



Bundesministerium
für Verkehr,
Innovation und Technologie



Austrian NANO Initiative

Programme Action Line "Transnational RTD Projects"

Type of Project: RTD in Cooperation

Guide for Proposers for the 1st Call

Pre-Proposals	Cut-off Dates	
November 26, 2007	February 29, 2008 ERA-SPOT Submission Deadline	ERA-SPOT Projects
January 22, 2008	April 22, 2008	All types of Transnational Projects
June 27, 2008	September 26, 2008 Submission Deadline	

Date: October 1, 2007

Thank you for your interest in the 2007 call.

This Guide for Proposers contains information concerning the 1st call within the framework of the Programme Action Line “Transnational RTD Projects”.

Imprint

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Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
(BMVIT)



In Cooperation with
Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)



and the following partners:

Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BWF)



Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour (BWA)



Austrian Science Fund (FWF)



Austria Business Service (aws)



and the Federal provinces

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1 Most Important Facts

The Austrian NANO Initiative was set up in 2004 as a multi-annual funding programme. Its objectives are the following: strengthening networking, creating critical masses, making nano usable for business and society, and providing a sufficient number of qualified specialised staff.

The call on hand under the programme action line "Transnational RTD Projects" provides a framework for cooperation projects between innovative Austrian enterprises and international partners. Furthermore, the possibility for Austrian partners to participate in the ERA-SPOT ("Strengthening Photonics and Optical Technologies for Europe") Call 2007 is ensured. Thus both internationalisation and competitiveness are strengthened by exchanging know-how and building up the competence of the Austrian players. Proposals from all fields of nanosciences and nanotechnologies can be submitted, but there may be a thematic restriction in case a project is embedded in a European Research Area Network (ERA-NET).

This 1st Call 2007 has a total budget of Euro 1,000,000.

The 1st possibility for submission of a Transnational Project within this Call is dedicated to ERA-SPOT Projects that have to fulfil the ERA-SPOT requirements. The 2nd and 3rd possibility are open to all kinds of Transnational Projects fulfilling the requirements of the present Call.

The most important key points are the following:

- ERA-SPOT Projects: procedure will require partners from at least two of the eligible countries (Austria, France, Germany, Ireland and Sweden), projects with German partners require at least three countries. Proposals with partners from more countries are strongly encouraged.
- The projects are always cooperative activities in which at least one Austrian enterprise cooperates with at least one partner from abroad. Foreign partners carry a minimum of 10 % of the total project costs.
- Transnational cooperative RTD Projects in industrial research (*Industrielle Forschung*): The maximum funding rate amounts to 80%. Research institutions carry a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 80% of the total project costs.
- Transnational cooperative RTD Projects in pre-competitive development (*Experimentelle Entwicklung*): The maximum funding rate amounts to 60%.

The framework conditions for funding Transnational RTD Projects are laid down in the "Directives on Funding Business-Oriented Technical Research and Technology Development" (RTD Directives, for short).

The call for this programme action line is organised along the principle of a two-step open call with three defined cut-off dates (submission deadlines). The submission deadlines for pre-proposals precede these dates:

- ERA-SPOT Projects: Pre-Proposals: November 26, 2007; Full Proposal and National Proposal: February 29, 2008;
- All types of Transnational Projects: Pre-Proposals: January 22, 2008 or June 27, 2008; National Proposal: April 22, 2008 or September 26, 2008
- Call closes on: September 26, 2008

The obligatory pre-proposal facilitates the identification of expert evaluators and an eligibility check. Proposers are invited to submit a full proposal after a positive eligibility check.

On the basis of the expert opinions, the Management Team of the NANO Initiative makes a recommendation to the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology. The funding decision is the responsibility of this ministry.

2 Background and Strategic Objectives

2.1 Background

Nanosciences and nanotechnologies are regarded as being among the key technologies of the 21st century. They constitute a new field for science, research and development, with an enormous potential for technological progress, as well as for opening up new markets and increasing turnover.

The Austrian NANO Initiative makes it possible to build up NANO competence in Austria in a targeted and strategic manner by funding research and development projects, and in addition sets new highlights through emphasis on education and training measures, as well as through targeted funding of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Through interdisciplinary cooperation between experts from science and industry from different technical disciplines, as amongst others from biology, bio-technology, chemistry, electronics, energy technology, engineering, material sciences, modelling, medicine, micro-technology, optics and physics, an added value for all participants is created.

The programme action line "Transnational Projects" should provide a framework for cooperation projects between innovative Austrian enterprises, research organisations and international partners. This programme action line also ensures the possibility for Austrian partners to participate in the ERA-SPOT Call 2007.

The Austrian NANO Initiative is a national programme for funding research and technology development in the nanosciences and nanotechnologies, under the overall control of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), and carried out in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour (BMWA), the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BWF) as well as the Federal provinces. The funding programme is coordinated strategically by the BMVIT, and on the operative level by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and is managed together with the partners of the Management Team (FFG, FWF – Austrian Science Fund, austria wirtschaftsservice aws).

Further information on the Austrian NANO Initiative is available in the Annex or on our Web site at: www.nanoinitiative.at.

2.2 Strategic Objectives

2.2.1 Programme: Austrian NANO Initiative

With its programme action lines and the types of projects they offer, the Austrian NANO Initiative targets the following objectives:

- Strengthening and networking the Austrian NANO players in science and industry
- Creating critical masses for positioning the Austrian NANO players in international competition
- Using further development, implementation and exploitation of research results (RTD) of NANO in industry and society
- Providing a sufficient number of qualified specialised staff through education and training.

2.2.2 Programme Action Line: Transnational RTD Projects

The programme action line "Transnational RTD Projects" is consistent with the overall objectives of the NANO Initiative and strengthens internationalisation and competitiveness through exchange of know-how, and builds up the competence of the Austrian players. In particular, the following objectives should be mentioned:

- Strengthening competitiveness by cooperation and networking between science and enterprises by creating and expanding critical masses;
- Positioning Austrian interests through increased integration and cross-disciplinary networking in international cooperation in research and technology development, in particular in the EU programmes;

Under this call, proposals from all fields of nanosciences and nanotechnologies can be submitted. A thematic restriction could occur in case the project is embedded in a European Research Area Network (ERA-NET), due to the specific conditions of an ERA-NET.

An ERA-NET is a network of regional and / or national funding programmes with the aim to reduce fragmentation of R&D funding in Europe. ERA-NETs makes these funding programmes accessible to transnational consortia and opens calls for proposals for transnational R&D projects in the relevant scientific and technological area of the specific ERA-NET.

A Transnational Project supported under this programme action line is therefore either integrated into a European Research Area Network (ERA-NET), such as for instance the ERA-SPOT "Strengthening Photonics and Optical Technologies for Europe", or it is a Transnational Project without being specifically embedded in an ERA-NET, see figure below.

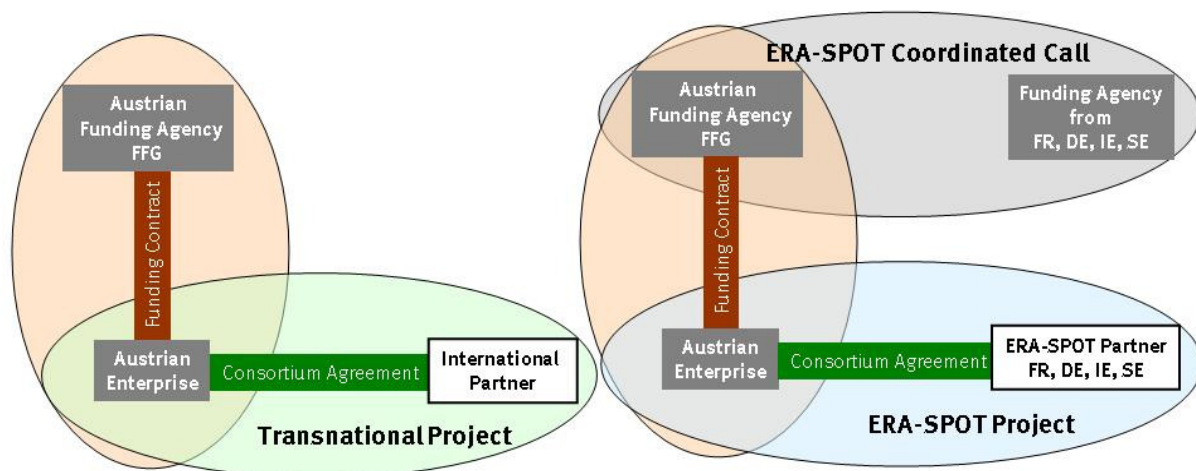


Figure 1 left: Transnational Project outside ERA-NET; right: Transnational Project within ERA-SPOT

Due to the cooperation and the coordinated procedure of the funding agencies, integrating a project into an ERA-NET has certain advantages. For instance, project ideas which concern the ERA-SPOT Call 2007 thematically and which seem to be eligible for submitting a proposal, should make use of these advantages in any case and should join the ERA-SPOT Call. An ERA-NET project has to fulfil both the conditions of the respective ERA-NET and the national conditions described in detail below.

A project outside an ERA-NET bears the risk that the procedure of the funding agencies is not coordinated. Here each project partner is called upon to inform him/herself about the framework conditions that apply. In any case, a precondition for national funding is that the international partner receives funding from its funding agency. In exceptional cases, 100% financing from the international partner's own resources are also accepted. In this case, however, the FFG has to be

given the possibility to check the quality of the cooperation via the interim reports and the final reports of the Austrian partner.

