Guide for the Submission of Proposals Austrian Climate Research Programme – ACRP

15th Call for Proposals

A funding programme of the Climate and Energy Fund
of the Austrian Federal Government

Vienna, July 2022

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Preface

With its findings, climate research provides the basis for an evidence-based transformation of our society, which is becoming increasingly necessary in a climate system that is changing at an accelerating pace. As a national beacon of climate research, the ACRP regularly delivers new findings and derives pathways for action in politics, business and civil society.

Initiated by the Climate and Energy Fund, the ACRP is by far the largest research programme of its kind in Austria. It was developed in cooperation with the expert advisory board of the Climate and Energy Fund as well as a Steering Committee of international members. The programme contributes to the establishment of an efficient research community that investigates climate change in all aspects relevant to Austria and provides decision-makers at all levels with valuable findings on climate change.

The 15th call of the funding programme will be managed by the FFG and is intended to continue the successful activities and provide decision-makers with relevant results. This year's call focuses on the following thematic areas:

- Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers
- Transformative change

The ACRP strengthens the research community and interdisciplinary cooperation in Austria, ensures a high quality of results through the Steering Committee composed of international climate research leaders, and sets the scientific basis for evidence-based decisions and actions.

We cordially invite you to take this opportunity to strengthen Austrian climate research and to submit your projects within the framework of the ACRP call and wish the researcher every success in their efforts!

Ingmar Höbarth
Managing Director

Theresia Vogel
Managing Director

1.0 The 15th ACRP Call at a Glance

The Climate and Energy Fund (Klima- und Energiefonds) is an important instrument of the Austrian Federal Government for the creation of incentives in the field of climate policy. The Climate and Energy Fund supports a broad range of research topics, with the intention to help Austria to deal with climate change through adaptation and mitigation, and to contribute to building a high level of climate research competence for relevant policy areas in Austria.

Within the framework of the Climate and Energy Fund, the Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) provides a conceptual and institutional basis for supporting climate research in Austria. The ACRP focuses on research on climate change and climate actions, adaptation, mitigation and their mutual interrelation. The intent is to provide scientific background for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKP) and the Paris Agreement in Austria.

The Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) was created in 2008 under the auspices of the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and is a broad policy initiative promoting high quality climate and related research in Austria. The ACRP provides a conceptual and institutional framework for supporting climate research in Austria. ACRP activities are guided by an international Steering Committee.

The Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) call is handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). The submission is thus made via the FFG submission tool "eCall". In addition to the present guide for the submission of proposals, the cost guidelines and the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research are essential documents for the submission.

Table 1: Key data for the 15th ACRP Call

Key data	Information
Call Budget	EUR 5,0 Mio
Deadline for submission	Thursday, 26.01.2023, 12:00
Application language	English
Contact Person	Contact Persons are listed in Chapter 6
Information on the web	FFG Webpage
Submission portal	eCall
Available Instrument	Oriented basic Research
Funding per project	Minimum EUR 60.000 up to maximum EUR 300.000 (in exceptional cases EUR 350.000; see Chapter 4.3)
Maximum project duration	36 months
Maximum funding rate	100 %
Cost Guideline	Cost Guideline 2.1
Expected funding decision	from may 2023

2.0 Objectives and Scope of the Programme

The overarching objectives of ACRP research are

- to support climate policy in Austria on local, regional, national and international scales, especially as it is relevant to climate adaptation and mitigation, their conflicts and synergies
- to support and strengthen the Austrian climate research community and increase visibility in research activities
- to fill knowledge gaps and develop scientific methods and tools.

At least one of these objectives must be addressed by the application.

Background

There is increasing scientific evidence that time is running out rapidly to achieve the Paris goals and thereby stabilise the climate. Meeting this challenge requires political and societal changes of dimensions far beyond the most dramatic changes of at least the last half century. These changes need to address both pillars of climate policy: adaptation and mitigation. A complete restructuring of the energy sector is required, and also changes in established governance and financial structures and procedures as well as a more systemic, smarter and faster adaptation to progressing climate change.

The growing relevance of adaptation and the need for expanding mitigation efforts are also underlined by the latest IPCC report. Climate change, however, is but one aspect of the deeper-rooted issue of systematically exceeding planetary boundaries, leading to issues such as biodiversity loss that is of no lesser urgency and importance than climate change.

