

GUIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AUSTRIAN CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME – ACRP

18th Call for Proposals

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



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INHALT HEAD

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| | PREFACE | 3 |
| 1. | THE 18TH ACRP CALL AT A GLANCE | 4 |
| 2. | OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME | 5 |
| 3. | THEMATIC AREAS | 7 |
| 3.1 | THEMATIC AREA 1: UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE SYSTEM AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE | 7 |
| 3.2 | THEMATIC AREA 2: SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIA'S POLICYMAKERS | 8 |
| 3.3 | THEMATIC AREA 3: TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE | 9 |
| 4. | FORMAL REQUIREMENTS | 11 |
| 4.1 | FORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CALL | 11 |
| 4.2 | RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR THE 18 TH CALL | 11 |
| 4.3 | ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS | 12 |
| 4.4 | COSTS AND FUNDING | 12 |
| 4.5 | INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS | 12 |
| 4.6 | CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT | 13 |
| 4.7 | DISSEMINATION | 13 |
| 4.8 | FUNDING DECISION AND LEGAL BASIS | 13 |
| 4.9 | ACRP ACTIVITIES, REPORTS AND DUTIES | 13 |
| 4.9.1 | ACRP ACTIVITIES | 13 |
| 4.9.2 | REGULAR REPORTING | 14 |
| 4.9.3 | FINAL DELIVERABLES AT THE END OF THE PROJECT | 14 |
| 5. | FORMAL PROCESS | 15 |
| 5.1 | SUBMISSION | 15 |
| 5.2 | FORMAL CHECK | 15 |
| 5.3 | EVALUATION PROCESS | 15 |
| 5.4 | EVALUATION CRITERIA | 16 |
| 5.5 | CONTRACT | 17 |
| 6. | CONTACTS | 18 |
| 6.1 | PROGRAMME OWNER AND CALL RESPONSIBILITY | 18 |
| 6.2 | MANAGEMENT OF THE CALL | 18 |
| | IMPRINT | 19 |

PREFACE

June 2025 made it once more clear: climate change is an issue.

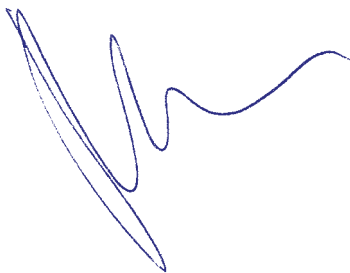
While a prolonged heatwave swept across Europe – pushing people, cities and their infrastructures to the limit – the Second Austrian Assessment Report on Climate Change (AAR2) was published at the same time. Austria's most comprehensive climate report to date, as well as the tremendous climatic challenges show: climate extremes are no longer isolated incidents – rather they are becoming the new normal. The AAR2 confirms, that Austria's climate is not only changing, but doing it more rapidly than previously assumed. The consequences reach from increased heat stress, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity to mounting risks for ecosystems and critical infrastructure and much more.

Considering these developments, forward-looking action is urgently needed. Climate adaption and mitigation must not be seen as either – or. Effective response requires oriented basic research on climate change and climate actions, adaption and mitigation as a foundation for impactful strategies. This is where the Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) – initiated by the Climate and Energy Fund and established as Austria's largest national climate research programme – comes in. It was developed in collaboration with leading international researchers to ensure high-quality research findings. Besides the creation of valuable knowledge as scientific basis for evidence-based decisions and actions, the ACRP strengthens Austria's research community and stimulates interdisciplinary collaboration.

The 18th call of the funding programme is designed to continue the successful initiatives. This year's call focuses on the following thematic areas:

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

We warmly invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen Austria's climate research by submitting your projects within the framework of the ACRP call. We wish all applicants all the best for their efforts!



Bernd Vogl
Managing Director Climate and Energy Fund

1. THE 18TH 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 oriented basic research on climate change and climate actions, adaptation, mitigation and their mutual interrelation. One intent is to provide scientific support of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKP) and the Paris Agreement.

The ACRP was launched in 2008 under the auspices of the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and is a broad policy initiative promoting high quality oriented basic climate research. ACRP activities are guided by an international Steering Committee.

