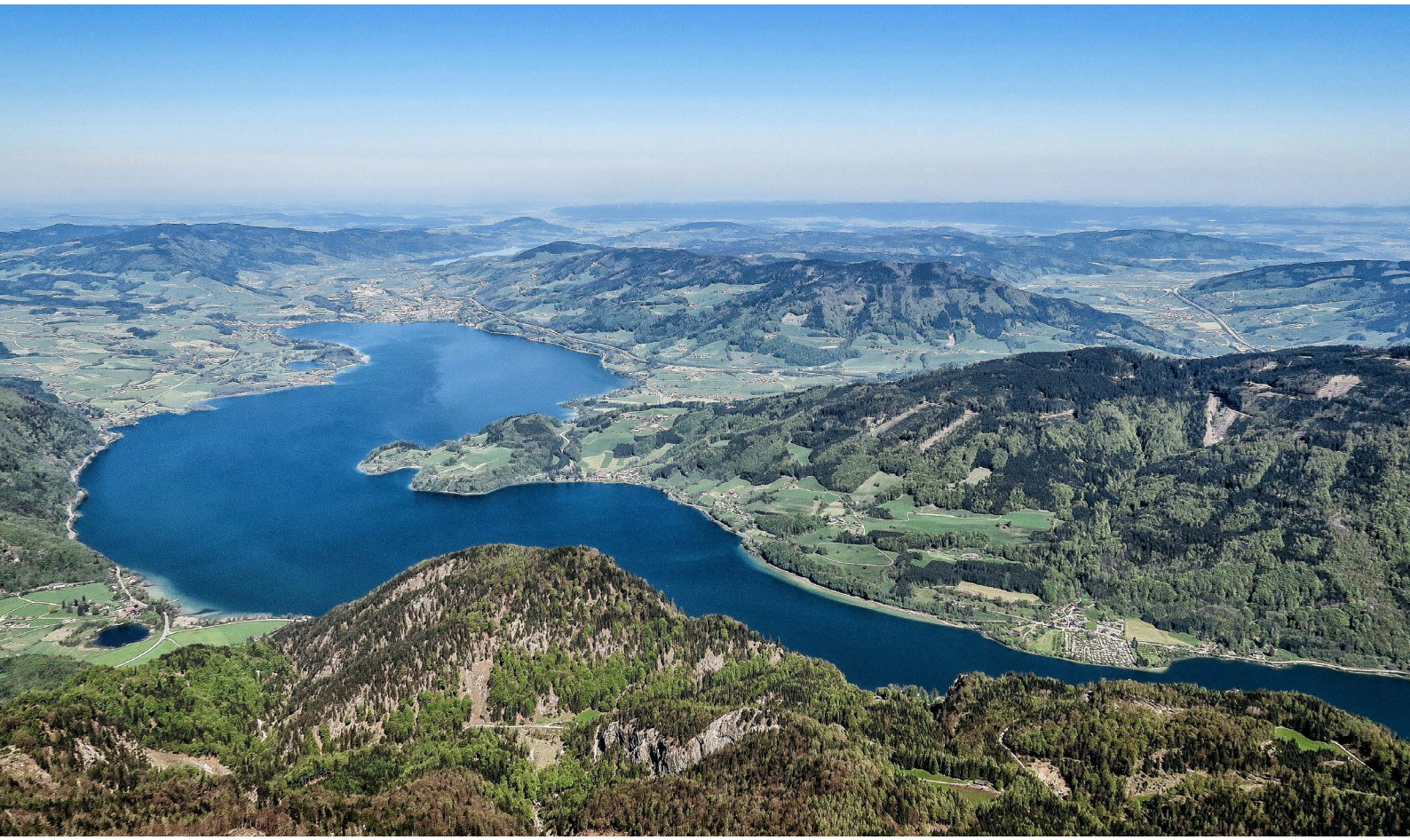
Guide for the Submission of Proposals Austrian Climate Research Programme – ACRP

13th Call for Proposals

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



Vienna, December 2020, V 2.0 including Addendum-2

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Preface

Climate change is becoming a more urgent topic in Austria. This is also recognised by the Austrian government which has set the ambitious target of climate neutrality by 2040. In addition, spring 2020 has shown clearly that our society is not only threatened by climate change but also by other occurrences like Covid19 and that these occurrences are interconnected. Against this background it is clear that science has to respond and focus stronger on transformative change and the interconnections of multiple domains affected by human actions. Therefore, the thematic areas 3 and 4 were redesigned to provide a better research framework to address these challenging issues.

Initiated by the Climate and Energy Fund, the ACRP is by far the largest research programme of its kind in Austria. It was developed by the expert advisory board of the Climate and Energy Fund as well as by a planning committee of international members. Thus, national climate research benefits from an excellent opportunity of integration at the European level. 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 thirteenth ACRP call focuses on research in the following areas:
1) Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change
2) Specific support for Austria's policymakers
3) Transformative change and governance
4) Climate Change in an interconnected world
5) APCC Special Report: Climate change in mountain regions – challenges and opportunities

Through the ACRP, the Climate and Energy Fund intends to help minimise the damage to be expected from climate change, to gain insights for future adaptation strategies and to further advance Austria as a research and business location in the medium and long term.

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 researchers every success in their efforts!