The 1st possibility for submitting a Transnational Project under this Call is dedicated to ERA-SPOT Projects that have to fulfil the ERA-SPOT requirements. The 2nd and 3rd possibility are open to all kinds of Transnational Projects fulfilling the requirements of the present Call.

Transnational Project within the ERA-SPOT Call 2007:

The ERA-SPOT Call 2007 is informed by the Strategic Research Agenda developed by "Photonics21" www.photonics21.org and by a number of expressions of interest elicited in some member states. The ERA-SPOT Call 2007 does not have an exclusive thematic focus, but invites projects dealing with photonics and optical technologies.

For the national funding rules defining restrictions see the Guide for Proposers on hand. It is important that these national priorities are understood by applicants. Please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Management of the Austrian NANO Initiative for support.

The added value of the ERA-SPOT procedure will be to fund projects that could not be carried out on a national scale; therefore genuine complementarity of the partners will be an important criterion. Projects with a duration of up to three years will be considered.

3 Subject of the Call

The following chapters describe the framework conditions for a successful proposal submission in detail.

3.1 Eligible Participants and Target Groups

The NANO Initiative addresses all Austrian NANO players from industry, universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research organisations which carry out cooperative research and technology development in the field of nanosciences and nanotechnologies.

Possible funding recipients in accordance with the RTD Directive are the following:

- natural persons
- legal persons
 - associations
 - companies (such as *GmbH, AG*)¹
 - universities according to § 6 of the University Organisation Act (*Universitätsorganisationsgesetz, UOG*) 2002; (*ad-personam* submissions according to § 27 of the University Organisation Act (*UOG*) are not admissible in this context)
 - universities of applied sciences
- partnerships under the Civil Code and under the Commercial Code (*Unternehmensgesetzbuch UGB*) such as in particular:
 - partnerships under the Civil Code (*GesbR - Gesellschaften des bürgerlichen Rechts*);
 - general partnerships (*OG – Offene Gesellschaft*);
 - limited partnerships (*KG - Kommanditgesellschaften*).

¹ GmbH is roughly equivalent to private limited company, AG is roughly equivalent to public limited company.

The following legal persons and partnerships are entitled to submit applications and are eligible for funding under the current Call "Transnational RTD Projects":

- enterprises with a permanent establishment in Austria
- Austrian research institutions:
 - universities
 - universities of applied sciences and their research institutions
 - non-university research institutions, cooperative research institutions and Competence Centres

The consortium of a Transnational Project has to include at least one Austrian enterprise. Furthermore, participation of at least one cooperation partner from abroad is a fundamental condition in this programme action line. For a project integrated into an ERA-NET, a larger minimum number of project partners from the partner countries of the ERA-NET Call may be required. In this case, please refer to the conditions of the ERA-NET Call. The required minimum number of project partners must be observed (knock-out criterion). Well-balanced consortia will be assessed positively in the evaluation.

In case one partner drops out after the funding commitment has been received / after the project has started, the consortium has to prove that the competences required for carrying out the project are sufficiently covered by the remaining partners; otherwise a new partner has to be integrated into the consortium. In any case, any change in the partner structure has to be approved in advance by the FFG.

The following figures represent examples of possible constellations of consortia:

Transnational Project without additional ERA-NET requirements:



Figure 2 Transnational Project: Minimum Consortia

If there are several Austrian partners in the project (national consortium), a consortium leader always has to be designated as the proposer responsible for the project vis-à-vis the funding agency. The leadership of the consortium can be taken over by a research institution or by an enterprise.

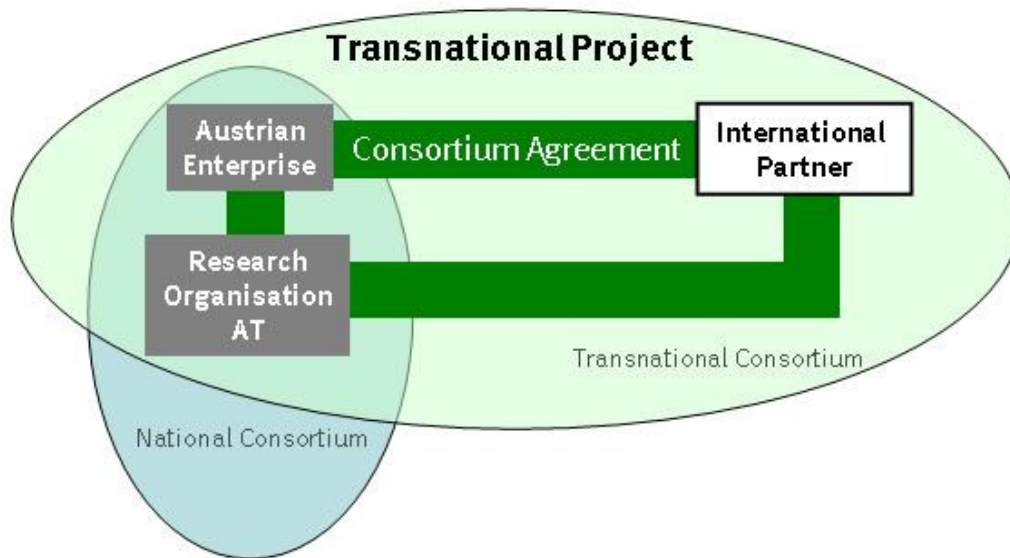


Figure 3 Example with national consortium

Transnational Project within the ERA-SPOT Call 2007:

This transnational call addresses organisations, in particular from Austria, France, Germany, Ireland and Sweden, which are active in the research fields of optics, photonics and optoelectronics and would like to participate in cooperative research projects.

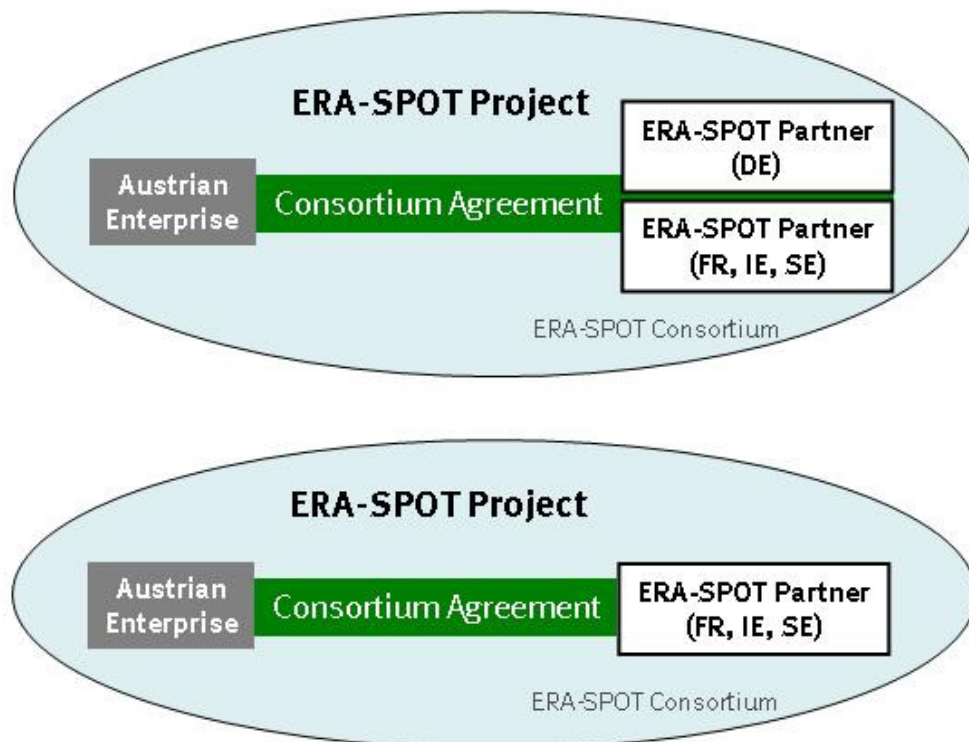


Figure 4 ERA-SPOT Minimum Consortia - Proposals with more partners encouraged

As a minimum requirement, the ERA-SPOT procedure will require partners from at least two of the eligible countries (Austria (AT), France (FR), Germany (DE), Ireland (IE) and Sweden (SE)). For Projects with German participation funding will be available only for projects with participants from at least three countries in total. Proposals with partners from more than two countries are strongly encouraged. For the ERA-SPOT Consortium, the Project Coordinator can be from one of the eligible countries. In case of a national consortium (more than one Austrian partner), a national Project Coordinator is also required.

3.2 Budget

The programme action line has a total budget of Euro 1,000,000 for this first Call 2007.

3.3 Types of Projects and Funding

The call for proposals looks for cooperative projects of high (technical) quality of significant size in Industrial Research or Experimental Development. The Austrian project part has to be driven by industry; thus the minimum requirement is one Austrian enterprise within such a Transnational Project. The project, if technically successful, should result in a technology with exploitation potential within about 3 to 5 years from completion of the work.

The funds of the Austrian NANO Initiative are not intended to give incremental support to ongoing work programmes in the institution submitting the proposal. Furthermore, the funds are not intended to support non-risk or very low-risk technical projects where funding for work on the project should be more appropriately sought from another source.

The fund allows for collaboration where the experience and expertise of two or more institutions will bring significant added value through obtaining an output from the project that would not otherwise be possible. The partners should see a long-term added value in their cooperation.

The projects may come from any thematic fields of nanosciences and nanotechnologies, as long as there are no restraining conditions of an ERA-NET that apply.