Beyond incremental change

These, as well as systemic societal risks, such as loss of political and economic control, form the frame within which mitigation and adaptation to climate change must be viewed. The urgency of the climate issue, the necessity to move beyond incremental change towards equitable transformative change, and the systemic embeddedness in other issues are reflected in the ACRP programme.

The ACRP focuses on climate change impacts and their solutions, adaptation, mitigation and their mutual interrelation. The intent is to provide scientific background for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan(NEKP) and the Paris Agreement in Austria.

Target Areas

The scope of ACRP climate research encompasses all relevant areas of activity in Austria, such as tourism, agriculture and forestry, infrastructure and energy, water and drought/flood management, and including biodiversity and human health. Attention is also given to the financial and the legal sector and their relevance for climate policy. The scope also extends to international climate policy for which Austrian policy makers provide input. Engineering and technical research topics, e.g. regarding mitigation, are not covered by ACRP and should be addressed to other programmes.

The research programme considers the effects of climate change over the coming decades, and therefore must also take account of other global change phenomena, such as demographic and economic developments, energy and land use issues and synergies or trade-offs with the sustainable development goals.

Target Communities

The programme primarily addresses the scientific, administrative and policy communities and, if relevant, encourages early interaction with stakeholders, including, for instance, the public, businesses, NGOs and governmental/international policymakers.

Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary project proposals, including proposals which cover several thematic areas, are encouraged as is international participation to enhance the quality of project applications and international visibility and knowledge transfer to Austria.

The ACRP cooperates with the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) and welcomes the activities undertaken by the CCCA to improve the quality and efficiency of climate research in Austria and to increase its international visibility by strengthening cooperation among Austrian researchers and research institutions.

Interdisciplinary research teams are encouraged but focused disciplinary research, especially if it is particularly innovative or useful, is eligible. Thus, a broad range of research will be eligible for funding.

Especially for Thematic Areas 2 and 3, early stakeholder involvement (e.g. from industry, community administrations and NGOs), is encouraged at all levels, for instance, incorporating local knowledge and co-generating policy options.

International participation to enhance international visibility and knowledge transfer to Austria is also encouraged.

3.0 Thematic Areas

The 15th Call has the following three thematic areas (percentages in brackets refer to indicative shares of budget that will be allocated to each area):

- Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change (25 %)
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers (35 %)
- Transformative change (40 %)

ACRP is oriented on basic research. Engineering and technical research topics must be addressed in other programs.

Stakeholder involvement, if relevant, is encouraged in all Thematic Areas. International participation to enhance international visibility and knowledge transfer to Austria is also encouraged.

3.1 Thematic Area 1: Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change

While a general understanding of the anthropogenic influence on the global climate is well-established, there remain substantial knowledge gaps about current and future climate change at regional and local scales, as well as about the consequences of climate change and related risks for ecological and human systems. This thematic area invites proposals that address these and other research gaps. A focus should be set on the societal relevance of research questions and the provision of usable knowledge for adaptation, mitigation, and transformation.

The following topics are a non-exclusive list to inspire scientific proposals. Proposals on other relevant research topics that address climate change and its consequences with a relevance for Austria are welcome as well.

- **Climate change and the climate system:** Research topics may include, among many others, gaining a better understanding of sources and sinks of emissions including natural sources and non-CO_2 gases, a better understanding of the dynamics of extreme events including the attribution of climate change or feedbackloops between climate change and the impact on land surface processes, for instance, through changes in snow cover, albedo, soil moisture or evapotranspiration.

- **Consequences for ecological and human systems:** Research questions could address impacts on specific sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, health or transport) or address multiple impacts across ecological and human systems considering the complex interplay of compounding and cascading hazards and impacts.

- **Climate risks:** Climate impacts and climate risks are not only a function of climate change and related hazards, but also of exposure and vulnerability including environmental, physical, socio-economic, and even institutional factors. Furthermore, other underlying risk drivers such as a higher risk exposure due to an expansion of settlements or a higher vulnerability to heat-related health problems due to an aging population contribute to climate risks. Research questions could analyse the contribution of non-climate factors and processes to climate risks as a contribution for adaptation and transformation research and planning.

