

Application Guidelines for

Interregional Research Projects

effective as of March 18, 2024, version 1

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1 FWF Definitions of Terms

The following FWF definitions of terms are provided to help applicants better understand the application guidelines and to describe both the structural organization of the projects and important terms in the context of the application (elane).

Term	Definition
Annex	Annexes (e.g., academic CVs) must be attached to the project description in the order listed in the program-specific application guidelines and uploaded as part of the file <i>Proposal.pdf</i> .
Co-author	A co-author is an individual who has made a scientific or significant other contribution to the proposal.
Consortium	Interregional research projects (IRP) with three partner institutions in the Euregio Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino are headed by a consortium consisting of a research coordinator and two other consortium members. The research coordinator heads the IRP as a whole and the specific part of project part at their research institution. The other two members of the consortium lead the specific parts of the project at their respective research institutions.
Consortium member	An IRP is headed by a consortium consisting of a research coordinator and two other consortium members. All three countries must be represented by a member of the consortium.
Coordinator, organizational	The consortium member from Tyrol is responsible for submitting the application and is the contact for the FWF.
Coordinator, research	A researcher in charge of research aspects of the project, who heads both the IRP as a whole and the specific part of the project at their own research institution. The research coordinator

Term	Definition
	must be affiliated with a Euregio research institution in one of the three Euregio countries (Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino).
Form	When applying online (elane), the applicable forms for the respective program must be completed. For detailed information, please refer to the program-specific application guidelines, the elane user manual , and the elane FAQ .
International cooperation partner	International cooperation partners who are involved in the implementation of the research project.
Lead research institution	The Tyrolean research institution submitting the application and where the organizational coordinator is employed The term "lead research institution" is used in a purely administrative / organizational sense.
Partner research institution	Research institution of the consortium members from Trentino and South Tyrol
PROFI	PROFI stands for “ PRO jektförderung über Forschungs Institutionen” (German for: project funding via research institutions). For programs in PROFI mode, the application is submitted by the Tyrolean research institution (lead research institution). The term "lead research institution" is used in a purely administrative / organizational sense.
Project staff member	Project staff members are project participants who are funded through the project or by the research institution(s).

2 General Information

The European region of Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino and its citizens are characterized by a wealth of natural, cultural, and linguistic diversity. This European region is made up of three alpine regions which, despite their distinctiveness, share a common history and many similarities. It is a European region with high development potential.

In 2011, pursuant to the European Parliament’s Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006, the EVTZ “Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino” or *Gruppo europeo di cooperazione territoriale (GECT)* “Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino,” from now on referred to as the EGTC European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino or EGTC was established as the first EGTC in Austria, the second in Italy, and the 21st in Europe. The EGTC European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino is a non-profit legal entity and is intended to promote and facilitate cross-border, transnational, and interregional collaboration among its members within the context of European integration.

The European region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino has 1.8 million citizens living in a total area of 26,255 km², within the two autonomous Italian provinces of Bolzano–South Tyrol and Trentino and the Austrian federal state of Tyrol. This European region is an interface and a platform where different cultures and mentalities meet and complement each other. The idea of a united Europe has prevailed. Opportunities for further cultural, political and economic integration are pursued. Cross-border cooperation enhances and strengthens the entire European region by increasing and promoting economic growth and helping the region prepare for the challenges of globalization. The Euregio covers all important areas of life for its citizens: from communication, culture, education, youth policy, research, business, and tourism to transport policy, healthcare, nature, and energy.

Establishment of the Euregio Science Fund

According to Art. 6 (2) lit. B) item ii) of the Convention ([founding treaty of the Euregio in the version dated August 22, 2021](#)), the Euregio Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino pursues the specific objective of promoting the territorial development of its members, in particular in the fields of education, research, and culture.

On March 27, 2014, the EGTC’s Board and its Assembly decided upon the establishment of a joint science fund, which was preceded by an in-depth technical review by the regional authorities. The Board and the Assembly agreed on the establishment of the Euregio Science Fund as a direct project of the EGTC Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino. Four calls were carried out in cooperation with the FWF in the 2014-2020 period, and a total of 23 Interregional Project Networks (IPN) were funded.

The Euregio Science Fund offers financial support for interregional basic research projects, hereinafter referred to as Interregional Research Projects (IRP), which fulfill international criteria with respect to research quality standards. Proposed projects should promote and strengthen networks among researchers as well as between existing research centers in the

European Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino region and, in the best case scenario, form the basis for joint project applications for EU research programs.

The legal basis for the fifth Euregio Science Fund calls is:

(1) The working agreement pursuant to the resolution of the EGTC "European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino" Board no. 4/2024 dated 19.04.2024, on the transfer of individual tasks of the Euregio in the project "Euregio Science Fund - 5th Call (2024-D-015)" pursuant to Art. 7 (3) of the Euregio Agreement to the State of Tyrol and the Cooperation of the State Tyrol, Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, and Autonomous Province of Trento concerning the project approved by Resolution no. 4/2024 of the Euregio Board, Resolution no. 211/2024 of the State Government of Tyrol, Resolution no. 208/2024 of the Provincial Government of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, and Resolution no. 474/2024 of the Provincial Government of the Autonomous Province of Trento

(2) The agreement between the state of Tyrol and the FWF dated 19.04.2024

Some major changes compared to the previous calls for proposals include the organization and financing of this call for proposals as well as the handling of funding for the approved projects. In accordance with the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is responsible for inviting and reviewing submissions. In the case of projects eligible for funding, the funding agreements for the Tyrolean part of the project will continue to be concluded between the Tyrolean research institution and the FWF, while the funding agreements for the South Tyrolean or Trentino part of the project will be concluded between the South Tyrolean or Trentino research institutions and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol or the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The three states are each providing €1.3 million per country as part of the 5th call for proposals of the Euregio Science Fund for the funding of Interregional Research Projects (IRP), resulting in a total budget of €3.9 million. The decision on any increase in funding, in particular to finance individual IRPs for which funding would not be secured by all three countries due to differences in scope, is the sole responsibility of the country concerned.

2.1 Program objective

The aim of the Euregio Science Fund is to fund interregional research projects (hereinafter referred to as "projects") of high academic quality at an international level. It is intended to strengthen the networks between existing research centers and researchers within the European Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino region (Euregio) and, ideally, form the basis for joint project applications for EU research programs.

All three parts of the project must be closely interlinked, such that one part cannot be carried out without the other two. Each project part must make a significant scientific contribution to the project as a whole. Funding may be requested for projects in basic research that are clearly defined, innovative, with plausibly described objectives and methods, and are limited

in duration (from 24 up to 36 months). The total project volume of a consortium is between €300,000 and €600,000.