The strategic orientation of project proposals eligible for funding has to reflect the objectives of the Austrian NANO Initiative and of the programme action line. Only project proposals which demonstrably correspond to the criteria listed in section 4.2 are eligible for funding. The requirements refer to projects which:

- lead to substantial technology and know-how;
- are a substantial strategic step towards improving competitiveness and positioning on the market;
- have a medium term orientation;
- have a positive effect on the further activities of the project partners and the consortium.

The maximum duration of the projects is 36 months. An extension on a cost-neutral basis is only possible in specific exceptional cases.

Funding Rates and Amount of Funding

The maximum funding rate is based on the requirements of the RTD Directive for different constellations of funding applicants (small, medium-sized, large enterprises or research institutions respectively).

Funding Category	Small Enterprises (Kleine Unternehmen)	Medium-sized Enterprises (Mittlere Unternehmen)	Large Enterprises (Große Unternehmen)	Research Organisations (Forschungseinrichtungen)
Industrial Research (Industrielle Forschung)	80 %	75 %	65 %	80%
Pre-competitive development (Experimentelle Entwicklung)	60 %	50 %	40 %	60%

With regard to the size of an enterprise, the SME definition according to EU competition law applies as amended respectively (from 1 Jan. 2005: SME definition according to Recommendation 2003/361/EC of the Commission of 6 May 2003, (OJ L 124 of 20 May 2003, pp 36-41), see: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm

Conditions:

- A prerequisite for receiving national funding is that the international partner receives funds from the funding institution in the partner's own country. In exceptional cases, 100% financing from the partner's own resources is also accepted. This financing of the foreign partner has to be described in the proposal and in the consortium agreement supported by all partners (also the international partners). A possibility for checking the quality of the cooperation has to be provided.
- None of the partners bears more than 70% of the total project costs (costs of Austrian and foreign partners).
- Foreign partners carry a minimum of 10 % of the total project costs.
- For classification as Industrial Research: Research institutions carry a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 80% of the total project costs.
- Only the cooperation of independent enterprises² is classified as cooperation.

Funding is effected in the form of non-reimbursable subsidies. The funding is allocated to the project partners according to the proportionate project costs and the maximum aid intensity of the respective organisation category.

The remaining financing has to be clearly described in the financing plan of the project proposal (see Form B). The remaining financing contribution can be made in the form of cash funds and in kind by the project partners.

Partners from abroad do not receive any funding from the Austrian NANO Initiative. They have to cover their expenses by means of their own national funding, or in exceptional cases by bringing in self-financing or any other financing with outside capital.

² For the definition of "independent enterprise" see also http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm

The following fact boxes provide comprehensive legal information.

Industrial Research

In case of developments with a strong basic-research orientation and a high development risk, there is the possibility of granting funding for a maximum of 65% to 80% of the eligible project costs under the funding type “Industrial Research Projects”.

Industrial research: systematic research or critical investigation in order to gain new insights or skills, with the objective of developing new products, processes or services, or of being able to use them for implementing considerable improvements in existing products, processes or services. Creating parts of complex systems that are necessary for industrial research, and in particular for the validation of technological foundations, also falls under this category, with the exception of prototypes, which would fall under the “Experimental Development” research category.

“Industrial Research” differs from “Experimental Development“ also with regard to:

- its particularly high innovation content
- its increased development risk
- its basic research character
- its remoteness from the market

Experimental Development

The project type "Experimental Development" aims at the development of technologies and components for a concrete application or the testing of developments during a pilot phase respectively.

From a technological point of view, this development has a novelty aspect and is connected with challenges (development risk). As a rule, this development leads up to a fully functional prototype.

Experimental development: acquiring, combining, creating and using existing scientific, technical, economic or other pertinent knowledge and skills for drawing up plans and provisions or concepts for new, modified or improved products, processes or services. Experimental development comprises amongst others also other activities for defining, planning and documenting new products, processes and services, as well as making drafts, drawings, plans and preparing other documentation material, insofar as they are not intended for commercial use.

The experimental production and testing of products, processes and services are also eligible for funding, insofar as they are not used in industrial applications or commercially, or could be modified to be used for such purposes.

These projects are funded with a maximum of 40 - 60 % of the eligible project costs.

Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are costs which are necessary for carrying out the approved project proposed, insofar as their amount is appropriate. In addition, all expenses or costs attributable to the project which are incurred directly, actually and in addition (to the established operating expenses) for the duration of the funded research activity, are eligible costs.

- **Personnel costs:** Personnel costs of research staff members of the project (i.e. staff of the consortium partners; gross wage costs including ancillary wage costs). The personnel costs are eligible for funding up to the guiding rate defined respectively under sub-paragraph 8 of the “*Verordnung des Bundesministers für Finanzen betreffend Richtlinien für die Ermittlung und Darstellung der finanziellen Auswirkungen neuer rechtssetzender Maßnahmen*” (Decree of the Federal Minister of Finance Concerning Guidelines for Determining and Describing the Financial Effects of New Legislative Measures, Federal Law Gazette II no. 50/1999, Annex 3, as amended).³ Examples of the maximum salary schemes are listed in the Annex. These guiding rates also have to be applied to managing directors and sole traders working in the project (see next paragraph).

Acting Partners / Managing Directors / Shareholders Working in the Project

Acting Partners/Shareholders and managing directors working in the project are to be accounted for under the overhead costs in principle.

For **small enterprises** [threshold values according to EU definition: less than 50 employees max. € 10 million turnover, max. €10 million annual balance] there is the possibility of accounting for the acting partners / managing directors / shareholders working in the project at an hourly rate of € 30.-/h. When using this possibility of a detailed statement of account, a maximum amount of € 42,000 per person per year can be claimed. The amount of hours planned has to be justified.

Minority partners/shareholders (max. 25% share) are exempted from this rule if they are not managing directors at the same time. They are to be treated like employees and can be accounted for at the actual hourly rate. The upper limit is the actual hourly rate of the most expensive staff member with a corresponding qualification.

For **smallest businesses** (less than 10 employees) which carry out R&D exclusively / predominantly, acting partners / managing directors / shareholders can also be accounted for like employees. The upper limit is the actual hourly rate of the most expensive employee with a corresponding qualification.

Universities / Research Institutions

Universities' personnel costs eligible for funding are accounted for on a full cost basis. Personnel costs of the scientific staff working in the project (university professors, associate professors, university assistants, contract professors, contract associate professors, contract assistants), and additionally employed scientific staff as well as assistants / secretaries can be accounted for, provided a detailed and comprehensible record of working hours is provided.

- **Overhead costs** arising directly through the research activity (Overheads). In principle, overheads are eligible up to a rate of 20% of the total costs. Enterprises can account for a higher rate of overheads by providing corresponding pertinent evidence; which overheads are recognisable in this context can be seen from the FFG's (Research Promotion Agency's) auditing standards (see Annex).

³ Acting partners/Shareholders and managing directors working in the project are to be accounted for under the overheads in principle. For small enterprises (threshold values according to EU definition: max. 50 employees, turnover and annual balance max. EUR 10 million respectively) there is the possibility of accounting for the acting partners/shareholders and managing directors at an hourly rate of EUR 30.-/h. When using this possibility of a detailed statement of account, a maximum of EUR 50,000.- per person per year can be claimed. Minority acting partners/shareholders (max. 25% share) are exempted from this rule, if they are not managing directors at the same time. They are to be treated like employees and can be accounted for at the actual hourly rate. The upper limit is the actual hourly rate of the most expensive staff member with a corresponding qualification.

- **Costs of Hardware and Equipment (RTD Investments)**, in so far as they are explicitly required for the project proposed. Their use / depreciation can be funded for the part which is exclusively and constantly used for the research activity.
- **Other Costs (Material Costs, Travel Costs):** Consumables for R&D activities, travel costs, purchase of literature etc. which are incurred in direct connection with the research activity.
- Consultancy costs and costs of similar services which are exclusively dedicated to the research activity (**services rendered by third parties**), including externally procured research, technical know-how, drawing-up of patents, etc. In principle, costs of services rendered by third parties (contracts for services) within the framework of projects must not exceed 20% of the total costs in a single project (RP) in the Cluster (Please take note of the information concerning subcontracting in the overall RPC in chapter 3.1, page 11). Consortium partners must not act as partners in contracts for services at the same time. In well-justified exceptional cases, higher percentages of services rendered by third parties are possible, provided the predominant share of the work within the project is carried out by the project partners in any case.

Non-eligible costs:

- Financing of licence fees, distribution costs, costs for opening up new markets, calculatory costs (fictitious, non-cash-effective costs), etc.
- Investments, purchase of real estate, building investments
- Costs that are not directly connected with the funded project
- Costs of projects that are not carried out in Austria
- Costs that are not considered as eligible costs due to EU competition law regulations

Cut-off Date for Recognition of Costs

Those eligible costs can be recognised which have arisen after the funding offer of the FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency has been received by the proposer (first day of the following month respectively).

3.4 IPR - Exploitation

The intellectual property rights of the project results are owned by the consortium submitting the proposal. In case a funding commitment is given, a consortium agreement with the authorised signatures of all participating partners of the Transnational Project has to be submitted which regulates the cooperation and in particular also the intellectual property rights (IPR) in the funded project results.

In case enterprises and research institutions (universities, non-university research institutions, ...) cooperate, the intellectual property rights are owned by all project partners in principle; this means that the research institutions also have a claim to the intellectual property rights (use, licence fees, ...). In case the industrial partners exploit the results commercially on their own, the enterprises have to pay a consideration customary in this particular market, in terms of an award to inventors, to the research institutions. In any case, a research institution has to be granted the right to publish the work carried out by the institution itself.

