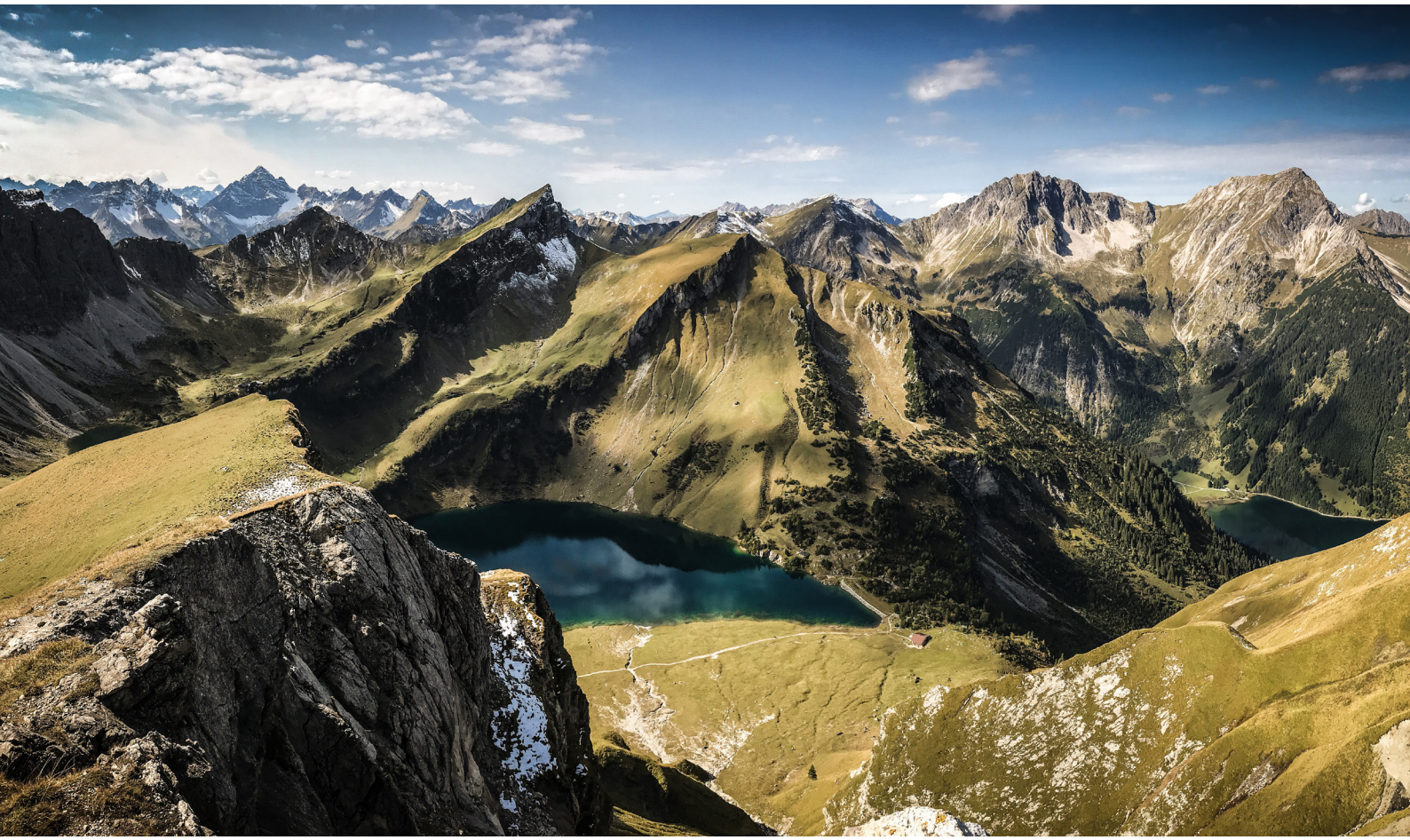
Guide for the Submission of Proposals Austrian Climate Research Programme – ACRP