Ingmar Höbarth
Managing Director

Theresia Vogel
Managing Director

1.0 The 13th ACRP Call at a Glance

Important

- The evaluation criteria reflect the ACRP's emphasis on international collaboration, scientific excellence and implementation of results – for further information, see § 6.3
- During the submission period, intermediate storage of proposal data is possible.
- Resubmission of proposals is not encouraged unless the proposal rejection was based solely on lack of sufficient funding.
- Private universities are also eligible – see § 5.1.
- The publications of the project leader (linked to the person) resulting from past ACRP projects will be taken into account by the Steering Committee when evaluating research proposals.
- As a rule, 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.
- Maximum funding per project is EUR 300,000; only in rare, justified and well argued cases may this limit be exceeded up to EUR 350.000. No more than 3 projects of this type will be funded. In general they will run for 3 years, include more than 3 partners, address complex problems and/or involve co-design and co-production.
- 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 (www.ccca.ac.at).
- Project consortia are required to make a poster presentation on 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.
- Proposals must be submitted using proposal forms of the present call. Except for the explanatory notes forms are not to be modified. The forms must be filled in completely.

Content of the 13th Call

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. 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 Climate and Energy Fund supports a broad range of research topics, with the intention to help Austria deal with climate change through mitigation and adaptation, and to contribute to building a high level of climate research competence for relevant policy areas in Austria.

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. Research focused on technology-specific climate mitigation is financed under the "Energieforschungsprogramm 2020" (the energy RTD programme of the Climate and Energy Fund) and under various calls of the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility innovation and Technology and will not be funded by the ACRP.

The following Thematic Areas indicate the broad range covered by the ACRP research agenda and serve as a guide for the submission of proposals:

Thematic Area 1:	Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change
Thematic Area 2:	Specific support for Austria's policymakers
Thematic Area 3:	Transformative change and governance
Thematic Area 4:	Climate change in an interconnected world
APCC Special Report:	Climate change in mountain regions – challenges and opportunities

In special cases, truly innovative research – which is not covered by the above themes – will also be eligible for funding.

Admissible types of projects

Research projects can be submitted in all the above Thematic Areas. In addition, the ACRP will fund one Special Report for the Austrian Panel on Climate Change with the topic Climate change in mountain regions – challenges and opportunities.

Proposals will be subject to a separate weighting of criteria depending on the Thematic Area. Interdisciplinary research teams are encouraged, but in some cases focused disciplinary research will be more effective in addressing the research issues at hand. Thus, a broad range of research will be eligible for funding.

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

Submission deadline:
February, 12th, 2021 at 12:00

Submission to:
The project proposals must be uploaded on the ACRP platform www.acrp.gv.at by the deadline. The submission of project proposals in paper copies or on electronic data storage media at the KPC Programme Management Office is not possible.

Information and guidance:
Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC)
E-mail: acrp@kommunalkredit.at
www.publicconsulting.at/acrp
www.klimafonds.gv.at

2.0 Austrian Climate Research Programme

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 climate- and energy-related research in Austria. The ACRP provides a conceptual and institutional framework for supporting climate research in Austria with the following main objectives:

- Coordinating and strengthening existing climate research in Austria and integrating it into international research networks
- Promoting climate research that produces useful results for Austria's scientific, business and public policy communities
- Identifying research on climate issues with potential for international recognition and leadership
- Strengthening Austria's capacity for advanced (interdisciplinary) analysis and integrated assessment in areas of relevance for policymaking

In meeting these objectives, the ACRP funds climate research by issuing regular calls for research proposals.

In addition, the ACRP welcomes activities undertaken by the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA). The goal of the CCCA is 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.

ACRP activities are guided by an international Steering Committee.

3.0 Objectives and Scope of the Programme

The Austrian Climate Research Programme supports high-quality research and other activities aimed at advancing the science and practice of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Austria. The intent is also to provide scientific background for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (NEKP) and for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in Austria. The ACRP also supports research that enhances Austria's role in the global climate research and policy communities.

Following the 2016 Paris Agreement and the increasing urgency for action, particular emphasis is on reaching its ambitious goals. Emphasis is also on the interconnections of the Paris Agreement with those of sustainable Earth systems. The evolving targets for emission reductions outside the EU Emissions Trading System will pose a significant challenge to Austria. Apart from providing new scientific expertise on climate change, impacts and adaptation options, the intent of the ACRP is also to help meet mitigation challenges.

To exploit synergies across Austria's research communities and to promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects, proposals that involve researchers from diverse institutions and international partners are encouraged. In addition, the ACRP requires that researchers present their projects at the annual Austrian Climate Day conference (Österreichischer Klimatag).

The scope of the ACRP encompasses climate change, climate change impacts and response strategies with regard to adaptation and mitigation and their interrelationships. The focus is on 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 should also be given to the financial sector and its relevance for climate policy issues. The research programme considers the effects of climate change over the coming decades as well as other global change phenomena, such as demographic and economic developments, energy and land use issues and synergies or tradeoffs with the sustainable development goals. Researchers specifically addressing mitigation in the form of sustainable and climate-relevant energy and transport technologies are encouraged to apply to the "Energieforschungsprogramm 2020" – the energy RTD programme of the Climate and Energy Fund or other relevant calls in this field.

