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Bundesministerium
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Energie, Mobilität,
Innovation und Technologie

Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union

VERSION 1.0
SUBMISSION DEADLINE
13/12/2023

R&D INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING 2023
CALL GUIDELINE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

1 KEY ITEMS AT A GLANCE

Table 1: Key points of the Call

Key points of the Call	Further information
Short description	This Call supports projects for the acquisition and establishment of R&D infrastructure for basic research and for applied research (type of use "non-economic use" and "economic use"). This is an open-topic call.
Funding amount	max. EUR 2,500,000 The funding budgets of the individual provincial governments must be taken into account.
Total cost	min. EUR 500,000
Funding rate	"Non-economic use": **max. 90%** "Economic use": **max. 50%**
Duration in years	max. 3 years **Latest project start:** 01/10/2024 Projects must start on the 1st day of the month.
Type of application	Individual application A maximum of 2 funding applications may be submitted per applicant organisation and use category (see section 4.3). The **application** must be submitted by means of a **qualified electronic signature** of a person authorised to sign in accordance with the signature regulations of the submitting organisation. For **institution of higher education**, this must be done using the qualified electronic signature of the **rectorate**.
Eligible organisations	The following are eligible in the "**non-economic use**" category: – Research and knowledge dissemination organisations The following are eligible in the "**economic use**" category: – Research and knowledge dissemination organisations – Undertakings (see section 4.4).

Key points of the Call	Further information
	Note: The budget of the province of Salzburg is used exclusively for projects of the "non-economic use" category.
Eligible costs	The costs directly incurred in the acquisition of R&D infrastructure and capitalised in the fixed asset schedule are eligible for both types of use. (see funding budgets of the individual provincial governments and project location regulations in chapter 4.3)
Submission deadline	– **Mandatory information meeting** with the relevant regional authorities responsible for the project location **by 25/11/2023** (see section 5.1) – **Submission deadline** via eCall: **Wednesday 13/12/2023, 12:00:00** (CET)
Language	**English** (project description, role of applicant and work schedule in eCall)
Contacts	**Call management:** Martin Reishofer, +43 57755-2402, martin.reishofer@ffg.at Joachim Haumann, +43 57755-2412, joachim.haumann@ffg.at Katrin Wlcek, +43 57755-2411, katrin.wlcek@ffg.at Astrid Stakne, +43 57755-2406, astrid.stakne@ffg.at
Online	www.ffg.at/FuE-Infrastrukturfoerderung_2023
Submission portal	https://ecall.ffg.at

The complete set of application documents must be submitted exclusively via eCall by the end of the submission deadline.

In the event of a conflict with the call guideline in German, the German version will prevail.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The initiative for the funding of R&D infrastructure launched by the FFG in 2016 is designed to strengthen the base for excellent research at Austrian universities, research institutions and companies, thus enhancing the international position of Austrian research and innovation activities. The Call therefore addresses R&D infrastructures for both basic research and applied research and development. This initiative also provides incentives for shared use of R&D infrastructure by research institutions, universities and companies.

The Call aims to:

- strengthen the R&D infrastructure by focussing on initiatives of critical size;
- establish and expand R&D infrastructure for internationally recognised research/innovation activities ("hot spots"), which connect to relevant fields of expertise and open up future-oriented fields of research/innovation;
- improve internationally visible R&D services of Austrian universities, research institutions and companies;
- increase excellence in basic research and applied research;
- strengthen the competitiveness of research active companies and of Austria as a research location;
- enable shared use of R&D infrastructure by research institutions, universities and companies (improved efficiency and capacity utilisation, additional benefit through new collaborations);
- enhance the multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity in research and development (funded R&D infrastructure is used by several research groups and for different research/innovation activities through interdisciplinary approaches in shared use and open access to additional users).

The Call provides funding for the following categories of use:

- **"Non-economic use"**
  Research infrastructure at universities, universities of applied sciences and (non-university) research institutions that enables pioneering scientific research and high-quality education in future-oriented research fields as part of non-economic activities.
- **"Economic use"**
  Research infrastructure at universities, universities of applied sciences, (non-university) research institutions and undertakings that supports companies in developing innovative products, processes or services in future-oriented technology fields.

Funding is not restricted to specific topics or areas of technology or science.

3 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The "R&D Infrastructure Funding 2023" Call is carried out as part of the ERDF Programme "Investments in Jobs, Growth and Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy in Austria 2021-2027" of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) www.efre.gv.at and is co-financed by national funds.

The budgets available for each province consist of ERDF funds and national funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology:

Table 2: Overview of the budgets available for the federal provinces under the R&D Infrastructure Funding 2023 Call

Federal province	ERDF funds [EUR]	National funds [EUR]	Total budget [EUR]
Burgenland	719,572	179,893	**899,465**
Carinthia	6,000,000	1,500,000	**7,500,000**
Lower Austria	5,000,000	1.250,000	**6,250,000**
Upper Austria	4,000,000	1,000,000	**5,000,000**
Salzburg*	2,000,000*	500,000*	**2,500,000***
Styria	10,000,000	2,500,000	**12,500,000**
Tyrol	1,900,000	475,000	**2,375,000**
Vorarlberg	1.000,000	250,000	**1.250,000**
Vienna	1,500,000	375,000	**1,875,000**

*The budget of the province of Salzburg is used exclusively for projects of the "non-economic use" category.

Funding applications and projects are allocated to the budget of a specific federal province based on the project location specified in eCall at the time of application. The project location is the location of the applicant organisational unit where the submitted project is to be carried out (see section 4.3).

4 BASIS OF FUNDING

4.1 What are R&D infrastructure projects?

R&D infrastructure projects are projects aimed at acquiring, establishing and expanding advanced R&D infrastructure for basic research and applied research. The focus is on shared-use R&D infrastructure for new future-oriented research and innovation fields. Shared use is taken to mean use by several organisations or organisational units other than the applicant.

Funding is available for R&D infrastructure projects of the following **types of use**:

- **"non-economic use"**
- **"economic use"**

The differences between the two types of use are shown in the following table.

