

Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK¹)



Program document

May 2009

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¹ The acronym PEEK is derived from the German title **Programm zur Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste**.

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1. PREAMBLE

There is a variety of terms currently used in English to identify the kind of research that the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) seeks to support. By adopting the term 'arts-based research', the Program associates itself with those approaches to research known variously as 'artistic research', 'practice-based research' and 'practice-led research'. However, the use of terms of this kind varies between the arts disciplines that this Program intends to cover, as well as between countries in which some project partners may be based. While it is expected that investigation into art itself will be central to the projects that the Program funds, the term 'arts-based research' has been adopted in order to indicate that the relationship to artistic practice can be of various kinds.

All artistic productions are based on the work and the creativity of artists who apply artistic methods and skills to particular forms of artistic expression. The focus of the FWF's **Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)** is different: the production of artistic knowledge that is accompanied by reflection and so leads to an increase and advancement in society's knowledge. The **Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)** is aimed at supporting arts-based research in this sense.

In the explanatory comments on the 1982 Research and Technology Promotion Act (BGBl. Nr 434/1982, most recently amended by BGBl. I Nr 36/2007), "Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste" (arts-based research) is set on the same plane as scientific research. The equivalence of scientific research and "Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste" (arts-based research) is also a feature of §1 of the 2002 Universities Act (BGBl. I Nr 120/2002).

Arts-based Research differs fundamentally from disciplines such as literary criticism and history, art history and musicology, which apply scientific methods to the study of art. **Arts-based Research** can be understood as fundamental research that leads to the acquisition of knowledge. It implies the development of methods by artistic and aesthetic means as opposed to applying purely scientific processes in order to gain information.

Artistic procedures or methods may be specific to particular areas (e.g. music, the performing arts, architecture, the fine arts, literature etc.) or applicable to several disciplines (e.g. sound and media art, design). Their application and use in particular artistic productions is generally an individual and subjective matter. However, the creative process and its adoption must be reflected intersubjectively, documented and presented in a manner that makes it available for future discourse and research in a lasting way for it to fall within the scope of the Program.

Although the results of an artistic production may not necessarily satisfy the requirements of comprehensibility and testability, arts-based research can nevertheless be judged on the basis of its content, methods and aims and proposed outcomes.

The **Program** seeks to promote arts-based research that undertakes creative consideration of themes and issues in the light of the development and reception of new forms of art and of ways and methods of artistic expression, generally in close connection with scientific research or its application. The Program also seeks to promote reflection on the interpretation of works of art and thus includes capacity building arrangements as well as new strategies for the dissemination of artistic productions.

It is not intended that the types of artistic research supported by the Program should be directed towards financial profit. Nevertheless, the **Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)** operates in and with the "arts" system, which is characterized by interactions between artists, works of art and their reception. Therefore, typical artistic products such as concerts, performances, exhibitions or compositions within a laboratory of aesthetics or as a demonstration of proof of concept may well form part of a Program of work for an Arts-based Research (PEEK) project. However, the program does not aim to support artistic production in itself, e.g. a concert, a work of fine art or a scenic realization.

Projects funded by the **Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)** will take place at various institutions in Austria, primarily at arts universities. Because of their available infrastructure, university and some non-university institutions can offer artists the possibility of undertaking arts-based research in appropriately supportive environments. However, the lack of appropriate funding mechanisms has meant that these possibilities have been insufficiently exploited. To ensure the exceptional quality of the projects within the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK), close ties to high quality art institutions will be expected, whether applicants are associated with universities or non-university institutions.

At present there is no funding program in Austria directed specifically to arts-based research. Projects within the present Program may thus seek to provide enhanced training for young artists as well as opening up new fields to established artists. The creation of connections between projects submitted to the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) and the FWF's Doctoral Programs Plus (DK-plus) represents a further goal.

The quality of the projects – and also of their dissemination and interconnection – will be assessed and guaranteed by means of an independent, internationally bench-marked procedure, which will be adapted from the FWF's tried and tested methods in order to take into account the special features of the Program. One of the changes will involve the establishment of a Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) Advisory Board.

The **Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)** seeks to promote both increased internationalization and networking between different branches of the arts. It offers a generally applicable, flexible instrument for supporting arts-based research in a substantial and structured way.

2. Aims

2.1 Mission Statement

To enhance the quality, range and impact of arts activity in Austria by means of arts-based research.

2.2 Aims of the Program

Aims of the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)	Outcomes of the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)	Indicators of impact of the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK)
<p>Quality To support high quality and innovative arts-based research in which artistic practice is integral to the inquiry.</p>	<p>Evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater dynamism and diversity in approaches to artistic production. • Development of innovative theories (e.g. creation of new perspectives, dimensions, paradigms). • Development of innovative methods (e.g. creation of new methods, processes, artwork, products). • Greater volume of high-quality arts-based research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References in leading national and international media • Record of exhibitions, presentations, performances • Reviews in media • Reflexive work in peer reviewed journals • National / international recognition • Awards • Memberships of national and/or international boards (in roles connected with arts or with arts-based research) • Invitations to participate in relevant international networks, seminars/ conferences
<p>Capacity To increase research capacity, quality and international standing of Austrian arts-based researchers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Gain: more arts-based researchers. • Creation/expansion of centres for arts-based research within Austria. • Greater international contextualization and embedding of research activities (e.g. increased awareness of international perceptions, expectations and opportunities; more widespread evidence of international recognition). • Enhanced arrangements for project management; creation of new national and international networks, invitations to participate in existing international networks. • Training of young researchers, including improved arrangements for career development. • Increased awareness of areas of cross-disciplinary connection. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased accountability • Stronger evidence of contextualization • Stronger project management skills • Creation/expansion of networks • Management of networks • Attention to issues of sustainability (e.g. project archive, future developments, possible linkages) • Enhancement of research infrastructure

