MAKING GOOD IDEAS GREAT: THE FFG START-UP PORTFOLIO
TAKING OFF IN THE MARKET WITH INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Every year more than 40,000 businesses are set up in Austria, mostly small and medium-sized enterprises. Many make an important contribution to Austria’s economy in the form of new growth, new jobs and – above all – new ideas. They all rely on strong partners, because as young and innovative companies, start-ups are particularly reliant on support.

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the first port of call in Austria when it comes to funding for research and innovation. As a one-stop shop for industry-related research, the FFG supports young companies in developing, implementing and launching their ideas onto the market. Each year it invests around 70 million euros into projects by start-ups.

FROM SPIN-OFF PHASE THROUGH TO MARKET LAUNCH

The range of FFG funding and services extends from idea generation (Spin-off Fellowship, Innovation Voucher, Patent.Voucher, Impact Innovation) and product development (Projekt.Start, Start-up Funding) to market launch (Markt.Start). Funding is not generally tied to a specific subject area, and covers up to 100% (Markt.Start, Fellowships) of the overall costs.

What is a start-up?

- Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)
- established max. 5 years prior to the application,
- and which is new (excludes restructured companies, new locations, company mergers, etc.)
NETWORKS: ADDDED VALUE BEYOND FFG

Funding, programmes, research institutions, competence centres, incubators, accelerators.... still with us? As Austria’s central start-up funding agency, the FFG provides you with the right connections.

- **Global Incubator Network (GIN) Austria**
  GIN supports innovative start-ups in their efforts to step onto the international stage by helping them network with capital investors, businesses, and incubator programmes.

- **Start-up Hotspot Austria**
  Initiative to attract international start-ups wishing to locate in Austria.

- **Austrian Angel Investors Association (AAIA)**
  Association of Austria’s leading business angels.

- **Austrian Private Equity and Venture Capital Organisation**
  The FFG is a member of this organisation, opening access to all Austrian funds and offering matchmaking introductions to these investors.

- **AustrianStartups**
  Platform representing the interests of the Austrian start-up ecosystem. As a supporting partner, the FFG can disseminate information and establish contacts with potential partners.

- **Startupleve**
  The FFG is a supporting partner and can help start-ups develop their business models and founding teams using the startupleve network.

- **Austrian Startup Monitor**
  Where are most start-ups established? How are they financed? What are the elements comprising Austria’s start-up ecosystem? For the first time, a comprehensive study has answered these and many other questions.
Every successful start-up story begins with an idea. The FFG provides support during every phase, from the initial idea right through to market launch.

**IMPACT INNOVATION**

The Impact Innovation funding programme helps entrepreneurs find new solutions to an existing problem experienced by their customers or users. Funding is available for innovation methods, in order to develop ideas for a new product or service. Impact Innovation can cover half the costs, up to a maximum of €75,000. Projects relating to any topic or industry may be submitted on an ongoing basis.


**START-UP FUNDING**

Start-up Funding from the FFG offers imaginative young entrepreneurs ongoing support throughout the process of realising technically risky and economically interesting projects. Funding is available to develop an innovative product or service – from initial idea through to a near production-ready prototype – and covers up to 70% of the relevant costs. High-tech start-ups also receive an additional 5% bonus. Loans can be repaid 5 years after project completion.


**MARKT.START**

Markt.Start supports small-scale start-ups based in Austria which have developed a marketable product they wish to launch. Funding is available for commercialising and launching a marketable product, process or service development, which is based on a successfully completed research project funded under the General Programme (or experimental development). An FFG loan of up to 1 million euros is intended to promote company growth, especially in its organisation, marketing and distribution.


**SPIN-OFF FELLOWSHIP**

The Spin-off Fellowship supports researchers and students looking to turn innovative ideas into a spin-off. It is designed to create an incentive for research institutions to commercially exploit their intellectual property. The funding enables researchers to spend up to 18 months focusing exclusively on the technical development, and providing them with an appropriate selection of professional development measures, coaching and mentoring.

INNOVATION VOUCHER WITH DEDUCTIBLE

The Innovation Voucher with deductible provides subsidies for R&D services bought-in from research institutions (non-university research institutions, universities of applied sciences and universities) to a maximum of €12,500 (funding of max. €10,000 plus payment of a 20% deductible by the company).

www.ffg.at/en/programme/innovation-voucher

PATENT.VOUCHER

The Patent.Voucher allows companies to discuss the patentability of their research idea with the patent authorities, once a year for each idea. This includes clarifying whether patent protection is actually applicable (Phase 1), as well as patent registration and monitoring services (Phase 2, optional). The FFG assumes a maximum of €10,000 of the costs of max. €12,500 (20% deductible).

www.ffg.at/en/programme/patentvoucher

GLOBAL INCUBATOR NETWORK (GIN) AUSTRIA

The Global Incubator Network (GIN) Austria is a joint initiative of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (aws). GIN is aimed at Austrian start-ups wishing to move into the Asian markets, and Asian start-ups who want to know more about Austria as a start-up hotspot, who are looking for potential partners, or developing their own business within the EU, with Austria as their base. The initiative also focuses on investors, incubators and accelerators from Austria and the GIN target regions: Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, China and South Korea.

www.gin-austria.com

FFG start-up funding schemes
FFG: PARTNER FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovation and applied research in Austria have a strong partner: the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). We can help you to make the most of your innovative potential and to exploit new market opportunities by putting new knowledge to work.

"Start-ups are a key driver of Austria’s innovation system. The FFG supports them right from the initial idea, helping them as they develop, launch and establish their products in the market."

Henrietta Egerth and Klaus Pseiner, FFG Managing Directors

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