

Data:Research:Austria 2.0

– A funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences –

Preamble

The Austrian Academy of Sciences' (ÖAW) funding programme, financed by the Nationalstiftung für Forschung, Technologie und Entwicklung from resources provided by the Fonds Zukunft Österreich, aims to promote data-driven research (microdata research) in Austria. In 2022, legal provisions were introduced to allow research on register data, and the Austrian Micro Data Centre (AMDC) was established at Statistics Austria.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences' funding programme seeks to stimulate data-driven research in Austria. Funding is provided for projects at research institutions in Austria that make existing AMDC datasets or comparable official statistical administrative data (such as registers, panels, surveys, etc.) accessible for advanced empirical-quantitative applications and research questions in social science research. These data may be supplemented by existing research data (AUSSDA). The Austrian Academy of Sciences places a high priority on supporting early-career researchers within this funding programme.

Objectives of the programme

Data-driven research has enormous potential for basic research of societal relevance. By analysing and linking data from fields such as health, demography, social affairs, economy, education, the labour market, migration and integration, it can provide answers to major societal questions and reveal social trends and societal challenges, thereby contributing to evidence-based policy.

Following three successful calls for proposals in 2023, 2024 and 2025, two further funding rounds in 2026 and 2027 will provide project-related funding to sustainably establish the use, linkage and analysis of existing datasets in Austria as a subject of research.

Target group

The funding programme is aimed at researchers in Austria from all disciplines who are developing empirical-quantitative applications and research questions in the field of social science research. Project applications may be submitted either by individual researchers or by groups of up to three researchers from different disciplines. Applying as a group enables datasets to be analysed from different perspectives or different datasets to be analysed jointly.

The aim is to take account of the interdisciplinary potential of data-driven research and to embed the relevant approaches in scientific practice. The programme is particularly aimed at early-career researchers who wish to take advantage of the opportunities offered by data-driven research early in their careers. Applicants should ensure an appropriate gender balance in both the application and project implementation phases.

Application requirements

- In the case of a group application, the applicants together form the project management team (i.e. the principal investigators). One applicant will be the principal investigator, while the others will be co-principal investigators.

- Each applicant may only be part of one application.
- The applicants must be willing to actively participate in the public presentation of the programme and attend programme-related events.
- The project must be carried out at a research institution in Austria. However, collaborations with other institutions in Austria and abroad are permitted.
- If AMDC data are to be used, the research institution at which the project is to be carried out must be accredited by the AMDC by the time the Full Proposal is submitted.
- Applicants must submit a declaration of consent (Signature Form) from the host research institution when submitting their application. If there is a change during the procedure, a declaration of consent (Signature Form) from the new host research institution must be provided.
- An institution may support multiple applications.

Funding period

- Maximum of 2 years

Amount of grant

The requested budget must be between EUR 165,000 and EUR 385,000. The total funding available is EUR 3.0 million.

The requested funding amount is to include overhead costs amounting to 10 % of the direct project costs. The following direct costs may be applied for:

- Personnel costs
- Costs for obtaining/maintaining access to existing data. Financing the collection of additional, new data is only permitted to a limited extent.
- Costs of consumables
- Travel expenses
- Other expenses (e.g. costs of research infrastructure or equipment, software, and contracting external service providers)

Procedure

The call for proposals is open-topic and open to applicants throughout Austria.

The procedure is in two stages: Stage 1 of the application process (Short Proposal) is open to all applicants who meet the application requirements (see above); while Stage 2 of the application process (Full Proposal) is by invitation only.

The selection process is international, applications must be submitted in English, and the review process will also be conducted in English.

Call starts: 1 September 2026

Stage 1 of the application process:

- By **2 November 2026**, the coordinator must submit the following documents by email to the Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes at programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at :
 - o The "**Short Proposal**" application form, completed in full (for a template please see the application documents);
 - o Documents of the applicants consisting of a CV, a list of publications and a signed declaration of consent from the host research institution (for a template please see the application documents), to be compiled as one file per applicant;
- Receipt of the documents will be confirmed by email.
- All submissions that meet the formal application requirements (see application requirements) will be presented to an independent international jury. Based on the programme's objectives and the scientific excellence and originality of the research project, the jury will invite selected principal investigators to submit Full Proposals **by the beginning of January 2027**. No external peer reviews will be obtained at this stage. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the decision immediately.
- At the start of Stage 1, the ÖAW and the AMDC will hold two information webinars, one in German and one in English. These will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the application process. Participation is optional but recommended for potential applicants.

Webinars

Webinar (in German) – Wednesday, 23 September 2026, 4-5 pm, [Zoom-Link](#)

Webinar (in English) – Thursday, 24 September 2026, 4-5 pm, [Zoom-Link](#)

Stage 2 of the application process (only upon invitation):

- The expected deadline for submitting the Full Proposal is **10 March 2027**.
- The Full Proposal will mainly consist of a more detailed elaboration of the project in terms of content, methodology, technology and project organisation, including 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 any changes. In the event of any changes concerning the applicants or the scientific institutions carrying out the project, the application requirements must continue to be met. External peer reviews will be obtained for all Full Proposals.
- For project applications that aim to use AMDC data, a technical feasibility assessment and preliminary cost estimate must be obtained from the AMDC as early as possible during Stage 2 and attached to the Full Proposal. This assessment will provide information on the general technical feasibility of the requested AMDC data services and the likely costs.
- The award decision by the independent international jury is expected to be announced **by the end of June 2027**. Applicants will be informed of the outcome.

Data protection and rules of good scientific practice

By participating in this call for proposals, applicants acknowledge that their data and documents will be shared with the jury members and external peer reviewers. This is for the purpose of evaluating the applications and making decisions regarding the award of grants (see also the [Data Protection Information of ÖAW](#)).

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

Use of AI-based tools

As part of this call, AI-based tools are used to support administrative processes within the secure environment of the [Academic AI](#) platform. These tools are used exclusively for the formal review of application documents, the recording, structuring and management of application data, and internal documentation purposes.

Funding modalities (excerpt)

- The selected projects must start no later than six months after notification of the grant decision, and the maximum project duration is 24 months. A funding agreement will be concluded with the principal investigators. A no-cost extension of the project duration by up to six months may be granted if duly justified.
- Annual reports must be submitted on the project's progress and the use of funds. Any changes to the project plan must be reported to the programme management immediately. Unreported changes may result in the discontinuation of the project. The programme management will decide at its discretion whether to accept the changes, have them evaluated externally, or reject them.
- At the end of the project, a comprehensive final project report must be submitted and will be evaluated. The project will only be considered completed once the project results have been successfully evaluated.

Application documents

Call for proposals

Short Proposal Form (see the website)

Signature Form (declaration of consent)

Contact

Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Department of Research Funding - National and International Programmes

Dr. Alexander Nagler

Email: programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at

Phone: +43-1-515-81-1272; -1270

For the English translation of the call text, ChatGPT-5.5 was used.