The ultimate objective of ACRP research is to support climate policy on local, regional, national and international levels, especially as climate policy is relevant to climate adaptation and mitigation in Austria. Special attention should be given to the conflicts and synergies arising from the interaction of mitigation and adaptation.

The present Call primarily addresses the scientific community and 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.

Research proposals should:

- identify the research gap they are filling
- clarify any overlaps with previously funded ACRP research (project descriptions can be found on www.klimafonds.gv.at)
- show specifically if and how the research addresses the needs of Austrian policymakers and/or the scientific community (usable knowledge)
- indicate links to research groups with high competence and relevance to Austrian research and policy needs
- aim at building Austrian research competence in essential areas not yet well-established
- address the interdisciplinary dimensions of climate change as well as scientific uncertainties in a coherent way
- link up actively with the international research community by, for example, including foreign researchers if they can make a unique contribution and delegating Austrian scientists to spend time abroad in the context of international (e.g. EU) network programmes.

As a rough indication, about 20 projects will be funded under this Call, with costs of the individual projects ranging between EUR 50,000 and maximum 300,000. Projects eligible for funding will range from less costly, focused disciplinary research to large consortia (e.g. working on integrated assessments). The duration of the projects will be between one and three years. In rare, justified and well argued cases projects with costs up to EUR 350.000 will be funded (not more than 3 per call).

In general they will run for 3 years, include more than 3 partners, address complex problems and/or involve co-design and co-production.

One Special Report for the Austrian Climate Change Assessment Report can be funded, the earmarked budget being limited to EUR 300,000.

4.0 Thematic Areas

In Austria climate policies and strategies became more concrete in 2019 with the current coalition government's stated goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2040 and the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (NEKP[1]). Actions are urgently needed as GHG emissions still remain at the level of 1990 ("Klimaschutzbericht 2019" of the "Umweltbundesamt"[2]) and per capita emissions are high compared to other European countries.

As climate change progresses the Austrian Adaptation Strategy[3] has identified 14 areas of action. Many of the goals and recommendations require substantial inter- and transdisciplinary research for successful implementation.

The "Fridays for Future" movement brought new wind into the political scene on a global and national level by putting moral pressure on policymakers to mitigate greenhouse gases. In addition the current Covid-19 pandemic demonstrates how interlinked the world is: A few months suffice to spread a virus across the world, and the policy response affects all aspects of our life from health, social contacts, economy and employment, and also air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Issues to be addressed by climate research have thus become broader, and to a certain extent more urgent. The climate research community must embrace new fields and develop new capacities, while old issues still await resolution. This is reflected especially in a revised Thematic Area 4 (former Area 4 is merged with Area 3).

The 13th Call has the following four Thematic Areas:

- Understanding the climate system and the consequences of climate change (25 %)
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers (35 %)
- Transformative change and governance (30 %)
- Climate Change in an interconnected world (10 %)

The target budget allocation for each theme is indicated as a percentage of the total budget. These targets may be adjusted to take account of the quality of the proposals.

Engineering and technical research topics are not part of this call as they are covered by complementary programmes.

Applicants should consider previously funded research projects in the respective field and determine how their research project differentiates from and adds to them. Funding the same research needs in two projects is not desired.

[1] https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/dam/jcr:29ba927b-d36f-4cd4-8f56-8bec97a48c76/NEKP_final%2018.12.2019.pdf

[2] https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REP0702.pdf

[3] https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/dam/jcr:b41843d3-a920-41c1-b3b9-1bd739abfd30/NAS_Context_2017%20english%20full%20size.pdf

As a rule, funding for follow-up proposals to projects from earlier ACRP calls will not be considered until the outcome of the prior proposal has been evaluated and accepted.

Resubmission of proposals is not encouraged unless the proposal rejection was based solely on "lack of sufficient funding".

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 (www.ccca.ac.at).

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

While the anthropogenic influence on the global climate is well-established, there remains a need for more reliable information on the current and future climate at regional and local scales, and the impacts of climate change and extreme events on ecosystems, ecosystem services, social systems and the economy.

Understanding and modeling the physical, chemical, biological and societal systems underlying climate change, and their impacts on these systems, are essential for developing cost-effective and sustainable policy responses. Climate research, thus, spans a wide range from disciplinary via interdisciplinary to transdisciplinary projects that are needed to reach sustainable policy responses. Projects in the following (non-exclusive) research areas are welcome:

Improved understanding of climate processes on regional and global levels

Besides global climate change, other anthropogenic influences on the bio-geo-chemical cycles also alter regional climate. Examples for such climate process studies are:

- Understanding altered precipitation patterns both as a consequence of regional land use changes and global climate change
- Understanding altered regional circulation patterns caused by shrinking Arctic sea ice.

Extreme events

Statistics of some meteorological and hydrological extremes have already changed and will change further due to continued global climate change. However, it is difficult to estimate the current and future risks due to a lack of long-term observations. Hence, special care has to be taken to use carefully homogenised long time series for more robust statements on potentially changed extremes and for the calibration of models used for their projection. Because of Austria's comparatively long and dense observations in geosciences, researchers are better positioned for estimating the risks related to extremes. Examples of research topics include:

- Improved dynamic downscaling of extreme events in order to estimate the probabilities of new extremes
- Joint evaluation of several long time series to explain the higher probability of occurrence for combined extremes of certain meteorological and hydrological parameters
- Estimating probabilities for multi-hazard risks caused by extreme weather events under climate change.

