

Austrian Research and Technology Report



2026

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Preface

Security, resilience and technological sovereignty have become key issues of our time. These topics form a focal point of this year's Research and Technology Report. Social and economic development is increasingly shaped by crises, geopolitical tensions and profound structural change. Global supply chains, energy systems, information infrastructures and technological interdependencies are more closely interconnected than ever before, creating new opportunities for prosperity, innovation, employment and cooperation. Against this backdrop, policy makers are systematically advancing existing strategic approaches in Research, Technology and Innovation Policy (RTI policy) and, for the first time, through the Austrian Industrial Strategy 2035, to harness these opportunities in a targeted and forward-looking manner. At the European level, this reorientation is reflected in a closer alignment of research, industrial, trade, foreign, and security policies. The concept of Open Strategic Autonomy has established an approach aimed at reducing critical one-sided dependencies without fundamentally calling into question the benefits of open markets. This has led to a wide range of new initiatives, including the European Chips Act, the Critical Raw Materials Act, new instruments for monitoring strategic dependencies, and measures to safeguard sensitive technologies, infrastructures and value chains. At the same time, resilience has become a guiding principle in numerous European and national strategies, ranging from industrial and energy policy to digital and security policy, as well as climate, environmental and agricultural strategies.

These developments have direct implications for national RTI policy. Research and innovation are no longer understood solely as processes for generating scientific knowledge and as foundations for growth, competitiveness and, consequently, prosperity. They have become strategic resources for mitigating risks, managing dependencies and expanding the scope for action under conditions of uncertainty.

A key consideration in this context is the breadth of RTI contributions. These range from curiosity-driven basic research to application-oriented technology development, from internationally visible research excellence to participatory formats in which researchers, citizens, businesses, public administration and civil society jointly develop solutions. In addition, methods from futures research – such as foresight, scenario development and technology roadmapping – are gaining importance. These approaches help to anticipate possible development pathways at an early stage and to make political and business decision-making more robust and forward-looking. Against this backdrop, RTI policy faces the challenge of combining the innovative capacity of our country with the active promotion of security, resilience and technological sovereignty. It is essential to foster excellence in research and innovation while addressing strategic vulnerabilities, reducing critical dependencies and strengthening social participation and equity.

These challenges must also be considered in an international context. The Research and Technology Report 2026 once again demonstrates Austria's leading position among the top three countries in the European Union regarding expenditure on research and development. Austria has exceeded the European target of 3% for the thirteenth consecutive year. Austria also ranks among the leading EU countries across a range of other RTI indicators and innovation rankings. The country has continued the positive trend of recent years in the share of R&D personnel in the total employed population and has, for the third time, achieved a proportion of more than 2%. In the European Innovation Scoreboard, Austria remains in the group of Strong Innovators, ranking eighth among EU Member States. International RTI rankings show that Austria has once again maintained second place in the share of STEM graduates. In 2024, Austria achieved second place when considering European Research Council (ERC) grants, thereby meeting the RTI Strategy 2030 target of

ranking among the top ten countries. Austria also records an above-average share of patent applications in sustainable technologies compared with other EU Member States. In the field of quantum technologies, Austria improved its already very strong position by one place, reaching second place among the EU-27 in terms of patent applications. The Austrian economy continues to be characterised by a high degree of complexity; in the Economic Complexity Index 2023, Austria ranked fourth within the EU. Austria also ranks fourth among EU Member States in terms of joint scientific publications involving public and private sector partners.

At the same time, however, it remains evident that a gap persists between high levels of investment in research and the corresponding economic output. It is therefore the federal government's objective to translate excellent research into even greater innovation, value creation and economic application in Austria in the future.

At the end of April, Statistics Austria estimated an R&D intensity of 3.34% for 2026. Total Austrian expenditure on research and development by the public sector and businesses is expected to increase by approximately 1.4% compared with 2025, reaching €17.6 billion. The domestic and foreign business enterprise sector is a major driver of the continued positive development in R&D intensity, accounting for approximately €11.8 billion, or around two-thirds, of total R&D expenditure. These figures include fiscal support for research through the research premium, which is projected to amount to €1.3 billion in 2026. The share contributed by the government sector is declining slightly; nevertheless, at around 33% of total R&D expenditure, it continues to make a substantial contribution to strengthening Austria as a location of business, research and innovation. Statistics Austria data show that, despite budget consolidation measures, the Austrian federal government will contribute approximately €4.8 billion, thereby ensuring scientific breakthroughs and the exploration of the technologies needed to address the societal challenges of tomorrow at an internationally leading level.

By setting a target of 4% R&D intensity, the Austrian federal government has made a clear commitment in its Government Programme to maintaining a strong and internationally competitive research and innovation location. Research and innovation are key drivers of growth for the Austrian economy. Accordingly, within the framework of the Industrial Strategy 2035, the Austrian federal government allocated approximately €2.6 billion for investments in key technologies and areas of strength by 2029. The objective of further strengthening Austria as a leading RTI location will be pursued through the RTI Pact 2027–2029 by focusing funding on key technology fields; strengthening excellent research and knowledge and technology transfer; enhancing the diffusion and impact of research results; implementing initiatives to achieve climate and energy targets through a transformation initiative; reinforcing European and international cooperation and research security; promoting skills development, support for early-career researchers and gender equality; improving efficiency and effectiveness within the RTI system; and strengthening trust in science and democracy.



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Executive Summary

The Research and Technology Report is the status report on research, technology and innovation funded from federal resources in Austria. It is compiled on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) and the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET).

RTI Strategy 2030 and implementation through the Research Financing Act

The RTI Strategy 2030 provides the overarching framework for Austria's Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) policy. Through this strategy, the Austrian federal government commits itself to stability, efficiency and enhanced output within the RTI system. The strategy is implemented across ministries through three-year RTI Pacts based on the Research Financing Act (FoFinaG). The Act also provides the basis for the governance of the eleven central non-university research and research funding organisations.

To appropriately account for Austria's public universities as the principal institutions of basic research, the objectives and fields of action from the RTI Strategy and the RTI Pact that correspond to the priorities of the Austrian University Development Plan (GUEP) are implemented indirectly through the applicable GUEP.

The mid-term evaluation of the RTI Strategy conducted in 2025 confirmed that implementation is progressing well. At the same time, it recommended a stronger focus on impact orientation and the efficiency of public expenditure, qualifications and talent development, private investment and venture capital, as well as the development and deployment of critical key technologies in order to strengthen innovation performance.

To monitor developments at the central research and research funding institutions, a monitoring system based on selected performance indicators was introduced in 2021. This monitoring is carried out within the framework of the annual Research and Technology Report and is therefore also covered in Chapter 3 of the present report.

Greater competitiveness through Austria's Industrial Strategy 2035

Research, technology and innovation constitute a core element of Austria's new Industrial Strategy 2035, which establishes a central strategic framework for securing the long-term competitiveness, resilience and sustainable growth of Austria's industrial base.

The objective of the Industrial Strategy is to position Austria among the world's ten most competitive industrial nations by 2035. Accordingly, the strategy places a strong emphasis on strengthening industrial innovation capacity, increasing innovation output and accelerating the transfer of technology from research into application. RTI is embedded as a cross-cutting element of industrial policy across all fields of action.

A central component is the key technologies campaign. For the first time, nine key technologies and industrial areas of strength have been identified: artificial intelligence and data innovation; chips, electronic components and systems; advanced production technologies and robotics; quantum technology and photonics; advanced materials; life sciences and biotechnology; energy and environmental technologies; mobility technologies; and space and aviation technologies. Between 2026 and 2029, approximately €2.6 billion will be made available for the key technologies campaign in order to promote research, development, scaling-up and industrial application in a targeted manner.

Other core elements with a strong RTI dimension include the transformation initiative, strengthening knowledge and technology transfer and strategic public procurement, as well as RTI-related measures in the fields of space, circular economy and mobility. Key initiatives include the flagship programme "Industrial Key Technologies – Leading Companies 2030", the TWIN TRANSITION funding programme, and the Start-up and Scale-up Fund of Funds.

RTI measures

Implementation of the RTI Strategy is supported by a broad range of measures and associated funding activities at national level. RTI measures introduced or adopted at the national level that generate significant benefits for science, business, and society include the AI Factory, the Markt.Einstieg funding programme, the STEM Regions Initiative (MINT-Regionen Initiative), the establishment of Centres for Research and Science Communication, and the Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030.

Current developments in higher education

The RTI system and the higher education system mutually reinforce one another. To ensure that Austria's higher education institutions are fit for the future, the BMFWF has launched the Higher Education Strategy 2040 as a broad-based, participatory and open-ended strategic dialogue process.

The objective is to develop a strategy for Austria's higher education institutions through to 2040 by the first quarter of 2027. This strategy is also expected to provide important forward-looking impulses for Austria's RTI system.

Current priorities focus on strengthening competitive and inclusive research careers and, in this context, creating attractive framework conditions for researchers and scientists. Increasing innovation through knowledge valorisation and improving mechanisms for assessing scientific performance are likewise key areas of focus.

Austria's R&D intensity reaches a new record level

Austria's R&D intensity reached a new record high of 3.39% in 2025. Since 2014, Austria's R&D intensity has consistently exceeded the European Union target of 3% and has increased almost continuously ever since.

At the same time, changes have occurred in the financing structure. In particular, during the current decade, funding from the public sector has made a particularly strong contribution to the increase in R&D intensity.

According to the global estimate published by Statistics Austria in April 2026, total R&D expenditure is expected to amount to €17.63 billion in 2026. GDP is projected to grow more strongly than R&D expenditure, resulting in an R&D intensity of 3.34%.

Financing is expected to come from the business enterprise sector (43.06%), from abroad (16.37%) – the majority of which originates from foreign enterprises – and from the federal and regional governments (31.32%). A further 7.37% will be financed through the research

premium (Forschungsprämie), while 1.87% will come from other sources, including the higher education sector and the private non-profit sector.

R&D activities carried out in Austria are becoming increasingly concentrated geographically in the three federal states of Upper Austria, Styria and Vienna. In 2023, these provinces accounted for 70.27% of all R&D expenditure, while their combined share of GDP amounted to only 54.92%. With an R&D intensity of 5.32%, Styria records the highest regional R&D intensity, and this figure continues to rise. The proportion of women among scientific personnel also continues to increase and reached a new high of 25.84% in full-time equivalent terms in 2023.

Austria performs strongly in key international RTI indicators

Austria continues to rank highly in both the Global Innovation Index (9th place) and the European Innovation Scoreboard (8th place).

Austria performs particularly well with regard to the RTI indicator measuring R&D personnel. This indicator exceeded 2% for the third consecutive year, placing Austria among the top five countries internationally.

Austria has also improved its position regarding the proportion of women in research. In 2023, Austria ranked second internationally for STEM graduates.

Substantial growth has been recorded in the number of scientific publications in the fields of artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. In quantum technologies, Austria belongs to the leading group internationally, ranking second in patent applications and fourth in scientific publications.

In 2024, Austria achieved second place when considering European Research Council (ERC) grants, once again achieving the RTI Strategy 2030 target of being among the top ten countries.

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the University of Vienna became the first Austrian higher education institution to be ranked among the world's top 100 universities.

1

Current developments



1.1 Strategic framework for RTI policy

RTI Strategy 2030

The overarching framework for Austria's Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) policy is the Research, Technology and Innovation Strategy 2030 (RTI Strategy 2030). The RTI Strategy 2030 is geared towards three overarching objectives: "Advancing to the international forefront and strengthening Austria as an RTI location", "Focusing on effectiveness and excellence", and "Building on knowledge, talent and skills". These overarching objectives are underpinned by specific, measurable and ambitious targets that are relevant to Austria's prosperity. The strategy is based on a clear commitment to stability, efficiency and increased output within the RTI system. Key pillars include, for example, the Excellence Initiative and the Technology Initiative. The objective "Harnessing the opportunities of a common Europe" constitutes a further important element in the implementation of the RTI Strategy.¹

The strategy is implemented across ministries through three-year RTI Pacts on the basis of the Research Financing Act (FoFinaG). The FoFinaG also provides the basis for the governance of the eleven central non-university research and research funding institutions: Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH (AIT), Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA), Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), Silicon Austria Labs GmbH (SAL), Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft – Austrian Association for the Promotion of Scientific Research (LBG), and GeoSphere Austria – Federal Institute for Geology, Geophysics, Climatology and Meteorology (GSA) as well as Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (aws), Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG), Austrian Science Fund (FWF), OeAD-GmbH (OeAD) and Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). To appropriately account for Austria's public universities as the principal

institutions of basic research, the objectives and fields of action from the RTI Strategy and the RTI Pact that correspond to the priorities of Austria's University Development Plan (GUEP)² are implemented indirectly through the GUEP. The ten-year RTI Strategy also provides for an external mid-term evaluation. This evaluation was conducted in autumn 2024 and the first half of 2025, with the results published in summer 2025.³

The evaluation addressed the following key questions:

- Are the objectives still considered achievable and relevant under the changed framework conditions brought about by the pandemic, wars and other developments?
- Where do the evaluators identify the most urgent need for action in order to achieve the individual objectives of the RTI Strategy 2030 within the framework of the third RTI Pact?
- Which recommendations emerge from the evaluation regarding the achievement of the targets and the implementation of the fields of action?

The authors highlight the significant changes in the framework conditions: "De-globalisation, tariffs and the emergence of international blocs; the EU's technological lag in key technologies [...] as well as the United States' strategic reorientation in defence policy are giving rise to new objectives and measures such as supply chain resilience and technological sovereignty, and are bringing competitiveness and active industrial policy back to the forefront."⁴

Against this backdrop, the evaluation confirms the continuing relevance of the overarching strategic objectives set out in the RTI Strategy. Overall, the assessment finds that implementation has made good progress while also highlighting major challenges,

1 https://ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Mrp/MRP_20201223_43/006_001.pdf. For further information on the RTI Strategy 2030 and its implementation see previous Austrian Research and Technology Reports.

2 <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hochschulgovernance/steuerungsinstrumente/guep.html>

3 <https://doi.org/10.22163/fteval.2025.714>

4 <https://doi.org/10.22163/fteval.2025.714>, p. 1.

particularly the demand for skilled labour, declining productivity growth and the adverse effects of the ongoing economic recession. Nevertheless, the evaluators conclude that, based on current trends, around half of the 20 quantitatively measurable targets will be achieved by 2030.⁵ In light of the identified challenges and deviations, the authors recommend a renewed focus on impact orientation and the efficient use of public resources, qualifications and talent development, private investment and venture capital, as well as the development and deployment of critical key technologies to strengthen innovation performance. Further need for action is identified in relation to structural economic challenges arising from technological change, such as those associated with decarbonisation, as well as in the areas of defence research and innovation and research security. The authors also emphasise the importance of a cross-ministerial approach and closer participation and coordination at the EU level.

The development of Austria as an RTI location with regard to the implementation of the objectives of the RTI Strategy 2030 is continuously monitored and analysed. Key instruments in this regard include this Research and Technology Report on behalf of the federal government, coordination through the RTI Task Force, the RTI Monitor⁶, and analyses conducted by the Austrian Council for Sciences, Technology, and Innovation (FWIT Council).

Given the broad evidence base and range of policy measures involved, the interministerial RTI Task Force plays a central role. It coordinates the implementation of the RTI Strategy 2030 and, through its composition, reflects the cross-ministerial governance structure of Austria's RTI policy. Chaired by the Federal Chancellery (with the Federal Ministry of Finance serving as Vice-Chair), the RTI Task Force provides a high-level forum for dialogue and coordination on RTI policy, bringing together representatives of BMWET, BMFWF, the Federal Ministry of Education (BMB) and BMIMI.

RTI-relevant aspects of Austria's Industrial Strategy 2035

Austria's Industrial Strategy 2035⁷ establishes a central strategic framework for securing the long-term competitiveness, resilience and sustainable growth of Austria's industrial sector. Research, technology and innovation constitute a core pillar of the strategy and are positioned as key levers for addressing technological, digital and ecological transformation.

The objective of the Industrial Strategy is to position Austria among the world's ten most competitive industrial nations by 2035. More than half of research spending in Austria comes from the industrial sector. Consequently, the strategy places a strong emphasis on strengthening industrial innovation capacity, increasing innovation output and accelerating the transfer of technology from research into application. Research, technology and innovation are embedded as a cross-cutting element of industrial policy across all fields of action.

The heart of the strategy is a comprehensive campaign for key technologies. For the first time, nine key technologies and strengths have been defined: artificial intelligence and data innovation; chips, electronic components, and systems; advanced manufacturing technologies and robotics; quantum technology and photonics; advanced materials; life sciences and biotechnology; energy and environmental technologies; mobility technologies; space and aeronautics technologies.

According to the Industrial Strategy, approximately €2.6 billion will be made available for the key technologies campaign between 2026 and 2029.

Other core elements with a strong RTI dimension include the transformation initiative, the strengthening of knowledge and technology transfer and strategic public procurement (particularly for innovation), as well as RTI-related measures in the fields of space, the circular economy and mobility.

5 <https://doi.org/10.22163/fteval.2025.714>

6 See FWIT: RTI-Monitor, especially the objectives of the RTI Strategy 2030; <https://fti-monitor.forwit.at/O/system>

7 <https://www.bmwet.gv.at/dam/jcr:b5429e50-ebab-4257-846b-31218f0c9000/Austria-s-Industrial-Strategy-2035.pdf>

Key RTI-related measures include the strategic realignment of the research funding institutions (FFG, FFG and CDG) towards the identified key technologies. The established bridging function of the Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG) between basic research and industry-oriented research is to be strengthened through strategic development and the harmonisation of public core funding. Further important initiatives include a new FFG flagship programme for leading businesses, the development of innovation ecosystems, clusters and hubs, a location package for pilot and demonstration facilities, and the promotion of system innovations to support transformation processes. These measures are complemented by accelerated approval procedures through the Key Technologies Acceleration Act (Schlüsseltechnologie-Beschleunigungsgesetz), the expansion of regulatory sandboxes, and stronger participation in European initiatives such as Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). Austria participates in the IPCEI Advanced Semiconductor Technologies (IPCEI AST) initiative with the aim of strengthening domestic microelectronics and semiconductor capabilities across the entire value chain. Additional priorities include the further development of the research premium, strengthening COMET Centres and Christian Doppler Laboratories, supporting spin-offs and scale-ups, and promoting skills development and the international recruitment of highly qualified professionals. Overall, the Industrial Strategy 2035 underlines the crucial role of research, technology and innovation as drivers of industrial transformation, productivity growth and strategic sovereignty. The strategy was presented in January 2026.

Flagship programme “Industrial Key Technologies – Leading Companies 2030”

The flagship programme supports Austrian leading businesses in making RTI investments in strategic key technologies, including artificial intelligence, microelectronics, quantum technologies, advanced materials, life sciences, and energy, mobility and aerospace

technologies. Funding is provided for deep-tech and scaling projects involving high levels of innovation and investment risk that develop new products, production processes and strategic manufacturing capabilities and strengthen the transfer of research into industrial applications. The call for proposals will be launched in 2026 and is endowed with approximately €18 million.

Funding programme TWIN TRANSITION

The TWIN TRANSITION funding programme supports companies in simultaneously advancing the digital and green transformation of industry. The programme funds investments and demonstration projects that combine digital technologies with sustainable and resource-efficient production processes, thereby accelerating the transfer of R&D results into industrial applications. It contributes to both the decarbonisation and digitalisation of production while strengthening the competitiveness of Austria's industrial base. The programme has been implemented as part of the federal government's transformation initiative since 2023 and has a total budget of approximately €220 million. To date, 38 projects are being implemented (with funding commitments amounting to €176 million and a total investment volume of around €877 million).

Start-up- and Scale-up Fund of Funds

The Start-up and Scale-up Fund of Funds aims to improve access to private equity and venture capital for innovative Austrian start-ups and scale-ups.

Compared with international benchmarks, the availability of risk capital – particularly venture capital and private equity – remains relatively limited in Austria. To address this challenge, a fund is to be established as a structure managed independently in accordance with international standards. The fund is intended to mobilise private capital while backing is provided through a public anchor investment. Its objective is to facilitate access to growth capital, particularly for Austrian start-ups and scale-ups in later-stage development phases, while sustainably strengthening Austria

as a financial centre. The fund forms part of Austria's Industrial Strategy (Measure 108).⁸

RTI Pact

The preparation of the third RTI Pact drew on the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the RTI Strategy 2030, the recommendations of the FWIT Council, and the priorities set out in the government programme. Accordingly, the adopted RTI Pact 2027–2029⁹ establishes the following priorities: focusing funding on key technology fields; strengthening excellent research; enhancing knowledge and technology transfer as well as the diffusion and impact of research results; vigorously pursuing initiatives to achieve climate and energy targets through a Transformation initiative; strengthening European and international cooperation and research security; promoting skills development, support for early-career researchers and gender equality; increasing efficiency and effectiveness within the RTI system; and strengthening trust in science and democracy.¹⁰

An important measure contained in the government programme is the international evaluation of the Austrian research system. The RTI Task Force is in regular consultation with the FWIT Council to ensure effective implementation of this measure. The process is informed by key existing evidence, including the mid-term evaluation of the RTI Strategy 2030, analyses by the FWIT Council – inter alia, the analysis concerning the Higher Education Strategy 2040 – the OECD Review of Innovation Policy: Austria 2018, and numerous other evaluations of the Austrian RTI system available through the fteval repository¹¹. This approach enables the expertise of the FWIT Council, combined with international expertise, to make a significant contribution to the planned evaluation of Austria's research system.

RTI measures

The implementation of the RTI Strategy is accompanied by a wide range of measures and related funding activities at national level. The RTI-relevant measures that have been implemented, or are scheduled to be introduced in the near future, and which generate significant added value for science, business and society, are briefly outlined below.

AI Factory

The objectives of an AI Factory¹² are to increase the uptake of artificial intelligence by businesses, expand expertise in general-purpose AI (including model selection, training and fine-tuning), and facilitate access to and utilisation of the computing capacity of European high-performance computing systems by enterprises.

An AI Factory comprises both the acquisition and operation of an AI-optimised supercomputer and the provision of accompanying support services. These services assist businesses (particularly start-ups and SMEs), research institutions and public organisations with activities ranging from data selection and AI model training or fine-tuning to the development of proofs of concept. A co-working space is intended to foster intensive exchange and collaboration among users.

The Austrian AI Factory, AI:AT, is being established by Advanced Computing Austria (ACA) and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) in cooperation with additional RTI stakeholders.

The initiative is financed as a co-funded measure through resources provided by the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) and the Future Austria Fund (Fonds Zukunft Österreich), and is administered by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). AI:AT is one of a total of 19 AI Factories across Europe.

8 <https://www.bmwet.gv.at/dam/jcr:b5429e50-ebab-4257-846b-31218f0c9000/Austria-s-Industrial-Strategy-2035.pdf>

9 https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:426ef03e-deb1-424c-9343-2e15c284ac19/260513-2_FTI-Pakt_A4_EN_BF.pdf

10 See submission to the Council of Ministers: RTI Pact 2027–2029, available at (in German): https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/dam/jcr:448d6203-36b0-4f28-bb12-7e3667f9419d/42_14_mrv.pdf

11 See the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval), repository available at: <https://repository.fteval.at/>

12 https://www.eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/ai-factories_en

From a systemic perspective, the AI Factory constitutes an important complement to existing national high-performance computing (HPC) resources, particularly Austrian Scientific Computing (ASC) / Vienna Scientific Cluster (VSC) and other HPC facilities, as well as MUSICA, (all of) which primarily serve academic users.

Markt.Einstieg

Markt.Einstieg supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the economic exploitation of successfully developed products or services following the completion of a funded project. It is designed to strengthen the commercialisation of results generated through publicly funded research and innovation projects.

Funding is provided for marketing and sales activities directly related to the initial market launch of a prototype (product or service) over a period of up to 18 months.

Eligible activities include:

- market preparation (including market analysis)
- establishment of a sales team (including equipment, training and consultancy services)
- development of sales channels (including direct sales, trade fair participation and digital marketing)
- development or optimisation of a sales strategy (including marketing strategies, processes and measures)
- transition to production (including production capacity development)

During this phase, the programme aims in particular to support the development and testing of sales concepts, the acquisition of initial customers and generation of revenue, as well as the establishment of organisational structures necessary for sustainable market entry and growth.

The funding scheme is specifically targeted at SMEs and is intended to support them in commercialising

project results, thereby accelerating the translation of R&D outcomes into practical applications. In doing so, it closes a previously existing gap in the funding landscape. Support is provided in the form of a non-repayable grant and not as a loan.

STEM Regions Initiative

The STEM Regions Initiative (MINT-Regionen Initiative)¹³ is a key component of the “MI(N)Tmachen Action Plan”, which is being implemented jointly by the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) and the Federal Ministry of Education (BMB). Its objective is to inspire children and young people – particularly girls and young women – to engage with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) from an early age and throughout the entire educational pathway.

Women continue to be significantly underrepresented in many STEM education programmes and STEM professions. Low-threshold, practice-oriented projects and successful role models help promote equal educational opportunities while addressing regional skills shortages. At the same time, the initiative seeks to reduce scepticism towards science and to open up career opportunities in future-oriented STEM fields in both science and industry. STEM regions are regional networks in which municipalities and cities, early childhood education and care institutions, schools and higher education institutions, adult education providers, as well as companies, educational and youth initiatives, and associations work together to develop, promote and expand STEM-related activities. The focus is on a seamless educational pathway – from kindergarten to higher education – with particular emphasis on encouraging girls and young women to participate in STEM.

To be awarded with a quality label, a region must demonstrate a clearly defined geographical scope, a broad-based network of STEM stakeholders, professional organisation and coordination structures, and a shared mission statement and strategy with a clearly articulated gender focus. In addition, regions

13 <https://www.mint-regionen.at/>

must provide evidence of existing STEM activities with strong future potential, as well as effective visibility and communication measures. There are currently 28 STEM regions across Austria, comprising more than 950 partners from education, science and research, industry, public administration and civil society, including 34 partnerships with higher education institutions. A total of 186 schools and kindergartens holding the STEM quality seal (MINT-Gütesiegel) form an important core element of many STEM regions. To implement the initiative, the BMFWF has commissioned Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft (aws) to act as the STEM regions service hub, supported by the Federal Ministry of Education, the Austrian Federation of Industries (Industriellenvereinigung), the MINTality Foundation and the OeAD-GmbH (OeAD).

The call for applications for new STEM regions was open from 23 February to 29 May 2026. The STEM label re-certification process for regions originally accredited in 2022 was carried out at the same time. The award ceremony will take place on 24 November 2026 at the House of Industry (Haus der Industrie) in Vienna. In addition, aws provides funding from the Future Austria Fund (Fonds Zukunft Österreich) for projects implemented by STEM regions, with grants of up to €30,000 per project.

Establishment of centres for research and science communication

The objective of the new centres for research and science communication is to strengthen awareness of the value of research and innovation for the public good. At the same time, participatory approaches based on open innovation and citizen science are to be utilised to identify research questions that are relevant to society and to further strengthen trust in participation processes, science and democracy.

- Q. Your Space for Science: experiencing and understanding science¹⁴: Austria's largest competence centre for contemporary science communication is being established at the Hall of Sciences (Aula der Wissenschaften). The centre is operated jointly by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the University of Vienna and the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien). The new operating company for Q has already been established. Comprehensive refurbishment works will commence in 2026, with the clear objective of ensuring that Q becomes fully operational in 2027.
- The performance agreement 2024–2026 of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA) includes the objective of “promoting dialogue between science, research and society through science communication, thereby strengthening trust in science and democracy”. This encompasses the planning, development and implementation of the VISTA Science Experience Center¹⁵, which is aimed at children of all ages, families, teachers and the general public, and provides inclusive, evidence-based and immersive science communication at ISTA. The VISTA Science Experience Center officially opened on 2 October 2025. Since then, VISTA has made science and research accessible and engaging for all through an interactive exhibition and trained science mediators. During the opening festival, 3,600 visitors attended the institute.

Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030

The Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030 focuses on the expansion of national research infrastructures and participation in major European and international research infrastructures, particularly those included in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, up to 2030.

¹⁴ <https://qscience.space/>

¹⁵ <https://www.vistascience.at/>

The guiding principle of the Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030 is the coordinated acquisition and collaborative use of research infrastructure at national, European and international levels. The Research Infrastructure Database serves as the central instrument for monitoring and supporting implementation of the Action Plan. As part of the RTI working group on research infrastructure, established to support the implementation of the RTI Strategy 2030, the Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030 was developed in an interministerial process. Activities under the Action Plan will be implemented on a continuous basis until 2030.

Recent developments include, among others:

- Membership in the European ESFRI infrastructure DiSSCo and approval for participation in the establishment process of DiSSCo ERIC (<https://www.dissco.eu>)
- Membership of and participation in the organisation CTAO ERIC (<https://www.ctao.org>)
- Participation of the Austrian consortium in the establishment process of eLTER ERIC (<https://elter-ri.eu>)
- Extension of observer status in the life sciences data infrastructure ELIXIR (<https://elixir-europe.org>)
- As lead country, Austria submitted the proposal for the inclusion of the research infrastructure MEDem – Monitoring Electoral Democracy in the ESFRI Roadmap 2026.
- ESFRI-AT Mapping: Austrian activities within the framework of the ESFRI Roadmap are made visible through a mapping exercise based on the public Research Infrastructure Database: <https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/de/eufi>
- First call for proposals to support technology infrastructures with commercial utilisation potential (BMIMI; <https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/technologieinfrastrukturfoerderung-2025>)

1.2 Current developments in the higher education sector

The world is undergoing profound economic, social, environmental and political transformations. In this context, strong institutions where knowledge is generated, critical thinking is fostered and solutions are developed, namely higher education institutions, are becoming increasingly important. Higher education institutions also play a central role within research, technology and innovation (RTI) systems. Through their education and continuing professional development programmes, basic and applied research activities, as well as their various channels for knowledge and technology transfer and science communication, they make a significant contribution to a country's capacity

for innovation and, consequently, to strengthening resilience and democratic values.

To ensure that Austria's higher education sector is well positioned for the future, the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) has launched a comprehensive strategic process entitled the "Higher Education Strategy 2040 for Austria" (Hochschulstrategie 2040).¹⁶ Initiated in December 2025, this strategic dialogue involves all interested stakeholders and is being conducted as a participatory and open-ended process. Its objective is to develop a strategy for Austria's higher education system through to 2040 by the first quarter of 2027. The strategy is also expected to

¹⁶ <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hoerschulstrategie-2040.html>

provide forward-looking impulses for Austria's research, technology and innovation system.

Strengthening competitive research careers: attractive framework conditions for researchers and scientists

Taking into account the results of the evaluation of the ERA National Action Plan (ERA-NAP) 2022–2025 and building on the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027, the second national ERA Action Plan 2026–2028 was developed during 2025 under the aegis of the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF), in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI). The process also involved other federal ministries, in particular the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET), as well as stakeholders from Austria's research, technology and innovation (RTI) system, including universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutions, companies, RTI funding organisations and representative bodies.¹⁷ The ERA National Action Plan comprises five fields of action, with the first one focusing on strengthening the framework and working conditions for researchers. This objective is supported by four initiatives:

- i. Inclusive gender equality
- ii. Attractive framework conditions for careers in science and research
- iii. Reform of research assessment
- iv. Professionalisation of research management.

The Council Recommendation of 25 November 2024 on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education¹⁸ already emphasises the need for a broader provision of transferable skills and the strengthening of cross-cutting competences. It also calls for the promotion of balanced intersectoral and interdisciplinary

mobility within the European Union, recognition of diverse career pathways, the implementation of open, transparent and merit-based recruitment processes, and the provision of guidance, mentoring and support services for researchers, alongside attractive framework conditions for careers in research and science. These recommendations build on earlier initiatives, including the Council Recommendation of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurship talent in Europe.¹⁹ In response to these developments at the European level, a working group of the Austrian Higher Education Conference (Hochschulkonferenz) was established in 2024. In its recommendations on career pathways in science and research assessment, the working group translated the European recommendations into the Austrian context.

To advance improvements in framework conditions and establish new standards for scientists, academics and researchers, while also promoting dialogue among Member States, the European exchange platform “Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE)” was established. Its objective is to make Europe an even more attractive location for research and innovation by drawing on scientific evidence, examples of good practice and policy recommendations in areas such as recruitment, working conditions, skills development, intersectoral mobility, career pathways and research career models.²⁰

In addition, a European-level initiative has emerged in the form of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, launched by CoARA – the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment²¹. The primary objective of this agreement is to reform the methods and processes used to assess researchers, research activities and research-performing organisations. To date, 16 Austrian institutions have signed the agreement, committing themselves to recognising diverse career pathways and a broad range of research outputs. In the

17 <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/forschung/forschung-eu/leitthemen-eu-fo/era/eranap.html>

18 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32024H07282>

19 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202301640

20 <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/psf-challenge/mutual-learning-exercise-research-careers>

21 <https://www.coara.org/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

assessment of research outputs, particular emphasis is placed on quality-based evaluation using predominantly qualitative methods.

At the national level, these European developments are also reflected in the 2025–2027 performance agreement period. Accordingly, Austrian universities have incorporated relevant measures into their performance agreements, including:

- the definition of new academic and research-related occupational profiles, such as data steward and core facility manager;
- the establishment and expansion of communication and support structures, as well as the provision of forward-looking and transparent information for staff regarding employment opportunities and career pathways;
- the development of proposals to broaden the existing performance assessment criteria, for example when determining the content of qualification agreements, defining requirements for appointments to professorships, or establishing criteria for evaluation procedures. The objective is to ensure that individual research and teaching profiles, as well as outreach activities, including science communication and third mission activities, are appropriately recognised and weighted, while also taking account of different stages of individual careers and life circumstances;
- the systematic application and further development of university-internal measures, procedures and standards for the recognition and assessment of teaching achievements.

In addition, selected universities have been encouraged to align the proportion of permanent positions funded through third-party research funding with the proportion of permanent academic staff financed from the global budget.

A survey of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) scientific community conducted by Spectra in 2025 shows that there is still a need for action to improve the framework conditions for researchers, including the working conditions of postdoctoral researchers. Although overall job satisfaction among the 3,368 researchers who participated in the survey was generally high, this positive picture is tempered by difficulties in achieving a satisfactory work-life balance, not least due to heavy workloads, as well as by the insecurity associated with fixed-term employment contracts. Successive fixed-term contracts and uncertain career prospects lead half of respondents to question their future in academia. These uncertainties regarding career progression are particularly pronounced at the postdoctoral level. Additional challenges include hierarchical organisational structures, lengthy qualification pathways and comparatively less attractive remuneration. Discrimination also remains a significant and pressing issue, particularly on the grounds of sex and gender identity, as well as ethnic origin and age. Overall, respondents expressed a clear preference for reforms aimed at increasing the availability of permanent employment contracts, reducing hierarchical structures, creating more opportunities for research, and enhancing quality and efficiency through the wider implementation of open science practices.²²

Innovation through knowledge valorisation

As part of their 2025–2027 performance agreements, Austrian universities have committed to ensuring that knowledge generated by their researchers makes a greater contribution to public discourse and the innovation system, in line with a comprehensive approach to knowledge valorisation. The aim is to help address societal challenges while creating social and economic value. In doing so, universities are implementing objectives set out in the Austrian University Development Plan (GUEP), including the intensification of knowledge and technology transfer and entrepreneurship, as

22 https://repository.fteval.at/id/eprint/787/1/FWF-Umfrage2025_Endbericht-Spectra_DE.pdf

well as the Council Recommendation on the Guiding Principles for Knowledge Valorisation²³. These efforts are further reinforced by the EU Start-up and Scale-up Initiative²⁴, which emphasises the potential of innovation to strengthen social values, democracy, resilience and cohesion in Europe.

The universities have committed themselves to supporting entrepreneurial activity, in particular the foundation of start-ups and spin-offs, as part of their commercialisation pathways. The establishment of new companies is to be facilitated through the implementation of standardised framework conditions, e.g. by a spin-off policy. To this end, the BMFWF has provided a standardised spin-off framework²⁵ that applies to all higher education institutions and non-university research organisations.

During the period 2021–2023, a total of 67 commercialisation spin-offs emerged from Austrian universities. By 2027, this number is expected to increase to 89 commercialisation spin-offs, representing growth of 32.8%. In addition to the further development of intellectual property and commercialisation strategies, this objective is supported through an institutionalised dialogue with industry and the broad integration of entrepreneurship education.

For many years, Austrian universities have also co-operated with the AplusB²⁶ Centres located across the federal regions, an incubator programme funded by the BMIMI. Networks such as the Knowledge Transfer Centres (WTZ) and the Entrepreneurship Center Network (ECN)²⁷ further support interregional and transnational cooperation between higher education institutions in the start-up and spin-off sector. The performance agreements 2025–2027 demonstrate that universities are actively fulfilling their role within the innovation pipeline, from basic research through to market launch,

while coordinating their activities with regional and national stakeholders:

- In Vienna, a closely interconnected entrepreneurial ecosystem is being developed across institutional boundaries. At TU Wien, the Spin-off Factory supports researchers in translating research results into new businesses. Entrepreneurship programmes and start-up fundamentals for students and researchers are offered in collaboration with the Vienna University of Economics and Business. The University of Vienna and TU Wien also cooperate on spin-off activities. The venture capital fund Noctua Science Ventures (TU Wien and Speedinvest)²⁸ supports a nationwide entrepreneurial ecosystem in Austria.
- In Graz, the University of Graz, Graz University of Technology and the Medical University of Graz are developing “iHub Graz” as a joint spin-off hub. Plans focus in particular on the coordinated use of all incubators and funding programmes, e.g. Unicorn, Science Park Graz, WTZ South and the Human.technology Styria Cluster (HTS), as well as the establishment of a joint investment company.
- In Tyrol, the University of Innsbruck operates the “Inncubator” (co-working facilities, maker spaces and entrepreneurship training) together with the Tyrol Chamber of Commerce and is developing a technology centre in cooperation with the Province of Tyrol and Standortagentur Tirol. At the same time, the Medical University of Innsbruck is establishing an independent technology transfer and investment structure through the MUI Innovation Hub and embedding it within a regional “Innovation Cluster Western Austria”.

23 Recommendation (EU) 2022/2415 of the Council 2 December 2022.

24 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en#:~:text=A%20Startup%20and%20Scaleup%20Initiative,technologies%20and%20game%20changing%20innovations

25 <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/forschung/forschung-oesterreich/strategische-ausrichtung-beratende-gremien/leitthemen/bm-polaschek-ausgruendungsrahmen.html>

26 <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/innovation/fti-themen/kooperationsstrukturen/aplusb-scale-up.html>

27 <https://ecn.ac.at/>

28 <https://noctua.vc/>

- In Salzburg, the University of Salzburg, through its “PLUS Startup Offensive”, consistently builds on regional networks involving Innovation Salzburg, Startup Salzburg and AplusB South West (pre-incubation, maker labs and open labs).
- Beyond these examples, institutions such as the Technical University of Leoben (Centre for Applied Technology (ZAT) and industrial clusters), the University for Continuing Education Krems (tecnet / accent), and Vienna’s universities of the arts (ECN, WTZ East) benefit from well-established partner networks.

To support researchers in commercialising innovative ideas through the establishment of spin-offs, the BMFWF launched the “Spin-off Fellowships”²⁹ funding programme, which is administered by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). Through this programme, the BMFWF funds the further development of academic research projects by researchers for a period of up to 18 months, with the aim of enabling the establishment of a spin-off company. Eligible beneficiaries are higher education institutions and research organisations. These institutions may receive funding of up to €500,000 per project to cover personnel and material costs. They also retain ownership of the intellectual property generated and conclude an agreement with the prospective founders at the outset of the funding period, setting out the future commercialisation arrangements and returns to the institution (e.g. licensing revenues, equity participation, etc.). To date, the programme has resulted in 21 successful science-based spin-offs. In January 2026, the fourth (and final) call under the current programme closed with a record 61 funding applications submitted. The programme is scheduled to be extended beyond 1 January 2027.

The Austrian start-up award “Phönix”³⁰ is jointly presented each year by the BMFWF and the BMWET to recognise successful female entrepreneurs, start-ups,

spin-offs and prototypes. The award aims to showcase flagship projects and success stories while increasing the visibility of women founders from the scientific community. By contributing new impulses and additional perspectives, they help shape societal development and serve as role models for future generations of women entrepreneurs. The award has been presented annually since 2012.

Knowledge valorisation is also a key element of the Higher Education Strategy 2040. Building on and further developing the contribution of higher education institutions across the dimensions of the “Knowledge Square” (education, research, innovation and service to society) the strategy promotes a broad understanding of knowledge transfer. This encompasses, on the one hand, the transfer of knowledge to industry and public administration, for example through cooperation with cities and municipalities as well as public and private enterprises. On the other hand, it includes the creation of public forums for discussing knowledge production and for involving stakeholders in strategic decision-making processes within higher education institutions, including representatives from public administration, industry and civil society communities.

Universities of applied sciences as drivers of RTI

Through their focus on labour-market-oriented and practice-based academic education, universities of applied sciences (UAS) produce precisely the graduates who are urgently needed as skilled professionals and future leaders in the labour market. This applies both to emerging fields associated with the digital and green transitions and to other disciplines in which demand for qualified personnel remains consistently high. Against this backdrop, an additional 800 federally funded study places at UAS were made available from the 2025/26 academic year onwards.

²⁹ <https://www.ffg.at/spin-off-fellowships>

³⁰ <https://www.aws.at/oesterreichischer-gruendungspreis-phoenix/>

Of these 800 additional first-year places, 351 were allocated to STEM fields related to digitalisation and sustainability, while a further 449 places were assigned to other disciplines facing particularly acute skills shortages, especially in the field of social work. In line with the objectives of the RTI Strategy 2030, priority was given to engineering and technology as well as computer science. Across the three expansion phases of the 2023/24–2025/26 planning period, a total of 1,054 additional federally funded entry places in STEM disciplines – engineering, technology and computer science – were created within the UAS sector. Austrian UAS are characterised by a high start-up rate per capita for students and staff. Several Austrian institutions rank highly in comparisons across the German-speaking

DACH region when assessed on the basis of start-ups per 1,000 students or staff, most notably CAMPUS 02 UAS and the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien. The entrepreneurial performance of UAS, measured in terms of start-ups relative to student numbers, staff and institutional budgets, is therefore disproportionately strong. In particular, CAMPUS 02 UAS demonstrates a high level of start-up activity in technical and deep-tech sectors relative to its size. From a sectoral perspective, the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is a leading institution in the fields of software and transport technologies, while Technikum Wien UAS holds a leading position in the energy sector.³¹

31 <https://entrepreneurshipranking.com/reports/2025-DACH-Ranking.pdf>

2

Facts, figures and trends in research, technology and innovation



Chapter 2 focuses on relevant data and evidence on Austria's innovation performance and is distinguished by its presentation of this information from a range of different perspectives and viewpoints.

Beginning with R&D funding, Chapter 2.1 presents the results of the latest global estimate on R&D as well as the findings of the R&D survey 2023 conducted by Statistics Austria. Chapter 2.2 analyses Austria's innovation performance in an international context on the basis of selected indicators. It also provides an overview of the results of recent rankings and assesses Austria's overall innovation capacity both in comparison with the EU-27 and beyond. Against the backdrop of an increasingly uncertain global environment, shaped

in particular by geopolitical crises and the ensuing challenges, issues such as resilience and technological sovereignty are becoming ever more important. Chapter 2.3 analyses these two highly complex policy areas, with particular regard to the implications of current geopolitical developments for national RTI policy. European research and innovation policy also plays a key role in this context. Accordingly, Chapter 2.4 focuses on recent developments at the European level and also examines Austria's participation in Horizon Europe in greater detail. Finally, Chapter 2.5 addresses Austria's well-established evaluation culture and provides illustrative insights into a selection of recently completed evaluation studies.

2.1 Funding and implementation of R&D in Austria

R&D expenditure

- At 3.39% of GDP, R&D expenditure as a share of gross domestic product (R&D intensity) reached a new record high in 2025.
- The relative decline in R&D funding by the business enterprise sector during the current decade is offset by increasing funding from the government sector.
- Funding from abroad is also increasing.



In 2025, total R&D expenditure amounted to €17.39 billion, corresponding to 3.39% of GDP and resulting in the highest R&D intensity recorded to date. Of the total €17.39 billion in R&D funding, 43.27% was financed by the business enterprise sector (i.e. domestic enterprises), 27.93% by the federal government, 16.10% from abroad (primarily foreign enterprises, as well as the European Union and international organisations), 6.47% through the research premium (Forschungsprämie), 4.38% by regional government institutions, and 1.84% from other sources (including the higher education sector and the private non-profit sector).

In addition to the data on R&D funding for 2025, Statistics Austria's global estimate, published in April

2026, also provides an outlook for 2026. According to these projections, total R&D expenditure will increase in nominal terms to €17.63 billion (up 1.37%), while GDP is expected to grow even more (3.07% in nominal terms). The business enterprise sector will continue to account for the largest share of R&D funding, at 43.06% of the total, although its relative contribution has been declining throughout the current decade. By contrast, it is projected that the share of funding originating from abroad will increase to 16.37%.

2.1.1 Global estimate

R&D intensity – defined as R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP – reached a new record high of 3.39% in 2025. This exceeds the previous record level of 3.34% achieved in 2024. According to the global estimate published on 23 April 2026, R&D intensity is expected to return to 3.34% in 2026.

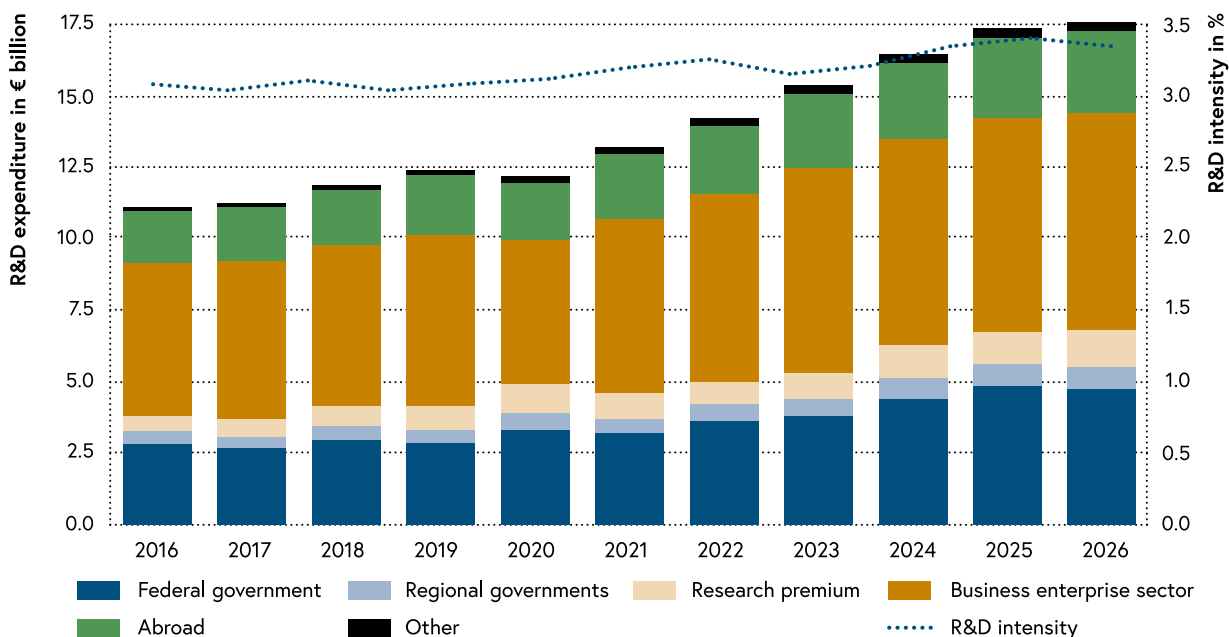
Figure 2-1 illustrates developments over the period 2016–2026. The bars represent expenditure in nominal

terms (i.e. not adjusted for inflation). The sharp increase observed particularly in 2023 and 2024 is largely attributable to the high inflation rates prevailing at that time. As inflation is automatically accounted for in the calculation of R&D intensity, the increase is less pronounced in percentage-point terms, but remains substantial in real numbers:

- Since 2014, Austria's R&D intensity has consistently exceeded the EU target of 3%.
- R&D intensity has also exhibited a statistically significant upward trend, increasing by 0.0282 percentage points per year since 2016.

