

RTI ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS 2022

CALL DOCUMENT

DATE: 01.07.2022

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INTRODUCTION

By awarding RTI endowed professorships, research structures and competencies at Lower Austrian locations of colleges and universities are strengthened and specific research topics are sustainably established in the fields of action of the RTI Strategy Lower Austria 2027.

The funding of endowed professorships serves to establish and expand critical variables in specific research fields. The aim is to promote outstanding research, increase the international visibility of research groups and improve the profile of Lower Austria as an RTI location. Inter-institutional cooperation is strengthened and the linking of science and research to economic and social issues is supported. In addition, tertiary education in the relevant subject area will be further developed and teaching expanded in order to contribute to an increase in the number of graduates in the long term.

In this call, **€2.500.000 is available** as funding volume for two endowed professorships.

This tender document contains details on the thematic orientation, objectives, procedure, prerequisites, financial framework conditions, review criteria, obligations of the applicant, discontinuation and recovery of funding, data protection and legal basis.

Supplementary information on the application process can be found in the "Application Guide".

Submission of project proposals is possible from 01.07.2022 to 30.11.2022, 12 noon.

I THEMATIC ORIENTATION

The call for RTI Endowed Professorships 2022 focuses on the RTI field of action "Society and Culture," which also has the function of a cross-sectional issue in the [RTI Strategy of Lower Austria 2027](#). Within the framework of this call, endowed professorships are to be submitted that deal with topics and challenges from at least one of the other three fields of action of the RTI Strategy Lower Austria 2027 ("health and nutrition," "environment, climate and resources," "digitalization, smart production and materials") from a humanities, social science and/or cultural science or interdisciplinary perspective.

In this sense, the endowed professorship must in any case be anchored at its core in the main disciplines of the social sciences or humanities^[1]. However, an interdisciplinary orientation is possible. Regardless of the specific scientific discipline, the thematic focus of the endowed professorship must be assignable to the fields of action "health and nutrition," "environment, climate and resources," "digitalization, intelligent production and materials." This should enable innovative solutions to current and future challenges in these fields of action.



2 OBJECTIVES

This funding supports the sustainable establishment and expansion of endowed professorships. Existing structures and competencies in research and teaching are to be strengthened, expanded and further developed.

RTI endowed professorships thus contribute to the following objectives:

- Outstanding research and teaching is established and deepened.
- Knowledge transfer from research to teaching is forced and takes place actively.
- The endowed professorship contributes to the solution of societal, economic, ecological and/or technological challenges.
- The international visibility of the research group and the profile of the RTI location are increased.
- Inter-institutional cooperations are expanded and deepened.
- Dissemination, public relations and science communication take place in a targeted and sustainable manner.
- The endowed professorship is established and anchored with its thematic focus in the long term.

^[1] See the scientific branches in the Statistics Austria Classification Database (ÖFOS 2012): http://www.statistik.at/KDBWeb/kdb_Einstieg.do?NAV=DE

3 PROCEDURES

i. Submission

RTI calls are time-limited calls in which funding applications can be submitted. Submissions are made via the GFF submission system (calls.einreichsystem.at). The application language is English. Submission is possible from **01.07.2022** to **30.11.2022, 12 noon**.

ii. Ex-ante evaluation

- *Evaluation procedure and project selection*
 - All applications submitted by the deadline will first be reviewed by GFF to ensure that they meet the formal criteria.
 - The GFF appoints the experts and the jury.
 - The expert review is carried out by the jury members and independent external experts on the basis of the defined review criteria (see point 6 and the "Application Guide").
 - At least three expert reviews are prepared for each project application.
 - In a final jury meeting, a proposal for the funding of the applications will be drawn up on the basis of the expert reviews.
- *Funding decision*

The supervisory board of GFF confirms the selection of funded applications and decides on the funding.
- *Grant agreement*

The funding agreement is concluded between GFF and the recipient on the basis of the legal basis applicable to this call.

iii. Funding period

- *Project start*

The project should start within twelve months after signing the grant agreement. In justified exceptional cases, this deadline may be extended after consultation with GFF and by submitting a written (informal) application.
- *Reporting*

Three months after the start of the endowed professorship, a research plan covering the entire funding period is submitted to GFF.

