



FFG
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3RD CALL
SUBMISSION DEADLINE
13 MARCH 2019

**„BEYOND EUROPE“
PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONALISATION
OF RTI PROJECTS
CALL GUIDELINE**

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1 KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

This Call of the „Beyond Europe“ Programme makes available a total of EUR 4.6 million in funding.

Funding instrument		
	Exploratory Project Pilot study for R&D project	Cooperative R&D Project Experimental development
Funding amount in €	max. 200.000.-	min. 100.000.- to max. 500.000.-
Funding rate	max. 80%	max. 60%
Duration (months)	max. 12	max. 36
Cooperation required	No See "Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects"	Yes See "Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&D Projects"
Project leader	All applications must be submitted by an Austrian company!	
Budget – Submission period - Contact		
Total budget	EUR 4.6 million	
Submission period	17 December 2018 to 13 March 2019, 12.00 noon	
Language	English	
Contact	Maria Bürgermeister-Mähr, T (0) 57755-5040; E maria.buergermeister-maehr@ffg.at Roland Brandenburg, T (0) 57755-5090; E roland.brandenburg@ffg.at Email: beyondeurope@ffg.at	
Further Information	www.ffg.at/beyond-europe	
Submission portal	https://ecall.ffg.at	

Please note:

If either the main applicant or the proposal **does not meet the eligibility requirements** (see this Call Guidelines and Technical Guidelines of the respective funding instruments), the **proposal will not be admitted to the evaluation procedure** due to the equal treatment of all applications!

Amendments since 2nd Call (Nov. 2016)

» Chapter 3.3.1:

If the exploratory project is carried out as a cooperative project, at least one **Letter of Intent** of a prospective project partner from a Beyond Europe country must be submitted.

» Chapter 5:

The requirements for the funding of project partners from Beyond Europe countries are rendered more precisely.

» Chapter 7.5:

Information about the FFG project data base.

2 MOTIVATION

2.1 „Beyond Europe“ Programme: Background and Objectives

International research cooperation has become indispensable for achieving excellent results and strengthening the competitiveness of Austria's research and economy on the global market.

Austria's RTI Strategy "Becoming an Innovation Leader"¹, which was launched by the Federal Government in 2011, defined international positioning as one of its key aims. In 2013, the interministerial Working Group 7a published its strategic recommendations entitled "Beyond Europe"².

In the context of these developments the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) considers the expansion and operationalisation of internationalisation activities as a key point to strengthen Austria's position as a research hub by taking measures designed to meet current challenges and trends.

¹ <https://era.gv.at/object/document/3040>

² "Die Internationalisierung Österreichs in Forschung, Technologie und Innovation über Europa hinaus"
https://era.gv.at/directory/160/attach/FTI_AG7a_Brosch__re_Ansicht.pdf

In concrete terms, the Beyond Europe Programme supports Austrian companies, research and university institutes and other organisations in creating and extending collaborations. The present call invites proposals for relevant research projects.

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) already offers a range of programmes providing for the participation or even funding of international (primarily European) project partners (universities/research institutes or companies). The existing portfolio has now been extended in a first step to include suitable formats for international collaborations, to be able to respond promptly to cooperation requests in a targeted manner.

In the following, the term “international” will always be understood in the context of “Beyond Europe”, i.e. countries/regions outside Europe (see definition in Chapter 3.2).

2.2 Call Objective

The Beyond Europe Programme supports the strategic objective of the Federal Government and the BMDW to encourage international cooperation and networking.

The present call aims at (1) **increasing the international RTI activities and collaborations** of Austrian companies and research institutions with partners outside Europe through research projects and (2) **facilitating access to international markets**.

Project partners from Beyond Europe countries may receive direct funding from the programme budget to a limited extent, depending on the respective funding instrument.

2.3 Benefits and Exploitations: Specific Requirements

Proposals must clearly address the **economic potential** of the planned results and describe the **relevant markets** and **target groups** addressed by the proposal in qualitative and quantitative terms. **Competing technologies** must be identified and **USPs** of the planned project results must be evident.

Commercialisation strategies (including IPR issues, marketing and sales strategies, business and investment plans) as well as descriptions of the expected economic impact for each partner must be provided. The **economic impact** for the Austrian companies involved in the proposal and for Austria as a business location is essential for a positive evaluation.

Proposals must clearly explain why the project partners from “Beyond Europe” countries are essential for the project and what advantage the participation of the non-Austrian partners bring as compared to an Austrian organisation.