Table 3: Differences between the two types of use

Key points	Type of use “non-economic use”	Type of use “economic use”
Goal	Acquisition of R&D infrastructure at universities and non-university research institutions enabling **pioneering scientific research** and **high quality education** in future-oriented research fields **as part of non-economic activities.**	Acquisition of R&D infrastructure at universities, non-university research institutions and companies designed to support the **development of innovative products, processes or services** in future-oriented technology fields.
Use of funded R&D infrastructure	– **Nearly exclusively non-economic use** Economic use is admissible as an ancillary activity if it does not exceed 20% of total annual capacity. See section 4.2.2	– No limitation See section 4.2.2
Eligible organisations	– Research and knowledge dissemination organisations See sections 4.3 and 4.4	– Research and knowledge dissemination organisations – Undertakings Note: R&D infrastructure projects submitted by

Key points	Type of use "non-economic use"	Type of use "economic use"
		undertakings fall into the "economic use" category without exception. See sections 4.3 and 4.4
Eligible costs	Acquisition of R&D infrastructure and capitalised in the fixed asset schedule See section 4.6	Acquisition of R&D infrastructure and capitalised in the fixed asset schedule See section 4.6
Funding rate	max. 90% See section 4.5	max. 50% See section 4.5
Match funding	The funding does **not constitute state aid** within the meaning of the Union Framework for State aid. Match funding from public sources is therefore permitted. See section 4.7	The funding **constitutes state aid** within the meaning of the Union Framework for State aid. Match funding from public sources is therefore not permitted. See section 4.7

Replacement investments for the renewal of basic R&D infrastructure equipment are not eligible for funding.

4.2 What should be taken into account regarding the use of the R&D infrastructure?

4.2.1 Open, non-discriminatory access

Access to and use of the infrastructure must be open to other potential users under non-discriminatory and transparent conditions. At least 10% of annual capacity must be available to such other organisations.

4.2.2 Planned use

The R&D infrastructure may be used for economic or non-economic purposes (see also Union Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation).

- **Economic use**
  Companies must always be charged for infrastructure use at market price/full cost including a profit margin.

- **Non-economic use**
  Non-economic activities of research institutions include:
  - Primary activities such as education
  - Research and development, independent or in an effective collaboration
  - Knowledge dissemination and knowledge transfer

R&D infrastructure of the **"non-economic use" category must be used nearly exclusively for non-economic activities**. Economic use is admissible as an ancillary activity if:

- its scope is limited, i.e. it does not exceed 20% of total annual capacity of the R&D infrastructure and
- the financing, costs and revenues of each type of activity is accounted for separately on the basis of consistently applied and objectively justifiable cost accounting principles and
- it is directly related to and necessary for the operation of the infrastructure or
- it is intrinsically linked to the main non-economic activity, i.e. it involves the same input (e.g. material, equipment, personnel, investment capital) as the non-economic activities.

4.2.3 Usage strategy

When submitting an application, a plausible usage strategy must be presented in the project description in eCall. The strategy must cover the entire useful life of the R&D infrastructure.

The key points of the usage strategy include in particular:

- Management of use (including personnel and resource plan)
- Demand and capacity utilisation

- Shared use by third parties; the corresponding letters of interest (LOI) must be attached as **mandatory annexes** (see section 5.3)
- Planned terms and conditions for transparent and non-discriminatory access by third parties
- Calculation of usage fees (including mark-up reference to existing market prices) – **mandatory annex** (see section 5.3)
- Presentation of expected revenues and calculation of follow-up costs, operating/maintenance costs including a sustainable financing concept – **mandatory annex** (Financing gap calculation, see section 5.3)
- Regulation of ownership structure
- If applicable: planned conditions for preferential access for co-financing organisations.

4.3 What are the requirements for funding applicants?

It is only possible to submit individual applications. The planned R&D infrastructure must be in the ownership of the funding recipient upon start-up. All required permits and licences must be obtained and all official directives and statutory provisions (national and EU law) adhered to in the planned infrastructure acquisition process.

Public organisations must adhere to the provisions of the Federal Procurement Act (BVergG) and carry out an appropriate tender process.

A **maximum of 2 funding applications** can be submitted **per applicant organisation and type of use.** Organisations may thus submit no more than 2 applications in the "economic use" category and 2 applications in the "non-economic" use category. Please observe the eligible organisations for the different types of use (section 4.4).

The funding recipient must have an **establishment or branch** in **Austria**.

The project location of the funded R&D infrastructure must be situated in Austria.

Funding applications and projects are allocated to the budget of a specific federal province based on the project location specified in eCall at the time of application. The project location is the location of the applicant organisational unit at which the submitted project is to be carried out. The applicant organisational unit may be an institute in the case of universities, for example, or a branch in the case of companies. Any change in the project location until the end of the depreciation period shall require approval by the FFG.

4.4 Who is eligible for funding?

Legal entities, partnerships and sole traders that are not part of the Austrian federal administration are eligible to receive funding.

The following organisations are eligible for funding in the **"non-economic use"** category:

Research and knowledge dissemination organisations (see definition section 9.2)

- Universities
- Universities of applied sciences
- Non-university research institutions
- Technology transfer institutions, innovation intermediaries and other research-oriented organisations (e.g. dedicated associations).

The following organisations are eligible for funding in the **"economic use"** category:

- **Research and knowledge dissemination organisations** (see definition section 9.2)
  - Universities
  - Universities of applied sciences
  - Non-university research institutions
  - Technology transfer institutions, innovation intermediaries and other research-oriented organisations (e.g. dedicated associations).
- **Undertakings** (see definition section 9.2)

Applicants must be legal entities of the submitting organisation. Legal entities that are linked to each other are considered as one applicant entity. According to the SME definition, an enterprise is considered to be linked if a holding exceeds the threshold of 50%.

Not eligible to participate:

Organisations which have substantially contributed to the evaluation or design of a funding measure related to this specific Call within the last three years on behalf of the FFG or the funding authority, are not allowed to participate in this Call in any way for reasons of incompatibility. If this refers to different units of an organisation, a participation in this specific Call must be coordinated with the FFG Call Management. In any case, the organisation must demonstrate that there is no conflict of interest.

The FFG reserves the right to exclude applicants due to incompatibilities.

4.5 How much funding is granted?

Funding is granted in the form of **non-repayable subsidies**. The funding rate varies depending on whether the infrastructure is acquired for economic use or non-economic use:

Table 4: Funding rate for economic use

Type of organisation	Funding rate
Research and knowledge dissemination organisations	max. 50 %
Undertakings	max. 50 %

Table 5: Funding rate for non-economic use

Type of organisation	Funding rate
Research and knowledge dissemination organisations	max. 90 %

If the project receives additional funding from other funding institutions this must be stated in the application. In the event of multiple funding (i.e. funding from different funding authorities) the cumulative funding must not exceed the state aid limit under European law (see GBER: Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014, OJ L 187/48 amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020).