With regard to the estimated value for 2026, it should be noted that R&D intensity is inherently dependent on GDP – the denominator of the indicator – and that GDP for 2026 can, at present, only be estimated.

Figure 2-1: Development of R&D funding and research intensity in Austria, 2016–2026



Note: The category “Other” combines the two categories “Other public funding” (incl. higher education sector) and “Private non-profit sector”.
Source: Statistics Austria, global estimate from 23 April 2026; illustration: WPZ Research.

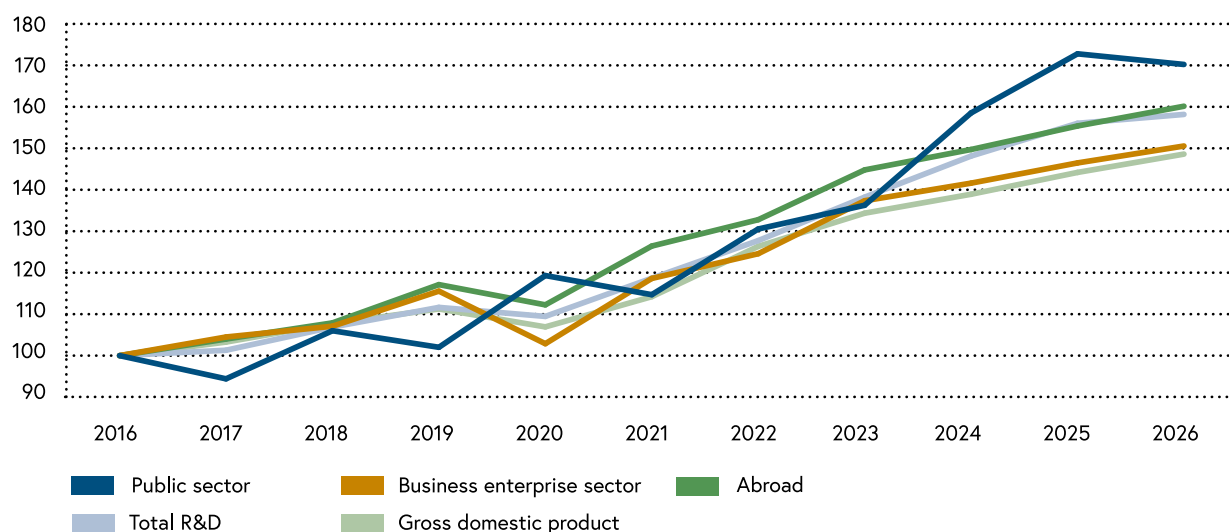
The relative development is illustrated in Figure 2-2. The value for 2016 is used as the baseline, with each subsequent year expressed as a percentage of the 2016 value. No adjustment is made for inflation; rather, the purpose of the figure is to show how the different categories have evolved relative to one another over time. The development of GDP is also included, clearly demonstrating that GDP recorded the lowest growth rate. Consequently, each of the individual categories shown – the government sector, the business enterprise sector and funding from abroad – grew more rapidly than GDP. It follows that the combined total of these three categories (“total R&D”) also increased at a faster rate than that of GDP.

There are, however, considerable differences between the categories:

- The strongest growth was recorded in the public sector, particularly during the current decade. As shown in Figure 2-1, the federal government constitutes the largest component within this aggregated category.
- Funding from abroad ranks second in terms of growth. Within this funding sector, foreign enterprises account for by far the largest share (detailed data are not yet available for the period from 2024 onwards; the figures for 2023 are presented in greater detail in the following section).
- The business enterprise sector recorded the lowest growth. It should be noted, however, that this category refers exclusively to domestic enterprises and includes the research premium, which is reported separately in Figure 2–1.

Figure 2-2 suggests that, particularly during the current decade, the strong growth in public-sector funding (excluding the research premium) has compensated for the comparatively weaker growth in funding provided by the business enterprise sector (i.e. domestic enterprises). At the same time, funding from abroad (predominantly foreign enterprises) has grown broadly in line with overall R&D expenditure.

Figure 2-2: Development of R&D funding, 2016–2026 (index, 2016 = 100)



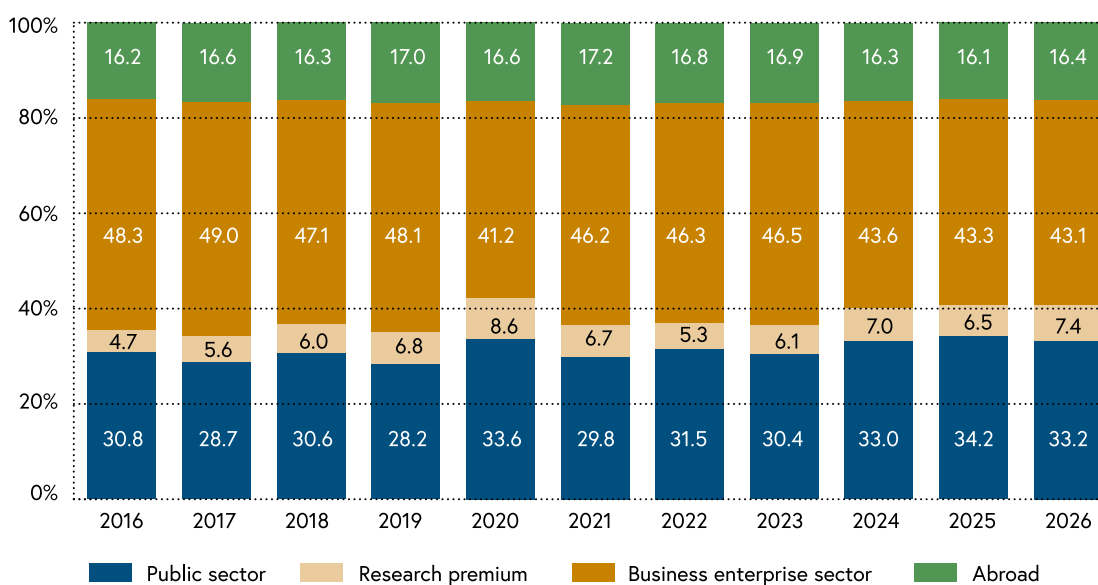
Note: The category “Public sector” contains the categories “Federal government”, “Regional governments” and “Other” (= “Other public funding” (incl. higher education sector) + “Private non-profit sector”), the category “Business enterprise sector” contains the categories “Business enterprise sector” and “Research premium”.

Source: Statistics Austria, global estimate of 23 April 2026; illustration: WPZ Research.

The respective shares of R&D funding are shown in Figure 2-3, although it should be noted that: (i) the research premium is reported separately from the business enterprise sector, and (ii) declining shares may occur even where R&D in real terms is increasing, since, as shown in Figure 2-1, R&D intensity has risen almost continuously. The most pronounced change can be observed in the research premium, whose share increased from 4.73% in 2016 to a projected 7.37% in 2026. This corresponds to an increase of 2.64 percent-

age points, or 55.8% in relative terms. By contrast, the share of the business enterprise sector declined by 5.2 percentage points, from 48.3% to 43.1%, representing a reduction of 10.8% in its relative share. At the same time, the share of funding provided by the public sector increased markedly, rising from 30.8% to 33.2%. Funding from abroad also increased, albeit to a lesser extent, from 16.2% to 16.4%.

Figure 2-3: Shares of R&D funding by sources of funds, 2016–2026



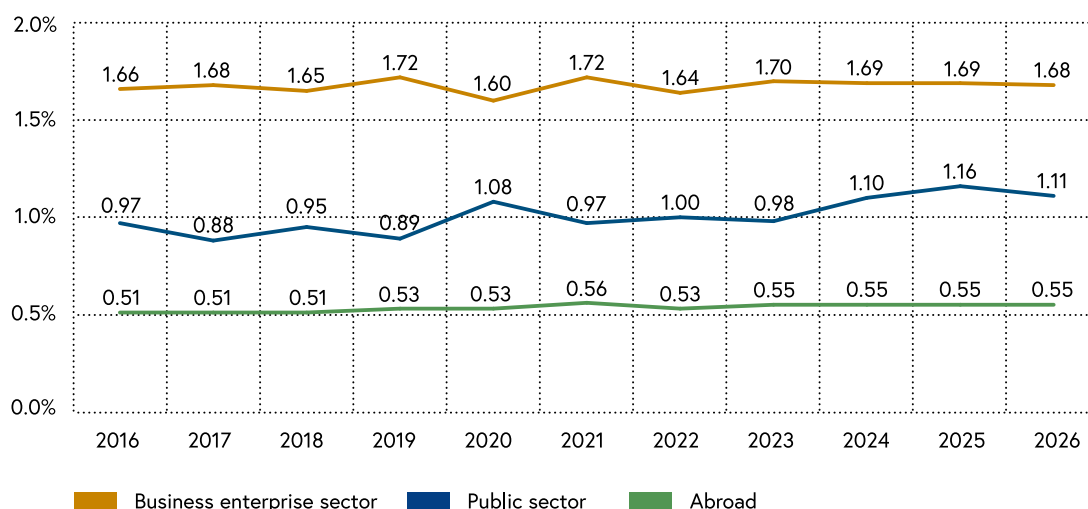
Note: The category “Public sector” includes the categories “Federal government”, “Regional governments”, and “Other” (= “Other public funding” incl. “Higher education sector” + “Private non-profit sector”).

Source: Statistics Austria, global estimate of 23 April 2026; calculation and illustration: WPZ Research.

Finally, Figure 2-4 presents developments over the period 2016–2026 in terms of the shares of the respective funding sectors relative to GDP; in this figure, the research premium is once again included within the business enterprise sector.

It should be noted that the share of the business enterprise sector relative to GDP remains statistically unchanged in Figure 2-4, whereas its share of total R&D funding declines in Figure 2-3. This indicates that the increase in R&D intensity shown in Figure 2-1 is statistically attributable to the rising contributions of the public sector and funding from abroad relative to GDP, as illustrated in Figure 2-4.

Figure 2-4: R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP by sources of funds, 2016–2026



Note: The category “Public sector” contains the categories “Federal government”, “Regional governments” and “Other” (= “Other public funding” incl. “Higher education sector” + “Private non-profit sector”), the category “Business enterprises” contains the categories “Business enterprise sector” and “Research premium”.

Source: Statistics Austria, global estimate of 23 April 2026; calculation and illustration: WPZ Research.

2.1.2 R&D survey 2023

Statistics Austria collects detailed data on the funding and performance of research and experimental development (R&D) across all private and public sectors in Austria on a biennial basis. The most recent results were published in July 2025 and relate to the reference year 2023. The classification of R&D activities undertaken by enterprises, higher education institutions and other organisations follows internationally recognised standards set out in the latest edition of the OECD’s Frascati Manual.³² This ensures comparability both across countries and over time, as the underlying survey methods remain broadly consistent internationally and, at least over certain periods, across survey rounds. At the same time, adjustments are occasionally introduced. The most recent significant change was implemented in the 2021 R&D survey and concerned the statistical

classification of affiliated enterprises, including equity holdings and subsidiary companies.³³

A distinctive feature of the R&D survey³⁴ is that it enables the linkage of funding sources with R&D expenditure. Statistics Austria distinguishes between five funding sectors and four performing sectors, each further divided into several subcategories.

The first question addressed is how R&D in Austria is financed and where it is performed.

Table 2-1 provides an overview by presenting the financial flows between sectors. The left-hand column lists the five sources of funds, while the subsequent columns show the four performing sectors and their respective R&D expenditure. The results of the 2023 R&D survey show that the business enterprise sector finances itself to the amount of €7,846.7 million. In addition, the business enterprise sector finances €117.6

³² OECD (2018).

³³ For details see Austrian Research and Technology Report 2024, section 2.1.2.

³⁴ <https://www.statistik.at/statistiken/forschung-innovation-digitalisierung/forschung-und-experimentelle-entwicklung-fe/fe-in-al-len-volkswirtschaftlichen-sektoren/fe-auswertungen-sektoruebergreifend>

million of R&D performed by the public sector (see third column).³⁵ Furthermore, the business enterprise sector receives €516.8 million in funding from the government sector (see second column). The totals in the right-hand column of each row represent the total funding provided by each respective funding sector.

Accordingly, the business enterprise sector financed a total of €8,110.9 million of R&D. In addition, the totals in the bottom row of each column indicate the total R&D expenditure of each performing sector. For example, in 2023 the business enterprise sector performed a total of €10,618.2 million of R&D, i.e. R&D expenditure.

Table 2-1: R&D performance (columns) and R&D funding (rows) in Austria, 2023, in € million

From ↓	To →	Business enterprise sector	Government sector	Higher education sector	Private non-profit sector	Total
Business enterprise sector		7,846.7	117.6	136.4	10.2	8,110.9
Government sector		516.8	928.7	3,013.2	10.2	4,468.8
Private non-profit sector		11.0	6.2	15.1	28.3	60.5
Higher education sector		4.5	3.1	146.7	0.5	154.8
Abroad		2,239.2	107.0	228.0	35.1	2,609.3
Total		10,618.2	1,162.6	3,539.3	84.2	15,404.3

Note: The totals represent the overall R&D funding provided by each funding sector (right-hand column) and the total R&D expenditure of each performing sector (bottom row), respectively. By definition, the sum of the row totals and the sum of the column totals are identical, amounting to €15,404.3 million.

Source: Statistics Austria, R&D survey 2023; calculations: WPZ Research.

Business R&D

The business enterprise sector plays a pivotal role in financing R&D in Austria. A more differentiated view of the sector is presented in Table 2-2, examining the financing structure in greater detail. “Own funds” are defined as internal R&D expenditure provided by enterprises for their own R&D activities; an additional category includes funding received through the research premium. “Domestic enterprises of the same enterprise group” comprises enterprises legally established in Austria that belong to the same corporate group or group of businesses. By contrast, “other domestic enterprises” includes all other enterprises legally established in Austria. Analogously, “foreign enterprises of the same enterprise group” and “other foreign enterprises” refer

to enterprises legally established abroad that either belong to the same corporate group or do not form part of that group, respectively.

Table 2-2 shows that a substantial share – 20.09% in total – of the R&D performed by the domestic business enterprise sector is financed by enterprises legally established abroad. Looking at the government sector, this sector is subdivided into four categories in Table 2-2. Funding provided by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is shown as a separate category,³⁶ while funding from other agencies, such as the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws), as well as funding from local governments, chambers and units belonging to the social security system, is grouped under the category “other public funding”. In addition to foreign enterprises, the category “abroad” comprises the categories

³⁵ The government sector includes, among others, AIT (including its subsidiaries) and Joanneum Research, both of which engage extensively in cooperation with the private sector and receive co-funding from industry. Further explanations of the sector classification are provided in the Annex

³⁶ Within the business enterprise sector, the FFG is reported separately as a source of funding because, as a subcategory of central government funding, it is by far the most significant in quantitative terms. Other organisations, including aws, FWF and the Climate and Energy Fund, also finance business R&D as defined by the Frascati Manual; however, their combined contribution amounts to only around €25 million.

European Union (EU), international organisations and “other funding from abroad”. The remaining financing sectors are the private non-profit sector and the higher education sector.

As a performing sector, the business enterprise sector is further divided into an “institutes sub-sector” (kooperativer Bereich) and a “company R&D sub-sector” (firmeneigener Bereich). The latter is considerably larger and encompasses all profit-oriented enterprises. By contrast, institutions within the institutes sub-sector comprise service-providing organisations that conduct research and experimental development on behalf of enterprises. These organisations generally do not

operate with the intention of generating profits or other economic benefits.³⁷

According to the 2023 R&D survey, expenditure attributable to the institutes sub-sector amounted to €229.5 million, corresponding to 2.16% of total business enterprise R&D expenditure of €10,618.2 million.

Tables 2-1 and 2-2 present business enterprise expenditure on R&D in aggregate. In 2023, this expenditure accounted for approximately 69% of total R&D expenditure, amounting to €15,404.3 million. Consequently, 67.44% of all R&D expenditure in Austria was invested in the enterprise sector of the company R&D sub-sector, compared with 1.49% invested in the institutes sub-sector.

Table 2-2: Funding of R&D performed by businesses in Austria, 2023

Funding sector	Subcategories	in € million	in %
Business enterprise sector	Own funds (without research premium)	6,660.96	62.73
	Research premium	930.26	8.76
	Domestic enterprises of the same enterprise group	146.52	1.38
	Other domestic enterprises	108.96	1.03
Government sector	Federal government	179.35	1.69
	Regional governments	82.74	0.78
	FFG	229.49	2.16
	Other public funding	25.24	0.24
Private non-profit sector	Private non-profit sector	10.97	0.10
Higher education sector	Higher education sector	4.52	0.04
Abroad	EU	91.57	0.86
	International organisations	7.98	0.08
	Foreign enterprises of the same enterprise group	1,551.01	14.61
	Other foreign enterprises	581.87	5.48
	Other funding from abroad	6.75	0.06
Total		10,618.2	100.00

Note: “Other public funding” includes funding from local units (Gemeinden), chambers (statutory interest groups), social security institutions and private non-profit institutions controlled by government units.

Source: Statistics Austria, R&D survey 2023; calculations: WPZ Research.

37 For further explanations see the section Definitions in the Annex.

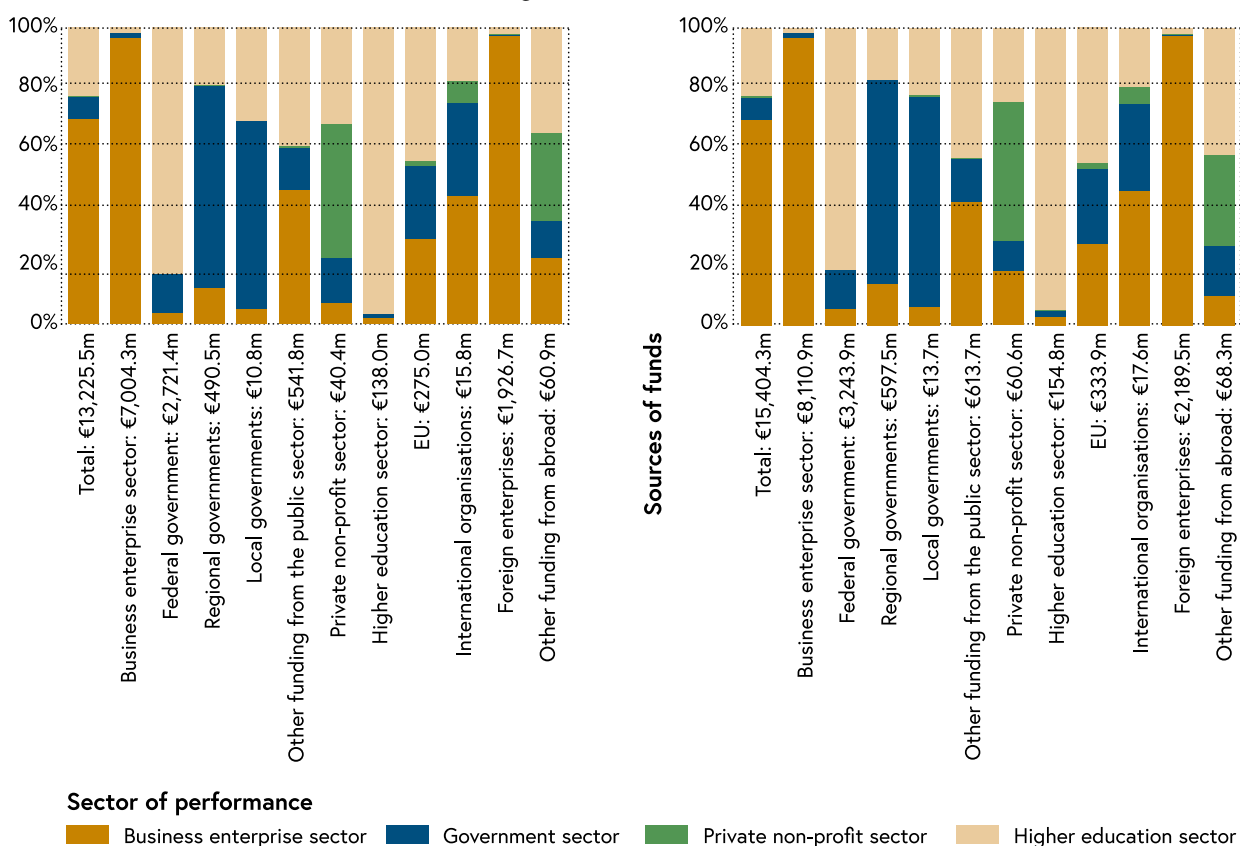
Breakdown of R&D performance and funding

Figure 2-5 illustrates how funding from the individual funding sectors is distributed across the sectors of performance for both 2021 and 2023. The segments within each column represent the shares attributable to the respective sectors of performance, while each column corresponds to a funding sector.

The first column represents total R&D funding, which amounted to €15,404.3 million in 2023 (right-hand chart). Of this total, 68.93% was performed by the business enterprise sector, 7.55% by the government sector, 0.55% by the private non-profit sector and 22.98% by the higher education sector. These shares correspond to the figures shown in the bottom row

of Table 2-1 and indicate the proportion of total R&D expenditure attributable to each sector of performance. The funding volumes vary considerably across funding sectors and are therefore shown separately for reference. They range from €8,110.9 million provided by the business enterprise sector to €13.7 million provided by local governments (Gemeinden). The latter form part of the government sector, which is further subdivided here into the four categories of federal government, regional governments (Länder), local governments and other public funding. Funding from abroad is divided into the subcategories EU, international organisations, foreign enterprises³⁸ and other funding from abroad.

Figure 2-5: Distribution of R&D funding by sector of performance (% , stacked columns) and funding sector (€ million), 2021 (left-hand chart) and 2023 (right-hand chart)



Note: "Other public funding" includes funding from local units (Gemeinden), chambers (statutory interest groups), social security institutions and private non-profit institutions controlled by government units.

Source: Statistics Austria, R&D surveys 2021, 2023; calculations and illustration: WPZ Research.

³⁸ In this context, foreign enterprises are defined as the sum of foreign enterprises of the same enterprise group and other foreign enterprises.

When comparing 2021 and 2023 in Figure 2-5, the first aspect that stands out is the substantially larger nominal volume. Total R&D expenditure increased by €2,178.84 million, corresponding to growth of 16.47%. This unusually strong increase is largely attributable to the elevated inflation observed during this period. As a share of GDP, however, R&D expenditure remained effectively unchanged (see Figure 2-1).

Funding provided by enterprises, both domestic and foreign, is directed predominantly towards the business enterprise sector, with shares exceeding 96% in both years. More pronounced changes can be observed in the other sectors. For example, the share of other funding from the public sector allocated to the business enterprise sector declined by 7.99%, from 44.96% to 41.37%; this category includes funding provided by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). Indeed, FFG funding for the business enterprise sector decreased from 0.056% to 0.048% of GDP over the same period.³⁹

In absolute nominal terms, the largest change was the increase of €1,111.4 million in funding provided by the business enterprise sector to itself. Funding from the federal government to the higher education sector also increased substantially, by €373.8 million. Furthermore, funding of the business enterprise sector by foreign enterprises rose by €265.3 million. By contrast, the largest nominal decline was recorded in funding of the business enterprise sector from other funding from abroad, which fell by €6.6 million.

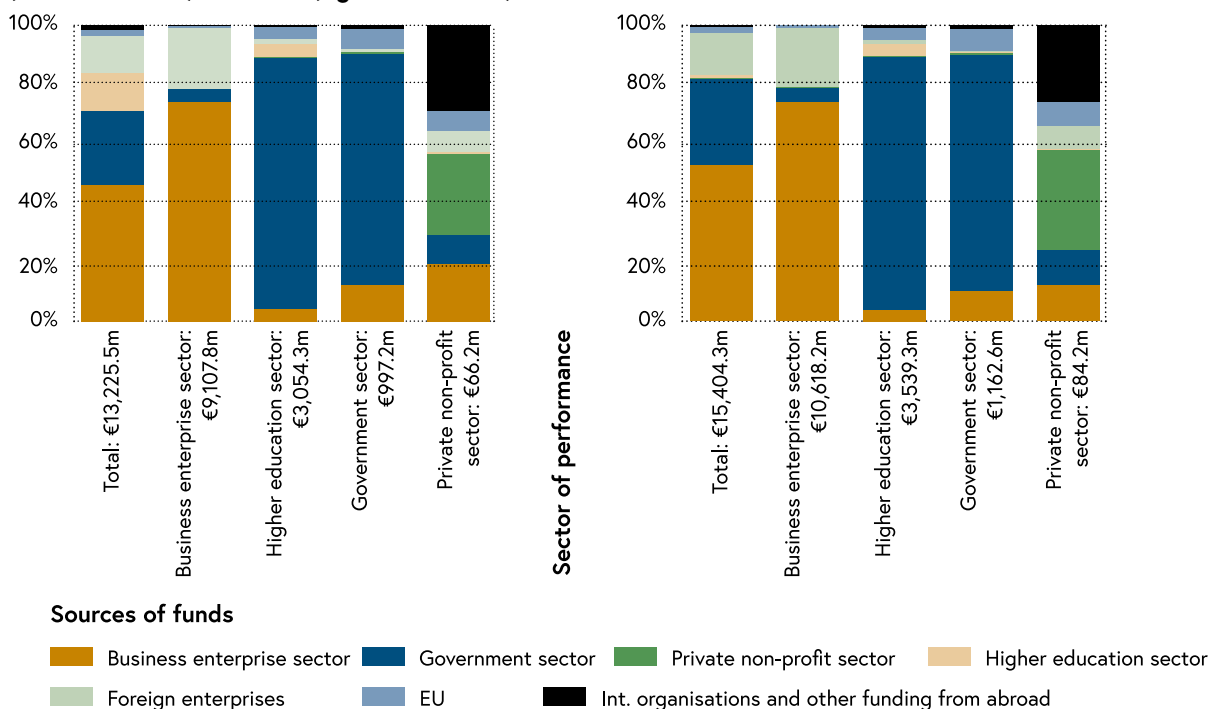
The explanatory value of changes measured in euros is limited owing to the considerable differences in funding volumes and the effects of inflation. When the respective funding flows are expressed as a share of GDP and changes are measured in percentage points, the largest increase is observed in federal government funding of the business enterprise sector, which rose from 0.0244% to 0.0375% of GDP, corresponding to an

increase of 0.0131 percentage points. This is followed by funding of the government sector by the regional governments, which increased by 0.0033 percentage points, and funding of the business enterprise sector by the regional governments, which rose by 0.0031 percentage points. Conversely, the largest decline was recorded in funding of the business enterprise sector by the business enterprise sector itself, which fell by 0.0159 percentage points of GDP. Further decreases were observed in funding of the business enterprise sector by foreign enterprises (–0.0134 percentage points) and by other funding from the public sector (–0.0068 percentage points).

It is worth mentioning that while funding of the business enterprise sector by the business enterprise sector itself shows the largest increase of all funding flows in absolute nominal terms, it simultaneously records the largest decline when measured as a share of GDP in percentage points. This apparent paradox arises because the underlying funding volumes are very large, while nominal GDP increased even more strongly over the same period.

39 In nominal terms, funding of business enterprise R&D provided by the FFG changed only marginally, amounting to €229.4 million in 2021 and €229.5 million in 2023. However, due to the increase in nominal GDP from €449.4 billion to €494.1 billion over the same period, this translates, when expressed relative to GDP, into the reported decline of 0.008 percentage points (or a decrease of 14.13% in relative terms). This does not imply, however, that FFG support for business innovation activities has declined overall. The R&D survey explicitly records only those expenditures from the FFG and other funding institutions that qualify as R&D according to the Frascati Manual. In practice, however, the FFG's actual range of support activities extends well beyond this definition and includes, for example, advisory services and assistance with patent application procedures. For further details, see Chapter 3.

Figure 2-6: Distribution of R&D funding by funding sector (in %) and sector of performance (in € million), 2021 (left-hand chart) and 2023 (right-hand chart)



Source: Statistics Austria, R&D surveys 2021, 2023; calculations and illustration: WPZ Research.

Whereas in Figure 2-5 the columns are divided into four segments representing the shares of the four sectors of performance, with each column corresponding to a funding sector, Figure 2-6 presents the inverse perspective. Here, the columns are divided into seven segments representing the shares of the funding sectors, again for 2021 and 2023. The abroad sector is further subdivided into three categories. Accordingly, the columns represent the sectors of performance.

The first column therefore depicts total R&D funding. In 2023, total funding amounted to €15,404.3 million and was distributed as follows: 52.65% originated from the business enterprise sector, 29.01% from the government sector, 0.39% from the private non-profit sector, 1.01% from the higher education sector, 14.21% from foreign enterprises, 2.17% from the EU, and 0.56% from international organisations and other funding from abroad.⁴⁰

Distribution by type of research

Another aspect of relevance for RTI policy is the distribution of R&D expenditure by type of research. Figure 2-7 provides an overview by showing how the three R&D categories – basic research, applied research and experimental development – are distributed across the three main sectors of performance: the business enterprise sector, the government sector and the higher education sector.

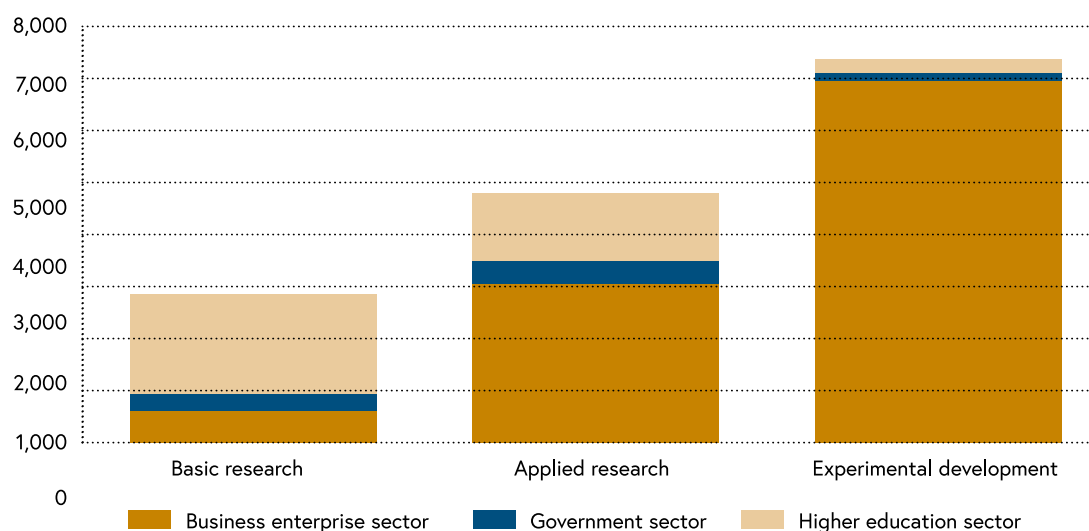
The picture that emerges is as follows. Basic research (total €2,882 million) is conducted predominantly in the higher education sector, which accounts for more than two thirds (67.30%) of all expenditure. Around one fifth (21.13%) is performed in the business enterprise sector, just over one tenth in the government sector (10.73%), and less than one per cent (0.84%) in the private non-profit sector. Owing to the small amounts involved, the private non-profit sector is omitted in Figure 2-7.

⁴⁰ These shares correspond to the rightmost column in Table 2-1, with the foreign sector accounting for a total share of 16.94%.

In applied research (total €4,857 million) and, even more so, in experimental development (€7,373 million), the business enterprise sector is the dominant performer, accounting for 62.87% and 94.35% of expenditure, respectively. The corresponding shares

of the government sector amount to 8.74% and 1.85%, while those of the higher education sector are 27.27% and 3.74%. The private non-profit sector accounts for 1.13% of applied research expenditure and 0.07% of experimental development expenditure.

Figure 2-7: Expenditure for various types of research by performance sector (in € million), 2023



Note: Owing to the small amounts involved, the private non-profit sector is omitted here.

Source: Statistics Austria, R&D survey 2023; calculations and illustration: WPZ Research.

Distribution by type of expenditure

A comparison of the different categories of R&D expenditure presented in Table 2-3 shows that the vast majority of expenditure is accounted for by personnel costs and current expenditure. In both 2013 and 2023, these two categories together represented 92.5% of total R&D expenditure, although the balance shifted somewhat over the period towards personnel costs.

The remaining 7.5% was allocated to expenditure on capital equipment, construction expenditure and expenditure on the acquisition of land and buildings. Within this residual category, the share attributable to capital equipment expenditure increased slightly over the period.

Table 2-3: Types of expenditures 2013 and 2023

Types of expenditures	2013		2023	
	in € million	in %	in € million	in %
Labour costs	4,686.5	49.0%	7,916.3	51.4%
Other current costs	4,166.2	43.5%	6,334.6	41.1%
Expenditures on machinery and equipment	552.8	5.8%	927.0	6.0%

Types of expenditures	2013		2023	
Expenditures on land and buildings	165.9	1.7%	226.6	1.5%
Total	9,571.3	100.0%	15,404.3	100.0%

Source: Statistics Austria, R&D surveys 2021, 2023.

Regional distribution of R&D expenditure across the Austrian federal states

A further aspect of interest in the analysis concerns the distribution of R&D expenditure across the Austrian federal states and whether any noteworthy developments have occurred over time. Table 2-4 addresses

this question by presenting the regional distribution of R&D expenditure by federal state and comparing the situation in 2013 and 2023, thereby covering a ten-year period. The R&D intensity shown in the table is defined as R&D expenditure expressed as a share of gross regional product (GRP), i.e. GDP at the regional level.

Table 2-4: Regional R&D, 2013 und 2023, in %

Federal state	2013		2023	
	Research intensity	Share of R&D	Research intensity	Share of R&D
Burgenland	0.91	0.70%	0.75	0,55%
Carinthia	2.83	5.29%	3.19	5,86%
Lower Austria	1.61	8.46%	1.79	8,67%
Upper Austria	3.13	18.16%	3.54	18,71%
Salzburg	1.53	3.73%	1.61	3,77%
Styria	4.85	20.92%	5.32	21,12%
Tyrol	3.20	9.45%	2.91	8,08%
Vorarlberg	1.65	2.58%	1.93	2,80%
Vienna	3.59	30.70%	3.91	30,45%

Note: The data refer to the respective R&D location of the R&D-performing institution. Owing to a revision of gross regional products (GRP) in December 2025, the 2023 R&D intensities no longer correspond to those published in the R&D survey 2023 of July 2025; they have been recalculated accordingly by Statistics Austria.

Sources: Statistics Austria, R&D surveys 2013 and 2023, as well as a special tabulation for 2023; partly own calculations.

The data show that R&D intensity increased in all Austrian federal states, with the exception of Burgenland and Tyrol. Furthermore, the figures indicate that regional disparities widened considerably between 2013 and 2023, not least because R&D intensities increased more strongly in the federal states with the highest levels of research activity.⁴¹ This becomes particularly evident when comparing the shares of total R&D expenditure. The three federal states with the highest

absolute R&D expenditure – Upper Austria, Styria and Vienna – accounted for 69.78% of all R&D expenditure in 2013; by 2023, their combined share had risen to 70.27%. Over the same period, however, their combined share of Austria's GDP declined from 55.64% to 54.92%. In other words, while the contribution of these three federal states to overall economic output decreased, their share of total R&D expenditure increased.⁴²

⁴¹ The variance of the logarithmised R&D intensities was 0.2517 in 2013 and 0.3096 in 2023.

⁴² National accounts revision status 9 December 2025.

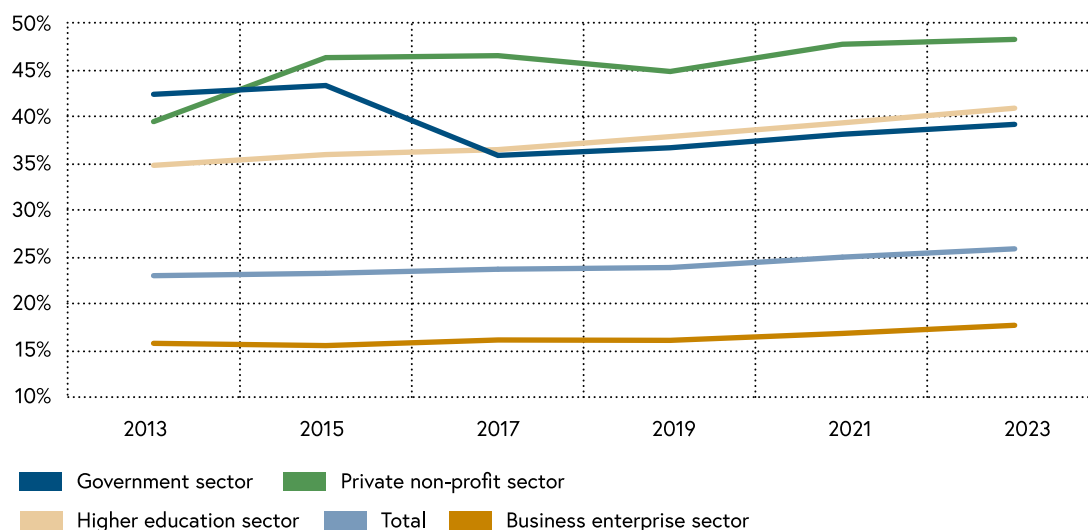
Distribution by gender in full-time equivalents

Finally, the development of female representation is examined on the basis of full-time equivalents (FTEs). As illustrated in Figure 2-8, the share of women among scientific personnel increased over time in all sectors of performance. Across all sectors combined, the proportion of women rose from 22.97% in 2013 to 25.84% in 2023, corresponding to an increase of 12.50% in the female representation rate. The largest increase was recorded in the higher education sector, where the share of women rose from 34.76% to 40.87%, representing growth of 17.57% over the ten-year period.

This means that, measured in full-time equivalents, the share of women among scientific personnel in the higher education sector was only 1.35 percentage points below the share of women in the total hours worked by employees, which amounted to 42.23% in the same year.⁴³

The share of women also increased steadily in the government sector. It should be noted that the discontinuity visible between 2015 and 2017 is attributable to the reclassification of three major research institutions.⁴⁴

Figure 2-8: Share of women (%) among scientific personnel by sector and full-time equivalents, 2013–2023



Source: Statistics Austria, R&D survey 2023; calculations and illustration: WPZ Research.

⁴³ Calculated based on data from the 2023 Labour Force Survey of Statistics Austria; differences are due to rounding ($42.23 - 40.87 = 1.36$).

⁴⁴ Since 2017, the AIT and Joanneum Research have no longer been classified under the business enterprise sector, but under the government sector; furthermore, the OeAW was reclassified in 2017 from the higher education sector to the government sector.

2.2 Austria's position in international comparison



This chapter focuses on Austria's position in research, technology and innovation in an international comparison. Chapter 2.2.1 analyses Austria's performance in research and development using a range of selected key input and output indicators, whilst Chapter 2.2.2 focuses on performance in the field of science. Subsequently, Chapter 2.2.3 outlines Austria's position in key areas of digitalisation, particularly in artificial

intelligence and quantum technologies. Chapter 2.2.4 further examines Austria's capacity for innovation, which is complemented by an analysis of Austria's standing in terms of environmental sustainability in Chapter 2.2.5. Finally, in Chapter 2.2.6, all findings are summarised to provide an overall picture.

In each chapter, relevant indicators from various sources are presented in a comparative format for

the 27 EU Member States. The EU average values shown are calculated from the data available for EU Member States.⁴⁵ Where data availability permits, a comparison is also made with Switzerland, which has a long history of sustained scientific and innovative success, as well as with economies on other continents, such as the USA, China, Brazil, South Africa and Australia.

Key findings from important indicators are highlighted at the beginning of each chapter. Within the chapters, the indices used for the empirical analysis are described in more detail, and trends over time are presented for selected FTI indicators. Where possible, the trend of an indicator is also compared to the corresponding objectives in the RTI Strategy 2030⁴⁶. The data sources used are listed in Annex I.

⁴⁵ For some indicators, values (where applicable for the year under review) are missing for individual countries in the datasets. As the indicators are drawn from different sources, the year for which data are currently available varies in some cases.

⁴⁶ See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020).

2.2.1 Trends in Austria's performance on key FTI indicators

- R&D expenditure 2024 (Eurostat): 3rd place.
- Venture capital 2024 (European Innovation Scoreboard): 16th place.
- R&D personnel 2024 (Eurostat): 5th place.
- Patent intensity 2023 (OECD): 9th place.

This section highlights Austria's position in terms of performance and capacity in research, technology and innovation in an international comparison. To this end, traditional input and output indicators are examined. On the input side, these include expenditure on research and development, venture capital investment and the number of staff engaged in R&D (research and development) activities. On the output side, the indicators used are patent intensity (Triad patents), scientifically cited publications, European funding (ERC grants) and the number of outstanding universities in a given country (as measured by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings). Finally, Austria's position in global innovation rankings, such as the Global Innovation Index and the European Innovation Scoreboard, is examined.

R&D expenditure

R&D expenditure, i.e. total gross domestic expenditure on research and development, is expressed as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) and thus indicates research intensity. This input indicator for R&D is one of the classic, key and widely-recognised indicators for evaluating a country's RTI system. In its RTI Strategy 2030, Austria has set the objective of ranking among the top five nations globally in this regard.⁴⁷

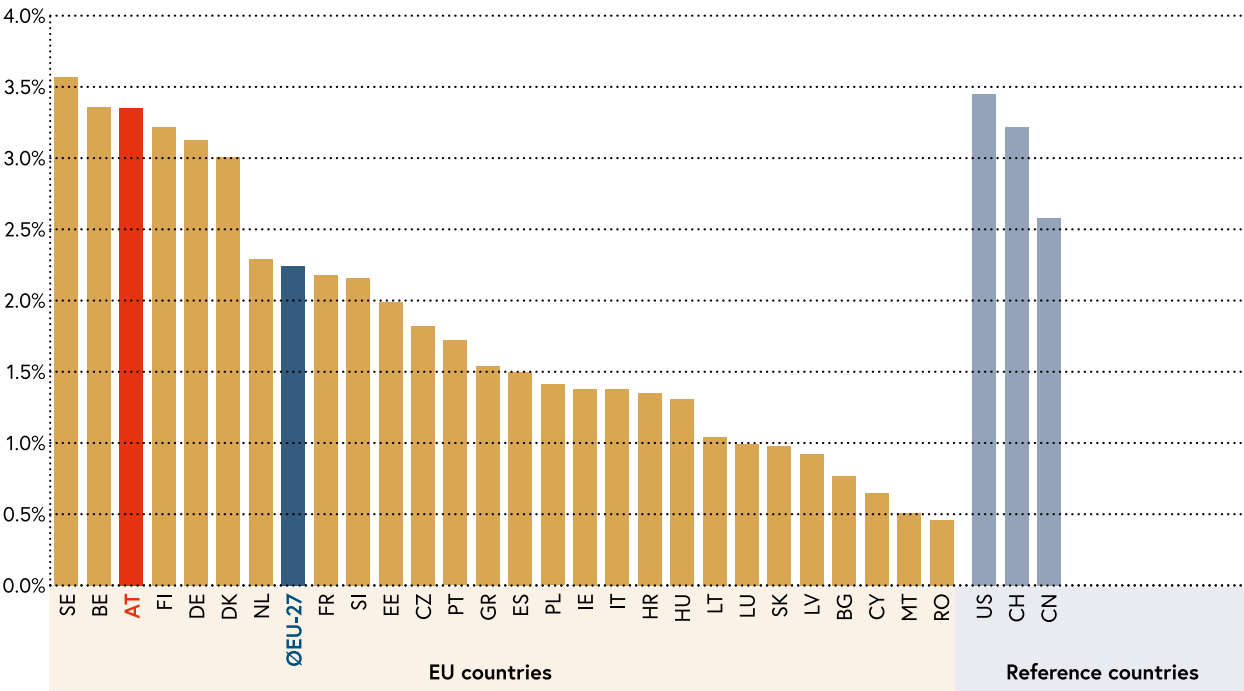
Figure 2-9 presents a country comparison of research intensity for the year 2024. Sweden leads the ranking with a research intensity of 3.57%, followed by Belgium (3.36%) and Austria, which ranks a very close third (3.35%). Austria's research intensity has increased slightly compared to the previous year. With its high research intensity, Austria is once again among the top three nations in the EU.

Globally, Austria ranks 8th in 2024, behind Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Sweden, the United States and Belgium.⁴⁸ According to OECD data, Austria's research intensity is 0.21 percentage points below that of Sweden, which ranks 5th (3.35% compared to 3.56%). The RTI Strategy 2030 objective of catching up with the global leaders (Top 5) through a gradual increase in R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP will not be achieved.

47 See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020, p. 7).

48 See OECD (2025b).

Figure 2-9: Share of R&D expenditure in gross domestic product (in %), 2024



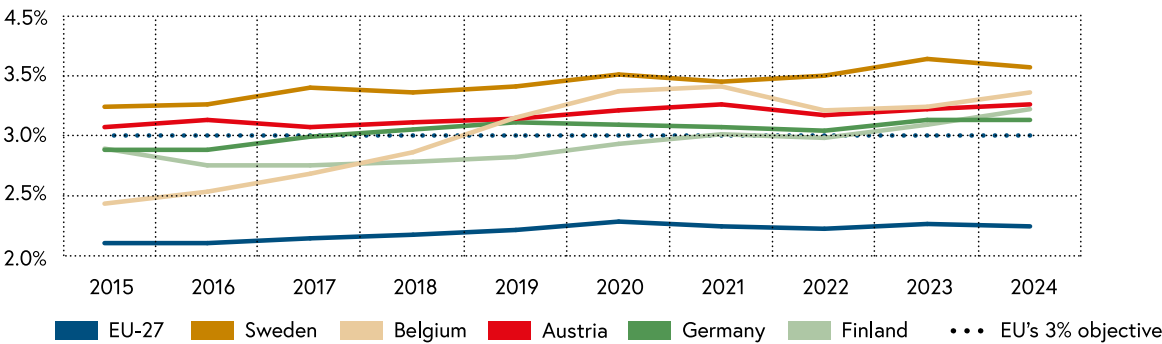
Note: The data for the United States, Switzerland and China are from 2023. No data are available for Australia, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and the United Kingdom. The data for 2024 are provisional figures from Eurostat.

Source: Eurostat (2025), Statistics Austria (2026); illustration: iit.

Figure 2-10 illustrates the development of Austria's research intensity as well as those of selected EU Member States over time from 2015 to 2024.⁴⁹ In 2024,

Austria's research intensity reached its highest level in ten years. Austria thus remains among the top EU nations exceeding the EU's 3% goal.⁵⁰

Figure 2-10: Share of R&D expenditure in gross domestic product (in %) over time, 2015–2024



Note: The data for 2024 are provisional figures from Eurostat.

Source: Eurostat (2025); illustration: iit.