3 CALL TOPICS

3.1 Thematic Restrictions

The Call is open for all topics. Funding is available for projects in all technical disciplines. The applicant must ensure that the submitted projects are **not aimed at developing weapons or violence-promoting products**.

The applicant must ensure that the submitted projects are **not aimed at gambling** of any kind (i.e. games in which the outcome is determined exclusively or predominantly by chance).

These provisions must be specifically included in the Consortium Agreement. The payment of funding depends, among others, on compliance with this requirement.

3.2 Geographical Restrictions

Partners from all countries of the world can apply for funding under the Beyond Europe programme cooperation with the exception of:

... the other 27 EU Member States

... the following Associated Countries to Horizon 2020³:

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Faroe Islands
- Georgia
- Iceland
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Norway
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Tunisia
- Ukraine

However, the participation of project partners from the countries listed above is possible and welcome, but they are not eligible to receive funding under this Call.

Although **Israel** and **Turkey** are defined as Associated Countries to Horizon 2020, they are regarded as target countries and are thus eligible for funding under this Call, because they are as target countries included in the Beyond Europe Strategy.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

3.3 Funding Instruments

The FFG Technical Guidelines apply as a matter of principle. Some special characteristics of this call and deviations from the relevant guidelines are described in the following.

3.3.1 Exploratory Projects

Exploratory projects are designed **to examine the technical feasibility of innovative ideas and concepts**. They can also be carried out to assess the viability of potential future RTD projects and to provide a basis for concept development for flagship projects.

Exploratory projects support the following objectives:

- more radical innovations in strategic thematic fields
- mobilising the research community for broadly defined system-relevant flagship projects
- improving project quality through preparatory validation
- easier integration of external expertise

The application must be submitted by an Austrian company.

Exploratory projects can be carried out as individual projects or as cooperative projects with 2 or more project partners. Partners that are not from “Beyond Europe” countries (see 3.2) can participate, but are not eligible for funding.

Instrument included in the Call:

Exploratory Projects:

for Details see: [Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects](#)

The Technical Guidelines apply for this Call with the following modifications:

Section 1.2: **Applications** for both individual and cooperative projects **must be submitted by an Austrian company**.

Section 1.10: If the exploratory project is carried out as a cooperative project, at least one **Letter of Intent** of a prospective project partner from a Beyond Europe country must be submitted.

3.3.2 Cooperative R&D Projects

Cooperative R&D Projects are defined as being carried out by **at least 2 consortium partners working together on a common R&D project**. Projects submitted to this call must have a focus on experimental development (closer to the market; for definition see “Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects, v3.1”).

The aim is to

- develop R&D expertise and improve the innovative capacity in strategic thematic fields
- expand collaborations within the innovation system, in particular between science and industry
- contribute to meeting socio-economic challenges (“Grand Challenges”)

The application must be submitted by an Austrian company.

The consortium must include at least one project partner from a “Beyond Europe” country. Only projects of the category “Experimental Development” may be submitted. Partners that are not from “Beyond Europe” countries (see 3.2) can participate, but are not eligible for funding.

Instrument included in the Call (see Table 1):

Cooperative Projects (*Experimental Development*) :

for Detail see: [Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&D Projects](#)

The Technical Guidelines apply for this Call with the following modifications:

Section 1.2: **The application must be submitted by an Austrian company.** The consortium must include at least one partner from a “Beyond Europe” country.

Section 1.6: The maximum level of funding granted is EUR 500,000.

Section 1.6 (Tab. 1): Only projects of the category “Experimental Development” are eligible for funding.

4 CALL DOCUMENTS

Project proposals may **only** be submitted **electronically via eCall** at <https://ecall.ffg.at>. The **Project Description** (scientific proposal) must be uploaded via eCall as part of the electronic application. Applicants are required to use the specific templates prepared for the chosen funding instrument (see overview below).

The funding conditions, application procedure and funding criteria are described in the relevant **Technical Guideline**. The following table gives an overview of the documents required for the different funding instruments.



Online Cost Plan – filled in in the eCall system

Project Description – Upload in the eCall system

Please use the call documents and call guidelines available in the download center:

<https://www.ffg.at/beyond-europe/Call-3>

Overview of call documents	
Cooperative R&D Projects	 Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&D Projects
	 Project Description Cooperative R&D Projects
	 Declaration of SME Status*
Exploratory Projects	 Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects
	 Project Description Exploratory Projects
	 Declaration of SME Status*
	 Declaration of Cooperation for Exploratory Projects
General cost regulations	 Cost Guidelines (eligibility of costs in FFG projects)

***Compulsive for all companies from Beyond Europe countries**, and Austrian organisations where no information is available in the Austrian Business Compass (e.g. for associations or start-ups). In the template provided by the FFG, applicants must categorise their business for the last three years according to the SME definition.