14th Call for Proposals

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



Vienna, July 2021

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Preface

While climate change is progressing at an almost unhampered pace the impacts are becoming more and more evident. Policy makers on all levels recognize these threats and important political decision were taken in the last year, e.g. the US decided to re-join the Paris agreement, in Europe the Green Deal and the EU adaptation strategy were adopted and also in Austria climate friendly legislation is on the way. Despite these promising developments there appears to be a lack of understanding for the speed and the magnitude of the transformation necessary to meet the Paris agreement objectives. Against this background it is clear that science has to respond and focus stronger on transformative research and the interconnections of multiple domains affected by human actions. ACRP provides a framework for scientists to tackle these challenges.

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. 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 fourteenth ACRP call focuses on research in the following areas:

- Understanding the climate system and consequences of climate change
- Specific support for Austria's policymakers
- Transformative change and governance
- Climate Change in an interconnected world
- APCC Assessment Report on Climate Change in Austria

Through the ACRP, the Climate and Energy Fund intends to help minimize 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 14th 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 § 5.3.
- 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 § 4.1.
- 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.

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

ACRP activities are guided by an international Steering Committee.

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

Content of the 14th 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 adaptation and mitigation, and to contribute to building a high level of climate research competence for relevant policy areas in Austria.

The ACRP focuses on research on climate change and climate actions, adaptation, mitigation and their mutual interrelation. The intent is to provide scientific background for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKP) and the Paris Agreement in Austria.
Engineering and technical research topics, e.g. regarding mitigation, are not covered by ACRP and should be addressed in other programmes.

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

Assessment Report on Climate Change in Austria

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 Assessment Report for the Austrian Panel on Climate Change.

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:
January 28th 2022 at 12:00

Deadline for APCC Assessment Report on Climate Change in Austria:
October 1st 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 Objectives and Scope of the Programme

The overarching objectives of ACRP research are

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

There is increasing scientific evidence that time to achieve the Paris goals and thereby stabilise the climate is running out rapidly. 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. Not merely a complete restructuring of the energy sector is required, but 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 is also underlined by the council conclusions of June 2021 of the ministers of Environment. The ministers underline the need to promote the systemic nature of adaptation by enhancing adaptation mainstreaming into all relevant legislation and policies in a coherent and consistent manner; strategies and plans at all levels must be based on the best available scientific evidence, while respecting the precautionary principle.
Climate change, however, is but one aspect of the deeper-rooted issue of systematically exceeding planetary boundaries, leading to issues such as biodiversity loss that is of no lesser urgency and importance than climate change.
These, as well as systemic societal risks, such as loss of political and economic control, form the frame within which mitigation and adaptation to climate change must be viewed. The urgency of the climate issue, the necessity to move beyond incremental change towards equitable transformative change, and the systemic embeddedness in other issues are reflected in the ACRP programme.
The ACRP focuses on climate change impacts and their solutions, adaptation, mitigation and their mutual interrelation. The intent is to provide scientific background for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NEKP) and the Paris Agreement in Austria.
The scope of ACRP climate research encompasses all relevant areas of activity in Austria, such as tourism, agriculture and forestry, infrastructure and energy, water and drought/flood management, and including biodiversity and human health. Attention is also given to the financial and the legal sector and their relevance for climate policy. The scope also extends to international climate policy for which Austrian policy makers provide input. Engineering and technical research topics, e.g. regarding mitigation, are not covered by ACRP and should be addressed to other programmes.
The research programme considers the effects of climate change over the coming decades, and therefore must also take account of other global change phenomena, such as demographic and economic developments, energy and land use issues and synergies or trade-offs with the sustainable development goals.
The program primarily addresses the scientific, administrative and policy communities and, if relevant, encourages early interaction with stakeholders, including, for instance, the public, businesses, NGOs and governmental/international policymakers.
Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary project proposals, including proposals which cover several Thematic Areas, are encouraged as is international participation to enhance the quality of project applications and international visibility and knowledge transfer to Austria.
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 of EUR 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 projects per call).
In general projects will run for 3 years, include 3 or more partners, address complex problems and/or involve co-design and co-production.
An Austrian Assessment Report following IPCC-like procedures, to which all Austrian climate scientists are invited to contribute, will be funded from an earmarked budget. The deadline for the Assessment Report is October 1st 2021.