Further questions for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary climate research are:

- Which measures can be recommended to stabilise and/or increase carbon stocks in forests and agricultural soils?
- Where will irrigation be needed for which crops in Austria?
- What water management infrastructure is needed if extreme precipitation events rise faster with temperature than the Clausius-Clapeyron equation indicates?
- What are the consequences of greenhouse gas neutrality for food consumption?
- What climate change impacts are caused by the interaction between the climate system and ecosystems, forestry, and water systems based on the climate change scenarios provided by CCCA?
- Can tipping points be ruled out if the Paris Agreement goal of warming well below 2°C is reached?

There will be overlaps in the above topics with Thematic Area 2. While Thematic Area 2 is driven by policy needs, Thematic Area 1 addresses gaps in scientific knowledge and research questions at the limits of this knowledge. The above topics are by far not exclusive.

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

Research proposals are encouraged that directly respond to the needs of Austrian government policymakers in their efforts to design and implement adaptation (and mitigation) measures. In the 13th Call, projects in the following Thematic Areas, among others, are of special interest:

- **Communicating Climate Change**: Communicating climate change is challenging. Just 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 decisionmakers on the federal as well as on the provincial level. 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? (Note: proposal should advance the scientific state of the art on science communication)
- **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 potential target conflict concerns forest biomass use for energy vs. the forest's function as CO_2 sink. In this context, insights into the future role of biomass use for energy in view of increasing decarbonisation of the energy system will be critical, taking into account the need to safeguard the forest as CO_2 sink and impacts of climate change on forests.
- **Understanding the social aspects of climate change and adaptation policies:** The purpose is to provide further insights into the social aspects of climate change and adaptation measures, especially on health and well-being. Will climate change strike disadvantaged groups more than the population in general? Which measures should be taken in advance to efficiently counteract negative impacts? What about possible normative and ethical dimensions (e.g. burden sharing, equity issues) on different political levels?
- **Climate neutrality:** 1,5°C scenarios e.g. by IPCC include measures to capture and store or use CO_2 (CCS, CCU), including for emissions from biomass combustion (BECCS). Currently only scarce information is available for Austria, research proposals should therefore address questions around CCS and CCU including their potential, areas of conflict (including competing uses e.g. for biomass use in case of BECCS). Buildings and spatial planning are further essential areas with regard to achieving climate neutrality, the replacement of natural gas for heating in existing buildings being one of the biggest challenges. Proposals should address questions relating to necessary measures to allow for decarbonisation of the existing building stock by 2040, flexible use of buildings, climate-neutral and environmentally friendly building and renovation as well as the role of digitalisation.

For a more complete interministerial list of research needs to support the national climate policy, see: https://www.bmk.gv.at/acrp

4.3 Thematic Area 3: Transformative change and governance

The COVID-19 crisis is a wake-up call for our social, economic and financial systems to be better prepared for the climate crisis that will likely stay with us over a much longer period of time. There is growing recognition that incremental change in prevailing social, technological and economic structures will not suffice to achieve the goal of limiting the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels as prescribed by the Paris Agreement. The goal of the Austrian coalition government programme is to achieve climate neutrality by 2040. Incremental interventions with the aim to maintain the essence and integrity of the system can be distinguished from transformational interventions that change the system's fundamental attributes in response to climate and its impacts. Especially for decisions involving long lifetimes, transformative changes towards sustainable structures/systems should be investigated – changes that encompass broad deployment of technological, economic, financial and social innovations. For both adaptation and mitigation, 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.

Research on the social and human dimensions of climate policy interventions, especially as they affect the poor and vulnerable, will be necessary to complement economic and technological research. Developing equitable, responsible, resilient and socially inclusive pathways is essential for Austrian and international climate policy.

Indicative research topics that address incremental and transformational systemic change include:

- Models and indicators of well-being for current and future generations taking account of the relevance of stock-flow interactions and integrated, sustainable and climate-neutral paths for reaching well-being goals
- Detection of causes of maladaptation to climate change driven by short-term economic aspects and/or subsidies in many sectors (e.g. agriculture, tourism, fossil fuel use)
- Design of policies for distributing the burdens and benefits of transitional and transformational change, including innovative forms of job-sharing and attention to gender issues
- Designing an inclusive and affordable net-zero housing and mobility sector, by transitioning buildings or transforming mobility to reach full reliance on service provision and renewable energy
- Assessment and development of financial mechanisms and tools that align public and private resources to enable the transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient pathways
- Contributing to Austria's role in the international debate on mitigation, adaptation and the emerging loss-and- damage deliberations.

As transformative change is needed, transformative governance is required as well. Institutional inertia, scientific uncertainty, long time frames 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, adjusting legal rights and responsibilities as well as changing ideas and accepted norms and expectations. As the Fridays for Future movement or initiatives like the Net-Zero Asset Owners Alliance have boldly illustrated, beyond governments, 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. In the research community the further development of action research methods is required.