5 APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND GRANT AGREEMENTS

The **legally binding contract** will be in **German** language. FFG will provide a model contract in English to support communication and contract negotiations with the project partners from Beyond Europe countries.

Concerning the funding of project partners from Beyond Europe countries the following conditions apply:

- The project partners from Beyond Europe countries create benefit for the Austrian consortium partners and/or Austria as a business and research location.
- When submitting a proposal project partners from Beyond Europe countries provide a certified document to prove their legal status (comparable to the Austrian „Firmenbuchauszug“)
- The project partners from Beyond Europe countries prove their credit-worthiness and liquidity in accordance with the criteria applied to Austrian partners prior to contract formation.
- Costs of project partners from Beyond Europe countries must be evidenced in the same way as costs charged by Austrian project partners.

6 LEGAL BASIS

This Call is based on the RTI Guidelines for the Promotion of Industrial/Technological Research, Technology Development and Innovation (*FTI-Richtlinie 2015 – Themen-FTI-RL*) published at <https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/rechtsgrundlagen>.

The company size shall be established in accordance with the corresponding SME definition specified in EU competition law. For more information go to https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/rechtliches_service_KMU.

All national and EU regulations shall be applicable as amended.

7 FURTHER INFORMATION

7.1 FFG Funding

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) provides a wide range of funding options and support for participation in international programmes and initiatives. For more information go to www.ffg.at/en/funding

7.2 WKO Support

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA, with its about 110 offices in over 70 countries, provides a broad range of intelligence and business development services for both Austrian companies and their international business partners. Around 800 employees and 35 consultants around the world can assist you in locating Austrian suppliers and business partners. We organize about 1,200 events every year to bring business contacts together. Other services provided by ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA offices range from introductions to Austrian companies looking for importers, distributors or agents to providing in-depth information on Austria as a business location and assistance in entering the Austrian market.

7.2.1 Go-international

Go-international, the Internationalization Initiative by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) comprises subsidies, consultancy and information services. A comprehensive set of measures has been prepared. Regional priorities are overseas markets with strong growth potential while sectoral priorities include exporting know-how and services, ensuring technology networking, and promoting research and innovation.

Costs and risks of Austrian companies entering new markets are reduced by granting direct subsidies. These grants are limited to 50% of eligible costs up to certain limits depending on the individual grant scheme. For example, the Export Check for technology companies supports innovative companies in European and overseas markets. Eligible expenses are narrowly defined and may include the cost for studies, marketing, travel expenses, participation fees, cost for legal and tax expertise and more.

For further information please visit our website: www.go-international.at.

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA - Go International

Contact: Mr. Wilhelm Nest /Mr. Rudolf Obereder, Tel. +43 (0)5 90 900 4366, go-international@wko.at

7.3 AWS Funding and Support

The Austrian Federal Development bank (AWS) provides additional and supplementary funding options.

For more information see:

„Guarantees for Internationalisation Projects“

http://www.awsg.at/Content.Node/foerderungen_alle/internationale-finanzierung/48272.php

Contact: Monika Bednarik-Belan

Tel +43 (0)1 501 75 - 333, m.bednarik@aws.g.at

„Tec4Market“

<http://www.awsg.at/Content.Node/innovation-investition/internationale-finanzierung/zuschuesse/130835.php>

Contact: Dr. Wilhelm Hantsch-Linhart

Tel +43 (0)1 501 75 - 311, w.hantsch@aws.at

“Kit4Market“

<https://www.aws.at/foerderungen/kit4market/>

Contact: Dr. Petra Huber

Tel: + 43 (0)1 501 75 - 589, p.huber@aws.at

7.4 ADA Funding and Support

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) provides additional and supplementary funding options. For more information go to www.entwicklung.at

Contact: Dr. Gunter Schall, Tel. +43 (0) 1 90399 – 2570, gunter.schall@ada.gv.at

7.5 Service FFG Project Database

The FFG offers the possibility to publish information on funded projects and an overview of project participants in a [public FFG project database](#). This is a service to you to present your project and your project partners to an interested public. Moreover this database can be used to search for potential future project partners.

Subject to your approval, the following information from the project application is presented: the short and long title, the abstract, the project period and any project partners.

An entry in the project database is made on a voluntary basis and only if you give consent. You decide if your project will be published or not.

Further information (in German only) can be found at

<https://www.ffg.at/content/fragen-antworten-zur-ffg-projekt-datenbank>