

International Programmes

Differences from the General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure

The funding programmes gathered together in the “International Programmes” category can generally be divided into four groups of programmes with significant differences in terms of procedure. It should be noted that there may also be considerable differences within the individual groups. Therefore, the present document summarises only the general features of the various procedures; detailed information may be found in the specific documents relating to the particular call for proposals.

1. International Cooperation Programmes

1.1. Bilateral programmes with parallel submission

This type of programme serves to fund bilateral cooperation projects in cases where the two national subprojects are so closely connected that they can only be carried out in conjunction with one another.

Examples: bilateral calls for proposals with Russia (RFBR, RSF), Japan (JSPS), Taiwan (MOST), and Israel (MOST)

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

Submission of proposals

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

Review procedure

Applications are reviewed in accordance with the guidelines for FWF Stand-Alone Projects or, in the case of clinical research proposals, the guidelines for the Clinical Research Programme. Additionally, reviewers are requested to assess the following criteria: “International cooperation arrangement(s) – complementarity and integration of the research contributions.” In some cases, recommendations made by the reviewers of the partner organisation(s) may be taken into consideration, providing they correspond with FWF guidelines.

Funding decision

Funding decisions are made by the participating funding organisations independently of each other. In the case of the FWF, the same quality standards apply here as for national projects. Applications may only be funded if they are approved by all the participating organisations.

1.2. “Lead Agency” Procedure

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

Examples: DACH Agreement with DFG (Germany) and SNF (Switzerland), ANR (France), GAČR (Czech Republic), FWO (Belgium), NKFIH (Hungary), ARRS (Slovenia), FNR (Luxembourg), etc.

The lead agency procedure is based on mutual trust in the procedures of the partner organisation(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 is submitted to the FWF in accordance with the specific guidelines of the relevant FWF funding programme.

Review procedure

The application must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant FWF funding programme. Additionally, the reviewers are requested to assess the following criteria: “International cooperation arrangement(s) – complementarity and integration of the research contributions.” In some cases, recommendations made by the reviewers of the partner organisation(s) may be taken into consideration, providing they correspond with FWF guidelines.

The minimum number of reviews required (according to the guidelines for FWF Stand-Alone Projects) depends on the amount of the largest national funding request.

All the reviews are passed on in full (including the confidential part) to the partner organisation(s).

Funding decision

The funding decision is made according to the standard FWF procedure and is communicated to the participating partner organisation(s), which typically accept(s) the decision, and if the proposal is approved, will fund the project participants in its country/their countries according to national guidelines.

If the FWF is not the lead agency

Submission of proposals

The complete project proposal is submitted to the lead agency in accordance with the specific guidelines of the relevant programme. The FWF typically receives the complete application directly from the lead agency; therefore, it is usually not necessary to submit the application to the FWF as well. However, the FWF does require the administrative and financial information of the Austrian part of the project as well as an academic abstract according to FWF guidelines. These can be submitted online at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>. In the case of a two-stage submission procedure, this is required during the outline proposal phase of the “IK – International Projects (Outline Proposal)” programme category. In the case of a single-stage procedure, or the full proposal stage in a two-stage procedure, the “I – International Projects” programme category must be selected.

Review procedure

Since the various partner organisations undertake the review according to their own national standards, the review procedures naturally differ regarding the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. The FWF takes great care in choosing partner organisations with comparable quality standards. All the reviews are passed on in full to the FWF.

Funding decision

The lead agency informs the FWF of the funding decision. The FWF Board usually adopts the decision and in the case of approval, determines the amount of funding to be awarded to the Austrian project partners.

1.3. Centrally coordinated programmes

Centrally coordinated programmes facilitate the funding of transnational joint projects within the framework of mostly thematic calls for proposals. A joint project consists of at least 3 subprojects from different countries. The various subprojects are funded at the national level.

Examples: ERA-NET calls for applications

Submission of proposals

The complete application is submitted to the coordinating organisation (e.g., ERA-NET call secretariat, etc.) in accordance with the specific guidelines for the relevant programme. The costs of the Austrian subproject are requested in accordance with the FWF guidelines for Stand-Alone Projects or, in the case of clinical research proposals, according to the guidelines for the “Clinical Research” Programme. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF as well. However, the FWF does require the administrative and financial information of the Austrian part of the project as well as an academic abstract according to FWF guidelines. These can be submitted online at <https://elane.fwf.ac.at>. In the case of a two-stage submission procedure, this is required during the outline proposal phase of the “IK – International Projects (Outline Proposal)” programme category. In the case of a single-stage procedure, or the full proposal stage in a two-stage procedure, the “I – International Projects” programme category must be selected.

Review procedure

The review procedure is carried out independently by the coordinating organisation, which results in differences regarding the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. In some cases, recommendations made by the reviewers of the partner organisation(s) may be taken into consideration. The review procedure leads to a ranking of the applications that were submitted, together with the review panel’s recommendation for funding. The results of the review procedure (individual reviews and the minutes of the review panel) are sent to the FWF.

Funding decision

The FWF bases its funding decision on the results of the review procedure. One of the key criteria of the FWF’s decision is that the application must be comparable in terms of quality with solely national applications.

1.4. “Common Pot” Programmes

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

Examples: HERA

Submission of proposals

The complete application is submitted to the coordinating organisation (e.g., ERA-NET call secretariat, etc.) in accordance with the specific guidelines of the relevant programme. Costs are requested according to FWF guidelines, although there may be some differences depending on the programme. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF as well.

Review procedure

The review procedure is carried out independently by the coordinating organisation, which results in differences regarding the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. In some cases, recommendations made by the reviewers of the partner organisation(s) may be taken into consideration.

Funding decision

The funding decision is made by a selection committee established by the coordinating organisation, which usually consists of representatives of the participating funding organisations. Grant agreements are concluded with the coordinating organisation.

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

In calls with deadlines, it is possible to correct proposals that contain formal errors within a period of 10 days (calendar days) after the FWF office has sent a list of the formal errors to be corrected.

If the application still contains formal errors after this 10-day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to return the application without review.