Proposals featuring one or more of the following attributes are considered innovative basic research: (i) research on new ideas and/or an investigation of new research questions, (ii) the development or application of new research methods, new technologies, or original approaches to solving research questions, or (iii) the application or modification of existing methods, technologies, or approaches to new research questions. Please note that next logical steps or the incremental further development of published data is not considered to be innovative or original.

Aspects of the research project that go beyond basic research (socially, ecologically, or economically relevant findings) can be mentioned in the proposal, but will have no impact on the assessment of eligibility for funding.

Particular emphasis is placed on the following program objectives:

- The development of new ideas in the field of basic research
- The establishment and expansion of research networks between the three regions of Tyrol, South Tyrol, and Trentino with joint research projects
- Increasing the international visibility of researchers from the European region of Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino
- Creating opportunities for junior researchers to gain expertise and professional skills and to become integrated into the scientific community

Structure of the proposed Interregional Research Project (IRP)

An IRP application is submitted by three consortium members (who form a consortium): one researcher each from Tyrol, South Tyrol, and Trentino.

The consortium member from Tyrol is also the **organizational coordinator**. They are responsible for the following:

- Submitting the application documents for the entire consortium
- Processing any requested changes
- Communicating with the FWF during the application process
- Communicating with the FWF in the event of approval

The consortium member at the Tyrolean research institution is hereinafter referred to as the applicant or the organizational coordinator in these guidelines.

One of the three consortium members acts as the **research coordinator**. They are responsible for the following:

- Communication within the project
- Supervising the consortium members and other project participants

- Coordinating a consortium agreement between the consortium members; this agreement regulates the intellectual property rights of the project results and defines the specific responsibilities and liabilities.

All **consortium members** are responsible for the following:

- Planning and processing their own part of the project
- Providing the necessary information for reporting and documentation of the funds spent

2.2 Submission

The deadline for submission (i.e. approval of the application by the Tyrolean research institution) is **May 28, 2024 (2:00 pm CEST Central European Summer Time)**.

All proposals must be submitted online by the Tyrolean research institution and the organizational coordinator, using the [elane](#) digital application portal. Project funding is administered through the research institutions ([PROFI](#)); this means the application must be approved for submission by both the organizational coordinator and the applying Tyrolean research institution (= lead research institution).¹ All forms required for the application must be completed online; other required documents such as the project description, including annexes and any additional documents, must be uploaded in full before the application can be approved for submission by the research institution. For additional information, please see the [elane user manual](#).

2.2.1 Which research institutions are eligible to apply?

The research institutions in all three states must prepare a joint application, which is submitted by the organizational coordinator and the Tyrolean research institution.

The interregional research project (IRP) with three partner institutions in the European region of Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino consists of a consortium made up of a research coordinator and two other consortium members.

No specific academic degree or citizenship is required to be a member of the consortium. The consortium members must, however, have appropriate scientific qualifications (see [section 2.3](#)) and sufficient time resources to coordinate the proposed research and carry out the respective project parts. All consortium members must be employed at the respective research institutions at commencement of the project.

The following institutional requirements must be met:

¹ Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution if it has authorized the applicant to approve it themselves.

Tyrol

All Tyrolean research institutions are eligible to apply.² The project part must be carried out in Tyrol and under the auspices of the applying Tyrolean research institution. Applications are submitted by the research institution where the project part is to be carried out.

The research institution appoints the consortium member from Tyrol to carry out the Tyrolean part of the project.

South Tyrol

Institutions for research and knowledge dissemination based in South Tyrol that meet the requirements of Article 3 (1-2) of the research funding guidelines (*Anwendungsrichtlinien im Bereich Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung*, provincial law no. 14/2006), approved by [resolution of the South Tyrolean Provincial Government no. 1063/2019](#), are eligible as research institutions from South Tyrol.

Trentino

- Research institutions carrying out research activities in the province (see definition below), according to the Communication from the [European Commission C](#) (2022) 7388 dated October 19, 2022
- Other public bodies that carry out research activities in the province and have their registered and/or operational headquarters in Trentino

Definition of the term “research institution”: Research organization means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organized under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, for example in the quality of shareholders or members, may not enjoy a preferential access to the results generated by it.

² Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal.

2.2.2 Can multiple applications be submitted simultaneously?

There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by a research institution.

Each consortium member (including the research and organizational coordinators) can only be involved in one application. Consortium members who are involved in ongoing Euregio-funded projects cannot be involved in any other application.

2.3 What are the requirements for consortium members?

2.3.1 General requirements

The publication output of the last five years of the consortium members must be internationally visible and correspond to the expected career path in the relevant subject. The following criteria apply for the assessment of an applicant's publication record and initiation of the review process:

- **Quality assurance:** Most relevant in assessing the applicant's publication record are those publications that have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with international standards (peer review or an equivalent procedure; in the natural and life sciences, peer review is expected). Journals must usually be listed in Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or for monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, or other publication types, the consortium member must provide a link to the publisher's website which contains a description of the applicable quality assurance procedure. Should no such description be available, it is the consortium member's responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to a quality assurance procedure in accordance with the standards of the field.
- **International visibility:** Most of the consortium member's publications must have a wider than national reach. In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English.
- **Number/scope and quality** of the publications must be commensurate with the researcher's expectable career path and the respective discipline. At least two publications must be quality-assured and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution on the part of the consortium member. At least one publication with first, last, or corresponding authorship is required, with the exception of publications in journals (or disciplines) that rank authors alphabetically. If any such publications are included in the required document *tst_publication.pdf* (see [section 3.2.4](#)), the consortium member's contribution must be specified.

If there is any uncertainty about general application requirements or about accounting for career interruptions (see [sections 2.3.3](#) and [2.3.4](#)), the FWF recommends that the consortium member contact the FWF Office or the [FWF Equal Opportunities and Diversity in](#)

[Research Funding unit](#) in good time before submitting the application to confirm that all requirements are met and that any career interruptions can be accounted for. In cases of doubt, the appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide on applicants' eligibility.

2.3.2 Equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion

The [FWF Strategy for Equal Opportunities and Diversity of Researchers](#) applies. This means that breaks or delays in the consortium member's research careers that have led to publication gaps, unorthodox career paths, or limited international research experience can be taken into consideration. For further details on accounting for career breaks, please refer to the [information sheet on career interruptions](#).

2.3.3 Consideration of career breaks

The FWF will take justified, documentable career breaks (e.g. due to pregnancy, childcare,³ caregiving obligations,⁴ military or civilian service, flight, and asylum) into consideration when assessing eligibility to apply.

2.3.4 Inclusion of the disabled and chronically ill

The FWF will also take any exceptions to and interruptions of typical career paths due to disability and/or long-term or chronic illness into consideration when determining whether an applicant meets the application requirements.