4.6 What costs are eligible?

Eligible costs must be allocable directly to the project. This means that:

- they are incurred additionally to the normal operating costs during the funding period
- they are consistent with the approved content of the project
- they are in accordance with the Funding Contract
- they can be evidenced by receipts and payment documents (date of order, date of delivery/service, date of invoice as well as the date of payment and the date of commissioning must be within the contractually agreed funding period)

The earliest possible date for the start of the project is after submission of the application for funding. **The latest possible start of the project is on 01/10/2024**.

Work can only begin (e.g. first legally binding commitment to order) once the funding period according to the funding contract has started. 'Start of work' shall be the earlier of either the start of assembly of the R&D infrastructure, construction work relating to the investment, or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment, or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible.

Details on cost recognition can be found in the Cost Guidelines 3.0 and in the national Eligibility rules (NFFR).

The following provisions apply in addition to the Cost Guidelines:

- Funding is provided only for costs that have been included in the application.
- The eligible costs shall be the investment costs in tangible and intangible assets. According to the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) the term 'research infrastructure' means facilities and resources that are used by the scientific community to conduct research in their respective fields. This definition covers scientific equipment or sets of instruments, knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives or structured scientific information, enabling information and communication technology-based infrastructures such as grid, computing, software and communication, or any other entity of a unique nature essential to conduct research (GBER, p. 25 section (91). Such infrastructures may be 'single-sited' or 'distributed' (an organised network of resources).

  The infrastructure acquisition may concern individual pieces of equipment or a set of different components.
- Funding is restricted to the costs that are directly related to the acquisition of the R&D infrastructure and capitalised in the fixed asset schedule. The fixed asset schedule must be presented for the final audit.
- No overhead may be charged.
- Further cost categories or costs incurred after start-up are not eligible for funding.
- Used equipment or parts thereof are not eligible for funding.
- Costs based on individual receipts with an amount of less than EUR 200 (net) are not eligible for funding.
- Economy, efficiency and effectiveness: evidence of compliance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness must be provided for requested/charged costs, e.g. in the form of price quotations, established procurement systems, internal procurement guidelines, market analyses, reference systems for specific cost items or similar. If the price adequacy of the services ordered has already been determined for similar services within the last 24 months and the terms and conditions have remained the same, the relevant documents of the previous order may be used as evidence.
- Three comparative offers from independent and non-affiliated organisations must be submitted for all cost items exceeding an estimated order value of EUR 5,000 (according to the SME definition, affiliation exists if a shareholding exceeds the threshold of 50%). Deviations from this proof of price adequacy must be clearly justified and documented. Obtaining three quotes will not be necessary if the price adequacy of the services ordered has already been determined for similar services within the last 24 months and the terms and conditions have remained the same.
- Deliveries/services of affiliated companies and partner companies shall be charged at cost price. Deliveries and services between companies, associations or

partnerships whose executive bodies or partners hold a position with both the client and the contractor shall be subject to the same regulations that apply to affiliated companies and partner companies.

The following costs are **not eligible:**

- Acquisition costs for real estate and immovable assets
- Building investments that go beyond necessary adaptations and building equipment (e.g. supply lines)
- Costs that are not considered as eligible costs under EU law.
- Overhead surcharges
- Costs that go beyond commissioning
- Used plant and plant components
- Costs based on individual receipts with an amount of less than EUR 200 net
- Costs over EUR 500 net paid in cash
- Fines, penalties and legal costs
- Costs related to exchange rate fluctuations and charges of monetary transactions.
- Costs finally borne by third parties
- Lessor's expenses and financing costs of leasing
- Costs for in-itself transactions

4.7 What are the requirements for match funding?

Economic use

The funding represents state aid within the meaning of competition law (the relevant date is the date on which the funding is granted; a change to ‘non-state aid’ at a later date is not possible). This means that the funding recipient is **not entitled to receive additional public funds** (e.g. from funds of the global budget/performance agreement for universities or from other funding programmes, e.g. of provincial governments).

The remaining share (min. 50 %) must be covered by internal funds which are not attributable to public funds (e.g., income from contract research or research services) and/or by co-financing organisations.

Non-economic use

The remaining share may be covered either by funds qualified as private (e.g. financing by companies, income from contract research or research services) or by public funds. Since the funding in this category does not represent state aid, the funding recipient may receive additional public funds (e.g., from funds of the global budget/performance agreement for universities or from other funding programmes, e.g. of provincial governments).

The following applies to both types of use:

If the funded R&D infrastructure is to be used in another funded R&D project of the funding recipient, the capitalised costs of acquisition or production may not be charged a second time (as depreciation or machine hours), i.e. multiple funding in other funded R&D projects must be excluded.

Co-financing organisations

Organisations co-financing at least 10% of the infrastructure (cash contributions only) may be given preferential access and treatment up to the equivalent of the cash contribution provided by the co-financing organisation. The extent of such preferential treatment (including priority access) shall be calculated on the basis of regular market prices/full costs plus a mark-up. The conditions under which preferential treatment is granted must be publicly available.

4.8 Is research integrity ensured?

Funding may only be granted to applicants who demonstrate scientific integrity during application and project execution.

The FFG is a member of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) and is thus committed to safeguarding good scientific practice.

If a lack of scientific integrity or misconduct is suspected in the course of the evaluation process or project reviews, the relevant documents may be forwarded to the OeAWI Commission for Research Integrity, which will then decide whether to initiate an independent investigation procedure and, if necessary, will undertake the necessary investigations.

If the investigation reveals a lack of scientific integrity or misconduct (e.g. plagiarism), the application must be rejected for formal reasons. If funding has already been granted, the funding must be reduced, retained or reclaimed.

4.9 What is done to monitor the use of the funded R&D infrastructure?

If public funding is provided for an infrastructure for economic or non-economic use, EU Member States are required to put in place a monitoring system including claw-back mechanisms.

> **Note for "non-economic use" category:** This is designed to ensure that the actual funding intensity will not be exceeded as a result of an increase in economic activities (with reference to the originally planned values).

