

Deviations from the General Principles of the FWF Decision Making
Procedure

International programs

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Contents

1	International collaborative programs	3
1.1	Bilateral programs with simultaneous application periods	3
1.2	Lead agency programs	4
1.3	Centrally coordinated programs	6
1.4	“Common pot” programs.....	6
2	Information on amending submissions in calls with submission deadlines.....	7

Of the funding programs summarized in the category “International Programs,” four groups of programs can be differentiated which deviate from the standard procedures. It should be noted that there may also be considerable differences within the individual groups, which is why only the basic characteristics of the procedures are summarized here; detailed information can be found in the specific documents issued for the respective calls for proposals.

1 International collaborative programs

1.1 Bilateral programs with simultaneous application periods

These programs are intended to fund bilateral collaborative projects where the two national subprojects are so closely connected that they can only be carried out in conjunction with one another.

Examples: bilateral calls with Israel (MOST), Japan (JSPS), Hungary (NKFIH), Taiwan (MOST)

The procedures are generally carried out independently of each other at the national level and pursuant to national guidelines.

Submission of proposals

Individual national proposals must be submitted to the participating funding organizations pursuant to the respective national guidelines. Applications that are submitted to only one of the two funding organizations will be rejected without review.

Review process

The review process is subject to the guidelines for FWF Stand-Alone Projects or, in the case of clinical research projects, the guidelines for the Clinical Research Program. In addition, reviewers are asked to address the following questions: **"How well integrated are the subprojects in Austria and the partner country? How would you rate the complementarity of the scientific contributions of the scientists in Austria and abroad?"** Reviewers suggested by the partner organization(s) involved can be considered, provided they comply with FWF guidelines.

Funding decisions

Funding decisions are made independently by the funding organizations involved. The FWF applies the same quality standards as for national projects. Only applications that are approved by all participating organizations can be funded.

1.2 Lead agency programs

The lead agency procedure allows researchers to submit a joint transnational application to one funding organization (lead agency) according to that agency's national guidelines. The lead agency reviews and decides on the application according to national procedures, the funding organizations of the other participating countries accept the outcome of the procedure, in most cases accept the decision of the lead agency and, in the case of approval, fund the project participant(s) in their countries according to national guidelines.

Example: Weave network with several European funding organizations aimed at promoting bi- or trilateral joint projects. Other examples of bilateral collaboration opportunities administered under the lead agency procedure are the programs with France (ANR) and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano - South Tyrol. The lead agency procedure is based on mutual trust in the procedures of the partner organization(s).

The FWF's internal procedures differ primarily depending on whether the FWF is the lead agency.

FWF is lead agency

Submission of proposals

The entire project proposal is submitted in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant FWF funding program.

Review process

Applications are submitted in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant FWF funding program. In addition, reviewers are asked to address the following questions: ***"How well integrated are the subprojects in Austria and the partner country or countries? How would you rate the complementarity of the scientific contributions of scientists in Austria and abroad?"*** Reviewers suggested by the partner organization(s) involved can be considered, provided they comply with FWF guidelines.

The minimum number of reviews needed (according to guidelines for FWF Stand-Alone Projects or, in the case of clinical research projects, according to the guidelines for the Clinical Research Program) is based on the amount of the largest national funding request.

The full contents of the reviews (including confidential sections) are forwarded to the partner organization(s).

Funding decisions

Funding decisions are made in accordance with the FWF's standard procedures and are forwarded to the partner organization(s) involved. In most cases, partner organizations accept the decision of the lead agency and, in the case of approval, fund the national projects according to national guidelines. A uniform approval threshold of 20% applies to the Weave initiative. This means that an application can only be proposed for funding by the lead agency if it is ranked among the top 20% in the respective national competition. Given that approval rates among the participating funding organizations can vary widely, this measure is intended to improve the equality of opportunity with regard to applicants' odds of approval.

FWF is not lead agency

Submission of proposals

The entire project proposal is submitted to the lead agency in accordance with the respective program-specific guidelines. A copy of the application must be submitted to the FWF together with further documents via elane (program category "I - International Programs"). For two-stage procedures with a pre-proposal phase, a submission must already be made to the FWF under the program category "IK – International Programs (Pre-Proposal)" via elane when the pre-proposal is submitted.

Review process

As the review process is carried out by different partner organizations in accordance with individual national standards, there are differences with regard to the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. The FWF takes great care in choosing partner organizations with comparable quality standards. All reviews are passed on in full to the FWF.

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Funding decisions

The lead agency informs the FWF of the funding decision. The FWF Board accepts the decision in most cases and, in the event of approval, determines the amount of funding to be awarded to the Austrian project partners.

1.3 Centrally coordinated programs

Centrally coordinated programs make it possible to fund transnational collaborative projects, often as thematic calls. A collaborative project generally consists of at least three subprojects from different countries. Funding for each subproject is provided at the national level.

Examples: ERA-NET calls, European Partnerships under Horizon Europe

Submission of proposals

The entire project proposal must be submitted to the coordinating organization (e.g. ERA-NET or European Partnership secretariat, etc.) in accordance with the respective program-specific guidelines. 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 projects, in compliance with the guidelines for the Clinical Research Program. It is not necessary to submit the application to the FWF as well. However, the FWF does require the administrative and financial data for the Austrian subproject, an academic abstract, the academic CV of the FWF applicant, and a list of publications in compliance with FWF guidelines. These are to be submitted online using the [elane](#) portal. In the case of a two-stage submission procedure, this is already required in the pre-proposal phase under the program category "IK – International Programs (Pre-Proposal)." In the case of a single-stage procedure or for the full-proposal phase in a two-stage procedure, the program category "I - International Projects" must be selected.

Review procedure

The review procedure is carried out independently by the coordinating organization, which results in differences regarding the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. Reviewers suggested by the partner organization(s) involved can be considered. The review process concludes with a ranked list of the proposals submitted and a funding recommendation from the Review Panel. The FWF receives the results of the review process (individual reviews as well as the minutes of the Review Panel).

Funding decisions

The funding decision is made by the FWF on the basis of the results of the review process. One of the key criteria of the FWF's decision is that the proposal must be of comparable quality as solely national applications.

1.4 "Common pot" programs

"Common pot" programs are a special type of centrally coordinated program. They are funded from a single, joint funding pot made up of national contributions.

Example: HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area)

Submission of proposals

The complete application is submitted to the coordinating organization (e.g. ERA-NET call secretariat, etc.) in accordance with the respective program-specific guidelines. Costs are requested according to FWF guidelines, although there may be some differences depending on the program. 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 organization, which results in differences regarding the selection and number of reviews, rules on conflicts of interest, etc. Reviewers suggested by the partner organization(s) involved can be considered.

Funding decisions

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

2 Information on amending submissions in calls with submission deadlines

In calls with a fixed deadline, it is possible to amend 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.