2.3.5 Data protection notice

When assessing eligibility, all personal data provided to the FWF by an applicant on a voluntary basis that relates to the information provided in [sections 2.3.3](#) and [2.3.4](#) shall be taken into account exclusively to the applicant's benefit (compensation of disadvantages). Relevant information (without sensitive or personal data) can be included in an individual's academic CV, making it available to the reviewers. A general explanation, including the duration of the interruption or delay, is sufficient. Please complete the required [form](#) and give your explicit consent to data processing on the last page. If you wish to submit further supporting documents in addition to those listed in the form, please submit them directly to the FWF office. These will not be visible to your research institution. This information is only used to check the application requirements and is not made available to reviewers.

³ Childcare includes parental leave periods, if applicable.

⁴ Immediate family members and/or persons living in the same household: Spouses, registered partners, parents, children, adopted, step, and foster children, siblings, parents-in-law, and children-in-law.

2.4 What types of funding can be requested?

Project-specific costs are eligible for funding. These include personnel and non-personnel costs that are needed to carry out the project and that are not included in the infrastructure provided by the research institutions. In the context of this call, no overheads and no infrastructure or basic equipment of a research institution will be financed. This includes all facilities required for the normal operation of the research institution (e.g. buildings, compounds, communication facilities, equipment considered part of the infrastructure, etc.).

Consortium members cannot apply for a grant-salaried position and cannot apply for an employment contract.

Publication costs are generally not eligible for funding, but can be covered in an ongoing project under the 5% general project costs (see [section 3.4.7](#)).

The difference between the largest and the smallest project part may not exceed 10% of the total volume.

Please note that exaggerated cost projections may be grounds for rejection, even if a proposal is otherwise excellent. The number of reviews required before a proposal can be approved is based on the amount of funding requested (see [section 4.3](#)).

Multiple funding is not permitted (see [FWF Funding Guidelines](#)).

3 Application

3.1 Sections of the application

The application must provide an overview of the project as a whole and describe the close integration of the three project parts. It must be clear why each part of the project cannot be carried out without the other two. Each project part must make a significant scientific contribution to the project as a whole. In addition, each project part must be clearly distinct and the contribution of each of the three consortium members must be clearly defined. The cost breakdown (see [section 3.6.1](#)) must show clearly which funds are being requested for which part of the project.

A complete application must include the following sections:

3.1.1 Academic abstract

The academic abstract must be written in English, may not exceed 3,000 characters (including spaces, no formulas or special characters) and will be used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must use the English headings provided below and be entered into the designated form on elane.

- Wider research context / theoretical framework
- Hypotheses / research questions / objectives
- Approach / methods
- Level of originality / innovation
- Primary researchers involved

Where alternatives are indicated between slashes, please select the alternative that applies to your project.

3.1.2 Project description

Project descriptions are limited to 20 consecutively numbered pages, including the table of contents (required), and where applicable, a list of abbreviations, headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.

The project description must also include Annexes 1–3 and Annex 4 if applicable, on additional pages:

- Annex 1: List of literature cited in the application (*References*) on no more than 5 pages
- Annex 2: Details of the lead research institution and the partner research institutions in South Tyrol and Trentino and a plausible justification of the funding requested
- Annex 3: CVs and descriptions of previous research achievements of the consortium members and of a maximum of *one* other key project participant per participating research institution
- Annex 4 (optional): Collaboration letters from national (Austrian) and international cooperation partners (no more than 1 page per letter)

The entire project description, including these annexes, must be uploaded as one file entitled *Proposal.pdf*. The FWF will send this document to the reviewers.

3.1.3 Additional documents

- Required:
 - *tst_publication.pdf*: Two publications written by each consortium member must be named, documenting that the applicant fulfills the general requirements to head a project part (publication record, see [section 2.3.1](#)); the research coordinator must also be named (see template [tst_publication](#)).
 - Publication lists for internal FWF use to check for conflicts of interest with potential reviewers (see [section 3.2.4](#)).

- [tst_costbreakdown.xls](#) for the consortium members from Tyrol, South Tyrol, and Trentino, including an overview of the total costs (see section 2.4)
- Where applicable:
 - Results or final project report: If the project submitted is the continuation of an FWF-funded project (follow-up application), a report on previous results or a final project report and a list of publications resulting from the project must be uploaded in the language of the application (no more than 6 pages)
 - Additional documents in the case of resubmission: If the application is a revised version of a previously rejected application (see [section 3.5](#)), a response to the reviews and an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application must be uploaded (*Overview revision*).
 - Cover letter accompanying the application (optional)
 - List of up to 3 researchers (optional) – including, if applicable, reviewers of a rejected proposal – who are to be excluded from the review process (see [section 4.2](#)), with a brief justification

Any additional documents (e.g., recommendations for potential reviewers, letters of recommendation, forthcoming publications) will not be considered in further stages of the application process.

3.1.4 Forms to be completed

- Required: *Research institution assignment form*, *Contact form*, *Application form*, *Program-specific data form* (for South Tyrol and Trentino), *Cost breakdown form* (for Tyrol), *Academic abstract form*, and *Co-authors form*
- Where applicable: *Other cooperation form*

3.2 Application content and form

3.2.1 Application language

To allow applications to be reviewed by international peers, applications must be submitted in English.

3.2.2 Project description: Scope and formatting requirements

The project description may not exceed 20 pages. It must contain a table of contents with page numbers. Optional elements, such as a list of abbreviations, figures, figure legends, tables, footnotes, etc., must also be included in the 20-page limit.

The continuous text in the project description, Annexes 1–3, the publication lists, and the additional documents specified in [section 3.1.3](#) where applicable, must be written, without exception, in 11 pt. font with 1.5 line (15–20 pt.) spacing and at least 2 cm margins. A standard, easily legible font must be used for the body text. The formatting requirements (font type and size, line spacing, and margins) of the project description also apply for the additional documents, except for documents not prepared by the consortium members, such as collaboration letters.

Citations in the text and the list of works cited (*References*) in the application must be in line with the conventions of the respective discipline, preferably according to a widely used style guide (e.g., Chicago Manual of Style, APA Publication Manual). The choice of citation conventions or style guide is up to the applicant, but must be implemented consistently throughout the application. If available, a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be used for the literature cited.