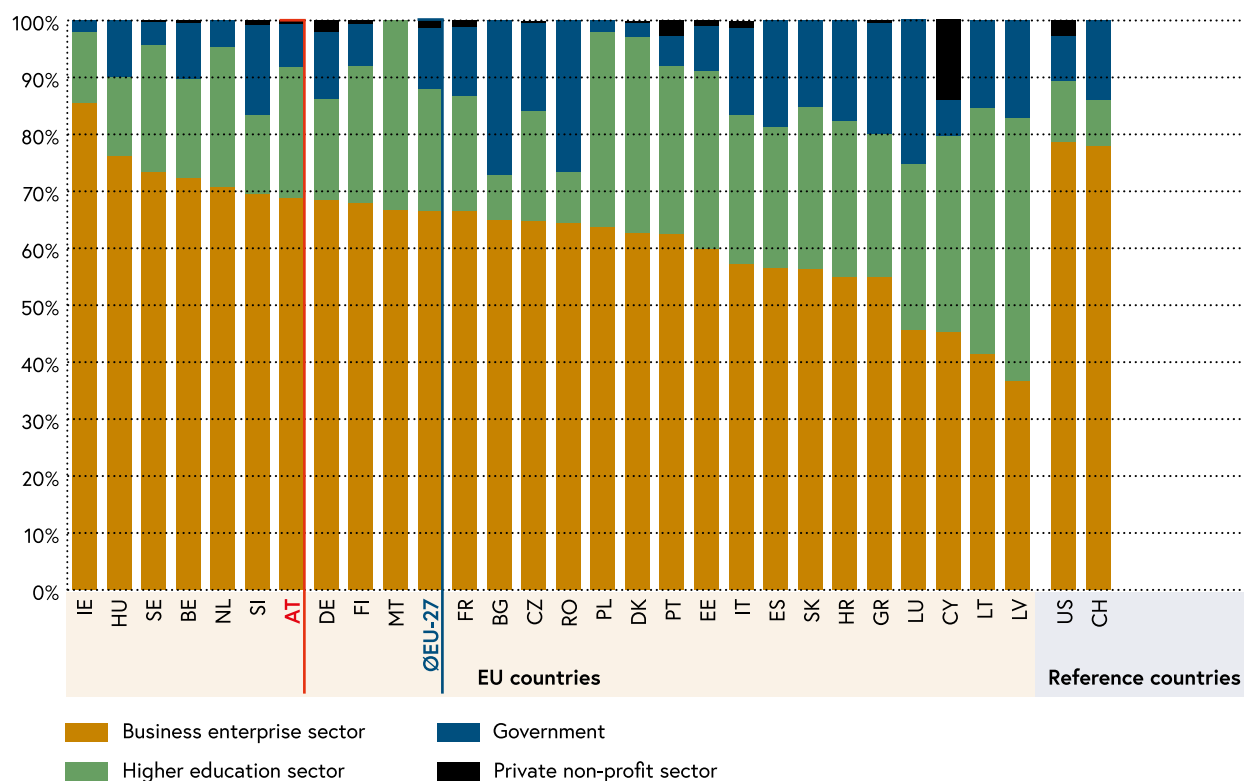
⁴⁹ The development of Austria's research expenditure ratio is discussed in detail in Chapter 2.1.1.

⁵⁰ In the summer of 2010, the European Council adopted the Europe 2020 strategy (see European Commission, 2010). One of the key objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to increase expenditure on research and development to 3% of gross domestic product. Although the European Commission has not yet announced a new goal for the research share since the Europe 2020 strategy, it has reinforced the European innovation objectives and European R&D expenditure in the New European Innovation Agenda (European Commission, 2022).

A country's R&D expenditure is made up of various performing sectors, including businesses, universities and the government. Figure 2-11 presents an international comparison of the composition of R&D expenditure by performing sector. In almost all EU Member States, the business sector is the most important R&D-performing sector, with the university sector

following as the second most important. For Austria in 2024, the business sector accounted for around two-thirds (68.8%) of R&D expenditure and the higher education sector for around a quarter (22.9%). The government sector and private non-profit organisations accounted for 7.6% and 0.6%, respectively.

Figure 2-11: Share of R&D expenditure (in %) in international comparison, 2024



Note: No data are available for Australia, Brazil, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The data for China and the United States are from 2023. The data for 2024 are provisional data from Eurostat. Source: Eurostat (2025); illustration: iit.

Venture capital

For many newly established innovative companies, venture capital investment is particularly important during the start-up and growth phases in order to successfully establish themselves in the market. A country's venture capital volume can therefore be seen as an indicator of future economic momentum. In 2025, the share of venture capital investment in Austria's

gross domestic product, as reported in the EIS, stood at 0.057% (three-year average: 2022–2024).⁵¹ With this figure, Austria ranks 16th in the EU-27 comparison and is thus below the EU-27 average of 0.147%. Austria was unable to maintain the volume of venture capital investment achieved, measured as a three-year average (average 2021–2023: 0.110%). It should also be noted

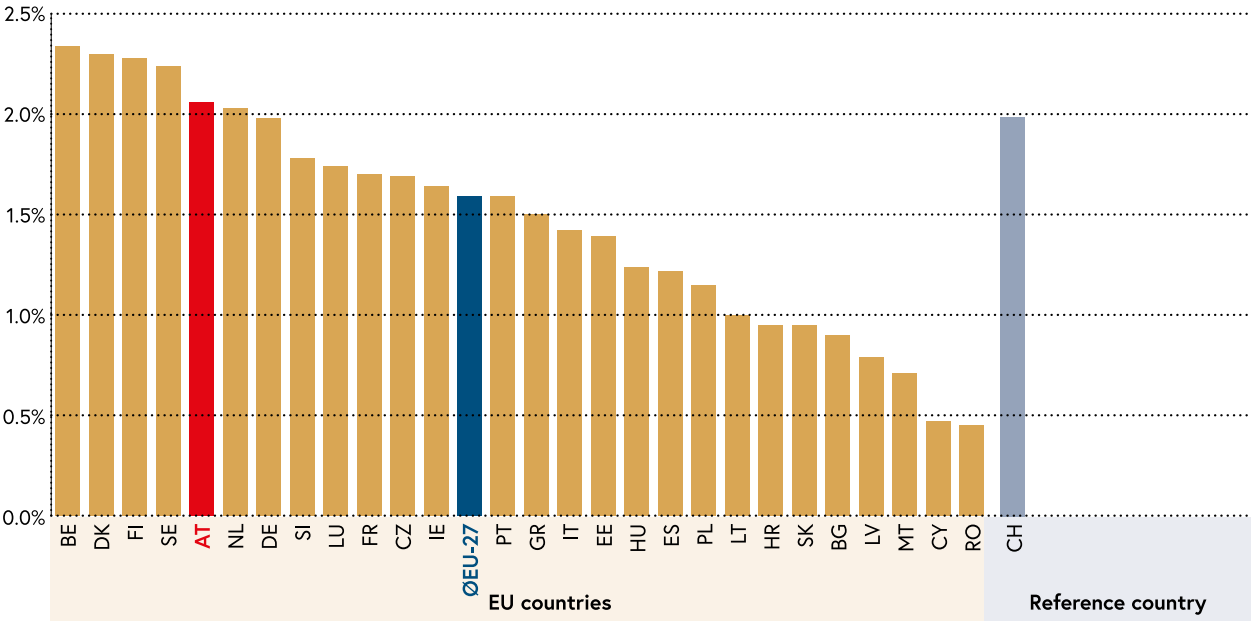
⁵¹ The European Innovation Scoreboard reports the three-year average of venture capital investments in order to mitigate the impact of outliers.

that in the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) growth capital invested in relatively mature companies is counted as venture capital. A look at venture capital investment flowing into start-ups (i.e. excluding growth capital) shows that, at 0.027% in 2024, venture capital investment has nearly returned to the baseline level of the FTI Strategy following the positive outlier in 2021 at 0.174%^{52, 53} Austria has therefore not achieved the objective defined in the RTI Strategy 2030 of increasing venture capital investment as a percentage of gross domestic product from 0.02% to 0.1% in the three-year average for 2022–2024 (excluding growth capital: 0.029%).⁵⁴

R&D personnel

The proportion of R&D personnel in the labour force is another key input indicator for the RTI system.⁵⁵ R&D personnel includes all persons directly involved in R&D, i.e. not only scientific staff (researchers) but also, for example, technical staff. Figure 2-12 presents an international comparison of the proportion of R&D employees in the total labour force in 2024. With a share of R&D personnel of 2.06%, Austria ranks 5th in the EU-27 comparison. This places Austria among the frontrunners. It also means that Austria has largely maintained its growth in R&D personnel and has achieved a share of over 2% for the third time (2023: 2.13%).

Figure 2-12: R&D staff as percentage of working population (in %), 2024



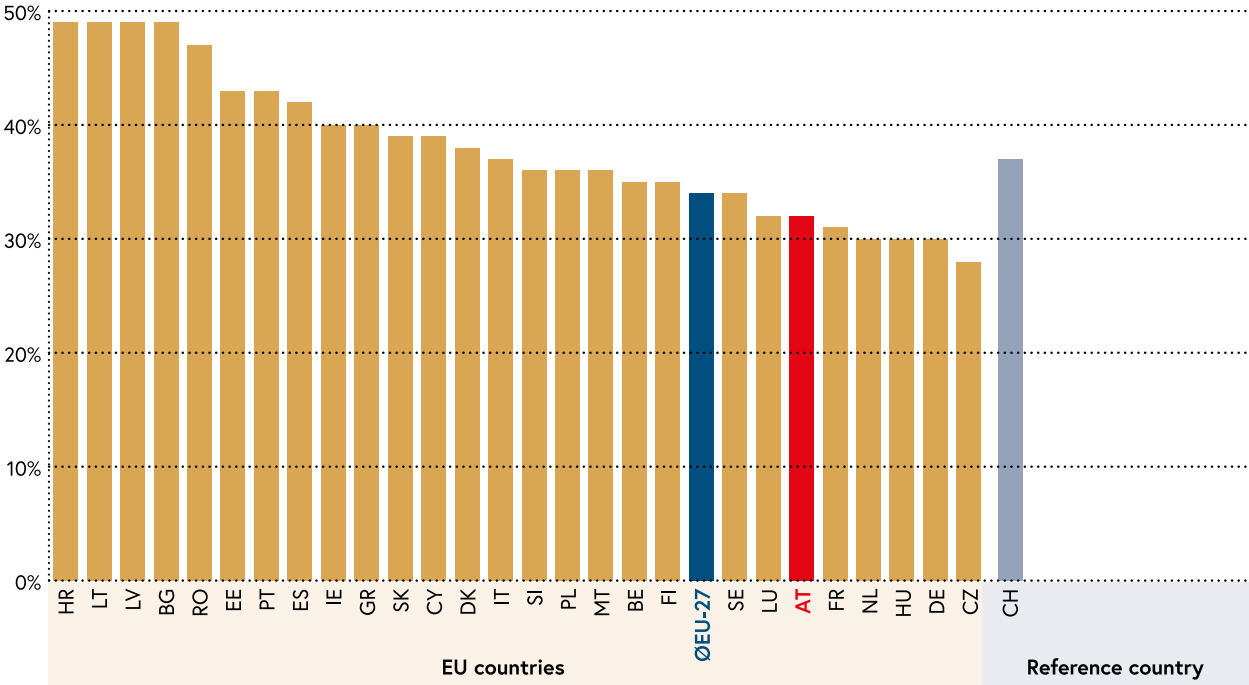
Note: The data for Switzerland are from 2023. No data are available for Australia, Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. For the sake of comparability, the figure is based on full-time equivalents (FTEs).
Source: Eurostat (2025); illustration: iit.

52 Investments in the companies Bitpanda and GoStudent are the reason for the high level of venture capital investment in 2021.
53 The annual data are sourced from Invest Europe, the organisation on whose data the figures in the European Innovation Scoreboard are also based.
54 See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020, p. 7). To improve access to capital for Austrian companies, invest.austria plans to create a fund of funds that invests in venture capital and private equity funds. See invest.austria (2026).
55 "The R&D personnel of a statistical unit include all persons directly engaged in R&D, i.e. employees of the statistical unit, external staff fully integrated into the statistical unit's R&D activities, and persons providing direct services to the R&D activities (such as R&D managers, administrative staff, technical specialists and clerical staff)" (Frascati Manual 2015, § 5.6.).

With regard to women (working) in R&D, Figure 2-13 provides further insight by showing the proportion of female researchers among all researchers⁵⁶ – again in an international comparison. The figure shows the proportion of female researchers across all sectors (government, business, higher education, private non-profit organisations), measured in headcount. Compared to 2019, Austria increased the proportion of female

researchers in 2023 from 30.4% to 32.1%.⁵⁷ Ranked 22nd, Austria still has some catching up to do. The EU’s She Figures Index⁵⁸, which tracks progress towards gender equality in research and innovation, shows that Austria was below the EU average overall in 2024: with an index score of 69.5, Austria ranked 20th in the EU. The EU-27 average stood at 72.9.

Figure 2-13: Share of women in research (in %), 2023



Note: No data are available for Australia, Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.
Source: Eurostat (2025); illustration: iit.

Triadic patent applications

Triadic patents refer to a “family” of patents for the same invention that are filed simultaneously with the three major patent offices in Europe (European Patent Office, EPO), Japan (Japan Patent Office, JPO) and the United States (United States Patent and Trademark

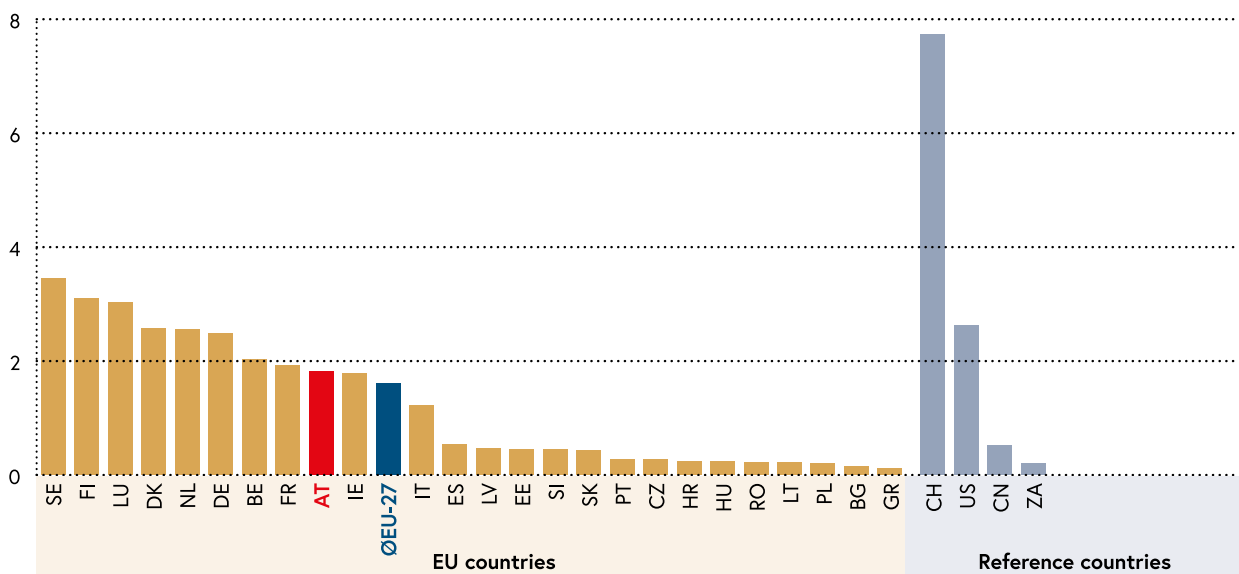
Office, USPTO).⁵⁹ As patent applications are resource-intensive and time-consuming, filing an invention with three patent offices simultaneously can be seen as an indicator of the quality of inventions.

56 “Researchers are professionals engaged in the conception and production of new knowledge. They conduct research and refine or develop concepts, theories, models, techniques, instruments, software or processes” (Frascati Manual 2015, § 5.35).
57 No data are available for Austria for the year 2020
58 The She Figures Index comprises the following six dimensions: segregation in the talent pipeline, research careers and sectors, career progression, representation in decision-making positions, research participation, and the gender dimension in R&I content. See European Commission (2025b).
59 See OECD (2025a).

Figure 2-14 shows the number of triadic patents per 1,000 R&D employees (triadic patent intensity) by country of origin. In an international comparison, Switzerland continues to occupy a leading position with a triadic patent intensity of 15.47. In an EU-27 comparison, Sweden is once again at the top with a triadic patent intensity of 6.90 in 2023, followed by Finland and Luxembourg. Austria has dropped two places in the rankings compared to 2022 and now ranks 9th. With a value of 3.63, Austria is above the EU-27 average (2023: 3.20). A country's patent intensity is significantly influenced by the sectoral structure of its economy. As Austria has a lower share of particularly patent-intensive sectors such as information and communication

technology (ICT) and the pharmaceutical industry compared to other countries, its triadic patent intensity is correspondingly lower. In contrast, Scandinavian countries have a stronger presence in these innovation-intensive sectors. For example, a single company such as Ericsson in Sweden files almost as many patents with the European Patent Office (EPO) as Austria does in total. As the data for triadic patents since 2020 consist of OECD estimates for individual countries based on the latest trends in patent applications at the three patent offices,⁶⁰ Austria's actual position may differ. The OECD's estimates may also change as a result of further updates.

Figure 2-14: Patent intensity (triadic patents) per 1,000 R&D employees, 2023



Note: For Malta, Cyprus and Brazil, data are unavailable for both Triad patents and current R&D personnel. The data on R&D personnel for the United States are from 2022. For Australia, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Russia, no data or no current data on R&D personnel are available.
Source: OECD (2025a), OECD (2025b); illustration: iit.

60 The OECD uses the priority date – that is, the date of a patent's first international registration – as the reference date. The disadvantage of counting patent families based on the earliest priority date is that not all information is available. The time lag between the priority date and the availability of information on patent applications can be as long as four years.

2.2.2 Austria's international standing in science

- Scientific publications 2024 (Scimago): 9th place.
- ERC grants 2024 (European Research Council): 2nd place.
- Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026: University of Vienna ranked 95th.

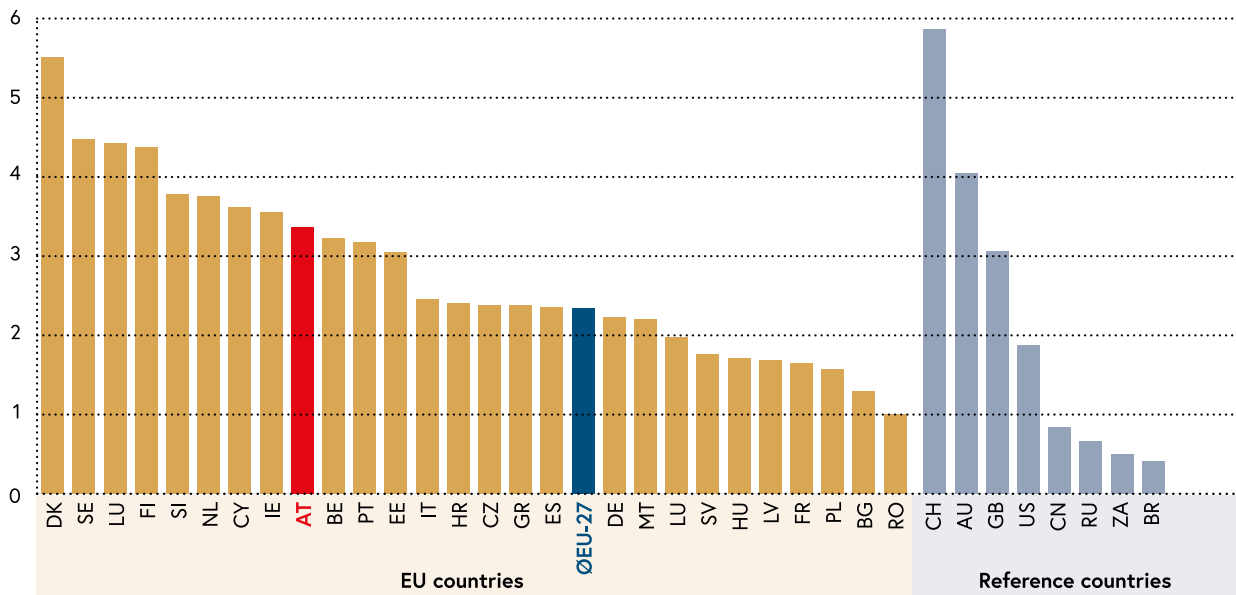
The following analysis examines (i) the number of publications eligible for academic citation, (ii) the amount of European funding secured (ERC grants), and (iii) the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, all in order to assess Austria's academic performance in an international context.

Scientifically citable publications

Scientific findings are published in specialist journals and can thus form the basis for new technologies and

services. The number of citable scientific publications in a country therefore represents a quantitative measure of scientific performance. Figure 2-15 shows the results of a bibliometric analysis based on the Scimago publication database,⁶¹ which takes into account citable publications (including scientific studies, reviews, books and articles) per country and sets their total number in relation to the country's population.⁶²

Figure 2-15: Number of scientific (citable) publications across all disciplines normalised by country population, 2024



Source: Scimago Journal & Country Rank (2025), World Bank (2026); illustration: iit.

⁶¹ The data source for the Scimago Journal & Country Rank is Scopus.

⁶² See Scimago Journal & Country Rank (2025).

With 3.36 citable publications per 1,000 inhabitants, Austria maintained its 9th place in the international comparison and slightly increased the number of citable publications per 1,000 inhabitants. Overall, the number of citable publications has remained virtually unchanged among the EU-27 Member States.

European funding (ERC grants)

The number of ERC grants secured⁶³ can be seen as an indicator of the quality of a country's research system and is a predictor of future high-quality scientific research outcomes. ERC grants form part of the "Excellence in Science" pillar of the Horizon Europe programme and are regarded as highly prestigious within the scientific community. They also contribute to innovation and technological progress, as they frequently lead to patent applications and the commercial exploitation of patents.⁶⁴ ERC grants are generally awarded in five different categories: ERC Starting Grant, ERC Consolidator Grant, ERC Advanced Grant, ERC Proof of Concept and ERC Synergy Grant.⁶⁵

Accordingly, Figure 2-16 shows the number of ERC Starting Grants, ERC Consolidator Grants and ERC Advanced Grants secured in 2024 per million inhabitants. The data are taken from the FFG's EU Performance Monitor (2026). The analysis covers those ERC grants in Horizon Europe that were secured in 2024 with the applicant acting as coordinator. ERC Proof of Concept grants are not included here due to their comparatively low funding volume. Similarly, ERC Synergy Grants are not included in the country comparison, as such grants fund two to four researchers from potentially different countries.

When the three ERC grant categories mentioned above are totalled, Austria secured 6.0 ERC grants per million inhabitants in 2024 (2023: 5.4), placing it second in the international comparison (2023: 6th place). With this ranking, Austria continues to fulfil the RTI Strategy 2030 objective of remaining among the top 10 (overall).⁶⁶ In comparison, the Netherlands is once again the most successful country, with 6.6 ERC grants secured per million inhabitants. Denmark is just behind Austria, with 5.7 ERC grants secured per million inhabitants.

Looking at the ERC grants individually, Austria is once again in the top 10 for ERC Starting Grants (1st place), ERC Consolidator Grants (3rd place) and ERC Advanced Grants (3rd place), with the latter reflecting a significant improvement from 13th place in 2023. This improvement is linked to the fact that the number of ERC grants secured is relatively small and is therefore subject to significant fluctuations from year to year. For instance, Austria secured 13 ERC Advanced Grants in 2024, but only four in 2025.

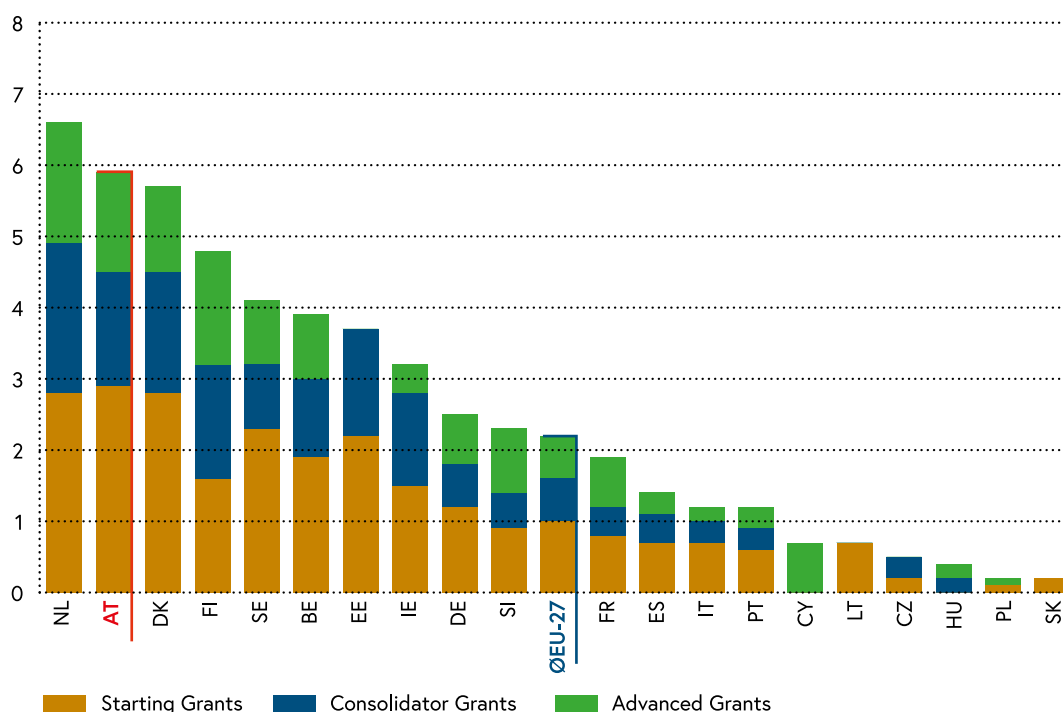
63 ERC grants are funding provided by the European Research Council to support cutting-edge research across all fields.

64 The ERC has published a new analysis showing that 44% of ERC grantees exploit their patented inventions commercially, mostly through licensing and the establishment of start-ups. The survey on patent exploitation, conducted in November 2023, covers around 1,500 patent applications from ERC-funded projects. ERC grantees with a Proof of Concept Grant are significantly more likely to exploit their patents commercially. See European Research Council (2024).

65 See European Commission (2024e).

66 See Austrian Federal Government (2020, p. 7).

Figure 2-16: Number of ERC grants in Horizon Europe per million inhabitants, 2024



Note: Only countries that secured ERC grants in 2024 are listed. The figure shows ERC grants secured as a coordinator. The EU-27 average was calculated from the available data for 20 EU Member States. No data are available for Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta and Romania. Source: Data from the FFG's EU Performance Monitor (2026) as of 1/2026; illustration: iit.

Austria's position in international university rankings

One output indicator of a country's scientific performance is the number of outstanding universities. They are key players in the national knowledge and innovation system, as, among other functions, they generate new knowledge, drive technological developments and file patents.⁶⁷ International university rankings, such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE Rankings)⁶⁸, can therefore be used as an indicator of a country's scientific performance. The THE Rankings compare universities on the basis of a total of 18 performance indicators in the areas of teaching (learning environment), research environment (volume, income and reputation), research quality (citation impact, research strength, research

excellence, research influence), internationalisation (staff, students and research) and industry (income and patents).⁶⁹

For the first time, an Austrian university has secured a position in the top 100 universities worldwide in the 2026 THE rankings. The University of Vienna has thus further improved its position and now ranks 95th globally (2025: 110th). By comparison, the United States remains the international leader by a considerable margin, with 35 universities in the top 100 in the current ranking. It is followed by China (12), the United Kingdom (11), Germany (8), Australia (6) and the Netherlands (5). Switzerland is represented by two universities in the top 100. When Austrian universities are considered individually, their performances vary significantly. The

⁶⁷ The proportion of patent applications in the EU-27 in which universities were directly or indirectly involved was 10.2% in 2019. See European Patent Office (2024).

⁶⁸ See Times Higher Education University World Rankings (2026).

⁶⁹ Starting with the 2024 THE Rankings, the number of performance indicators has been increased from 13 to 18. In addition, the names of the five areas in which performance indicators are collected have been changed. This also means that the results are only partially comparable with those from years prior to 2024.

Medical University of Vienna managed to secure a place in the top 200 of the 2025 THE rankings for the first time. The Medical University of Graz, on the other hand, did not make it into the top 200 in the current ranking, but is once again among the top 250.⁷⁰

Overall, although Austria has not yet achieved the objective set out in the RTI Strategy 2030 of having two universities in the top 100 of the THE rankings by 2026, significant progress has been made with the University of Vienna’s ranking at 95th place.

Austria’s position in global innovation rankings

- **GII 2025 (WIPO): 9th place (EU-27 comparison).**
- **EIS 2025 (European Commission): 8th place (EU-27 comparison).**
- **In three sub-dimensions (“Attractive research systems”, “Linkages” and “Intellectual assets”) over 125%.**
- **In the other nine sub-dimensions below 125%.**

The Global Innovation Index (GII)⁷¹ and the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS)⁷² are two important and established international composite indices for which

the following objectives have been set in the RTI Strategy 2030: a top-10 ranking in the GII and a top-5 ranking in the EIS.⁷³

Table 2-5: Austria’s international ranking in the GII and EIS, 2025

	Global Innovation Index (GII)	European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS)
Published by	WIPO	European Commission
Frequency	Annually (autumn)	Annually (summer)
Current issue	2025	2025
Number of countries compared	139	39
Top 3 nations	Switzerland, Sweden, USA	Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark
Top 3 EU-27	Sweden, Finland, Netherlands	Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands
Rank Austria	19	11
Rank Austria EU-27	9	8
Number of sub-indices	2 sub-indices and 7 dimensions	4 dimensions and 12 sub-dimensions
Number of indicators	78	32

Source: WIPO (2025), European Commission (2025a); illustration: iit.

70 For a possible explanation, see the previous footnote.
71 See WIPO (2024).
72 See European Commission (2025a).
73 See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020, p. 7).

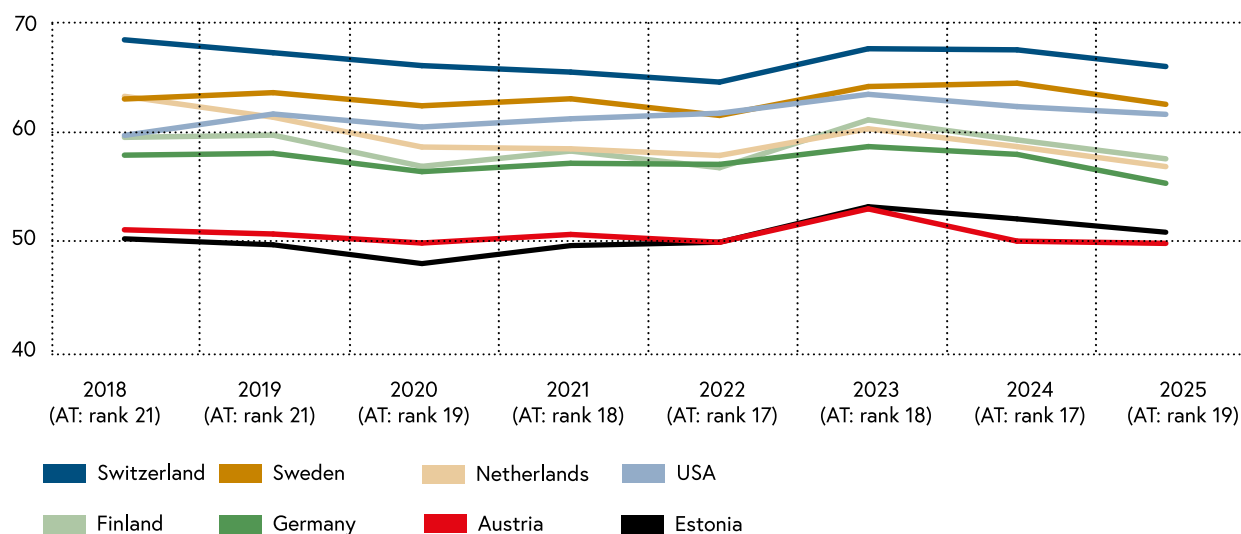
Both indices consolidate the many individual areas of innovation into a single composite index, enabling a comprehensive international ranking of countries' innovation capacity and performance.

The Global Innovation Index 2025 (GII) consists of two equally weighted sub-indices and serves as a measure of a country's innovation capacity and performance. The Innovation Input sub-index comprises five dimensions that encompass those elements of the economy which enable and facilitate innovative activities (e.g. institutional framework, human capital, or information and communication technologies). The Innovation Output sub-index comprises two dimensions and measures the output of innovative activities in

the economy (such as knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination, or creative goods and services).

In the GII 2025, Austria ranks 19th globally and 9th among the EU-27. Despite an only slightly lower index score of 50.1 in 2025 (2024: 50.3), Austria fell by two places in the global ranking and by one place in the EU-27 ranking. Further improvements are necessary to achieve the objective set out in the RTI Strategy 2030 (10th place in the global comparison). Figure 2-17 shows the development of the GII overall index value in an international comparison for the period of 2018–2025. In 2025, and thus for the 14th consecutive year, Switzerland topped the ranking of the most innovative economies.

Figure 2-17: Global Innovation Index (GII) over time, 2018–2025



Source: WIPO (2025); illustration: iit.

Sweden, in second place, also managed to successfully retain its position. The USA, in third place, likewise maintained its position. For all other countries included in the comparison (Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and Estonia), slight declines in index scores can be observed in 2025. The decline was more pronounced in these countries than in Austria. When considering Austria's rankings across the years 2019–2025, an upward trend is evident: whilst Austria was still in 21st

place in 2019, for the last six years it has consistently placed in the top 20 (see Figure 2-17).

The European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) is used to assess the research and innovation performance of EU Member States and to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of research and innovation systems. The EIS takes four dimensions into account, namely: i) framework conditions, ii) investment, iii) innovation activities, and iv) impacts. Each of the four

dimensions consists of three sub-dimensions, each of which in turn comprises two to three indicators. A total of 32 individual indicators are collected in the EIS. The overall performance of each country's innovation system is ultimately expressed in a composite indicator, the Summary Innovation Index. In addition to the 27 EU Member States, 12 neighbouring countries are also assessed, with the Republic of Moldova being included for the first time in 2024.

In the EIS, EU Member States are defined as “Innovation Leaders” if their overall index score is greater than 125% of the EU average for the current year, and as “Strong Innovators” if their overall index score lies between 100% and 125%. Among the EU-27 Member States, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland are classified as Innovation Leaders in the EIS 2025 and thus belong to the top group. Austria is in the group of Strong Innovators and thus in the upper mid-table, alongside Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France and Estonia. Austria ranks 8th overall and is thus the fourth-strongest country among the Strong Innovators, whilst Estonia is at the bottom of this group. Even in 2025, Austria is still not close to achieving the RTI Strategy 2030's objective⁷⁴ of ranking among the top 5.⁷⁵ In fact, Austria is further from 5th place than it was in 2020, when the RTI Strategy 2030 was published: The gap between Austria and the country in 5th place has widened from 4.3% in the EIS 2020 (the edition to which the RTI Strategy 2030 refers) to 7.4% in the EIS 2025 (based on the respective overall index value in the EIS). In the individual sub-indices of the EIS, Austria will only achieve a score of more than 125% in 2025 in the three sub-dimensions “Attractive research systems” (154.1%), “Linkages” (177.3%) and “Intellectual assets” (135.2%). In the other nine sub-dimensions, Austria still has some catching up to do, particularly in “Digitalisation” (96.9%), “Sales and employment impacts” (99.8%) and “Trade impacts” (70.7%).

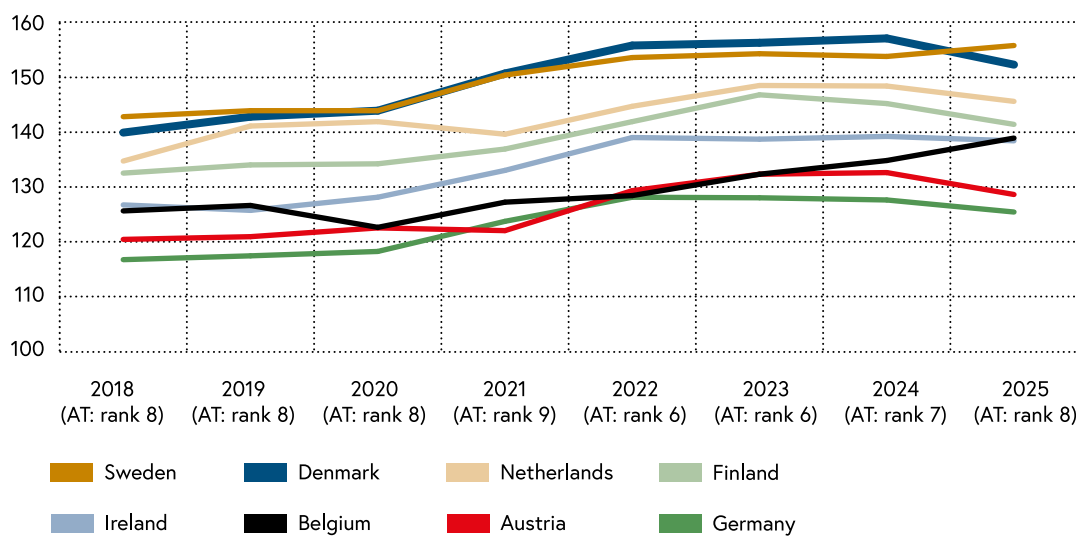
Figure 2-18 compares the EIS scores for Austria and selected countries over the period from 2018 to 2025. The index scores indicate performance relative to the EU in the base year 2018 and thus differ from the overall index scores mentioned above, which refer to the current year 2025.⁷⁶ Accordingly, Austria's score in the Summary Innovation Index has improved steadily overall in recent years. Whilst the index value rose from 120.1% to 132.3% between 2018 and 2023, Austria is projected to reach 128.3% in 2025. Nevertheless, Austria ranked 8th. As illustrated in the figure below, key EU peer countries have improved over time since 2018. In particular, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands show a clear upward trend of over 10 percentage points each, in almost all cases starting from a high value in 2018. In Austria and Germany, by contrast, the increase since 2018 has been less than 10 percentage points, even though the baseline in 2018 was comparatively lower. In a comparison of the EU-27, Austria's increase in the EIS score over the period 2018–2025, at 8.2 percentage points, is lower than the EU-27 average growth rate of 12.6 percentage points.

74 See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020).

75 See European Commission (2025a).

76 Figure 2-18 is based on the revised data from the EIS 2025. Consequently, Austria is ranked seventh in 2024.

Figure 2-18: European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) over time, 2018–2025



Source: European Commission (2025a); illustration: iit.

2.2.3 Austria's position in digitalisation

With the adoption of the Digital Austria Act⁷⁷ in 2023, the Federal Government launched a comprehensive digital work programme comprising 117 measures and 36 digitalisation principles, which affects all areas of citizens' lives. In addition, the expansion of e-infrastructures in the science and research sector has been driven forward, including the expansion of the Vienna Scientific Cluster (VSC) and Austrian Scientific Com-

puting (ASC) for high-performance computing, as well as the MUSICA project as part of the Quantum Austria initiative, funded by NextGenerationEU. The following section therefore focuses on Austria's digitalisation in an international comparison using two science-based indicators, specifically in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum technology.

Artificial Intelligence

- Scientific publications in the field of AI in 2024 (Scopus): 10th place (EU-27 comparison).
- Patents in the field of artificial intelligence per 10,000 R&D employees in 2023 (European Patent Office 2025): 18th place (EU-27 comparison).

In the field of artificial intelligence, Austria has established a clear roadmap for the responsible use of AI technologies with the Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030 (AIM AT 2030) strategy⁷⁸. The strategy aims to use AI for the benefit of society, to position

Austria as a centre of research and innovation, and to strengthen the country's competitiveness. A current implementation plan from 2024 sets out these objectives in concrete terms with specific measures.

⁷⁷ See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2023).

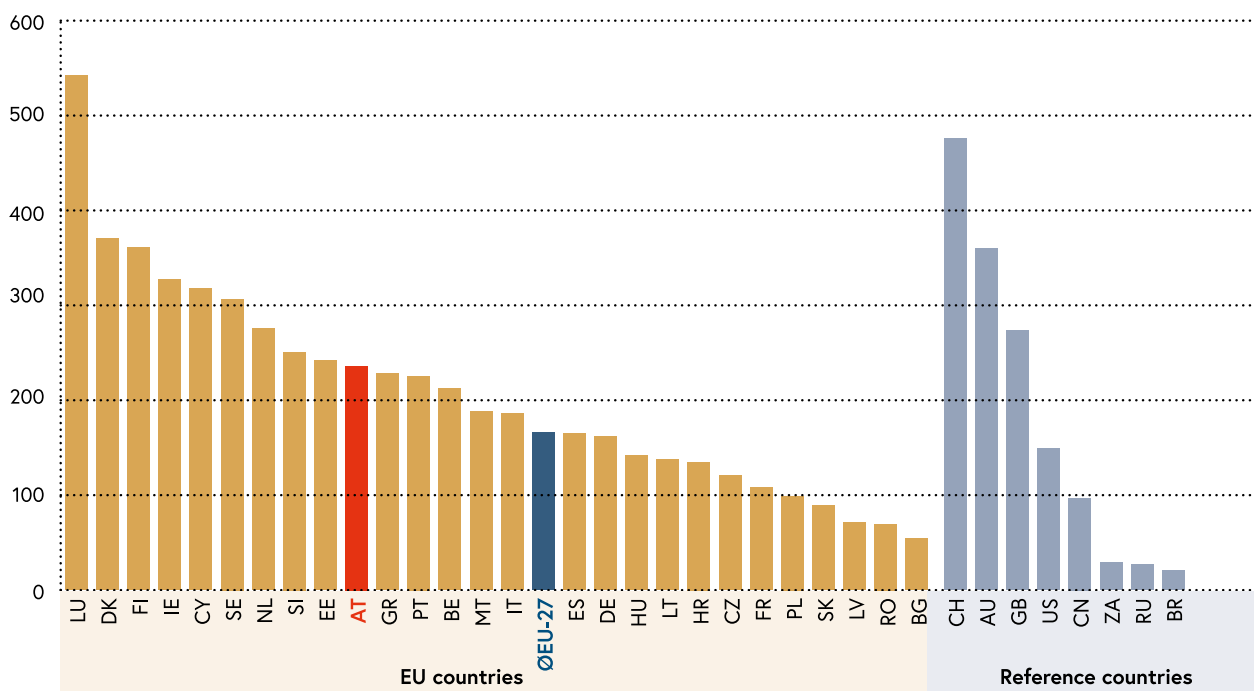
⁷⁸ <https://www.ki-strategie.at/>

At the legislative level, Austria has created a national framework for digitalisation with the Digital Austria Act⁷⁹. Furthermore, the European AI Act, which is intended to create a uniform legal framework for the use of AI in the EU, also applies in Austria and supports these national efforts.

Figure 2-19 shows the normalised number of scientifically citable publications in the field of AI, compared across countries. It is the result of a bibliometric analysis carried out using the Scopus publication database⁸⁰. In Scopus, all 2024 publications that were published as scientific articles, reviews, books, book chapters, notes,

short surveys or letters were identified using FAIR-AI search terms (e.g. “ai” and “artificial intelligence”). As it turns out, Austria has managed to increase the number of scientific publications in the field of AI: with 236 publications per million inhabitants, Austria once again exceeds the EU-27 average (166 publications per million inhabitants) in 2024. Austria thus once again ranks 10th. By comparison, Luxembourg (542), Denmark (370) and Finland (361) take the lead. A look at the countries under comparison also shows that Switzerland, in particular, is the leader with 476 publications in the field of AI per million inhabitants.

Figure 2-19: Number of scientific (citable) publications in the field of AI, normalised by country population, 2024



Source: Scopus (2026), World Bank (2026); illustration: iit.

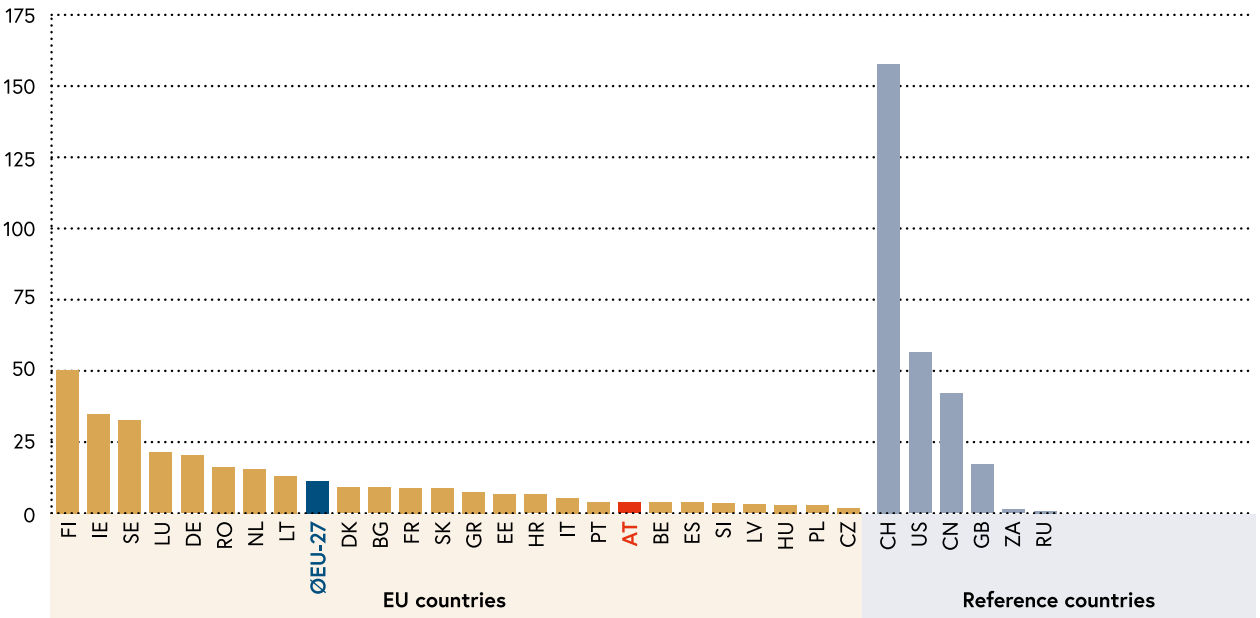
⁷⁹ <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/verwaltung/strategien/daa.html>

⁸⁰ See Scopus (2025).

A patent analysis was also carried out to measure Austria's innovation and performance in the field of artificial intelligence. To this end, patent applications (hereinafter referred to as patents) listed on the European Patent Office's website⁸¹ were filtered using the FAIR-AI search terms. Figure 2-20 shows the number of AI patents per 10,000 R&D employees (measured in full-time equivalents). As patent applications are generally published by the European Patent Office 18 months after the filing date, the year 2023 was selected for the patent analysis. Overall, it is evident that the number of patent applications in the field of AI – whose areas of application include, for example, digitalised energy systems, sustainable mobility and climate protection, healthcare and education – is once again showing considerable growth. Whilst the EU-27 Member States collectively filed 3,451 patents with

the European Patent Office in 2022, this figure had already risen to 4,019 patent applications by 2023. This represents an increase of 16.5%. In Austria, the number of AI-related patent applications fell to 36 in 2023 compared with 2022 (when there were 45 applications). When the number of AI patent applications is compared with the number of R&D employees, Austria ranks 18th in a comparison of EU countries in 2023, with 3.8 patent applications per 10,000 R&D employees. By comparison, the EU-27 average is more than twice as high, standing at 11.3. The leading group in the EU comprises Finland (50.2), Ireland (34.8) and Sweden (32.7). Accordingly, the frontrunner Finland achieved a figure more than thirteen times higher than Austria in terms of patent applications per 10,000 R&D employees. The figure for the comparison country Switzerland, at 42.1, is also more than ten times higher.