<p>Awareness To increase both public awareness and awareness within the academic and the arts communities of arts-based research and its potential applications.</p>	<p>Evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greater public awareness of arts-based research. ● Intensified importance accorded to arts-based research within the arts. ● More widespread acceptance of the significance of arts-based research (in terms of potential, significance and relevance) within the wider research community. ● Development of specific tools for the communication of outcomes of arts-based research projects. ● Cultural, social and economic enrichment, to which arts-based research has contributed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development and use of greater variety of modes of dissemination of project aims, methods and outcomes (appropriate to target audiences). ● Attention to production of documentation throughout life of the project. ● Attention to issues of contextualization. ● Publication of material (in range of sources) reflecting on issues raised by the project. ● Production and maintenance of accessible records of materials arising from the project (incl. exhibitions, performances, presentations, installations) with appropriate documentation. ● Engagement in public presentation and/or dialogue (e.g. seminar, debate, lecture, discussion) ● Evidence of ideas from funded projects being drawn on/ applied in other areas of the arts or of the sciences
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3. Requirements

3.1 What may be applied for?

The project must be in the area of nonprofit-oriented arts-based research as defined by the present Program. Its duration must be limited (to a maximum of 36 months). The goals and the methodology should be precisely described. There are no thematic restrictions or quotas. International and trans-disciplinary aspects are welcome. Consideration should be given to the potential for including young artists and to gender-relevant aspects when specifying the project's themes and establishing the working conditions and environment.

Project planning should make provision for PR work in the sense of raising the profile of the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) and its results among the wider public, i.e. beyond the artistic and academic communities (e.g. by involving stakeholders from society such as schools, potential users etc.) Other aspects of the proposed research that relate to its impact beyond the arts and academic communities (e.g. importance to society, ecological value, economic relevance etc.) may be mentioned in the application if relevant.

3.2 Who may apply?

Any person engaged in arts-based research who has the necessary qualifications, the required infrastructure (Connection to an appropriate university or non-university institution in Austria, so that the necessary documentation, support and quality of the results are ensured) and sufficient free capacity to carry out in full the project for which support is requested. No particular academic title is needed, nor is Austrian citizenship required.

A project within the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) must be led by a Project Leader of good standing, as judged by international standards, whose research demonstrates a relationship to EEK.

3.3 What types of cost may be requested?

Only project-specific costs may be requested, i.e. personnel and non-personnel costs that are essential to carry out the project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's called "infrastructure". The FWF does not finance infrastructure or basic equipment at research institutions.

With the exception of projects submitted by independent researchers (see below), no personnel costs may be requested for project leaders.

Please note that exaggerated costs may represent a reason for rejecting an application, even one that is excellent.

"Double funding" is not permitted: in other words, a project for which support is being requested may not receive full support from another funding source or from a different FWF program. Applications that are essentially identical may not be submitted – either in the same program or in different programs, unless the specific application guidelines explicitly make an exception to this general rule.

3.3.1 Personnel costs

Funding may be provided for personnel required to perform the research project in addition to the available personnel resources. Such persons must be assigned exclusively to this research project for the proportion of their time agreed.

Employment of academic and artistic personnel in projects funded by the FWF is limited to a maximum period of six years, independent of the type of contract (full- or part-time).

In general, no personnel costs may be requested for the principal investigator. The FWF may cover the principal investigator's salary only under particular circumstances ("applications by independent scientists" in accordance with FWF specifications).

The FWF's salary scale applies to project workers.

Projects should be aimed at undertaking research, not, for example at obtaining qualifications. However, students who contribute to the work of project teams may include results that they obtain within (doctoral) theses.

3.3.2 Costs for equipment and materials

Material costs include the costs of consumables and small items of equipment (cost per item up to EUR 1,500 incl. VAT). Calculations of the project-specific costs for equipment and materials should be justified by the time plan and the work plan. Equipment acquired for previous projects should be taken into account.

3.3.3 Travel costs

Costs for project-specific travel and accommodation may be requested. A detailed travel (cost) plan should be provided, itemized by individual project participants.

3.3.4 Other costs

- Contracts for the work and services of project workers (costs for work of clearly defined scope and content, commissioned to individuals)
- Costs for artistic events that are project-specific and necessary (these costs will be funded only to the extent that referees feel is essential for the project)
- Costs for project-specific work undertaken outside the applicant's institution (e.g. analysis work performed elsewhere, interviews etc.).