The annual reports are prepared and submitted by the grantees in the GFF submission system (calls.einreichsystem.at).
- *Funding rates*

Funding installments are disbursed annually in advance, with 10% of the total funding amount deducted from the final installment and disbursed only after review of the final report.

- *Closure*

The formal conclusion of the funding takes place through the submission of the final report by the grantees in the GFF submission system (calls.einreichsystem.at).

iv. **Interim and ex-post evaluation**

Within the framework of announced interim and / or ex-post evaluations, an audit may be carried out by the funding agency or third parties commissioned by it with regard to the proper use of the funding.

The funding agency reserves the right to arrange for an external evaluation of the content and financial aspects of the activities within the framework of the institution in the course of the third funding year.

4 REQUIREMENTS

i. **Eligibility**

- The applicant can only be a college or university with a location in Lower Austria.
- The endowed professorship must be located at a site in Lower Austria.
- A maximum of two grant applications is permitted per institution

ii. **Cooperations**

The funding of the endowed professorship is intended to establish a sustainable focus and anchoring at one institution. In the course of the endowed professorship, cooperation in the course of projects, in teaching, etc. is expressly desired. Planned projects in this regard are to be outlined in the application and, if necessary, supported by a letter of intent (LOI). A cooperative application by several institutions is not possible.

iii. **Equal opportunities**

Equality of opportunity is a prerequisite for a positive review of the application. The application must describe which measures have been taken or are planned by the participating institutions to ensure equal opportunities in their organization (Gender Equality Plan; Equality Diversity and Inclusion).

iv. **Other**

A fully completed and signed grant application is a basic requirement for the application to be considered in the evaluation process.

Failure to meet one or more of these requirements may result in disqualification of the project application during the formal review and thus even before the technical review.

5 FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

i. Type of funding

The funding is a grant. The maximum permissible funding intensity is **90% of the eligible costs**.

ii. Duration

The duration of the funded RTI endowed professorships can be applied for five or six years. Cost-neutral project extensions are possible in justified exceptional cases. An extension of the duration must be applied for separately and approved by the funding agency (GFF).

iii. Funding amount

The maximum funding amount per RTI endowed professorship is € 1.250.000.

iv. Use of funds in Lower Austria

As these are subsidies from the state of Lower Austria, subsidies can only be obtained and used for locations in Lower Austria.

v. Eligible costs

In accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, expenses are only eligible for funding to the extent that they are necessary and reasonable in terms of their type and amount to achieve the purpose of the funding. Inappropriate calculations may be a reason for rejection despite the excellence of the content of the funding application.

Costs in the following categories are eligible:

- **Personnel costs**

- Professor's salary
- Direct personnel costs for scientific and technical staff
- The calculation of the eligible personnel costs is based on the planned or actual gross personnel costs plus a lump sum for ancillary wage costs in the amount of 30%.
- The maximum eligible personnel costs per person (with the exception of the professor) are capped at the maximum contribution base set annually by the responsible federal ministry.

*Example: Maximum contribution base 2022 = € 5.670 / month
Max. eligible personnel costs per person = € 5.670 x 14 x 1,3
= € 103.194*

- **Overheads** are eligible only as a flat rate of 25% on eligible direct and project-related personnel costs. The overheads cover:

- Rent and operating costs
- Office supplies

- Administrative staff costs
- Material costs and other costs, such as test materials and consumables (up to the limit of low-value assets)

vi. **Cost accounting**

Evidence of the proper use of the funding must be provided as part of the reporting system and, if necessary, during financial audits (financial controls). In the reporting system, this evidence is provided in the form of structured cost center statements or lists of documents. In the financial audit, these cost center statements or lists of documents are used as the basis for the audit.