Proposals in this thematic area should motivate the research questions and research approaches by referencing the state-of-the-art in international science, by identifying the respective research gaps and by putting the expected results in the context of international research (progress beyond state-of-the-art).

An appropriate number of scientific publications in high-ranking journals and presentation of the results on international conferences should be an important outcome for proposals in thematic area 1.

There will be overlaps in the above thematic area with thematic area 2. While thematic area 1 addresses substantial gaps in scientific knowledge and research questions at the limits of this knowledge, but nevertheless with societal relevance, thematic area 2 is driven by policy needs,

3.2 Thematic Area 2: Specific support for Austria's policymakers

Specific research needs arise in policymaking. Research in this field should go beyond analysis and improved understanding to provide options that address the real-life problems policymakers face. Such research must be embedded in a larger context, e.g. that of the SDGs, to avoid offering counterproductive solutions. Thematic Area 2 is dedicated to such research, with an emphasis on, but not limited to the following topics needed by policymakers.

- **Communicating Climate Change:** (Note: proposals should advance the scientific state of the art on science communication):
  - Communicating climate change is challenging. Mere reporting about facts does not necessarily lead to a permanent change of behaviour. A more promising strategy is to tailor climate messages for different audiences. e.g. for the decision makers on different political levels. How to win young opinion leaders for supporting environmental issues? Another aim is to inspire positive action against the negative effects of climate change. How to make use of psychological tools in order to raise awareness and encourage pro-environmental behaviours?

  - Questions of social acceptance for the transformation towards a sustainable economy and way of life in general, as well as acceptance or possible obstacles with regard to concrete measures (e.g. boiler replacement) increasingly emerge. How can a targeted communication and a successful dialogue process take place? How can perception, awareness and willingness to act be created in society? Which communication, education and mediation measures are most suitable for this? How do you get the essential messages across to hard-to-reach groups of the population?
  - What roles can art play as a mean of communicating climate change and action? What leverage can the arts and culture sector provide in addressing the climate crisis and what new metaphors, analogies or narratives can it use in the process?

- **Major levers in climate change adaptation:** In order to achieve the most effective and successful climate change adaptation possible, it is important to identify the crucial levers and to determine which adaptation measures are particularly effective, quickly take hold and have a major impact.
  What are the 10 most effective key measures of climate change adaptation and the reasons for their effectiveness? In which areas are the best levers to be found (policy, infrastructure, disaster management, etc.)? What examples or analogies exist for these measures and how can they effectively be implemented in the long term?

- **Making adaptation tangible:** Adaptation is inherently qualitative in nature, but day-to-day politics increasingly requires to make adaptation numerically tangible – at least with some meaningful headline indicators. The aim is to make the importance of adaptation more visible in a society that is predominantly numbers oriented.
  What examples of quantitative assessments already exist and what methods do other countries use? Which are the leading indicators for this purpose and how could these be defined and applied?

- **Conflicting targets**: Climate change might provoke conflicts of objectives and of interests even in Austria; Competing interests as concerns e.g. fresh water resources or land use and spatial planning are already currently being experienced. Which problems might arise in this context? How to overcome them in an environmentally sound and socially acceptable way? The focus on climate neutrality – an issue of highest importance – could interfere with other valuable targets, e.g. contradict efforts to protect biodiversity. How to promote a systemic, consistent and sustainable approach in mitigation and adaptation in Austria? Another conflicting area in this context addresses the health/mitigation nexus: clean air for human health vs. biomass burning as promoted in order to cut down CO_2 emission.

- **Energy transition:** Demand and development of skilled workers: How do energy and climate policy measures affect the labour market in the field of climate-friendly energy sources?
  Mitigation should be addressed to the extent necessary as both adaptation and mitigation have to take one another into consideration.
  For a more complete list of research needs to support the national climate policy, visit the website of the bmk.

3.3 Thematic Area 3: Transformative change

Background: Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are embedded in broader questions of how societies can meet the sustainable development goals and remain within a safe operating space on the planet. It is also essential to recognize the urgency of addressing climate change and its interlinkages with other existential risks. The sequence of crises over the last years has demonstrated the need for a holistic perspective by raising awareness of the interconnections, challenges and opportunities for connecting agendas at all scales.

