

Supplementary Application Guidelines for the funding initiative

RISE Europe

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1 What Types of Projects Can Be Funded?

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 ASTRA Awards](#)¹ program. Only projects that were submitted to the ERC Starting Grants 2026 program in collaboration with an Austrian research institution, received an “A” rating, but were not funded due to budgetary restraints (“A – *but not funded*”) are eligible for submission.

2 Application Requirements

Austrian research institutions are eligible to apply. For principal investigators, the application requirements of the FWF ASTRA Awards program apply.

The following additional requirements also apply:

- Individuals who already hold a permanent professorship (or an equivalent leadership position at a non-university research institution) at the time of application or who have already accepted an appointment to a permanent professorship are not eligible to apply.
- Researchers who have previously been granted funding for a project from the programs FWF START Awards, FWF ASTRA Awards, or ERC Starting Grants are not eligible to apply. Principal investigators who have received a Merit Award through the FWF ASTRA Awards program are required to relinquish the Merit Award grant if their RISE Europe project is approved.
- [Application and project number limit](#): The same rules apply as for the FWF ASTRA Awards. If additional proposals have been submitted to the FWF (e.g., to the PAT or ASTRA programs) that overlap in content with the original ERC proposal in the period since the ERC’s notification of its decision, this must be disclosed in the RISE Europe application. The additional applications or projects must be withdrawn if the RISE application is approved for funding.

For more details, see the [ASTRA Application Guidelines](#).

¹ Section 3.5, “Merit Awards,” of the [ASTRA Application Guidelines](#) does not apply, as rejected RISE Europe projects are not eligible for Merit Awards. Similarly, section 2.3.8, “Tenure Package,” also does not apply.

3 Submission

Applications for this call are being accepted from October 15, 2026, through November 19, 2026 (2:00 pm Vienna local time) on the FWF's electronic application portal [elane](#).

Please upload/provide the following:

- The ERC Starting Grant proposal in its final version as submitted to the ERC (including all attachments, such as Part A, etc., in PDF format)
- The ERC's decision letter
- The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) with the panel's final comments, the reviews, and information on the project's ranking range
- Project costs and duration must be adjusted to comply with the guidelines for the FWF ASTRA Awards when submitting the application on elane.
- In the event of a discrepancy between the requested research funding for the ERC and RISE Europe projects, a brief statement explaining how the cost reduction will be handled (max. 1 page) is required, explaining how the project can be carried out with the correspondingly smaller budget.

4 Eligible Costs and Duration

Applicants whose projects were rejected for the ERC Starting Grant 2026 for budgetary reasons may apply for project-specific funding (personnel and non-personnel costs) in accordance with the [ASTRA Application Guidelines](#) as amended (up to €1 million). The duration of a RISE Europe grant is five years.

5 Decisions

The funding decision will be based on the review and evaluation performed by the [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#). Funding decisions are made at the FWF Scientific Board's March meeting. If the number of applications exceeds the maximum number that can be funded, the ERC's scoring system will be applied and the applications ranked accordingly. Between proposals reviewed equally, projects submitted by women will be given priority; efforts will be made to achieve a balanced distribution across disciplines. In case of doubt or in the event of an excessive number of applications, a lottery procedure may also be used.