

# Data:Research:Austria

## - A funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences -

### Preamble

The new programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) financed by the *Fonds Zukunft Österreich* (Nationalstiftung für Forschung, Technologie und Entwicklung) serves to promote data-based research (microdata research) in Austria. In 2022, research on register data was made possible by legal provisions and the establishment of the Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC) at Statistics Austria. The funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences provides a significant impulse to data-driven research in Austria by supporting valuable research on these new data sources. Funding is provided for projects at Austrian research institutions that open up existing AMDC data sets or comparable official statistical administrative data (registers, panels, surveys etc.) for extended empirical-quantitative applications and questions in the field of social science research. Promotion of young scientists is of great importance to the Austrian Academy of Sciences as part of the funding programme.

### Objectives of the programme

Data-based research represents an enormous potential for socially-relevant fundamental research. It can provide answers to major social questions and make evident social trends and problems through analysis and correlation of data from the fields of health, demography, social affairs, business and economics, education, the labour market, migration and integration, and thus make a contribution to evidence-based policies.

In three funding rounds (2023, 2024, 2025), project-related funds will be made available to establish the use, correlation and analysis of existing datasets in Austria as a research topic in a sustainable manner.

### Target group

The funding programme addresses researchers in all disciplines in Austria who develop empirical-quantitative applications and questions in the field of socio-scientific research.

Projects may be applied for individually or as groups of up to three researchers from different disciplines. Submission of an application as a group allows data sets to be analysed from different perspectives or different data sets to be processed together. The aim is to take into account the interdisciplinary potential of data-based research and to enshrine the corresponding approaches in scientific practice. The programme especially addresses young scientists who want to make use

of the opportunities of data-based research already at an early stage in their career. An appropriate gender balance should be ensured when submitting the application and carrying out the project.

## Application requirements

- Submission individually or as a group of up to three scientists.
- In the case of a group application the applicants will jointly constitute the project management (principal investigators). One of the applicants must assume the role of application (project) coordinator.
- Each applicant may only take part in one application.
- The applicants must be prepared to pro-actively contribute to the public presentation of the programme and attend associated events.
- The project must be carried out at an academic institution in Austria; however, cooperations with other institutions in Austria and abroad may be established.
- If AMDC data are used, the academic institution at which the project is to be carried out must be accredited at the AMDC by the time the full application is submitted, at the latest.
- Upon submission of the application applicants must present approval from the academic institution at which the project is intended to be carried out (declaration of consent). In the case of a change in the course of the process approval from the new academic institution must be evidenced by presentation of a declaration of consent.
- An institution may support multiple applications.

## Funding term

- Maximum of 2 years

## Amount of grant

The budget for each of the projects is between a minimum of EUR 150,000 and a maximum of EUR 350,000. The total funding available is EUR 3.0 million.

The grant is intended to cover overheads of 10% of the direct project costs. The following direct costs may be applied for:

- Staff costs
- Costs for obtaining/maintaining access to available data. Financing the collection of additional, new data is only permitted to a small extent.
- Costs of consumables
- Travel expenses
- Other expenses (e.g. costs of research infrastructure or equipment, software, contracting of external services)

## Procedure

The call for proposals is open to all topics and is published in all of Austria.

It is a two-step application procedure: Step 1 of the application procedure (short proposal) is open to all applicants who fulfil the application requirements (see above); step 2 of the application procedure (full proposal) may only be entered into upon invitation.

The selection process is international; the application and assessment will be done in English.

**Call begins: 4 March 2024**

### Application step 1:

- The coordinator must submit the following to the Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes by email to [programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at) ) by **30 April 2024**:
  - o "Short Proposal" application form, completed in full (for a template please see the application documents);
  - o Documents of the applicants consisting of an informative CV, list of publications, signed declaration of consent from the academic institution (for a template please see the application documents), = 1 file for each applicant;Receipt of the documents will be confirmed by e-mail.
- All submissions which meet the necessary formal application requirements (see application requirements) will be presented to an independent international jury. For the purposes of the objectives of the programme and based on scientific excellence and originality of the research project the jury will invite selected project managers to submit full applications **by the end of June 2024**. No expert opinions will be obtained in that stage. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the rejection immediately.
- At the beginning of stage 1, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the AMDC will organise an information webinar in German and an information webinar in English, in which questions about the application process can be discussed. Participation is optional and recommended for potential applicants.

### Webinars

Webinar (in German) – **12 March 2024, 2–3 pm**, [Zoom-Link](#)

Webinar (in English) – **21 March 2024, 2–3 pm**, [Zoom-Link](#)

### Application step 2 (only upon invitation):

- The expected deadline for submission of the full proposal is **30 September 2024**.
- The full proposal mainly consists of detailed specifications of the project in terms of subject, methodology, technology and project organisation (work and budget planning). The full proposal must be consistent with the short proposal. The Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes must be notified of changes, if any. Changes concerning the applicants or the academic institutions carrying out the project must fulfil the requirements for submission of an application.
- External expert opinions will be obtained for all full proposals.
- For project applications that aim to use AMDC data, a technical and rough cost estimate must be obtained from the AMDC as soon as possible during stage 2 and attached to the full proposal. The estimate provides information on the basic technical feasibility of the data services requested by the AMDC and the costs likely to be incurred.
- The award decision of the independent international jury is expected to be announced by **30 November 2024**. Applicants will be informed of the outcome.

## Data protection and rules of good scientific practice

By taking part in this call for proposals the applicants acknowledge that the related data and documents will be forwarded to the members of the jury and to experts. The data and documents will be forwarded for the purpose of evaluation of the application and decision-making with regard to the award of grants (see also the [Data Protection Information of ÖAW](#)).

The ÖAW abides by the [Guidelines of Good Scientific Practice](#) of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI). **All applications will be checked for plagiarism using Similarity (Turnitin)**. Violations of the rules of good scientific practice will result in immediate exclusion of the application.

## Funding modalities (excerpt)

- The selected projects must start not later than 6 months after transmission of the grant letter and will have a maximum project term of 24 months. A funding agreement will be concluded with the principal investigators. Provided that no extra costs arise, the project term may be extended by up to 6 months if well-founded reasons are given.
- The project progress and the use of funds must be reported once a year. The programme management must immediately be informed of any changes to the project plan. Changes which have not been reported may result in discontinuation of the project. The programme management will decide at their discretion whether to accept changes or to have them evaluated externally or, if necessary, to reject them.
- After completion a comprehensive final project report must be submitted, which will then undergo evaluation. The project shall be deemed completed only after successful evaluation of the project results.

## Application documents

[Call for proposals](#)

[Short proposal form](#)

[Signature form](#)

## Contact

Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes

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