As also recognized by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 °C and the IPCC AR6 WGIII report, there is thus growing recognition that incremental change in prevailing social, technological and economic structures and procedures will not suffice to achieve the goal of limiting the increase in global temperature to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels as aimed at by the Paris Agreement. The goal of the Austrian government programme to achieve climate neutrality by 2040 ties in with this aim. In addition, purely incremental adaptation to climate change will not be sufficient to meet the target set out by the new EU adaptation strategy, i.e. that by 2050 the EU will be a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Institutional inertia, scientific uncertainty, long periods and influential groups opposing change are some of the challenges for transforming towards a sustainable future. Measures to help trigger far-reaching change include building coalitions between the public and private sector, creating new institutional actors or coalitions, adjusting legal rights and responsibilities as well as changing ideas and accepted norms and expectations. The climate governance agenda necessitates involvement of a range of institutional and private actors and the development of diverse methods for participatory processes and citizen engagement. The research community is needed to accompany, monitor and analyse these developments and to devise scientific methods making this possible.

Understanding the mechanisms of deep-structural transformational change: In this light, thematic area 3 calls for proposals that go beyond the analysis of incremental change and aim to address the challenges described above focusing on understanding the mechanisms of deep-structural transformational change and exploring pathways towards systemic change.

Focus on systems: We invite project proposals that focus on critical systems, such as energy, mobility, housing, food and industry. We also invite project proposals focusing on systems enabling or challenging sustainable transformations, such as the financial system, legal and governance structures, health systems and the labor market. It is encouraged to submit project proposals that address sustainability challenges in a broad sense, including questions of social cohesion and just transformation, addressing underlying values in society and cultural change.

Research requirements in this field include basic research in the social, political and economic sciences as well as transformational research with strong involvement of stakeholders. The challenge for the scientific community is to improve and enhance analyses and analytical tools for evaluating long-run perspectives of economic and social development (and their inter-mediate milestones) while also exploring technological and social innovations that can enable truly transformative and sustainable structures and systems. Developing equitable, responsible, resilient, environmentally friendly and socially inclusive pathways is essential for Austrian and international climate policy.

Thinking outside the box: Project proposals under thematic area 3 should clearly outline the specific challenge to transformation is being addressed and how the project can contribute to transformative change in science and practice. We encourage project proposals that follow a "high-risk-high-gain" rationale: Achieving transformative impact requires thinking outside the box, introducing (disciplinary) research topics and approaches that are so far understudied in climate research or combining different disciplinary perspectives and knowledge from practice in innovative transdisciplinary research designs. We therefore particularly call for project proposals:

- from single disciplines addressing blind spots (e.g. legal or financial aspects),
- with systemic perspectives, linking different societal sub-systems or topics,
- following a transdisciplinary approach, integrating knowledge from different disciplines as well as practice (e.g. action and participatory research, real-world labs and experimental approaches, citizen science etc.),
- understanding interlinkages between climate change and SDGs (e.g. related to biodiversity, air and water quality, food and energy security, human health) and addressing compound effects of multiple crises.

4.0 Administrative Information and formal requirements

4.1 General aspects

- Policy-relevant reviews of literature and practice are eligible where specifically indicated.
- The publication record resulting from ACRP projects of the project leader (linked to the person) and the proven usefulness of research for research and policy communities are also taken into account by the Steering Committee when evaluating research proposals.
- The scientific community needs to critically reflect its own role in climate change and unsustainable behaviors. Therefore, project leaders and partners are expected to address climate-friendly solutions regarding operational aspects, such as travel, meetings, paper, computer and internet use, in their submission.The Climate Data Centre (CCCA Datenportal) set up by the Climate Change Centre Austria is conceived as the central data access to climate-relevant data. Researchers who cannot assure the availability of their data for an extended period of time after completion of the project as required by the ACRP programme are advised to feed their data into the Climate Data Centre and to inform themselves in time regarding its data formats and data privacy options.
- Studies that hinge on bias-corrected regional climate projections are asked to make use of the daily high resolution (1 km) ÖKS15 projections via the Climate Data Centre of the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA), at least for comparison. The data are available via the Climate Data Centre of the Climate Change Centre Austria.