3.5 Evaluation Criteria

For the evaluation criteria of an ERA-SPOT project see the proposer guideline for ERA-SPOT projects, Appendix 2, on: www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational or www.era-spot.eu.

For other ERA-NETs the appropriate evaluation criteria will be selected after submission of a relevant pre-proposal.

Generally, Transnational Projects submitted are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Quality of the Project

- Technical and scientific quality
Innovation content; comparison to state-of-the-art
Additionality and development risk from a financial and a technical point of view
Quality and suitability of the methods planned
Interdisciplinarity
- Quality of planning, in particular:
Objectives and work plan
Integration of the project participants with a view to competences and capacities
Adequacy and comprehensibility of costs and of the funding plan

2. Relevance of the Project with Regard to (Specific) Programme Objectives

Contribution of the project to achieving the programme objectives
Added value from the work carried out at an international level
Contribution to further aspects, in particular ecological, social, ethical, gender-related aspects

3. Suitability of the Funding Applicant / the Project Participants

Scientific and technical qualification and capacity
Ability to realise market potential, in particular market knowledge, production and distribution possibilities
Management skills and capacities

4. Economic Potential and Exploitation

Customer use and Unique Selling Point (USP) / leader in this field
Target markets and market potential
Presentation of the exploitation strategy
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Explanations:

1. Quality of the Project

The Austrian NANO Initiative funds cooperative research, ambitious innovation, and technology development in the nanosciences and nanotechnologies, with the focus being on ambitious and multi-disciplinary projects that lead to significant technological innovations. Projects exclusively aiming at the development and marketing of products are not funded. The best grade in this context is given to state-of-the-art as opposed to innovation of the project submitted, both in the field of basic research and in industrial research or experimental development. Is it real

innovation with a certain development risk? Does the project go beyond that? Is the work plan adequate for dealing with risks?

The proposals submitted have to be characterised by scientific and technical excellence in their respective discipline (special field). Furthermore, the methodology described for carrying out the project should be characterised by clarity, adequacy and consistency with regard to implementation. Under this item, research competence in the project field is also assessed (amongst others by scientific publications, patents etc ...). Interdisciplinarity used for problem-solving is assessed positively, too, since it can strengthen the desired networking character of cooperative projects and can provide an added value for outcome-oriented research.

Are the coordination, internal coherence, cooperation structure and integration of all project partners carried out professionally and in a target-oriented manner? Does the research project proposed represent a compact unit on a solid common basis?

Methods: Is the quality of the work plan sufficient, and is the chosen distribution of tasks suitable and appropriate?

Under this item, the quality of the project management proposed is assessed with regard to its clarity, adequacy and the instruments used.

Furthermore the adequacy of the estimated resources (personnel and other resources) is assessed. Comprehensible, adequate and cost-efficient planning of the project budget is as important as is the solidity of the residual financing.

2. Relevance of the Project with Regard to (Specific) Programme Objectives

The evaluators are requested to examine the following objectives:

Strengthening and Networking the Austrian NANO Players in Science and Industry

The NANO Initiative funds RTD projects in which the focus is on the cooperation between industry and research. Under this item, the cooperation, but also the complementarity of the organisations participating in the project, is assessed.

To which extent are new cooperations entered into? Are multidisciplinary and synergies between the individual disciplines within the overall consortium sufficiently represented and supported? Is the added value of the cooperation between science and industry represented in a plausible manner? Is there national or regional added value due to the work carried out at an international level?

Creating Critical Masses in Order to Position the Austrian NANO Players in International Competition

Are the composition of the consortium and the project structure as a whole designed in an optimal manner in order to achieve the short and medium-term objectives of the project? This applies above all to the relation between participants from science and from industry. Is the role of the non-Austrian partner described unambiguously, and is its usefulness for the project evident?

The Use of NANO for Industry and for Society by Means of Further Development, Implementation and Exploitation of Research Results

Is the content of the project suitable for providing new insights in order to generate new product and technology developments based on basic research oriented towards scientific findings, in the medium and long term?

Is the integration of industry increasing continuously, and is there a clear time limit to the project period? Are the implementation and exploitation strategies as well as the instruments proposed suitable in order to ensure the best possible (technical or industrial) exploitation of the results (within and outside the consortium)?

3. Suitability of the Funding Applicant / the Project Participants

The quality of the enterprises, their qualification for carrying out the project, their reputation, any potential effects, the integration of the project in the portfolio of activities of these enterprises, their company strategies and the quality of their management, as well as the importance of RTD for these enterprises are assessed.

With regard to the research institutes, their technical and scientific performance up to the present is measured, amongst others by means of their publications. Their personnel and the quality of their management are assessed.

4. Economic Potential and Exploitation

This criterion focuses on the use for the user. The evaluators also assess the applicant's knowledge of market segments, barriers to market entry, and the competitive environment. The following questions can be asked: Have new insights been provided into already existing technologies? How relevant is the scientific contribution to the partners from industry (exploitation of industrial and technological developments in enterprises, economic use) and vice versa? What is the use of the project for the relevant target groups outside the consortium?

A comprehensible representation of the medium-term strategy for the running period of the project and beyond is expected. This strategy should lead to substantial economic effects in the interest of the participating partners from industry, on the basis of the project results that are expected. The following questions can be asked: Are the IPR and exploitation strategies sufficiently represented and justified? Is there a clear description of the patent situation? Is the representation of technological relevance and market relevance (entry into new markets, competitive advantages on existing markets) realistic? Is the representation of the prospects of success comprehensible, expedient and sufficient? Does the project contribute to an increase in national competitiveness? Are positive economic structural effects to be expected?

Weighting of Evaluation Criteria

The following weighting schedule is applied:

Evaluation Criteria - Weighting			Funding / Research Category
Criterion			Industrial Research/ Experimental Development
1	Quality of the project	Technical and scientific quality	20
		Quality of planning	10
2	Relevance of the project with regard to the programme		20
3	Suitability of funding applicants / project participants		30
4	Economic potential and exploitation		20
Total			100

3.6 Supplementary Requirements and Information

3.6.1 Legal Basis

The RTD Directives of the Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology pursuant to § 11 sub-paragraph 1 to 5 of the Research and Technology Funding Act (*Forschungs- und Technologieförderungsgesetz* (FTFG)) apply. The Directives as amended (GZ 609.986/0013-III/I2/2006) have been adapted to the Community Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation which entered into force on 1 January 2007. These adaptations have been submitted to the European Commission for approval and are currently in the process of being approved. As soon as the Commission has approved these adaptations and the Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology has issued the new RTD Directives, these Directives will be published and will enter into force for the current call.

There is therefore a reservation with regard to the adaptations required. The relevant modifications concern in particular:

Item 3.2.1.2 Maximum Rates of Aid

Item 3.2.2 Aid for Technical Feasibility Studies

Items 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.2. of the Directives submitted to the European Commission:

With regard to the size of the enterprise, the SME definition according to EU competition law applies as amended respectively (from 1 Jan. 2005: SME definition according to Recommendation 2003/361/EC of the Commission of 6 May 2003, (OJ L 124 of 20 May 2003 pp 36-41).

All EU regulations are to be applied as amended respectively.

The Guide for Proposers is furthermore based on the Programme Document of the Austrian NANO Initiative approved by the Federal Ministry of Finance.

3.6.2 Information on Other Funded Projects

In the course of the application, information on any existing similar projects has to be provided. In case multiple funding is suspected, there will be coordination with the respective other funding institution in order to determine the relation of the projects to each other and the admissible amount of funding. If a project has been funded by several funding institutions, the calculation of the cash value has to be carried out on the basis of the costs actually recognised by the respective funding institution – in the course of checking a final report on expenditure of funds. The funding institution with the largest share of cash value has to check that the admissible upper limits are observed. In case these upper limits are exceeded, the funds have to be cut proportionately in coordination with the respective funding institution.

Information on further funded projects has to be provided in Form B of the application form.

3.6.3 Information on Exclusion of Evaluators

If evaluators are to be excluded from the evaluation process, this information has to be provided in the pre-proposal already.

4 Procedure

4.1 Submission and Support

The submission of a Transnational Project is a two-step process. First a pre-proposal has to be submitted.

The obligatory pre-proposal facilitates the identification of expert evaluators and ensures that potential project applications are eligible under the relevant ERA-NET and / or the national funding rules. All pre-proposals received before the advertised pre-proposal deadlines (see below) will be assessed for eligibility. Depending on the nature of the project, the eligibility check might be completed by coordination of the national programme agencies. In case the project is embedded in the ERA-SPOT Call 2007, the pre-proposal submission form and the feedback to proposers concerning the pre-proposal check result is provided by the ERA-SPOT consortium.

Proposers are invited to submit a full proposal after a positive eligibility check of the pre-proposal. Any project that does not submit a pre-proposal will be deemed ineligible for entering the competition.

Within this call, three possibilities for submission of a project are offered:

- **1st possibility for submission: Transnational Projects embedded into the ERA-SPOT Call 2007**, pre-proposal deadline: Nov. 26, 2007. For more details concerning an ERA-SPOT project submission, e.g. proposal requirements, forms, evaluation procedure, etc., please see also the ERA-SPOT documents at: www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational and/or www.era-spot.eu. Please be aware that the ERA-SPOT Call is a fixed call – Deadline for full proposals: Feb 29, 2008!
- **2nd possibility for submission: All types of Transnational Projects**, pre-proposal deadline: January 22, 2008. If a pre-proposal is submitted after January 22, 2008, this will result in severe delays. Furthermore budget constraints can occur.
- **3rd possibility for submission: All types of Transnational Projects**, pre-proposal deadline: June 27, 2008. This is the latest possibility for submitting the obligatory pre-proposal. The call closes on September 26, 2008.