An annual monitoring report must be submitted from the commissioning of the funded R&D infrastructure throughout the entire depreciation period of the R&D infrastructure. If the R&D infrastructure consists of several components, the longest depreciation period shall apply.

The monitoring report presents the economic and non-economic use and also compliance with the access regulations for third parties.

The report must be submitted immediately after the end of the monitoring year and must be sent to the FFG as an attachment via eCall message.
The FFG must be notified of the commissioning via eCall message no later than one month after the funded infrastructure has been put into operation. The depreciation period must also be indicated in the message.

The following applies:

- The monitoring begins upon commissioning and start-up of the R&D infrastructure.
- Access to the funded R&D infrastructure must be open for use by other organisations (transparent and non-discriminatory access).
- Co-financing organisations contributing at least 10% of the costs of the acquired infrastructure may be granted preferential access and treatment up to the equivalent of their cash contribution. The extent of such preferential treatment (including priority access) shall be calculated on the basis of regular market prices/full costs plus a mark-up. The conditions under which preferential treatment is granted must be publicly available.
- If the funded R&D infrastructure is to be used in another funded R&D project of the funding recipient, the capitalised costs of acquisition or production may not be charged a second time (as depreciation or machine hours), i.e. multiple funding in other funded R&D projects must be excluded.
- When using the funded R&D infrastructure in R&D projects, it must be ensured that such use does not constitute indirect aid, i.e. economic use (by companies or other organisations) is possible only at market prices or full cost plus profit margin.

5 SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

5.1 Mandatory information meeting

As a prerequisite for the submission of a funding application, applicant organisation must hold a mandatory information meeting with the regional authority responsible for the project location. During this meeting, the organisation is required to present the project in terms of its relevance to the regional RTI strategy.

After the information meeting, the applicant organisation will receive a letter of confirmation which they must upload as a **mandatory annex** to the funding application via eCall.

This **information meeting** is mandatory for this Call and must be held until **25/11/2023** at the latest.

An overview of the regional contact points can be found in the Download Center.

5.2 What is the procedure for submission?

Applications must be submitted electronically via eCall before the deadline (https://ecall.ffg.at).

The funding application must be submitted **via eCall by 13/12/2023, 12:00:00h (CET)**.

How does it work?

- Complete all menu items in eCall
  - Fill in the ERDF questionnaire under the menu item "Project data" (after filling in, a pdf is automatically generated in the eCall in the menu item "Project data")
- Enter **Online Project Description** consisting of content description, consortium, work plan and cost and financing in eCall.
  - Online Content Description presents the project content.
  - Online Work Plan presents the work packages and associated costs as well as project management elements such as a time management plan (GANTT chart), deliverables, milestones, results.
  - Online Cost and Financing describes all cost categories for each participating organisation. The sums for each work package are automatically displayed in the online work plan.
- Upload the **obligatory attachments**

- In eCall, complete the application in the menu item "Finalization" and sign it with the qualified electronic signature by clicking on "**Einreichung abschließen und weiter zur Identitätsfeststellung** ".
    - The funding application is submitted using a qualified electronic signature of a person authorised to sign in accordance with the signature regulations of the submitting organisation. For institution of higher education, this must be done using the qualified electronic signature of the rectorate.

      Note: When completing the application in eCall, temporary access for persons authorised to sign can be enabled with a link.
- Upon successful submission, a **confirmation of submission** will be sent automatically by email.

Not possible:

- Uploading additional documents after submission
- Revising the online application after submission

The eCall Tutorial provides a step-by-step guide on how to submit a funding application.

5.3 What documents are required for submission?

The following table lists all documents required for submission. Please use the templates and call documents provided in the Download Center:

Table 6: Overview of call documents

Call documents	
	Call Guideline (present document)
	Cost Guidelines, version 3.0
	National Eligibility rules (NFFR)

Table 7: Overview of mandatory annexes

Mandatory annexes	
	ERDF questionnaire (template) Note: The ERDF questionnaire has to be answered via a link in the eCall under the menu item "Project data" (see chapter 6.3.3)
	CV of project manager (no template)
	LOI of at least two organisations interested in using the planned R&D infrastructure or co-financing organisations (no template) Note: LOIs from organisations affiliated with the applicant organisation (for affiliation see chapter 4.4) do not count towards the minimum requirement (no template).
	Calculation of usage fees, including mark-up and reference to existing market prices (no template)
	Financing gap calculation - presentation of expected revenues and calculation of follow-up costs, operating/maintenance costs including a sustainable financing concept (template)
	Written confirmation by the regional authority that the information meeting has been held (no template)
	When submitting **use type "economic use" by an institution for research and dissemination of knowledge**: **Self-declaration of residual funding** for the use type "economic use" (template)
eCall	**Mandatory master data**: annual accounts of the past two years

5.4 Is it necessary to mention other projects?

Applicants are required to list additional projects related to the proposed project in order to facilitate the evaluation. The results and expertise obtained must be presented.

Relevant projects include:

- previous projects whose results provide the basis for the proposed project,
- ongoing or completed projects (of the previous 3 years) that are thematically related to the proposed project,
- project applications that are thematically related to the call,

- project applications that are related to the submitted project.

Multiple funding of costs that have already been funded is not permitted. The proposed project must therefore be clearly differentiated from thematically related projects that have already received funding.

5.5 How will confidential project data be used?

The FFG processes the personal data of funding applicants and funding recipients provided by the data subjects as part of the application for funding, data collected by the FFG for the purpose of concluding the funding contract, and data generated by searches in the transparency portal according to Sec. 32 (5) of the Transparency Database Act (TAB 2012) for the following purposes:

- Processing of the funding application and assessment of whether the general and specific funding requirements have been met,
- Conclusion of the funding contract and (if a funding contract has been concluded) compliance with the relevant contractual obligations, including but not limited to administration of the funding payments and monitoring of compliance with funding requirements,
- Compliance with statutory obligations, including but not limited to reporting obligations and control purposes in order to avoid double funding (i.e. Sec. 38 in conjunction with 18, 27, 28 ARR, as well as Sec. 12 FTFG and Sec. 9 FFG-G).

The legal basis of processing is therefore Art. 6 (1) (b) GDPR, i.e. performance of a contract, and Art 6 (1) (c) GDPR, i.e. compliance with legal obligations.

