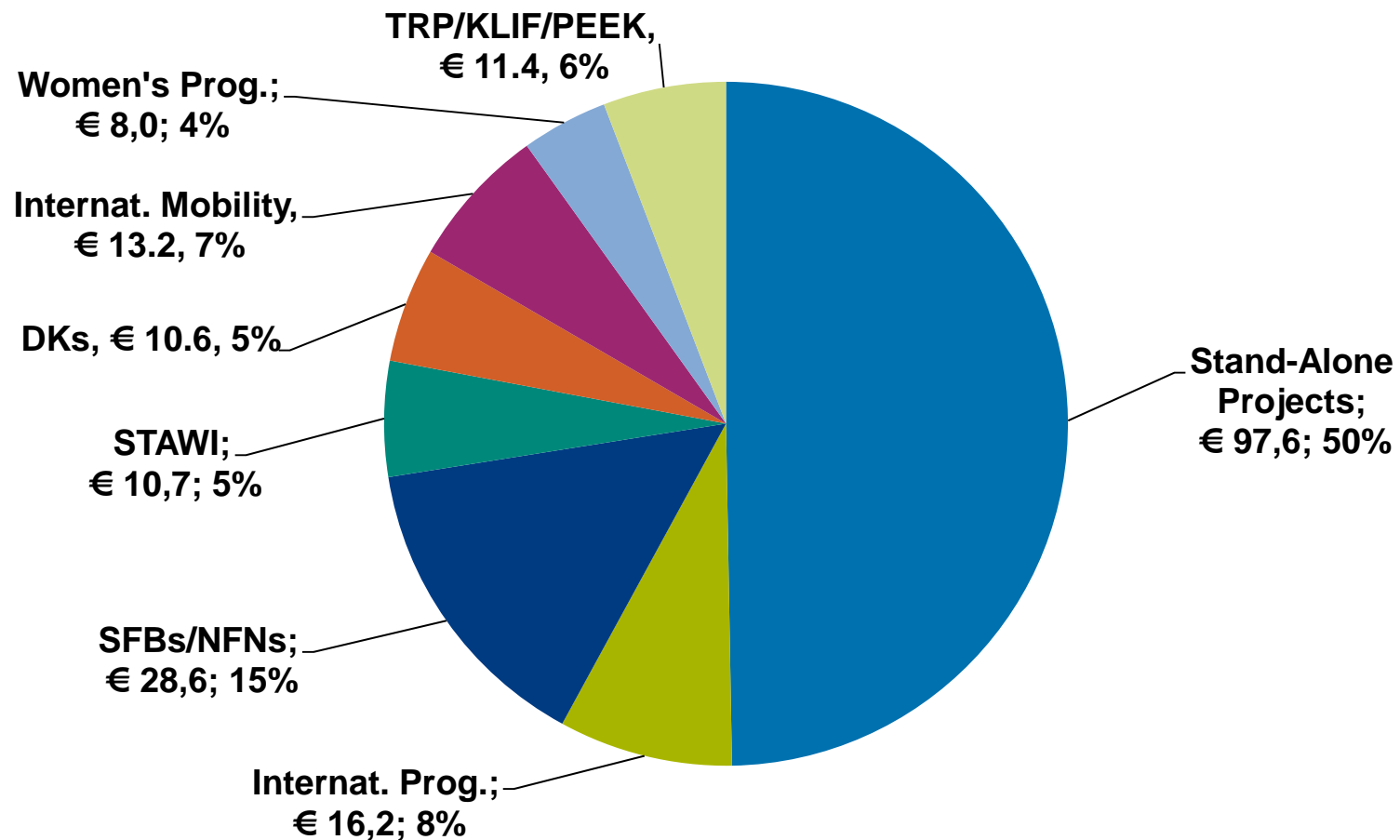
## Volume of funding requested and approved



## Approval rates, 2006 to 2012 (in %)



## Grants by Funding Category 2012



## Mobility and Women's Programmes (for Meitner)

### Administrative and operative project support:

[Reinhard Schmidt:](#) +43-1-5056740-8504

[Robert Gass:](#) +43-1-5056740-8502

[Susanne Woytacek:](#) +43-1-5056740-8505

[Alexander Hanisch:](#) +43-1-5056740-8506

### Programme management/scientific project support:

[Lidia Eva Wysocki :](#) +43-1-5056740-8503

[Barbara Zimmermann:](#) +43-1-5056740-8501

## START Programme

### Programme management:

[Mario Mandl:](#) +43-1-5056740- 8605

# Resources on the FWF web site

The screenshot shows the FWF website homepage. At the top left is the FWF logo and the text 'Der Wissenschaftsfonds.'. Below it is a navigation bar with links: Home, FWF-Portrait, Aktuelles, Public Relations, Kontakt, Gender, Internationales, Zur Diskussion, Dienstleistungsangebot. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with categories like 'Förderungsprogramme', 'Ausschreibungsübersicht', 'Personalkostensätze', etc. The main content area features several news articles. One article is titled 'Driven by Curiosity' and discusses the Mars rover. Another article is titled 'Dynamik einer Flusslandschaft: Die Wiener Donau unter dem Einfluss von Wasser, Land & Stadt'. There is also a 'Presse' section with an article about 'KLIF III' bringing 15 more projects for clinical research in Austria.

[FWF web site](#)

[Overview of funding programmes](#)

[Application documents](#)

[Principles of the decision-making procedure](#)

[FWF contacts](#)



**Thank you for your attention!**

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**FWF**

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

**NEUES ENTDECKEN**

**TALENTE FÖRDERN**

**IDEEN UMSETZEN**

**WIR STÄRKEN  
DIE WISSENSCHAFTEN  
IN ÖSTERREICH.**