3.2.3 Project description and annexes

The project description may not exceed 20 pages and must include a table of contents as well as the following sections, each designated by headings:

- 1) Table of contents
- 2) State of the art of relevant international research (including own preliminary work, if applicable) and relation of the project to this context
- 3) Clearly defined aims and hypothesis/hypotheses or research question(s) of the project
- 4) Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved and a clear description of the planned cooperation between the three consortium members (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino), presenting the joint research question and the added value
- 5) Description of the project's anticipated level of originality or scientific/scholarly innovation
- 6) Methods
- 7) Work plan and timeline
- 8) Wider impact
 - Dissemination strategies for the results
 - Implications for other research disciplines
 - Impacts that will extend beyond the specific field of research

- 9) All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects⁵ of the proposal and how applicants plan to deal with them must be described in this section. These questions should be addressed briefly in the text even if the consortium believes the project does not raise any ethical issues.
- 10) Any potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects⁶ of the proposal must be detailed. To what extent are sex-specific and gender-related aspects considered in the proposal? How will they be integrated into the research approach? These questions must be addressed briefly, even if the consortium does not feel that the project involves any such components.

Annex 1: List of literature cited in the application (*References*) on no more than 5 pages

Annex 2: Financial aspects

The template for the description of projected costs can be found in [Appendix A](#).

- Information on the lead research institution (Tyrol) and the partner research institutions in South Tyrol and Trentino:
 - Existing project participants (not financed by Euregio project funds) (usually the consortium members and academic project staff at the three research institutions)
 - Available infrastructure
- Information on the funding requested
 - Explanation of why the personnel requested is needed (type(s) of requested position(s), job descriptions, extent of employment, and duration of involvement in the project)
 - Concise justifications for non-personnel costs (equipment, materials, travel expenses, and other costs) If funding for equipment is requested, applicants must explain why this does not constitute part of the basic equipment of the given research environment – see [section 3.4.2](#)).

Annex 3: CVs and description of previous research achievements

The academic CVs and research achievements (for the consortium members as well as a of a maximum of *one* other key project participant per research institution) should be described on no more than 3 pages per person, as specified below.

⁵ For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) can serve as a guide here.

⁶ Positioning and thoughts on the research approaches in the project in terms of sex-specific and gender-related aspects could include: Is the research approach likely to produce sex-specific and gender-related findings? If so, what findings? How and where are these integrated into the research approach? (For information on determining the relevance of sex-specific and gender-related issues please see the [FWF website](#).)

Required contents for academic CVs:

- *Personal data*: Personal data (name, researcher unique identifier(s) such as ORCID, research ID, etc., no photos), address of research institution, and relevant websites; Please also provide a publicly accessible link to a list of all the researcher's publications.
- *Education*: List of academic milestones
- *Position(s)*: List of academically relevant positions (with the extent of employment in the case of part-time employment)
- *Career breaks* (if any): List of career breaks or delays (see also [section 2.3.2](#))
- *Net research experience* (optional): The length of time (in years and months) that has actually been used in net total for research – calculated in such a way as to be equivalent to full-time employment – and broken down into the time before and after completion of the applicant's doctoral degree. This is intended to make it easier for the reviewers to assess the researcher's qualifications in terms of academic age.
- *Research interests*: Description of the main areas of research and the most important research results achieved to date
- *Academic publications*: List of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.); for each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated, if available. Pursuant to the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), journal-based metrics such as journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index should not be included. Reviewers will be instructed to disregard these metrics.
- *Additional research achievements*: List of no more than ten of the most important research achievements apart from academic publications, including achievements such as freely accessible research data including software and codes, awards, contributions to conferences, keynote lectures, significant research projects, peer review activities, promotion of junior researchers, exhibitions, interactions with society (including citizen science or transdisciplinary activities), science communication, knowledge transfer, licenses, or patents. If available, a persistent identifier or link to the respective research achievement must be provided.

Annex 4 (optional): Collaboration letters

Collaboration letters (each no more than 1 page) from national and international cooperation partners who are named in the project description as being essential for the implementation of the project and whose role is plausibly described.

3.2.4 Publication output

The following two separate uploads are required:

- *tst_publication.pdf*: Two publications written by each consortium member must be named, documenting fulfillment of the general application requirements (see template [tst_publication](#)). The FWF will determine eligibility to apply based on these publications. The consortium member who will be acting as the research coordinator must be indicated.
- *Publication_lists.pdf*: A list of all research publications⁷ over the last five years (categorized into “quality-assured publications” and “other publications”) by all project participants for whom a CV has been submitted, in *one* PDF file; this publication list helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers. It will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

3.3 Project-specific funds

As Austrian and Italian law differ with regard to personnel costs and travel expenses, the eligible costs for the individual regions are detailed separately.

Tyrol

When requesting funding, the regulations of the respective research institution and the FWF guidelines apply. The requested funds must be summarized exclusively for the Tyrolean research institution in the elane *Cost breakdown* form.

If the research institution for which funds are requested is entitled to deduct value-added tax (VAT), the funds should be applied for without value-added tax (net).

VAT is an eligible expense only if a research institution is not entitled to deduct it and it is demonstrably and finally borne by the research institution(s). Recoverable VAT is ineligible for funding, even if it is not reclaimed or recovered by the funding recipient.

South Tyrol

For the South Tyrolean partner research institutions, eligible costs are subject to the guidelines for the settlement of expenses related to research projects funded by the province ([Richtlinien für die Abrechnung der Ausgaben, die mit vom Land geförderten Forschungsprojekten zusammenhängen](#)), approved by [decree no. 7315/2021](#) issued by the department director.

⁷ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, if available, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, an “et al.” citation can be used.

Trentino

For research institutions from Trentino, item “2.2 -Bandi” of the “*Criteri per il finanziamento dei progetti imputati al fondo unico per la ricerca e tipologie di spesa ammissibile*,” contained in the “*Programma pluriennale della ricerca per la XVI Legislatura*,” approved by resolution of the Provincial Government no. 2193 of December 22, 2020, applies.

3.4 Eligible costs in detail

Funding may only be requested for the cost categories specified below.

3.4.1 Personnel costs

Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino

Consortium members cannot apply for a grant-salaried position and cannot apply for an employment contract.

Tyrol

Funding may only be requested for staff needed in addition to existing personnel resources for the realization of the project part and only to the extent required for the project.

Full- or part-time employment contracts (*Dienstverträge*, DV) and contracts for marginal employment (*geringfügige Beschäftigung*, GB) are available for project staff. The [FWF's standard personnel costs](#) apply. These include a fixed percentual increase set by the FWF for subsequent years to compensate for wage increases.

Employment contracts for doctoral students may not exceed 75% employment (up to 30 hours per week). A part-time (50%) employment contract of 20 hours/week for student employees may be requested for researchers who have not yet completed a graduate degree program in the relevant subject area.