Re-submission and Follow-up Projects

- Resubmission of proposals is not encouraged unless the proposal rejection was based solely on "lack of sufficient funding".
- In case of resubmission changes in reaction to reviewer's comments should be clearly stated.
- Funding for follow-up project proposals from earlier ACRP calls will not be considered until the outcome of the prior proposal has been evaluated and accepted.
- Applicants should clearly indicate whether the application is a follow-up project within the ACRP Programme or if there are overlaps and synergies with research supported by earlier ACRP calls or other funding sources. In the course of the submission, it must also be stated in the eCall whether it is a follow-up project or a re-submission.
- Applicants should consider previously funded research projects in the respective field and determine how their research project differs from and adds to them. Funding the same research topics in two projects is not permitted.

4.2 Dissemination

- Project consortia are required to make a poster presentation about the project at the Austrian Climate Day conference (Österreichischer Klimatag). The presentation should provide an integrated view of the project and is part of the quality assurance of the programme.
- Recognizing the inherent uncertainties of publication processes, research proposals should clearly indicate their anticipated publications, preferably in peer-reviewed, internationally recognized journals and other dissemination channels.
- All research proposals should follow the open-access principles with regard to resulting publications, data and software. The open-access approach of each proposal should be reported in a dedicated section in the proposal form.

4.3 Formal requirements

Submission via eCall

- **The project proposals must be submitted via eCall by the deadline by using the proposal forms of the present call. The forms must be filled in completely.**
- Each project partner must register in the eCall in order to be able to participate in the project. It is recommended that all project partners register in eCall as early as possible. In order for the consortium leader to complete the submission, each partner application must also be completed beforehand.
- Proposals can address issues within one thematic area or can cover several thematic areas; the most relevant thematic area must be indicated in the application form and in the eCall.
- The costs of the applicant and all project partners must be entered via eCall before the deadline. The transmission of an Excel sheet is no longer necessary.

Submission language

The proposals have to be submitted in English.

Maximum funding per project

Maximum funding per project is EUR 300.000.
Only in rare, justified and well argued cases this limit may be exceeded up to EUR 350.000. No more than 3 projects of this type will be funded in this call. In general, these projects will run for exactly 36 month, include more than 3 partners, address complex problems and/or involve co-design and co-production.
If more than EUR 300.000 are requested for a project, the argumentation must take place in the proposal. The Steering Committee reserves the right to examine the argumentation and, if necessary, to make cuts in the project costs.

Consortium structure

- Projects can be submitted by research institutions (individual projects) or by consortia (cooperative projects).
- If one or more partners drop out after the funding commitment/start of the project, the consortium has to prove that the competences required for carrying out the project are sufficiently covered by the remaining project partners; otherwise, a new partner has to be included in the consortium. In any case, any change in the partner structure requires prior approval of the FFG. The same rule applies for changes in key scientific personnel or any significant cost shifting. The project should start within six months after the final funding decision.

4.4 Documents required for the Call

- The present document
- Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research
- FFG Cost Guideline
- Application form (Download via FFG website)

4.5 Eligible organisations

In principle, the specifications of the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research apply. In addition, deviations can be defined in the Guide for the submission of proposals. The following Austrian research organisations are eligible for submitting as applicants and as partners:

- Universities
- Private universities
- Universities of applied sciences
- Non-university research institutions in the field of scientific research

Project partners are not limited to Austrian research institutions and can include foreign research organisations as long as full publication of results is guaranteed.

Up to 20 % of the total granted funding can be attributed to foster this international collaboration between Austrian and non-Austrian project partners, especially if it serves to enhance Austrian research competence, and if the transfer of research tools such as models or data is ensured. Foreign organisations can also act as subcontractors. In total, the funding for foreign organizations (partners and subcontractors) must not exceed 30 % of the total project funding.

National and international businesses and other practitioners as well as individual researchers from Austria must be listed under the cost category "third-party costs" as subcontractors of one of the project partners.

Subcontractors are not participants in terms of cooperation. They provide defined tasks for project participants and are not entitled to exploit the project results.