The personal data will be disclosed to the following institutions in compliance with legal obligations:

- The ministries as FFG owners, other contracting authorities for the management of funding measures (e.g. other federal ministries, regional governments, KLIEN)
- Third parties, which may include the Court of Audit, EU bodies, and other federal or regional funding agencies.
- National and international experts are given access to the submitted documents as part of project evaluation – see section 5.3. Such experts act as processors in the name and on behalf of the FFG and are required to take technical and organisational measures to ensure data security and data confidentiality. Project content and results may only be published (e.g. on the website or in social media forums) with the consent of the funding recipient (Art 6 (1) (a) GDPR) unless the FFG has a legal obligation to do so.
- The FFG must also obtain the consent of the data subject for any other data use exceeding these provisions.

- The FFG is under a legal obligation to maintain secrecy about all company and project information pursuant to Sec. 9 (4) of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency Act (FFG-G, Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No. 73/2004).
- The FFG will ensure a level of protection appropriate to the risk in terms of confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of the systems by implementing technical and organisational measures within the meaning of Art. 32 GDPR that are sufficient and appropriate for protecting the data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss and unauthorised access.
- Further information about ensuring the confidentiality and security of personal data during the course of the project is available in the eCall Tutorial.

6 EVALUATION AND DECISION

6.1 What is the formal check?

The formal check serves to examine the application for formal correctness and completeness.

The FFG will communicate the result of the formal check within 4 weeks of submission via an eCall message:

- If the formal criteria are not met and the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the application for funding will not enter the subsequent steps of the procedure.
- If the deficiencies can be corrected, you may rectify these problems within a reasonable period of time.

Should it transpire after the formal check that incorrect information has been given, the funding application may also be removed from consideration at a subsequent point in the procedure.

Table 8: Check list for the formal check of funding applications

Criteria	***Items checked***	***Can deficiency be corrected***	***Consequence***
The application must be signed by an authorised signatory For universities: The application was submitted with a digital mobile phone signature of the rectorate.	The application must be submitted by means of a qualified electronic signature of a person authorised to sign. For universities: The application must be submitted by means of the qualified electronic signature of the rectorate.	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons
The correct language was used in the project description.	Online application must be in English (content description, role of applicant and work plan)	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons
The funding applicant is entitled to submit an application.	see chapter 4.4	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons

Criteria	*Items checked*	*Can deficiency be corrected*	*Consequence*
The mandatory annexes specified in the call guideline have been attached.	see chapter 5.3	*yes*	Rectification via eCall after submission
The max. project duration was adhered to.	max. 3 years project duration	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons
Requirement for project location was met.	R&D infrastruktur must be located in Austria (chapter 4.3)	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons
The total costs are above the minimum limit.	min. 500.000 EUR	*no*	Rejection for formal reasons
Applicant organisation has complied with the limit of max. applications per use type.	Max. 2 funding applications per applicant organisation and type of use can be submitted (see chapter 4.3)	*yes*	Withdrawal of applications (reduction to max. number of applications)

6.2 How is the evaluation procedure organised?

Every project will be reviewed by national and international experts in accordance with the evaluation criteria (see section 6.3.1 and section 6.3.2). The submitted documents will also be evaluated according to the ERDF project selection criteria (see section 6.3.3).

The evaluation committee will make a funding recommendation based on the written reviews.

It is possible to exclude reviewers (individuals or staff of particular organisations), stating the reasons. eCall includes an entry field for this purpose.

FFG experts examine the financial potential of the companies involved, including credit rating and liquidity. Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. The decision as to whether an undertaking is considered to be 'in difficulty' is made based on the definition contained in the General Block Exemption Regulation (OJ L

187 p. 19, as amended by OJ L 270/39 of 29 July 2021), which provides the European legal basis of the present funding scheme.

Recommendations and requirements can be defined as part of the evaluation process. Recommendations are non-binding remarks and opinions of the evaluation committee, which are designed to support the implementation of the project.

Requirements are binding – see section 7.2.

6.3 What criteria are used to evaluate applications for funding?

Applications for funding are **evaluated** according to **four criteria**:

1. Quality of the project
2. Suitability of funding applicants
3. Benefit and exploitation
4. Relevance of the project

The projects are evaluated by awarding points in each criterion. Projects which do not reach the stated threshold value for a certain criterion will be rejected.

The following tables show the evaluation criteria, including subcriteria.

6.3.1 Evaluation criteria for type of use "economic use"

Table 9: Evaluation criteria for type of use "economic use" – Quality of the project

1. Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
1.1 Innovation content – To what extent does the innovation content of the project exceed the current state of the art in technology/knowledge at national, European and international level? – What is the added value of the project in comparison with existing infrastructures?	**max. points** **12**
1.2 Planning What is the quality and efficiency of planning? – Are the work packages and the associated division of work adequate for the goals of the project? – Have the risks in the work packages been adequately addressed and corresponding measures put in place? – Have all relevant aspects been taken into account in establishing the R&D infrastructure (time schedule, cost plan, resource plan, etc.)?	**max. points** **6**
1.3 Usage strategy Has the usage strategy been clearly presented with regard to the following points? – Management of use (incl. personnel and resource plan) – Demand and capacity utilisation – Shared use by third parties – Planned terms and conditions for transparent and non-discriminatory access by third parties – Calculation of usage fees (process for calculating full costs including profit margin/market prices) – Calculation of follow-up costs, operating/maintenance costs and replacement investments, including a sustainable financing concept – Regulation of ownership structure – If applicable: planned conditions for preferential access for co-financing organisations	**max. points** **12**

Table 10: Evaluation criteria for type of use "economic use" – Suitability of funding applicants

2. Suitability of funding applicants (threshold = 9 points)	**max. points 15**
2.1 Expertise – To what extent does the applicant organisation possess the necessary qualifications and resources to ensure the successful implementation of the R&D infrastructure acquisition and the usage strategy?	**max. points** **10**
2.2 Gender balance – Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector? Further information on gender aspects	**max. points** **5**

Table 11: Evaluation criteria for type of use "economic use" – Benefit and exploitation