3.0 Thematic Areas

The 14th Call has the following four Thematic Areas (percentages in brackets refer to indicative shares of budget that will be allocated to each area) and addresses one Assessment Report on Climate Change in Austria:

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

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

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

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

- **Climate change and the climate system.** Research topics may include, among many others, gaining a better understanding of sources and sinks of emissions including natural sources and non-CO_2 gases, a better understanding of the dynamics of extreme events including the attribution of climate change or feedback-loops between climate change and the impact on land surface processes, for instance, through changes in snow cover, albedo, soil moisture or evapotranspiration.
- **Consequences for ecological and human systems.** Research questions could address impacts on specific sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, health or transport) or address multiple impacts across ecological and human systems considering the complex interplay of compounding and cascading hazards and impacts.
- **Climate risks.** Climate impacts and climate risks are not only a function of climate change and related hazards, but also of exposure and vulnerability including environmental, physical, socio-economic, and even institutional factors. Furthermore, other underlying risk drivers such as a higher risk exposure due to an expansion of settlements or a higher vulnerability to heat related health problems due to an aging population contribute to climate risks. Research questions could analyse the contribution of non-climate factors and processes to climate risks as a contribution for adaptation and transformation research and planning.

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

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

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

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

Specific research needs arise in policymaking. Research in this field should go beyond analysis and improved understanding to provide options that address the real-life problems policymakers are faced with. It is important that such research is 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 listed by policymakers.

- **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 conflicting area in this context addresses the health/mitigation nexus: clean air for human health vs. biomass burning as promoted in order to cut down CO_2 emission.
- **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:** In the scenarios for meeting the 1.5°C target, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) or Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU) is de facto unavoidable (see IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C). So far, there is hardly any reliable data and information on the potential of this technology for Austria. This topic addresses issues related to CCS and CCU, such as their potential, areas of conflict, technological possibilities or competition for land in the case of the use of BECCS (for emissions from the combustion of biomass).
- A key challenge for decarbonisation is the **nationwide conversion of natural gas supply** in densely built-up areas or conurbations to CO_2-free solutions for heating and hot water. The existing building stock poses the core problem for this topic, in contrast to new construction, for which solutions are already being applied. Proposals should address among other issues questions related to climate-neutral and resource-saving construction and renovation as well as the use of materials in the sense of the circular economy.

Mitigation should be addressed to the extent necessary as both adaptation and mitigation have to take one another into consideration.

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

3.3 Thematic Area 3: Transformative change and governance

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 and reinforced by the IPCC's SR15. 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 won't 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.

In order to establish possible pathways towards these goals, transformational interventions in the economy's fundamental attributes, including systemic changes in governance and financial systems (notably beyond the energy transformation), should be investigated.

Research requirements include basic research in the social, political and economic sciences as well as transformational research (including action research) with strong involvement of stakeholders.

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 (and their intermediate milestones) while also exploring technological, economic, financial 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.

Indicative research topics that address 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, just and climate-neutral paths for reaching well-being goals.
- Detection of causes of maladaptation to climate change driven by path dependency, familiar behavioral practices and short-term interests such as subsidies in agriculture, tourism, fossil fuel use, etc.
- Design of policies for equitably distributing the burdens and benefits of transitional and transformational change across the Austrian economy and society, including innovative forms of job-sharing and attention to gender issues.
- Assessment and development of financial mechanisms and tools that align and scale up public and private resources across the financial system to enable the transition towards sustainable, climate-resilient and inclusive pathways.