It is recommended to clarify the eligibility of the planned applicants and project partners early on with the FFG. Contact details can be found in Chapter 6.

4.6 Budget

Up to EUR 5 million of funding are available for research projects and activities supporting cooperation and knowledge transfer in Austria.

4.7 Costs and funding

The current version of the FFG cost guidelines applies to this call.

A project can be funded only if its execution without receiving federal funding is impossible or not possible to the extent required.

The partial contribution of one's own funds (cash funds) or services rendered (provision of personnel, infrastructure) by the applicant or the partners of the consortium is desirable. The applicant is asked to document such "one's own resources" in the proposal.

Submitted projects have no binding legal entitlement to funding.

Costs that are covered by other federal funds or funds provided by the Federal Provinces are not eligible, i.e. no multiple funding is allowed.

Third-party costs and subcontracting
These are costs for (research) activities carried out by individual researchers or organisations other than the consortium partners (contractors); consortium partners must not be subcontractors at the same time.

Subcontractors are not participants in terms of cooperation. They provide defined tasks for project participants and are not entitled to exploit the project results.

Basically, for projects under thematic areas 1 to 3, costs for services rendered by third parties (based on work contracts among other things) must not exceed 50 % of the total eligible costs within the framework of projects. For all type of ACRP projects, subcontracts with costs exceeding EUR 2,000.00 must be described in detail in the application form.

Funding rate
Eligible costs can be covered up to 100 %.

4.8 Intellectual property rights

All the research results developed within the framework of ACRP must be accessible easily and freely, and also the source materials, including data, models (open source software) and other analyses leading to the results if they are developed with support from ACRP funding, must be made available on request for a period of at least 7 years.

The exploitation rights are owned by the consortium submitting the proposal. However, there is an obligation to publish the research results – preferably open access – and to ensure that the results are accessible for use by the targeted research and policy communities.

The Climate Data Centre run by the Climate Change Centre Austria is conceived as the central data access to all climate-relevant data. Researchers who cannot assure the availability of their data for an extended period of time after completion of the project as required by the ACRP programme, are advised to feed their data into the Climate Data Centre and to inform themselves in time regarding data formats and data privacy options supported by the Climate Data Centre.

Consortium agreement

Successful applicants are expected to establish intellectual property rights and specify the procedure for publication of their results in a consortium agreement before concluding the funding agreement. Concluding such a consortium agreement is a necessary prerequisite for funding to be provided (see Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research). While the exact details of such an agreement are left to the discretion of the project partners, the Climate and Energy Fund attaches importance to the fact that the rights of individual project partners are safeguarded. This issue has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but it may imply, for instance, that an exclusivity clause for the exploitation rights should not be included. It must be possible for all partners and the scientific community in general to use the results (data records, models [open source]) for continuing research purposes. At the same time, there is an obligation for the consortium to publish the research results and methods in scientific media, especially books and journals, and to ensure that the results are accessible to the scientific, business and policy communities, preferably in open access media.

4.9 Funding decision and Legal Basis

The final funding decision is taken by the Board of the Climate and Energy Fund on the basis of the funding recommendations of the Steering Committee.

As a legal basis the Guidelines for the Austrian Research Promotion Agency to promote research, technology, development and innovation to deal with societal challenges ("FFG-Missionen-Richtlinie") shall be applied accordingly.

All EU regulations are to be applied as amended.

5.0 Procedure

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) has been contracted by the Climate and Energy Fund to serve as Programme Management Office.

This section provides a brief overview of procedures for the submission and evaluation of project proposals. Further details are presented in the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research. In these guidelines, you will also find the Call milestones from the opening of the call to the start of the project (see page 23).

5.1 Submission

The submission deadline is **January 26th 2023, at 12:00** for the application to be submitted via eCall. There will be no possibility of submitting research proposals after this deadline.
Proposals must be submitted using the proposal form of the present call. The form must be filled in completely.

The guide and the form for the submission of project proposals are available for download from the website of FFG. The application form provided must be used exclusively for the submission of project proposals.

After successful submission, applicants will receive an automatically generated confirmation of receipt.

5.2 Formal Check

In the formal check the application is examined for formal correctness and completeness.