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
3.1 Cooperative research and innovation activities – How will the additional opportunities created by the new infrastructure influence prospective future research and innovation activities, especially in cooperation with companies (quantitatively and qualitatively)? – Does the project address the topic of "digitalisation" in the prospective future research activities and has this been plausibly presented? – Can results with a high degree of innovation and novelty be expected? – How will they be exploited?	**max. points 12**
3.2 Development potential – What is the development potential of the applicant organisation in terms of the following points: ○ Connectivity to existing innovation fields and key areas of innovation ○ Contribution to advancement of innovation fields and key areas of innovation ○ Potential for new opportunities for collaboration with industry and with research institutions and universities	**max. points 8**
3.3 Gender-specific topics If the contents of the prospective future research and innovation activities or their results relate to individuals: – To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in the planning process? ○ Quality of the analysis of gender-specific topics ○ Consideration of gender-specific topics in the methodological approach taken in the project Further information on gender aspects Projects in which content and focus have no gender relevance according to this analysis will score full points in this subcategory.	**max. points 5**
3.4 Sustainability – What are the impacts and effects (positive and negative) of the prospective future research and innovation activities in terms of sustainability (social, ecological, economic), in particular concerning the topics of **circular economy** and **climate neutrality**? Further information on sustainability aspects Research activities producing overall (net) negative contributions/effects will score 0 points in this subcriterion.	**max. points 5**

Table 12: Evaluation criteria for type of use "economic use" – Relevance of the project

4. Relevance of the project (threshold = 15 points)	**max. points 25**
4.1 Demand – Are the arguments justifying the acquisition conclusive? (demand analysis, taking into account the size, type and availability of existing resources in Austria and Europe)	**max. points** **12**
4.2 Location – To what extent does the acquisition and use of the R&D infrastructure address the goals of the relevant regional RTI strategy? – Has the impact on the region's position as a location for innovation been described plausibly? – What impact will the planned research and innovation activities have on the visibility of Austria as a location for innovation in an international context?	**max. points** **8**
4.3 Incentive effect – To what extent is the incentive effect of the funding necessary to implement the project as planned?	**max. points** **5**

6.3.2 Evaluation criteria for non-economic use

Table 13: Evaluation criteria for type of use "non-economic use" – Quality of the project

1. Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
1.1. Innovation content – To what extent does the innovation content of the project exceed the current state of the art in technology/knowledge at national, European and international level? – What is the added value of the project in comparison with existing infrastructures?	**max. points** **12**
1.2. Planning What is the quality and efficiency of planning? – Are the work packages and the associated division of work adequate for the goals of the project? – Have the risks in the work packages been adequately addressed and corresponding measures put in place? – Have all relevant aspects been taken into account in establishing the R&D infrastructure? (e.g. time schedule, cost plan, resource plan, etc.)	**max. points** **6**
1.3. Usage strategy Has the usage strategy been clearly presented with regard to the following points? – Management of use (incl. personnel and resource plan) – Demand and capacity utilisation – Shared use by third parties – Planned terms and conditions for transparent and non-discriminatory access by third parties – Calculation of usage fees (process for calculating full costs including profit margin/market prices) – Calculation of follow-up costs, operating/maintenance costs and replacement investments, including a sustainable financing concept – Regulation of ownership structure – If applicable: planned conditions for preferential access for co-financing organisations	**max. points** **12**

Table 14: Evaluation criteria for type of use “non-economic use” – Suitability of funding applicants

2. Suitability of funding applicants (threshold = 9 points)	**max. points 15**
2.1 Expertise – To what extent does the applicant organisation possess the necessary qualifications and resources to ensure the successful implementation of the R&D infrastructure acquisition and the usage strategy?	**max. points** **10**
2.2 Gender balance – Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector? Further information on gender aspects	**max. points** **5**

Table 15: Evaluation criteria for type of use "non-economic use" – Benefit and exploitation

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
3.1 Research excellence – How will the additional opportunities created by the new infrastructure influence the prospective future research activities (both in terms of quantity and quality)? – Does the project address the topic of 'digitalisation' in the prospective future research activities and has this been plausibly presented? – Can ground-breaking scientific results be expected (results with a high degree of innovation and novelty)? – How will the results be exploited?	**max. points 12**
3.2 Development potential – What is the development potential of the applicant organisation in terms of the following points: o Connectivity to existing research fields and key research areas o Contribution to advancement of research fields and key research areas o Potential for new opportunities for collaboration with other research institutions, universities and/or with industry	**max. points 8**
3.3 Gender-specific topics If the content of the prospective future research activities relates to individuals: – To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in the planning process? o Quality of the analysis of gender-specific topics o Consideration of gender-specific topics in the methodological approach taken in the project Further information on gender aspects Projects in which content and focus have no gender relevance according to this analysis will score full points in this subcategory.	**max. points 5**
3.4 Sustainability – What are the impacts and effects (positive and negative) of the prospective future research activities in terms of sustainability (social, ecological, economic), in particular concerning the topics of **circular economy** and **climate neutrality**? Further information on sustainability aspects Research activities producing overall (net) negative contributions/effects will score 0 points in this subcriterion.	**max. points 5**

Table 16: Evaluation criteria for type of use "non-economic use" – Relevance of the project

4. Relevance of the project (threshold = 15 points)	**max. points 25**
4.1 Demand – Are the arguments justifying the acquisition conclusive? (demand analysis, taking into account the size, type and availability of existing resources in Austria and Europe)	**max. points** **12**
4.2 Location – To what extent does the acquisition and use of the R&D infrastructure address the objectives of the relevant regional RTI strategy? – Has the impact on the region's position as a location for research been described plausibly? – What impact will the planned research activities have on the visibility of Austria as a research location in an international context?	**max. points** **8**
4.3 Incentive effect – To what extent is the incentive effect of the funding necessary to implement the project as planned?	**max. points** **5**

6.3.3 ERDF project selection criteria

Projects must also meet the ERDF project selection criteria in addition to the evaluation criteria specified in section 6.3.1 or section 6.3.2. Applicants are required to complete the relevant ERDF-questionnaire which is available via a link in eCall in the menu item "Project data".

ERDF project selection is based on assessing to what extent the following cross-cutting topics are taken into consideration at project level:

- Promotion of ecologically sustainable development
- Equality between women and men, gender mainstreaming
- Equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups and non-discrimination

The evaluation is generally based on the extent to which the cross-cutting topics are taken into consideration. The more aspects (questions) are taken into consideration at project level, the more points the project will score from the perspective of the cross-cutting topics. Where the answer was 'yes', the applicant organisation must provide a brief explanation.