Figure 2-20: Artificial intelligence patents per 10,000 R&D employees, 2023



Note: For methodological reasons, the search for Spain was conducted without the search term “machine translation”. Data on R&D personnel for the United States and South Africa are from 2022, for Russia from 2020 and for the United Kingdom from 2017. No data on R&D personnel are available for Malta, Cyprus, Australia and Brazil.

Source: European Patent Office (2025), OECD (2025b); illustration: iit.

81 See European Patent Office (2025).

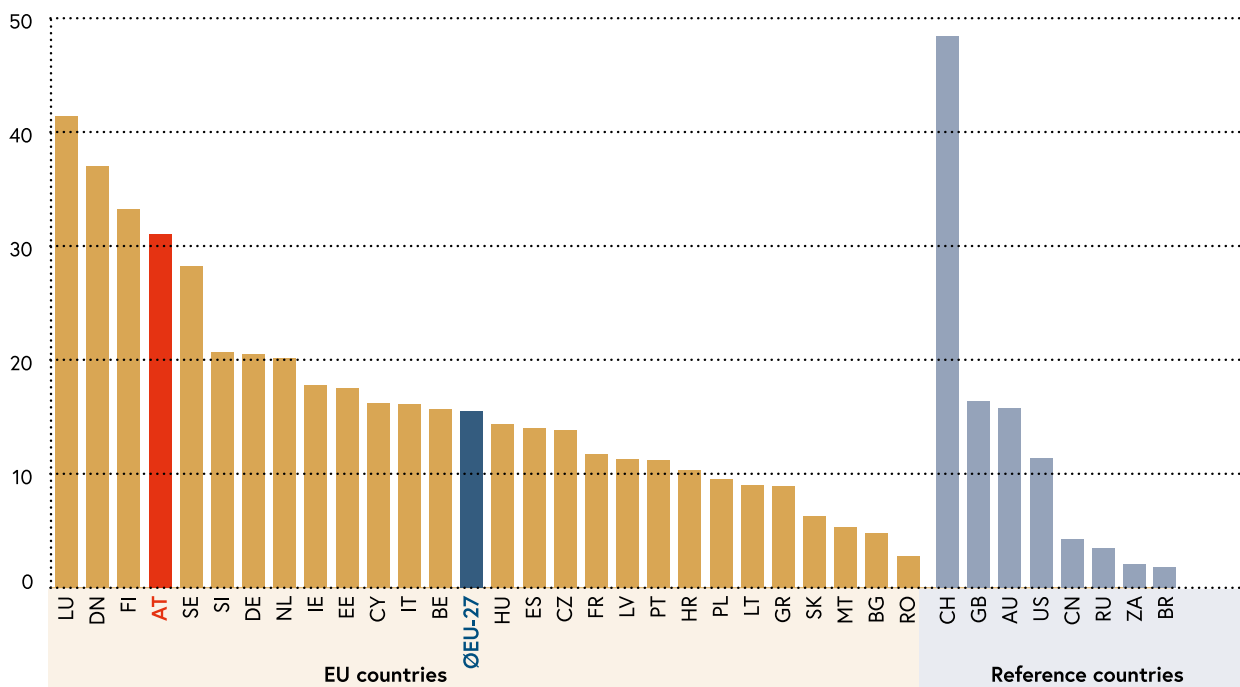
Quantum technologies

- Scientific publications in the field of quantum technologies in 2024 (Scopus): 4th place.
- Patents in the field of quantum technologies per 10,000 R&D employees in 2023 (European Patent Office): 2nd place.

Figure 2-21 shows the results of the bibliometric analysis for the year 2024, which was carried out using the Scopus publication database. The analysis included

publications in the field of quantum technologies that were published as scientific articles, reviews, books, book chapters, notes, short surveys or letters.⁸²

Figure 2-21: Number of scientific (citable) publications in the field of quantum technologies, normalised by country population, 2024



Source: Scopus (2026), World Bank (2026); illustration: iit.

With 31.1 publications per million inhabitants, Austria ranks fourth in 2024, having seen a significant increase in the number of publications (by way of comparison: in 2023, the figure was 24.6 publications per million inhabitants). With approximately 41.4 publications per million inhabitants, Luxembourg takes first place,

followed by Denmark (37.0) and Finland (33.3). The EU-27 average has risen to 15.5 (2023: 12.7). In an international comparison, Switzerland remains the undisputed leader by a wide margin, with 48.4 scientific publications per million inhabitants.

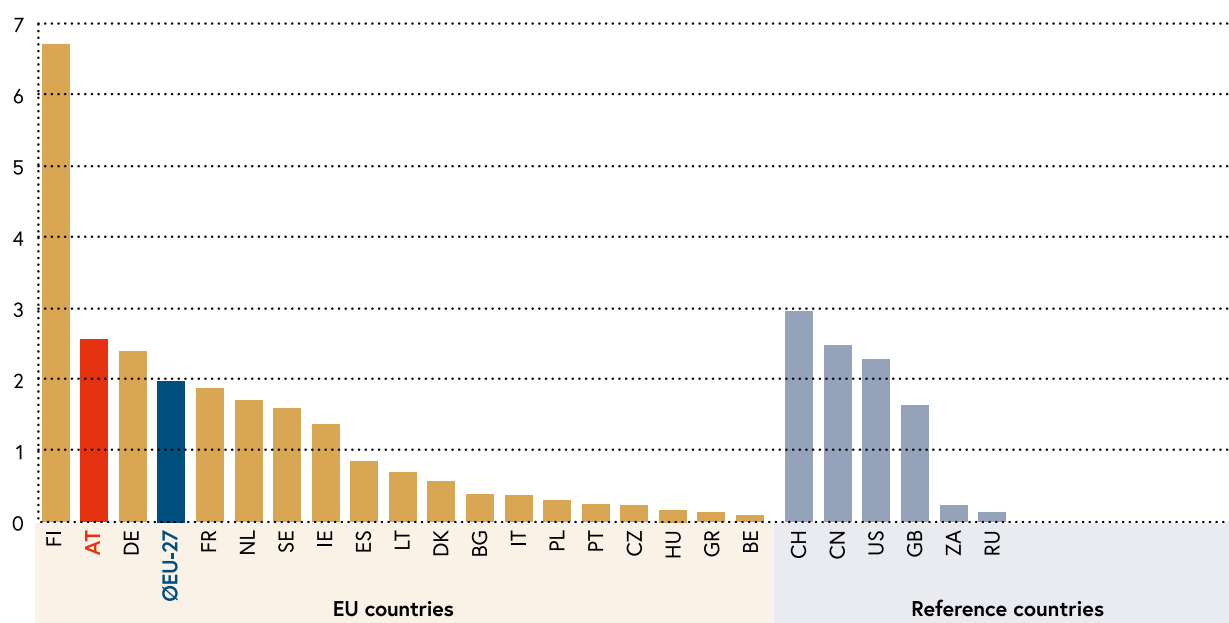
⁸² See Scopus (2025). Keywords used: qbit; qubits; qubit; qubits; quantum computer; quantum computers; quantum computation; quantum computations; quantum memory; quantum memories; quantum error correction; quantum simulation; quantum simulations; quantum key distribution; QKD; quantum cryptography; photon; photons; photonic; entangled; or entanglement; entangling; entangle; cold atom; atom; atoms; atomic; interferometer; interferometry.

The field of quantum technologies has the potential to generate a wide range of far-reaching innovations across a diverse array of sectors. Austria, too, is banking on quantum technologies as a key technology of the future. In light of this, substantial funding has been made available in recent years specifically for research in this field.

In the field of quantum technologies, too, a country's capacity for innovation and performance can be assessed through patent analysis and bibliometric

analysis. For the patent analysis, relevant patent applications (hereinafter referred to as patents) listed on the European Patent Office's website⁸³ were filtered using Cooperative Patent Classification codes (CPC codes) and keywords. CPC codes and keywords from four different areas of quantum research were used,⁸⁴ namely: quantum computing, quantum key distribution, entanglement and cold atom interferometry.⁸⁵

Figure 2-22: Patents in the field of quantum technologies per 10,000 R&D employees, 2023



Note: There were no patent applications in 2023 for Luxembourg, Romania, Estonia, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, Latvia, Malta, Cyprus and Brazil. No data on R&D personnel are available for Australia.

Source: European Patent Office (2025), OECD (2025b); illustration: iit.

83 See European Patent Office (2025).

84 The CPC codes used for the patent analysis and the keywords used for the bibliometric analysis are based on analyses carried out by the Joint Research Centre (see Travagnin, 2019).

85 See European Patent Office (2025).

Figure 2-22 shows the number of patents across all four areas of quantum technologies per 10,000 R&D employees (measured in full-time equivalents). As patent applications are generally published by the European Patent Office 18 months after the filing date, the year 2023 was chosen for the patent analysis, in line with the evaluation of AI patents. Overall, the number of patent applications in the field of quantum technologies has once again increased. Whilst a total of 2,734 patents were filed with the European Patent Office by the EU-27 Member States and the reference countries in 2022, this figure had risen to 3,381 patent applications by 2023. This represents an increase of 23.7%. Of the 3,381 patents in the field of quantum technologies, 2,143 were filed by China alone, 623 by the USA and a total of just 470 by all EU-27 countries combined. Austria increased the number of patent applications in the field of quantum technologies in 2023 to 24 (2022: 16). In terms of R&D employees, Austria ranks second in the EU-27 comparison with 2.56 patent applications per 10,000 R&D employees. The top-ranked EU country is once again Finland (6.70). Switzerland, the country used for comparison, has a slightly lower figure than Austria in the field of quantum technologies, with 2.48 patent applications per 10,000 R&D employees.

2.2.4 Austria's capacity for innovation

The following section presents a cross-country comparison of indicators that can provide insight into a country's capacity for innovation. This is understood as the ability to generate new ideas and translate them into competitive products, processes and services. Innovation capacity plays a central role in the RTI system, as it is one of the key prerequisites for competitiveness and prosperity in developed economies. To gain an understanding of a country's innovative capacity, indicators are used that reflect the initial situation or framework conditions for innovative activities. These indicators cover three areas: human capital, complexity capital and relational capital. Human capital is understood here as knowledge, particularly that of the working population; complexity capital as the diversity of useful knowledge that enables the production of complex products; and relational capital as the ability to bring together knowledge across organisational boundaries. The significance of human and relational capital as key determinants of innovation capacity is also reflected in several studies in the context of intellectual capital reporting.⁸⁶ Complexity capital draws on the theoretical considerations and empirical data on which the Atlas of Economic Complexity⁸⁷ is based.

Human capital

- **IMD World Talent Ranking 2025: 5th place (EU-27 comparison).**
- **STEM graduates 2023 (UNESCO): 2nd place (EU-27 comparison).**

Human capital is a key factor in an economy's capacity for innovation, as innovations can only come about through initial ideas generated and implemented by individuals. Overall, the state of human capital in Austria is analysed in comparison with other EU countries

using three indicators, namely: i) the IMD World Talent Ranking (WTR), ii) the percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds with a tertiary qualification, and iii) the percentage of graduates in STEM subjects.

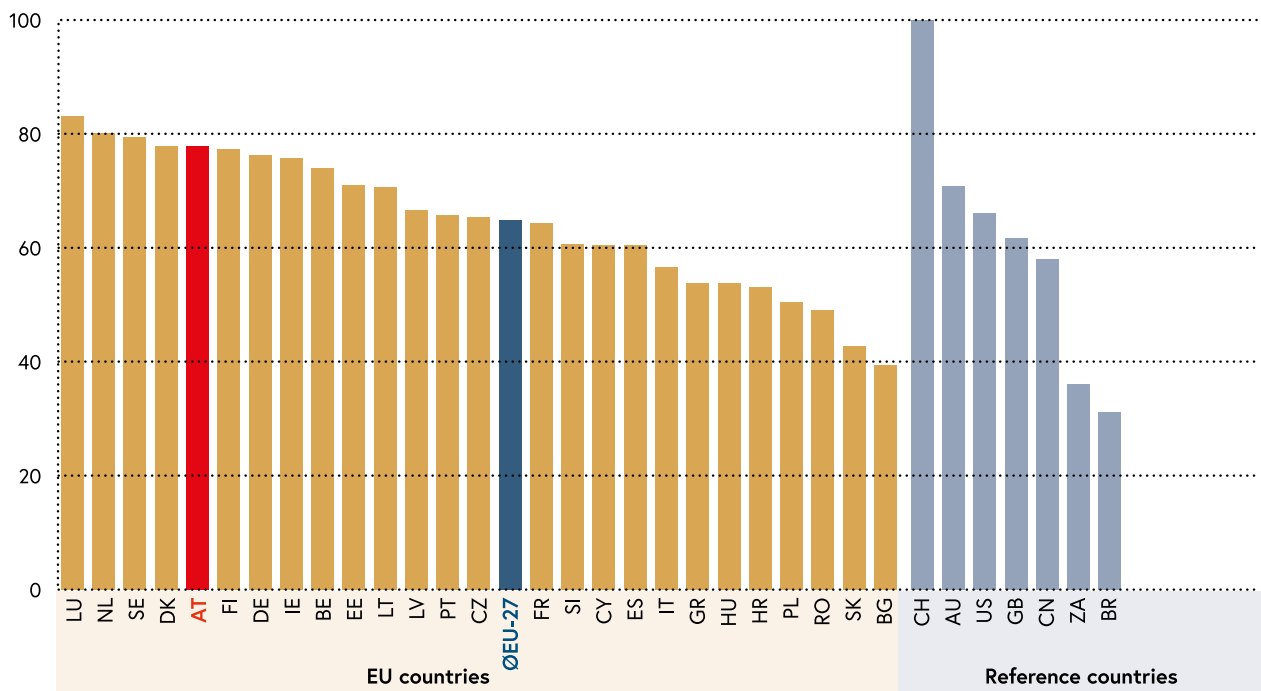
⁸⁶ See Secundo et al. (2020), Mertins et al. (2016) and Alwert (2006).

⁸⁷ See Hausmann et al. (2013).

The IMD World Talent Ranking (WTR)⁸⁸ combines quantitative education data (e.g. public spending on education) with qualitative factors (e.g. the perceived quality of management education) and illustrates the development of skills, retention, and the international appeal of and for highly skilled workers. In the RTI Strategy 2030, Austria has set itself the goal of being among the top three nations in this ranking.⁸⁹ Figure 2-23 illustrates the IMD World Talent Ranking 2025 for

EU Member States and selected comparison countries. Austria once again ranks fifth, whilst Luxembourg takes first place. Looking at the three sub-factors of the WTR, it is evident that Austria has dropped one place in the “Investment and Development” factor (5th in the EU-27 comparison) and has climbed one place in each of the “Readiness” and “Appeal” factors (both factors ranked 5th in the EU-27 comparison).

Figure 2-23: IMD World Talent Ranking (Switzerland=100), 2025



Note: No data are available for Malta and Russia. The EU-27 average is therefore calculated on the basis of 26 countries.

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Center (2025); illustration: iit.

An analysis of graduates in STEM subjects shows that those countries in which dual vocational training plays a central role in the training of skilled workers lead the way in terms of the proportion of graduates in STEM subjects.⁹⁰ Figure 2-24 shows an international comparison of the proportion of graduates in STEM

subjects. Although Austria's position deteriorated by 0.6 percentage points in 2023, it still ranks second in the EU-27 comparison with 30.5% (2022: 31.1%), ahead of Slovenia (30.0). Germany remains in first place in this ranking with 35.5%. Switzerland lags significantly behind Austria with 25.3%. In fact, STEM graduates are

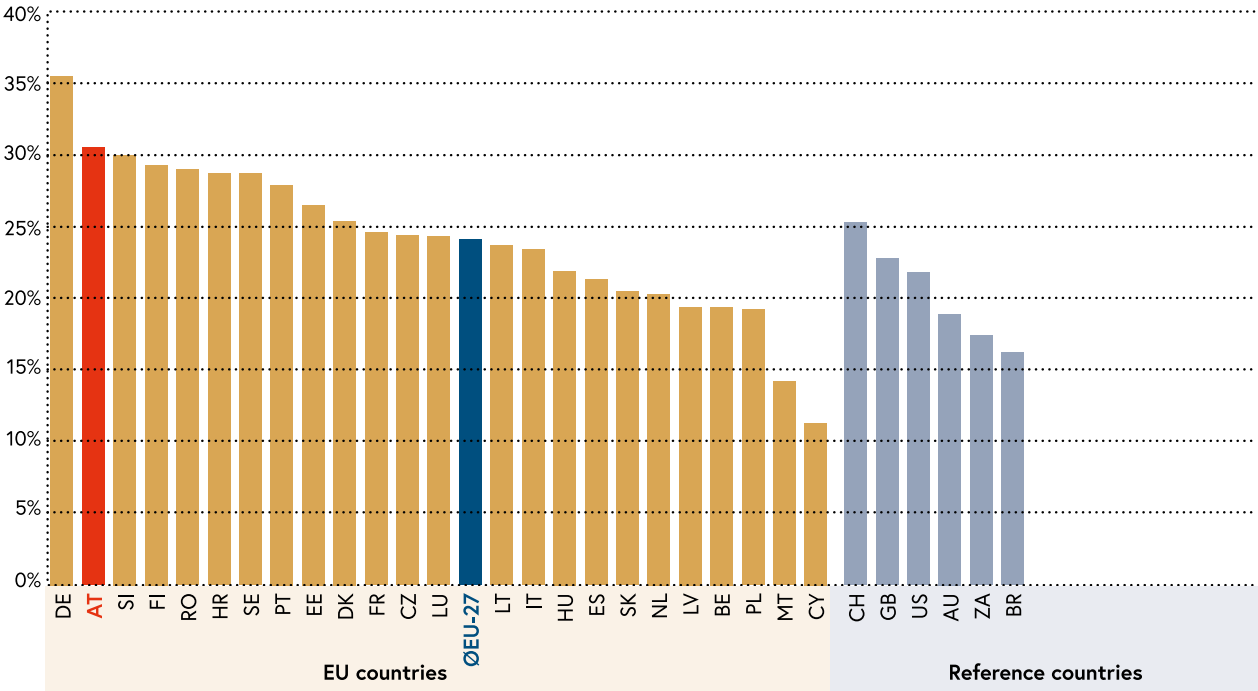
⁸⁸ See IMD World Competitiveness Center (2025).

⁸⁹ See Federal Government of the Republic of Austria (2020, p. 7).

⁹⁰ However, this does not necessarily mean that this correlation can be interpreted as causal. Switzerland, for example, is not a leader in terms of graduates in STEM subjects and is only slightly above the EU-27 average.

regarded as key future specialists in technology-based industries. A high proportion of STEM graduates therefore promises a sustainable positive outlook for the country's future capacity for innovation.

Figure 2-24: Share of graduates in STEM subjects (in %), 2023



Note: No data are available for Greece, Ireland, Bulgaria or Russia. The EU average is therefore calculated on the basis of 24 countries.
Source: UNESCO (2024); illustration: iit.

Global expertise in technology and natural sciences

To meet the challenges of the global environment, internationalisation is a key pillar for increasing the visibility of Austria as a centre for science and research. The National Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030 (HMIS 2030) identifies opportunities and measures to increase internationalisation and mobility. These are also relevant for STEM degree programmes involving a period of study abroad.

STEM degrees (with a study-related period abroad)

At national level, the FTI Strategy includes the indicator “doubling the number of STEM degrees with a study-related period abroad (100% more Austrian STEM students completing a degree or a semester abroad through funding programmes)”.

Data from the FTI indicator shows that 3,546 STEM students spent time abroad during the 2023/24 academic year (2019/20: 2,212); the objective for 2030 is 4,424 (source: uni.data).

Enabling more STEM students to gain access to international and intercultural skills

As part of the 2025–2027 performance agreements, universities were encouraged to integrate mobility opportunities into STEM bachelor’s programmes as well, so that students in these programs can also undertake a study-related period abroad.

Furthermore, the 2025–2027 performance agreements included, for the first time, a performance goal for “STEM degrees with a period of study abroad” in addition to the mandatory goal for “degrees with a period of study abroad”.

The OeAD supports the implementation and monitoring of student mobility in STEM subjects.⁹¹ As early as 2024, two innovation workshops on “Promoting Mobility in STEM Studies”, initiated by the OeAD, took place; these resulted in recommendations for promoting student mobility in STEM subjects.⁹² The OeAD has also produced a factsheet providing stakeholders with an overview of relevant aspects in the STEM sector and detailing key activities undertaken by the OeAD and Austrian higher education institutions.⁹³

In May 2025, the OeAD organised a transnational event entitled “Promoting Mobilities in STEM Fields in Higher Education” as part of the EU’s Erasmus+ programme.⁹⁴ In cooperation with agencies from Germany, Estonia and Portugal, 140 higher education representatives from across Europe gathered in Vienna to support mobility in STEM subjects, identified obstacles and exchanged best practices.⁹⁵ In January 2026, the OeAD organised the event “MINT Moves – Communication Strategies for the International Mobility of STEM Students”, at which experts addressed the question of how to better reach STEM students and inspire them to spend time abroad. The exchange is intended to take place regularly. The event forms part of activities aimed at promoting international mobility in the STEM sector⁹⁶.

91 <https://oead.at/de/hochschule-strategie-international/strategiebegleitung/mint-mobilitaet>

92 https://oead.at/fileadmin/Dokumente/oead.at/IHK/Europaeischer_Hochschulraum/MINT-Mobilitaet/Empfehlungen_OeAD_MINT-Mobilitaet_12.2024.pdf

93 https://oead.at/fileadmin/Dokumente/oead.at/IHK/Europaeischer_Hochschulraum/MINT-Mobilitaet/OeAD_FactSheet_MINT_FINAL.pdf

94 See also section 2.4.1.

95 <https://erasmusplus.oead.at/de/veranstaltungen/detail/2025-05-14-16-promoting-mobilities-in-stem-fields-in-higher-education/documentation>

96 <https://oead.at/de/hochschule-strategie-international/strategiebegleitung/mint-mobilitaet/mint-moves>

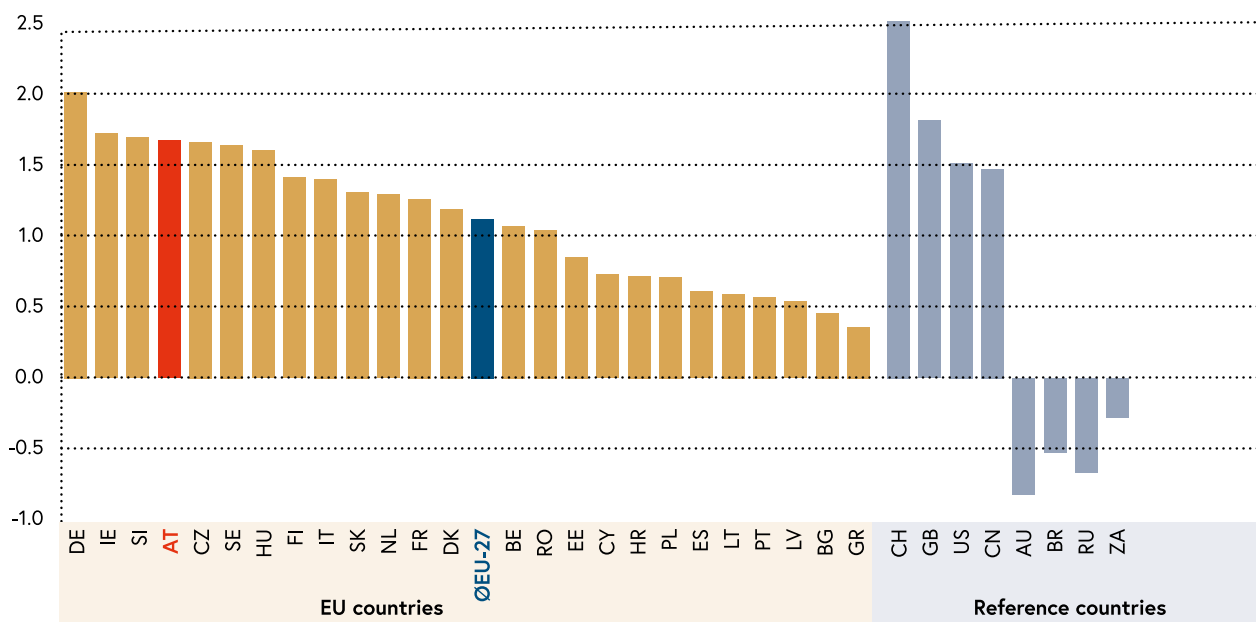
Complexity Capital

- **Economic Complexity Index 2023 (The Growth Lab at Harvard University): 4th place in the EU-27, 10th place in the global ranking.**
- **The Austrian economy continues to be characterised by a very high level of complexity.**

Alongside human capital, complexity capital is a key factor in assessing a country's capacity for innovation. Complexity capital is subsequently measured using the Economic Complexity Index (ECI).⁹⁷ This index not only takes into account the absolute number of products manufactured and exported by a country but also examines how complex and diverse these products are.

If the number of complex products increases as a proportion of a country's total export volume, the economic complexity score also rises. Conversely, the score falls if the number of countries also exporting that product increases. The ECI is calculated using export data and is standardised to values between –2.5 and +2.5.

Figure 2-25: Economic complexity (index), 2023



Note: No data are available for Luxembourg and Malta. The EU-27 average is therefore calculated based on 25 countries. The Economic Complexity Index is calculated using export data and is standardised to values between –2.5 and +2.5.

Source: The Growth Lab at Harvard University (2024); illustration: iit.

⁹⁷ See The Growth Lab at Harvard University (2024).

Figure 2-25 presents a country comparison of economic complexity for the year 2023. At EU-27 level, the average value over the last five reporting years ranged between 1.19 and 1.12, reaching its lowest point in 2023. Austria's complexity in 2023 stood at 1.67.⁹⁸ With this

current figure, the Austrian economy remains in the leading group, ranking 4th in the EU country comparison and characterised by very high complexity. In a global comparison Austria's position also remains high, in 10th place.

Relationship capital

- **SME cooperation in 2025 (European Commission): 7th place (EU-27 comparison).**
- **Joint publications by public and private partners 2025 (European Commission): 4th place (EU-27 comparison).**

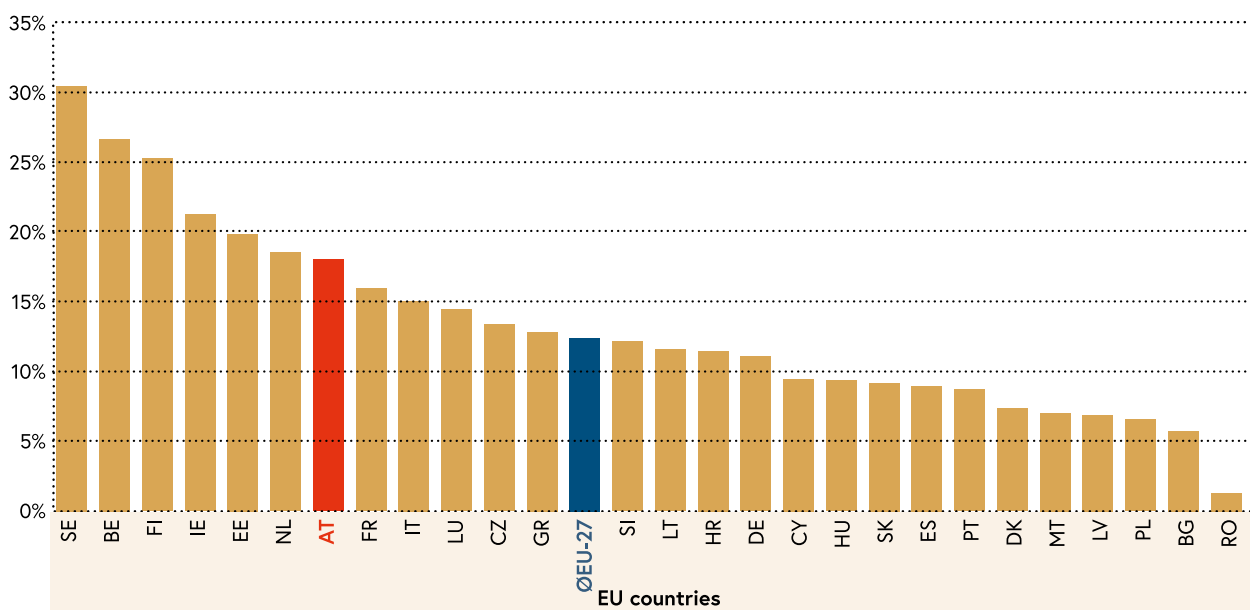
Innovations and new products often arise from collaborations between research institutions and industry. Knowledge and technology transfer, as well as collaboration networks, are therefore crucial factors in increasing research efficiency and accelerating the development of new or improved products and technologies. To illustrate Austria's relationship capital, the following section examines collaborations between SMEs and other companies, as well as the number of joint publications by public and private partners involving domestic and foreign participation.

Figure 2-26 shows the proportion of SMEs that will be collaborating with partners in the innovation process by 2025. This indicator refers to the flow of knowledge between public research institutions and businesses, as well as between businesses themselves. The indicator is limited to SMEs, as almost all large enterprises are already involved in innovation collaboration.⁹⁹ Austria has maintained its 7th place ranking and is thus well above the EU average. The frontrunners in the area of SME collaboration with partners in the innovation process are Sweden, Belgium and Finland.

98 Austria is already at a very high level in terms of its economic complexity. Given this high level, it is not easy to increase complexity further: the higher a country's level of complexity, the more likely it is that further increases will no longer be possible, or that economic complexity will begin to decline again. A further increase can be achieved by developing new complex products within the country. Although a comparatively large number of new products have been introduced in Austria in recent years, this has not only been in highly complex sectors such as vehicles, pharmaceuticals or industrial machinery, but also in moderately complex sectors such as ICT and less complex sectors such as transport, petroleum and beverages. Furthermore, Austria has lost market share, particularly in highly complex products such as mechanical engineering (<https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/countries/15>).

99 See European Commission (2025a).

Figure 2-26: Collaboration between SMEs and partners in the innovation process (% of SMEs), 2025

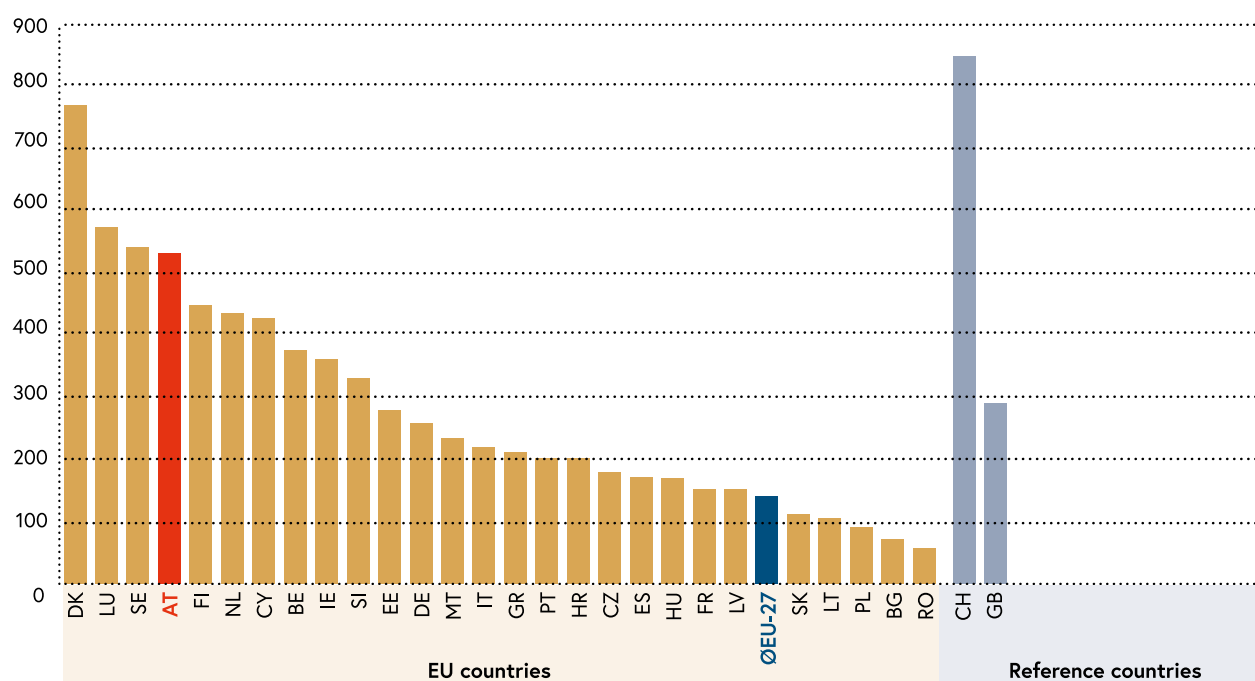


Note: The data are based on the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) 2025. Data availability does not allow for a comparison here, as no data are available for all comparison countries (Australia, Brazil, China, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States).
Source: European Commission (2025a); illustration: iit.

Figure 2-27 shows the number of joint publications by public and private partners with domestic and international participation in 2025, relative to the country's population (per million inhabitants). Austria ranks fourth

with 530.1 joint publications per million inhabitants, behind Denmark (766.6), Luxembourg (571.4) and Sweden (538.7). In an international comparison, Switzerland, with 844.5 joint publications, ranks ahead of Denmark.

Figure 2-27: Joint publications by public and private partners per million inhabitants, 2025



Note: The data for the United Kingdom are from 2023. No data are available for Australia, Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa and the United States.
Source: European Commission (2025a); illustration: iit.

2.2.5 Austria's position on environmental sustainability

- **Environmental technologies and patents (impact monitoring in Austria): Austria exceeds the EU average by 14%.**
- **Austria has an above-average share of patent applications in the field of sustainable technologies compared to the EU average**

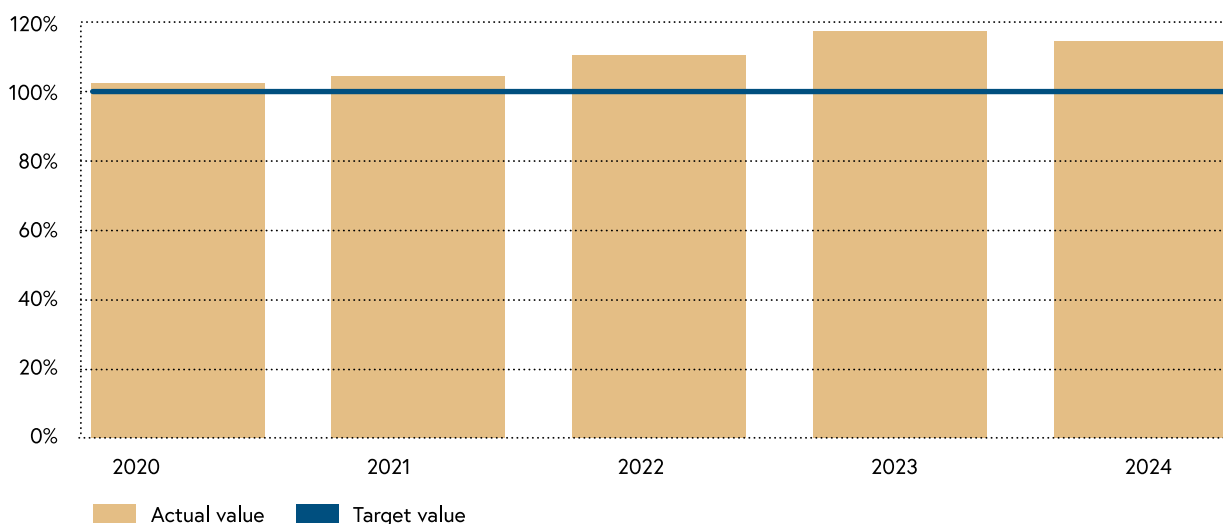
In light of the climate and the current energy crisis, RTI is a key area of action under the RTI Pact 2024–2026 for achieving climate and energy goals, particularly for achieving climate neutrality by 2040. Research, technology development and integration, as well as system innovation in the field of environmental sustainability, are required, e.g. in the energy transition and the circular economy. The following therefore presents an international comparison of Austria's position using a selected indicator in the field of environmental sustainability (environmental technologies and patent).

Based on data from the European Patent Office and categorised according to the OECD classification as the Relative Specialisation Index (RPA), the share of Austrian patent applications in the field of environmental technologies was calculated. It was then compared to the corresponding share of other reference countries. The indicator thus measures the relative strength of Austrian environmental patent publications at the European Patent Office compared to other innovation leaders – and shows a positive trend over the years. The values of the indicator have risen from 102% in 2020

to 114% in 2024 (see Figure 2-28), indicating a stable and sustainable position for Austrian RTI stakeholders in the field of environmental innovations.¹⁰⁰ With this result, the target value of at least 100% set within the framework of impact monitoring in Austria was not only achieved but significantly exceeded, underlining Austria's strong

position in the field of environmental technologies. Consequently, Austria ranks among the EU countries with an above-average share of patent applications in the field of sustainable technologies, not least because Austria has also successfully increased the number of patent applications in this field in recent years.

Figure 2-28: Environmental technologies and patents in Austria (as a percentage) compared with the EU average



Source: Austrian Federal Chancellery (2026); illustration: iit.

2.2.6 Summary

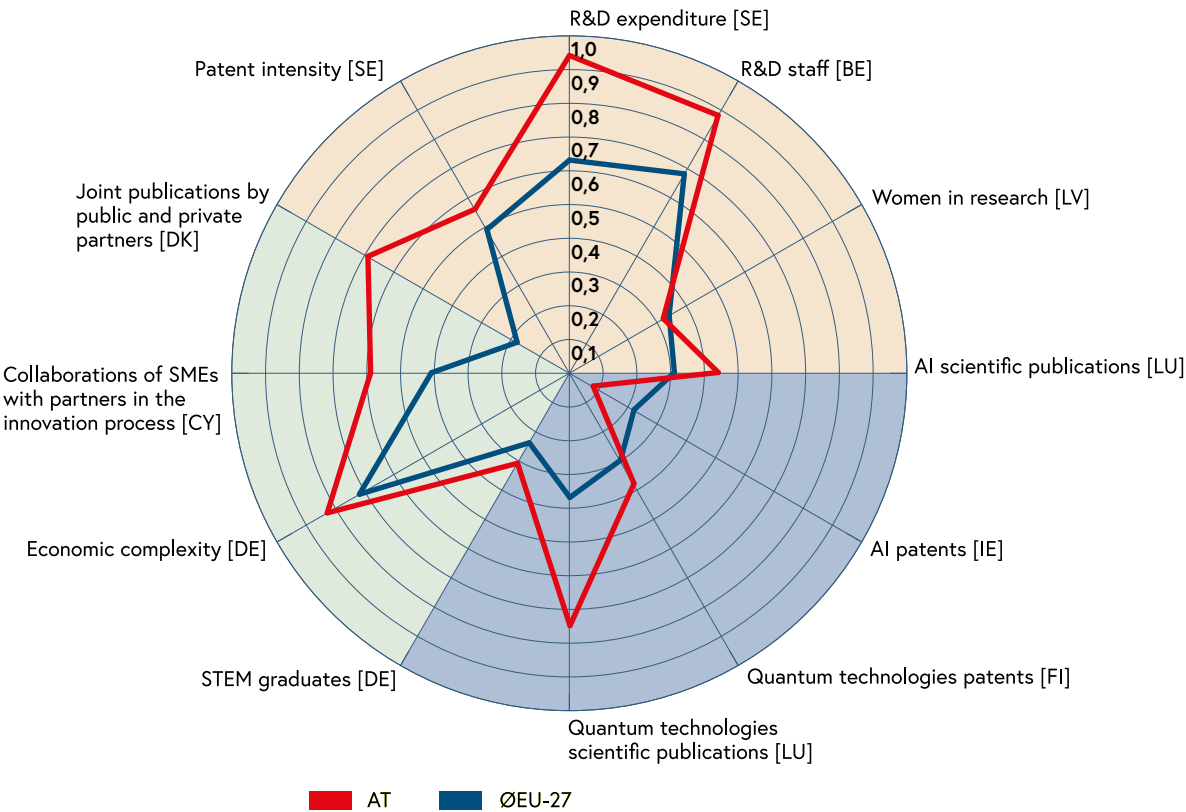
In this chapter, Austria's position in an international comparison in the areas of research and development, digitalisation, innovation capacity and environmental sustainability was analysed using various indicators. To provide an overall picture, the key findings of the analysis are now presented in Figure 2-29 as a radar chart. The orange segment of the figure covers key indicators of performance in research and development, the blue segment contains indicators on the state of digitalisation, and the green segment shows the indicators of innovation capacity.

The orange segment in Figure 2-29 shows that Austria is in a very strong position in terms of R&D

expenditure and R&D personnel, but there is still need for improvements regarding the proportion of women in research. In terms of patent intensity, Austria is above the EU average. The blue segment in Figure 2-29 clearly shows that Austria ranks comparatively well both in terms of scientific publications in the fields of AI and quantum technologies as well as in terms of patents in the field of quantum technologies. Concerning patents in the field of AI, however, Austria lies below the EU average. The green segment of Figure 2-29 shows that Austria is above the EU average for all indicators shown and is in a very strong position regarding joint publications by public and private partners.

¹⁰⁰ <https://wirkungsmonitoring.gv.at/kennzahl-detail/umwelttechnologien-und-patente-19596-1212/>

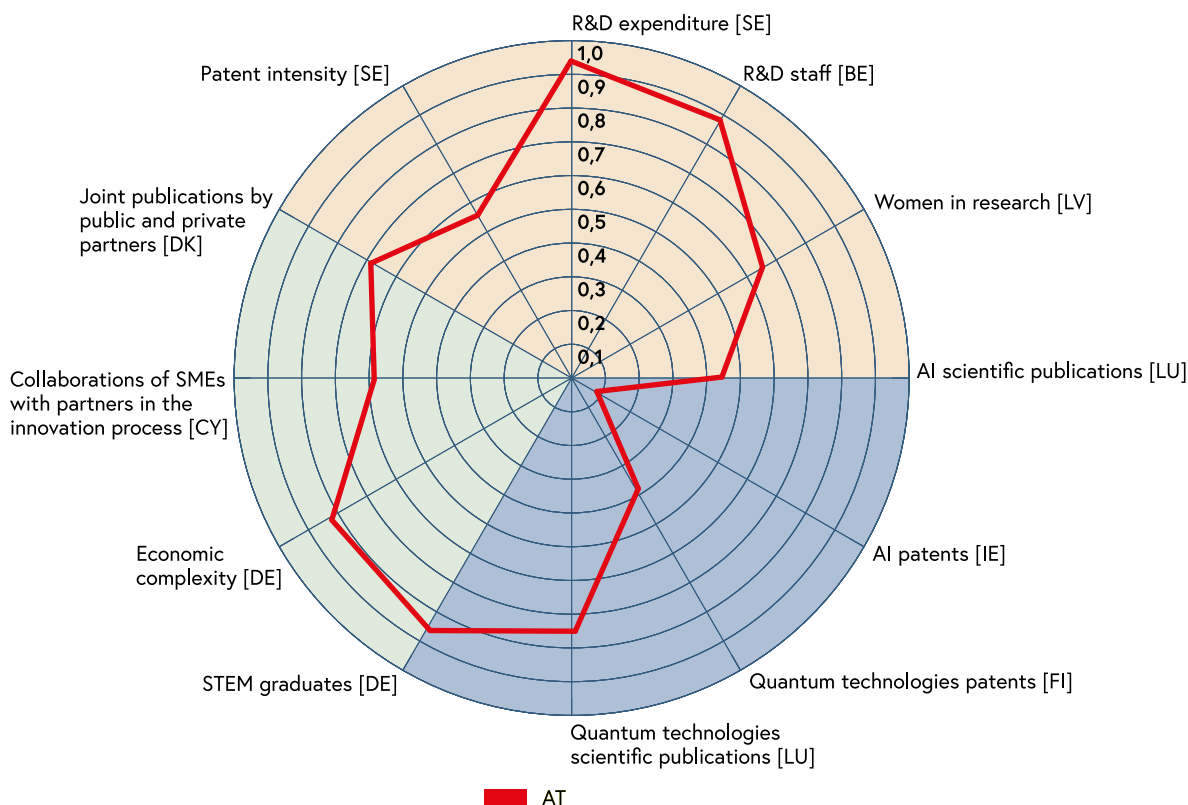
Figure 2-29: Summary comparison with the EU average



Note: In order to present the various indicators together in a single graph, the different scales have been standardised to values between 0 and 1. A value of 1 represents the maximum value in the EU-27, except for the proportion of women in research and STEM graduates (where the maximum value is 100 in each case). The red line shows Austria's standardised value and the blue line shows the standardised value of the EU-27 average for the respective indicator. The countries whose codes are shown in brackets are those with the maximum value in the EU-27. Illustration: iit.

To better illustrate the gap between Austria and leading innovation nations, Figure 2-30 identifies the leading nation for each indicator and also lists it in square brackets. This means the radar chart shows which country is currently leading for which indicator and how Austria is positioned in relation to it. This provides a further perspective on Austria's innovation performance in an international comparison.

Figure 2-30: Summary of Austria's score as a percentage of the top score

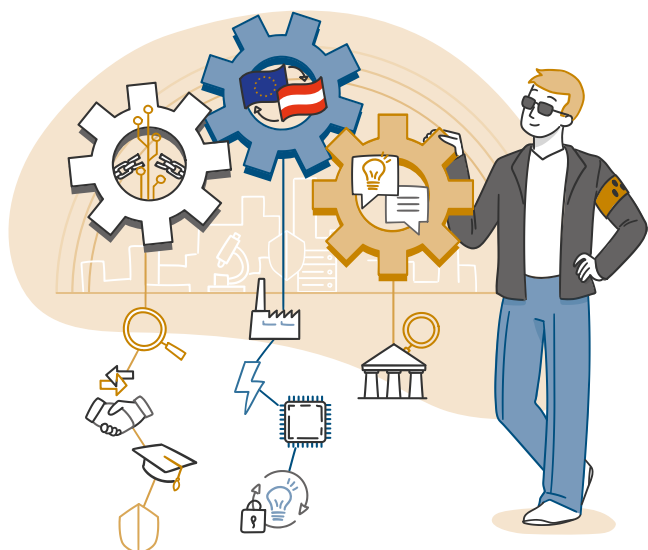


Note: In order to present the various indicators together in a single graph, the different scales have been standardised to values between zero and one. The red line shows the gap between Austria and the leading country in the EU-27. Illustration: iit.

The orange segment in Figure 2-30 shows that Austria is close to the EU leading score in terms of R&D expenditure and R&D personnel, but remains behind with regard to the share of women in research. Austria is also further behind in terms of patent intensity. The green segment in Figure 2-30 makes it clear that although Austria is not far from the EU top score for scientific publications in the field of quantum technologies, it is some way off when it comes to patents.

In terms of scientific publications in the field of AI, the gap to the top score is still significant, and in the case of AI patents, it is pronounced. The blue segment of Figure 2-30 shows that Austria is close to the EU top score in terms of STEM graduates and economic complexity, but is still further away from it in the case of the other two indicators shown.

2.3 Resilience and technological sovereignty in geopolitically challenging times



Social and economic development is increasingly shaped by shocks, uncertainty and profound structural change. Global interconnectedness, digitalisation, the international division of labour and technological specialisation have generated substantial gains in efficiency and prosperity, but they have also created new vulnerabilities. Supply chains, energy systems, information infrastructures and technological dependencies are now more closely interwoven than ever before. Crises therefore no longer occur as exceptions, but have become a recurring structural feature of modern societies.