The governance research necessary to enable transformative change spans a broad range of topics, a few of which are listed below:

- Understanding the fragmented landscape of public and private actors that comprise Austria's "climate regime complex" and the obstacles/opportunities for meeting Austria's commitments with regard to the National Energy and Climate Plan as well as the current coalition government programme.
- Understanding the legal context for climate action and liability (including issues of climate change attribution) and potential development/reforms of the legal regime in Austria, the EU and on a global scale
- Identifying and analysing the special role of cities, sub-national actors, civil society, and financial actors with regard to climate mitigation and adaptation across the world, with lessons for Austria
- Practices and new mechanisms for national, regional and local governments to engage civil society, businesses, NGOs and other stakeholders in climate policy and its implementation (action research)
- Identification of governance structures that are resilient to political and social perturbations and conducive to achieving the climate goals

4.4 Thematic Area 4: Climate Change in an interconnected world

Climate change is both stressing and being impacted by social, ecological and economic systems. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are thus embedded in broader questions of how societies can reap the benefits of global social and economic development, yet stay within a safe and just operating space of our Earth's systems. Climate change research needs to address rising global risks due to increasing human pressures on the planet and the inequality between and within societies.

In view of the complexity and breadth of the changes to our planet, and those to be expected, it is essential that climate research is interlinked with the multiple domains affected by human actions. This broadens the focus of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the need for this holistic perspective by raising awareness of the interconnections and challenges of our globalized societies, and opportunities for connecting agendas at all scales.

Research topics span the applied physical and social sciences, and include for example:

- Articulating how the climate change agenda can be interlinked with e.g., biodiversity, air and water, food, and other agendas to reap the co-benefits of more holistic policy interventions; specifying what this means for governance, economic or social reform
- Understanding the interaction between the vulnerability of humans and environments and the resilience of systems – integrating the social, ecological and economic systems
- Identifying and quantifying the interrelation of societal and economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis with GHG emissions on a local, regional and global scale
- Modeling the interactions of pathways for meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement with the Sustainable Development Goals for both mitigation and adaptation
- Identifying (across governance scales and Austrian regions) centres and nodes of activity towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Climate Action (SDG13), and understanding leverage points that could best support their activities
- Identifying if and how the coronavirus crisis and the ensuing economic shock have changed perceptions and views on climate change and other global issues, and on the resulting potential for transformative social, economic and political change
- Articulating the lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis regarding interconnectedness of e.g. the health, food, transport, social and economic systems and the difficulties in bouncing forward to a more resilient and sustainable society.

4.5 APCC Special Report: Climate change in mountain regions – challenges and opportunities

As mountains provide a living space for humanity and a surplus of vital goods and services. They play an important role on all scales, from global to national and regional. But due to their unique ecological and societal conditions that change dramatically over relative short horizontal and vertical distances, thus causing a complex pattern of niches of perfectly adapted and highly specialized eco- and socio-cultural systems, mountains are highly vulnerable and disproportionally affected by climate change processes.

To address these multi-faceted challenges, including the ecological, societal, and economic importance of mountains in Austria, the ACRP will support one APCC Special Report on the topic of "Climate change in mountain regions – challenges and opportunities".

As the topic is very broad, it is expected that the proposal will clearly define the aspects to be addressed. Amongst these are the physical dimensions of climate change in the Austrian mountains and their impact on ecological, societal and economic systems. The Special Report should address respective aspects of specific and overall vulnerability and resilience against climate change related pressures and risks. Finally, adaptation options and limitations, opportunities, synergies and trade-offs have to be discussed in the light of climate resilient development pathways meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda SDGs of concern.

The report should summarize and assess the state of knowledge and its uncertainties. The project team must reflect the spectrum of relevant scientific expertise. It needs to base the assessment on contributions from all relevant Austrian researchers and experts. This APCC Special Report is expected to build and expand on the Austrian Climate Change Assessment Report (AAR14) and reflect (interim or final) results from ongoing IPCC reports (i.e. AR6 WG2, Cross Chapter Paper 5: Mountains; AR6 SROCC, Chapter 2: Mountains) as well as other related publications and assessments. It is envisaged that it might become a distinct chapter of the upcoming Second Austrian Climate Change Assessment Report.

The production process of the report must be given special attention and follow IPCC as well as APCC technical and quality standard guidelines. The report must add significant value to other ongoing activities. Involvement of international partners as contributors (if applicable), reviewers and review editors is recommended. The dedicated budget for the Special Report is EUR 300.000,–.

4.6 General guidelines

The focus should be on climate change, its impacts, mitigation and the potential to adapt to new circumstances. Proposals can address issues within these Thematic Areas or can cover several Thematic Areas; the most relevant Thematic Area has to be identified in the application form.

- Policy-relevant reviews of literature and practice are eligible.
- Particular attention should be given between interlinkages of adaptation and mitigation issues and policy
- Uncertainty should be clearly addressed.
- Interdisciplinary research teams are encouraged but focused disciplinary research, especially if it is particularly innovative or useful, is eligible.
- Early stakeholder involvement, if relevant, is encouraged at all levels, for instance, incorporating local knowledge and directly involving stakeholders (e.g. from industry, community administrations and NGOs) in policy deliberations.
- Cooperation with international partners and subcontractors is encouraged. Up to a third of the total granted costs can be attributed to foster this international collaboration, especially if it serves to enhance Austrian research competence and the transfer of research tools such as models or data.
- Research proposals should specify their "user value", either to the greater (also international) research community or to the Austrian policy community.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

5.0 Administrative Information

5.1 Eligible institutions and persons

The following Austrian research institutions are eligible for submitting proposals:

- Universities
- Non-university research institutions in the field of scientific research
- Universities of applied sciences
- Private universities
- Other science-oriented organisations
- Individual researchers from Austria.