Please be aware that, with the exception of projects embedded into the ERA-SPOT call, there is no specific coordinated action (ERA-NET) behind such a Transnational Project Call. The Austrian partner has to describe in detail the financing of the project, including the part conducted abroad. Financing has to be fixed in the consortium agreement before signature of the funding contract. The terms and conditions relevant to the international partner have to be clarified by the consortium itself. Of course the programme management of the Austrian NANO Initiative will support the submission of such a project and will contact the funding agency of the partner abroad in case this could be of help.

For illustration of the various steps and the relevant dates for the submission of a Transnational Project, see the figures below:

1st possibility for submission: Transnational Projects embedded into the ERA-SPOT call 2007:

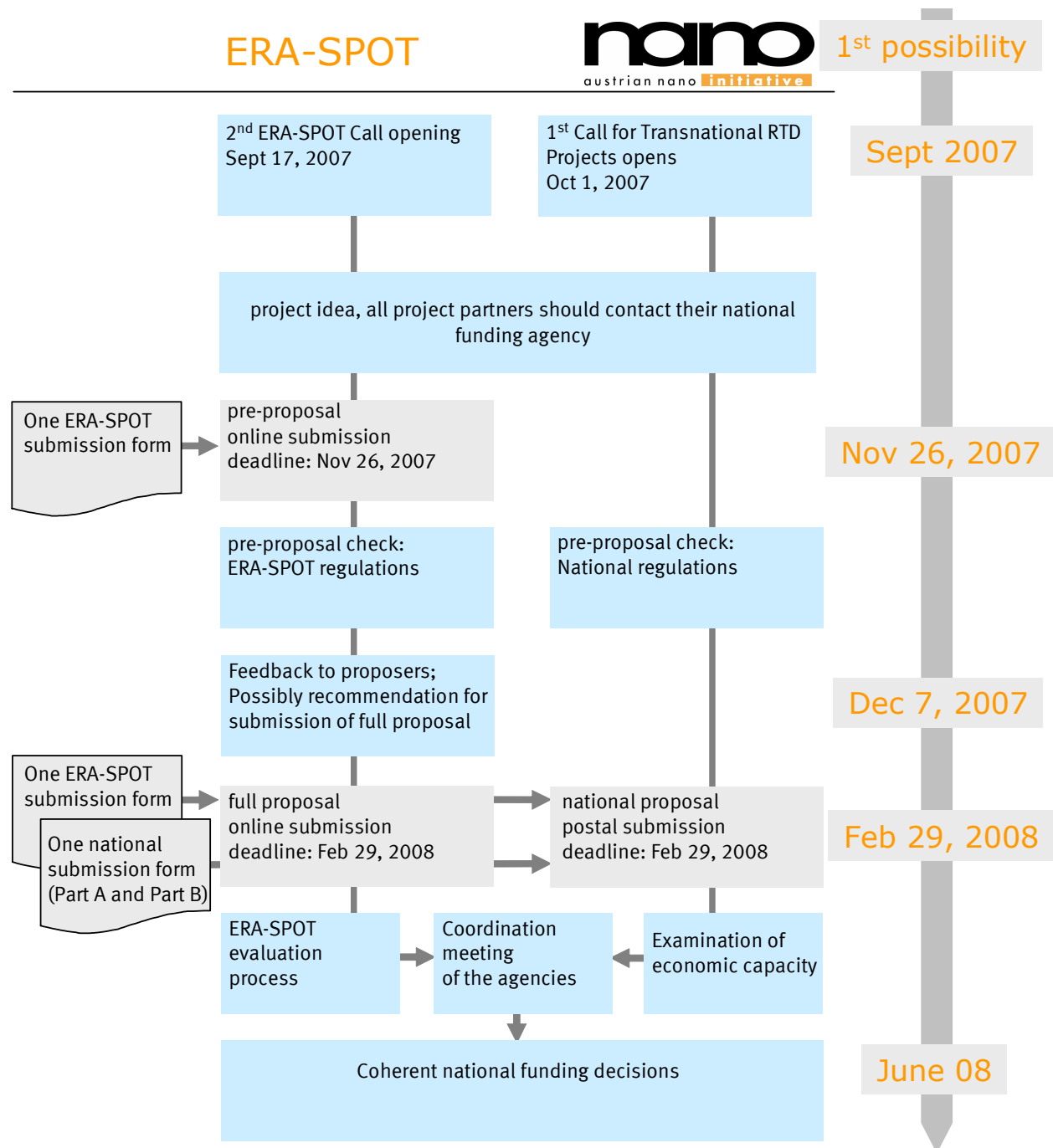


Figure 5 Transnational Projects embedded into the ERA-SPOT call 2007

The national proposal has to refer largely to the ERA-SPOT proposal, also because the national evaluation is based on the results of the ERA-SPOT international evaluation procedure. The ERA-SPOT recommendation to the national agencies will lead to coherent national funding decisions. Details on the relevant documents are described in the subsequent chapter, and details on the evaluation process in chapter 4.2.

2nd and 3rd possibility for submission: All types of Transnational Projects:

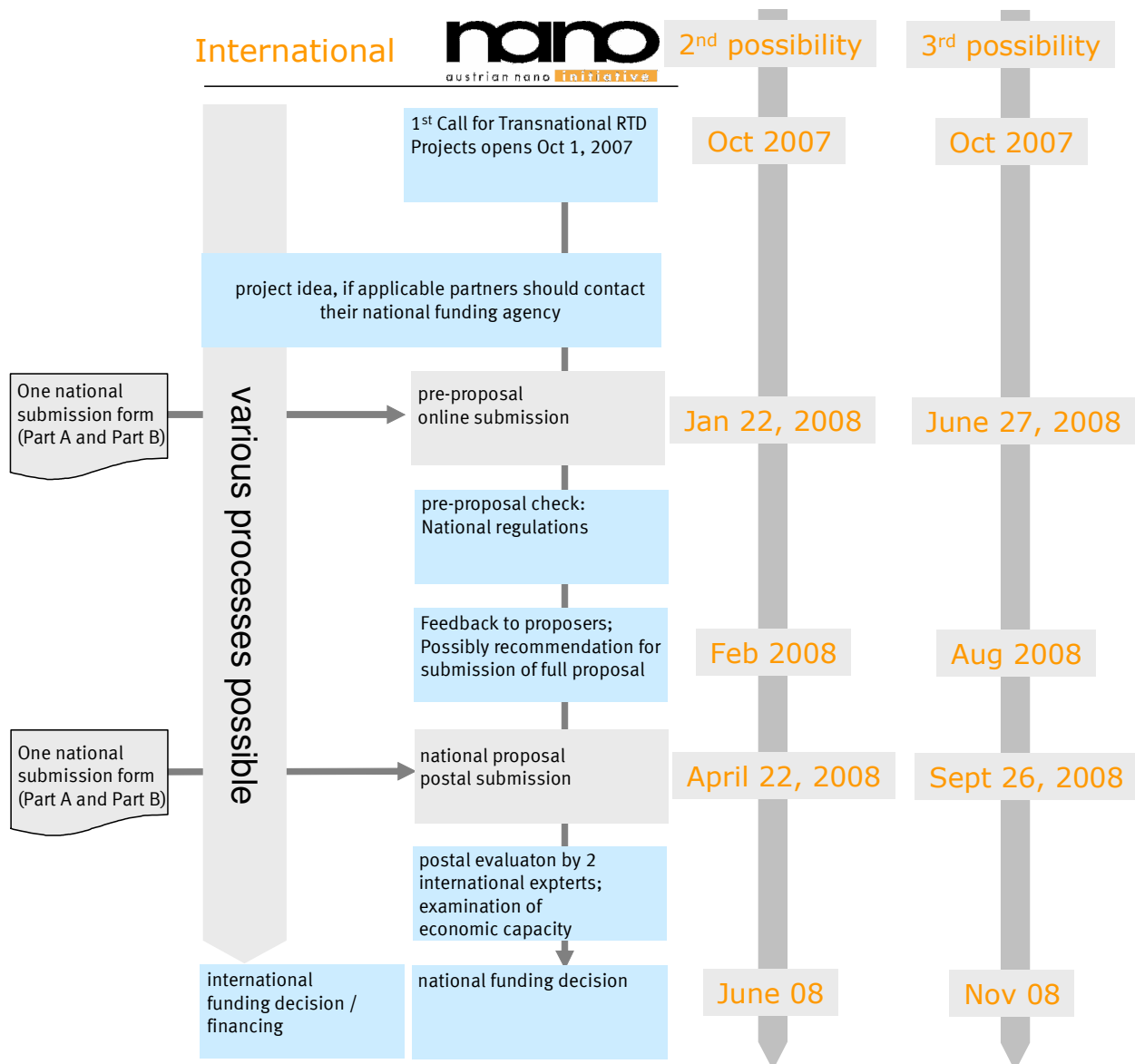


Figure 6 All types of Transnational Projects

The national proposal also has to describe the foreign project work and its costs and financing, the cooperation aspects and the expertise of the project partner abroad. The national evaluation is based on at least two postal evaluation reports. Details on the relevant documents are described in the subsequent chapter, and details on the evaluation process in chapter 4.2.

4.1.1 Documents

The Guide for Proposers on hand - and if applicable an ERA-NET Guide for Proposers in addition – is/are the basis for submitting project proposals. Applicants must exclusively use the forms provided for submitting their project proposals. The Guide for Proposers as well as the form for submitting the project application are available for downloading at www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational or are available from the Programme Management at the

FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency. For requirements referring to forms see also the pertinent ERA-NET conditions.

