Data:Research:Austria
- A funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences -

Preamble
The new programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) financed by the Fonds Zukunft Österreich serves to promote data-based research (microdata research) in Austria. Since 2022 data research ("Registerdatenforschung") has been allowed by statutory provisions and the establishment of the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC) at Statistics Austria in July 2022 has opened up research opportunities in a wealth of data to be used for the first time. The funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences gives data-driven research a clear funding impulse for the Austrian research space and enables valuable research on these new data sources. Funding is intended for projects at Austrian research institutions that develop existing data (from surveys, exhaustive surveys, registers, panels of official statistics, administrative data, etc.) for enhanced empirical-quantitative applications and questions in the field of socio-scientific research; preferably AMDC data sets, and also useable related data sets, in particular those of the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA) and other institutions (ASEP, EOSC, …). Promotion of young scientists is of great importance to the Austrian Academy of Sciences as part of the funding programme.

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

Project-related funding will be made available in three funding rounds to sustainably establish the use, correlation and analysis of existing data sets in Austria as an application-oriented research strategy.

Target group
The funding programme addresses researchers in all disciplines in Austria who develop empirical-quantitative applications and questions in the field of socio-scientific research. Projects may be applied for individually or as groups of up to three researchers from different disciplines. Submission of an application as a group allows data sets to be analysed from different perspectives or different data sets to be processed together. The aim is to take into account the interdisciplinary potential of data-based research and to enshrine the corresponding approaches in scientific practice. The programme especially addresses young scientists who want to make use
of the opportunities of data-based research already at an early stage in their career. An appropriate gender balance should be ensured when submitting the application and carrying out the project.

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

Funding term
- Maximum of 2 years

Amount of grant
The budget for each of the projects is between a minimum of EUR 150,000 and a maximum of EUR 350,000. The total funding available is EUR 3.0 million.
The grant is intended to cover overheads of 10% of the direct project costs. The following direct costs may be applied for:
- Staff costs
- Costs for obtaining/maintaining access to available data. Financing the collection of additional, new data is only permitted to a small extent.
- Costs of consumables
- Travel expenses
- Other expenses (e.g. costs of research infrastructure or equipment, software, contracting of external services)

Procedure
The call for proposals is open to all topics and is published in all of Austria.
It is a two-step application procedure: Step 1 of the application procedure (short proposal) is open to all applicants who fulfil the application requirements (see above); step 2 of the application procedure (full proposal) may only be entered into upon invitation.

The selection process is international; the application and assessment will be done in English.
Call begins: 6 March 2023
Application step 1:

- The coordinator must submit the following to the Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes by email to programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at) by 02 May 2023:
  - "Short Proposal" application form, completed in full (for a template please see the application documents);
  - Documents of the applicants consisting of an informative CV, list of publications, signed declaration of consent from the academic institution (for a template please see the application documents), = 1 file for each applicant;
- All submissions which meet the necessary formal application requirements (see application requirements) will be presented to an independent international jury. For the purposes of the objectives of the programme and based on scientific excellence and originality of the research project the jury will invite selected project managers to submit full applications by the end of June 2023. No expert opinions will be obtained in that stage. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the rejection immediately.

Application step 2 (only upon invitation):

- The expected deadline for submission of the full proposal is 30 September 2023.
- The full proposal mainly consists of detailed specifications of the project in terms of subject, methodology, technology and project organisation (work and budget planning). The full proposal must be consistent with the short proposal. The Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes must be notified of changes, if any. Changes concerning the applicants or the academic institutions carrying out the project must fulfil the requirements for submission of an application.
- External expert opinions will be obtained for all full proposals.
- The award decision of the independent international jury is expected to be announced by 30 November 2023. Applicants will be informed of the outcome.

Data protection and rules of good scientific practice

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

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

Funding modalities (excerpt)

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

- After completion a comprehensive final project report must be submitted, which will then undergo evaluation. The project shall be deemed completed only after successful evaluation of the project results.

**Application documents**

- Call for proposals
- Short proposal form
- Signature form

**Contact**

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