“BEYOND EUROPE”
PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONALISATION
OF RTI PROJECTS

KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

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

**OVERVIEW – INSTRUMENTS**

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<th>Exploratory Project</th>
<th>Cooperative R&amp;D Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot study for R&amp;D project</td>
<td>Experimental development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects</td>
<td>Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding amount (€)</th>
<th>max. 200,000</th>
<th>min. 100,000 to max. 500,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding rate</td>
<td>max. 80 %</td>
<td>max. 60 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration (months)</td>
<td>max. 12</td>
<td>max. 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation required</td>
<td>No, see Guideline</td>
<td>Yes, see Guideline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target groups</td>
<td>Austrian companies, research and university institutes and other organisations; Project partners from “Beyond Europe” countries may receive direct funding to a limited extent (see Chapter 2.2)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project leader</td>
<td>All applications must be submitted by an Austrian company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total budget</td>
<td><strong>€ 4.6 million</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission period</td>
<td>4 December 2015 to 30 March 2016 12.00 noon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
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**Contact**

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» Roland Brandenburg, Tel +43 (0)5 77 55 - 5090
» Email: beyondeurope@ffg.at

**Information**

www.ffg.at/beyondeurope

The full set of application documents must be submitted via eCall (https://ecall.ffg.at) by the submission deadline.

**INFORMATION ABOUT LANGUAGE OF SUBMISSION**

The application, all correspondence and reports must be in English. Please note that the use of two languages (e.g. English and German) in one project proposal is not permitted and will lead to rejection of the proposal for formal reasons.

All call documents and the contact details of the Beyond Europe team can be found at www.ffg.at/beyondeurope. Other relevant potential funding options are listed in Chapter 5.
International research cooperation has today 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 in 2011 by the Federal Government, 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 of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) 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.

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 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 of Europe (see definition in Chapter 2.2).

### 1.1 „BEYOND EUROPE” PROGRAMME: BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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

The present Call aims at increasing the international RTI activities and collaborations of Austrian companies and research institutions with partners outside Europe in the form of research projects.

It is assumed that Beyond Europe partners will generally bear their own costs. They may however receive direct funding from the programme budget to a limited extent, depending on the respective funding instrument.

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\(^1\) http://wissenschaft.bmfw.gv.at/bmfw/forschung/national/strategie-der-bundesregierung-fuer-forschung-technologie-und-innovation/

\(^2\) “Die Internationalisierung Österreichs in Forschung, Technologie und Innovation über Europa hinaus”
https://www.zsi.at/object/news/2796/attach/FTI_AG7a_Brosch_re_Bruck.pdf
2. CALL TOPICS

2.1 | THEMATIC RESTRICTIONS

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

The applicant must ensure that the bilateral projects submitted 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.

2.2 | GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS

Partners from all countries/states of the world can apply for funding under the Beyond Europe programme and international RTI cooperation with the exception of:

- the other 27 EU Member States
- the following Associated Countries to Horizon 2020:
  » Albania
  » Bosnia and Herzegovina
  » Faroe Islands
  » Iceland
  » Macedonia
  » Moldova
  » Montenegro
  » Norway
  » Serbia
  » Switzerland
  » Ukraine

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.

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2.3 | FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

The FFG’s 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.

2.3.1 | EXPLORATORY PROJECT
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 can participate, but are not eligible for funding.

Instrument included in the Call:
Exploratory Projects:
for Details see: Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects

2.3.2 | 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). 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 “Beyond Europe” partner. Only projects of the category “Experimental Development” may be submitted. Partners that are not from “Beyond Europe” countries can participate, but are not eligible for funding.

Instrument included in the Call (see Table 1):
Cooperative Projects (Experimental Development):
for Details see: Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&D 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. If the exploratory project is carried out as a cooperative project, at least one partner from a “Beyond Europe” state must be involved in the consortium.

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.
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.

### 3. CALL DOCUMENTS

Project proposals may **only** be submitted **electronically** via eCall at [https://ecall.ffg.at](https://ecall.ffg.at). The **Project Description** (scientific proposal) and the **Cost Plan** (financial tables) 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).

**OVERVIEW OF CALL DOCUMENTS** available for download: [www.ffg.at/beyond-europe/call1](http://www.ffg.at/beyond-europe/call1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Guideline (present document)</th>
<th>Call Guideline “Beyond Europe” Programme for Internationalisation of RTI projects</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exploratory Projects</strong></td>
<td>Technical Guidelines Exploratory Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Description Exploratory Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Declaration of Cooperation for Exploratory Projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Declaration of SME Status (if required)*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</strong></td>
<td>Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Description Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Declaration of SME Status (if required)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General cost regulations</strong></td>
<td>Cost Guidelines (eligibility of costs in FFG projects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal basis</strong></td>
<td>Guideline for the Promotion of Industrial/Technological Research, Technology Development and Innovation (FTI-Richtlinie 2015 – Themen-FTI-RL)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* If there is no information available in the Austrian Business Compass (e.g. for associations and start-ups), a Declaration of SME Status must be provided upon submission of the proposal. In the template provided by the FFG, applicants must (as far as possible) categorise their business for the last three years according to the SME definition.

### 4. 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 [www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/rechtsgrundlagen](http://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 [www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/rechtliches_service_KMU](http://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/rechtliches_service_KMU). All national and EU regulations shall be applicable as amended.
5. FURTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

5.1 | 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

5.2 | WKO FUNDING
The Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO) provides additional and supplementary funding options. For more information go to https://wko.at/auussenwirtschaft

Contact: Mag. Birgit Murr
Tel +43 (0)5 90 900 4151, birgit.murr@wko.at

5.2.1 | GO-INTERNATIONAL
Go-international, the Internationalization Initiative by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) 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. Ernst Kopp/Mr. Rudolf Obereder
Tel +43 (0)5 90 900 4366, go-international@wko.at

5.3 | AWS FUNDING
The Austrian Federal Development bank (AWS) provides additional and supplementary funding options. For more information see:

„Guarantees for Internationalisation Projects“
www.awsg.at/Content.Node/foerderungen_alle/internationale-finanzierung/48272.php

Contact: Monika Bednarik-Belan
Tel +43 (0)1 501 75 - 333, m.bednarik@awsg.at

„Tech4Market“

Contact: Dr. Wilhelm Hantsch-Linhart
Tel +43 (0)1 501 75 - 311t

5.4 | ADA FUNDING
The Austrian Development Cooperation (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

5.5 | UNIDO FUNDING
The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) provides additional and supplementary funding options. For more information go to www.unido.org
Innovation and applied research have a strong partner in Austria: the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). We help Austria’s business and science sectors to remain competitive both nationally and internationally.