6 REVIEW CRITERIA

i. **Formal appraisal**

- i. Completeness of the application
- ii. Fulfillment of the requirements under point 4
- iii. Fulfillment of the financial framework under point 5

ii. **Expert opinion**

The evaluation is carried out on the basis of a point system by external independent experts (see 3.ii). The evaluation is carried out on the basis of three main criteria (K1-3), each of which is subdivided into several subordinate sub-criteria.

The maximum number of points for an assessment is 15 points. The actual number of points is made up of the points awarded for each of the three main criteria. The maximum number of points per main criterion is 5 points (3 * max. 5 points = max. 15 points). The actual number of points per main criterion is in turn determined from the points of the corresponding sub-criteria, for which a maximum of 5 points can also be awarded in each case. The points for the main criteria are calculated from the arithmetic mean of the sub-criteria, which in turn results in the maximum number of points.

The following main and sub-criteria are used for assessment:

Excellence [K1]

Originality and innovation
Relevance and international connectivity
Connectivity to existing areas of strength

Implementation [K2]

Quality and efficiency of the work program / concept
Financial and resource planning
Institutional framework
Personnel composition and qualification (composition and organization of the planned working group)

Impact [K3]

Impact on the research location
Impact on the education location
Cooperation development
Social / economic / ecological / technological impact

7 OBLIGATIONS OF THE RECIPIENTS

Recipients are required to comply with the following:

- i. Economic, economical, appropriate and transparent use of funds.
- ii. Maintaining separate and comprehensive records to demonstrate the implementation of the funded project and retaining the records and supporting documentation during and for at least an additional ten years after the end of the project, unless there are legal requirements beyond that.
- iii. Maintenance of an adequate accounting system.
- iv. Submission of appropriate interim and final reports to the funding agency, in accordance with the schedule and reporting structure provided by the funding agency.
- v. Enabling of audits and evaluations on the part of the funding agency and third parties commissioned by it, as well as the obligation to provide corresponding information.
- vi. Timely notification of all significant events relevant to the implementation of the funded project.
- vii. Provide public relations information to the funding agency.
- viii. Establishing the visibility of the funding agency and the province of Lower Austria as the funding agency in web presences, publications and events related to the funded activity (the use of the logos and funding information is regulated in the project contract).
- ix. Observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the further strategic embedding of the RTI Strategy Lower Austria 2021 - 2027.

8 DISCONTINUATION AND RECOVERY OF FUNDING

With regard to reduction, evaluation and recovery of funding, the provisions according to §13 of the Guidelines for Funding under the Lower Austrian Cultural Promotion Act 1996 in the Area of Science, Research and Tertiary Education apply.

The following points can also lead to a complete recovery and discontinuation of the promised funding:

- i. The purpose or composition of the RTI endowed professorship has been changed without the express permission of the funding agency.
- ii. The project was not started in time within one year from the funding approval without the approval of the funding agency.

9 DATA PROTECTION

Your personal data will be processed for the duration of the entire business relationship (from the submission to the termination of a grant agreement, including any necessary data transfer to the Province of Lower Austria as the grantor, external expert reviewers and auditors) and beyond in accordance with the statutory storage and documentation obligations under the currently applicable Austrian Data Protection Act (DSG) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO).

10 LEGAL BASIS

- Lower Austrian Cultural Promotion Act 1996
- Guidelines for Funding under the Lower Austrian Cultural Promotion Act 1996 in the Field of Science, Research and Tertiary Education

No legal claim to the granting of a funding arises from the legal bases and the call document. The place of jurisdiction for all disputes arising from the granting of a funding is the Regional Court of St. Pölten.

This call document comes into force on **01.07.2022** and applies to funding applications in the Call "RTI Endowed Professorships 2022." Amendments and any updated versions will be published in the GFF submission system (calls.einreichsystem.at).