

## **International Programmes**

### **Differences from the General Principles of Decision-making Procedures**

The category „International Programmes“ includes four groups of programmes with significant procedural differences from one another. It should be noted that there may also be wide differences within single groups. For this reason, the present document summarizes only the general features of the various procedures. Detailed information may be found in the documents specific to particular calls for proposals.

#### **1. International Co-operation Programmes**

##### **1.1. Bilateral Programmes with parallel submission**

This type of programme serves to fund bilateral collaborations in cases where the two national subprojects are so closely connected that they may only be performed in conjunction with one another.

Examples: bilateral calls for proposals with India (DST), Russia (RFBR), Japan (JSPS), Taiwan (MOST), etc.

The procedures take place in the two countries independent of each other and basically adhere to national guidelines.

##### ***Submission of proposals***

Individual national proposals must be submitted to the participating funding organizations, in accordance with the national guidelines for applications. Proposals that are submitted to only one of the two organizations will be rejected without review.

##### ***Review procedure***

The application must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for FWF Stand Alone projects. Additionally the reviewers are asked to provide comments on the following aspect: „International cooperation(s) – integration & complementarity of the scientific contributions in terms of strengths and weaknesses“. In some cases, referees may be proposed by the participating partner organization, providing they satisfy the criteria for FWF reviewers.

##### ***Funding decision***

The participating partner organizations take decisions on funding that are formally independent of each other. The FWF makes the same demands on as it does for national projects. Applications may only be funded if they are approved by both participating organizations.

## **1.2. „Lead Agency“ Programme**

Within the “Lead Agency Procedure” it is possible to submit a joint transnational application to a single funding organization (the Lead Agency) in accordance with this organization’s guidelines. The Lead Agency will review the application and will reach a funding decision in accordance with its national procedures. The funding organizations of the remaining countries participating in the project will typically accept the results of the procedure, will adopt the Lead Agency’s decision and if the application is approved will fund the participant(s) in their countries according to their national guidelines.

Examples: DACH-Agreement with the DFG (Germany) and the SNF (Switzerland), ANR (France), GAČR (Czech Republic), NRF (Korea), ESRC (UK), etc.

The Lead Agency Procedure is based on mutual trust in the procedure of the partner organization(s). Lead Agency agreements are concluded by the FWF’s Executive Board. In its deliberations, the Executive Board pays particular attention to the fundamental comparability of the quality of the decision-making procedures in the partner organization(s).

The internal procedures differ primarily according to whether or not the FWF is the Lead Agency.

### **If the FWF is the Lead Agency**

#### ***Submission of proposals***

The complete project proposal should be submitted to the FWF in accordance with the specific guidelines in place for the appropriate programme.

#### ***Review procedure***

The application must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for FWF Stand Alone projects. Additionally the reviewers are asked to provide comments on the following aspect: „International cooperation(s) – integration & complementarity of the scientific contributions in terms of strengths and weaknesses“.

Depending on the particular programme, the number of reviews may differ from that required in the normal FWF review procedure. In some cases, referees may be proposed by the participating partner organization(s), providing they satisfy the criteria for FWF reviewers. The complete reviews, including the confidential parts, will be forwarded to the partner organization(s).

#### ***Funding decision***

The funding decision is taken according to standard FWF procedures and is forwarded to the participating partner organization(s), which typically accept the decision and if the proposal is approved fund the participant(s) in their countries according to their national guidelines.

### **If the FWF is not the Lead Agency**

#### ***Submission of proposals***

The complete project application should be submitted to the Lead Agency in accordance with the specific guidelines in place for the appropriate programme. The FWF receives the complete application directly from the Lead Agency. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF in addition. However, the FWF does require the completed “forms for international collaboration projects” (application form, form programme specific data, FWF cost sheet) as well as a one-page summary (in German and in English). Depending on the specific guidelines for the programme this should be sent either to the Lead Agency together with the application or directly to the FWF.

### ***Review procedure***

Because the various partner organizations undertake the review according to their own national guidelines, the review procedures naturally differ with regard to number and selection of referees, rules for avoidance of conflicts of interest etc.

When the FWF's Executive Board considers whether to participate in a Lead Agency programme it takes into account the fundamental similarity of the procedures and the quality standards in place. All the referees' reports are forwarded to the FWF in full.

### ***Funding decision***

The Lead Agency informs the FWF of its funding decision. The FWF's Board typically approves the decision and if this is positive the Board determines the level of support to be awarded to the Austrian partner(s).

## **1.3. centrally coordinated programmes**

Centrally coordinated programmes permit the funding of projects undertaken by transnational consortiums within the framework of (generally) thematic calls for applications. A joint project involves at least three subprojects from different countries. The various subprojects are funded at the national level.

Examples: calls for applications under ERA-Net programmes

### ***Submission of proposals***

The complete application is submitted to the coordinating organization (e.g. ERA-Net Call Secretariat etc.) in accordance with the guidelines for the particular programme. The costs for the Austrian subprojects should be calculated according to the FWF scales. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF in addition. However, the FWF does require the completed "forms for international collaboration projects" as well as a one-page summary (in German and in English).

### ***Review procedure***

The review procedure will be performed independently by the organization coordinating the call. There will be a wide variation in terms of number and selection of referees, rules for avoidance of conflicts of interest etc. In some cases, referees may be proposed by the participating partner organization(s). The review procedure leads to a ranking of the applications that were submitted, together with the review panel's recommendations for funding. The results of the review procedure (individual reviews and minutes of the review panel) are sent to the FWF.

### ***Funding decision***

The FWF bases its funding decisions on the results of the review procedure. The comparability in terms of quality with purely national applications represents a key criterion for the FWF's decisions.

Remark: the standardized justifications for a rejection, which are stated in the "General Principles of the decision making procedure" are not applied to the centrally coordinated programmes".

#### **1.4. „Common pot“-Programmes**

“Common pot” programmes represent a special type of centrally coordinated programme. They are funded from a single, joint source made up of national contributions from the participating organizations.

Examples: HERA, NORFACE

##### ***Submission of proposals***

The complete application is submitted to the coordinating organization (e.g. ERA-Net Call Secretariat etc.) in accordance with the guidelines for the particular programme. The costs for the Austrian subprojects should be calculated according to the FWF scales although for some programmes deviations are possible. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF in addition.

Austrian (Co)-applicants in ERA-Net project consortia must send the FWF application forms for international collaborative projects and abstracts according to FWF guidelines directly to the FWF.

##### ***Review procedure***

The review procedure will be performed independently by the organization coordinating the call. There will be a wide variation in terms of number and selection of referees, rules for avoidance of conflicts of interest etc. In some cases, referees may be proposed by the participating partner organization(s).

##### ***Funding decision***

Funding decisions will be taken by a selection committee established by the organization coordinating the call, largely made up of representatives of the funding organizations that are participating. According to the particular programme guidelines, contracts for funding will be concluded either with the organization coordinating the call or with the FWF.

## **2. Information on the possibility of corrections in calls with deadlines**

In deadline bound calls, it is possible to correct proposals that do not meet the FWF requirements within a period of 10 days after the FWF office has sent a list with issues to be corrected (“Mängelliste”). In case that the proposal still does not meet the FWF requirements after the expiry of the 10 day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to stop dealing with the proposal.