Additional documents for a Transnational Project within the ERA-SPOT Call 2007:

The Guide for Proposers for the ERA-SPOT Call 2007, the ERA-SPOT pre-proposal form and the ERA-SPOT full proposal form can be downloaded at www.era-spot.eu and in addition also at www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational.

The proposers will receive an acknowledgement of receipt in writing within one week from submission of the proposal.

4.1.2 Formal Criteria

In case a project is embedded into an ERA-NET, the ERA-NET requirements of how and in which form to submit a proposal apply in addition to the national criteria which are described below. For the ERA-SPOT requirements, please see the ERA-SPOT Guide for Proposers.

The following general national eligibility criteria have to be observed unconditionally when submitting a project proposal:

- proposal submission documents **received in due time:**
 - by mail: receipt by the NANO Programme Management (FFG)
 - handed in personally: submission office is the reception on the 4th floor of the FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency, Sensengasse 1. All applications have to be received by the submission office by 12:00 noon on the respective submission deadline date⁴.
- **completeness** of the proposal submission documents; please also note that the national funding application consists of the following parts:
 - Form A: funding application - content (Word document)
 - Form B: tables part of the funding application (Excel document)
 - any supporting documents if required
- **form of handing in the application / signatures:**
 - language of application: **English**
 - 1 original (original signatures and all supporting documents required); 2 complete colour copies of the original application (without supporting documents); 1 electronic version of the application on CD-ROM
 - the Pre-Proposal has to be signed with a legally binding signature by the national proposer (or in the case of an ERA-SPOT project, by the ERA-SPOT Project Coordinator).
 - the national funding application has to be signed with a legally binding signature by the respective authorised person of the national proposer.
 - a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by the coordinator and by all partners, will be required for proposal submission and the relevant template is provided in the proposal form.

⁴ The FFG's reception is open on working days from Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- A funding application that has only been partly submitted by the end of the submission deadline, is deemed to be incomplete; it is not possible to hand in any documents (or individual parts of the proposal) later!
- The "Funding Application – Content" (Form A) has a limited number of pages. For the respective admissible maximum number of pages, please refer to the application form; font size 11 pt, spacing minimum 1.3 lines. Pages have to be numbered.

In addition, the applications are checked according to the following formal criteria:

- There is an invitation for submitting a proposal after a positive Pre-Proposal check.
- The information is identical with the Pre-Proposal.
- The amount of Federal funding applied for is in accordance with the Guide for Proposers.
- The maximum duration of a project is observed.
- The maximum amounts of funding / financing are observed.
- There is proof of the participation of the required number of obligatory partners.

The FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency carries out the economic check (credit investigation) and checks the proposal for remediable and unrecoverable formal defects. This results in the general eligibility of the consortium or the individual project partners respectively.

The national project proposals are submitted in a sealed envelope. The envelope has to be labelled as follows:

**1st Call under the
Programme Action Line "Transnational RTD Projects"
Project Proposal – Do not open
Austrian Research Promotion Agency GmbH (FFG)
NANO Programme Management
Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna**

There is no legal claim to receiving funding or financing for a project.

4.1.3 Consultancy

The BMVIT has commissioned the FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency to carry out consultancy and information provision activities for the NANO Initiative. The FFG's services comprise consultancy for potential proposers.

FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency GmbH
Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna
Programme Manager: Dr. Margit Haas

Consultancy for submitting a proposal under the programme action line "Transnational RTD Projects"

DI Regina Korntner

tel.: +43/5755-5081

fax: +43/157755-95081

e-Mail: regina.korntner@ffg.at

All information on the 1st Call under the programme action line "Transnational RTD Projects" of the NANO Initiative (Guide for Proposers, Forms, etc.) are available for downloading on the programme's Web site at www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational.

Consultancy days and information events in the Federal provinces are planned for October. For dates of and registration for these events, please refer to our Web site: www.nanoinitiative.at.

4.2 Evaluation

4.2.1 Experts and bodies participating in the evaluation process

Expert opinions by at least two international experts are used for assessing the projects (peer review). The formal and eligibility check and the examination of economic capacity are carried out by the FFG's internal pool of experts. These expert opinions serve as a basis for the evaluation panel, the Management Team of the Austrian NANO Initiative, together with any possible recommendation of an ERA-NET consortium, for its recommendation to the BMVIT – Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology.

The Management Team consists of representatives of the FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency, the FWF – Austrian Science Fund, and the aws – Austria Business Service. One member each of the FFG's "Thematic Programmes" Department, the FWF and aws is entitled to vote. An equal gender balance is aimed at in the composition of the evaluation panel.

All persons involved in the selection procedure or present as observers are bound to secrecy concerning information they have received while executing their function. In addition, the participants of the selection procedure have to provide information on any possible partiality at their own initiative as early as possible and to refrain from performing their function in the evaluation procedure if necessary. If external persons, i.e. persons who are not FFG experts or members of the Management Team, are called during to the procedure, these persons have to sign a declaration of confidentiality.

4.2.2 Selection Procedure

There are two possibilities for evaluation:

Transnational Evaluation Process

A project is embedded into an ERA-NET with a transnational evaluation process that fulfils the evaluation standards for a Transnational Project within the Austrian NANO Initiative to a sufficient extent. For such projects, no additional national scientific and technical evaluation is required. A formal and eligibility check and the examination of economic capacity are carried out by FFG experts.

This applies to all projects submitted under the ERA-SPOT Call 2007. For the evaluation criteria of an ERA-SPOT project see the proposer guidelines for ERA-SPOT projects at: www.nanoinitiative.at/transnational or www.era-spot.eu.

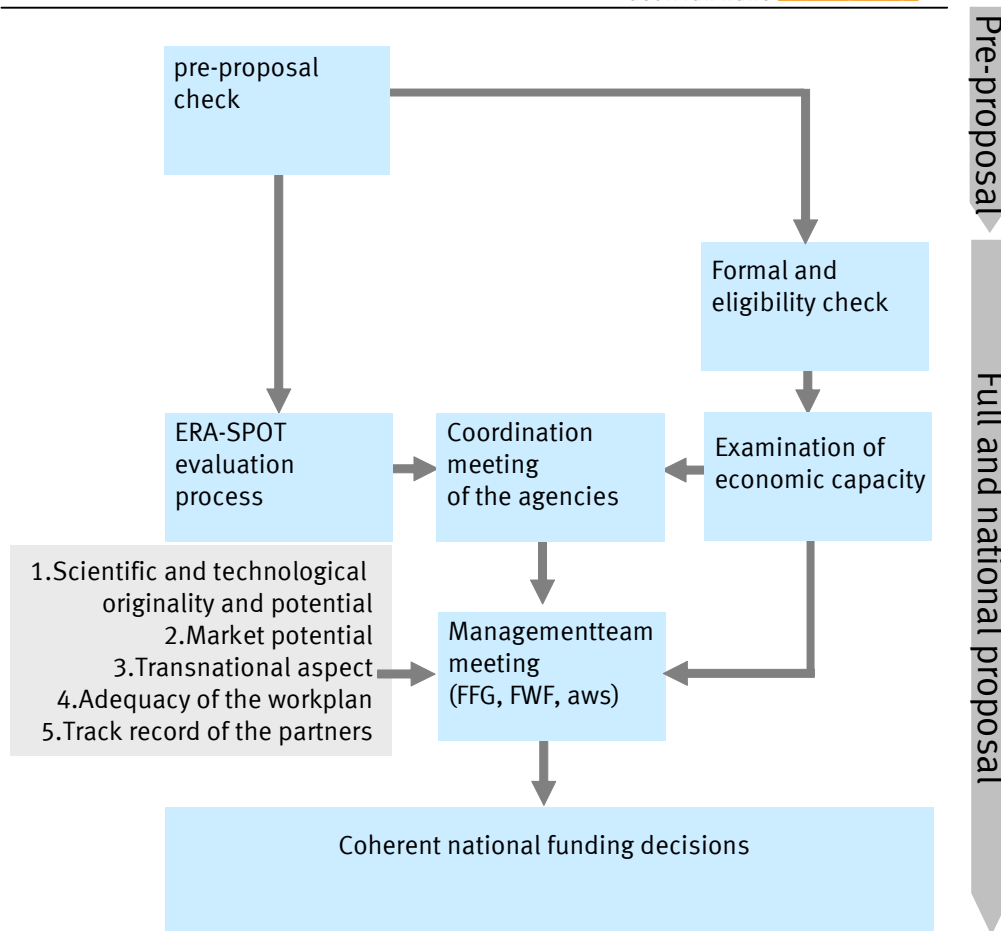


Figure 7 ERA-SPOT Evaluation Process

For other ERA-NETs, the appropriate evaluation process will be selected after submission of a relevant pre-proposal.

National Evaluation Process

A project is (1) embedded into an ERA-NET focussing its decision-making process on national evaluation results and/or with an insufficient evaluation process or the project (2) is not embedded into an ERA-NET: In both these cases the projects submitted are evaluated on the basis of a peer review process.

The FFG will assemble an independent panel of expert evaluators. All evaluators will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement and a declaration stating that there is no conflict of interest. Each project will be subject to a postal evaluation by a team of a minimum of two evaluators.

The Programme Management of the Austrian NANO Initiative examines the eligibility of projects on the basis of the Pre-Proposals. Only projects which have received an invitation to submit a full proposal are admitted to the evaluation and selection procedure of the second stage. This procedure is started immediately after each cut-off date. As a rule, the period of the evaluation from the cut-off date until the opinions are available, should be a maximum of six weeks. The Management Team meets approx. 7 weeks after the cut-off date, and the BMVIT – Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology takes its decision approx. 8 weeks after the cut-off date.