If the formal criteria are not met and the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the application for funding will not enter the subsequent steps of the procedure.

If the deficiencies can be corrected these problems can be rectified within a reasonable period of time.

5.3 Evaluation process

After completion of the scientific evaluation by international experts, the projects are examined by the independent international Steering Committee of the ACRP.

When selecting the projects to be funded, the Steering Committee will take account of the evaluation by the external reviewers (based on criteria set out in Table 5.4 b) as well as by their own assessments of the proposals, including the relevance of the project for the Call.

The Steering Committee will strive toward achieving an appropriate balance of funded projects with regard to:
- Basic research (usually one single discipline)
- Single-discipline and multi-discipline impact research
- Interdisciplinary, integrated assessments
- Policy-oriented studies

The target is also to achieve the following balance among the Thematic Areas:
- Understanding the climate system and the consequences of climate change (25 %)
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers (35 %)
- Transformative change (40 %)

This target may be adjusted to take account of the quality of the proposals.

The final funding decision is taken by the Board of the Climate and Energy Fund.

5.4 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria reflect the ACRP's emphasis on international collaboration, scientific excellence and implementation of results.
The evaluation criteria for research projects are "Quality of the project", "Suitability of project participants", "Benefit and exploitation" and "Relevance to the Call". The weighting factor depends on the Thematic Area selected:

Table 5.4 a: Weight given to the different criteria

Criteria	Thematic Area 1 & 3	Thematic Area 2
Quality of the project	50	40
Suitability of project participants	20	20
Benefit and exploitation	20	30
Relevance to the Call	10	10

A more detailed description of the criteria is given in the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research and in Table 5.4 b below. Furthermore, the adequacy of the costs in relation to the planned activities and results is assessed.

Table 5.4 b: Description of evaluation criteria "Quality of the project", "Suitability of project participants", "Benefit and exploitation" and "Relevance to the Call"

Criteria	Thematic Area 1 & 3	Thematic Area 2
Quality of the project	Total: 50	Total: 40
Degree of innovation	20	16
Approaches and risks	10	8
Quality of planning	10	8
Gender aspects	5	4
Sustainability	5	4
Suitability of project participants	Total: 20	Total: 20
Skills and qualifications	8	8
Resources	8	8
Gender balance	4	4
Benefit and exploitation	Total: 20	Total: 30
Benefit for the target group and impact on sustainability	8	12
Benefit for the project participants, exploitation strategy and publications	12	18
Relevance to the call	Total: 10	Total: 10
Call objectives and call topics	7,5	7,5
Incentive effect	2,5	2,5

5.5 Contract

The projects proposed for funding receive a funding offer from the Climate and Energy Fund that remains open for a limited period of three months.

After the funding has been granted, the Climate and Energy Fund reserves the right to publish the name of the applicant, acknowledgement of project funding, the funding rate, the amount of funding granted as well as the title and summary of the project.

5.6 Reports and duties

5.6.1 ACRP activities

Throughout the project, principal investigators and partners are expected to contribute actively to the ACRP activities to enhance communication and integration within the climate research community. Workshops engaging external experts and/or the Austrian and international climate research communities will be organised (potentially also in cooperation with the CCCA) to provide guidance to projects and integrate Austrian research nationally and internationally. Project consortia are required to orally present (preferably by the project leader) an integrated view of the project at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag), typically around half-time of the project. Feedback will be given by the Scientific Steering Committee. Final payment will only be made after a presentation at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag).

5.6.2 Regular reporting

The project leader has to report to the FFG on a regular basis (interim and final activity reports), see also the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research. In contrast to the guideline a reporting period can comprise a maximum project stage of 15 month. Furthermore, the reporting requirements of the Climate and Energy Fund have to be taken into account. This also includes a publishable project summary at the start of the project and in the course of the interim activity report(s). Further information is available on the website of the climate and energy fund.

The interim evaluation(s) will also check the progress of early dissemination activities and the preparation of publications.