Austria is currently confronted with a complex security environment. The Austrian Security Strategy (2024)¹⁰¹ identifies several central threats:

- **Cyberattacks and hybrid threats:** Austria is increasingly affected by hybrid attacks. These are aimed at deepening social divisions, influencing political decision-making processes or destabilising critical infrastructure. Targeted disinformation campaigns call democratic values into question and fuel extremism and radicalisation.
- **Military conflicts:** Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has had lasting effects on European security structures, as the threat of military confrontation has become more likely. As a result, the boundaries between civilian and military research are being renegotiated across Europe and defence capabilities are being built up in a targeted manner.
- **Vulnerability due to dependencies:** Austria's vulnerability resulting from dependencies and structural weaknesses in its supply and economic system has become much more visible since the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, through the energy price shock following the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Dependencies are particularly critical in global supply chains, raw-material supply and high-technology manufacturing. Global actors exploit their dominant position in key technologies, for example energy suppliers or raw-material producers, to build political or economic pressure.
- **Impacts of climate change:** The consequences of climate change are regarded as a central risk factor because they act as a threat multiplier. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events and the loss of natural resources and habitats accelerate processes of decay and destabilisation. This creates fertile ground for geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises, displacement and migration movements, as well as local challenges within Austria.

Against this background, security, resilience and technological sovereignty have gained considerably in importance in recent years. At EU level, this is reflected above all in the closer interlinking of research, indus-

¹⁰¹ <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/themen/sicherheitspolitik/sicherheitsstrategie.html>

trial, trade and security policy. The guiding concept of “open strategic autonomy” has established a framework designed to reduce critical one-sided dependencies without fundamentally calling into question the advantages of open markets. In practice, this has led to a series of new initiatives, including the European Chips Act, the Critical Raw Materials Act, new instruments for monitoring strategic dependencies and measures to safeguard critical technologies and value chains. At the same time, resilience has been incorporated into a wide range of European and national strategies, including industrial, energy, digital and security strategies.

These changes have direct implications for the design of research, technology and innovation (RTI) policy. Knowledge generation, research and innovation are no longer regarded solely as means of developing new products and markets, but also as strategic resources for limiting risks, managing dependencies and expanding options for action under conditions of

uncertainty. National strategies and legal frameworks, such as the security strategy, the industrial strategy, the fiscal-structural plan, the circular economy strategy, the biodiversity strategy¹⁰², the adaptation strategy¹⁰³, the Programme for Research and Development in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management 2026–2030¹⁰⁴, the Federal Crisis Security Act and the Government Programme 2025–2029, explicitly recognise the importance of research and innovation for security and resilience. Contributions range from basic research to practical application, and from internationally visible cutting-edge research to transdisciplinary and participatory formats involving citizens and businesses. In addition, foresight methods such as horizon scanning, scenario work and technology roadmaps are becoming increasingly important for systematically anticipating different development paths and making political and business decisions more robust.

2.3.1 New guidelines for research and innovation policy

Resilient systems are able to absorb disruptions, adapt to changed framework conditions and maintain their functionality over the long term. This requires a constructive approach to crises, based on adaptability and learning capacity and going beyond purely reactive crisis management.¹⁰⁵ Research and innovation can make key contributions in this regard, because they not only provide knowledge for dealing with acute challenges, but also create the prerequisites for identifying and managing risks at an early stage, reducing vulnerabilities and systematically using opportunities arising from situations of upheaval.

For RTI policy, the growing orientation towards security and resilience as new guiding principles requires the further development of existing objectives and

instruments. On the one hand, this calls for adjustments in the area of valorisation, for example, with regard to greater speed, flexibility and the use of windows of opportunity. On the other hand, resilience and risk management are gaining importance as complementary fields of action in order to remain capable of acting under uncertain framework conditions. In addition to the established objectives of growth, competitiveness and location development, upstream questions of security of supply, crisis robustness and long-term transformation capacity are therefore coming more strongly to the fore.

The following three guiding principles¹⁰⁶ emerge as points of orientation for an RTI policy geared towards security and resilience.

102 https://www.bmluk.gv.at/themen/klima-und-umwelt/natur-und-artenschutz-und-biodiversitaet/biologische-vielfalt/biodiversitaetsstrategie/biodiversitaetsstrategie_2030.html

103 https://www.bmluk.gv.at/themen/klima-und-umwelt/klima/anpassung-an-den-klimawandel/oe_strategie.html

104 <https://www.bmluk.gv.at/service/publikationen/allgemeine-themen/programm-forschung-entwicklung-bmluk-2026-2030.html>

105 See Dudenbostel et al. (2023).

106 See Roberts (2023).

- **Seizing opportunities:** The development, application and economic use of research results have traditionally been a focus of RTI policy, for example, with regard to competitiveness, productivity and location development. In an environment of increasing geopolitical and technological upheaval, valorisation acquires a new strategic dimension, as crises and shocks can open innovation and market windows and contribute to reducing dependencies.
- **Strengthening resilience:** This focuses on the ability of organisations, sectors and the RTI system as a whole to cope with shocks, maintain functionality and continue to develop, both in short-term and long-term crises. It includes measures to safeguard the functioning of the research and innovation system under crisis conditions and to develop central capacities over the long term. These include stable research funding even in times of crisis, the development and retention of human capital, the promotion of networking and diversification, and the strengthening of trust in science and research.
- **Managing risks:** This field of action aims to systematically anticipate uncertainty, expose vulnerabilities and dependencies, and reduce the probability of their occurrence or their damage potential. This includes instruments of foresight, technological and geopolitical analysis, and new forms of strategic coordination at national and European level. Recent crises have shown that missing or inadequate risk assessment, for example in relation to critical technologies, raw materials or digital infrastructures, can cause considerable economic and political costs.

A corresponding further development in RTI policy must take place at several levels: from additions to the existing funding portfolio, through clear prioritisation of strategically important research and technology fields, to adjustments in governance structures. The following sections first address important RTI-policy initiatives and then examine adjustments to the RTI-policy framework conditions.

2.3.2 RTI-policy initiatives of Austria and the European Union

The following section highlights both central adjustments to established measures and newly introduced initiatives. The overview focuses on: i) measures for research security, ii) initiatives in the field of security research and iii) selected initiatives to promote structural change towards a resilient and technologically sovereign economy.

2.3.2.1 National measures for research security against the background of European and international developments

In the European Commission Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation¹⁰⁷, which sets out the EU strategy for international R&D cooperation, open international cooperation is intended as the default option. Its objective is to safeguard mutual interests and deal constructively with differences, provided that reciprocity, a level playing field and fundamental core principles such as research integrity, recognition of academic autonomy and freedom, and

¹⁰⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52012DC0497?>

intellectual property rights are guaranteed. The principle “as open as possible, as closed as necessary” was anchored in this context. The central starting point for this open approach is the recognition that international cooperation is essential for the quality and progress of science and research. However, where such principles are systematically violated, trust is undermined. It must therefore be ensured that international R&D cooperation is not exploited or instrumentalised for abusive or harmful purposes.

The European Commission staff working document on tackling foreign interference¹⁰⁸ understands foreign interference in research and innovation as an activity carried out by, or on behalf of, a foreign actor that is coercive, covert, deceptive or harmful and contrary to the sovereignty, values and interests of the European Union or its Member States. Following the Council Recommendation on enhancing research security¹⁰⁹, research security is understood as the anticipation and management of risks relating to:

- a. the undesirable transfer of critical knowledge and technologies;
- b. malicious influence on research by third countries, including threats to academic freedom and scientific integrity;
- c. violations of ethical principles or integrity.

Common targets of attacks include technologies and databases, research information and laboratory equipment, security and cybersecurity information, including access to offices, laboratories and research infrastructures, as well as information about individuals, public procurement, grants and subsidies, management, governance and decision-making processes, and financial structures. For countries, foreign interference can

mean the loss of jobs, financial resources, expertise, sensitive information and advanced technologies. It can also undermine trust in democracy and government and constitute a security risk. Against the background of increasing geopolitical tensions and diverse forms of foreign interference, research security has become a central issue in international R&D cooperation. This is also accompanied by a stronger focus on export restrictions for tangible and intangible goods.

Research security is not a new issue, but it has gained political momentum in Europe in recent years. Key milestones include the political debate on knowledge security and responsible internationalisation at the Competitiveness Council meeting of 23 May 2023, the introduction of the European Economic Security Strategy through the joint communication of 20 June 2023¹¹⁰ and the European Commission Recommendation on critical technology areas of 3 October 2023¹¹¹. On 24 January 2024, an economic security package was presented, comprising five initiatives:

- 1. a proposal for a new Regulation on the screening of foreign direct investments;
- 2. a White Paper on export controls;
- 3. a White Paper on outbound investments;
- 4. a White Paper on options for enhancing support for research and development involving technologies with dual-use potential¹¹²;
- 5. a proposal for a Council Recommendation on enhancing research security¹¹³.

108 <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/513746>

109 European Council (2024). Council Recommendation of 23 May 2024 on enhancing research security (C/2024/3510). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202403510

110 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_3358

111 https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/C_2023_6689_1_EN_ACT_part1_v8.pdf

112 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0027>

113 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/ec_rtd_council-recommendation-research-security.pdf

Of particular importance is the Council Recommendation on enhancing research security, adopted on 23 May 2024¹¹⁴, which sets out concrete recommendations for the Member States, the European Commission, research-performing organisations and research-funding organisations. It is supplemented by provisions on monitoring progress, addressed both to the European Commission and to the Member States. These recommendations provide an important frame of reference for stronger coordination and greater coherence within the European Research Area (ERA). Some of these had already been discussed previously in a Mutual Learning Exercise on Tackling Foreign Interference in Research and Innovation, conducted in 2023 and 2024, in which Austria was one of 12 participating EU countries.

In Austria, the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) and the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) pursue a strategic approach that supports Austrian universities, higher education institutions and research organisations in developing risk management. The aim is to identify attempts at foreign interference and prevent the harmful transfer of sensitive knowledge and critical technologies, as well as threats to academic freedom and research integrity. This is implemented through a risk-based approach with a balanced overall assessment, including coordination of cooperation among all stakeholders, continuous dialogue and the development and expansion of capabilities.

In 2023, the BMFWF, formerly the BMBWF, commissioned a stocktaking exercise to assess the status quo and enable the evidence-based design of measures to increase research security.¹¹⁵ A central contact point was established within the ministry's own sphere of responsibility, to actively support institutions in developing and implementing corresponding measures.¹¹⁶

The BMFWF continues to focus on awareness-raising measures to develop a shared understanding and on ongoing information exchange among the actors concerned. This is operationalised in several ways, including through information events at management and working level, as well as regular briefings and training offers. To make cooperation among institutions within the BMFWF's sphere of responsibility efficient and effective, a "network of contact points" has been established. It includes more than 70 institutions whose contact points act as staff units for their respective institutions and as single points of contact with the BMFWF on this issue. The Austrian Universities Conference, uniko, has also established its own working group on research security.

Research security has been formally integrated into the performance agreements concluded by the BMFWF with Austria's public universities for 2025–2027 and with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft for 2024–2026. All 23 public universities have committed to integrating research security into their international strategies, designating a central contact point by 2025, carrying out risk analyses by 2026 and implementing and evaluating security measures by 2027.¹¹⁷

In the area of cybersecurity at university level, particular mention should be made of the Cyber Resilience Plan developed by 22 universities, which is designed to systematically strengthen IT and information security in the higher education sector. In addition to individual projects, five joint thematic priorities are being developed and implemented at universities. Their overarching aim is to protect against attacks, enable rapid response and ensure swift restoration of the status quo after attacks. The initiative, funded by the BMFWF between 2025–2027, supports universities with €45 million in

114 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202403510

115 JR-POLICIES and WIFO (2024).

116 <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/forschung/forschungssicherheit.html>

117 For relevant examples see TU Graz and the University of Vienna: https://www.tugraz.at/fileadmin/public/Studierende_und_Bedienstete/Information/TU_Graz/Leistungsvereinbarung_2025-2027.pdf; p. 74; https://mtbl.univie.ac.at/storage/media/mtbl02/2024_2025/2024_2025_37.pdf; p. 69. The performance agreements with all universities are publicly accessible and contain measures to enhance research security (<https://unidata.gv.at/SitePages/Publikationen.aspx>).

start-up funding. Of this amount, €6.75 million (15%) will go to five cooperative thematic priorities jointly established by the universities, and €38.25 million (85%) to university-specific projects with individual priorities. The five thematic priorities are supported by a Project Support Office and each has a lead university:

- Graz University of Technology: development of common cybersecurity guidelines, “Agreed Upon Practices”;
- University of Salzburg: cross-university implementation of training and awareness-raising measures;
- Vienna University of Economics and Business: implementation of a Security Operations Centre (SOC);
- TU Vienna: development of technical measures within pilot projects;
- University of Vienna: development of joint security reviews.

Closely linked to research security is digital sovereignty. Safeguarding and strengthening the digital sovereignty of Austrian universities is a central strategic objective of the BMFWF, because it ensures the autonomous steering and resilient design of university tasks in the digital age and serves the protection and use of data in the public interest. The BMFWF regards the digital sovereignty of Austrian universities as a fundamental prerequisite for an independent, high-performing and future-oriented scientific landscape. To strengthen digital sovereignty, common objectives and strategically coordinated measures are pursued, and ongoing dialogue is maintained with all parties involved, including higher education institutions, ministry sections and the IT community.

The BMIMI also provides targeted support to research institutions within its sphere of responsibility in strengthening research security. A central example is Silicon Austria Labs (SAL), whose substantive focus is

on the development of efficient and trustworthy technologies in electronics and software-based systems. In the context of strengthening research security, SAL places clear emphasis on cybersecurity, data protection, compliance and export control. Binding internal guidelines and structured training programmes have been implemented for all these areas. In export control in particular, targeted advancements have been made to strengthen and complete the holistic concept of research security.¹¹⁸ In addition, the handling of artificial intelligence with regard to research-ethics issues has been further developed and organisationally embedded. Another central focus is the interaction between human resources and research security, including regulatory requirements and internal processes in recruitment and project-related staff allocation. Particular attention is paid to access control based on the “need-to-know” principle, especially in connection with confidentiality agreements, company requirements and mandatory compliance briefings.

The BMIMI is also committed to integrating research-security aspects into funding guidelines and has had its cooperation programme with the Chinese Academy of Sciences externally evaluated. The evaluation¹¹⁹ reached differentiated conclusions and recommendations, including political and strategic safeguarding of thematic calls, orientation towards the benefit of Austrian actors, the establishment of a clearing office and risk advice.

To promote cooperation on an equal footing in a trustworthy international environment, the BMIMI and the BMFWF seek exchange with European and international partners and support Austrian institutions, including research-funding organisations, in peer-to-peer learning. Both ministries are actively involved in the informal working group of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation on strengthening research security, which has been operational since 2024 and contributes to the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027.

¹¹⁸ <https://forwit.at/sip-talk/research-security-at-the-silicon-austria-labs-sal/>

¹¹⁹ See Warta et al. (2025).

2.3.2.2 Funding for security and defence research

In view of an increasingly complex threat situation, national security measures focus not only on protecting research itself, but also on targeted research intended to strengthen security and resilience. This includes security and defence research programmes addressing both civilian and military topics, which have gained significant importance in recent years. Against this background, there is intensive discussion, especially at European level, about how the relationship between civilian and military research should be shaped in the future, particularly with regard to the possible dual-use application of research results. Austria can be regarded as a model in this respect because of its unique programme design in security and defence research. In addition, in a complex security environment in which hybrid attacks seek to undermine social cohesion and democratic values, research that strengthens trust in science and democracy is specifically promoted.

Funding for security and defence research

With the Austrian security research programme KIRAS, the first of its kind in Europe, launched with its initial call for proposals in 2006, and the defence research programme FORTE, launched with its initial call for proposals in 2018, Austria has successfully carried out applied research in this field for many years. Programme responsibility lies with the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), and the most recent budget was €11.8 million. KIRAS focuses on civil security research, including dual-use applications, and on the protection of critical infrastructure. The latter brings together all security-relevant topics, including crisis and disaster management, accident and hazard scenarios, and technical solutions for protection, surveillance and support for emergency services.

In 2023, the cybersecurity research programme Kybernet-Pass (K-PASS) was introduced, with the overarching priority of cybersecurity and the protection of digital systems. Security-policy demand owners such as federal ministries, operators of critical digital

infrastructure and emergency organisations contributed numerous call topics in 2024 and 2025, including economic security strategies, sector resilience, for example in agriculture and supply systems, data and information security, such as data spaces, and societal security aspects, including online narratives and the protection of cultural heritage. In addition, the “KIRAS/K-PASS SME Innovation AKUT” funding initiative supports security-relevant innovation projects relating to application-oriented security technologies at a high technology readiness level (TRL 6–8), not least to support the economic implementation of research results.

The FORTE defence research programme primarily serves to maintain and expand military innovation capacity at national level. Research contributions in defence technology are intended to increase Austria’s defence readiness and improve and ensure military performance. Programme responsibility for FORTE lies with the BMF, while substantive design and topic definition take place at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV), which is also mandatorily involved in all FORTE projects. The range of topics in current projects extends from countermeasures against autonomous drones and modern protection against CBRN scenarios to autonomous logistics, military support through the use of exoskeletons and the use of space for reconnaissance and communication. In 2025, 14 projects were funded with €5.9 million.

Together with the FORTE defence research programme, KIRAS and K-PASS form the research framework of the “Austrian Security Bracket” (Österreichische Sicherheitsklammer). This offers a research-funding construct that is unique in Europe, placing both security and defence research under the responsibility of a civilian authority, the BMF, and implementing them through a single processing agency, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). The advantages are an organisational solution to the issue of dual-use research, minimisation of processing costs and maximisation of the funding impact of all three programmes.

In addition, the Disaster Competence Network Austria (DCNA), established in 2018, is a network of research institutions, demand owners and crisis and

disaster management organisations. It focuses on communicating the latest basic-research findings in the areas of mass movements, avalanches and earthquakes; critical infrastructures and industrial hazards; floods; extreme weather events; disaster risk; and public health. The DCNA is organised as an association. In addition to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Graz University of Technology and GeoSphere Austria, its full members also include Joanneum Research, AIT, TU Wien, the University of Leoben and the universities of Innsbruck, Graz and Salzburg.¹²⁰ The network is financed by the BMFWF and through participation in research-funding projects, including those under the KIRAS security research programme. Current topics in civil protection include the use of drones and robotics for prevention and crisis response. In 2024, relevant research questions for the coming years in civil protection were also formulated in a “Science Plan 2030+” with the participation of more than 40 organisations from science, practice and policy.

European initiatives

At European level, particular mention should be made of the European Defence Fund, with a programme period from 2021 to 2027, in which international consortia with Austrian participation are active in defence research. Under the European Defence Fund, €2.7 billion is provided for applied defence research, especially research on critical technologies.¹²¹ The declared objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of the European defence industry and reduce dependencies on third countries. Within this framework, the EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) primarily supports start-ups and SMEs.

Security and resilience are also explicitly addressed in the European research framework programme. Calls under Cluster 3, Civil Security for Society, coordinated via the FFG, aim to protect society and critical infrastructure effectively against crises, disasters, crime and terrorism and to develop preventive and

reactive solutions, such as early detection, response mechanisms and more resilient systems, with a strong application orientation and with the involvement of emergency services, authorities and civil society. The current calls, HORIZON-CL3-2026-01, reflect this in concrete resilience priorities, including stress tests for critical infrastructure, tools and methods for identifying vulnerabilities and improving resilience plans, security and resilience issues relating to the green transition in urban and peri-urban areas, including supply-chain and dependency analyses, and risk- and preparedness-oriented approaches in disaster management. In addition, priorities for 2026 include climate-related security challenges, dealing with emerging technologies in the crime context, border management and Strengthened Security Research and Innovation. Resilience is thus to be systematically strengthened as the capacity to anticipate, safeguard against and cope with complex threat situations.

Peace and conflict research in FP10

The BMFWF has launched an initiative to anchor peace and conflict research in FP10, emphasising the need to promote research on Europe’s geopolitical challenges, Europe’s regional and global role and the various dimensions of peace and security. In this context, the EU’s responsibility as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate should be underlined: Europe should become a centre for peace, conflict and democracy research and thereby fulfil its responsibility to preserve and strengthen European values even in geopolitically difficult times.

To this end, the BMFWF is organising exchanges with ministries and scientific institutions from the Member States and Horizon-associated countries in an informal European network for peace and conflict research. The network will, inter alia, prepare a joint paper on research needs that can help support the EU and decision-makers in Europe in the fields of peace and peacebuilding.

¹²⁰ For a complete list of members, see <https://dcna.at/mitglieder/>.

¹²¹ REGULATION (EU) 2021/697 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092.

Public science communication and trust-building

Fragile trust in science and democracy can be the starting point for crisis-like developments and, in the long term, can also undermine public funding of research. Science communication and science engagement are therefore also central building blocks for security and resilience. The current Government Programme explicitly includes “strengthening trust in science and democracy as the foundation for social progress and innovation through appropriate science communication and knowledge transfer”. The BMFWF supports a range of initiatives in this area.

One example is the expansion of professional and visible science-communication infrastructures that are institutionally anchored for the long term. Examples include the VISTA Science Experience Center of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA), opened in October 2025; LBI SOAP, focusing on science communication and pandemic preparedness, which began its work in July 2025; and “Q. Your Space for Science – Experience and Understand Science” in Vienna, where scientific research is to become tangible from 2027 through exhibitions, events and hands-on laboratories. Another example of institutional anchoring is the professorship for science communication established at the University of Graz in 2016 and assigned to the interfaculty Centre for Society, Knowledge and Communication. The Centre supports researchers at the university in making their work visible, understandable and effective and promotes dialogue between science and society. The Center for Media and Communication (CMC), located at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Klagenfurt, also examines the transformation of public media communication in society.

In addition to institutional anchoring, low-threshold, practice-oriented formats are used to promote technological skills and shaping capacities. One example is the mobile makerspace “roadLAB”, a mobile digital production workshop equipped with a laser cutter, cutting plotter and 3D printer. Established nationwide formats and programmes, such as the Long Night of

Research, Science Talks, children’s and youth universities and citizen-science programmes such as Sparkling Science 2.0, act as stable anchor points for encounters between society and science.

Against this background, for the first time, science communication is identified as a separate priority in the performance agreements of public universities for 2025–2027. A previously cross-cutting core task of the third mission is thus becoming an explicit field of steering and development. The performance agreements stipulate that all students should come into contact with science mediation and science communication during their studies. Researchers should be given corresponding incentives and room for manoeuvre to enable science mediation and science engagement. This should also be taken into account in the assessment schemes for young and established researchers and thus in their career paths.

One concrete measure is the Science Ambassadors initiative launched in 2023 and coordinated by the OeAD, under which more than 600 researchers already visit schools to introduce pupils to their field of research. Through the Science Center Network project “Science Engagement – Skills for Researchers”, researchers are also provided with materials, training and coaching that prepare them to communicate their research topics in an understandable, appealing and target-group-oriented manner. Further examples of promoting dialogue and cooperation include the citizen-science project of the University of Innsbruck, the City Science Lab of the University of Klagenfurt with reference to the EU Mission “100 climate-neutral cities by 2030”, and the innovation workshop “Social Innovation for Sustainable Urban Development” implemented within the framework of future.lab at TU Wien. Through these new formats in science engagement and co-productive knowledge generation, science communication is positioned as an interface between research, societal learning and problem-solving capacity. Science communication is therefore understood not merely as public relations, but as part of a robust knowledge and democracy infrastructure. It stabilises trust, counters

disinformation and supports societal negotiation of technology pathways, for example in AI, energy, health and security.

In this context, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) plays a special role. Its performance agreement for 2024–2026 anchors the strengthening of trust in science as an organisation-wide objective. The OeAW participates in overarching initiatives on trust in science and democracy and also implements its own measures, such as the Austrian Science Barometer, which regularly surveys the attitudes of Austria's population towards science and research. In addition, it is involved in international networks, assumes functions at European level, for example the secretariat of the European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC), and develops guidelines for dealing with risks, such as in the area of foreign interference. In this way, it contributes to both the social and the institutional resilience of the science system. The OeAW is also represented in a number of international research networks and has set itself the goal of promoting the participation of international researchers in its own publications. It also supports the use of research results, for example through licensing and spin-offs.

Progress in open science is documented through systematic monitoring, for example by the Open Access Monitor Austria (OAMA). In addition, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the OeAW and ISTA have introduced open-access policies, both to increase access to scientific findings for interested actors from the wider public and to reduce dependence on publishers or paid publication platforms. Overall, the science-communication priority can be understood as a building block of resilience. It strengthens the societal connectivity of scientific and technological developments and thus supports the ability to pursue sovereign, knowledge-based transformation pathways even under conditions of uncertainty and conflict.

The independent non-profit association Open Science – Life Sciences in Dialogue sees itself as a hub

between the life sciences and the public. It prepares science-based information on topics in the life sciences and medical research and provides spaces and formats for dialogue and discourse. The association, financed entirely from public funds, for example by the BMFWF, the BMWET and the City of Vienna, aims to enable as broad a public as possible to form informed and independent opinions. With the Vienna Open Lab, Austria's first hands-on laboratory, run by the association, it also offers the opportunity to experience research practically and vividly. Around 13,000 visitors per year and several thousand additional participants in participatory outreach activities, such as stations at the Long Night of Research, demonstrate the success of the initiative. Through Open Science, it is possible both to achieve greater understanding of research topics that are often controversially discussed and to initiate interest formation and support for young talent, especially in STEM subjects.

Democracy research

The strengthening of democracy research is receiving new momentum through the establishment of a European research infrastructure based in Vienna: MEDem, Monitoring Electoral Democracy¹²². This initiative aims to promote innovative approaches in democracy research. Together with 14 other European countries, the BMFWF supports the inclusion of MEDem in the ESFRI Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. The infrastructure will make it possible to link scientific data on European democracies and provide standard methods and instruments for data collection, visualisation and analysis. Through interdisciplinary cooperation among various institutions, MEDem contributes not only to more robust scientific analysis of parliamentary democracies in Europe, but also to the practical application of findings to further develop democratic systems.

In Austria, research on online platforms is becoming increasingly important, especially with regard to the analysis of mechanisms and algorithms that favour or

¹²² <https://www.medem.eu/>

amplify phenomena endangering democracy, such as hate speech and disinformation. Research groups in Graz with prestigious ERC projects should be highlighted here, investigating how algorithms can be made fairer¹²³ and be better regulated¹²⁴. A central lever for such research, and thus also for digital sovereignty, is the Digital Services Act (DSA)¹²⁵ at European level, which opens up systematically regulated access to platform data for researchers. Such data were previously often available only to a limited extent or not at all. This makes it possible to study fake news, filter bubbles, hate speech and algorithmic bias in a targeted and empirically grounded way. This research is crucial for better understanding the risks of digitalisation that can favour polarisation and radicalisation. It is intended to increase societal resilience and create a central basis for evidence-based measures to promote a safe, sovereign and democratic digital public sphere.

2.3.2.3 Applied research for a resilient and technologically sovereign economy

The geopolitical framework conditions of Austrian RTI policy have changed fundamentally in recent years. The increasing interlinking of security, trade and innovation policy means that economic dependencies are increasingly used as political instruments. For Austria, this creates significant challenges for the security of supply of critical goods and technologies. One-sided import dependencies in energy, raw materials and microelectronics pose a risk to the stability of Austria as a business location. At the same time, global competition between the United States and China, characterised by massive state subsidy programmes, is intensifying pressure on the technological competitiveness of domestic companies.

The European Union is responding to geopolitical challenges by realigning its industrial policy with the

aim of securing the Union's capacity to act in a volatile global environment. While the European Chips Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) primarily secure the supply of critical components and raw materials, instruments such as the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) aim to build the large-scale industrial production capacities needed for future technologies in Europe. The Austrian Federal Government is connecting to this European strategy and, within the framework of the Government Programme 2025–2029, is placing greater emphasis on the expansion of technological and digital¹²⁶ sovereignty.

Building on this, the Industrial Strategy Austria 2035 was prepared under the leadership of the BMWET, the BMIMI and the BMEIA. At its core, it comprises a campaign for key technologies as well as an industrial transformation programme. Targeted support for nine key technology fields in which Austria has the highest growth potential – AI, chips, production technologies, quantum and advanced materials, life sciences and biotech, energy and environment, mobility, space and aviation – is intended to accelerate the transfer of research into application and build capacities in strategically important areas.¹²⁷ In the context of security and resilience, the semiconductor industry and the supply of critical raw materials are of particularly high relevance. The following therefore takes a closer look at central RTI-policy initiatives in these two fields of action.

National initiatives under the European Chips Act

Semiconductors form the backbone of almost all strategic key areas, from the automotive industry and medical technology to highly critical digital infrastructure. The availability of these components now determines the economic capacity to act and the technological sovereignty of entire blocs of states.

123 <https://csh.ac.at/news/fariba-karimi-awarded-erc-starting-grant/>

124 <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/magazine-article/what-users-see-and-dont-see>

125 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act>

126 <https://www.bmf.gv.at/presse/pressemeldungen/2024/jaenner/digitaler-aktionsplan.html>

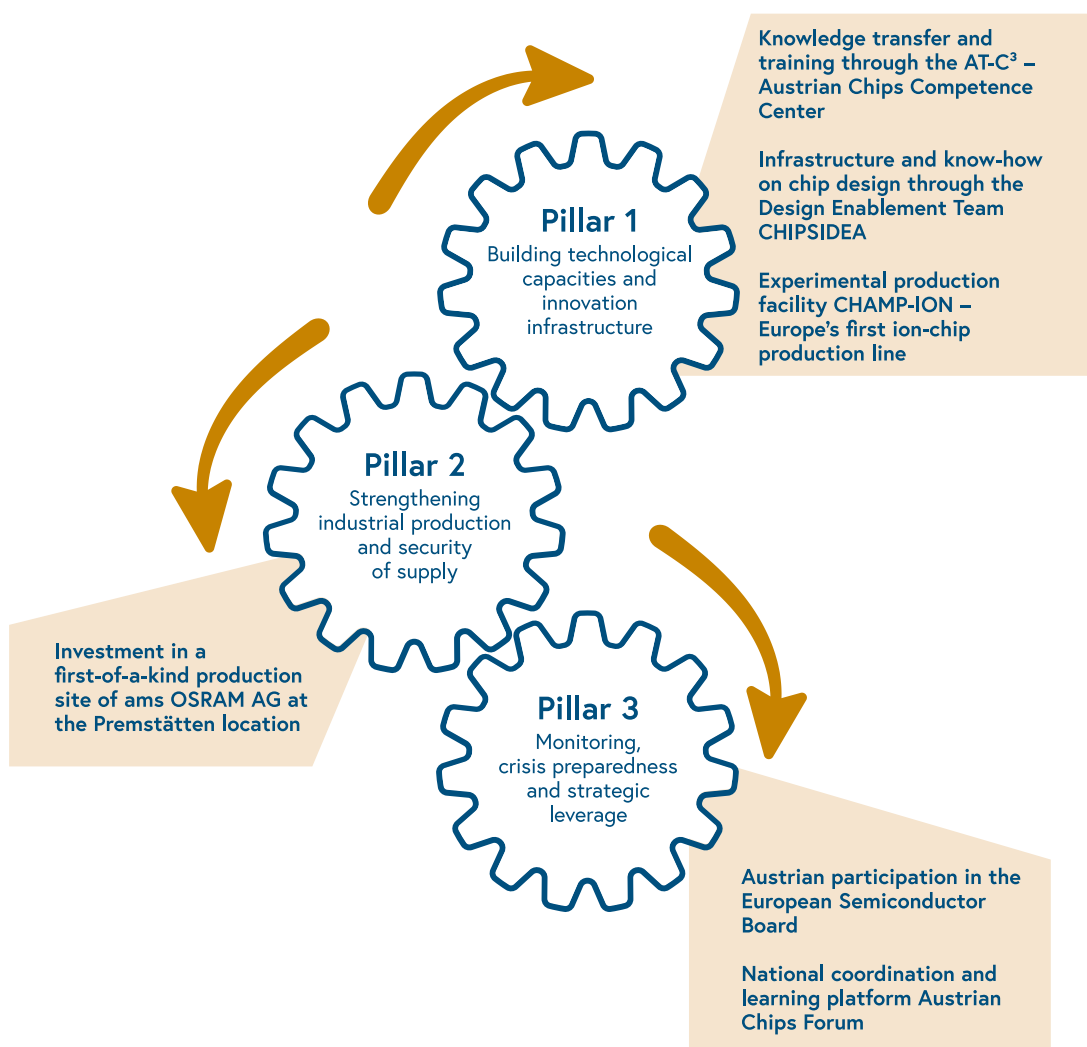
127 <https://www.bmwet.gv.at/Themen/industriestrategie.html>

To reduce dependence on global supply chains, the European Union has created, in the European Chips Act, a framework for doubling the EU share of global chip production to 20% by 2030.

Austria plays a central role in this process. As the analysis by Dachs and Wasserbacher (2025) shows, the country has established itself as one of the leading research and development locations for microelectronics in Europe. In absolute terms, Austria has the third-highest

R&D expenditure among producers of electronic components of all EU Member States. This position is based on deep specialisation in technological niches such as power electronics, sensor technology and analogue/mixed-signal applications, in which domestic companies often hold world-market leadership. The Federal Government is implementing the Chips Act along its three pillars in order to safeguard this innovation ecosystem and guarantee a closed value chain at the location.

Figure 2-31: National initiatives in the context of the European Chips Act



Source: Austrian Institute for SME Research.

Pillar 1: building technological capacities and innovation infrastructure

The first pillar, under the umbrella of the Chips for Europe Initiative, aims to close the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and industrial manufacturing. Implementation takes place largely through the Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU). In this institutionalised partnership, the European Commission and the Member States pool resources to co-finance research and infrastructure jointly.

A core element is the national competence centre AT-C³, the Austrian Chips Competence Center. It is coordinated by the Silicon Alps Cluster and supported by five other leading research institutions. As part of the Europe-wide network of Chips Competence Centres, AT-C³ provides knowledge and expertise on semiconductor technologies, facilitates access for companies and research institutions to the other pillar-1 initiatives and counters the shortage of skilled labour through training and continuing-education offers. A second central instrument is the Design Platform: a virtual environment designed to bundle a broad range of design functions, software and support services in order to support SMEs, start-ups and research institutions in semiconductor design. This European Design Platform is conceived as a decentralised network with national nodes, in which Austria participates with one of nine Design Enablement Teams. Under the leadership of SAL, CHIPSIDEA provides access to infrastructure and know-how on high-frequency and millimetre-wave chips for 5G/6G, mixed-signal designs and energy-efficient solutions for communication and sensor technology. In addition, the Chips JU supports the establishment of experimental production facilities. A technological lighthouse project is CHAMP-ION, Championing a European advanced manufacturing pilot line of ion-traps, Europe's first ion-chip production line. Under the leadership of SAL and with the participation of five Austrian organisations, a scalable EU pilot-line network will be established over seven years to transfer fully integrated ion-trap chips for applications in quantum computing, sensing and communication towards industrial production.

Pillar 2: strengthening industrial production and security of supply

The second pillar of the Chips Act addresses the industrial base by supporting novel production capacities classified as first-of-a-kind facilities. To enable such high-volume investments in Austria, the Federal Government has issued a specific special guideline for the funding of Chips Act production facilities. Around €2.8 billion has been earmarked in the federal budget up to 2031, enabling substantial investment in new semiconductor production capacities.

An important initial milestone was the state aid approved by the European Commission for the expansion of ams OSRAM AG's production capacities at the Premstätten site. The Federal Government is supporting this project with funding of up to €227 million. The new manufacturing facility focuses on state-of-the-art sensor and wafer technologies that are of crucial importance to European industry, especially in the automotive and health sectors. Further projects are currently undergoing approval processes at national and European level.

Pillar 3: monitoring, crisis preparedness and strategic leverage

The third pillar, monitoring and crisis response, creates the basis for identifying bottlenecks in semiconductor supply chains at an early stage, building evidence on risks and needs and thereby aligning funding and industrial policy more precisely. Austria is integrated into this EU-wide monitoring through the European Semiconductor Board. As a national coordination and learning platform, the Austrian Chips Forum strengthens ongoing exchange among policy, administration and industry and supports Austria's strategic positioning in EU processes.

Austria also plays a systemically relevant role through companies active in critical niches, or bottlenecks, in the semiconductor value chain. This position is particularly important for Pillar 3, because monitoring and crisis prevention prioritise precisely such hard-to-replace nodes. Based on the material and interme-

diate-input dependencies identified in this process, participation in cooperative EU instruments, such as a potential IPCEI Circular Advanced Materials (CAM), is being discussed as a strategic option to strengthen the resilience of European supply. Complementing the measures of the EU Chips Act, the Federal Government has decided, within the framework of Industrial Strategy Austria 2035, to participate in the IPCEI on Advanced Semiconductor Technology (IPCEI AST). This major European project is intended to provide new impetus for the semiconductor industry in Europe, enabling technological opportunities to be better used and international competitiveness to be strengthened. The project brings together several EU Member States as well as companies and research institutions that jointly develop strategically important technologies and support the path from cutting-edge research to marketable products and production processes. The BMWET particularly funds projects in areas such as AI chips and accelerator technologies, chiplet and packaging solutions, innovative sensors for autonomous systems, photonic integrated circuits, energy-efficient power electronics and secure communication solutions.

Critical raw materials

Securing critical raw materials has become a central element of European resilience and technology policy in recent years. The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) defines binding benchmarks for the first time along the value chain – extraction, processing and recycling – for critical raw materials and strengthens the role of the Member States in security of supply, diversification and the development of strategically relevant knowledge bases. In addition to regulatory facilitation for strategic projects, the Act provides for national exploration programmes, improved coordination mechanisms and the expansion of monitoring and analytical capacities. Implementation of the CRMA therefore does not take place solely through permitting and market instruments,

but primarily through national institutional and technology-policy initiatives.

In Austria, the Masterplan Raw Materials 2030¹²⁸ provides the central strategic framework for national implementation. The Federal Government is pursuing a long-term, knowledge-based approach aimed at building strategic capabilities, reducing structural dependencies and expanding technological options. A central building block is the Austrian Exploration Initiative 2024–2030¹²⁹, established as a national exploration programme within the meaning of the CRMA. It is located upstream of entrepreneurial activities and aims to systematically densify the raw-material-geological knowledge base. In substantive terms, the initiative focuses on critical and strategic raw materials and addresses, in particular, near-field exploration, deep targets, the re-evaluation of known deposits and the recovery of raw materials from dumps and residues, known as tailings. Operational implementation by GeoSphere Austria enables the central bundling of data, methods and results and strengthens the transparency and connectivity of the knowledge base. This initiative is complemented by existing GeoSphere Austria programmes for the implementation of the Mineral Deposits Act (Lagerstättengesetz, VLG) and Mineral Raw Materials Research Partnerships (MRI). These instruments have for years contributed to the further development of raw-material-related methods, data sets and deposit-genetic models and strengthen the early phase of the value chain. Taken together, these measures reduce information and investment risks and increase the strategic steering capacity of raw-material policy.

Another central RTI-policy building block is the Resources Innovation Center (RIC) Leoben, which acts as a technology-policy platform for bundling competences along raw-material-related value chains. Through its close connection to the University of Leoben and to industrial actors, the RIC contributes to location-based competence building and strengthens the ability to de-

¹²⁸ <https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/bergbau/mineralrohstoffpolitik/oesterreich/masterplan-rohstoffe-2030.html>

¹²⁹ https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:0278678c-f394-4916-a557-9bc8d5fca190/exploration%20program%20AT_Vol1.pdf

velop technological solutions for raw-material security and efficiency. Beyond technological development, the RIC also includes education and qualification activities that respond to the growing need for specialised skilled workers in raw materials and materials. These include new training and continuing-education formats and stronger embedding of raw-material-relevant content in existing study and practice programmes in order to support knowledge transfer between science and application.

Application-oriented research is also supported across ministries. The BMF-initiated programme “Securing the Future – Innovations for a secure and responsible raw-material supply” addresses technological questions close to raw materials, such as recycling, processing, efficiency improvements and digital solutions for monitoring and traceability. In parallel, the BMIMI

promotes, through calls on the resources transition and circular economy, technological approaches aimed at reducing primary raw-material demand, expanding secondary raw-material markets and developing new circular production and business models.

In parallel, the Federal Government is expanding foresight and analytical capacities. The aim is to identify critical dependencies, future demand developments and technological bottlenecks at an early stage. This includes scenario analyses of raw-material needs in key technologies, systematic monitoring of international markets and the linking of geological, technological and industrial-policy information. These forward-looking elements serve as the basis for prioritisation in exploration programmes, funding instruments and regulatory adjustments.

2.3.3 Outlook: dealing with risks, using opportunities

The further development of RTI policy towards stronger consideration of security, resilience and risk management is an interministerial challenge that goes beyond existing responsibilities and requires new interfaces.¹³⁰ This concerns, in particular, the increasing interlinking of RTI policy with industrial, energy, raw-material, security, education, agricultural, environmental, climate and trade policy. The interconnection of the national and European levels is also indispensable. As a small open economy, Austria can ensure technological sovereignty only in association with European partners. It should therefore also be noted that: “The most important measure that Austria itself can take for its technological sovereignty is its membership of the European Union.”¹³¹

At the same time, the experience of past crises shows that Austrian RTI policy has already been able to build on a number of robust structures and competences. Empirical analyses of the management of the

COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis suggest that the Austrian research and innovation system as a whole was able to absorb short-term shocks comparatively well and maintain its functionality.¹³² The studies point to several supporting pillars of the resilience of the Austrian RTI system:

- **Differentiated research system:** A central strength of the Austrian RTI system lies in the breadth of research, both thematically and institutionally. It covers a wide range of fields and enables research along the entire innovation chain, from basic research to application- and market-oriented development. This differentiation makes it possible to respond to crises with different causes and mechanisms of impact by rapidly mobilising and combining existing scientific, technological and application-oriented competences.

¹³⁰ See Edler et al. (2023); Janger (2024).

¹³¹ See Hofmann et al. (2023: p. 4).

¹³² See Dudenbostel et al. (2023); Kügler et al. (2023).

- **Established cooperation structures:** During crises, the Austrian RTI system was able to draw on viable cooperation structures whose development has been a central objective of RTI policy for many years. Long-term initiatives such as COMET, the Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG) and the Austrian Cooperative Research network (ACR) support cooperation between research and industry and thus facilitate the rapid transfer of knowledge and technologies in times of crisis.
- **Stable public research funding:** Comparatively stable public research funding made a significant contribution to ensuring that the RTI system remained functional even in times of crisis. Instruments such as the Research Financing Act (Forschungsfinanzierungsgesetz, FoFinaG), multiannual RTI pacts and performance agreements with universities and non-university institutions provided planning security even under crisis conditions. This stability made it possible to continue ongoing research activities while setting new priorities. Empirical analyses also show that public R&D funding helped stabilise companies' R&D expenditure and thus cushioned the decline in private innovation investment during the crisis.¹³³
- **Institutional and governance-related adaptability:** In response to crises, ministries and funding agencies adjusted instruments, processes and priorities at short notice. Accelerated procedures, flexible interpretation of existing instruments and coordination among actors supported crisis management.¹³⁴
- **International and European networking:** Integration into European research and innovation programmes was another central pillar of resilience.

Participation in EU framework programmes, European partnerships and thematic initiatives provided additional access to funding, expertise and cooperation networks.

These supporting pillars made a significant contribution to enabling the Austrian RTI system to cushion short-term shocks in past crises and maintain its functionality through adaptations in research funding and governance. At the same time, the crises continue to have an impact and make clear that, beyond short-term responses, it is important to further develop those structures that allow better preparation for future shocks and support the use of crises as impulses for adaptation and transformation.

In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic in particular underlined the importance of trust and societal connectivity. The integration of scientific expertise into decision-making processes and its transparent communication proved to be key prerequisites for acceptance, legitimacy and capacity to act under uncertainty. Against this background, science communication, participation and science engagement are increasingly being anchored more strongly in the RTI system. These developments should be understood less as responses to individual crises than as long-term investments in a knowledge and democracy infrastructure that facilitates dealing with uncertainty and supports societal negotiation of technological development pathways.¹³⁵

At the same time, the importance of robust data and analytical foundations has increased¹³⁶ significantly. Recent crises have shown that effective measures depend substantially on the availability of timely information on affectedness, sectoral vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. This concerns both economic effects, for example in investment, employment or supply chains, and social dimensions, such as the varying impact on different groups or regions. The systematic expansion

¹³³ See Kügler et al. (2023).

¹³⁴ For an overview of the immediate RTI measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see Research and Technology Report 2021 (BMBWF, BMK & BMDW, 2021).

¹³⁵ See Wasserbacher et al. (2025).

¹³⁶ See Dudenbostel et al. (2023).

of monitoring, analysis and evaluation capacities therefore strengthens not only the evidence-based design of individual measures, but also forms a central basis for forward-looking risk management in the RTI system.

Closely linked to this is the growing importance of strategic foresight. The crises have shown that shocks can increasingly come from different directions and that their effects often unfold only through the interaction of several factors. Against this background, systematic engagement with alternative development paths, potential risks and uncertainties is gaining importance. In Austria, established structures already exist for this, in particular semi-annual monitoring of future topics and technology assessment for Parliament.¹³⁷ At European level, strategic foresight is increasingly linked with industrial and technology-policy processes, for example in connection with key technologies, critical raw materials or the European Chips Act. These developments show that risk management in the RTI field is increasingly understood as a collective task at European level and that national policy can benefit from early involvement in corresponding processes.

The analyses by Hofmann et al. (2023) also indicate that technological sovereignty and resilience require a differentiated approach in RTI policy. Not all technologies are strategically relevant to the same extent, and vulnerabilities arise especially where technological disadvantages coincide with one-sided dependencies on a small number of countries or actors. For small open economies such as Austria, this means that technological sovereignty should not be understood as autarky, but as targeted positioning within European value-creation contexts. Accordingly, RTI policy increasingly aims to develop existing fields of strength in a targeted manner. The initiatives presented in the main section, for example in microelectronics, can be interpreted in this context as expressions of a more selective and more strongly prioritising approach that combines technological excellence, industrial connectivity and European embeddedness.

In addition to these upstream foundations, valorisation and the implementation of research results are also increasingly coming into focus. Weaknesses in market transition and scaling have long been known in the Austrian innovation system. In the crisis context, however, they acquire particular importance because windows for innovation and adaptation are often time-limited. Companies active in innovation and R&D may come through crises more robustly, but delays in implementation can mean that opportunities are not fully realised.¹³⁸ This draws attention to the need for agile and flexible structures that enable research results to be rapidly applied without losing sight of quality or strategic embedding.

In this context, the management of themes and instruments in RTI policy is also being further developed. Approaches that are more cross-thematic, flexible and impact-oriented are intended to help respond more quickly to new challenges and better reflect cross-cutting topics. The aim is less to introduce new instruments but rather to adapt existing structures to increase their responsiveness under conditions of uncertainty. The German Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation (SPRIND) illustrates this reorientation in RTI policy. The focus there is on forms of support for key innovations that are more strongly geared towards flexibility, experimental formats and adaptive decision-making processes. Such approaches underline that, under conditions of high uncertainty, governance and steering questions become more important than individual funding instruments, especially with regard to accelerating transitions from research into application.¹³⁹

Overall, the experience of crises shows that strengthening security, resilience and risk management in RTI policy is not a separate additional field, but is closely linked to existing objectives. The supporting pillars of the system have proven their worth, while upstream knowledge, analytical and implementation foundations are moving more strongly to the fore. This interplay provides a central starting point for safeguarding and further developing the capacity of the Austrian RTI system to act under increasing future uncertainty.