The total of the aspects taken into consideration in each area will be automatically calculated after completion of the ERDF-questionnaire. The points will be taken into account as bonus points – i.e. the bonus points will be added to the points achieved in the evaluation criteria of section 6.3.1 and section 6.3.2.

6.4 Verification of overfinancing

Prior to the funding decision of the project, the functioning of an adequate separation calculation (in the sense of the Union framework) is checked during an obligatory on-site inspection. This can be omitted if it has been carried out in advance by another "intermediary body" of the ERDF programme 2021-2027 and the assurance is guaranteed.

6.5 Who makes the funding decision?

The funding recommendation by the evaluation committee includes lists for each federal province, in which the funding applications are ranked according to the total points (according to ERDF project selection criteria and evaluation criteria).

The FFG Management will make the funding decision based on the funding recommendation provided by the evaluation committee.

7 THE FUNDING PROCEDURE

7.1 How is the funding contract concluded?

In the event of a positive funding decision, the FFG will send the applicant organisation a view of the funding contract including the key parameters (e.g. amount of funding granted, amount of eligible costs, start and end date of the funding period, reporting obligations and possible binding requirements) via the eCall system.

If the applicant organisation accepts the view within the specified period, the FFG will prepare the funding contract and send it to the applicant organisation. The applicant organisation must return the duly signed contract to make it legally valid. In the case of institutions of higher education, the company signature shall be made by the rectorate. There shall be no entitlement to funding until the signed contract has been returned.

7.2 How are requirements taken into account?

Requirements may be imposed in the course of the review.

Two types of additional requirements are possible:

- Requirements that must be met prior to the conclusion of the funding contract.
- Requirements that must be met by the funding recipient during the course of the project.

Requirements shall form an integral part of the contract.

7.3 How are the funding instalments paid?

The first instalment of 50% of the approved funding amount will be paid once the imposed requirements have been met and the funding contract has been signed, however, not earlier than one week before the start of the funding period. Payments are made to the bank account of the funding recipient. The final instalment of a maximum of 50% of the approved funding amount will be paid upon submission of the final account, fulfilment of all requirements and following a cost audit.

7.4 What reports and accounts are required?

- A final report and the final accounts must be submitted no later than 3 months after the conclusion of the project, via the eCall reporting function.
- The final account must be submitted via eCall using a qualified electronic signature. The signature regulations of the organisation must be observed.
- If the project is aborted during the project term, a final report and final accounts must be submitted. The FFG is entitled to reclaim money if the funding already paid exceeds the eligible costs.
- Evidence of compliance with publicity requirements (see section 7.5) must be uploaded via eCall (screenshot, photo).
- Financing gap calculation (template) must be submitted.
- A monitoring report (template) must be submitted annually from the date the funded R&D infrastructure is put into operation until the end of the depreciation period in accordance with the provisions specified by the funding agency (see chapter 4.9).

The reports and accounts must meet the following requirements:

- They must include a description of the activities and cost statements.
- All receipts are to be uploaded via eCall.
- Reports must be prepared using the eCall templates.

Support of public relations:

The funding recipients agree to work together with the FFG and the responsible ministries to support PR work, if required. This includes in particular the provision of non-confidential project information and images for electronic dissemination portals and other media purposes

Funded R&D infrastructure must be entered in the Austrian Public Database for Research Infrastructures of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

7.5 Publicity rules

The following publicity rules (see Publicity Guide) apply to projects funded under the ERDF Programme:

7.5.1 Standard EU funding logo on all communications elements

All documents and communication materials (online and print) which are related to a funding project or which are prepared for external (general public) or internal (e.g. employees, course participants) communication must bear the EU emblem and a reference to financial support from the European Union in the following form:

Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

This EU funding logo is available in horizontal and vertical format and in different colour versions from the Download Center at www.efre.gv.at/downloads. Here you can also find the **operational guidelines for recipients of EU funding "The Use of the EU Emblem in the Context of EU Programmes 2021-2027"**.

The most important rules for the use of the EU emblem are as follows (explanations and practical tips can be found in the guidelines):

- The graphic and text of the "EU funding logo" may not be modified, nor may the logo be merged with other graphic or text elements.
- The EU emblem (= the EU flag) must be at least 1 cm in height; on small promotional items the emblem can be reproduced in a smaller size.
- The logo must be placed in a prominent position on the communication element; examples can be found in the guidelines.
- If there is no alternative to a coloured background, a white border must be put around the logo.
- If logos of other financing partners are displayed together with the EU logo, the EU emblem must be at least as large (in height OR width) as the largest of the other logos; for examples see the guidelines.

7.5.2 Information on websites and social media channels

If the beneficiary operates an official website, the following information must be published:

- EU funding logo see section 7.5.1.
- Brief description of the project of at least 250 characters (including spaces) together with the project goals and (expected) results.

- A link to the website of the IGJ/ERDF & JTF Programme (www.efre.gv.at) must be provided on the website.
- Example: “More information about the IGJ/ERDF & JTF Programme can be found at www.efre.gv.at“.

If the beneficiary operates social media channels, the EU funding logo and the project summary must be published there too, at least as part of a post.

7.5.3 Plaques for larger projects

Upon implementation of the project or start-up of the infrastructure, a permanent plaque must be put up at the location of the project. The plaque is mandatory for projects of the following size and must be readily visible to the public.

- Projects which receive total funding in excess of EUR 500,000 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The plaque will be produced centrally by the administrative authority and provided to the beneficiary free of charge. The ordering process will be handled by the competent funding agency.

During construction work, the EU funding logo and project summary may also be integrated in a construction site signboard or similar. Once the construction work has been completed, however, a plaque must be requested from the funding agency and put up at the project location.

Where several projects are implemented at the same project location, only one plaque must be displayed.

7.5.4 Publication of project data

By signing the co-financing agreement, the organisation carrying out the project agrees to public reporting on its EU funded project and publication of the following information on the programme website www.efre.gv.at and on the EU project website kohesio.ec.europa.eu.