Project partners are not limited to Austrian research institutions and can include foreign researchers as well as businesses and other practitioners as long as full publication of results is guaranteed.

5.2 Project types

Within the framework of the ACRP, many types of research activities are funded in the context of research projects. This also includes one Special Report. Projects can be submitted by individual researchers or institutions (individual projects) or by consortia (cooperative projects). The selection of the project type should be determined by the needs of the project: All necessary qualifications should be included in a manner appropriate to their project's relevance.

Individual projects
In this case, research is proposed and carried out by an individual researcher or individual organisation with no partners; however, the project can award subcontracts.

Cooperative projects
In this case, the research is proposed and carried out by a consortium of several institutions or individual researchers. The consortium defines an "applicant" (project coordinator) who is in contact with the funding institution, submits the proposal and handles the payment transactions. The contact person of the applicant (later designated as project leader) is responsible for the coordination of the content of the work and for reporting to the programme management office of the Climate and Energy Fund. The collaborating organisations or individual researchers are designated as "project partners".

5.3 Budget

Up to EUR 4 million of subsidies are available for research projects and activities supporting cooperation and knowledge transfer in Austria including EUR 300.000,– for the special assessment report under the 13th Call of the ACRP.

5.4 Costs

5.4.1 Funding

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

In addition, all costs attributable to the project (such as personnel costs, travel costs and payments for participatory processes) or expenses that are incurred directly and additionally (to the established operating expenses) for the duration of the funded research activity are eligible costs. Only those costs are eligible that have been incurred after submission of the funding application to the Programme Management Office of the Climate and Energy Fund (date of successful online submission via ACRP platform) and not before the funding offer has been accepted.

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 Cost and Financing Plan (funding application).

Costs attributed to international collaboration can amount up to a third of the total granted project costs.

Submitted projects have no binding legal entitlement to funding.

Costs not eligible for funding:

- Costs that are not directly connected with the funded project, in particular investments in buildings, the purchase of real estate, the purchase of office equipment and the like
- Costs that were incurred before the submission of the funding application and before the acceptance of the funding offer
- Costs that are not considered eligible costs due to EU competition law regulations
- Costs that are covered by other federal funds or funds provided by the Federal Provinces, i.e. no multiple funding is allowed
- Costs incurred by the Republic of Austria as a consumer such as taxes or charge fees.

5.4.2 Cost categories

Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the staff members carrying out research within the project are eligible, i.e. researchers, technicians and auxiliary staff working exclusively in research (gross salary costs including non-wage labour costs). For further details, see also § 8.0 Appendix.

If public sector officials (federal, provincial and municipal civil servants) render services for a funded project, the corresponding costs can, in principle, only be recognised as eligible costs if double cost coverage at the expense of public households can be excluded. Thus, personnel costs for persons already paid from public funds cannot be accounted for again within the framework of a funded project. This provision does not apply if personnel costs for public sector officials are incurred and/or accounted for as contract work (third-party services).

Overhead costs

Overhead costs are costs that arise due to the research activity, e.g. rental, office material and shared use of secretarial services for the administration of the funded project. Overheads to the amount of 25 % (flat rate) of personnel, material and travel costs as well as RTD investment are recognised.

Costs accounted for as direct project costs must not be included simultaneously in overhead costs; overheads accounted for under the funded project must not contain any costs that are basically excluded from funding. Such costs include, for instance:

- Additional costs incurred through submission of the application
- Catering costs
- Advertising and marketing costs
- PR costs
- Distribution costs (usually including costs of vehicle fleet)
- Booked research expenditure
- Reserves
- Provisions
- Support payments pledged but not received
- Exchange rate differences
- Book values of plant and equipment not recognised as eligible costs
- Losses suffered
- Expenditure incurred in other accounting periods
- Financing costs, interest

RTD investments/depreciation

If instruments and equipment are used to support the research project for less than the whole of their useful life, the depreciation during the period of the research project, calculated on the basis of good accounting practices, is eligible for funding.

Travel costs, costs of materials

These are costs of expendable materials for research activities, literature etc., arising solely through the research or activity. In addition, travel costs are funded that arise due to the research activity (e.g. field work, research in external and third-party archives or residency at cooperating research institutions) or through participation in conferences where the researcher's own research findings are presented.

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.
Basically, for projects under thematic areas 1 to 4, 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. This limit for third parties does not apply for the APCC Special Report. For all type of ACRP projects, subcontracts with costs exceeding EUR 2,000.00 must be described in detail in the application form.

5.4.3 Amounts of the subsidy

Eligible costs are covered up to 100 %.

5.5 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.
The exploitation rights are owned by the consortium submitting the proposal. However, there is an obligation to publish the research results and to ensure that the results are accessible for use by the targeted research and policy communities.

The Climate Data Centre built up 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 (www.ccca.ac.at).

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. 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.

5.6 Legal basis and EU conformity

As the legal basis, the RTD Guidelines according to § 11, subparagraphs 1 and 2 of the *Forschungs- und Technologieförderungsgesetz* (FTFG – Research and Technology Funding Act) of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology apply as amended on January 1, 2015 (ref. no. BMVIT [Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology] 609.986/0011 – III/12/2014).