The ACRP call is handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

The 18th Call comprises the following three thematic areas:

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

Table 1: Key data for the 18th ACRP Call

| Key data | Information |
|--------------------------|---|
| Call budget | 2 Mio. EUR |
| Deadline for submission | Wednesday, 15.04.2026, 12:00 p.m. (noon) |
| Application language | English |
| Contact person | Contact persons are listed in Chapter 6 |
| Information online | FFG Webpage |
| Submission portal | eCall |
| Available instrument | Oriented basic research (Version 3.2) |
| Funding per project | Minimum 60.000 EUR up to maximum 200.000 EUR |
| Maximum project duration | 36 months |
| Maximum funding rate | 100 % |
| Cost Guideline | Cost Guideline 3.2 |

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME

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

Objectives

The overarching objectives of the ACRP research are:

- fill knowledge gaps and/or develop scientific methods and tools by supporting and strengthening Austrian specific basic research on climate change;
- to support climate policy in Austria on local, regional, national and international scales, especially on topics relevant to climate adaptation and mitigation, and their conflicts and synergies.

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

Background

There is increasing scientific evidence that time is running out rapidly to achieve the Paris climate agreement goals. 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 such as biodiversity loss. These other planetary boundaries are of no lesser urgency and importance than climate change.

The above, as well as systemic societal risks, forms the frame within which adaptation and mitigation to climate change is viewed in the context of the ACRP. The urgency of the climate issue, the necessity to move beyond incremental change towards equitable transformative change, and the systemic relation to other environmental problems are reflected in the funding programme.

Scope of the call

The following content related and formal scopes must be taken into account for each application.

Relevance for Austria:

Regardless of the thematic sector, aspects of climate change, adaptation or mitigation as well as their interrelation in Austria must be addressed in all ACRP projects. The scope of the call extends to international climate policy for which Austrian policymakers provide input.

Focus on oriented basic research:

Within the scope of this call, only projects that correspond to oriented basic research are funded. Oriented basic research is carried out with the expectation that it will produce a broad base of knowledge likely to form the background to the solution of recognized or expected current or future problems or open up new possibilities. The goals of oriented basic research are to obtain new findings and create a knowledge base for potential future applications as well as to develop fundamentally new solutions. A commercial exploitation of the results is excluded. Engineering and technical research topics are beyond the scope of ACRP and should be addressed in other funding programmes.

Please check whether your project idea could be better submitted to the following FFG programs on related topics:

| Call | link |
|--|--|
| Energiewende | www.ffg.at/energiewende |
| Klimaneutrale Stadt | www.ffg.at/initiative/klimaneutrale-stadt |
| Mobilität | www.ffg.at/fti-mobilitaet |
| Europäische und Internationale Programme | www.ffg.at/ffg/eip |

Relevant sectors:

The scope of ACRP climate research encompasses all relevant sectors and areas of activity in Austria, such as tourism, agriculture and forestry, infrastructure and energy, water and drought/flood management, biodiversity and human health. The financial and legal sectors and their relevance to climate policy are also included.

Disciplines, stakeholder involvement and SDGs:

Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary project proposals, including proposals, which cover several thematic areas, are encouraged. Focused disciplinary research, if it is particularly innovative or useful, is also eligible. International participation to enhance international visibility and knowledge transfer to Austria is encouraged as well.

Early stakeholder involvement (e.g., community administrations, the public, governmental/international policymakers, NGOs) is encouraged at all levels, for instance, incorporating local knowledge and co-generating policy options. Stakeholder involvement is particularly important for projects within thematic areas 2 and 3.

The research programme funds projects, which address adaptation to and mitigation of effects of climate change over the coming decades as well as the interrelation of adaptation and mitigation. Therefore, global change phenomena such as demographic and economic developments, energy and land use issues, and synergies or trade-offs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be taken into account.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

The 18th ACRP Call invites proposals in 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 the consequences of climate change (25 %)
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers (35 %)
- Transformative change (40 %)