137 <https://www.parlament.gv.at/fachinfos/rlw/Foresight-Technikfolgenabschaetzung-Monitoring-Mai-2025>

138 See Kügler et al. (2023).

139 <https://www.sprind.org/worte/magazin/sprind-evaluation-2023-24>

2.4 Austria and the EU's research, technology and innovation policy

2.4.1 Austria's Performance in Horizon Europe

The European Commission's ninth Framework Programme for Research, Horizon Europe, will provide a total of approximately €95 billion by 2027 to strengthen European research and innovation as well as the European Research Area. The following section analyses the participation of Austrian stakeholders in Horizon Europe as of 11 January 2026. The participation data is provided periodically by the European Commission and enables statements to be made on participation patterns, which are differentiated according to submissions, approvals and participations in various programme tracks. The overview of Austrian participation in Horizon Europe is based on contract data, i.e. on funding agreements between the European Commission and the project participants (usually consortia of several organisations). The data was retrieved via the European Commission's eCORDA monitoring system in January 2026 and processed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).¹⁴⁰

After five years of implementing the Research Framework Programme with more than 3,500 registered Austrian participations, the trends identified in recent research and technology reports are becoming increasingly established. The total sum of approved funding acquired by Austrian institutions from the EU, totalled €1.68 billion as of the reporting date, which corresponds to around 3.2%¹⁴¹ of the funds allocated by the European Commission. The share of Austrian coordinators amounts to 3.3%¹⁴² of all coordinators and corresponds to a total of 661 consortium leaders in absolute figures.

Of the total of 122,271 participations in the funded Horizon Europe projects, 3,529 are from Austria. This



corresponds to a share of 2.9%. Austria remains in ninth place in international comparisons, well behind Greece in eighth place (5,348 participations), but ahead of Portugal (3,501), Sweden (3,459), Denmark (3,096), Switzerland (2,914) and Finland (2,891). Naturally, in absolute terms, most of the participations are in the large European countries (Germany: 13,746; Spain: 13,570; Italy: 11,530 and France: 11,318). The high number of participations from Spain, which has grown dynamically, is particularly noteworthy. Austrian participants continue to show a declining success rate compared with the previous year, now standing at just 19.7%, which represents a decline of 1.4 percentage points. The average success rate for the EU-27 stands at 19.3%. However, as success rates have fallen slightly overall due to the high level of oversubscription in the research framework programme, Austria continues

¹⁴⁰ As in previous Austrian Research and Technology Reports, projects on the reserve list or contracts in preparation were not included in the analysis.

¹⁴¹ These are 0.1 percentage points lower than in the previous year.

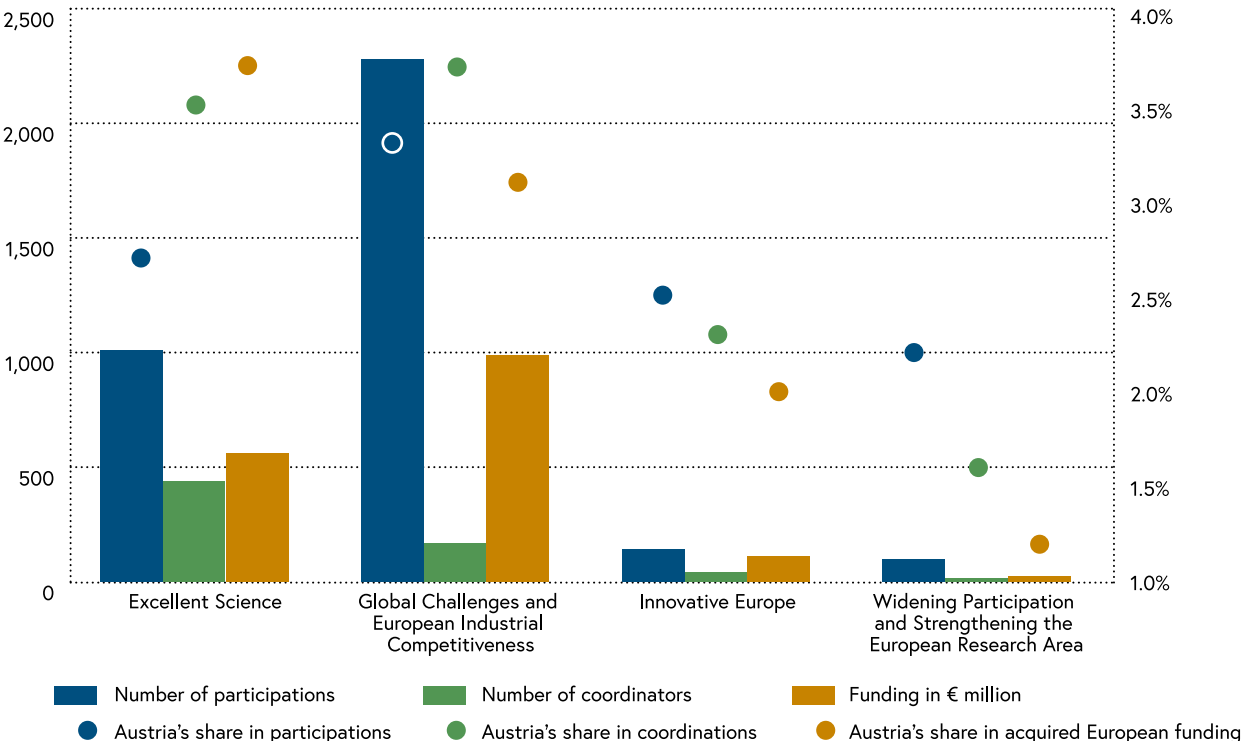
¹⁴² These are 0.1 percentage points lower than in the previous year.

to have the seventh-highest success rate within the EU. The EU Member States with the highest success rates in Horizon Europe are Belgium (23.0%; down 1.5 percentage points compared to the previous year), the Netherlands (22.0%; down 1.6 percentage points) and France (22.0%; down 1.4 percentage points).

The involvement of Austrian participants in the individual pillars of Horizon Europe and their individual thematic areas varies greatly. This applies in particular to the sub-programmes within the three major programme areas (pillars) of “Scientific Excellence” (Pillar 1), “Global Challenges and EU Industrial Competitiveness” (Pillar 2) and “Innovative Europe” (Pillar 3) (for a comprehensive overview, see Figure 2-32 and Table 2-6). Most of the funding, totalling almost €1 billion, was acquired by Austrian stakeholders in the second pillar, Global Challenges and EU Industrial Competitiveness. Pillar 2

is the pillar with the highest total budget in Horizon Europe. The Austrian share in Pillar 2 corresponds to 3.3% of the funding spent across all contracts in this pillar. Under Pillar 1, Scientific Excellence, researchers working in Austria secured €560.8 million in funding, representing 3.7% of the total for this pillar. Under Pillar 3, Innovative Europe, Austria has so far secured €109.8 million in funding, representing a 2.0% share of the total funding for this pillar. Finally, these three pillars are complemented by an area shaped by RTI policy, namely “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area”, under which stakeholders active in Austria have so far secured €22.6 million in funding (1.2%). It should be noted, however, that many of the calls for proposals in this area are explicitly aimed at countries with weaker research and innovation capabilities.

Figure 2-32: Austria’s absolute and relative participations, coordinations and funding amounts by Horizon Europe programme pillars



Source: FFG, adjusted data from eCorda as of 11 January 2026; illustration: ZSI.

On average, Austrian stakeholders are involved in 2.9% of all projects and coordinate 3.3% of them. In Pillar 1 “Scientific excellence”, the share of participations is slightly below the Austrian average at 2.7%, but the share of coordinations is higher at 3.5%. The shares of participations and coordinations from Austria in Pillar 2, Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness, are above the Austrian average at 3.1% and 3.7% respectively. By contrast, Austria’s share of

participations and coordinations in Pillar 3, Innovative Europe, are below the Austrian average, at 2.5% for participation and 2.3% for coordinators. Austria’s share in the area of “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area” stands at 2.2%; however, due to programme requirements, the proportion of projects coordinated by Austria accounts for 1.6%, which nevertheless represents a significant increase compared with the previous year.

Table 2-6: Austria’s success in Horizon Europe by pillar, project participation, coordination and budget

	Funded participations (all countries)	Funded Austrian participations	Austrian share in % of participations	Funded coordinations (all countries)	Funded coordinators (Austria)	Austrian share in % of coordinations	EU funding in € million (all countries)	EU funding in € million (Austria)	EU funding Austrian share in %
Horizon Europe total	122,271	3,529	2.9%	19,760	661	3.3%	52,347	1,680	3.2%
Pillar 1 overall: Scientific excellence	37,912	1,009	2.7%	12,494	439	3.5%	15,171	561	3.7%
of which ERC	7,152	277	3.9%	5,621	236	4.2%	10,041	420	4.2%
of which MSCA	26,780	640	2.4%	6,693	198	3.0%	3,901	111	2.8%
of which research infrastructures	3,980	92	2.3%	180	5	2.8%	1,230	30	2.4%
Pillar 2 overall: Global challenges and industrial competitiveness	74,193	2,281	3.1%	4,537	166	3.7%	29,970	987	3.3%
of which Cluster 1: Health	10,948	248	2.3%	658	15	2.3%	5,338	140	2.6%
of which Cluster 2: Culture, creativity, society	4,481	145	3.2%	350	18	5.1%	1,178	48	4.3%
of which Cluster 3: Civil security	3,152	87	2.8%	194	7	3.6%	820	31	3.8%
of which Cluster 4: Digitalisation, industry, space	18,388	703	3.8%	1,180	45	3.8%	8,426	295	3.5%
of which Cluster 5: Climate, energy, mobility	21,716	727	3.3%	1,314	60	4.6%	9,240	346	3.7%
of which Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, agriculture, natural resources	15,508	371	2.4%	841	21	2.5%	4,970	127	2.5%
Pillar 3: Innovative Europe	5,701	141	2.5%	1,741	40	2.3%	5,376	110	2.0%
of which EIC	4,307	117	2.7%	1,427	35	2.5%	3,446	93	2.7%
Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area	4,465	98	2.2%	988	16	1.6%	1,829	23	1.2%

Note: The slight deviations in the totals for EU funding (all countries and Austria) in data line 1 are due to rounding differences when comparing the addition of sub-items. Source: FFG, adjusted data from eCorda as of 12 January 2026; illustration: ZSI.

Figure 2-33 provides an overview of Austria's share in the individual programme lines. Within Pillar 1 “Excellent science”, the results in the European Research Council (ERC) programme line are above average with 3.9 % for participations and 4.2 % for coordinations. In the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme line, both participations (2.4%) and funding awards (2.8%) are slightly below the Austrian average in Pillar 1. The Austrian shares are also below average in terms of participations (2.3 %) and funding amounts (2.4 %) in the “Research infrastructures’ programme line of Pillar 1.

Within Pillar 2, Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness, Austria's competitive strengths in specific thematic areas have become further consolidated. Austrian applicants continue to perform particularly well in Cluster 2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society, Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility, and Cluster 4 Digitalisation, Industry and Space.

Cluster 3, Civil Security for Society, accounts for a high proportion of the funding secured (3.8%) – despite slightly below-average Austrian participation (2.8%). The key figures for Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment and Cluster 1, Health, remain consistently below the Austrian average for Pillar 2.

Within Pillar 3, Innovative Europe, there are two programme strands alongside the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE). With 1,427 projects, the EIC is the largest programme line within Pillar 3. In this programme area, Austrian stakeholders perform disproportionately well compared to the overall Austrian average in Pillar 3.¹⁴³

Unfortunately, the statistics reported in eCORDA, the European Commission's monitoring system, are of limited value when it comes to the EIT, partly because the EIT model involves the transfer of funding to third parties, whereas eCORDA only covers direct contracts. In the “Austria 2024 Country Factsheet”¹⁴⁴, the EIT reports disbursements to Austrian institutions totalling €12.84 million¹⁴⁵ for the years 2023 to 2025. This corresponds to approximately 1.5% of the EIT's total distributions.

In the area of “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area”, Austria performs significantly better in the programme strand “Reforming and strengthening the European R&I system” than in the programme strand “Widening participation and spreading excellence”. The latter is primarily aimed at those European Member States or associated countries whose performance in research and innovation is below average.

¹⁴³ The figures given in the individual sections of the Horizon Europe programme refer to funded grants. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that, in the case of the EIC Accelerator programme line – which accounts for approximately two-thirds of the total EIC budget – an additional equity component is financed from Horizon Europe funds, which is not included in the EU funding statistics.

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-07/Austria%202024%20Country%20Factsheet.pdf>

¹⁴⁵ Grants for legal entities and EIT-KIC co-location centres include funding for activities carried out centrally but for the benefit of the entire partnership (across several countries). In addition, they may include funding that is subsequently allocated to third-party beneficiaries.

Figure 2-33: Austria's shares in the individual programme lines by participation, coordination and funding amount



Note: ERC – European Research Council; MSCA – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions; RIS – Research Infrastructures; CCIS – Culture, Creativity, Society; CEM – Climate, Energy, Mobility; CSS – Civil Security; DIS – Digitalisation, Industry, Space; FOOD – Bioeconomy, Agriculture, Natural Resources; HEALTH – Health; EIC – European Innovation Council; EIE – European Innovation Ecosystems; EIT – European Institute of Innovation and Technology; RERIS – Reforming and Strengthening the European R&I System; SEAWP – Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence.

Due to a lack of comparability, the data presented for the EIT does not originate from the abovementioned factsheet. eCORDA records Austria's share of EIT coordination activities as 0% and its share of EIT funding as 0.3%.

Source: FFG, adjusted data from eCorda as of 11 January 2026; illustration: ZSI.

In terms of funding acquired, the higher education sector was the most successful under Horizon Europe as of the reporting date, with €711 million (representing 42% of the funding secured by Austria), followed by the non-university research sector with €475 million, (28%) and the business sector (private for-profit) with €363 million (22%). The business sector share has fallen by two percentage points compared with the previous year. Other public sector bodies, such as the BMFWF, the BMIMI or the major national research funding agencies, in particular the FFG, were able to secure

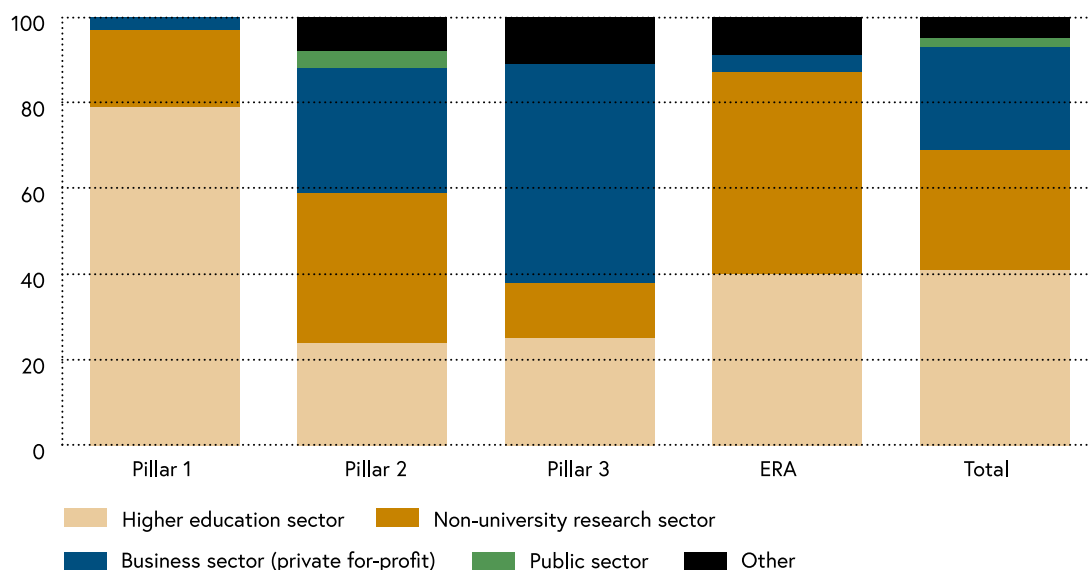
€38 million (2%) in funding due to their involvement in projects which often benefit the entire Austrian research and innovation system. €92 million (5%) were given to other organisations that could not be classified under the groups mentioned above. Of the total of 1,042 participations by Austrian companies, 45.1% were SMEs. This is below the pan-European share of SMEs among participating companies, which stands at 51.5%. Likewise, the share of Austrian SMEs in total funding secured by all Austrian companies – at 43% – is significantly below the European average of 54.5%.

This figure has deteriorated significantly compared with last year.

As Figure 2-34 illustrates, universities with a strong focus on basic research continue to lead the way in Pillar 1, Scientific Excellence (79%). This applies in particular to the ERC and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The situation differs for the funding secured from the

Research Infrastructures programme. Non-university research institutions dominate here, accounting for more than half of the total. A good third of the funding for this programme strand was secured by Austrian universities, and 8% by companies operating in Austria.

Figure 2-34: Distribution of the funding by type of organisation and programme pillar



Pillar 1: Scientific Excellence; Pillar 2: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness; Pillar 3: Innovative Europe; ERA: Widening Participation and strengthening the European Research Area.

Source: FFG, adjusted data from eCorda as of 11 January 2026; illustration: ZSI.

Unlike Pillar 1, which focuses primarily on higher education institutions, and Pillar 3, which centres on the business sector at higher TRLs (Technology Readiness Levels), the funding allocations by organisational type in Pillar 2, Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness, which has the highest overall budget, are significantly less concentrated (see Figure 2-34). This is also due to the fact that Pillar 2 supports mostly collaborative projects spanning several TRLs. In terms of funding acquired, the non-university research sector increased its share in Pillar 2 to 35% compared with the previous year (as a proportion of all funding acquired by Austria under Pillar 2). By contrast, the corporate sector (25%) and the higher education sector (24%)

saw a slight decline. With almost 60% of the funding secured, non-university research institutions stand out in Cluster 3, Civil Security for Society. The non-university research sector (39%) and the business sector (38%) account for a high proportion of organisations in Cluster 4, Digitalisation, Industry and Space, and in Cluster 5, Climate, Energy and Mobility (35% and 36% respectively). Higher education institutions, on the other hand, lead the way in terms of research funding secured in Cluster 1 Health (47%) and Cluster 2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society (46%), although non-university research institutions also have a strong presence in the latter, accounting for 32%.

In Pillar 3, Innovative Europe, the business sector accounts for 51% of the funding secured. The higher education sector has reduced its share from 28% to 25% compared with the previous year. The proportion of organisations that cannot be attributed to any of the major organisational categories¹⁴⁶ is relatively high and has risen compared with last year, accounting for 11% of the funding secured from Austria under this pillar. This is explained by their particularly active involvement in the “European Innovation Ecosystems” sub-programme, where these organisations account for around 90% of the funding secured. For example, the FFG is an Austrian consortium partner in the EU partnership “Innovative SMEs”, which is funded under the European Innovation Ecosystems sub-programme. This EU partnership has a total budget of almost €540 million, which is available to fund innovative SME projects with a view to facilitating their entry into international markets.¹⁴⁷

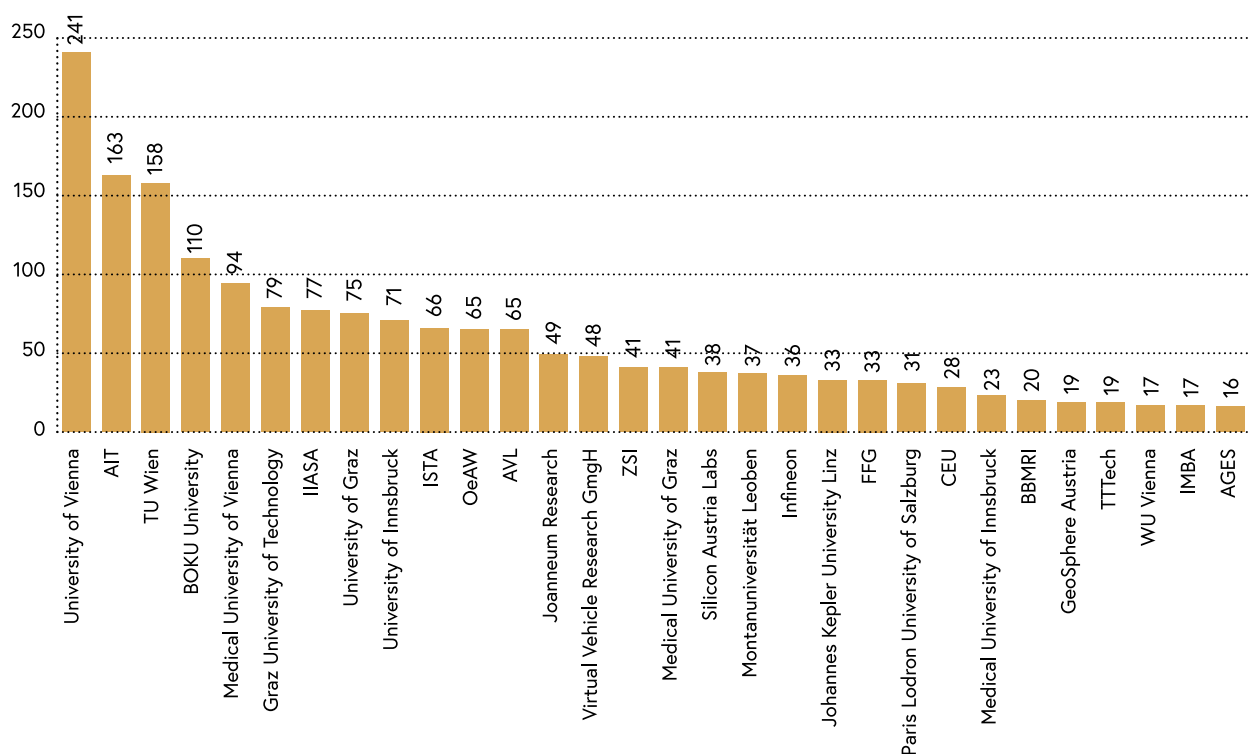
In “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area”, Austrian non-university research organisations continue to lead the way in terms of funding secured under the sub-programme “Re-forming and strengthening the European R&I system”, whilst in the sub-programme “Widening participation and spreading excellence”, the higher education sector leads the way with 60%, followed by the non-university research sector with 34%.

Figure 2-35 shows the 30 most successful Austrian institutions in terms of participation in Horizon Europe, as of 11 January 2026. The leading group is headed by the University of Vienna, followed by AIT and the Vienna University of Technology. Next comes a group of nine organisations with more than 65 participations, comprising five public universities, two Austrian non-university research institutions, one international research institution located in Austria and Austria’s most successful company in the European Framework Programme (AVL List GmbH). This is followed by a greater mix of different types of organisations.

¹⁴⁶ Some of these are so-called intermediary organisations.

¹⁴⁷ See: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101055476>

Figure 2-35: The 30 most successful Austrian organisations in terms of participation in Horizon Europe



Source: EU-Performance Monitor, FFG (<https://eupm.ffg.at/ui/login/>); data as of 11 January 2026; illustration: ZSI.

In the fifth year of the Horizon Europe monitoring, it can be concluded that research institutions and active researchers based in Austria continue to respond very well to the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and are performing at a very high level, with a return indicator corresponding to the target value of 3.1%¹⁴⁸ for 2024 for the key figure 31.4.2¹⁴⁹ of the Impact-Oriented Assessment (Wirkungsorientierte Folgenabschätzung, WFA). The success rate for Austrian applicants remains above the European average, even though success rates are falling overall. As was the case in previous Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe also demonstrates that

the various pillars of the Framework Programme are responded to differently by different types of organisations (businesses, universities, non-university research organisations, other public bodies and others), depending on their strategic focus. This is particularly evident in the strong representation of basic research-oriented institutions in Pillar 1, the notably active use of Pillar 2 by non-university research institutions, and the active participation of businesses in both Pillar 3 and Pillar 2. Within the best-funded Pillar 2, the clusters Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society, Climate, Energy and Mobility and Digitalisation, Industry and Space are consolidating their position as Austria's areas of strength.

148 WFA-key figure 31.4.2: EU return rate (in %) for Austria.

149 Austria's share of the EU-27's national contributions to the EU budget, calculated cumulatively from 2021 to the latest available year (2024), stands at 2.5%. The target value for the WFA return indicator is 3.1% (2024). This target was achieved in 2021, 2023 and 2024. The WFA target for 2025 is also 3.1%, but the actual data are not yet available.

Erasmus+: the engine of European higher education cooperation

The current Erasmus+ programme (2021–2027) focuses on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life, thereby supporting the priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, the Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda.¹⁵⁰

Furthermore, Erasmus+ supports the Union of Skills, launched in spring 2025, with the aim of aligning the skills of European citizens with the needs of the modern labour market and ensuring Europe's long-term competitiveness. This is to be achieved, among other things, through the STEM Education Strategic Plan, with the aim of enhancing skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and improving career prospects in STEM fields.¹⁵¹

The programme also has an impact on the implementation of key national strategies, such as the Comprehensive Austrian University Development Plan (GUEP), the Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030 (HMIS2030) and the National Strategy on the Social Dimension in Higher Education.

Under the current programme, in addition to the “traditional” long-term stays of between 2 and 12 months for study and work placement purposes, short-term stays are also possible, particularly those incorporating virtual elements (blended mobilities). Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) – short in-person group mobility schemes combined with a virtual phase for students and university staff – are also becoming increasingly popular, enabling even those who are unable to undertake a longer stay (e.g. working students) to gain experience abroad. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of applications for in-person mobility programmes rose again significantly. Under the mobility agreements between Austrian higher education institutions and the OeAD, around 7,500 student and staff mobility placements were approved in 2021; by 2024, this figure had risen to around 11,700 approved placements.

Furthermore, Erasmus+ offers numerous opportunities for collaboration between organisations and institutions across Europe and beyond. This has led to the establishment of the European Universities, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees & Erasmus Mundus Design Measures and the Centres of Vocational Excellence partnerships, in which Austrian higher education institutions are participating very successfully. Austrian universities have also successfully competed on the international stage in other initiatives such as Capacity Building in Higher Education, Innovation Alliances and the Jean Monnet measures. As part of the Cooperation Partnerships managed at national level by the OeAD, thematic projects were funded that support the programme's various priorities.

¹⁵⁰ <https://erasmusplus.oead.at/de/>

¹⁵¹ <https://erasmusplus.oead.at/de/inspiration-wirkung/initiativen/union-of-skills>

2.4.2 News from the European Research Area

With its communication “Towards a European Research Area”¹⁵², issued in 2000, the European Commission laid the foundations for a process to establish a common European research policy that goes beyond research funding through the Framework Programme.¹⁵³ Since then, there have been several initiatives aimed at reducing the fragmentation of research in Europe and promoting cooperation between Member States. The main objective has always been to boost European competitiveness and the efficiency of the research and innovation system, as well as to create a cross-border European market for research, innovation and technology in which researchers, knowledge and technology can circulate freely.

To enhance the visibility, relevance and effectiveness of the European Research Area (ERA), a fundamental reorientation took place in 2021 with the adoption of

the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe¹⁵⁴, which defines the values and principles of the ERA as well as the priorities and methods for joint collaboration. In line with this, the so-called ERA Policy Agenda (2022–2024)¹⁵⁵ was adopted, setting out specific initiatives in various areas of the RTI system to be implemented at European and national level. In May 2025, the second ERA Policy Agenda (2025–2027) was adopted.¹⁵⁶ It addresses key issues for the future, ranging from green and digital transformation and crisis resilience to strengthening the excellence and efficiency of the RTI system, and covers eleven structural policy areas as well as eight additional so-called ERA Actions (see Table 2-7). The main difference between the structural policy areas and the ERA actions lies in their timeframe, their focus and the method of implementation.¹⁵⁷

Table 2-7: Overview of the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027

11 structural ERA policy areas	8 ERA Actions
Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)	Applying equity in open science
Strengthening sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA	Advancing the European Science for Policy (S4P) ecosystem
Strengthening gender equality and inclusiveness in the ERA, notably with an intersectional approach	Facilitating and accelerating the responsible use of AI in science in the EU
Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and supporting mobility	Enhancing research security
Reforming research assessment	Accelerating R&I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability
Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities	Accelerating new approach methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices
Implementing the Global Approach to R&I	Developing a coherent and coordinated framework for a European approach to integrity and ethics in R&I in the face of emerging challenges.
Making the strategic energy technology (SET) plan a key thematic component of the ERA	Empowering R&I: A new era in research management

¹⁵² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52000DC0006>

¹⁵³ See BMFWF (2025).

¹⁵⁴ See Council of the European Union (2021).

¹⁵⁵ See European Commission (2021).

¹⁵⁶ See Rat der Europäischen Union (2025a).

¹⁵⁷ Structural policy areas are long-term and systemic in nature, whereas ERA Actions are more project-oriented and designed to produce concrete results or deliverables in the short to medium term (up to 2027).

11 structural ERA policy areas	8 ERA Actions
Improving the articulation between R&I and higher education within the ERA and unleashing the full potential of European R&I ecosystems	
Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication	
Improving EU access to excellence	

Source: Council of the European Union (2025).

The ERA Policy Agenda is being implemented in part through measures at the European level, which are funded by Horizon Europe. These measures are designed to create a suitable framework, to promote exchange and cooperation between Member States, and to encourage reform in the Member States. However, the bulk of the implementation takes place at Member State level.¹⁵⁸ For implementation at the national level, Austria has developed its first National Action Plan for the European Research Area (ERA-NAP 2022–2025)¹⁵⁹, which was adopted in December 2022. The 12 initiatives contained therein, which set out specific measures and objectives for strengthening Austrian research and innovation policy, have either already been completed or were due to run until the end of 2025. In 2024, the ERA-NAP 2022–2025, including the national ERA governance framework, was evaluated. Overall, the evaluation gave a positive assessment of the implementation of the Austrian Action Plan for the European Research Area, both in terms of the progress made on the various initiatives and in terms of the plan as a whole as a tool for implementing the ERA Policy Agenda in Austria.¹⁶⁰ The evaluation also noted that the ERA-NAP was governed efficiently. Particular emphasis was placed on the active involvement and added value of stakeholders. With regard to the individual initiatives, it was noted that most had a clear project-based nature, characterised by the fact that structures were established or concepts developed during the duration of the

ERA-NAP. For other initiatives, however, inclusion in the ERA-NAP was of a more documentary nature, as they focused on measures that are more firmly anchored in other strategic frameworks than in the ERA-NAP.¹⁶¹ The evaluators criticised the varying degrees of verifiability of the indicators and targets. Given its project-based nature, the evaluation has also raised the question of sustainability and the future following the completion of measures, which, in the context of broader goals, serve as milestones.¹⁶²

In 2025, the foundations for the second National Action Plan for the European Research Area (ERA-NAP 2026–2028) were developed in close consultation with the ERA Stakeholder Forum. It includes all key stakeholders of the Austrian research and innovation community, including representatives from universities, universities of applied sciences, industry, research institutions, research funding bodies, interest groups and government departments.¹⁶³ The new ERA-NAP is based on the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027, but does not directly follow its structure; instead, it is tailored to the national RTI context. The national ERA-NAP includes the following five areas of action, which address the 15 initiatives of the ERA Policy Agenda supported by Austria (see Table 2-8).¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁸ See Council of the European Union (2025a).

¹⁵⁹ See BMBWF und BMK (2022).

¹⁶⁰ See BMFWF, BMIMI, BMWET (2025).

¹⁶¹ See Dudenbostel, T., Tiefenthaler, B. Franz, F. and A. Giustolisi (2025).

¹⁶² See Dudenbostel, T., Tiefenthaler, B. Franz, F. and A. Giustolisi (2025).

¹⁶³ See BMFWF (2026).

¹⁶⁴ <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/news/austria-revealed-its-new-era-action-plan-2026-2028>

Table 2-8: Overview of the National Action Plan for the European Research Area 2026–2028

Field of action 1: Strengthen Framework- and Working Conditions for Researchers	Initiative 1.1. Inclusive Gender Equality Initiative 1.2. Setting attractive framework conditions for careers in science and research Initiative 1.3. Reforming Research Assessment Initiative 1.4. Professionalising Research Management
Field of action 2: Promote Openness, Infrastructures and Key Technologies in the RTI-System	Initiative 2.1. Equity in Open Science Initiative 2.2. Research- and Technology Infrastructures Initiative 2.3. AI in Science Initiative 2.4. Strategic Energy Technology Plan
Field of action 3: Strengthen International Cooperation and Research Security	Initiative 3.1. International Cooperation in Science, Research and Innovation Initiative 3.2. Strengthen Research Security
Field of action 4: Enable Knowledge Transfer to Industry and Society	Initiative 4.1. Knowledge Valorisation Initiative 4.2. Science for Policy Ecosystem
Field of action 5: For a responsible and value-based Research Policy	Initiative 5.1. Integrity and Ethics in Research Initiative 5.2. Trust in Science Initiative 5.3. New Approach Methodologies ¹⁶⁵

Source: BMFWF and BMIMI (2025).

As regards the future governance and implementation of the European Research Area, the European Commission is expected to present a legally binding regulation on the deepening of the ERA, known as the ERA Act, in the third quarter of 2026, based on Articles 179(1) and 182(5) of the TFEU, in order to address issues relating to the fragmented nature of the EU's research system. Although this legislative power was already established by the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), it has so far been used only for recommendations, which is why the ERA Policy Agenda was voluntary in nature and its implementation at national level was left to the discretion of the Member States. However, in light of the current global situation – marked by crises, new threats and mounting pressure on Europe's competitiveness – the

previously cautious stance of most EU Member States has shifted towards a more committed approach.¹⁶⁶ Commenting on the content of the ERA Act, the EU Research Commissioner stated in September 2025¹⁶⁷, that it would set out minimum requirements for the professional development of researchers, regulate the free movement of researchers and knowledge, and create incentives for industry and public authorities to achieve the long-standing goal of investing 3% of GDP in research and development. Before the law can come into force, it must still be approved by the Council and Parliament. The proposal for the ERA Act is expected to be issued by the European Commission in the third quarter of 2026.

¹⁶⁵ The term refers to new methodological approaches to promoting biomedical research and the testing of medicines and medical devices.

¹⁶⁶ See BMFWF (2026).

¹⁶⁷ <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/european-research-area/zaharieva-plans-ambitious-realistic-era-act>

2.4.3 Looking ahead to the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

The next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is set to run from 2028 to 2034 and, like the current framework programme, will also be called Horizon Europe. However, as negotiations on the new Framework Programme are still ongoing, the following statements, which are based on the European Commission's proposal, should be treated with caution.

Following a period of intense uncertainty, during which the abolition of the framework programme as a stand-alone initiative was also under discussion, the European Commission, under significant pressure from the European Parliament¹⁶⁸ and the Member States¹⁶⁹ to make adjustments, presented a proposal for a new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) in July 2025. Horizon Europe is set to continue as a standalone framework programme, although parts of Pillar 2 are to be administered through the ECF.

According to the European Commission, the ECF shall have a budget of just over €400 billion and is intended to create the investment capacity needed to boost European competitiveness in strategic technolo-

gies and sectors, as well as to enhance their resilience.¹⁷⁰ To this end, €234 billion shall be made available for measures within the four ECF policy windows: Clean Transition and Decarbonisation of Industry; Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture and the Bioeconomy; Digital Leadership; and Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space. The ECF can make use of various financial instruments, including loans, grants, equity capital, blended finance, procurement contracts, guarantees, etc.¹⁷¹

A budget of €175 billion has been earmarked for Horizon Europe. However, part of this budget is also to be processed via the ECF (see Figure 2-36). The governance arrangements for the link between ECF and Horizon are still under discussion. In addition to the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the ECF's consolidating instruments also include the Innovation Fund, Digital Europe, Connecting Europe, the European Defence Fund and InvestEU (see Figure 2-36).¹⁷²

¹⁶⁸ See European Parliament (2025).

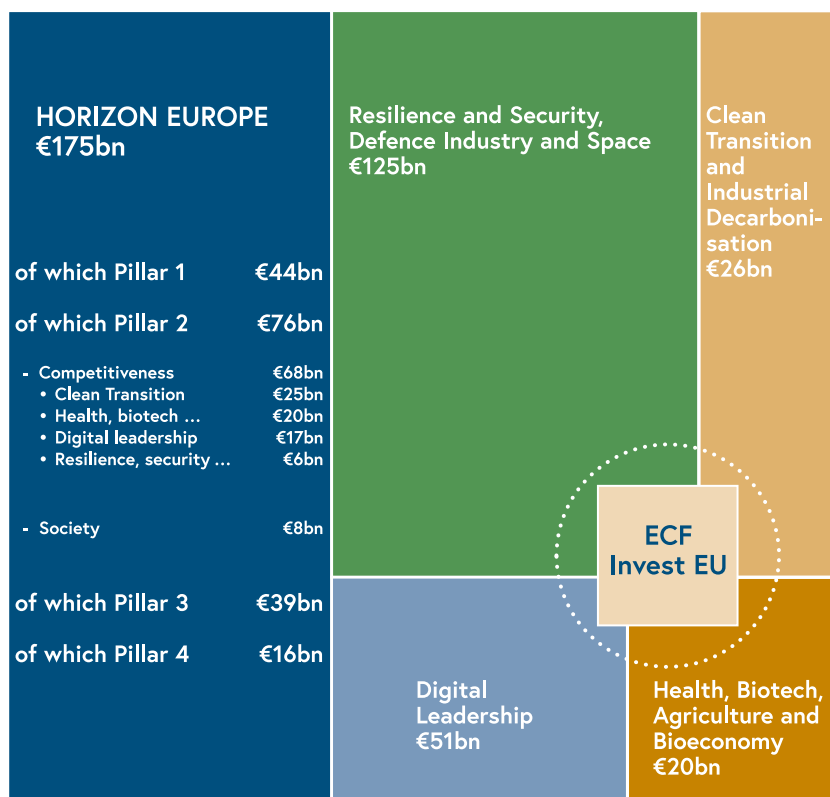
¹⁶⁹ See Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (2025). Reference should also be made to a letter from nine EU Member States to Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva, in which Austria, amongst others, called for joint research to remain at the heart of the next research framework programme: <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/letter%20ES-DE.pdf>

¹⁷⁰ See European Commission (2025c).

¹⁷¹ Wally, B. (2025).

¹⁷² Wally, B. (2025).

Figure 2-36: Breakdown of the European Competitiveness Fund; in proposed billions of euros



Note: Under the European Commission's proposal for the European Competitiveness Fund, a further €11 billion is earmarked within the ECF for cross-cutting activities, which are not shown separately here. The budget figures for the ECF do not include the Horizon budgets for the respective windows. Source: European Commission(2025g), European Commission (2025h) and Wally, B. (2025).

Together, the ECF and Horizon Europe are intended to support the EU's technological and competitive priorities and, accordingly, also contribute to four joint policy areas, known as the EU's policy windows.¹⁷³ Pillar 2 continues to provide funding for collaborative research, but the "Competitiveness" component is to be implemented through integrated work programmes and the ECF programme committees. The bulk of the budget is allocated to this area (€68.3 billion). A large proportion of the ECF budget will be allocated to strengthening European resilience and security – including the defence industry and space sector. In addition, the next Horizon Europe will also contribute to this, particularly through Pillars 2 and 3. The situation is similar with regard to

the EU's Digital Agenda. Both programmes are also intended to play a part in the decarbonisation of industry, as well as in the fields of health, biotechnology, agriculture and the bioeconomy.¹⁷⁴ Unresolved issues still include governance and the setting of priorities.

The proposal for the new Horizon Europe is based on four pillars (see Figure 2-37):

1. Excellent Science
2. Competitiveness and Society
3. Innovation and
4. European Research Area

173 The four policy areas are Clean Transition and Decarbonisation of Industry; Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture and the Bioeconomy; Digital Leadership; and Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space.

174 A very clear overview of the sources of funding under the ECF and Horizon Europe for the four policy windows is provided by Wally, B. (2025).

Pillar 2 is divided into two parts: The larger part is aimed at technological developments designed to boost competitiveness. It is supplemented by a second component on society, which addresses societal chal-

lenges and also includes the R&D component of the New European Bauhaus initiative as well as the EU's missions up to 2030.

Figure 2-37: Overview of the next research framework programme (Horizon Europe) 2028–2034

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
EXCELLENT SCIENCE	COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY	INNOVATION	EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	COMPETITIVENESS*: 1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation 2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy 3. Digital leadership 4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space	EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL	ERA POLICIES
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS		INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE	RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES	SOCIETY: 1. Global societal challenges 2. EU Missions 3. New European Bauhaus Facility		WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

* Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

Source: European Commission, 2025b.

The European Commission's proposal provides for budget increases for Pillar 1 (€44 billion) and Pillar 3 (€38.8 billion) compared with the current research framework programme. In Pillar 2 a budget of €68.3 billion shall be allocated for the "Competitiveness" sub-area and €7.6 billion for the "Society" sub-area. The new Pillar 4, with a budget of €16.3 billion, establishes a dedicated pillar for the European Research Area, designed to support the implementation of the objective of creating a cross-border European area for research,

innovation and technology in which researchers, knowledge and technology can circulate freely.¹⁷⁵

The new framework programme also features a number of systemic and programmatic changes.¹⁷⁶ Given the current geopolitical tensions, the new research framework programme's standard dual-use focus represents a significant departure from previous research framework programmes, which until now had been exclusively geared towards civilian research and innovation. The dual-use focus means that all parts of the programme can support projects with potential civilian and military applications. However, it is still

¹⁷⁵ See European Commission (2025d).

¹⁷⁶ See Wally, B. (2025) as well as the presentation by C. Naczinsky "Horizon Europe (2028–2034): Was bleibt bestehen, was kommt neu", which was discussed during an FFG online meeting on 15 January 2026.

unclear from which budget lines the funding for purely defence-related projects is to be drawn. According to the current state of discussions, it should be possible to fund purely defence-related research within the EIC Accelerator. The dual-use approach also raises questions regarding the extent to which stakeholders outside the EU should be involved. Austria is committed to seeing conflict and peace research given a proper place in the next research framework programme.

Other potential changes in the next research and innovation framework programme relate to a strategic reorientation of the partnerships, which could have implications for their number, funding and opportunities for participation. At present, the future of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) also remains unclear. The next Horizon Europe programme could see the introduction of so-called moonshots, although little is yet known about them in terms of content, instruments or funding. As for collaborative research, a minimum requirement of two institutions from two Member States plus one further institution from a Member State or an associated country should apply in future.

As regards the prospective timetable, it should be noted that the structure, rules and budgets of the ECF and the next Horizon Europe programme, as well as how they will be coordinated, must be negotiated by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU by 2028. For this purpose, the Council and the European Parliament will first adopt their own positions on the European Commission's proposal and the programmes. The necessary negotiations at Council level were launched during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2025.¹⁷⁷ Parts of the European Commission's (existing) proposal were excluded, such as any budget figures or the article on the "Widening Participation" sub-programme, which aims to reduce the performance gap between Member

States in the field of research and development. In this regard, the proposal introduces a new category of so-called transition countries¹⁷⁸ – those that have made progress in terms of research output and participation in Horizon Europe. These countries are to be excluded from future capacity-building measures.

During the current Cypriot Presidency (first half of 2026), efforts will be made to reach a so-called partial general approach¹⁷⁹, setting out the Council's position on the key aspects of the programme. Discussions among EU governments on funding for basic research are already at an advanced stage, yet a number of questions remain unanswered regarding other aspects. These relate, among other things, to the links between Horizon Europe and the ECF, as well as the role of Member States in setting strategic priorities. The BMFWF is responsible for coordinating Austria's position on Horizon Europe at the national level.

Negotiations on the Research Framework Programme and the ECF are continuing in parallel with the overall negotiations on the next long-term EU budget. As the ECF is being negotiated for the first time, delays to the schedule cannot be ruled out. Given the close links planned between the ECF and Horizon Europe, any delays in the ECF negotiations could also affect the negotiations on Horizon Europe. Under the current proposal, for example, the second pillar of Horizon Europe for collaborative research is to be managed jointly with the ECF to ensure continuity in programme planning from research to market launch. The BMWET is responsible for coordinating Austria's position on the ECF.

The European Parliament also intends to present its position by summer 2026. It is expected that negotiations on the ECF and Horizon Europe will enter the next phase by the end of 2026. The European Parliament and the Council will enter into interinstitutional negotiations with the European Commission (known as a trilogue)

177 The progress made by the Danish Presidency is outlined in a progress report published on 28 November 2025: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15959-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

178 According to the current state of discussions, the core group currently comprises Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The transition group comprises Estonia, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Cyprus.

179 A partial general approach, i.e. a summary of the Council's position on the basic structure of the programme.

to reach an agreement on the regulation that meets all parties' requirements.

The European Commission will also adopt new regulations in the coming months. These include, among other things, the European Innovation Act, which aims to remove barriers that prevent innovative ideas from reaching the market. The legislation will cover regulatory sandboxes, access to research infrastructure and support for technology transfer across all technology sectors. The proposed legislation on the European Research Area will be of particular significance in terms of structural policy (see Chapter 2.4.2). Among other initiatives, the Commission also proposed an EU-wide

corporate status on 18 March 2026, known as the 28th regime. This aims to give companies the opportunity to register at national or EU level, whereby EU status should help them to grow and scale up more easily across borders. As quantum research and technologies are among Austria's key areas of strength, the proposed Quantum Act, which is scheduled for the second quarter of 2026, is also worth mentioning here. It is based on the Quantum Europe Strategy presented by the European Commission in July 2025.¹⁸⁰ Once the proposals are presented, the Council of the EU Member States and the European Parliament will have to reach an agreement on the rules.

180 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/quantum-europe-strategy>

2.5 RTI Evaluation Culture and Practice

For more than 30 years, research, technology and innovation policy in Austria has been characterised by a culture of evaluation that is focused on quality and transparency.¹⁸¹

A special feature of Austrian RTI evaluation culture is the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval), which brings together representatives of the institutions that commission, carry out, or are the subject of evaluations. The central goal of fteval's activities is to further develop a common evaluation culture through fostering exchange among stakeholders. Important examples of this are the publication of the fteval journal, regular evaluation trainings for member organisations and other interested parties, as well as events such as the international REvaluation Conference, which takes place every three years.



2.5.1 Current developments

The government programme 2025–2029 has several sections dedicated to the topic of evaluation. The aim is to ensure that funding is provided where it is most urgently needed, and with the greatest effect. The Programme states, “In order to ensure the impact and success of the funding measures, all new funding is always subject to regular evaluations and is generally awarded for a limited period of time, unless there are clear reasons not to do so. Legal and planning security is to be ensured through timely communication. This is to ensure that the funding is used in a targeted and efficient manner. The results of the evaluations are incorporated into the decision on a possible extension or adjustment of the subsidies and help to ensure continuous improvements.”¹⁸² The industrial strategy is also based on evaluation, and is to be scientifically and externally evaluated every three years: “As part of

the evaluation, the objectives are reviewed and recommendations are made for any new measures to achieve the goals. This ensures that the objectives, flagship projects and measures anchored in the strategy are consistently implemented and that any deviations from targets, challenges and changed framework conditions can be responded to promptly and effectively.”¹⁸³

At the operational level, to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between different actors in the context of evaluation, fteval has developed a “cooperation contract” as a tool enabling different platform members to combine various resources (financial, human or knowledge/data) to develop new insights. This enables closer and more binding cooperation than in a working group, simplifies the bundling of community knowledge, and increases the acceptance of the process and the results. In contrast to the previous practice of

181 For comparison, see the Austrian Research and Technology Reports 2024 and 2025.

182 Federal Chancellery (2025), Government Programme 2025–2029, p. 21.

183 BMWET (2026), p. 105.

competitively awarded studies, the platform can now more easily work on current topics across institutions.