Depending on the cut-off date, the proposers can expect a letter to the proposer in the 9th week after the cut-off date.

The Management Team assesses the proposals, supported by the expert opinions and any recommendations from an ERA-NET, with regard to the quality of the project proposed and the project partners, and with a view to their expected contribution to the objectives of the programme.

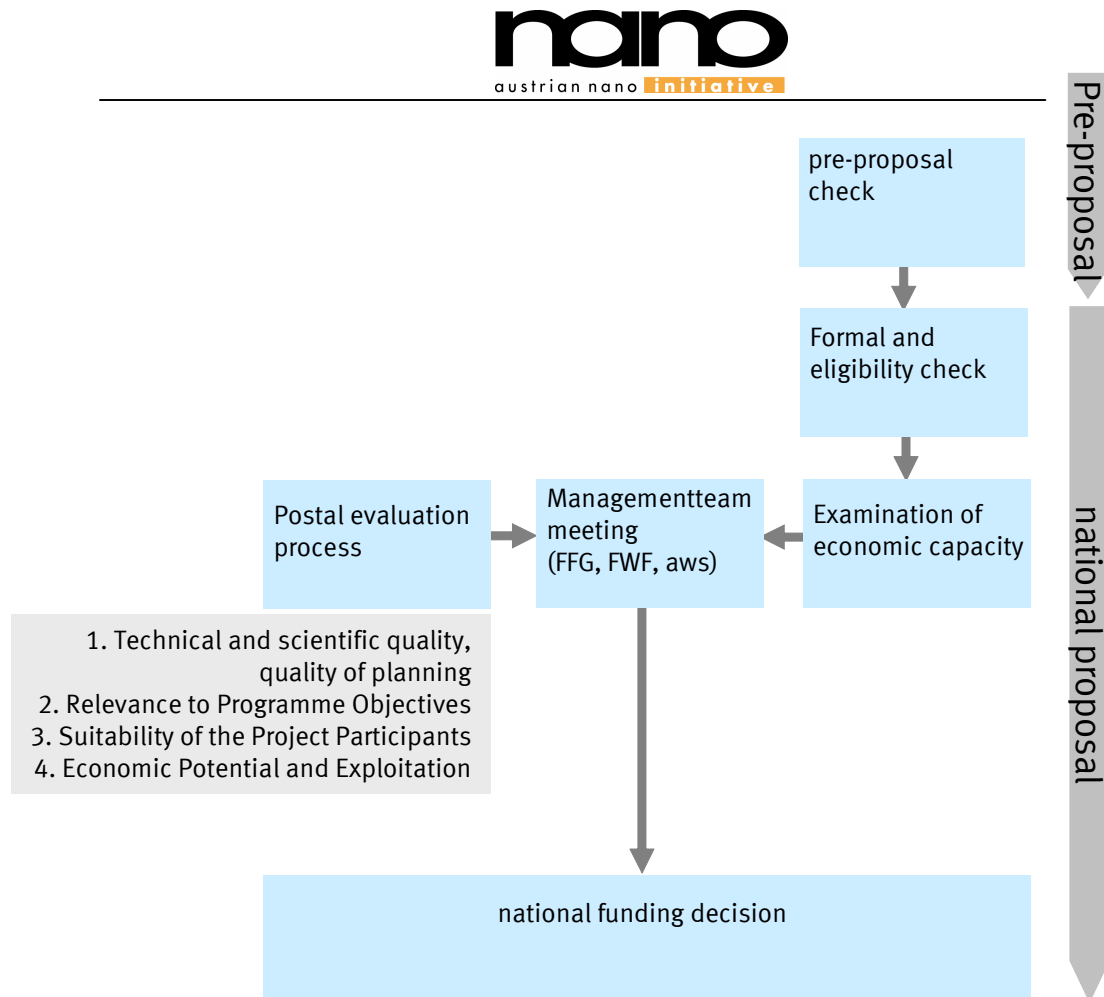


Figure 8 National Evaluation Process for a Project outside ERA-NET

In case there is no consensus at the Management Team meeting with regard to the assessment, it is provided that a simple majority be decisive for the funding decision. If there is a "draw", further arguments have to be put forward and the discussion has to be continued, in order to reach a decision in another vote.

The result of the selection procedure is a funding recommendation to the Federal Minister in charge, including any obligations and conditions. The funding decision is the responsibility of the Federal Minister in charge, and is taken on the basis of the recommendation of the evaluation panel, including any obligations and/or conditions. The commissioned funding institution is informed of the decision by the Federal Minister.

If the granting of funding is intended, the funding institution has to send a funding offer to the proposer in writing, which the proposer has to accept in writing within one month. If there are any

reasons which delay the acceptance of the funding offer, this deadline can be extended appropriately in any case. In case the proposal is rejected, the proposer has to be informed in a letter of rejection which includes the decisive reasons for the rejection. If a funding offer is accepted, contract negotiations can be started immediately.

4.3 Setting-up the Agreement

According to the law, the directives and the mandate agreement (*Beauftragungsvertrag*), the Austrian Research Promotion Agency concludes all funding agreements in the name of and for the account of the Federal state. The agreement is signed by the national proposer - or in the case of a national consortium by the coordinator of this consortium - as the contractual partner and funding recipient, and by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency as grantor of the funding and as programme manager of the Austrian NANO Initiative. The funding agreement regulates the duties of the coordinator and their partners as well as the remuneration they receive. It also regulates the principles of cooperation within the project and provides an overview of the overall project. The details of this cooperation have to be regulated in the consortium agreement, which is to be concluded parallel to the funding agreement.

4.4 Reporting and Payment Modalities

The contract also regulates the content, type of financing, the reporting, as well as the cost and payment plan of the project.

Interim reports are required. The number of interim reports depends on the duration of the project as well as on its structure and how it is embedded. Any details referring to these reports are laid down in the funding agreement. 40% of the funds are paid out once the funding agreement is signed. By means of the interim reports, both the progress of the project and the commitment of the project partners from abroad are examined. Payment of 40% of the funding is linked to the interim reports. The project is finally checked on the basis of the final report, together with the auditing of the project. On the basis of this final check and auditing, the remaining funding to the amount of 20% of the total funding is paid out.

5 Contacts

5.1 Programme Owner



BMVIT Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
Unit III/15
Renngasse 5, A-1010 Vienna
www.bmvit.gv.at
fax +43 (0) 1 71162 65 2230

Responsible for the programme:

Reinhard **GOEBL**
tel. +43 (0) 1 71162 65 2011
e-mail: Reinhard.Goebl@bmvit.gv.at

Contact:

Alexander **POGÁNY**
tel. +43 (0) 1 71162 65 3203
e-mail: Alexander.Pogany@bmvit.gv.at

5.2 Programme Management

FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency
Department for Thematic Programmes
Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
www.ffg.at
fax +43 (0) 5 7755 95080



Contact:

Margit **HAAS**
tel. +43 (0) 5 7755 5080
e-mail : margit.haas@ffg.at

Regina **KORNTNER**
Tel. +43 (0) 5 7755 5081
e-mail: regina.korntner@ffg.at

Programme Web Site: www.nanoinitiative.at

6 Annexes

Design of the Austrian NANO Initiative

Project Types and Programme Action Lines

Since 2004, the NANO Initiative has been funding nanosciences and nanotechnologies and as a generic programme has been offering structural framework conditions, using the concept of programme action lines for types of projects in its programme terminology.

Under these programme action lines, certain objectives such as networking, creating critical masses, cooperation between enterprises and scientists, internationalisation, exploitation of critical ideas, or building up qualified human resources, are pursued.

The programme action lines are defined via types of projects with clearly differentiated characteristics. They are dealt with in separate calls, following the defined programme objectives with their structure and their specific characteristics.

The Austrian NANO Initiative comprises the following programme action lines, subdivided according to types of projects:

Project type RTD in Cooperation

Programme action line: National RTD Projects

1. New RTD Project Clusters (Type 1 and Type 2)
2. Add-on Projects to Existing RTD Project Clusters

Project type RTD in Cooperation

Programme action line: Transnational RTD-Projects

Funding of transnational cooperation within European Research Area Networks

Project type Stimulation

Programme action line: Networks and Confidence Building

1. Funding of exploratory activities
2. Financing of events

Project type Development of Human Resources

Programme action line: Training and Education Measures

Measures to ensure qualitative and quantitative growth and the development of human resources in Austria

Programme Action Line National RTD Projects

The objective of the national RTD and innovation projects is to develop new procedures and applications within the framework of Project Clusters, building on findings from the nanosciences. In these Project Clusters, several research institutions and enterprises cooperate in multiannual projects, ranging from basic research to industrial research and technology development (cluster characteristic).

Project proposals can be submitted during calls for proposals. Only consortia in which enterprises and research institutions cooperate are eligible for participation. An international Jury of experts evaluates the project ideas and selects the best projects for funding.

Programme Action Line Transnational RTD Projects

Mostly within the framework of the European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs), transnational cooperations are funded. National funding programmes of the partner countries represented in the respective ERA-NET are accessible to transnational consortia. Proposals are submitted during calls.

Programme Action Line Networks and Confidence Building

Under this programme action line, the cooperation between science and industry is also of particular importance. During calls, proposals can be submitted for exploring innovative ideas as well as for conceiving, organising and carrying out events. Thus networking measures of the Austrian players are supported, above all also in an international context, in order to increase Austria's visibility as well as to build up confidence through improving the level of information of Austrian small and medium-sized enterprises.

