

AUSTRIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL GRANT AGREEMENTS IN JOINT TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE ECSEL (CALL ECSEL-2014-1 AND CALL ECSEL-2014-2)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION OF CONFORMANCE TO NATIONAL FUNDING REGULATION

Austria requires the following eligibility criteria for Austrian participants:

- Timely submission as specified in the relevant call for proposals
- Submission of a complete proposal as specified in the relevant call for proposals
- The combined share of costs at Austrian research organisations as indicated in the Form C cannot exceed 40 % of the total costs¹ of all Austrian partners within each project.
- Synergy with national R&D&I policies²
- Financial viability and business soundness is verified by means of an internal check - companies that are in danger of insolvency cannot be funded.
- Additionally required within the submission deadline:
 - Registration at the eCall system of the FFG at <https://ecall.ffg.at>
Please consult the tutorial at <https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Help.aspx>
 - Upload of a complete Form C in the FFG eCall (costs indicated in the ECSEL proposal and in Form C may differ only according to different cost rules)
 - For companies: upload of the balance sheets of the last two years in the FFG eCall
 - Large enterprises which participate in the consortium and apply for funding are required to provide separate evidence of the incentive effect of the funding for the company. They are required to complete the relevant FFG form and upload it in the FFG eCall
 - If there is no information on a business available in the commercial register based Austrian Business Compass ("Firmen- Compass", e.g. for associations, start-ups, sole traders, companies from outside Austria), a declaration of SME Status must be uploaded in the FFG eCall. In the draft provided by the FFG – the applicant (as far as possible) has to come up with a categorization of the last three years according to the SME⁴ definition

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The following legal entities are eligible for funding

- enterprises (also sole proprietor)
- research organisations (universities, universities of applied sciences "Fachhochschulen", non-university research institutions *and other scientifically oriented organisations*)
- associations

Entities that are part of the Austrian federal administration are excluded from funding.

¹ Calculated on the basis of national rules on eligible costs

² Applicants who wish to obtain further guidance regarding synergy with national R&D&I policies may contact the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit), Ms Lisbeth Mosnik, lisbeth.mosnik@bmvit.gv.at, tel +43-1- 711 62 65 3104

Details can be obtained from the “Leitfaden für Kooperative F&E Projekte” Version 1.6, section 1.4.1 from the FFG at

http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/dok/il_kooperativfueprojekte_v16.pdf

FUNDING INTENSITY OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SUBSIDY

Type of Organisation Type of activity	Percentage of the national subsidy to the beneficiaries ³			
	Large Enterprises, Groups and Associations of Enterprises	Medium Enterprises ⁴	Small Enterprises ⁴	Public Research Institutes and Universities
Industrial/Applied Research projects	up to 60 % minus EU contribution €	up to 70 % minus EU contribution €	up to 80 % minus EU contribution €	up to 80 % minus EU contribution €
Experimental development projects	up to 40 % minus EU contribution €	up to 50 % minus EU contribution €	up to 60 % minus EU contribution €	up to 75 % minus EU contribution €

- The eligibility of costs is in accordance with the national rules on eligible costs http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/kostenleitfaden_eu_kof_v1_4.pdf
- “EU contribution €” corresponds to the EU funding as indicated in the decision of the Public Authorities Board ECSEL approving the selection of project proposals
- Industrial/Applied research projects correspond to Research and Innovation Action in the ECSEL Workplan for the year 2014
- Experimental development projects correspond to Innovation Action in the ECSEL Workplan for the year 2014
- The center of gravity of Austrian partners project participation has to be in TRL 7 or below and within the type of action that the overall project addresses (RIA/IA). TRL 8 and above (notably market replication) can not be funded.
- Please note the eligibility conditions in the ECSEL Work Plan for 2014! Particularly: A proposal will only be considered eligible if it complies with the eligibility conditions set out depending on the type of action.
- Public Research Institutes and Universities correspond to research organizations: universities, universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen), non-university research institutions and other scientifically oriented organizations (e.g. associations with an appropriate purpose) are considered to be research organisations.

Over programme lifetime, Austria intends to provide SMEs, research institutions and universities with the following subsidy of the available national funds:

- small and medium sized enterprises should receive at least 20% of total national funding
- research institutions should not receive more than 20% of total national funding
- universities should not receive more than 20% of total national funding

³ national funding = national eligible costs * xy % - EU contribution in €

⁴ With regard to the size of companies, the current definitions of SMEs given in the EU competition law are applicable. (Definition of small and medium-sized enterprises and of independent businesses in accordance with recommendation 2003/361/EC of the Commission dated 6 May 2003, (ABl. L 124 of 20.5.2003, pp. 36-41) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_de.pdf
AT National Eligibility Criteria for ECSEL 2014

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS – RULES ON ELIGIBLE COSTS

The national rules on eligible costs for Austrian participants are available from the “Kostenleitfaden zur Behandlung der Projektkosten in Förderungsansuchen und Berichten für geförderte Vorhaben mit EU-Kofinanzierung“ Version 1.4 from the FFG at http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/kostenleitfaden_eu_kof_v1_4.pdf and from the “Leitfaden für Kooperative F&E Projekte” Version 1.6, section 1.7 from the FFG at http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/dok/il_kooperativefueprojekte_v16.pdf.

In addition to the general rules for this call, sections 1.4.1 and 1.7 of the “Leitfaden für Kooperative F&E Projekte” (Version 1.6) apply.

HINWEIS:

Die Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft weist darauf hin, dass die Rechtsgrundlagen für die gegenständliche Ausschreibung bis 31.12.2014 befristet sind. Die beihilfenrechtlichen Regelungen (z.B. Unionsrahmen und Allgemeine Gruppenfreistellungsverordnung) werden derzeit von der Europäischen Kommission überarbeitet. Daher werden für Förderungsverträge ab dem 1.1.2015 geänderte europarechtliche und nationale Rechtsgrundlagen gelten.