3.1 THEMATIC AREA 1: UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE SYSTEM AND THE 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 changes on the local scale and in particular on extreme events under climate change. In addition, gaps remain in knowledge about impacts and risks for ecological and human systems. Furthermore, knowledge gaps exist on current and potential future GHG emissions from different sources as well as the potential of natural and anthropogenic GHG sinks. Finally, oriented basic research on adaptation and mitigation could be proposed under this thematic area. In general, 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, 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 the role of forests, peat bogs and other ecosystems as sinks or sources), a better understanding of the dynamics of extreme events and their climate change attribution, and the role of global or local tipping points.
- **Consequences for ecological and human systems:** Research questions could address climate triggered natural hazards (e.g. landslides, pluvial floods), consequences for natural systems (ecosystems, soil, groundwater), specific sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, health, transport, energy) or address multiple impacts across ecological and human systems considering the complex interplay of compounding and cascading hazards and impacts.
Understanding the relation of climate extremes and impacts including losses and damages as well as the creation of sound climate impact databases as a requirement for impact based early warning and modeling could be another topic of project proposals.
- **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, socioeconomic, 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. A consideration of new methodologies that helps to express and communicate the complexity of risk drivers such as climate risk story lines are encouraged.
- **Research on adaptation and mitigation:** With increasing planning and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures, the field of research on adaptation and mitigation as a process gains importance. This includes aspects such as gaps, limits and barriers of adaptation and mitigation; drivers, enablers and conditions for accelerated adaptation and mitigation action; positive and negative side-effects of adaptation and mitigation including; planning under uncertainty, flexible planning strategies.

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).

Studies that hinge on bias-corrected regional climate projections are asked to make use of the latest available climate scenarios via "klimaszenarien.at – Die neuen Österreichischen Klimaszenarien", at least for comparison. Please note the new recommendations on the website for using these scenarios.

While thematic area 1 addresses substantial gaps in scientific knowledge, proposals for the basis of solutions related to adaptation and mitigation should be submitted under thematic area 2.

3.2 THEMATIC AREA 2: SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIA'S POLICYMAKERS

Specific research needs arise in policymaking. Research in this field should provide improved understanding and a scientific basis for solutions of 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.

- **Climate change in all areas:** In order to achieve a not only climate neutral but also climate resilient future, mainstreaming of climate change risks alongside with integrated adaptation and mitigation measures in all relevant policy areas is needed.
What are the most effective measures to foster mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors and across policy levels and areas? What are the reasons for their effectiveness and how can they be monitored? In which areas are the best levers to be found? What examples or analogies exist for these measures and how can they effectively be implemented in the long term?
- **Aligning finances with climate targets:** In recent years, regulations for significantly improved transparency have been introduced for companies and financial products. Although the importance of mobilizing private capital is emphasized at various levels, the scientific evidence is limited – especially within the Austrian scope. Of interest are research projects investigating the influence of the financial sector on climate-relevant environmental goals, with specific focus on the following questions:
What do financial institutions contribute to achieving climate and environmental goals? How effective are the transparency regulations and how much do they contribute to redirecting financial flows (see Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement)? How and where must investments be made to achieve climate and environmental goals – and what is the current status quo? What are the obstacles (especially from a financial perspective) to mobilizing private capital and how can these be overcome? Which public financial flows contribute to climate and environmental goals and how, and where are these contradictory?
- **Making adaptation tangible:** Adaptation is inherently qualitative, but day-to-day politics increasingly require making 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.
- **Conflicting targets:** Climate change might provoke conflicts of objectives and of interests. Competing interests, for instance regarding fresh water resources or in land use and spatial planning are already being experienced. Which problems might arise in this context especially in Austria? How to overcome them in an environmentally sound and socially acceptable way?
A focus on climate neutrality – an objective of highest importance – could compromise other valuable targets, e.g., the protection of biodiversity. How to promote a systemic, consistent and sustainable approach in mitigation and adaptation in Austria?

- **Social aspects:** Understanding the social aspects of climate change, adaptation and mitigation policies: The goal is to gain further insight into the social aspects of climate change and adaptation measures, especially in relation to health and well-being. Will climate change affect disadvantaged groups more than the general population? 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?
- **Achieving carbon neutrality by 2040** will be a major challenge, both technically and socially. The reduction of emissions and the development of adaptation strategies are among the primary goals of the ACRP research agenda. Nevertheless, net negative emissions and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) that leverage nature-based solutions must be part of all national decarbonization pathways. Comparative assessments of the potential ecological impact and potential costs of different CDR options are needed to provide policymakers with a scientific basis for evaluating and deciding on future CDR strategies.

For a more complete list of research needs to support the national climate policy, visit the [website of the BMLUK](#).