Programme Action Line Training and Education Measures

The objective of this programme action line is to build up and expand the human resources required for ensuring the qualitative and quantitative growth of NANO in Austria. Funding is provided for education and training measures for a positive development of the higher education sector (universities, universities of applied sciences), of the vocational training sector and the general-education secondary school sector, as well as of enterprises with regard to nanosciences and nanotechnologies. Proposals can be submitted during calls.

In Addition to the Programme Action Lines ...

Additional Accompanying Measures support the strategic focus of the NANO Initiative. Funding and financing are provided for instance for specialised studies, strategic concepts, technology foresights and analyses. Results of studies under these measures can be consulted to design national, strategic accompanying research programmes.

Individual projects can also be submitted at the FFG's *General Programmes* department. These projects are predominantly designed to attract small and medium-sized enterprises to using nanotechnologies. The regulations of the FFG's *General Programmes* apply.

Programme Carriers, Bodies, Functions and Partners

The Austrian NANO Initiative focuses a series of funding initiatives of the Federal Ministries and the Federal provinces in the field of nanosciences and nanotechnologies. The cooperation between the individual funding institutions is based on a jointly formulated objective and an agreed implementation plan.

The ongoing activities of the Austrian NANO Initiative are carried by four bodies which act jointly:

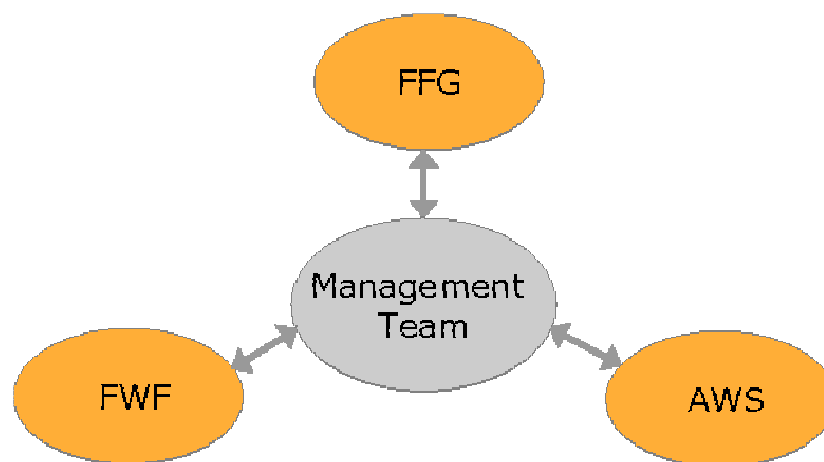
- o Scientific and Technical Advisory Board: strategic orientation of the Initiative
- o Steering Committee: additional advice on the strategic orientation with regard to recent international developments
- o Management Team: operative implementation of the Initiative

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Board (STAB) consists of internationally and nationally renowned personalities from the fields of “science and research“, “business and enterprises“, and “international organisations“.

The members of the Advisory Board have the following tasks:

- o Making recommendations to the Steering Committee on the strategic and thematic orientation of the Austrian NANO Initiative,
- o Contributing to the programme evaluation and suggesting international experts to the Steering Committee, as well as
- o Exchanging experience regarding best practice with the Steering Committee.

The Management Team has the task of harmonising the implementation of the NANO Initiative by the different participating organisations and funding institutions on the operative level. The Programme Management is carried out by the FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency GmbH). The Management Team is chaired by the NANO Programme Manager at the FFG. The members of the Management Team are staff members of the FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency), FWF (Austrian Science Fund) and AWS (Austria Business Service), in charge of managing or implementing the Austrian NANO Initiative. Further persons or organisations can be called in if required.



Composition of the Management Team. Coordination: FFG

Programme Partners

The Austrian NANO Initiative is implemented and coordinated by the FFG, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency, by order of the BMVIT (Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology). The FFG cooperates with several implementation partners in the individual programme action lines.

Programme Action Line	Partner Organisations
National RTD Projects	<p>Contact point, submission and controlling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FFG, Thematic Programmes Department <p>Evaluation, management of funding and project controlling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FFG for projects in industrial research and technology development and in the field of basic research ○ FWF supports the evaluation process <p>RTD infrastructure and RTD appliances: The following could contribute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BMWF (Federal Ministry for Science and Research) for universities and non-university institutions ○ Funding institutions of the Federal provinces
Transnational RTD Projects Networks and Confidence Building Training and Education Measures	<p>Contact point, submission, evaluation, management of funding and project controlling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FFG, Thematic Programmes Department ○ Support by FWF and AWS within the Management Team
Bottom-up Projects (Individual Projects)	<p>Contact point, submission, evaluation, management of funding and project controlling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FFG, General Programmes Department

Budget Breakdown According to Programme Action Lines

For all project types and all relevant programme action lines put together, the funding budget for the Austrian NANO Initiative amounts to € 12 million for 2007 for the time being.

Programme Action Lines and Elements	Budget 2007	
	k€	%
<u>Project type RTD in Cooperation</u> Programme action line: National RTD Projects New RTD Project Clusters (Type 1 and Type 2) Add-on Projects to existing RTD Project Clusters	9,000	75.0
<u>Project type RTD in Cooperation</u> Programme action line: Transnational RTD Projects Funding of transnational cooperations	1,000	8.3
<u>Project type Stimulation</u> Programme action line: Networks and Confidence Building Funding of exploratory activities and concepts Financing of events	1,000	8.3
<u>Project type Development of Human Resources</u> Programme action line: Training and Education Measures Measures to ensure the qualitative and quantitative growth and the development of human resources in Austria	750	6.3
Accompanying Measures Financing of studies, strategic concepts, concepts regarding accompanying research programmes as well as Technology Foresights	250	2.1
Bottom-up Projects (Individual Projects) Funding of individual projects specifically to attract SMEs	Budget of FFG General Programmes Department (not specifically dedicated)	
Total 2007	12,00	100 %

Salary Schemes, Overhead, VAT

Further Information Concerning Personnel Costs

With regard to the question of the maximum amount of eligible personnel costs, there are regulations in the "RTD Directives", item 3.3., as well as regulations in the "General Framework Directives" ("*Allgemeinen Rahmenrichtlinien*" (ARR 2004)), § 21 (2), sub-paragraph 9 that are to be applied as regulations subsidiary to the RTD Directives in this context.

The personnel costs are eligible for funding up to the guiding rate laid down respectively according to sub-paragraph 8 of the "*Verordnung des Bundesministers für Finanzen betreffend Richtlinien für die Ermittlung und Darstellung der finanziellen Auswirkungen neuer rechtssetzender Maßnahmen*" (Decree of the Federal Minister of Finance Concerning Guidelines for Determining and Describing the Financial Effects of New Legislative Measures, Federal Law Gazette II No. 50/1999, Annex 3).

In connection with the funding of internationally excellent research, it may be required to exceed the maximum personnel costs provided in principle. If there is a justifiable exceptional case – such justifications would be in particular internationally customary payment of special research expertise – it is permissible to deviate from the maximum personnel costs provided in principle.

The table below lists the current maximum rates for personnel costs (as of 2005) and is intended to facilitate the classification of personnel by means of examples:

Employees according to function	Examples of classification according to function	Classification by group according to decree	Annual personnel costs (gross, including ancillary wage costs)	Hours per year
Scientific staff				
1 st management level (I)	Scientific management	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 1	104,277	1680
2 nd management level (H)	Deputy scientific management, Area Management etc	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 2	90,235	1680
Key Scientist (G)	Key Researcher	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 1	104,277	1680
Senior Scientist (F)	Senior Researcher	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 2	90,235	1680
Junior Scientist (E)	Junior Researcher	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 3	76,192	1680
Diploma students & doctoral students	Junior Researcher	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 3	76,192	1680
Administrative staff				
1 st management level (I)	Management	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 1	104,277	1680
2 nd management level (H)	Management assistant	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 2	90,235	1680
Key Administration (G)	Controlling	VB-HL-Höh. Dienst 1	104,277	1680
Senior Administration (F)	Assistants	VB-VD-Gehob. Dienst 1	40,207	1680
Junior Administration (E)	Secretariat	VB-VD-Gehob. Dienst 2	40,207	1680
Technicians/specialist staff	Technician	VB-VD-Gehob. Dienst 1	40,207	1680
in EUR per year, excluding calculated additional (extra) charges				

Further Information Concerning Overheads

In principle, overheads are only eligible for funding if they are based on actual costs relating to the implementation of the project for which evidence is provided, and if they are comprehensible.

Personnel overheads are estimated via the overheads as a rule.

The following costs are not eligible for funding under overhead costs:

- Marketing costs
- Advertising costs
- General administration and distribution costs
- Financing costs
- Calculatory costs (risks, interest, depreciation, entrepreneurial profit)
- Profit tangents
- Costs with itemised billing
- Depreciation for costs with itemised billing
- Financing costs (debit interest, fees for financial transactions, fees for money exchange, foreign exchange losses, other financing costs)
- Legal costs, administration fines, penalties
- Expenses outside the funding period
- Charge levied (*Umlage*)
- Insurances
- Overheads resulting from current business activity (e.g. operating costs of sales premises etc.)
- Entertainment costs, representation costs

Further Information Concerning Value-Added Tax (VAT)

In principle, the value-added tax attributed to the costs of the services eligible for funding is not eligible for funding within the framework of research projects; however, if this value-added tax has to be borne actually and eventually by the funding recipient, and if therefore the funding recipient is not entitled to input tax deduction, this value-added tax can be considered as part of the costs eligible for funding.