South Tyrol

For the South Tyrolean partner research institutions, eligible costs are subject to the guidelines for the settlement of expenses related to research projects funded by the province ([Richtlinien für die Abrechnung der Ausgaben, die mit vom Land geförderten Forschungsprojekten zusammenhängen](#)), approved by decree no. 7315/2021 issued by the department director. The following are considered personnel costs:

Costs for researchers, technicians, and other support staff, insofar as these staff are employed as part of the research project. Personnel costs include costs for employees (full-time or part-time) of the facility commissioned to implement the project activities. These

activities must not fall within the scope of the facility's ordinary activities. This requirement is met if the personnel are employed by the facility specifically for the implementation of the research project. The employment relationship must be defined in an employment contract or equivalent document.

If the facility deems it necessary to employ staff for the research project who are already working for the facility before the start of the project, an amendment or an addendum to the employment contract or written instructions from the facility describing the staff's duties must be submitted. However, this excludes the costs for management staff, full professors, institute heads, and other staff of the facility that are comparable to the previous categories, provided that this institution already receives public funding for its regular operations.

Trentino

Funding may only be requested for staff needed in addition to existing personnel resources for the realization of the project part and only to the extent required for the project.

Costs for administrative and accounting positions as well as costs for technical personnel are not eligible for funding.

3.4.2 Equipment costs

Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino

Funding for equipment may only be requested if it is specifically required for the project and if it is not part of the existing infrastructure of the participating research institution(s).

"Infrastructure" is defined to include all equipment (and components thereof) that a modern research institution needs to conduct basic research in the relevant discipline at an internationally competitive level. This means that equipment such as computers, laptops, etc. are considered part of the standard infrastructure and no funding will be approved for these items. Please note that if equipment or equipment components are applied for, the Euregio states or the FWF will carefully review whether state-of-the-art basic research is currently possible in this research environment and how the preliminary project-related tests could have been carried out.

Equipment costs of a maximum of €50,000 (incl. VAT) per consortium member can be requested.

Equipment eligible for funding includes:

- Scientific instruments
- System components
- Self-constructed devices (generally assembled from smaller pieces of equipment and materials)
- Other durable goods

- Intangible assets such as concessions, industrial property rights, and licenses derived from such rights

Tyrol

If funding is requested for a piece of equipment which is required specifically for the project, the lead research institution confirms upon submission that they have verified that no comparable equipment that could be used or shared is available within a reasonable distance, and that third-party (co-)financing options have been explored. The research institution that owns the equipment must also ensure that any possible costs arising from the use, maintenance, and repairs of the equipment are covered.

The consortium members instruct their research institution to order the equipment and effect payment accordingly. The principles of economy, efficiency, and expediency apply to any acquisition. The procurement guidelines of the research institution and the provisions of the [Federal Procurement Act 2018](#) (*Bundesvergabegesetz*) as amended apply to the Tyrolean research institution.

In order to determine the equipment costs (incl. VAT, unless the research institution is entitled to deduct input tax) to be requested, vendor quotes must be obtained before the application is submitted pursuant to the research institution's procurement guidelines. Vendor quotes are submitted to the FWF only upon request.

South Tyrol and Trentino

For the partner research institutions in South Tyrol (see also the guidelines for the settlement of expenses related to research projects funded by the province [[Richtlinien für die Abrechnung der Ausgaben, die mit vom Land geförderten Forschungsprojekten zusammenhängen](#)], approved by decree no. 7315/2021 issued by the department director) and Trentino, the following applies to the acquisition of equipment:

Equipment must be necessary and appropriate for achieving the project objectives. Equipment is also eligible for funding if it is only partially used to achieve the project objectives: in such a case, only the aliquot amount of the costs corresponding to the extent of use for the project is eligible for funding. If the instruments and equipment are not used for the research project for their entire service life, only the depreciation in value determined pursuant to the principles of proper accounting during the duration of the research project is eligible for funding.

In addition to the cost of purchasing the equipment, associated costs such as transportation or installation costs and costs for any training of technical staff to use the device are also eligible. Maintenance and repair costs are not eligible for funding.

The “research equipment” described above and financed under this call becomes the property of the South Tyrolean or Trentino research institution, which authorizes the researchers involved in the project to use the equipment.

3.4.3 Material costs

Tyrol

“Materials” is defined as consumables and small items of equipment (cost per item less than €1,500 incl. VAT).

The calculation of funds requested for project-specific material costs should be justified based on the project’s schedule, work plans, and experimental schedule. Experience from previous projects should be considered when making the calculations.

South Tyrol

For the South Tyrolean partner research institutions, the guidelines for the settlement of expenses related to research projects funded by the province ([*Richtlinien für die Abrechnung der Ausgaben, die mit vom Land geförderten Forschungsprojekten zusammenhängen*](#)), approved by decree no. 7315/2021 issued by the department director, apply.

Trentino

See [Art. 102 of the DPR 917/1986](#), as amended.

3.4.4 Travel costs

Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino

Funding may be requested for project-specific travel and accommodation, field work, expeditions, etc. The project description must include a detailed itinerary, broken down by project staff members. This plan must indicate which staff members will be travelling, the destination, for what purpose, when (in which year of the project), for how long, and how much the travel will cost.

When planning travel in connection with a project, researchers should always carefully consider whether travel is absolutely necessary or whether the relevant information can be exchanged virtually.

If a project requires travel, transportation by train is generally preferred to travel by air as a contribution to environmental sustainability. Funding can be requested for any resulting extra costs such as an additional overnight stay.

Travel expenses for researchers from national and international research institutions other than the lead research institution and/or the partner research institutions can only be granted in exceptional cases. Grounds for the exception must be provided in detail.

Each consortium member must apply for their own travel expenses.

Tyrol

When travelling by air, it is strongly recommended to make a CO₂ offset contribution,⁸ which can also be requested as part of the travel expenses or funded through the budget for general project costs. A CO₂ offset contribution can be requested for up to 15% of the ticket price.

Travel and accommodation costs are generally calculated according to the lead research institution's individual travel expenses policies. If no such policies are in place at the research institution, the federal regulations governing travel costs ([Reisegebührenvorschrift des Bundes 1955, RGV](#)) as amended apply.

South Tyrol

The research institutions' own in-house guidelines apply, taking into account the maximum rates of the province of South Tyrol applicable to [business travel expenses](#).

Trentino:

Research institutions' own in-house guidelines apply.

3.4.5 Costs as part of international collaborations

Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino

In the case of cooperation arrangements, costs arising within the context of a research cooperation at the respective research institution are to be borne by that research institution. This does not apply to [cooperation arrangements with researchers from developing countries](#) (see [section 3.3.6](#)).

Funds may only be transferred directly to a cooperation partner upon presentation of an invoice and only if they are in payment for clearly defined commissions or services and immediately necessary to carry out the project.