Interim and final evaluations may be performed by international experts at workshops or elsewhere if requested by the Steering Committee. If deemed necessary by the Steering Committee, additional material can be requested as a basis for evaluation, e.g. manuscripts prepared for publication or interim reports. Negative evaluations might have financial implications and can lead to early termination of the project. They may also be taken into account in subsequent ACRP project funding decisions. To ensure early exposure to the peer review process, the publication of partial or preliminary results at scientific conferences is encouraged.

5.6.3 Final deliverables

The final deliverables from the research projects must be supplied to the FFG within three months after the end of the project. The final deliverables include:

Activity report
This report contains a description of the achievement of objectives, the work carried out and explanations of the costs incurred. The report template can be found on the FFG website.

In addition, the following elements need to be presented in this report:

- Publications submitted or manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed publications, including books and (preferably international) journals. If publications are not finalised, a final deliverable will include draft publications and indicate which publications are intended.
- Proven usefulness of research for research and policy communities. The ACRP research programme aims at providing research results to support evidence-based policy decisions. This can be either through advancing the scientific evidence and/or by directly informing policy decisions. The final deliverable should, thus, indicate how the research results are translated for and diffused to the scientific and policy communities and other stakeholders. This includes science- and policy-relevant presentations, media interactions, policy-oriented workshops, policy briefs etc.

Publishable final report

This report is to be filled out according to the template for the "Endbericht Studien – Programmlinie Forschung" of the Climate and Energy Fund.

5.7 Modalities of payment

The declaration of acceptance of the contract concluded between the Climate and Energy Fund represented by Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the applicant must be announced to the FFG via eCall. The existence of a consortium agreement in the case of a cooperative project must be confirmed via eCall prior to the project start.

The mode of further payments depends on the duration of the project and the proven project progress.

For the final payment at the end of the project, the final reports and final accounts are required. The final funding installment is paid out only after approval by FFG's auditing department on the basis of a positive evaluation of the final activity report and accounts.

In contrast to the Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research, the following reporting and payment plan applies to the present call:

Table 5.7: Payment of funding rates in % of total amount of funding

Duration of the project (months)	1st maximum funding rate (project start)	2nd maximum funding rate (1st interim report)	3rd maximum funding rate (2nd interim report)	Maximum final funding rate (final report)
up to 30	50	40	–	10
from 31 to 36	40	25	25	10

6.0 Contacts

6.1 Programme owner and Call responsibility

Klima- und Energiefonds (Climate and Energy Fund)
Leopold-Ungar-Platz 2 / Stiege 1 / 4. OG / Top 142,
1190 Vienna
Tel: 01/585 03 90 - 0
www.klimafonds.gv.at

Contact
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E-mail: gernot.woerther@klimafonds.gv.at
www.klimafonds.gv.at

6.2 Management of the Call

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Sensengasse 1, 1090 Vienna
www.ffg.at/ACRP_15.Call

Contact
Manuel Binder
E-mail: manuel.binder@ffg.at
Tel: +43 5 7755 5041
www.ffg.at

General information, the guide and the application form can be found on the website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) Programme Management Office.

7.0 Annex

The calls 1 to 14 of the Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) were handled by the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC). From the 15th call on, the FFG handles the transaction of the programme. This results in some changes that should be pointed out here. The list of changes does not claim to be complete. The FFG is available for any further questions (see Chapter 6 for contact details).

- Submissions must be made exclusively via the FFG eCall. The applicant and all project partners must register in eCall in order to be able to take part in projects. In order for the consortium leader to complete the submission, each partner application must also be completed beforehand.
- The costs of the applicant and all project partners must be entered via eCall before the deadline. The transmission of an Excel sheet is no longer necessary.
- The following Austrian research organisations are eligible for submitting as applicants and as partners:
  - Universities
  - Private universities
  - Universities of applied sciences
  - Non-university research institutions in the field of scientific research

  Project partners are not limited to Austrian research institutions and can include foreign research organisations as long as full publication of results is guaranteed.

  National and international businesses and other practitioners as well as individual researchers from Austria must be listed under the cost category "third-party costs" as subcontractors of one of the project partners. Subcontractors are not participants in terms of cooperation. They provide defined tasks for project participants and are not entitled to exploit the project results.

- It is recommended to clarify the eligibility of the planned applicants and project partners early on in a consultation with the FFG. Contact details can be found in Chapter 6.

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