

Supplementary Application Guidelines for the funding initiatives

AI Mission Austria and AI Green

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1 General Information

As a new key technology, artificial intelligence (AI) has enormous potential to significantly change the economy and society. In Austria, for example, AI could double overall economic growth by 2035, and turnover in the AI sector is expected to increase by up to 40% by 2027. To leverage this potential and create added value for Austria as a business and research location, the three research funding agencies [aws](#), [FFG](#), and FWF have launched a joint funding initiative called **AI Mission Austria (AIM AT)**. Through comprehensive funding for basic research, applied research, and business applications, this initiative is making a valuable contribution to creating a sustainable ecosystem around the key technology of artificial intelligence.

From November 15, 2023, additional funding will be provided for projects focusing specifically on **AI Green**.

The AI Mission Austria and AI Green funding initiatives are being implemented with funding from the Fonds Zukunft Österreich, with a total of €3.8 million in funding available.

2 What types of projects can be funded?

The main objective of this initiative is to fund excellent basic scientific research in the field of sustainable artificial intelligence and to contribute to positioning Austria as a recognized research and innovation location for AI. Eligible for funding are projects with concisely defined objectives and methodology, and which are subject to duration and funding limits pursuant to the provisions of the FWF programs [Principal Investigator Projects \(PAT\)](#), [ESPRIT \(ESP\)](#), [1000 Ideas \(TAI\)](#), and [Arts-Based Research \(ART\)](#). Further information on [applying for FFG programs](#) and [aws programs](#) as part of this initiative can be found on their individual websites.

Applications must address a topic related to the field of sustainable artificial intelligence research. The AIM AT funding initiative is interdisciplinary and aims to support basic research in technology and computer sciences, projects in the biomedical, natural, social, and cultural sciences and the humanities, as well as arts-based research. Research questions can address topics such as:

- Machine learning, symbolic and logic-based AI, symbolic processes, autonomous systems
- AI in climate research, biochemistry, or medicine
- Highly complex social and ethical framework conditions of AI as well as its socio-economic and socio-cultural effects
- Arts-based AI research

Proposals for **AI Green** funding can be submitted for projects focusing on topics such as:

Use of AI technologies:

- To advance environmental conservation
- To ensure the conservation of species and nature
- To counteract climate change
- To reduce resource consumption

3 Submission

The application guidelines and forms required for Principal Investigator Projects (PAT), ESPRIT (ESP), 1000 Ideas (TAI), or Arts-Based Research (ART) apply for this call. The advancement of women and junior researchers is particularly important to the FWF, and these target groups are explicitly encouraged to apply to the relevant funding programs.

All applications are submitted online using [elane](#), the FWF's digital application portal. Please note that the programs PAT, ESP, TAI, and ART are subject to [PROFI](#) mode. When applying, first select the appropriate program (PAT, ESP, TAI, ART), then choose "AI Mission Austria" from **the drop-down menu**.

The application must be approved for submission in elane by your research institution; the application will not be accepted until this approval has been granted.

After the application has been submitted, changes/additions can only be made if specifically requested by the FWF. Changes must be made within the period indicated after receipt of notification (all requested changes are submitted online as supplementary applications).

In addition to the documents required to apply to the selected program, an additional form describing the proposal's relevance to the topic of the call must be submitted on elane. Based on this program-specific form, the FWF decides whether the submitted proposal actually meets the thematic requirements for this initiative. Applications that do not meet the thematic requirements of the initiative are processed and decided upon like regular proposals in the respective program category.

4 Deadlines

AI Mission Austria: The application period for the **PAT, ART, and ESP** programs **opened on November 3, 2022**. Applications are submitted using the online application portal [elane](#).

AI Green: The application period for the **PAT, ART, and ESP** programs **will open on November 15, 2023**. Applications are submitted using the online application portal [elane](#).

Proposals for the **1000 Ideas program (TAI)** can be submitted for both tracks from **November 15, 2023 to January 16, 2024**.

5 Decisions

The [FWF Scientific Board](#) makes all final decisions on the awarding of grants, based on the results of an international peer review process.

PAT, ESP, and ART funding is awarded on a rolling basis from the start of the application period. A decision on the TAI proposals is expected in June 2024. Once the Fonds Zukunft Österreich's funding has been exhausted, submitted applications will be processed and decided on like a regular project within the respective program category and, if approved, funded from the FWF's own budget.