⁸ The amount of a CO₂ offset contribution for flights can be calculated, for example, using [Climate Austria's CO₂ calculator](#).

3.4.6 Other eligible costs

Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino

The total amount of other costs may not exceed 30% of the respective total costs per consortium member/research institution.

- Independent contractor agreements (costs for work of clearly defined scope and content carried out by individuals, provided that they are cost-efficient and justified in the context of the research project)
- Costs for the preparation, archiving, open access, and reuse of research data in repositories in accordance with the FWF's [Open-Access Policy for Research Data](#)
- Costs that cannot be included under personnel, equipment, materials, or travel costs, for example:
 - The use of research facilities, e.g., costs for the project-specific use of available equipment (project-specific "equipment usage time") or large research facilities
 - Any laboratory animals necessary for the project
 - Project-specific work carried out outside the researcher's research institution (e.g., for analyses carried out elsewhere, interviews, sample collection, etc.)
 - Disposal of project-specific hazardous waste
 - [Cooperation arrangements with researchers in developing countries](#)

Tyrol

The procurement guidelines of the research institution and the provisions of the [Federal Procurement Act 2018](#) as amended apply.

3.4.7 General project costs

Tyrol

The approved grant sum includes 5% general project costs that are permitted for funding but cannot be requested individually using the abovementioned cost categories. They are subject to the [FWF's Funding Guidelines](#) and the costs must be eligible for funding. These include, for example, costs for conference travel, publication costs, dissemination activities, and minor unforeseen costs necessary for the project.

Overhead costs for the research institution are not included in general project costs.

General project costs are to be entered in the appropriate field in the *Cost breakdown* form and calculated as 5% of the total funding requested. General project costs impact the

number of reviews required for the proposal (see [section 4.3](#)). No justification for general costs is needed in [Appendix A](#).

South Tyrol

For the South Tyrolean partner research institutions, "general project costs" are those listed under point 2, letter D) of the guidelines for the settlement of expenses related to research projects funded by the province ([Richtlinien für die Abrechnung der Ausgaben, die mit vom Land geförderten Forschungsprojekten zusammenhängen](#)), approved by decree no. 7315/2021 issued by the department director, taking into account the expenses declared ineligible under point 3 of said guidelines. The following applies for this call: In deviation from the aforementioned guidelines, these "general expenses" will only be recognized up to a maximum amount of 5% of the total eligible costs per funding recipient.

Trentino

The approved grant sum includes 5% general project costs that are permitted for funding but cannot be requested individually using the abovementioned cost categories. These include, for example, costs for conference travel, publication costs, dissemination activities, and minor unforeseen costs necessary for the project.

3.5 Resubmitting a previously rejected application

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application addressing the same or similar research questions as a proposal the FWF has previously rejected, regardless of the program category. If an application is submitted on the same or a very similar research question and if, in the view of the consortium, this application is not a resubmission but a completely new project, this must be explained in a separate accompanying letter to the FWF Office. For example, changes in research methods alone are not sufficient for a proposal to qualify as a completely new project. In cases of doubt, the appropriate decision-making bodies of the FWF shall decide.

Resubmissions must show changes from the rejected application. If an application has been rejected for the standardized grounds for rejection C3, C4, or C5, these changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If no such changes are made, the FWF's decision-making bodies will return the application to the applicant without review.

When resubmitting an application, the following documents must be uploaded:

- An accompanying letter containing an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application must be submitted to the FWF (*Overview revision*). This overview will not be passed on to the reviewers.
- A response to all reviews of the rejected application must be provided, even if one of the reviewers is to be excluded from reviewing the resubmitted application (see [section 4.2](#)).

This response, consolidated in *one* document, will be forwarded to all reviewers assessing the resubmission and should address the recommendations and criticisms included in the previous reviews as well as describe the resulting changes made.

While no deadlines for the resubmission of a rejected application apply, the respective application requirements do need to be complied with. Resubmissions must be submitted as described in [section 4.1](#), i.e. as a separate, new application and not as a supplementary application to the previously rejected proposal.

3.6 File formats, file names, and online forms

The following sections provide an overview of all files and forms to be submitted.

3.6.1 All applications must include the following parts:

a) Files:

- *Proposal.pdf* (project description incl. Annexes 1–3 and where applicable 4, with PDF bookmarks, at least for the major sections)
- [*tst_costbreakdown.xls*](#) for the consortium members from Tyrol, South Tyrol, and Trentino, including an overview of the total costs (see [section 2.4](#))
- *tst_publication.pdf* (two publications written by each consortium member must be named, documenting fulfillment of the general application requirements; the consortium member acting as research coordinator must also be indicated, see template [*tst_publication*](#))
- *Publication_lists.pdf* (publication list of all the key project participants for the last five years, categorized into “quality assured publications” and “other publications”)

b) online forms

- *Research institution assignment*
- *Contact*
- *Application*
- *Program-specific form* for South Tyrol and Trentino
- *Cost breakdown* for Tyrol
- *Academic abstract* (in English)
- *Co-authors*
- *Other cooperation* (if applicable; for national and international cooperation partners)

3.6.2 File uploads, if applicable

- *Cover_letter.pdf* (= accompanying letter; optional)
- *Negative_list.pdf* (= reviewers who should be excluded; optional)
- *Follow.pdf* (= result report or final project report of the previous project for follow-up applications; will be forwarded to the reviewers)

- *Overview_revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application)
- *Revision.pdf* (= for resubmissions, response to all reviews of the previously rejected application)

4 Processing and Decision on the Application

4.1 Submission and requests for changes

All of the documents specified above must be uploaded in full to [elane](#). Once an application has been officially submitted, the research institution and the organizational coordinator can make no further changes to the application themselves. All applications are checked for completeness and any formal errors by the FWF Office. At the same time, the relevant departments of the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano – South Tyrol and Trento will review the eligibility of the Italian research institutions and the costs requested by the Italian consortium members. If the FWF Office identifies issues with the application that it considers to be rectifiable, it will notify the research institution and the organizational coordinator, giving them the opportunity to correct the problems within a reasonable period of time (max. 10 workdays after notification of the issues). The requested changes are to be submitted to [elane](#) as a supplementary application and approved for submission by the lead research institution if applicable. If the **requested changes** are not submitted before the deadline, the decision-making bodies at the FWF will return the application without review.

Similarly, applications will not be reviewed if they have been previously rejected by the FWF and resubmitted without appropriate revisions (see [section 3.4](#)).

The most common reasons why applications are returned without review by the FWF's decision-making bodies are (a) that the consortium member's publication record does not meet the requirements (see [section 2.3.1](#)) and (b) that the application does not address specific hypotheses or research questions (see [section 3.2.3](#)).

Once the review process has begun, no more changes can be made to the application.