3.3 THEMATIC AREA 3: TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Background: Adaptation and mitigation to climate change are embedded in broader questions of how societies can meet the SDGs and remain within a safe operating space on the planet. It is important to recognize the urgency of addressing climate change and explore adaptation and mitigation strategies within the broader context of societal transformations. 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 and across SDGs.

As also recognized by the [IPCC Special Report on 1.5 °C](#) and the [IPCC AR6 WGIII report](#), there is 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 time horizons, value and ideological conflicts in a changing political context are some of the challenges for transforming towards a sustainable future. Transformative change is needed at all levels and depends on building coalitions between different stakeholder groups, initiatives towards institutional change in public and private sectors, adjusting legal rights and responsibilities as well as the development of alternative future visions, social norms and cultural values. Oriented basic research on mitigation and adaptation to climate change that aims for transformative impact by including knowledge from different scientific disciplines as well as the expertise and perspectives of relevant stakeholders is needed. Sound methodologies for transformative research (including solution- and action-oriented, participatory or experimental approaches) need to be developed. Finally, there is a need for monitoring and evaluating on-going transformation processes.

The following topics serve as inspiration for this thematic area.

Understanding the mechanisms of deep-structural transformational change: Proposals are welcomed that focus on root causes of the challenges described above and explore strategies and mechanisms that aim to transform deep-seated and structural unsustainabilities in relevant systems and lead to a more climate-resilient society. This can include inter- and transdisciplinary research on systemic change in various systems, on leverage points, holistic scenarios and pathways towards sustainable futures.

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 systemic risks and 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. Proposals that focus on interactions with the global biodiversity crisis and other grand challenges are also welcomed.

Considering the complex nature of the climate crisis, its underlying systemic root causes and the need for transformative change, research requirements in this field include interdisciplinary approaches that enable the integration of knowledge from different disciplines, across social and natural sciences, and transdisciplinary approaches that facilitate the integration of expertise, perspectives and value considerations of relevant stakeholder groups. The challenge for the scientific community is to improve our understanding of root causes, systemic interlinkages and the embeddedness within social systems of mitigation and adaptation strategies and utilizing this holistic knowledge for 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 are encouraged to transcend disciplinary boxes and boundaries and find innovative ways to address sustainability challenges. Proposals should thus clearly outline the specific challenge to transformation that 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.

To summarise, Thematic Area 3 particularly calls for project proposals:

- 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.),
- which help to understand interlinkages between climate change and other SDGs (e.g., related to biodiversity, air and water quality, food and energy security, human health) and addressing compound effects of multiple crises.

4. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 FORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CALL

Submission via eCall

- **Applications can only be submitted online using the corresponding masks in the FFG eCall. Project proposals (including optional supplementary attachments) must be submitted by the deadline via [eCall](#).**
- Each applicant and each member of the consortium must register in the eCall in order to participate in the submission of a proposal. It is recommended that all project partners register in the eCall as early as possible. Partner applications must be completed, before the consortium lead can finalize the submission.
- Proposals can address issues within one single thematic area, or can cover several thematic areas. The most relevant thematic area must be indicated in the eCall.
- Costs of the applicant and all project partners must be entered via eCall before the final submission of the application.

Submission language

The proposals have to be submitted in English.

Funding per project

The minimum funding per project is 60.000 EUR (incl. overhead costs).

The maximum funding per project is **200.000 EUR** (incl. overhead costs).

Consortium structure

Projects of oriented basic research can be submitted by individual applicants or as cooperative projects involving several consortium members.

Resubmission and follow-up Projects

- In the eCall it must be stated whether the proposal is a resubmission or a new project. In the case of a resubmission, it is recommended that the reviewers' suggestions for improvement are integrated into the revised proposal.
- Funding for follow-up project proposals from earlier ACRP Calls will not be considered until the final report of the prior project has been evaluated and accepted.

4.2 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR THE 18TH CALL

- Guide for the submission of proposals – Austrian Climate Research Programme (present document)
- [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research \(version 3.2\)](#)
- [FFG Cost Guideline \(version 3.2\)](#)

4.3 ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

For submissions to the 18th ACRP Call, the requirements of the [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research](#) apply.

Institutions of research and knowledge dissemination (research organisations) within the scope of their non-economic activities are eligible for funding.