One example of such collaboration is a cooperation study initiated by fteval to collect and evaluate the use of causal analytical methods in Austrian RTI evaluation. The study is being carried out by KMU Forschung Austria, Joanneum Research and WPZ Research, with the participation of the platform fteval. Part of the funding comes from the BMFWF. Methodologically, the study follows on from a study commissioned by the Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation (EFI) for RTI evaluations in Germany and replicates its system for Austria. In addition, application requirements in the Austrian context are outlined, the international scientific discourse is reviewed and the benefits of these methods are critically analysed from the perspectives of evaluators, clients and funding agencies.

Through a systematic literature review and an open call to the community, 17 Austrian RTI evaluations were identified that use counterfactual impact analyses, i.e. methods to estimate the causal effect of a funding measure compared to a hypothetical scenario without funding. The findings show a significant increase in such approaches as 13 of the 17 studies were published in the last ten years. The Maryland Scientific Methods Scale assessment shows that six of the 17 studies meet the minimum standard of robust causal evidence, while the majority remain at a level with limited robustness of causal inferences. Methodologically more sophisticated approaches to causal analysis, including regression-discontinuity designs and randomised control trials, have only been increasingly observed in Austria in the last five years. Another notable development is

the increasing experience in Austria with panel evaluations, which are mainly used in research institutions but also in evaluations of funding institutions. Experts from Austria play a leading role in the conception and implementation of such panel evaluations, both in Austria and abroad, which take into account not only scientific quality but also organisational and strategic aspects. In November 2025, a discussion event was dedicated to the exchange of experiences on the meaningful and successful use of panels in evaluation; this was subsequently captured in a podcast episode¹⁸⁴. The podcast format is to be increasingly used for the follow-up on the established systematic exchange on specific aspects of evaluation.

In Austria, there is also a long-established fteval Journal for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation. It positions itself at the interface between research and technology policy practice and scientific quality and promotes exchange between the relevant stakeholder groups in the field of RTI evaluation. The publication process is currently being modernised in a pilot project through preprints in the repository, an open (non-anonymised) review, and the publication and linking of the reviews to the respective article. If the feedback is incorporated, the article will officially be published in the journal.

In addition, Austria was once again confirmed as the venue for the renowned international RTI policy evaluation conference “REvaluation”. The conference will take place on 25–26 February 2028. Alongside fteval, the FWIT Council, Fraunhofer ISI and Manchester Institute for Innovation Research (MIoIR) will co-organise the event.

184 <https://podcast.fteval.at/2076917/episodes/18148835>

2.5.2 Selected evaluations

In the following section, a selection of recently completed evaluations are presented in terms of the subject matter of the evaluation, the methodology used and the most important conclusions and recommendations.¹⁸⁵

Austrian Open Innovation Strategy

In order to be able to master the challenges posed by globalisation and digitisation as a small and open economy, innovation, openness and collaboration are needed. Austria recognised this as early as 2016 and was the first, and thus far only, European Member State to publish a comprehensive Open Innovation Strategy with a¹⁸⁶ target horizon of 2025.

The aim of this strategy was to open up, expand and further develop the innovation system as well as to increase its efficiency. This requires above all the consideration of business, science, civil society, politics and public administration when opening up knowledge and innovation processes. This is because complex challenges can be overcome by involving different stakeholders.

A new, broad and open approach was also chosen for the creation of the Open Innovation Strategy. Therefore, the classic triple helix model was extended to a quadruple helix model, so that not only science, business, politics and public administration were involved, but also explicitly civil society. This approach ensured an open-ended process that contributed significantly to the development of the fields of action and measures. Three central fields of action were identified, from which 14 concrete measures¹⁸⁷ were derived. The fields of action to be addressed were:

1. Building a culture of open innovation and teaching open innovation skills to all age groups
2. Formation of heterogeneous open innovation networks and partnerships across disciplines, industries and organisations
3. Mobilising resources and creating a framework for open innovation

As part of this research and technology report, a final report on the implementation of the Open Innovation Strategy will now be presented. Just five years after the strategy was published, a positive interim balance was drawn in 2021. The implementation of the measures up to that point showed that both the approach and the involvement of the research, technology and innovation community had been successful. The approaches of Open Innovation and Open Science are well-known in the field of research, technology and innovation, and methods are not only understood, but also, to a certain extent, applied. In addition, the digital transformation, the advancement of climate change, and the health crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the relevance of the topic. Without a targeted opening of the research and innovation process (as open as possible, as closed as necessary), it would be difficult to further develop and secure the innovation location. After the conclusion of the Open Innovation Strategy, stakeholders within the Open Innovation community from a diverse range of areas (companies, universities, research and research funding institutions, administration) came together on 26 January 2026 to review successfully implemented initiatives and activities from the last ten years. A large number of lighthouse projects were also presented during this process. These ranged from networks and platforms such as the BMLUK's Rural Innovation Systems funding measure or the New European Bauhaus Academy Hub presented by the University of

¹⁸⁵ At the time of writing, not all studies have yet been published, so in some cases no further links are given.

¹⁸⁶ <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/forschung/forschung-oesterreich/strategische-ausrichtung-beratende-gremien/strategien/ois.html/>

¹⁸⁷ See Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (2016), p. 17.

Natural Resources and Life Sciences, as well as innovation and experimental spaces for open exchange, such as the ÖBB's Open Innovation Factory, to the anchoring of Open Data and Open Access principles in organisations. Open access as well as the transfer and dissemination of knowledge are essential and promote innovation. Therefore, the transparency of research information is equally relevant. In this context, the FWF presented the Barcelona Declaration. All the projects presented have a long-term objective and serve as best-practice examples of how open innovation reveals new solutions in everyday work, such as the "Making ASFINAG fit for the future" initiative (ASFINAG zukunftsfit gestalten) or the Schumpeter Laboratory at TU Graz, which brings makers, industry and research together. An important resource for the success of open innovation processes are appropriate tools, such as the Open Innovation Toolbox provided by the NCP-IP. Initiatives to enable inter- and transdisciplinary work in research and innovation fields, such as the LBG's Open Innovation in Science Center, also make an essential contribution. The involvement of civil society is also addressed, for example, through the OeAD's Citizen Science Award, financed by the BMFWF, or the CDG's Future Talks. The BKA developed GovLab Austria as an innovation laboratory for the public sector.

After ten years of implementation, the Open Innovation Strategy can be deemed a complete success. In contrast to 2016, open innovation is no longer a foreign concept in Austria, but an integral part of modern research, innovation and governance approaches. Coming from the European level, knowledge valorisation has also become an established term which complements and expands the concept of knowledge transfer and now explicitly includes open innovation. Open innovation has become an important strategic approach in the field of IP management. It does not replace other forms of IP management but effectively complements them. However, embedding an open culture of innovation is a long-term process. Nevertheless, this will strengthen

the basic mindset that we need to master the complex challenges of the coming years.

Sparkling Science 2.0

The Sparkling Science 2.0 research funding programme supports citizen science projects in which research and educational institutions—and, where possible, civil society actors—collaborate to jointly contribute to the generation of innovative research results. The subject of this evaluation is the programme design, implementation, and achievement of objectives of the BMFWF's Sparkling Science 2.0 funding programme for the period from September 2021 to June 2025. Under the programme, 61 projects are being funded with a total budget of €21 million.¹⁸⁸ The evaluation was conducted by Technopolis and is based on an indicator-based analysis aligned with strategic and operational programme objectives, as well as the assessment of project data, final reports, and participation figures.

The programme has made a substantial contribution to its objectives, with exceptionally high levels of participation, including 426 researchers, 532 teachers, over 9,000 pupils directly involved and over 20,000 indirectly involved, as well as more than 38,000 citizen scientists. Although 40% of the applications were rated as excellent, the funding rate is only 21.5% due to budgetary constraints. The programme promotes innovative research, strengthens collaboration between science, education and society, breaks down barriers to access and establishes the citizen science concept. Given the quality and central role of the programme, the key recommendations of the evaluation are the resolute continuation of the funding programme with regular, predictable calls for proposals, a budget increase to reduce the high rejection rate of eligible projects, as well as the simplification of the target system and the targeted strengthening of knowledge transfer.

¹⁸⁸ <https://repository.fteval.at/id/eprint/800/>

Network project “STEM Regions”

The STEM Regions Quality Label (MINT-Regionen Qualitätslabel) was evaluated in 2025/26 by WPZ Research on behalf of Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH. STEM regions are regional networks of various stakeholders who work together to develop, promote and expand STEM initiatives, with a particular focus on supporting girls and young women. The aws has been commissioned by the BMFWF as the STEM Regions Service Hub to award or recertify the STEM Regions Quality Label every three years to those STEM regions that meet specific quality criteria. Following two calls for applications, there are currently 28 STEM regions comprising over 950 stakeholders (see also Chapter 1.1).

The evaluation shows that the STEM regions differ in terms of size and urbanisation, but predominantly exhibit growing proportions of STEM professionals (i) among the workforce and (ii) among those in (secondary or tertiary) education. Although this cannot yet be attributed to the initiative itself due to its short history, the results suggest that, particularly in STEM regions, a growing demand for those trained in STEM subjects coincides with a growing interest in such training. The evaluation also shows that each STEM region is unique with its region-specific needs and activities. From the perspective of the network coordinators, the initiative has been particularly successful in providing new impetus and ideas for STEM activities, strengthening regional networks of various stakeholders, increasing the visibility of STEM activities, and promoting girls and young women in STEM.

Interim Report 2025 on the National Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030

On behalf of the BMFWF, WPZ Research evaluated the National Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030 (HMIS2030) between July 2024 and January 2026. The study examined how the objectives of the HMIS2030 are embedded in the four higher education sectors (public universities, universities of applied sciences, private universities,

teacher training universities), what developments and effects have become evident since 2020, and what potential exists for further implementation. Using a mixed-methods approach comprising online surveys, focus groups and interviews, all groups within the higher education institutions were included, and the results were contextualised and triangulated through systematic document analysis and secondary analyses.

The results show that the objectives of the HMIS2030 are perceived as a relevant framework for orientation across all four sectors and are increasingly embedded in strategic steering documents. At the same time, there are differences in operational uptake, internal university communication and the depth of implementation. Against this background, it is recommended to further strengthen the strategic anchoring of HMIS2030 in university governance, to systematically expand visibility, communication and implementation knowledge, and to make the strategy more visible within the university at all levels and in all organisational units, as well as to all university members. Existing mobility hurdles for incoming and outgoing individuals should continue to be consistently dismantled in order to support international mobility in the long term.

Programme evaluation of the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR III)

APPEAR III (2020–27) aims to strengthen the scientific foundation and institutional capacities in the fields of higher education, research and management in the partner countries through academic partnerships and scholarships. The programme evaluation¹⁸⁹ examined 15 projects for their relevance and effectiveness and was carried out by Technopolis in 2024–2025 using document analysis, an online survey, qualitative interviews, group discussions and a heatmap analysis.

189 https://oead.at/fileadmin/Dokumente/appear.at/evaluations/APPEAR_III_Project_Evaluation_08_2025.pdf

The evaluation highlights that the APPEAR approach to bridging the gap between research and development cooperation through trust-based, long-term higher education partnerships is particularly promising – especially through the OeAD’s active project support. The evaluated projects are well embedded in the national development strategies of the ADC partner countries. Projects that build on existing partnerships or have utilised preparatory funding demonstrate greater effectiveness, as do those coordinated by partner institutions in the Global South. The fact that no project had to be discontinued despite significant political or economic challenges underscores the resilience of the APPEAR approach. Recommendations focus on operational adjustments regarding sustainability reporting, gender mainstreaming, flexible coordination models, strengthening institutional capacities and reducing administrative burdens.

Short Assessment Patent.Voucher

The patent voucher funding scheme run by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the Austrian Patent Office (ÖPA) was analysed by Technopolis in a brief assessment carried out between 2024 and 2025¹⁹⁰. Since 2016, 2,238 patent vouchers have been issued. The assessment examined both the funding format and its effects, and recommendations for action were formulated based on this. Technopolis employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, such as a selective evaluation of programme data, an online survey, focus groups, stakeholder interviews and workshops.

Overall, the scheme is highly relevant, with over 500 applications per year; the patent voucher has proven to be a low-threshold subsidy. The funding has a broad impact and achieves solid additionality values, even though the accuracy of the target group could be further improved. It should be noted that, due to the system, the instrument can only be used to a limited extent in the case of very time-critical registrations.

On the basis of the results, continuation is recommended, combined with greater accuracy, procedural adjustments, supplementary measures to promote women, improved monitoring of funding and stronger coordination with other FFG funding.

Funding topic “Digital Technologies”

The evaluation of the BMIMI’s “Digital Technologies” funding programme, implemented by the FFG, was carried out by Technopolis using AI-based text analysis, funding data analysis, and interviews. It covers the period 2018–2024. Strategic objectives are largely being achieved – the cooperation network is growing with high levels of involvement from SMEs and end-users, and is strengthening the development of the national AI ecosystem. In the area of sustainability, the projects are making substantial contributions to the energy transition, the mobility transition and the circular economy. Technological sovereignty is addressed primarily through strong contributions in the key technologies of AI and microelectronics, whilst quantum technologies play a lesser role. In terms of societal challenges, the funded projects primarily address societal resilience and demographic change. With regard to competitiveness, the projects contribute to strengthening innovative capacities primarily indirectly through topic development, competence building and networking. Key recommendations include greater participation by women, a more balanced distribution of funds in favour of SMEs, greater involvement of stakeholders outside the business and scientific sectors, a stronger focus on commercialisation, as well as a more precise impact logic and improved monitoring.

Mobility of the future

Through the mission-oriented innovation programme “Mobility of the Future”, the then BMVIT (now BMIMI) supported the development of sustainable mobility solutions and infrastructure in the fields of vehicle technologies, transport infrastructure, and passenger

¹⁹⁰ <https://repository.fteval.at/id/eprint/804/>

and freight mobility. KMU Forschung Austria and the nexus Institute were commissioned to carry out an ex-post evaluation of the 2017–2021 funding period, during which 288 R&D projects with a total funding volume of €138.8 million were approved.

The evaluation results show that the programme provided significant impetus for aligning mobility research with societal challenges and was thus largely able to achieve its objectives. The programme was characterised in particular by a significantly above-average incentive effect (additionality) in project funding and was implemented professionally. However, rigid organisational structures and call formats, as well as an excessive focus on grants as the core instrument, stood in the way of a consistent focus on impact and exploitation.

An analysis of the causal relationships between RDI measures and contributions to sustainable mobility enabled key intervention strategies to be identified for increasing effectiveness. The evaluation team at KMU Forschung Austria also recommends organisational and institutional adjustments in four areas: a stronger focus of intervention strategies on innovation processes – including a more consistent use of non-financial instruments such as networking, knowledge transfer and information – systematic risk and portfolio management, more responsive and agile funding formats, and implementation-oriented target systems that address technological, social and systemic challenges in an integrated manner.

Industry-Startup.Net

The interim evaluation focuses on the “aws Industry-Startup.net” (aws ISN) programme, which was launched in 2016. The aim was to systematically assess the programme’s impact and to draw up recommendations to ensure its effectiveness. aws ISN has supported a large number of corporations, SMEs and start-ups in initiating and successfully implementing numerous collaborations and investments. Technopolis carried out the evaluation in 2025, based on a mixed-methods

approach, an analysis of programme documents and data, an online survey, and qualitative interviews.

The results paint a positive picture regarding both the relevance and effectiveness of the programme. Both the Austrian Startup Monitoring and the surveys conducted as part of the evaluation confirm the high relevance of the programme. The programme has developed in a targeted manner in recent years and shows steady growth in new registrations. Recommendations relate to specific adjustments, including stable staffing levels and the continuous improvement of the platform’s user-friendliness. In conjunction with other aws Connect offerings, the cross-promotion of activities can be expanded. Furthermore, a stronger international, or at least European, focus should be pursued.

AGIPM – agile IP management

Through the “Agile IP Management” programme (AGIPM for short), aws supported the implementation of an innovation protection strategy aimed at optimising the use of intellectual property (IP) in small and medium-sized enterprises. Between 2020 and 2023, 93 companies received support in the form of grants and consultancy services, funded by the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development. The ex-post evaluation carried out by KMU Forschung Austria found that the programme had been implemented to a high standard. The supported companies particularly appreciated the high degree of flexibility, the professional guidance and the scope of the support provided. The programme also contributed to the implementation of IP strategies, the integration of IP and innovation processes, and the consideration of various exploitation options, thereby enabling all programme objectives to be fully achieved. The in-house consultancy services provided were particularly important for the project’s success, confirmed by the fact that companies that made greater use of consultancy services reported more positive effects on their competitive position. The evaluation team’s recommendations for the further development of the portfolio of measures focus on balancing private and public interests in the support

of IP projects within companies. It is recommended that, in future initiatives, the average grant amount per company be capped more strictly, that the focus be placed on consultancy services, and that support be more closely linked to social objectives.

Evaluation of the Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP)

The ASEP was conceived and established from 2022 onwards as a research infrastructure enabling researchers to conduct long-term analyses of Austrian society.¹⁹¹ According to the government programme, funding for the Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP) will be secured subject to a positive evaluation, and linking it with register data for research purposes at the Austrian Micro Data Centre will continue to be possible.

Two international peer reviewers¹⁹² carried out this evaluation between February and May 2025, based on a self-evaluation report from ASEP and an on-site evaluation. The reviewers recommend continuing ASEP and consider a significant increase in the budget necessary so that ASEP can deliver decisive added value for Austrian research in an international context. They outline three scenarios for the future of ASEP: Scenario 1, “Basic-ASEP”, involves simply continuing the ASEP survey. Scenario 2, “Regular-ASEP”, continues to focus on linking ASEP data with AMDC register data, thereby building on ASEP’s unique international selling point. Scenario 3, “Advanced-ASEP”, combines international best-practice approaches and expands research opportunities through register linkages. In the reviewers’ view, this would “represent a forward-looking investment by Austria, offering the chance to catch up with the Scandinavian countries that have led the way in this field to date.”

¹⁹¹ https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/dam/jcr:77c55439-d091-4787-adb8-aa4465d2181e/ASEP-Evaluationsbericht_signed.pdf

¹⁹² Prof. Silke Anger, Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Nuremberg/University of Bamberg, and Prof. Karsten Hank, University of Cologne.

3

Monitoring in accordance with the Research Financing Act (FoFinaG)

Central research and research funding institutions



In accordance with Section 8 of the FoFinaG, the monitoring of central research and research funding institutions is carried out within the framework of the annual Research and Technology Report. The monitoring pursuant to the FoFinaG therefore forms the subject of Chapter 3 of this report.

The monitoring of the central institutions was introduced (for the first time) in 2021 and has been carried out annually since then. Some indicators have been further developed in consultation with the ministries. The basis for the monitoring is provided by the performance agreement or funding agreement concluded between each institution and the responsible federal ministry or, in the case of the FFG and aws, with the responsible federal ministries.

The monitoring itself is based on contributions prepared by the central institutions¹⁹³ then subsequently coordinated with the ministries and processed by the authors for the Austrian Research and Technology Report. In this context, information on excellence programmes is cross-checked with data provided by the FWF, while information on participation in the European Framework Programmes is verified against data from the FFG's EU Performance Monitor. In addition, information on core facilities is reviewed against entries in the BMFWF Research Infrastructure Database.

The reference date for monitoring pursuant to the FoFinaG is always 31 December; in the present report, this is 31 December 2025, meaning that the most recent available data and information are used throughout. Year-on-year comparisons refer to the reporting years 2024 and 2025.

The monitoring covers the eleven central research and research funding institutions defined in the FoFinaG, which are:

Central research institutions:

- Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH (AIT)
- Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA)
- Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)
- Silicon Austria Labs GmbH (SAL)
- Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft – Austrian Association for the Promotion of Scientific Research (LBG)
- GeoSphere Austria – Federal Institute for Geology, Geophysics, Climatology and Meteorology (GSA)

Central research funding institutions:

- Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (aws)
- Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG)
- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- OeAD-GmbH (OeAD)
- Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

The monitoring presents the annual development of these research and research funding institutions across the key dimensions of profile, input and output, using indicators agreed with the relevant ministries.

193 As the survey is based on a cut-off date of 31 December of the relevant reporting year and the data and information for the FTB are published in the period from February and March of the following year, in some cases only preliminary data is available from the institutions at that time and this still needs to be verified (e.g. by tax advisors or auditors). Consequently, discrepancies may arise between the annual research and technology reports. Should significant discrepancies actually occur, the institution concerned addresses them and provides an explanation.

The indicators include:

- Funding, including third-party funding
- Evaluation systems
- Human capital and qualification
- Output, innovation and excellence
- Internationalisation
- Knowledge and technology transfer
- Communication and interaction with society
- Gender and the promotion of equality

In addition, target values are presented, some of which were set out in the performance or funding agreements. In this report, these are taken from the 2024–2026 performance and funding agreements.

Overall, the aim is not only to map the development of the individual central institutions, but also to provide a systemic view of the Austrian RDI system from a governance perspective. It should be noted that each of the institutions has a defined task and thus plays a specific role within the Austrian RDI system.

3.1 Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)

3.1.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) is Austria's largest research and technology organisation, with more than 1,600 employees working on the future infrastructure challenges. AIT focuses on two interlinked research priorities

- Resilient and sustainable infrastructure, particularly in the energy, transport and health sectors, as well as
- the digital transformation of the economy and society.

In doing so, AIT works closely with industry, universities and public institutions. Through its seven centres (Energy, Transport Technologies, Health & Bioresources, Digital Safety & Security, Vision, Automation & Control, Technology Experience, Innovation Systems & Policy), AIT sees itself as a bridge between science and technological application. Through a systemic perspective, interdisciplinarity and excellent research infrastructure, AIT develops market-oriented solutions to the major challenges of our time.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total income in €1,000	218,005			230,162		
Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)*	991	503	1,494	1,121	557	1,678
Full-time equivalents (rounded)**	904	420	1,324	1,006	454	1,460

* From 2025, the headcount figures include freelance staff **Freelance staff are not included in the FTE figures due to their flexible working hours. Source: AIT.

3.1.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

In contrast to the key figures, all indicators in section 3.1.2 relate to the AIT excluding Seibersdorf Labor GmbH and Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH.

	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000	Target value 2026 in %**
Total operating income	174,523	185,414	
of which shareholder contributions	58,703	60,899	
of which third-party funding	115,820	124,514	
of which non-EU countries and global organisations	2,691	1,209	
of which public	340	313	
of which private	2,351	896	
of which from the EU and European countries or organisations	43,642	47,073	
of which public	35,708	39,249	
of which private	7,934	7,823	
of which national and regional organisations	69,487	76,233	
of which public	41,002	44,586	
of which private	28,484	31,647	
Third-party funding ratio* in %	66.4%	67.2%	60%

* Share of third-party funding in total income in %. ** Due to fluctuations in third-party funding disbursements between individual years, three-year average values are given here. Source: AIT.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations of the thematic and strategic orientation

The AIT's regulations and procedures are guided by statutory and regulatory requirements as well as by economic, social, security-related and environmental considerations. Overall responsibility for quality management rests with the Management Board, which defines the quality policy and the corresponding corporate objectives. Compliance with quality management requirements by all employees is subject to regular internal and external audits.

To support its strategic development, AIT has established a Strategic Research Advisory Board (SRAB) comprising internationally recognised experts from science and research. The Board advises the Supervisory Board on the strategic direction of the organisation and its research programme.

The strategy implemented in 2024, with its clearly defined research priorities and the positioning of AIT as an international networking hub, continued to receive strong recognition in 2025. Strategic periods are evaluated within an established three-year cycle. Following the highly positive evaluation conducted in 2023, the next evaluation is scheduled for 2026, with preparatory activities already underway during 2025.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Number of employees (including LKR Leichtmetallkompetenzzentrum Ranshofen GmbH)	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	829	409	1,238	851	435	1,286
of which at management level (management, head of a centre, a competence unit, an administrative area or an administrative unit)	31	11	42	33	14	47
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	749	341	1,090	768	358	1,126
of which at management level	30	11	41	32.2	13.5	45.7

Source: AIT.

PhD students	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Completed theses*	100%	100%	75%
Employees (=headcount)	159	160	
of which employed at AIT	124	135	
of which in structured education (doctoral schools or similar)	35	25	

* Proportion of completed dissertations in the PhD programme within 5 years.

Source: AIT.

Early-career researchers*	2024	2025
Employees (=headcount)	213	198
Share of (academic) employees**	25.2%	22.7%

* AIT definition: all juniors in the Science and Research Engineer/Expert Advice career models, as well as all PhD students with an AIT contract or permanent position. ** Total number of PhD students with an AIT contract, as well as all staff in the Science and Research Engineer/Expert Advice career models, as of 31 December for 2024 and 2025. Source: AIT.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In 2024, a cultural development process was launched and AIT's vision, mission and values were developed through a participatory process. In 2025, the Work Environment Survey included questions on AIT's values for the first time. Other key areas of the survey included aspects of day-to-day working life and leadership culture. The AIT training programme, the pre-onboarding programme, was continued, with special support for international staff. In addition, AIT offers all employees a free, anonymous support programme for counselling and coaching on professional and personal matters.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Scientific publications	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Monographs and editions	2	2	
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited volumes and proceedings*	579	665	
of which number of peer-reviewed publications and publications in peer-reviewed conference proceedings	560	641	430

* Only peer-reviewed publications are cited (specifically, papers that have undergone full peer review by at least two reviewers). Source: AIT.

Investments in research infrastructure in 2024 and 2025:

AIT operates a research infrastructure that is competitive across Europe, providing excellent working conditions for AIT researchers and facilitating cooperation with first-class partners from industry and academia. These include, amongst others, a DC Lab, a City Intelligence Lab, a User Experience Lab, a Battery Lab, a Large Scale Robotics Lab and a Quantum Lab. The laboratory infrastructure is being continuously expanded – currently with an investment volume of more than €30 million. In addition, the H2Lab is currently under construction, as well as a new research site for the Ranshofen Light Metal Competence Centre, including new WAAM (Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing) infrastructure. A high-performance and highly secure IT infrastructure is also being continuously expanded to meet the latest regulations.

Three key core facilities* in 2024 and 2025		
Designation	Research focus	Weblink to the research infrastructure database
Thermal Energy Systems Laboratory (Heat Pump Laboratory)	The Thermal Energy Systems Laboratory deals with a wide range of applications for thermal energy systems. The main focus is on heat pumps and district heating transfer stations.	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/institution/ait-austrian-institute-of-technology-gmbh_96?id=3862
New RoadSTAR	The RoadSTAR is a mobile high-performance laboratory for collecting data on road infrastructure. The measurement vehicle is equipped with state-of-the-art sensor technology, GPS and camera technology to record and analyse the most important surface properties and alignment parameters with the highest quality and accuracy.	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/roadstar_3395
Solid State Battery Lab	Development of the next generation of batteries with improved safety, energy density and service life; design of "smart cells"	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/cell-production_4122 https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/batteriemateriallabor_4119

* AIT Research Infrastructure Portfolio – Research Infrastructure Database (Open for Collaboration): https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/institution/ait-austrian-institute-of-technology-gmbh_96. An explanation of investments or acquisition costs for research infrastructure can be found in the definitions. Source: AIT.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024	2025
Share of international co-publications in all publications*	68%	65.5%
Number of newly approved participations in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives	33	23
Total funding approved in €1,000	18,368	15,472

* Only EU funds are shown; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. The year of contract conclusion applies. Source: AIT, FFG EU Performance Monitor.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

	2024	2025
Share of co-publications with industry and practice partners in all publications listed in WoS*	61%	47%

* The figure for 2025 is only a provisional figure as of 26 January 2026. Not all publications have been recorded in WoS at this point in time. The value for 2024 was adjusted accordingly. Source: AIT.

Patents & exploitation activities	2024	2025
Patent applications	15	37
of which national	9	12
of which EU/EPC	3	6
of which non-EU countries	3	19
Issued patents *	20	10
of which national	5	5
of which EU/EPC/UP**	7	1
of which non-EU countries	8	4
Spin-offs***	1	1

* The reasons for the downward trend in the number of patents filed for and granted compared to the previous year are changes to patent regulations and handling of patents (e.g. in the field of microbial strains or biomarkers), as well as an increased focus on software development. Software is often difficult to patent and is instead protected by trade secrets or open-source strategies; furthermore, innovation cycles in software development are significantly shorter. ** UP stands for Unitary Patent, the European patent with unitary effect, which has been in force since 2023. A patent granted under the UP provides simultaneous protection in 17 countries. *** Number of spin-off projects and successful spin-offs. Note: All patents filed or granted during the reporting period, as well as all new equity investments made during the reporting period. Source: AIT.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

Selected examples of AIT's communication and visibility activities aimed at strategic positioning, strengthening impact and effectiveness, and highlighting the high relevance of research, technology and innovation for prosperity, regional development and competitiveness:

- Publication of the AIT IMPACT Report to demonstrate the impact of AIT's activities on the economy and society
- Hosting of Technology Talks Austria – Austria's leading technology conference with European visibility – with over 850 participants
- Development of the Austrian Startup Monitor in collaboration with the start-up community
- Active use of digital and social media channels
- Proactive press and public relations work
- Partnership with APA-Science, the science communication platform of the Austria Press Agency
- Selected media partnerships on research topics
- Appearances by AIT experts in print media, podcasts, radio, TV and at panel discussions
- AIT blog provides the general public with clearly presented AIT research news
- Keynotes and participation in panel discussions by experts and managing directors at conferences and events
- Lectures at research institutions
- Participation in the Long Night of Research



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Line managers, including deputies/co-managers*	28.8%	27.54%	28%
Senior scientists, senior research engineers and senior expert advisers	16.7%	19.75%	17%
Glass Ceiling Index based on management levels**	1.26	1.14	
Female Project Managers Index***	1.17	1.09	

* Conversion to line managers from 2024 ** Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/ the proportion of women in management positions. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. The following are considered management positions: Managing Directors, Head of Centre, Head of Administrative Area *** Female Project Managers Index (Projektleiterinnen-Index): Calculated as the proportion of female project managers amongst academic project managers in relation to the proportion of women amongst academic staff. This indicator corresponds to the indicators in the AIT monitoring report in accordance with the AIT performance agreement. A value of 1 means that the proportion of women in project management roles corresponds to the proportion of women in academic and research staff. A value above 1 indicates under-representation, whilst a value below 1 indicates over-representation of women in management positions. Source: AIT.

The following activities to promote gender equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In the area Recruiting & Employer Branding, AIT enhances the external visibility of female experts through targeted partnerships (Daughters' Day, SHEgoesdigital) as well as internal gender-related events organised by the AIT Women's Network and the Gender Office. Training programmes are open to all staff members, regardless of gender or employment status. There are compulsory training courses and an e-learning module on the topic of boundary crossing behaviour for various target groups, as well as specific further training measures for women. Flexible working hours, remote working and holiday childcare support the work-life balance. Structural measures, such as the gender information section on the intranet, are available.

Discussion forums for managers and the AIT Gender Monitor (AIT-Gendermonitor) promote continuous dialogue. AIT contributes its expertise to external exchange formats. In 2024, the Gender & Diversity Policy was revised to foster a working culture in which diversity is actively practised. The focus remains on the sustainable implementation of the defined measures and the ongoing development of the policy.

The measures are implemented by the AIT Gender Office, gender mentors and a gender liaison officer.

3.1.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

In recent years, AIT has significantly increased its external revenue from co-funded research projects and industrial contracts. It has been particularly successful in establishing itself within the EU's Horizon Europe research programme, especially in the fields of decarbonisation, automation, battery research and quantum communication, as well as in setting up AI Factory Austria. AIT's excellence is also reflected in numerous awards: the awarding of the Houska Prize to Markus Makoschitz for the development of a high-performance, fully electric charging infrastructure, and the selection of biotechnologist Angela Sessitsch as one of the top three in the "Austrian Woman of the Year" awards by the daily newspaper Die Presse in the research category. Furthermore, AIT is continuing its successful strategy for founding start-ups (Satdos). Investments in research infrastructure have been further expanded and will be intensified in the coming years.

The current AIT Strategy 2024–2026 focuses on decarbonisation and digitalisation. Two key priorities are "Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructures" and the "Digital transformation of industry and society". Strategic planning for the next period is already underway, with a particular focus on cross-centre priority areas such as the Research Acceleration Platform, Future Production Processes and Quantum Communication, as well as initiatives such as the AI Task Force. With its high level of technological competence and systems expertise, AIT will continue to drive innovation in collaboration with partners and contribute to the sustainable transformation of socio-technical systems.

For further information, see the AIT annual report.¹⁹⁴

3.2 Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA)

3.2.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA), which opened in 2009, is a research institute with its own right to award doctorates. It employs professors on a tenure-track model, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. The ISTA Graduate School offers paid PhD positions to highly qualified students holding a Bachelor's or Master's degree in biology, mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry and related fields. Research, training and staff selection have an international focus, and the working language is English. The institute currently has around 90 research groups and 1,300 staff members. By 2036, it is set to grow to 150 groups and 2,000 staff members. In addition to its commitment to the principle of interdisciplinary basic research driven purely by scientific curiosity, ISTA is also dedicated to bringing scientific findings to society through technology transfer and knowledge dissemination.

¹⁹⁴ <https://www.ait.ac.at/en/media/annual-financial-statement>

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total income in €1,000	155,367			171,537		
Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	663	525	1,188	740	572	1,312
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	649	486	1,135	721	526	1,247

Source: ISTA.

3.2.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000	Target value 2024–2026 in €1,000*
Total income	155,367	171,537	
of which public basic funding from the federal government	72,610	112,439	
of which performance-related payments from the federal government for eligible third-party funding from the previous year	32,421	51,708	> 25,000
of which funding from the federal state of Lower Austria	6,371	7,375	
of which other sales and other operating income	18,672	20,902	
of which from the reversal of investment grants	15,737	18,025	
of which third-party funding**	57,714	30,821	
of which non-EU countries and global organisations	5,019	5,388	
of which EU and European countries or organisations	18,547	15,485	
of which national and regional organisations **	34,148	9,948	

* Due to fluctuations in the performance-related payments made by the federal government for eligible third-party funding between individual years, three-year averages are given here. ** Includes a one-off effect (donation/bequest) of approximately €26 million in 2024.

Source: ISTA.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations of the thematic and strategic orientation

ISTA is governed by a number of bodies that perform precisely defined tasks. The Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee monitor the development and strategic direction of the Institute, whilst the Scientific Council draws up proposals regarding the scientific direction and the safeguarding of

high scientific performance. As stipulated in the Federal Act on the Establishment of ISTA §5 (2), the Institute's development is evaluated on a regular basis. To date, one economic evaluation (2014–2015) and three scientific evaluations (2011, 2015, 2019) have been carried out, all of which confirmed the Institute's excellent development. The next scientific evaluation will take place in December 2026.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	Total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	663	525	1,188	740	572	1,312
of which at management level (faculty professors and assistant professors, executive management, division heads, unit heads)	75	35	110	79	37	116
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	649	486	1,135	721	526	1,247
of which at management level	74	34	108	79	36	115

Source: ISTA.

Number of PhD students	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Number of theses completed*	38	60	> 31
Employees (=headcount)	365	379	
of which employed at ISTA	365	379	
of which women	144	146	
of which in structured training (doctoral schools or similar)	365	379	
Early-career researchers**	365	379	> 259

* PhDs in the calendar year. ** Number of early-career researchers trained according to the 2024–2026 performance agreement (since 2023, excluding scientific interns). Source: ISTA.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

- The Career Development Office offers training courses and individual counselling for academic staff. The interdisciplinary approach includes information and training on academic and cross-sectoral career development, for example on applications, job interviews, social media in a professional context, or the innovative and responsible use of AI. The programme also includes research-specific workshops, including grant application training and courses on good scientific practice and research ethics.
- A comprehensive continuing education and professional development programme, as well as specific training on leadership, is available to staff in administration and the Scientific Service Units.
- All staff members have free access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) – a professional psychological counselling service – as well as the support services provided by a Conflict Advisor and Occupational Psychologists.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Number of scientific publications	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Monographs and editions	44	60	
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited volumes and proceedings	476	561	
Proportion of publications with at least one co-author affiliated with another institution	87.27%	89.24%	≥ 75%

Source: ISTA.

Projects acquired under the ERC and FWF excellence programmes		2024	2025
ERC	Number	4	6
	Total funding approved in €1,000	7,286	13,491
FWF Wittgenstein Prize	Number	1	-
	Total funding approved in €1,000	1,700	-
FWF-COE	Number	2	-
	Total funding approved in €1,000	12,797	-
FWF Emerging Fields	Number	2	-
	Total funding approved in €1,000	2,474	-

The ERC Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants are counted. The year of contract conclusion applies. Source: FWF, FFG EU-Performance Monitor.

In addition to the projects listed in the table, ISTA received an ERC Proof of Concept Grant (€150,000).

Investments in research infrastructure in 2024 and 2025

- Replacement of washing equipment in the central washing kitchen – Preclinical Facility
- Stimulated Emission Depletion Microscope – Imaging and Optics Facility
- Spinning Disk Microscope – Imaging and Optics Facility
- MUSICA High Performance Computing CPU and GPU nodes – Scientific Computing Facility
- Aberration-corrected scanning transmission electron microscope – Electron Microscopy Facility
- Electron Beam Lithography system – Nanofabrication Facility

The aim of the Core Facilities (Scientific Service Units (SSU)) is the central provision of equipment and services based on regular surveys of the needs of ISTA research groups. The continuous monitoring of the equipment, together with the expertise of the SSU specialists regarding equipment and methods, are the key factors for success in the Core Facilities.

Three key Core Facilities* in 2024 and 2025		
Name	Research focus	Web link to the research infrastructure database
Electron Microscopy Facility	Biological and materials science sample preparation and imaging using various EM technologies for structural analysis, spectroscopy and nanostructuring	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/electron-microscopy-facility_2404
Scientific Computing Facility	High-performance computing and specialised storage for distributed computing for computer science, research into artificial intelligence and simulations in the fields of biology, physics and chemistry	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/high-performance-computing-cluster_2402
Nanofabrication Facility	Micro- and nanofabrication processes for the development of new processes or new nanostructures. Research into quantum phenomena	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/nanofabrication-facility_3644

* Particularly for large research infrastructures, a certain amount of preparation time is required after acquisition for installation and full commissioning. It may therefore be the case that not all of the new research infrastructures mentioned appear in the database at the time of reporting. An explanation of investments and acquisition costs for research infrastructures can be found in the definitions. Source: ISTA.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024	2025
Share of international co-publications in all publications in the reporting year	78.28%	81.95%
Number of newly approved participations in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives	14	9
Total EU funding approved* in €1,000	10,050	14,070

* Only EU funds are shown; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. The year of contract conclusion applies. Source: ISTA, FFG EU-Performance Monitor.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

Patents & commercialisation activities	2024	2025
Number of patent applications	6	7
Issued patents	2	0
Exploitation spin-offs	0	0

Note: All patents registered or granted during the reporting period, as well as all new investments made within the reporting period. Source: ISTA.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

- Open Campus on 15 June 2025 with around 1,800 visitors
- ISTA Lectures: Internationally recognised leading researchers present their work in a way that is accessible to the general public
- The VISTA Science Experience Centre opening (3-5 October 2025) attracted 3,600 visitors. VISTA presents science as a dynamic process and promotes public understanding of and trust in science. By the end of the year, 7,100 people had visited the exhibitions and taken part in dialogue-based guided tours and workshops. The centre is fully accessible.
- VISTA's interactive formats reached 19,000 people in person and over a million people digitally.
- Numerous educational initiatives such as the Summer Campus, Neuroscience Academy, Vifzack Academy and Science Shows
- The VISTA TukTuk offered an accessible way to engage directly with science at local community and street festivals.
- The “Ask Grandma Science” workshops promoted intergenerational education.
- Science Education Days: training courses for teachers both on campus and at teacher training colleges, reaching a total of around 1,200 teachers
- bigX 25: A series of lectures to promote exchange between industry, start-ups and the research community



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Management	0%	0%	
Division heads/unit heads	46.4%	41.4%	
Faculty (professors and assistant professors)	27.2%	29.1%	
Glass Ceiling Index*	1.39	1.37	1.74

*Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/the proportion of women in management positions. Leadership roles include faculty (professors and assistant professors), senior management, division heads and unit heads. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. Source: ISTA.

The following activities to promote gender equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

- Continuation of the WoMen in Science series – held in February 2025 under the theme “Being a Woman Leader of Science in 2025”
- Continuation of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Group; participants in this group include: faculty members, the Head of Human Resources, and staff from the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office
- Ongoing implementation of the Gender Equality Plan

3.2.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

- Five new members were admitted to the faculty.
- Prestigious awards include:
 - EMBO Young Investigator: Lora Sweeney (2026–2029)
 - American Mathematical Society, Leroy P. Steele Prize for Seminal Contribution to Research: László Erdős
 - Dr Otto Röhm Memorial Foundation Award, Bart Pieber (2025)
 - American Physical Society, Early Career Award for Soft Matter Research: Scott Waitukaitis (2026)
 - Lower Austria Science Prize: Sandra Siegert (Recognition Prize, 2025)
- Opening of the VISTA Science and Experience Centre and the new nursery in autumn 2025
- On 18 November 2025, EU Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva visited ISTA and, during a tour lasting several hours, familiarised herself with the campus and discussed the institute’s work with the institute’s management, faculty, PhD students and postdocs.
- Construction of Lab 7 is progressing well. This complex of three buildings comprises state-of-the-art laboratories, offices, a learning centre and a cafeteria, and will accommodate around 30 new research groups.
- Intensive planning work is underway for Lab 8, the next complex comprising three buildings, which supports the long-term goal of accommodating a total of 150 research groups by 2036.
- Completion of the expansion of the XISTA Science Park in 2026.
- In accordance with Section 5(2) of the Federal Act on the Establishment of ISTA, the Institute’s activities are to be evaluated every seven years, with the evaluation reports to be submitted to the National Council via the Federal Government. The next Institute evaluation will take place in December 2026.

For further information, see the ISTA Annual Report.¹⁹⁵

¹⁹⁵ <https://ist.ac.at/en/institute/documents/#Annual-Reports>

3.3 Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)

3.3.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

“To promote science in every respect” is the statutory mandate of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), Austria’s largest and most diverse non-university institution for basic research. As the research body with 26 institutes in the natural, life and technical sciences, as well as the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies, the OeAW tackles forward-looking research topics – often interdisciplinary – operates with an open-ended approach to application and preserves cultural heritage. As a research funding institution, the OeAW supports promising scientific talent, both internally through an attractive career model and across the entire Austrian research landscape by awarding grants and prizes.

As the national academy of sciences, the OeAW is both a learned society and a disseminator of knowledge, bringing the latest scientific findings into the public discourse from a multidisciplinary perspective. The interaction of these areas under one roof creates synergies, dynamism and innovation potential for the benefit of science and society.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

OeAW total	2024				2025			
Total income in €1,000*	264,896				291,081			
Number of employees at the OeAW (including wholly-owned subsidiaries); as at 31 December	2024				2025			
	m	f	diverse	total	m	f	diverse	total
Employees (=headcount)	986	876	1	1,863	1,032	910	1	1,943
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	835	697	1	1,533	880	745	1	1,626

* Total income corresponds to turnover and other operating income as reported by Investment and Financial Controlling in accordance with the Austrian Commercial Code (UGB). The figures for 2025 are provisional. Source: OeAW.

3.3.2 Development of indicators

In contrast to the key figures listed above, all of the following indicators, with the exception of indicator 7, relate exclusively to the OeAW research organisation, excluding the learned society, scholarships and commissioned activities.



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

OeAW research organisations	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000	Target value 2024–2026
Total income*	229,392	249,777	
of which federal funding in accordance with the funding agreement	149,609	156,024	
of which other income	22,877	20,957	
of which third-party funding**	56,906	72,796	
of which global organisations and non-European countries or organisations	24	396	
of which from the EU and European countries or organisations	14,388	19,711	
of which public	14,383	18,944	
of which private	5	767	
of which national and regional organisations	42,494	52,689	
of which public	41,733	42,987	
of which NFTE, Ö-Fonds and FZÖ	8,150	6,400	
of which private	761	9,702	
Third-party funding ratio*** in %	27.6%	31.8%	> 25%

* Total income excludes extraordinary income from the release of provisions, investment grants, deferred income, receivables from the Federal Government and gains from the disposal of fixed assets. ** Third-party funding is reported on the basis of the allocation of funds, i.e. actual cash receipts, and does not include accruals and deferrals. *** The third-party funding ratio is calculated as: third-party funding / (funding provided under the performance agreement + third-party funding), excluding other income. The figures for 2025 are provisional. Due to fluctuations in third-party funding payments between individual years, the target value is stated as three-year average. Source: OeAW.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations of thematic and strategic direction

Regular or ad hoc evaluations carried out by international teams of high-ranking researchers, whose independence and expertise are guaranteed by the OeAW Research Board, provide essential impetus for the further development of the OeAW's institutes and initiatives. The results of these procedures, conducted in accordance with international standards, are incorporated into the three-year target agreements with the Academy's institutes and form the basis for decisions regarding the structure of the OeAW research organisation.

Each OeAW institute is supported by a Scientific Advisory Board comprising national and international subject experts. The boards are renewed every five years and contribute on an on-going basis to achieving and ensuring that research at the institutes is conducted at the highest possible standard.

Further measures designed in accordance with international standards ensure scientific quality on a continuous and transparent basis, e.g. in the appointment of academic (management) positions, in ex-ante/ex-post project and programme monitoring, and in the evaluation of staff. All quality assurance processes take into account the specific characteristics of the respective research field as well as, where applicable, specific institutional missions, such as the preservation of cultural heritage.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Number of employees at the OeAW research organisation (including wholly owned subsidiaries)	2024				2025			
	m	f	d	total	m	f	d	total
Employees (=headcount)	939	817	1	1,757	987	857	1	1,845
of which at management level	125	62	0	187	133	66	0	199
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	795	649	1	1,445	842	700	1	1,543
of which at management level	116	58	0	174	122	63	0	185

Source: OeAW.

Early-career researchers*	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Employees (=headcount)	727	788	
Share of scientific employees	65%	67%	> 60%

* In defining early-career researchers, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) follows the European Commission's document "Towards a European Framework for Research Careers" (<https://era.gv.at/object/document/1509>), which forms one of the key foundations for the OeAW's career model. The European Commission has established a four-stage model: R1 – First-stage researchers (up to PhD level); R2 – Recognised researchers (PhD holders or equivalent who are not fully independent); R3 – Established researchers (researchers who have developed a level of independence); R4 – Leading researchers (researchers leading their research area or field). In accordance with this model, all fixed-term staff at career levels R1 and R2 are classified as early-career researchers.

Source: OeAW.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

- The OeAW career model promotes academic careers; a draft career model is now also available for non-academic staff.
- The roll-out of a comprehensive, OeAW-wide e-learning training tool has been initiated.
- Tailored training programmes continued to be provided for OeAW researchers to support them in the acquisition of competitive third-party funding projects.
- The Seal of Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship supports researchers whose excellent MSCA application could not be considered.
- The Working Group on Equal Opportunities supported recruitment procedures in accordance with the new regulations of the OeAW Rules of Procedure and organised the mentoring programme, which enables early-career researchers to acquire key career-relevant skills.
- Extramurally, the OeAW scholarship programmes continued; in 2025, these included further FZÖ funding secured for the APART-GSK, APART-MINT, APART-USA and DOC programmes.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Number of scientific publications resulting from projects carried out by the OeAW research organisation	2024	2025
Monographs and editions	51	42
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited volumes and proceedings*	1,674	1,646

*Provisional values for 2025 (query date 11 February 2026) due to lag times for the previous year in the indexing of the publication databases.

Source: OeAW.