4.2 Excluding reviewers

A list of up to 3 potential reviewers who should not be consulted to review the proposal due to a possible conflict of interest can be uploaded as an additional document. The applicant must briefly explain why these reviewers should be excluded. If the reasons for exclusion are professionally and academically sound, the FWF will generally fulfill the applicant's request and exclude those reviewers from the review process. A detailed description of the FWF's policy on conflicts of interest can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

Please note that the FWF does not wish to receive, nor will it consider a list of potential reviewers from applicants.

4.3 Number of reviews required

The number of reviews required for funding approval depends on the amount of funding requested. For funding requests of up to €450,000, at least 2 reviews are needed; up to the maximum funding amount of €600,000, 3 reviews will be obtained.

4.4 Decision-making process

Euregio commissioned the state of Tyrol to implement this call, and the state of Tyrol has entrusted the FWF with the administrative processing.

A detailed description of the decision-making process, the criteria for selecting international reviewers, and detailed rules concerning conflicts of interest and the composition of juries and review panels can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

When the review process is completed, the FWF Scientific Board considers the reviews and recommends projects for funding. These recommendations, including the anonymized reviews, are forwarded to the state of Tyrol. The Euregio Scientific Expert Group and the Euregio Board ultimately decide which projects will be funded.

If, for budgetary reasons, not all projects proposed by the FWF Board as explicitly worthy of funding can be financed, the Euregio Scientific Expert Group will submit a proposal to the Euregio Board.

The Euregio Scientific Expert Group is composed of the three members of the General Secretariat of the Euregio, including the Secretary General, and one representative of the scientific department of each Euregio member country, appointed by the respective country. The Secretary General of the EGTC European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino takes over the chairmanship of the Euregio Scientific Expert Group.

The Euregio Scientific Expert Group discusses all peer-reviewed projects in categories A and B and relies on the assessment prepared by the FWF Scientific Board and the reviews obtained by the FWF, proceeding as follows:

- 1) If there are several applications of equal scientific merit (e.g. in category A), the Euregio Scientific Expert Group will recommend at least one project from the fields of natural sciences, technology, life sciences, and medicine and at least one project from the fields of humanities, law, and social sciences for funding.
- 2) Furthermore, the Euregio Scientific Expert Group will review the extent to which the projects refer to the strategic fields defined in the RIS3 strategy documents of the three countries, as well as to the "*Programma Pluriennale per la Ricerca per la XVI Legislatura*" of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Such strategic fields include automation and

digitalization (basic technologies and digital transformation), food and life sciences (biotechnologies, technologies for health and healthcare, agricultural and food sciences), alpine technologies, green technologies (technologies for decarbonization and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions), natural resources and the bioeconomy, and the circular economy.

- 3) Finally, the Euregio Scientific Expert Group will also consider gender balance aspects (how many women or men are in positions of responsibility for the project) in its funding recommendation and propose projects for funding that have as homogeneous a budget distribution as possible between the three participating research institutions.

The final funding decision will be made by the Board of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino.

4.5 Grounds for rejection

The reasons for rejecting an application are assigned to one of five categories (C1–C5) and communicated to the organizational coordinator and the lead research institution; the organizational coordinator is also sent anonymized copies of the reviews. A detailed description of the grounds for rejection can be found in the [General Principles of the Decision-Making Procedure](#).

4.6 Reviewing resubmissions

If the application is a **resubmission** of a previously rejected proposal, the FWF will generally contact those reviewers who provided *constructive* criticism on the previous application. Reviewers who gave entirely positive or negative comments will generally not be contacted for a repeat review. Resubmissions are, however, usually also evaluated by new reviewers.

4.7 Proposal bans

Applications that are rejected for reason C5 will be barred for 12 months (from the date the applicant was officially notified of the decision) and cannot be resubmitted during that period.

Applications that have been submitted three times to the same program and rejected for reasons C3 or C4 (with the “three times” referring to the original application and two resubmissions) are also barred for 12 months (from the date the applicant was officially notified of the decision). Rejections for reasons C1 or C2 do not count towards this total. In general, only topics are banned, not applicants or applying research institutions.

5 Compliance with Legal Requirements and Standards of Research Integrity

5.1 Legal regulations

Please note that research institution(s) and all persons involved in the project must comply with all legal requirements and safety provisions (e.g., Federal Disabilities Act, Federal Equal Treatment Act) and all embargo and sanction regulations (e.g. Dual-Use Regulation [EU] 2021/821) that apply for the implementation of the project and must obtain all the necessary permits (e.g., from the Ethics Committee, the Animal Testing Commission, the National Heritage Agency, or the relevant foreign authorities).

The same applies, *mutatis mutandis* and with reference to Italian law, to the South Tyrolean and Trentino research sites.

5.2 Academic integrity

The [Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice](#) of the [Austrian Agency for Research Integrity \(OeAWI\)](#) apply.

Where a breach of these standards is suspected, the ombud of the respective research institution is responsible for investigating the issue. Research institutions are required to report any cases of suspected serious violations of the standards to the OeAWI. Euregio, the state of Tyrol, and the FWF reserve the right to suspend, in part or in whole, any procedures related to applications or ongoing projects until this check or investigation has been concluded. For more detailed information, please see [FWF procedure in cases of suspected violation of the standards of good research practice](#).

6 Data Protection and Publication of Project Data and Results

6.1 Data protection

Pursuant to Art. 6 (1) item a of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in conjunction with § 2g of the Austrian Research Organization Act (*Forschungsorganisationsgesetz*, FOG), Euregio / the FWF / the state of Tyrol / the Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol / the Autonomous Province of Trento process and publish personal data (e.g. the title of the submitted project, research institution, academic abstract, PR summaries) necessary for the administration of the funding by the FWF – while safeguarding business and trade secrets – for the purposes of research policy (e.g., presentation of the development of basic research in Austria, economic analyses, funding impact reports, etc.) and for public relations work (publication of excerpts in the FWF

annual report, on the FWF website, the Euregio website, and the websites of Tyrol, South Tyrol, and Trentino in press releases, media collaborations, etc.). If necessary, these data are also transmitted to third parties (e.g., for the preparation of research policy studies, on the basis of supervisory duties, in particular §§ 2d and 3a of the Research and Technology Funding Act [*Forschungs- und Technologieförderungsgesetz*, FTFG], to bodies and agents of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and, in particular, pursuant to § 3 [2], § 4 [1], and § 13 [3] of the Court of Audit Act 1948 [*Rechnungshofgesetz* 1948 RHG], to the Austrian Court of Audit as well as to bodies and institutions of the European Union in accordance with European legal provisions). Transmission of data is also based on § 6 (1) item c of the GDPR in conjunction with § 2g of the FOG.