- Universities (universities and universities of applied sciences)
- Non-university research institutions

The following may participate but may not receive funding:

- Subcontractors: They are not participants in terms of cooperation. They provide defined tasks for project participants which are listed under the cost category “third-party costs” and are not entitled to exploit the project results.
National and international businesses and other practitioners as well as individual researchers from Austria can be listed under the cost category “thirdparty costs” as subcontractors of the applicant or of one of the project partners. Consortium partners must not be subcontractors at the same time.
- Other participants: These are persons or institutions (including businesses) that do not receive funding, but are mentioned in the funding contract, including the scope of their participation. Their rights and duties are also stipulated by contract. Their participation needs to be justified in the application.

Project partners can include foreign research organisations as long as full publication of results is guaranteed and if the transfer of research tools such as models or data is ensured. Grants paid to consortium partners from outside Austria must not exceed 20 % of the total funding amount. International organisations can also act as subcontractors. In contrast to the specifications in the [guidelines for oriented basic research](#), **the financial resources for international organizations** (funding for international partners and cost for international subcontractors) **must not exceed 20 % of the project funding in total**.

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

4.4 COSTS AND FUNDING

The current version of the [FFG cost guidelines](#) applies to this call.

In-kind contributions (cash funds, provision of personnel and/or infrastructure) by the individual applicant or consortium partners is possible.

In contrast to the specifications in the [guidelines for oriented basic research](#), **third-party costs in ACRP projects may not exceed 30 % of the total estimated costs**.

Eligible costs can be covered up to 100 %.

4.5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All research results obtained in ACRP-funded projects must be easily accessible free of charge. 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 after completion of the project.

Researchers who cannot ensure the availability of their data for a minimum period of 7 years after completion of the project are advised to make their data available via suitable data repositories. The GeoSphere Austria Datahub (data.hub.geosphere.at), operated by the Federal Institute for Geology, Geophysics, Climatology and Meteorology (GeoSphere Austria), is a national data repository for meteorological and climate data. It facilitates long-term data preservation and data access. ACRP-funded projects are particularly encouraged to consider publishing their data through this platform, ensuring broader dissemination and enduring impact.

The exploitation rights are owned by the individual applicant or the consortium submitting the proposal. However, it is expected 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.

4.6 CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

Successful consortiums 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 prerequisite for the provision of funding (see [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research](#)). While the details of such an agreement are left to the discretion of the project partners, the Climate and Energy Fund emphasizes that the rights of individual project partners should be safeguarded.

4.7 DISSEMINATION

It is expected that project results are published in scientific media, especially books and journals. An appropriate number of scientific publications in high-ranking journals and presentation of the results at international conferences should be an important outcome for all proposals. Publications, data and software resulting from ACRP-funded projects have to be published open access. Access to the project output must be ensured for the scientific, business and policy communities, preferably in open access media. The open access dissemination strategy should be outlined in the proposal.

Despite the inherent uncertainties of publication processes, research proposals should state the anticipated publication strategy, preferably in peer-reviewed, international journals and via other dissemination channels (such as books, newspapers, broadcasting, social media, etc.).

4.8 FUNDING DECISION AND LEGAL BASIS

The final funding decision will be made by the Board of the Climate and Energy Fund on the basis of the funding recommendations of the Steering Committee. The funding decision of the 18th ACRP Call is expected in July 2026.

The legal basis for the call is the [FFG-Challenge-Richtlinie 2024-2026](#) which shall be applied accordingly.

All EU regulations are to be applied as in force.

4.9 ACRP ACTIVITIES, REPORTS AND DUTIES

4.9.1 ACRP ACTIVITIES

Throughout the project, principal investigators and partners are expected to contribute actively to the ACRP activities and to enhance communication and integration within the climate research community.

All funded projects are required to give an oral presentation at the “Austrian Climate Day” (Österreichischer Klimatag), typically around half-time of the project. In this presentation, the project lead gives an integrated overview of the project’s progress and preliminary results. The Steering Committee, which is responsible for the ACRP quality control, will be present at the dedicated ACRP sessions and will give feedback. The preparation of a complementary poster and its presentation at the (same) Austrian Climate Day is also mandatory. Final payment will only be authorized after a successful project presentation at the Austrian Climate Day.