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 or coalitions, adjusting legal rights and responsibilities as well as changing ideas and accepted norms and expectations. The climate governance agenda necessitates involvement of a range of institutional and private actors and the development of diverse methods for participatory processes and citizen engagement. The research community is needed to accompany, monitor and analyse these developments and to devise scientific methods making this possible.

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 climate commitments, including from a legal perspective and in the European/international context.
- Identifying and analysing the special role of cities, sub-national actors, civil society, and financial actors for climate action in Austria and practices to engage civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders in its implementation, based on international lessons.
- Identifying governance structures that are resilient to political and social perturbations and conducive to achieving the climate goals.
- Studies relating the Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs) to the Austrian emission targets.

3.4 Thematic Area 4: Climate Change in an interconnected world

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are embedded in broader questions of how societies can meet the sustainable development goals and remain within a safe operating space on the planet. In view of the complexity and breadth of global changes, and those to be expected, it is essential that climate research is interlinked with the multiple domains affected by human actions, including, among others, biodiversity, air and water quality, food and energy security and human health. It is also essential to recognize the urgency of addressing climate change and its interlinkages with other existential risks. The sequence of crises over the last years has demonstrated the need for a holistic perspective by raising awareness of the interconnections and challenges of our globalized societies, and opportunities for connecting agendas at all scales.

Research in Thematic Area 4 addresses this broader range of major global issues and looks at interlinkages between the climate issue, biodiversity and other SDG goals. The emphasis is on systemic approaches. Research topics span the applied physical and social sciences, and among many other topics include:

- articulating the lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis as a precursor for urgent action to address the larger climate crisis.
- exploring the interconnected drivers of climate-related systemic risks and the challenges and opportunities for bouncing forward to more resilient and sustainable societies.
- identifying synergistic pathways for achieving climate goals and selected SDGs.
- co-designing climate policy options that provide co-benefits across issue domains.
- exploring transformative governance reforms for addressing the urgency of climate change and meeting the SDGs in an inclusive and equitable process.

3.5 APCC Assessment Report on Climate Change in Austria

The first APCC Assessment Report 2014 (AAR14) was published 7 years ago. It became a much-used and cited reference work in Austria. Much has changed since its publication; thus it is appropriate to start work on a second Assessment Report on climate change in Austria. A core report should strive to answer overarching, practice-relevant questions. The scientific elaborations it is based on should be found in thematic, but nor purely sectoral background reports. These must also include an assessment of climate change in Austria, the course to date and possible future scenarios and an assessment of integrative and just transformation scenarios spanning the thematic fields.

Climate change is to be understood as an essential component of the socio-ecological transformation process that Austria and the entire world must have undergone by the middle of the 21st century. All climate policy measures to be elaborated in the assessment report are to be seen in an overall systemic context, amongst others the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

The production process of the report must be given special attention and follow IPCC as well as APCC technical and quality standard guidelines. It must be open to the whole scientific community involved in climate change research. Involvement of international partners as contributors (if applicable), reviewers and review editors is recommended. The dedicated budget for the Special Report will be communicated at a later stage. Application forms A1, A2 and B must be used. The form A3 is not mandatory. However, a detailed project description must be submitted. The evaluation criteria (chapter 5.3) should be addressed clearly in the application.

3.6 General guidelines

Eligible proposals

- Proposals can address issues within one Thematic Area or can cover several Thematic Areas; the most relevant Thematic Area need be identified in the application form.
- Policy-relevant reviews of literature and practice are eligible where specifically indicated (e.g. APCC calls)
- Interdisciplinary research teams are encouraged but focused disciplinary research, especially if it is particularly innovative or useful, is eligible.
- 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 if the transfer of research tools such as models or data is ensured.
- Especially for Thematic Areas 2,3 and 4, early stakeholder involvement (e.g. from industry, community administrations and NGOs), is encouraged at all levels, for instance, incorporating local knowledge and co-generating policy options.

Guidelines for proposals

- Uncertainty should be clearly addressed.
- 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).