Further information on the data privacy rights of the consortium members or applying research institution(s) as well as the contact details of the FWF's data protection officers is available [here](#).

6.2 Publication of project data and results

If approved, brief PR proposal summaries of the research project in German, Italian, and English must be prepared. These must be submitted to the FWF or the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano – South Tyrol and Trento when the grant agreement is returned. These brief PR proposal summaries are published together with the grant amount on the websites of the FWF, Euregio, and the three Euregio states. At the end of the project, PR results summaries will also be obtained and published on the websites of the FWF, Euregio, and the three Euregio states. The consortium members must ensure that these texts are worded in such a way that legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defense and patent law are safeguarded and business secrets are protected appropriately. [Guidelines for writing PR summaries](#) can be found on the FWF website.

In addition, the state of Tyrol / Euregio / the Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol / the Autonomous Province of Trento / the FWF require a data management plan (DMP) for all approved projects. This must also be sent to the FWF or the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano – South Tyrol and Trento when the grant agreement is returned. The [template for the DMP](#) can be viewed and downloaded on the FWF website.

The guidelines specified in the grant agreement on acknowledging Euregio / the FWF / the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano – South Tyrol and Trento as the respective funding institution and the FWF's [Open-Access Policy](#) apply for any publication of project results (e.g., academic publications, research data, conference papers, and media reports).

7 Appendices to the Application Guidelines

7.1 Appendix A: Information on the research institutions and description of financial aspects

Information on the lead research institution and the partner research institutions and the description of project finances must be presented **in English** and appended to the project description as Annex 2. Costs must be broken down and adequately justified for each point below. The list of and justification for the requested funds must correspond to the costs indicated in the *Cost breakdown* form for the consortium member from Tyrol and [the Excel tables](#) for the consortium members from Trentino and South Tyrol. The description should be structured as follows:

(a) Details on the lead research institution and of partner research institutions (South Tyrol, Trentino)

- Existing personnel (not financed by the Euregio Science Fund, usually the principal investigator and research personnel at the research institution(s))
- Existing infrastructure

(b) Information on the funding requested:

- Explain briefly why the personnel requested is needed for the project (number and type of requested positions, job descriptions, extent of employment, and duration of involvement in the project)
- Explain briefly why the non-personnel costs requested are justified (equipment, materials, travel, and other costs). If funding for equipment is requested, applicants must explain why this does not constitute part of the basic equipment of the given research environment - see also [section 3.4.2](#).

Please list and provide justifications for the following:

Personnel costs:

Equipment costs:

Material costs:

Travel expenses:

Other costs (including independent contractor agreements):

7.2 Appendix B: Notes and questions for reviewers of Interregional Research Projects⁹

In all of its programs, the FWF actively supports equal opportunities and equal treatment. The review of a proposal must not put researchers at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons such as age, gender, etc. For example, the review of applications should not focus on the researcher's actual age, but on the relation between the researcher's previous research achievements and the length of his/her research career.

Our commitment to equal opportunities also means taking breaks or delays in consortium members' careers into consideration (e.g., due to parental leave; long-term or chronic illness; disability; caregiving responsibilities; etc.) which may have resulted in gaps in a researcher's publication record, unorthodox career paths, or limited international research experience. Please also see our information for reviewers on [Unconscious bias in the decision-making process](#).

Only the ten most important academic publications and the ten most important additional research achievements of the consortium member are to be considered when evaluating the application. As a signatory to the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), the FWF also emphasizes that, in assessing research performance, reviewers should refrain from using journal-based metrics such as journal impact factors, Article Influence Scores, or the h-index.

Please review the present proposal¹⁰ using the following seven assessment criteria: 1) innovation and novelty, 2) quality of the proposed research, 3) approach and feasibility, 4) participating researchers' qualifications, 5) added value and the cooperation between the consortium members, 6) ethical, sex-specific, and gender-related aspects, and 7) overall evaluation. For each of these criteria except 6) we ask you for both written comments and a rating on a scale from "outstanding" to "poor." Please be aware, however, that the FWF's funding decision will be based primarily on reviewers' written assessments rather than the ratings assigned.

Please keep in mind that sections 1 and 2 will be forwarded to the organizational coordinator in full and in anonymous form. In the event of approval, the research institution will be allowed to read the anonymized reviews forwarded to the organizational coordinator.

⁹ Further information can be found on the FWF website: [Mission statement and values](#) or the Application Guidelines for Interregional Project Networks

¹⁰ The project proposal must meet the FWF's formal requirements. Please bear these in mind when writing your review. (Key formal requirements: no more than 20 pages for the project description including figures and tables; no more than 5 pages for the list of references; no more than 3 pages for each academic CV, including a description of previous research achievements and the ten most important publications. For further information, please see the [Application Guidelines for Interregional Research Projects](#).)

Section 1:

1. Innovation and novelty

Is the proposed research innovative? Does it make an original contribution to its field?

2. Quality of the proposed research

Are the research questions formulated clearly? Are they timely, challenging, and likely to lead to relevant insights?

3. Approach and feasibility

Is the research design well-conceived, clearly formulated, and suitable for answering the research question(s)? Is there a well-organized work plan? Have the methods been chosen well and does the proposal describe them in sufficient detail?

4. Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved

How well are the researchers qualified to carry out the proposed research? How would you assess the academic qualifications of the consortium members, their team, and the collaboration partners? When assessing qualifications, please consider the respective career stage, taking into consideration atypical career paths and circumstances that may have slowed down their progress (e.g., parental leave, long-term or chronic illness, disability, or caretaking responsibilities).

5. Added value and cooperation between consortium members

To what extent does the cooperation between the three research institutions create added value as compared to the stand-alone project parts? How good is the cooperative approach and collaboration of the consortium?

6. Ethical, sex-specific, and gender-related aspects

Ethics: Have ethical considerations been addressed satisfactorily?

Sex-specific and gender-related aspects: Applicants are required to address any relevant sex-specific and/or gender-related elements inherent in research questions and/or research design. Please assess whether the treatment of these components is adequate.

7. Overall evaluation

What is your overall impression of the proposal? Specifically, what would you consider its key strengths and weaknesses? Please give reasons for your answers, taking as much space as you need.

Section 2: Optional recommendations for the applicant

If you are in favor of the project being funded, you may want to add to the formal assessment in section 1 by making further and perhaps more informal comments or suggestions here. However, please note that these remarks, too, may also have an impact on the FWF's funding decision, especially if they amount to substantive criticism of the project.

Section 3: Confidential remarks to the FWF

Please use this space to make any comments that you do not want submitted to the applicant. Feel free to also give us feedback about the review process and your interactions with us.