If the applicant is subject to the European Competition Law according to Article 107ff AEUV, the funding will be awarded on the basis of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (General Block Exemption Regulation) as currently in force.

6.0 Procedure

6.1 Submission and consultation

This section provides a brief overview of procedures for the submission of project proposals.

Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC) has been contracted by the Climate and Energy Fund to serve as Programme Management Office.

Project proposals must be registered on the Climate and Energy Fund website (www.klimafonds.gv.at). The registration number listed on the registration form has to be quoted when submitting the research proposal via the ACRP online platform (for further information on the submission procedure, see below). The guide and the forms for the submission of project proposals are available for download from the website of KPC, the Programme Management Office (www.publicconsulting.at/acrp). The application forms provided must be used exclusively for the submission of project proposals. After the subsidy 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 subsidy granted as well as the title and summary of the project. Grants under these guidelines cannot be awarded for projects which have already received support from other sources of Austrian federal funding (i.e., multiple federal grants are not permitted).

The submission deadline is **February, 12th, 2021 at 12:00** for the application to be submitted on the ACRP platform www.acrp.gv.at. There will be no possibility of submitting research proposals after this deadline.

Proposals must be submitted using proposal forms of the present call. Except for the explanatory notes forms are not to be modified. The forms must be filled in completely.

The project proposals are to be uploaded on the ACRP platform www.acrp.gv.at. Submission of project proposals in paper copies or on electronic data storage media at KPC, the Programme Management Office, is not possible and will be considered as a formal error. After successful submission, applicants will receive an automatically generated confirmation of receipt.

The proposals have to be submitted in English.

6.2 Selection of projects

The project proposals are evaluated in several stages.

Formal check
As a first step, the Programme Management Office checks whether the proposals submitted are formally correct and complete. Correctable errors are pointed out to the applicants with a request for subsequent correction; if the errors cannot be corrected (formal criteria), the project will be excluded for formal reasons.

If necessary, further documents concerning the economic efficiency of the applicant may be separately requested by the Programme Management Office.

Formal criteria for rejecting a proposal are the following:
- The funding application is not received in time
- The form of the funding application is not observed
- The necessary prerequisites for specific project types are not observed in essentials.

Evaluation process
Funding applications that have passed the formal check are then scientifically evaluated by independent international experts. All persons involved in the evaluation procedure are bound by confidentiality regarding information they have received in connection with their function. They are obliged to sign a declaration of secrecy.

After completion of the scientific evaluation, the projects are examined by the independent international Steering Committee of the ACRP and by representatives of the Climate and Energy Fund. The Steering Committee is entitled to propose merging projects with related themes or with overlapping content.

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 6.3 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 with regard to:

- Basic research (usually one single discipline)
- Single-discipline and multi-discipline impact research
- Interdisciplinary, integrated assessments
- Policy-oriented studies
- The Thematic Areas.

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 and governance (30 %)
- Climate Change in an interconnected world (10 %)

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.

6.3 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria for research projects are scientific quality, quality of consortium/management and societal resonance. The weighting factor depends on the Thematic Area selected:

Table 6.3 a: Weight given to the different criteria

Criteria	Thematic Areas 1, 3, 4	Thematic Area 2
Scientific Quality	45	30
Quality of Consortium/Management	30	30
Societal resonance	25	40

A more detailed description of the criteria given in Table 6.3 a is contained in Table 6.3 b below. Furthermore, the adequacy of the costs in relation to the planned activities and results is assessed.

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.

Table 6.3 b: Description of evaluation criteria "Scientific Quality", "Quality of Consortium/Management", "Societal Resonance"

Scientific Quality	Quality of Consortium and Management	Societal Resonance
Scientific excellence • Soundness of concept, relevance of the research questions and quality of objectives • Progress beyond the state of the art • Quality and effectiveness of the scientific methodology andassociated work plan • Publications in peer-reviewed journals	**Scientific qualifications and participation of international researchers, quality and efficiency of implementation and management** • Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants and quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance) • Enrichment by international participants if deemed necessary • Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures • Appropriateness of the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment), also in order to achieve impact • Climate "friendliness" of research activities	**Potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results** • Usefulness of project results to scientific and policy communities (documented, e.g. through letters from ministries) • Conference presentations and other appropriate dissemination channels

The **APCC Special Report** must be open to participation by the entire relevant scientific community in Austria. In evaluating the proposal, evaluators will consider:

- the selected scope in view of system boundaries and availability of pertinent studies for Austria (25 %)
- the conceptual structure of the assessment (draft outline of the report) (10 %)
- the consortium (see also Table 6.3 b) with special focus on inclusion of all major players and of senior scientists and the procedures to involve the relevant scientific community and to select the Coordinating Lead Authors (25 %)
- the management structure and climate-"friendliness" of activities (15 %)
- the quality assurance procedures including measures to safeguard readability and usability (25 %)

Groups planning to submit a proposal are advised to check the CCCA rules regarding the criteria and procedures to be fulfilled for a Special Report to qualify as APCC assessment.

6.4 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.

The project should start within the first semester after the final funding decision.

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 inthe partner structure requires prior approval of the Programme Management Office of the Climate and Energy Fund. The same rule applies for changes in key scientific personnel or any cost shiftings.