3.3.5 General costs

Costs for attendance at conferences, as well as smaller, unforeseen costs necessary for the project, such as repairs, student assistance etc.

General costs should be included in the application forms in the appropriate field and are to be calculated as 5% of the total of the other funding requested. No justification for general costs should be included in the written project description.

4. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PROJECTS

- quality of the project proposal:
 - awareness of research context, including work already done (nationally and internationally) in fields directly relevant to the proposed project
 - clarity of the aims and of the project description
 - appropriateness of the methodology (including work plan, time plan and cost planning)
 - topicality and potential for artistic innovation,
 - importance for increasing the international competitiveness of Austria's basic arts-based research
 - quality and relevance of national and international networking (collaborations, visibility)
- quality of the resources (human resources, physical resources):
 - artistic/academic quality and standing of the project leader and of the other researchers involved in the project
 - involvement of young researchers; gender-relevant aspects
 - appropriateness of working conditions and environment (including any association with a university or non-university institution)
 - availability of additional qualifications
- Quality of other aspects:
 - potential impact of the project
 - PR work in the sense of raising the profile of arts-based research among the wider public.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) Advisory Board

The FWF will establish an Advisory Board for the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK). This body will be responsible for making funding recommendations to the FWF board, based on the assessment of international reviews. It will comprise a maximum of eight persons and will have the following composition: Eight international experts with experience in arts-based research. Six disciplinary fields: Architecture, Arts & Media, Design, Music, Performing Arts, Literature. Decisions on funding will be taken by the FWF Board.

5.2 Selection procedure

The procedure will involve a single step evaluation of proposals submitted in the context of an annual call for applications. Projects will be selected by a competitive procedure, taking the available budget into account. The amount of funding available per call will determine the upper limit of the number of projects that can be funded.

Procedure:

- submission of an application by the project leader to the FWF
- formal checks by the FWF Secretariat
- peer-review procedure involving exclusively international reviewers (artists and academics with an appropriate background)
- funding recommendation by the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) Advisory Board based on the reviews
- Decisions on funding will be taken by the FWF Board.

5.3 Decision and granting of funding

Decisions on funding will be taken by the FWF Board on the basis of the Advisory Board's recommendations. The Federal Minister will announce the decisions. The decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. If funding is granted, the FWF will send a written offer of funding (a funding contract) to the principal investigator. This contract must be signed before there is a valid contractual relationship with the FWF.

5.4 Funding contract

The FWF concludes a funding contract with the project leader. The project leader represents the project within the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK), both to the FWF and to third parties, and is responsible for ensuring that the funding is used and accounted for in conformance with the guidelines.

6. LEGAL BASIS

The Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) is administered by the FWF in the autonomous area. The available budget will be defined within the scope of the FWF work program, which will be approved by the BMWF in its competence as a supervisory authority.

7. IMPLEMENTATION AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

7.1 Calls for applications

At present, no time limit is foreseen for the duration of the Program. There will be a single call for applications each year. The selection procedure is described in Section 5, above.

7.2 Accompanying measures

The Program management will undertake accompanying measures appropriate for and specific to particular target groups. The measures will include e.g. advice, communication, documentation and publicizing of the Program by the FWF.

8. TYPE AND EXTENT OF SUPPORT

8.1 Type of support

Support is payable in the form of non-refundable subsidies.

8.2 Level of support

The level of support is based on the particular project's appropriateness for funding and on its funding requirements. Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) projects are treated equivalently to projects in the FWF's other funding categories with respect to contributions towards overheads.

9. EVALUATION

This section describes guidelines for evaluation of projects as well as the entire program.

9.1 Project evaluation

Project evaluation is performed by means of the FWF's established procedures for assessing stand-alone projects: at the conclusion of the project a comprehensive report provided by the project's PI is evaluated by an international expert (in written form). The evaluation should consider the project's results and impact, both in the artistic context and in the context of the effects on the participating university and on non-university institutions. The basic data relating to project output will be entered into a computerized database. Both this data as well as the results of the *ex post* peer review will be made available to the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) Advisory Board and will serve as basis for evaluation at the Program level and will also be used for the FWF's PR work.

9.1.1 Monitoring and controlling

The primary function of the FWF's monitoring and controlling is to prove at the end of each calendar year that the financial support provided has been spent in accordance with the FWF's funding guidelines. Interim progress reports are requested together with the documentation relating to use of the funding at the end of each calendar year but these serve merely as brief information about the status and progress of the project.

9.2 Evaluation of the Program

Evaluation at the Program level will analyse the conception, implementation and effect of the funding scheme and will use the results to derive recommendations for its continuation as well as for any changes.

By analogy with other evaluations of FWF funding programs, the evaluation will be performed by independent experts with proven and appropriate international expertise. It is envisaged that a comprehensive program evaluation will take place at the earliest after five years, according to the standards of the Austrian Platform for the Evaluation of Research and Technology. It should include an assessment of the Program's effectiveness and its role within Austria's funding programs, with the aim of optimizing the overall range of programs on offer.

The FWF will commission evaluations and formulate the terms of reference together with the Program for Arts-based Research (PEEK) Advisory Board and the bmwf.