4.9.2 REGULAR REPORTING

The applicant or the consortium lead has to report to the FFG on a regular basis (interim and final activity reports). In addition to reporting to the FFG, the Climate and Energy Fund requires a publishable project summary at the start of the project, and a publishable interim report to be submitted together with the interim activity report(s) to the FFG. Further information and the template is available on the [website of the climate and energy fund](#).

Among other things, the interim evaluation(s) will be used to evaluate 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 in preparation for publication or interim reports. Negative evaluations might have financial implications and can lead to early termination of the project. Negative feedback may also be taken into account in subsequent ACRP project funding decisions. To ensure early exposure of ACRP-funded project outputs to the scientific community and to the peer review process, the publication of partial or preliminary results at scientific conferences is encouraged.

4.9.3 FINAL DELIVERABLES AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

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

Activity report

This report contains a detailed description of the achievement of objectives, the work carried out and explanations of the costs incurred.

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

- Publications, submitted manuscripts, or manuscripts in preparation for submission to peer-reviewed journals. If manuscripts are not finalised, a final deliverable will include draft manuscripts and an updated publication strategy.
- Proven usefulness of research for science and policy communities. The ACRP aims at providing research results to support evidence-based policy decisions. This can be achieved through advancing the scientific knowledge basis and/or by directly informing policy decisions. Thus, the final deliverable should indicate how the research results are translated for and diffused to the scientific and policy communities, and other stakeholders. Deliverables could include science- and policy-relevant presentations, policy briefs, documentation of media interactions and/or of policy-oriented workshops, etc.

Publishable report

The publishable report is to be filled out according to the template for the [Endbericht Studien – Programmlinie Forschung](#) of the Climate and Energy Fund and must be submitted to the FFG.

5. FORMAL PROCESS

The FFG has been commissioned by the Climate and Energy Fund to manage the ACRP.

This section provides a brief overview of processes from the submission of project proposals to their evaluation. Further details are given in the [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research](#).

5.1 SUBMISSION

The submission deadline is **Wednesday, 15.04.2026, 12:00 p.m. (noon)**. The proposal, all (optional) supplementary documents and the cost plan have to be submitted via eCall. Applications can only be submitted online using the corresponding masks in the FFG eCall. There will be no possibility of submitting research proposals and/or supplementary documents after this deadline.

All relevant documents are available for download from the [website of FFG](#).

5.2 FORMAL CHECK

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

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

5.3 EVALUATION PROCESS

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

When selecting the projects to be funded, the Steering Committee takes into account the evaluations by the external reviewers (based on criteria set in Table 5.4) and its own assessments of the proposals. The Steering Committee also evaluates the fit of the project idea to the thematic area and assesses the relevance of the project for the call. The Steering Committee is entitled to move proposals between thematic areas.

The target is to achieve the following distribution 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 targeted budget distribution may be adjusted to take account of the quality of the proposals.

5.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria for research projects are shown in table 5.4. The weighting factor depends on the thematic area selected.

Table 5.4: Evaluation criteria and weighting factor

| 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 |

A more detailed description of the criteria is given in the [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research](#).

The scientific community needs to critically reflect its own role in climate change and unsustainable behaviors. Therefore, applicants and all project partners are expected to address climate-friendly solutions regarding operational aspects, such as travel, participation in meetings, use of consumables, in their submission.

5.5 CONTRACT

The projects proposed for funding receive a funding offer. **The project should start within six months after the notification of the funding decision.**

After funding has been granted, the Climate and Energy Fund reserves the right to publish the following information: name of the applicant, approval of project funding, the funding rate, the granted funding, the title and summary of the project.

Modalities of payment

The declaration of acceptance of the contract concluded between the Climate and Energy Fund represented by FFG and the applicant must be announced to the FFG via eCall.

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 cost accounting are required. The final funding installment is authorized only after approval by FFG's auditing department on the basis of a positive evaluation of the final activity report and cost accountings.

In contrast to the [Guidelines for projects of oriented basic research](#), the following reporting intervals and payment plans apply to the present call:

Table 5.5: Payment of funding rates in % of total amount of funding

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

6. CONTACTS

6.1 PROGRAMME OWNER AND CALL RESPONSIBILITY

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6.2 MANAGEMENT OF THE CALL

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

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