6.5 Reports and duties

6.5.1 ACRP activities

Throughout the project, leaders and partners are expected to contribute actively to the ACRP activities to enhance communication and integration within the climate research community (see Section 2). 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 an integrated view of the project at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag). However, final payment will only be made after a presentation at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag).

6.5.2 Regular reporting

The project leader has to report to KPC on a regular basis (interim and final activity reports). A reporting period can comprise a maximum project stage of one year. Furthermore, the reporting requirements of the Climate and Energy Fund have to be taken into account. For more information, refer to www.klimafonds.gv.at/ausschreibungen/richtlinien-service-fuer-foerdernehmer.

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.

6.5.3 Final deliverables

The final deliverables from the research projects can take two forms and must be supplied within one year after the end of the project:

- 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. The publications resulting from ACRP projects should be mentioned in future submissions by the project leader (linked to the person) within ACRP Calls and will be taken into account by the Steering Committee when evaluating those future research proposals.
- 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. Like publications, this information should be mentioned in future submissions by the project leader (linked to the person) within ACRP Calls and will be taken into account by the Steering Committee when evaluating those future research proposals.

6.6 Modalities of payment

The declaration of acceptance of the contract concluded between the Climate and Energy Fund represented by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH and the applicant as well as the consortium agreement in the case of a cooperative project have to be sent to KPC prior to the project start. Upon receipt of these documents and information concerning the project start, the first installment is paid, provided the conditions specified in the contract are met.

The mode of further payments depends on the duration of the project, provided there is no negative evaluation of the reports. The final key data of the reporting obligations are specified in the contract.

Before final payment, at least one presentation of the project at the Austrian Climate Day ("Österreichischer Klimatag") (see § 6.5.1) must be held.

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 KPC's auditing department on the basis of a positive evaluation of the final activity report and accounts.

Table 6.6: Payment of funding rates in % of total amount of funding (TAF)

Duration of the project (months)	1st maximum funding rate	2nd maximum funding rate	3rd maximum funding rate	Maximum final funding rate
up to 12	40	–	–	60
up to 24	40	40	–	20
from 25	40	20	20	20

7.0 Contacts

7.1 Programme owner and Call responsibility

Klima- und Energiefonds (Climate and Energy Fund)
Gumpendorfer Straße 5/22, 1060 Vienna
Tel: 01/585 03 90 - 0
www.klimafonds.gv.at

Contact
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7.2 Management of the Call

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General information, the guide and the application forms can be found on the website of the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC) Programme Management Office at www.publicconsulting.at/acrp

Documents required for the Call:
- Guide for the submission of proposals, including evaluation criteria for evaluators
- Application forms
- Guideline for reporting
- Templates for activity reports (interim and final) and financial report (final report)
- Template for reports for publication (interim and final)

8.0 Appendix – Further Information on Personnel Costs

8.1 Universities and research institutions

Employees of universities are not paid from the public budget, but from the global budget of the university concerned and are, thus, eligible for funding. Non-university research institutions are also responsible for their own budgets and are eligible for funding. Basically, the general provisions regarding the establishment of personnel costs also apply to university and non-university research institutions.

Therefore, the costs of university employees are eligible for funding.

8.2 Personnel costs

The following regulations apply to:
- Employed project staff
- Freelancers
- Public sector employees
- Shareholders involved in the project

Personnel costs are to be determined on the basis of the gross wages and salaries including related charges (ancillary wage costs). Other payments or payments in kind (e.g. dirty work allowance, overtime allowance, benefits in kind) can be charged. Personnel costs are eligible to the extent that they are prescribed by law, a collective agreement, a company agreement or an employment contract with legally binding effect.

Furthermore persons actively involved in a project such as shareholders, sole proprietors, owners actively involved in the project and managing directors issuing invoices for their services and association officials registered in the association register may charge a **fixed hourly rate** of a maximum of EUR 40 within the scope of eligible costs. If this option of direct costing is used, a maximum annual amount of EUR 68,800 can be charged per company.

Personnel costs for **freelancers** shall be calculated according to the same principles as for employed project staff. In cases where the full project staff is not known during the planning stage, placeholders may be inserted by way of exception. However, a detailed description of their function in the project should be provided.

Personnel costs of **public sector employees** may be charged as part of a funded project if the services provided by them are not accounted for by public administration. University employees are not considered public sector employees.

A fixed **denominator** of 1,720 **annual hours** shall be applied for full-time employees (this also includes overtime allowances or all-in contracts). For part-time project staff, the denominator must be reduced accordingly.

Research institutions as per EU definition may use 1,290 annual hours as a denominator for calculating the hourly rate for full-time employment. This is **only possible**, however, if the difference to the fixed denominator of 1,720 annual hours relates to activities in support of the institution's research activities (e.g. dissemination of research know-how, scientific training etc.). For project staff working fewer hours, the denominator must be reduced accordingly.

Please note that annual project hours charged per person – especially if the person is simultaneously involved in several funded projects – must not exceed the annual working hours used as the denominator. Persons employed by different funding recipients can be charged at a maximum rate of 1,720 or 1,290 hours for all funded projects in which that person is involved.

Alternatively, hours of attendance can be used as a denominator subject on condition that an appropriate time recording system is in place.

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