- Unique project code
- Name of beneficiary (legal entity)
- In the case of public procurement, the contractor’s name
- Name of project
- Purpose and expected or actual achievements of the project
- Start date of the project
- Expected or actual date of completion of the project
- Total cost of the project
- Union co-financing rate for the project
- EU fund concerned
- Specific objective concerned
- Type of intervention

- Address of project location, or in the case of several or mobile project locations, the address of the beneficiary
- Optional: project website or website of beneficiary

7.5.5 Royalty-free marketing material

In individual cases, bodies of the European Union, or their contractors, may also ask organisations carrying out a project for permission to use communication materials about a project, such as project photos, brochures or PR texts for its own communication purposes. If this does not involve significant costs or significant administrative effort, a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence to use the requested material shall be granted as follows (including any pre-existing rights attached thereto):

- Internal use, i.e. right to reproduce, copy and make available the communication and visibility materials to the Union's institutions and agencies, Member States' authorities, and their employees;
- Reproduction of the communication and visibility materials by any means and in any form, in whole or in part;
- Communication to the public of the communication and visibility materials by using any and all means of communication;
- Distribution to the public of the communication and visibility materials (or copies thereof) in any and all forms;
- Storage and archiving of the communication and visibility materials;
- Sub-licensing of the rights on the communication and visibility materials to third parties.

7.5.6 Additional communication activities

If a project has been defined in advance as a "project of strategic importance" in the IGJ/ERDF & JTF Programme, the organisation carrying out the project must implement at least one additional communication activity involving the European Commission (EC). The administrative authority is responsible for consultation and coordination with the EC.

If the total eligible costs of a project exceed EUR 10 million, the organisation carrying out the project must implement an additional communication activity that is appropriate for the type and size of the project and includes a reference to financial support from the European Union. The activity must be implemented prior to submission of the final accounts for the project. The funding agency must be informed about the implemented activity. The administrative authority or the European Commission may also be involved in the activity upon request. More detailed information can be obtained from the competent funding agency.

The relevant evidence of compliance with the publicity requirements (screenshot, photo) must be uploaded via eCall when submitting the final report.

7.6 How is the on-site audit carried out?

In addition to the reporting obligations, an on-site audit will be carried out by the FFG following the start-up of the R&D infrastructure. The exact details of the audit will be communicated by the Call Management in due time via an eCall message.

7.7 How should changes to the project be communicated?

Any changes to contractual points such as project content, costs, deadlines or funding period must be substantiated and submitted for approval:

- via eCall message,
- in the final report.

Please upload the relevant documents as an attachment to the eCall message. Any modifications to the contract parameters require the approval of the FFG.

Immediate notification is required for:

- substantial changes to the project,
- new ownership structure or insolvency proceedings.

7.8 Can the funding period be extended?

The maximum project duration is 3 years. If the project goals have not yet been achieved and the approved level of costs has not been exceeded, the funding period may be extended for up to 1 year on a cost-neutral basis.

The following requirements must be met:

- The funding recipients are not responsible for the delay;
- The project is still eligible for funding;
- An eCall application for extension has been submitted within the approved funding period.

7.9 What happens after the conclusion of the project?

Following the conclusion of the project, the funding recipients must submit the final report and the final accounts. The FFG Project Controlling & Audit Division will check whether the funding has been used appropriately. The audit will establish the final eligible costs.

You will receive the result of the audit in writing:

- In the event of a **positive** result, the appropriate use of the funding will be confirmed.
- In the event of a **negative** result, procedures may be initiated to secure repayment of funding.

Funding details: The specified final instalment will be transferred once the originally planned costs have been reached. If the project is underspent the level of funding will be reduced accordingly. The funding amount may also be reduced for scientific reasons, as well as on formal or legal grounds.

For more information about eligible costs, see the Cost Guidelines 3.0.

Please note that even after the end of the project, the funding recipients must ensure that an annual monitoring report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the funding agency until the end of the depreciation period of the funded R&D infrastructure (see also section 4.11).

8 LEGAL BASIS

The following legal basis applies to the funding made available under this call:

- Guideline of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency for the Funding of Research, Technology, Development and Innovation aimed to strengthen structures for an efficient RTI ecosystem (FFG-Struktur-Richtlinie)
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ L 187 of 26 June 2014 as amended by 2017/1084 of 20 June 2017, OJ L 156/1 (GBER)
- Union Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation OJ C 414/01 of 28 October 2022.

The call for non-economic use is based in particular on Article 26 “Investment aid for research infrastructures”.

The ERDF Programme is subject in particular to the following:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the Just Transition Fund
- Verordnung (EU) Nr. 2018/1046 DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENS UND DES RATES vom 18. Juli 2018 über die Haushaltsordnung für den Gesamthaushaltsplan der Union
- NFFR 2021-2027 – National Eligibitlity Regulation of the Programm IBW/EFRE &JTF Austria 2021-2027

All EU regulations are applicable as amended.

9 FURTHER INFORMATION

This section contains information and services which you may find useful in connection with funding applications or funded projects.

9.1 FFG Project Database

The public access FFG Project Database provides the opportunity to publish brief information about funded projects and an overview of the project partners involved. This enables you to present your project to the interested public. The database can also be used to search for cooperation partners.

Once funding is granted, the applicants will be informed via eCall that they can publish specific brief information about their project in the FFG Project Database. The information will only be published if active consent is given in the eCall system.

More information can be found on the Project Database page on the FFG website.

9.2 Glossary of the Call Guideline

Incentive effect

Funding may only be granted if it has an incentive effect, i.e. the funding must change the behaviour of the funding recipients in such a way that they engage in additional activity which they would not carry out without the funding or would carry out in a restricted or different manner or at another location.

The following criteria may be used as evidence of the incentive effect of the funding:

- Implementation: the funding enables the project to be implemented in the first place
- Acceleration: the funding accelerates implementation
- Scope: the funding increases the size of the project
- Range: the funding makes the project more ambitious through:
  - a more radical innovation approach
  - higher risk
  - new or extended collaborations
  - long-term strategic orientation

Research and knowledge dissemination organisation

A restricted definition of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation shall apply (1.3ee - 2014/C 198/01):

> "Research and knowledge dissemination organisation" or "research organisation" means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct basic research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer.
>
> Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it.

University

The smallest organisational unit that can participate on behalf of a university is the university institute or a comparable organisational unit pursuant to the University Organisation Act (UOG 2002/§ 20). The participating organisational unit (institute or comparable unit) must be duly authorised according to UOG 2002/§ 27. Subordinate organisational units (e.g. working groups) are not eligible to act as an applicant.

Undertaking

An undertaking is any entity engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status.

9.3 Milestones of the call (up to first instalment)

Figure 1: Milestones of the call