- All research proposals should follow the open-access principles with regard to resulting publications, data and software. The open-access approach of each proposal should be reported in a dedicated section in the proposal form.
- 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.

Re-submission and Follow-up Projects

- Resubmission of proposals is not encouraged unless the proposal rejection was based solely on "lack of sufficient funding".
- In case of resubmission changes in reaction to reviewer´s comments should be clearly stated.
- 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.
- Applicants should consider previously funded research projects in the respective field and determine how their research project differs from and adds to them. Funding the same research topics in two projects is not desired.
- 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.

4.0 Administrative Information

4.1 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.

4.2 Project types

Within the framework of the ACRP, many types of research activities are funded in the context of research projects. This can also include one Assessment 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".

4.3 Budget

Up to EUR 5 million of subsidies are available for research projects and activities supporting cooperation and knowledge transfer in Austria. Furthermore there will be additional, earmarked budget for the Austrian Assessment Report.

4.4 Costs

4.4.1 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 partners 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.

4.4.2 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 § 7.0 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). Project services charged between project partners are not eligible for funding as a matter of principle.

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 Assessment Report. For all type of ACRP projects, subcontracts with costs exceeding EUR 2,000.00 must be described in detail in the application form.

4.4.3 Amounts of the subsidy

Eligible costs are covered up to 100 %.

4.5 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 for a period of at least 7 years.

The exploitation rights are owned by the consortium submitting the proposal. However, there is an obligation to publish the research results – preferably open access – and to ensure that the results are accessible for use by the targeted research and policy communities.
The Climate Data Centre run by the Climate Change Centre Austria is conceived as the central data access to all climate-relevant data. Researchers who cannot assure the availability of their data for an extended period of time after completion of the project as required by the ACRP programme, are advised to feed their data into the Climate Data Centre and to inform themselves in time regarding data formats and data privacy options supported by the Climate Data Centre (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, preferably in open access media.

4.6 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) and extended by the Federal Ministry of Climate action under 2020-0.778.319.

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.

5.0 Procedure

5.1 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 (form A3 is not mandatory for the APCC Assessment Report). 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 **January 28th 2022, 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. The deadline for the APCC Assessment Report is **October 1st 2021, at 12:00.**

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.

5.2 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 (form A3 is not mandatory for the Assessment Report).

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.

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.

5.3 Evaluation criteria

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

Table 5.3 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 Impact	25	40

A more detailed description of the criteria given in Table 5.3 a is contained in Table 5.3 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 5.3 b: Description of evaluation criteria "Scientific Quality", "Quality of Consortium/Management", "Societal Impact"

Scientific Quality	Quality of Consortium and Management	Societal Impact
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 an associated 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 Assessment 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 5.3 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/APCC rules regarding the criteria and procedures to be fulfilled for a Special Report to qualify as APCC assessment.

5.4 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 six months 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 in the 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.

5.5 Reports and duties

5.5.1 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 (preferably by the project leader) an integrated view of the project at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag), typically around half-time of the project. Feedback will be given by the Scientific Steering Committee. Final payment will only be made after a presentation at the "Austrian Climate Day" (Österreichischer Klimatag).

5.5.2 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.

5.5.3 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.

5.6 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 5.6: 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

6.0 Contacts

6.1 Programme owner and Call responsibility

Klima- und Energiefonds (Climate and Energy Fund)
Leopold-Ungar-Platz 2/ Stiege 1/4. OG/Top 142
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6.2 Management of the Call

Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC)
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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

7.0 Appendix – Further Information on Personnel Costs

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

Imprint

Editor:
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Leopold-Ungar-Platz 2/ Stiege 1/4. OG/Top 142
1190 Wien

Programme management:
Gernot Wörther

Programme execution:
Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC)
Türkenstraße 9, 1090 Vienna

Graphic Design:
angieneering.net

Photos:
Robert Heiser
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Place of manufacture:
Vienna, July 2021