Grants funded by OeAW research institutions in ERC and FWF excellence programmes		2024	2025
ERC	Number	5	11
	Total funding in €1,000	7,796	21,754
FWF-COE	Number	1	0
	Total funding	1,680	0
FWF Emerging Fields	Number	3	0
	Total funding in €1,000	3,829	0
FWF Wittgenstein Prize	Number	0	1
	Total grant amount in €1,000	0	1,900
FWF START Prize	Number	2	0
	Total funding in €1,000	2,400	0
FWF ASTRA Prize	Number	0	1
	Grant amount in €1,000	0	1,000

Note: For the ERC, Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants are counted. The year of contract conclusion applies.
Source: FWF, FFG EU Performance Monitor.

In addition to the projects listed in the table, the OeAW acquired an ERC Proof of Concept Grant in 2024. Furthermore, an ERC Synergy Grant already approved in 2024 was transferred to the OeAW.

Investments in research infrastructures in 2024 and 2025:

In recent years the OeAW has invested in expanding its high-performance computing infrastructure CLIP (Cloud Infrastructure Platform) to meet growing demand, arising primarily from developments in artificial intelligence.

The Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine (AITHYRA), newly established in 2024, is building up its research infrastructure. A particular focus is being placed on the “lab-in-the-loop”, where state-of-the-art equipment, coupled with artificial intelligence, is expected to yield novel scientific insights.

The Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI) has acquired an ion chromatograph, which enables the analysis of inorganic components, particularly in ceramic and stone artefacts. This expands the capabilities of the ÖAI Core Facility, which offers a range of large-scale instruments for bio-archaeological research.

Designation	Research focus	Web link to the research infrastructure database
2025		
CLIP (Cloud Infrastructure Platform)	High-Performance Computing	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/clip-cloud-infrastructure-platform-for-high-performance-computing_4691
Ion chromatograph at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI)	Expansion of scientific archaeology and its methods	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/oai-osterreichisches-archaologisches-institut_6592
Lab-in-the-loop infrastructure at the Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine GmbH (AITHYRA)	Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/bd-facs-aria-fusion-geratesystem_6434
2024		
Scanning electron microscope (PFIB) at the Erich Schmid Institute of Materials Science (ESI)	Research into functional multi-material hybrid systems (batteries, flexible electronics, fuel cells) and structural materials at the nano- and micro-scale	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/rasterelektronen-mikroskop-mit-analytischen-zusatzten_1645
Light-sheet microscope at IMBA – Institute for Molecular Biotechnology GmbH and GMI – Institute for Molecular Plant Biology GmbH	Innovative three-dimensional imaging	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/mikroskop-axl-cleared-tissue-lightsheet_5988

All OeAW research infrastructures can be found at: https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/mikroskop-axl-cleared-tissue-lightsheet_5988. An explanation of investments and acquisition costs for research infrastructures can be found in the definitions. Source: OeAW.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024	2025	Target value 2024–2026*
Share of international co-publications out of all publications listed in WoS** in the reporting year	81.4%	78.1%	
Number of newly approved participations by OeAW research institutions in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives	24	21	
Total EU funding approved in €1,000***	15,502	27,037	
Number of Horizon Europe applications	82	125	> 180

* Number of cumulative applications over three years. ** The following “citable publication types” are taken into account: articles, conference proceedings, review articles, letters. *** Only EU funding is reported; own contributions and national co-funding are excluded. The year of contract signature applies.

Source: OeAW. FFG EU-Performance Monitor.

Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

Patents & commercialisation activities	2024	2025
Patent applications	18	23
of which national	3	2
of which EU/EPC	10	9
of which non-EU countries	5	12
Issued patents	14	11
of which national	0	0
of which EU/EPC	4	6
of which non-EU countries	10	5
Exploitation spin-offs	1	1
Licence agreements	1	2
Option contracts	0	3
Sales contracts	2	1
Utilisation partners (companies, non-university research institutions)	4	6

Note: All patents registered or granted during the reporting period, as well as all new contracts concluded and new equity investments made during the reporting period. Source: OeAW.

Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

- The OeAW Science Barometer showed encouraging results in 2025: 74% of Austrians trust science.
- With “No Research, No Answers”, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) launched an advertising campaign highlighting the importance of science, and with “Hiccup – Through Time with a Hiccup” (storytelling podcast for young adults). The FÄKT outreach programme produced 18 new films and hundreds of social media clips, and is collaborating with the schoolbook publisher öbv.
- On derstandard.at, OeAW blogs communicated science in an accessible and journalistic style.
- The UNESCO “Year of Quantum Science” was used to organise high-profile events on quantum physics in Austria, including an outreach day for school pupils.
- To mark “130 Years of Ephesus”, the OeAW collaborated with ORF on a special programme in which excavations were broadcast live for the first time.
- As part of the Young Science initiative “Academy in the Classroom”, OeAW researchers gave talks at schools across Austria, for example on “The world of books before the printing press” or “How do you plan a space mission?”.
- The Austrian Scholarship Foundation supports talented young people through workshops and internships on scientific and socially relevant topics, amongst other things.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Institute directors	34%	37%	
Scientific directors	23%	20%	
Group Leader (2024) / Distinguished Researcher with group leadership responsibilities (2025)*	25%	26%	
Junior Group Leader (2024) / Principal Researcher with group leadership role (2025)*	28%	31%	
Administrative or technical management staff	43%	39%	
Glass Ceiling Index**	1.40	1.40	< 1.57

* Change in designation in the OeAW career model from 2025. ** Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/proportion of women in leadership positions. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. The following are considered leadership positions: institute directors, scientific directors, group leaders and, from 2025, distinguished researchers with group leadership responsibilities; junior group leaders and, from 2025, principal researchers with group leadership responsibilities; and administrative or technical management staff. Source: OeAW.

The following activities to promote equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

- In accordance with the performance agreement and in the interests of pay transparency, the OeAW conducts an annual gender pay gap analysis.
- To create an even more inclusive and open working environment at the Academy, further measures were taken, including a partnership with MyAbility for inclusive recruitment, including workshops.
- Through the Berta Karlik Fellowships, the OeAW has been supporting women in STEM fields since 2024 with the aim of fostering international networking.
- The “Atom*Innen” platform continues to support mentoring, networking and training for women in quantum physics.
- The Working Group on Equal Opportunities acts as an advisory body and maintains close contact with the Executive Board, the Works Council and OeAW staff. It provided training for the new equal opportunities officers at all OeAW sites through a series of workshops and organised two lectures on gender and diversity, as well as themed walks to mark Black History Month.
- The Anti-Discrimination Clearinghouse provides staff with information, advice and training, and assists in resolving conflicts.
- Grants offered for childcare and travel expenses under the “Academy and Family” scheme are being utilised.

3.3.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

Notable events and exemplary research findings in 2025

- US historian John W. Boyer, a professor at the University of Chicago, analyses the development of democracy in Austria in a work published by the OeAW Press.

- OeAW archaeologist Irene Forstner-Müller, named “Austrian of the Year 2025” in the category “International Success”, is a member of the advisory board of the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo, which also presents OeAW excavation findings.
- A research team involving the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) has deciphered centuries-old inscriptions in the Hall of the Last Supper in Jerusalem, shedding new light on medieval pilgrimage.
- OeAW researchers identified a protein that plays a key role in the formation of cells in the regenerating body parts of the axolotl and is also found in humans.
- The FWF Wittgenstein Award presented to OeAW molecular biologist Elly Tanaka caused just as much of a stir as the APART-USA initiative, through which the OeAW brings US researchers to Austria.
- Georg Winter, Director of Biomedicine at AlTHYRA – Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine, and Maria Rescigno, Director of CeMM – Research Centre for Molecular Medicine, took up their posts.

Outlook

- As part of the Long Night of Research, special guest Mai Thi Nguyen-Kim will appear at the OeAW campus.
- Former NASA Administrator Thomas Zurbuchen will give an Academy lecture.
- The OeAW is participating in several space missions – highlight of 2026: the arrival of “BepiColombo” at Mercury.
- Founding board of directors at the Cori Institute of Molecular and Computational Metabolism in Graz will take up their posts by 2026 at the latest.

For further information, see the OeAW Annual Report.¹⁹⁶

3.4 Silicon Austria Labs GmbH (SAL)

3.4.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

Silicon Austria Labs GmbH (SAL) is an Austrian, non-university research centre for electronics and software-based systems (ESBS) headquartered in Graz. At its sites in Graz, Villach and Linz, SAL conducts research across the entire ESBS value chain in the fields of micro-systems, sensor systems, intelligent wireless systems, power electronics and embedded systems. The research covers both hardware and software levels as well as holistic system integration. SAL works on commissioned, in-house and collaborative projects on topics such as Industry 4.0, environmental protection, health, energy, mobility and security. Particular focus is placed on semiconductor technologies, sustainable energy systems and quantum technologies.

¹⁹⁶ <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/oeaw/academy/performance-reports-strategy>

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total income in €1,000	62,088			64,398		
Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	265	85	350	293	95	388
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	250	76	326	278	88	366

Source: SAL.

3.4.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding and external funding

	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000	Target value 2026*
Total income	62,088	67,263	
of which contributions from shareholders	37,801	39,134	
of which third-party funding	24,287	28,129	
of which non-EU countries and global organisations	880	867	
of which public	0	0	
of which private	880	867	
of which from the EU and European countries or organi-sations	9,437	11,196	
of which public	3,823	6,258	
of which private	5,614	4,938	
of which national and regional organisations	13,970	16,066	
of which public	3,777	4,378	
of which private	10,193	11,688	
Funding mix: Ratio of public funding to third-party funding	60.9:39.1	58.2:41.8	54.0:46.0

* Due to fluctuations in third-party funding disbursements between individual years, three-year averages are given here. The figures for 2025 are provisional.

Source: SAL.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations of the thematic and strategic orientation

The company's strategic orientation was regularly reviewed by the FFG until 2023. With the 2024–2026 performance agreement, this monitoring was discontinued and an evaluation panel comprising international experts from industry and academia was established instead, which will

evaluate SAL every three years, starting in 2025. The panel was deeply impressed by what SAL has achieved in a very short time and considers SAL to be on a promising path towards achieving its objectives. The research programme and the strategy are also discussed regularly with the Scientific Board, which subsequently forwards its recommendations to the SAL Supervisory Board.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	265	85	350	293	95	388
of which at management level	25	6	31	25	7	32
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	250	76	326	278	88	366
of which at management level	24	6	30	24	7	31

Source: SAL.

Number of PhD students	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Number of theses completed	7	5	
Employees (=headcount)	62	67	50
of which employed by SAL	48	54	
of which are in structured training (doctoral schools or similar)	14	13	

Source: SAL.

Early-career researchers*	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Employees (=headcount)	143	169	196
Share of (scientific) employees	54%	56%	58%

* In defining early-career researchers, the report draws on the European Commission's document "Towards a European Framework for Research Careers" (<https://era.gv.at/object/document/1509>). The document proposes a four-stage model: R1 – First-stage researcher (up to PhD level); R2 – Recognised Researchers (PhD holders or equivalent who are not fully independent); R3 – Established Researchers (researchers who have developed a level of independence); R4 – Leading Researchers (researchers leading their research area or field). In accordance with this model, career stages R1 and R2 refer to early-career researchers. Source: SAL.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

Measures to support staff in further training were expanded. In addition, a key focus of staff development was on health initiatives in the area of workplace health promotion (Vital4SAL), which aimed to sustainably enhance the well-being and performance of employees. These efforts were recognised with the Workplace Health Promotion (BGF) seal of approval, which is valid until 2028. These included, inter alia, preventive measures such as health checks, as well as workshops on mental health. In addition, an employee survey was conducted to systematically gather feedback on working conditions, satisfaction and development potential. This survey is to be carried out annually in future and serves as an important tool for deriving targeted improvement measures and continuously aligning the staff development strategy with the needs of employees.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Scientific publications	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Monographs and editions	0	0	0
Peer-reviewed publications*	174	176	200

* Refers to peer-reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conference contributions.

Source: SAL.

Investments in research infrastructures in 2024 and 2025:

Three key core facilities in 2024 and 2025*		
Name	Research focus	Web link to the research infra-structure database*
Cleanroom 2 with 1,100 m ² for ESBS proto-types and series production	Micro-nanoelectronics for all areas of SAL for the manufacture of corresponding hardware	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/cleanroom-ii_5649
Industrial 5G/6G wireless systems for sensing and communication with recon-figurabe radio channels for real-time communication	Intelligent Wireless Systems	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/institution/silicon-austria-labs-gmbh-sal_87?id=5517
Validation Lab	Test & validation infrastructure usable across all areas of the SAL ESBS value chain	https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/validation-lab_5648

* https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at/en/fi/silicon-austria-labs-gmbh_3052; for an overview, see also the SAL website: <https://silicon-austria-labs.com/forschung/equipment>. An explanation of investments and acquisition costs for research infrastructure can be found in the definitions.

Source: SAL.

As part of the funding provided under the European Chips Act for the FAMES Pilot Line, the Core Facility Cleanroom 2 has been expanded to include a plasma-enhanced chemical vapour deposition (PECVD) system. The aim is to produce high-quality functional thin films with precisely tunable material properties. These films are a key prerequisite for numerous applications across various technological fields, including micro- and nano-electronics, sensor technology, microactuators, MEMS packaging, high-frequency filters, bio-MEMS and integrated Photonics. The investment thus sustainably strengthens the technological capabilities and range of applications of the Core Facility. In line with the FAMES, WBG and PiXEurope pilot lines, the Core Facility Cleanroom 2 will be comprehensively upgraded and significantly expanded in 2026.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024	2025
Share of international co-publications in all publications	48%	41%
Number of newly approved participations in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives	8	10
Total funding approved in €1,000*	5,534	5,584

* Only EU funds are reported; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. The year of contract signature applies.

Source: SAL, FFG EU Performance Monitor.

Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

Publications	2024	2025
Share of co-publications with industry or practice partners out of all publications	17%	20%

Source: SAL.

Patents & commercialisation activities	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Patent applications	9	10	15
of which national	0	0	
of which EU/EPC	7	5	
of which third countries	2	0	
of which international (PCT)	0	0	
Issued patents	0	5	
of which national	0	0	
of which EU/EPC	0	5	
of which non-EU countries	0	0	
Exploitation spin-offs	0	0	

Note: All patents filed or granted during the reporting period, as well as all new shareholdings acquired during the reporting period.

Source: SAL.

Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

In 2024 and 2025, SAL carried out a wide range of activities aimed at knowledge dissemination and the involvement of civil society stakeholders. The main communication channels were the SAL website, the LinkedIn account and the monthly Science & Stories newsletter. Research results were also disseminated via press releases and media partnerships. To reach young target groups, Instagram and YouTube were further expanded and achieved increasing reach. SAL also participated in school programmes such as “Berufsspionage”, offered individual taster days and presented research topics as part of the Long Night of Research. Furthermore, events and collaborations were used to present socially relevant research transparently and to strengthen dialogue formats.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Management (CEO/CTO/CFO)	1	2	2
All management levels	19.35%	21.88%	23%
Glass Ceiling Index based on management levels*	1.25	1.12	1.1
Proportion of female students			
Female PhD students	21%	19.4%	16%

* Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/proportion of women in management positions. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. Source: SAL.

The following table shows the number of women and men at the various management levels in 2025.

Proportion of women and men in management positions by management level	FE1	FE2	FE3	Total management
Women	2	1	4	7
Men	0	5	20	25
Total	2	6	24	32

The following are considered management positions: Management Level 1 – CEO and CTO, Management Level 2 – Division Heads, Management Level 3 – Unit Heads and Enterprise Heads. Source: SAL.

The following activities to promote equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

The “100 per cent equality pays off” project (100 Prozent Gleichstellung zahlt sich aus), which was launched in 2025 with external support from Deloitte, provides an up-to-date overview of the state of diversity and inclusion within the company. As part of the project, organisational development stages were assessed through interviews, an online survey and analyses of the workforce and salary structure. The next steps include a foundational seminar for employees, the selection of suitable advisory measures and their supported implementation. The aim is to consistently promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion as integral parts of all planning and decision-making processes. In addition to existing measures, further concrete steps are planned, such as the establishment of a Diversity Board, the embedding of the diversity strategy in the mission statement, and the expansion of collaborations and networks, with a particular focus on increasing the proportion of women and minorities in research.

3.4.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

For SAL, 2025 was marked by outstanding successes and growing visibility across Europe. Activities under the EU Chips Act played a particularly decisive role in this regard. SAL joined the EU Chips Design Platform, is a partner in various pilot lines, and is active within the ATC³ Competence Centre. In addition, the UWB Application Lab was opened in Graz, and both the SATCOM Forum and the Power Electronics for Energy Transition Symposium were organised. Alongside this topic

of immense scientific and economic relevance, the organisation also received numerous accolades, including the Primus Award for “Successful Innovation”, research and innovation prizes, and the Best WiP Paper Award at the WFCs conference. The researchers’ outstanding achievements were recognised internationally, for example through first place at the Falling Walls Lab Austria and the Best Paper Presented by a Woman Award.

SAL remains committed to intensive exchange and cooperation in 2026: highlights include the Chip2Sys Symposium, the SAL Partner Event and the Power Electronics Symposium in autumn 2026. An AI symposium is also planned, which will provide fresh impetus for research and industry. Furthermore, SAL is involved in European pilot line projects such as CHAMP-ION and is taking on leading roles to drive innovation in key technologies.

Further information can be found in the SAL Annual Report.¹⁹⁷

3.5 Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft – Austrian Association for the Promotion of Scientific Research (LBG)

3.5.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

Under the banner of “Science for Society”, the Ludwig Boltzmann Society (LBG) sees itself as a central networker and trailblazer for international cutting-edge research on health and society. The 15 Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes (LBI) currently in operation work together with their partners to develop innovative scientific approaches and address issues of high societal relevance. To this end, the LBG conducts excellent, impact-oriented research and strengthens Austria as a research hub by strategically connecting outstanding scientific talent. At the heart of all LBIs lies the scientific examination of current societal challenges.

Through the Clinical Research Groups (KFG) funding programme, the LBG finances Austria’s first funding scheme for non-commercial, patient-oriented and translational clinical research. This enables groundbreaking innovations in academic medicine and sustainably strengthens Austria as a centre for medicine.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total income in € 1,000	38,370			38,930		
Number of employees at LBG	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	223	292	515	221	303	524

197 <https://www.silicon-austria-labs.com/en/press-downloads>

Number of employees at LBG	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	111	173	284	124	196	320

Source: LBG.

3.5.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding and external funding

	2024 in €1,000	2025* in €1,000	Target value 2024–2026
Total income	38,370	38,930	
of which global budget	13,555	13,955	
of which federal funding in accordance with the performance agreement	11,861	12,127	
of which other income	1,694	1,828	
of which third-party funding	24,815	24,975	
of which partner contributions	6,129	7,734	
of which non-EU countries and global organisations	12	0	
of which EU and European countries or organisations	5,553	4,481	
of which national and regional organisations	13,121	12,760	
of which public	10,514	10,158	
of which NFTE, Ö-Fonds and FZÖ	4,192	2,606	
of which private	2,607	2,602	
Third-party funding ratio in %	65%	64%	65%

*The figures for 2025 are provisional.

Source: LBG.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

The research activities of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes (LBIs) are evaluated every three to six years as part of international peer review processes. Independent external commissions with scientific and quality assurance expertise are formed for this purpose. They assess the LBIs using a multi-stage scale. The evaluation results form the basis for the LBG management's decisions on whether to continue the institutes' operations. In 2025, all four evaluated LBIs received a positive assessment. Three evaluations will take place in 2026.

For ongoing quality assurance, each LBI has a scientific advisory board comprising international subject matter experts, supplemented by experts by experience. In 2025, 14 advisory boards comprising 51 individuals were active.

For the selection of Clinical Research Groups (CRGs) for funding and for the establishment of a new LBI, based on several independent expert reviews in a peer review process, two external international selection panels were active in 2025, which recommended funding for three new CRGs and the establishment of a new LBI.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	223	292	515	221	303	524
of which at management level (institute directors, research group leaders, centre heads, department heads, executive management)	17	15	32	17	14	31
Full-time equivalents	111	173	284	124	196	320
of which at management level	12	12	24	11	10	23

Source: LBG.

Number of PhD students	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Number of theses completed	12	17	20
Employees	103	103	110
of which funded by LBG	89	83	
of which in structured training (doctoral schools or similar)	86	93	

Source: LBG.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In 2025, thanks to the successful launch of its university partnerships, the LBG Career Centre was able to support the career development of over 2,000 pre- and postdocs as well as research leaders across Austria with a wide range of services. These included more than 30 events and nearly 200 personally supported development processes – as well as the first Vienna Postdoc Career Day, involving six partner organisations, which served as a best practice example of cross-organisational collaboration aimed at promoting career mobility in research. As part of internal staff development, the Career Centre was able to expand its services for its research support staff and establish topic-specific priorities (artificial intelligence, science communication, leadership skills for research group leaders, and much more).



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Scientific publications	2024	2025
Monographs and editions	13	16
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited volumes and proceedings	476	385

Source: LBG.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024	2025
Proportion of international co-publications out of all publications	55.4%	54.1%
Number of newly approved participations in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives*	2	0
Total EU funding approved in €1,000**	515	0

* Only projects listed in the FFG EU Performance Monitor are included. ** Only EU funding is reported; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. The year of contract signature applies.

Source: LBG, FFG EU Performance Monitor.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

	2024	2025
Proportion of co-publications with industry or practice partners out of all publications	27.0%	15.5%

Patents & commercialisation activities	2024	2025
Patent applications	3	2
of which national	1	0
of which EU/EPC	2	2
of which non-EU countries	0	0
Issued patents	0	0

All patents newly filed or granted during the reporting period.

Source: LBG.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

The LBG, together with its LBI and the OIS Centre, organised a series of high-profile events, including webinars, podcasts, symposia and conferences:

- Conference: “Violence, Memory and Reconciliation: Truth as a Field of Conflict between Science and Democracy” (LBI Digital History, Research on the Consequences of War, and Fundamental and Human Rights)
- Human Rights Talks (LBI Fundamental and Human Rights)
- The 2nd Salzburg Symposium on Rehabilitation Research 2025 (LBI Digital Health and Patient Safety, Arthritis and Rehabilitation, and Rehabilitation Research)
- Presentation of the LExA Leadership Excellence Award as part of the LBG Xchange
- Podcast appearance by Alexander Prenninger (LBI Digital History) on daily life at Mauthausen concentration camp
- OIS zam Community Forum 2025 with the presentation of the OIS zam Prize

- Capacity, Capability and Community Building Programme: Organisation of 16 webinars, two workshops and a networking event with ~630 participants
- Hackathon on the theme of healthcare and the arts, with a presentation at the Ars Electronica Festival 2025
- The “Anchor Points” project launched in 2025 to address Alzheimer’s in the northern Waldviertel



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level in %	2024	2025	Target value 2026
All management levels	46.9%	45.2%	
Management	100%	100%	
Institute management	31.8%	35%	
Centre management and department management	75%	55.6%	
Glass Ceiling Index*	1.21	1.28	1.4

* Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/proportion of women in management positions. Management positions include: executive board, institute management and research group leadership (from 2024 excluding deputies due to the introduction of the new salary scheme), centre management and department management. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. Source: LBG

The following activities to promote equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In 2024 and 2025, activities focused on information, awareness-raising and dissemination events for internal and external target groups, as well as for researchers, on diversity and equality issues in research. The consistent implementation of the measures enshrined in the equality plan ensures continued access to funding resources from the European Commission. In addition, the LBI of Fundamental and Human Rights conducted an Austria-wide empirical survey on gender-based violence at universities and research organisations on behalf of the BMFWF. The results of this study were published at the end of 2025 and make an important contribution to the evidence-based further development of equality and prevention measures in the higher education and research sectors.

3.5.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

In July 2025, the new LBI for Science Communication and Pandemic Preparedness at the Medical University of Vienna, headed by Prof. Florian Krammer, commenced its work. The institute combines cutting-edge virology research with innovative communication strategies and thereby strengthens societal resilience to future pandemics. Two existing, time-limited institutes in the field of digital health are due to expire as planned in 2026 after seven successful years. At the start of 2026, the Clinical Research Groups were expanded to include three projects at the Medical University of Vienna, dedicated to improving quality of life for patients with bowel and bladder cancer as well as epilepsy. A total of six groups are now active; their work is funded for eight years.

Further calls for proposals are planned for mid-2026. Further information can be found in the LBG Annual Report.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸ <https://jahresbericht.lbg.ac.at/>

3.6 GeoSphere Austria (GSA)

3.6.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

GeoSphere Austria is the Federal Institute for Geology, Geophysics, Climatology and Meteorology and, as such, serves as a central hub of expertise for data, information and knowledge on the Earth system (geosphere). As a research organisation committed to scientific integrity and as a statutory federal institute, it pursues, with its more than 500 experts, an approach that is almost unique in Europe and gives the institute its name: the holistic observation and research of the Earth system, including its subsystems (atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere and pedosphere) and their interactions. Its remit encompasses the analysis and assessment

- of weather conditions,
- the climate and its changes,
- of the geological subsurface as a basis for targeted 4D spatial planning,
- the availability of groundwater resources,
- the occurrence and dynamics of natural hazards and their impact on climate change,
- the potential for alternative forms of energy (solar energy, geothermal energy), and
- nationally available raw materials to support the environmentally friendly production of climate-change-relevant products.

Through its services, GeoSphere Austria contributes to addressing global challenges and enhancing national resilience.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	328	182	510	329	182	511
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	304	152	456	302	153	455

Source: GeoSphere Austria.

3.6.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

In 2025, GeoSphere Austria received a budget of €43,354,000 from the performance agreement.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations of thematic and strategic direction

The responsibilities, purpose and tasks of GeoSphere Austria are based on the GeoSphere Austria Act (GSAG). As part of the 2024–2026 performance agreement with the BMFWF, specific implementation measures were defined, which are evaluated on a regular basis. In addition, a strategy entitled “Expertise for Business and Society – Our Knowledge for Your Future” (Kompetenz für Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft – Unser Wissen für Ihre Zukunft), with focus areas and flagship projects, was developed for the same period.

In accordance with the GeoSphere Austria Act (GSAG), the members of the General Directorate and the Board of Trustees are responsible for the organisational, strategic and financial management of GeoSphere Austria. The Scientific Advisory Board, comprising experts from science and research as well as European meteorological, climate, geological and geophysical services, was appointed as an additional body.

Following defined quality management processes, a portfolio team approves, monitors and evaluates externally funded activities. In the field of mineral resources research, project evaluation is carried out by an external evaluation board (Mineral Resources Initiative).

In 2025, risks at the level of administrative processes were identified and addressed via the internal control system. In addition, an internal audit function was implemented.

GeoSphere Austria has an integrated quality and information security system and is certified to ISO 9001 and 27001 in this regard.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

GeoSphere Austria – Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	328	182	510	329	182	511
of which at management level	53	20	73	48	23	71
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	304	152	456	302	153	455
of which at management level	53	19	72	47	22	69

Source: GeoSphere Austria.

PhD students and dissertations	2024	2025
Number of theses completed	2	1
Doctoral students (PhD students, individuals)	17	10
of which financed by GeoSphere Austria	17	10

Source: GeoSphere Austria.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

GeoSphere Austria’s success is based on the excellence of its team. As an organisation of experts, the priority is to provide the best possible support to the people who are already part of the team in their daily work and to actively support their individual development. GeoSphere Austria invests specifically in recruiting and training highly qualified specialists and creates a working environment characterised by flexibility and inclusion. Alongside measures such as home working arrangements, active support for paternity leave and a clear commitment to equality, certification as a family-friendly company underlines this commitment. With its digital HR strategy and new tools, GeoSphere Austria is placing even greater emphasis on individual development and transparency to ensure long-term commitment.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Number of scientific publications	2024	2025
Monographs and editions	3	2
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited vol-umes and proceedings	89	101

Source: GeoSphere Austria.

During the reporting period 2024–2025, no grants were awarded under the FWF START and Wittgenstein programmes. However, three members of staff at GeoSphere Austria were recognised for their excellence through other awards. Klaus Haslinger received the Lower Austria Recognition Award in the Science category for his work and the resulting Nature publication on climate change and extreme rainfall. Ramon Egli was awarded the 2025 William Gilbert Award by the American Geophysical Union for groundbreaking achievements in the study of the magnetism of the Earth and other celestial bodies. Thomas Hofmann was awarded the Serge von Bubnoff Medal by the German Society for Geosciences (DGGV). Since 1958 this honour has been awarded to individuals who have rendered outstanding services to the communication of geoscientific concepts and their public presentation.

Investments in research infrastructures in 2024 and 2025:

In 2025, no investments were made in the “Core Facilities” category listed here. However, important acquisitions were made, such as a field-emission scanning electron microscope with EDX and cathodoluminescence for a wide range of geoscientific applications, an airborne magnetometer for aerogeophysical surveying of the federal territory under the EU’s Critical Raw Materials Act, and a tTEM instrument for investigating the resistivity structure of the subsurface.

GeoSphere Austria is legally obliged to ensure the operation of this research infrastructure, to keep it technologically and digitally up to date, and to further develop it. In order to meet the demand for and enhance the attractiveness of research infrastructures in the international research community, cooperation and activities in current and potential research fields and programmes are to be intensified in future.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

GeoSphere Austria	2024	2025
Share of international co-publications in all publications in the reporting year	60%	63.2%
Number of newly approved participations in Horizon Europe programmes and initiatives	3	1
Total EU funding approved in €1,000*	1,607	97.4

* Only EU funds are reported; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. The year of contract signature applies.
Source: GeoSphere Austria, FFG EU Performance Monitor.

In addition to the listed project activities in Horizon Europe, GeoSphere Austria is successfully represented in other European research initiatives such as the European Urban Initiative, Copernicus, Interreg and Destination Earth. Furthermore, GeoSphere Austria makes a significant contribution to the internationalisation of research findings and to positioning Austria as an international hub for science and business through its participation in European and international networks and bodies, the operation of internationally recognised and utilised observatories and measurement infrastructures, and the provision of high-quality reference data in the fields of weather, climate, geology, geophysics and the environment. GeoSphere Austria represents Austria at key international bodies, including the WMO, ECMWF, EUMETNET, EUMETSAT, GCOS, GEO, EGS, UNDRR and the CTBTO. Key networks and programmes to which GeoSphere Austria contributes data include GSEU, EGD, OneGeology, CGMW, GCOS, GAW, EPOS, ACTRIS, WDC and Intermagnet.

GeoSphere Austria acts as a peer advisor for nine countries (Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States) under the World Meteorological Organisation's Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) programme. GeoSphere Austria is currently heavily involved in Chad, where, together with the UN World Food Programme, it supports the local meteorological service ANAM (Agence Nationale de la Météorologie) to build institutional and technical capacity in the long term and ensure sustainable weather observation through a functional network of stations.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

No patents were filed or granted, nor were any commercial spin-offs established during the current reporting year.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

Through active press and media relations, a total of 53 press releases were issued in 2025, and experts were regularly available for interviews on television and radio. Contributions from GeoSphere Austria resulted in 13,177 mentions in media reports. The new website, which went live in spring 2025, offers citizens comprehensive information on geology, geophysics, climatology

and meteorology via continuously updated services. Current focal points were communicated on the website through 91 news items, 17 in-house podcast episodes and 176 entries in the events calendar. For direct knowledge transfer, interactive knowledge parks are operated at the sites in Vienna, Graz and Salzburg, which are open for guided tours and used for events. The knowledge park at the Vienna Hohe Warte site was completely refurbished in 2025 with updated content. Social media content was viewed around 11.3 million times on the platforms Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter.

 Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Proportion of women in management positions by management level	2024	2025
Management	50%	50%
All management levels	27.4%	32.4%
Glass Ceiling Index **	1.30	1.10

** Calculated as the proportion of women among all staff/proportion of women in management positions. An explanation of the Glass Ceiling Index can be found in the definitions. Source: GeoSphere Austria.

The proportion of women in management positions has increased from 27.4% in 2024 to 32.4% in 2025. The Glass Ceiling Index has fallen from 1.30 (2024) to 1.10.

The following activities to promote equality were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In 2024, the focus of these activities was on creating structures that enable the active promotion of gender equality. These included the appointment of an Equal Opportunities Officer and her deputy, the establishment of the Working Group on Equal Opportunities, and the drafting and publication of the Plan for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2024–2029 (Frauenförderungs- und Geschlechtergleichstellungsplan 2024–2029)¹⁹⁹. In addition to an analysis of the gender equality situation, this plan also contains a catalogue of various measures to promote gender equality. Furthermore, a series of awareness-raising training sessions on various topics was launched in November 2024 and continued throughout 2025. Information campaigns via mailings and intranet updates also remained a key component of gender equality work in 2025. The first meeting of the GeoSphere Austria Women’s Network took place in December 2025.

A key focus of 2025 was the preparation of the first monitoring report. This serves as a tool for reviewing the measures and objectives of the Women’s Advancement and Gender Equality Plan, as well as for documenting developments in the gender equality situation.

199 https://www.geosphere.at/de/dokumente/ueber_uns/20241128_frauenfoederungs-geschlechtergleichstellungsplan_geosphere-austria.pdf/@download/file

3.6.3 Special events in 2025 and outlook

In 2025, GeoSphere Austria saw several significant developments and events. In the scientific sphere, Klaus Haslinger (climate research), Ramon Egli (geomagnetism) and Thomas Hofmann (knowledge dissemination) were honoured for their outstanding work.

A flagship project in the field of disaster prevention – the Austrian Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Advice Service (AMAS) – was further rolled out in 2025 and now forms a key component of the national and regional crisis and disaster management systems in many federal states and at the federal level.

With the completion of the GeoFAST project, GeoSphere Austria is, for the first time, making specialised geological maps available across the whole of Austria on a uniform scale of 1:50,000. The maps are freely accessible at maps.geosphere.at.

In the field of geophysics and applied geology, GeoSphere Austria intensified its activities relating to critical raw materials, net-zero industry, geothermal energy and geological CO₂ storage, as well as the protection of critical infrastructure. In doing so, key baseline products such as the new hydrogeological map of Austria, as well as the foundations for the implementation of the NCIA (Net Zero Industrial Act) and CRMA (Critical Raw Materials Act), were completed, and new measurement systems for recording the effects of space weather on the power grid were developed.

With the introduction of the new podcast “More than Just Wind and Weather” in 2025, a further step forward in modern science communication has been taken.

Looking ahead, the integration of artificial intelligence across all areas of GeoSphere Austria will play a key role.

Further information and the latest annual report can be found on the website of GeoSphere Austria.²⁰⁰

3.7 Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (aws)

3.7.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (aws) supports growth- and innovation-oriented enterprises through guarantees, loans, grants, equity financing and coaching services. Support is provided both to established businesses and to start-ups in the process of being established. In addition to its ongoing core programmes, aws assumed responsibility for several special programmes from 2020 onwards aimed at economic stabilisation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The phasing-out of these special programmes, together with subdued investment activity associated with the economic downturn, resulted in a further

²⁰⁰ <https://www.geosphere.at/en>. Older annual reports from the two predecessor organisations can be found at <https://www.zamg.ac.at/cms/de/topmenu/ueber-uns/jahresberichte>; <https://www.geosphere.at/en/about-us/downloads>

decline in funding performance in 2024. The economic recovery that began in 2025 revitalised aws's core business, particularly within the ERP Fund loan programmes, but also in the guarantees segment. At the same time, aws provided new impetus through funding initiatives linked to the EU Chips Act and the Hydrogen Support Act. These measures contributed substantially to an increase in financing volume from €880 million to €1.6 billion.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

aws gesamt	2024			2025		
Number of projects	9,790			14,040		
Financing performance in €1,000*	893,000			1,607,000		
Present value in €1,000	443,000			889,000		
aws core business (excluding special programmes for COVID-19/Ukraine war)	2024			2025		
Number of projects	9,180			12,290		
Financing performance in €1,000*	880,000			1,572,000		
Present value in €1,000	430,000			854,000		
Special programme COVID-19**	2024			2025		
Number of projects	90					
Financing performance in €1,000	4,000					
Special programmes Ukraine war***	2024			2025		
Number of projects	520			1,750		
Financing performance in €1,000	9,000			35,000		
Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Number of projects	170	214	384	129	155	284
Financing performance in €1,000	161	190	351	138	156	294

* Financing volume is calculated on the basis of guarantee liability assumed, the volume of loans granted, the amount of grants awarded, the amount of equity capital provided, or as coaching services delivered. ** This includes: the investment premium (Investitionsprämie), the NPO fund, the Comeback Grant for film and TV productions. The decline reflects the planned phase-out of several COVID-19 support programmes. *** This includes: Energy Cost Grant I + II (Energiekostenzuschuss I+II), Gas Diversification Support, Electricity Cost Compensation, Bridging Guarantees for Energy Costs, and the Energy Cost Grant for Non-Profit Organisations (Energiekostenzuschuss NPO). Source: aws.

3.7.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

Source of funds aws total (public funds and third-party funding, excluding contributions from companies)	Funding performance	
	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000
ERP Fund	249,000	473,000
Owners' departments	480,000	858,000
BMIMI	80,000	43,000
BMWET	400,000	815,000
BMLUK	19,000	21,000
BMASGPK	11,000	20,000
BMWKMS	5,000	13,000
NFTE (from FZÖ)	12,000	12,000
EU	8,000	25,000
Other*	109,000	185,000
Total	893,000	1,607,000

* Entirely funded by the Federal Ministry of Finance (Guarantee Act).

Source: aws.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Evaluations are an essential component of the planning and implementation of aws funding programmes. An evaluation plan is already developed during the preparation of programme documents and guidelines. Typically, programmes are subject to interim evaluations and, at a minimum, a final evaluation before or shortly after the end of the programme period. Evaluations are usually carried out by external evaluation teams. In addition, the multi-annual programmes provide for internal evaluations. On the one hand, a systematic survey representative of aws's monetary funding instruments (the aws Impact Monitoring) is conducted every three years. On the other hand, internal evaluations are undertaken on selected topics, issues and programmes.

Since 2013, aws has also conducted a systematic electronic customer survey. A few weeks after a funding application has been approved or rejected, applicants receive an invitation to provide feedback. The semi-annual analyses provide insights into the quality of the funding services delivered, particularly with regard to information, advisory services and administrative processes. The standardised survey questions are supplemented by qualitative comments on applicants' experiences throughout the funding process, providing valuable indications of potential areas for improvement.



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

	Heads									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Processing and administration	82	35	63	77%	32	91%	19	23%	3	9%
Experts	272	222	140	51%	111	50%	132	49%	111	50%
Team management and business unit management	25	22	10	40%	11	50%	15	60%	11	50%
Management*	5	5	1	20%	1	20%	4	80%	4	80%
Total	384	284	214	56%	155	55%	170	44%	129	45%

Note: Figures include aws, the ERP Fund and aws Fund Management. * Including two members of the aws Management Board (who simultaneously serve as the Management Board of the ERP Fund). Source: aws.

	Full-time equivalents (rounded)									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Processing and administration	72	36	55	76%	31	85%	17	24%	6	15%
Experts	249	230	124	50%	113	49%	126	50%	117	51%
Team management and business unit management	25	23	10	40%	11	48%	15	60%	12	52%
Management*	5	5	1	20%	1	20%	4	80%	4	80%
Total	351	294	190	54%	156	53%	161	46%	138	47%

Note: Figures include aws, the ERP Fund and aws Fund Management. * Including two members of the aws Management Board (who simultaneously serve as the Management Board of the ERP Fund). Source: aws.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

Continuing professional development is of particular importance in a service-oriented organisation such as aws. Its internal training and development programme offers tailored training opportunities for all target groups. In 2025, a special focus was placed on artificial intelligence, including the implementation of the “Fit for AI” training series and an AI reverse mentoring scheme. In addition, numerous specialist training courses on business and legal topics, as well as workshops aimed at strengthening methodological and personal competencies (e.g. project management), were delivered.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Projects and investments*	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Funded projects	9,178		12,291		
Funded companies	5,470		7,580		
of which SMEs	5,390	98.5%	7,470	98.5%	
of which start-ups	2,220	40.6%	3,030	40.0%	
of which young, innovative SMEs**	110	2.0%	133	1.8%	>87
of which equity investments***	78	1.4%	72	1.0%	

* Excluding special programmes related to COVID-19 and the Ukraine war. ** Commitments to young, innovative SMEs under the following programmes: Preseed I Seed Financing – Innovative Solutions, Seed Financing I Preseed – Deep Tech, GIN, Green.IP. *** Investments include: Gründerfonds, Gründungsfonds II, Business Angels Fund, Venture Capital Initiative and wings4innovation. Source: aws.

Time to contract and consultations	2024	2025
aws core business (excluding special programmes for COVID-19/Ukraine war)	12	14
Number of consultations for (potential) funding applicants*	~ 7,300	~ 5,800

Patents and licences	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Support with IP consultancy and financing	421	293	
of which projects with innovation protection advice*	145	178	≥177
Applications for intellectual property rights**	29	24	≥63

* Refers to projects funded under the funding agreement 2024–2026. ** This indicator is only available for individual reporting years with a time lag and subject to certain conditions; figures for 2024 and 2025 are provisional and limited to Green.IP/Advanced.IP. Source: aws.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

Programmes with a particular focus on internationalisation	Commitments	
	Present value 2024 in €1,000	Present value 2025 in €1,000
Global Incubator Network	413	589
(Green) Frontrunner	5,985	9,870
Garantien Internationalisierung*	8,334	2,896

* Information on funding performance (= guarantee obligation).

Source: aws.

Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

Funding programmes and awards in the field of knowledge and technology transfer	Projects	
	2024	2025
aws Proof of Concept	0	30
Jugend Innovativ*	571	611
aws First	26	35
Phoenix – Gründerpreis*	197	129
I2 Business Angels	809	817
aws Industry Startup net	268	265
KI Marktplatz**	365	318
Wings4innovation	2	6
AplusB***	83	93

* Jugend Innovativ and the Phoenix Gründerpreis are competitions with bonus payments. ** KI-Marktplatz is a platform for artificial intelligence (AI) that supports networking activities. Services are offered, but no financial support is provided. *** The recipients of funding are the incubators; here, this refers to the number of start-up projects accepted by the incubators. Source: aws.

Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

In 2025, aws implemented a wide range of measures to promote knowledge transfer, strengthen societal dialogue and actively engage civil society stakeholders. Through the Youth Innovates Austria (Jugend Innovativ) programme, young people across Austria were supported in developing and showcasing creative and technological ideas in areas such as design, STEM, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and ICT & Digital. Prize money and opportunities to participate in international competitions encouraged broad participation and motivation.

The STEM Regions Service Hub (MINT-Regionen Service Hub) served as a central coordination and advisory platform for regional networks, helping to connect, further develop and increase the visibility of STEM initiatives across the entire education pathway.

In 2025, the Food Systems and Building(s) Tomorrow programmes also placed a strong emphasis on community building, exchange formats and interaction with society in order to further develop innovation processes together with relevant stakeholders.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

aws Core Business*	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	Proportion
Women in funded projects	2,712	30%	3,621	30%	
Women project managers	2,530	31%	3,375	31%	
Projects with women in the management team**	183	20%	246	20	≥20%
Women on committees and juries					
aws Supervisory Board***	10	67%	10	67%	
ERP Credit Commission***	2	17%	3	25%	
Assessment panels (on average) ****	8	45%	10	51%	≥ 50%

* Excluding special programmes COVID-19 and Ukraine war. ** The target value for the proportion of women varies by programme, but is at least 20% and up to 60%. *** The composition of the bodies is not within the remit of aws; women on ERP committees are shown as the average of the ERP Credit Commission and the expert committees for transport, agriculture and forestry, and tourism. **** Women on evaluation committees as the average of the following programmes and agency activities: Preseed I Seed Financing – Innovative Solutions, Seed Financing I Preseed – Deep Tech, Staatspreis Innovation, Youth Innovativ, First Incubator and Green.IP/Advanced.IP. Source: aws.

Programmes/initiatives with gender or equality as a funding criterion:

The aws Gender Bonus remained a key funding instrument in 2025 for strengthening diversity within Austria's start-up ecosystem. Under the aws First, aws Preseed and aws Seedfinancing programme lines, aws continued to provide targeted financial incentives for teams with a significant female representation. Start-ups with at least 25% female founders or female managing directors are eligible for additional funding.

This funding criterion was introduced to address structural imbalances within the start-up and technology sectors and to encourage more women to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Through the Gender Bonus, aws systematically integrates gender considerations into its funding activities.

In addition, aws operates further initiatives specifically aimed at promoting equality, including specialised coaching, networking formats and advisory services for female entrepreneurs. The impact of these measures is continuously monitored and further developed where necessary.

3.7.3 New initiatives and tools for 2025 and the outlook

New initiatives and instruments in 2025

In 2025, aws continued to provide new impetus while further developing existing instruments to strengthen the transfer of research and technology into the market and to sustainably enhance the competitiveness of innovative companies. During the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, aws launched Quantum2Market, a new programme designed to systematically translate quantum technologies into market-ready applications.

At the same time, programmes focusing on key technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, as well as transformative innovation fields such as sustainable construction, were continued. A particular emphasis was placed on community building, networking relevant stakeholders and the targeted dissemination of knowledge and results in order to maximise the impact of these innovation fields and further accelerate technology transfer.

Outlook for 2026

In 2026, aws will continue its core programmes with a thematic focus on key technologies, transformative innovation and the further expansion of Austria's spin-off and start-up ecosystem. Alongside grant funding, repayable instruments such as guarantees and loans will remain of particular importance. Technology transfer and the translation of research into market-ready applications will continue to be central priorities. Cross-cutting themes such as female entrepreneurship and diversity will remain highly relevant. At the same time, preparations will commence for the 2027–2029 funding agreement, including the associated programmes and initiatives. These will be aligned with the objectives of the RTI Pact and the Industrial Strategy, including their focus on key technologies. The overarching objective is to sustainably strengthen Austria's position as a leading innovation location.

Further information can be found in the aws performance report.²⁰¹

3.8 Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG)

3.8.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

For 30 years, the Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG) has promoted excellent application-oriented basic research, thereby strengthening collaboration between science and industry. At the centre of its activities are the Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres, which drive innovative research and are jointly funded by the public sector and the CDG's member companies (approximately 50% each). Owing to this important bridging function between basic research and innovation, the CDG is internationally recognised as a best-practice model. The CDG places particular emphasis on scientific excellence, long-term cooperation (seven years for Christian Doppler Laboratories and five years for Josef Ressel Centres), a high degree of funding flexibility, the generation of competitive advantages for participating companies, and the promotion of young researchers. In doing so, the CDG strengthens Austria's position as a centre of business, science and research while creating value for society.

²⁰¹ <https://www.aws.at/berichte>

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Number of CD laboratories	103			99		
Number of JR centres	18			17		
Funding budget in €1,000 without company contributions	21,019			30,392		
CDG Office	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	6	15	21	6	17	23
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	5	12	17	5	14	19

Note: Budget figures for 2025 represent the maximum budget allocation, as final accounting data are not yet available.
Source: CDG.

3.8.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding and external funding

Source of funds (public funds and third-party funds, excluding contributions from companies)	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000
Public funds at federal level	20,830	29,863
of which basic budget (BMWET)	14,425	18,698
of which NFTE, Ö-Fonds and FZÖ	6,404	11,165
Other funds (including third-party funding)	189	529
Total	21,019	30,392

Note: Budget figures for 2025 represent the maximum budget allocation, as final accounting data are not yet available.
Source: CDG.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Funding applications and evaluation of CD laboratories and JR centres

Funding applications are assessed by the Christian Doppler Senate through a multi-stage international peer-review process. Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres undergo several interim evaluations during their funding period.

Programme evaluations

Every five years, the framework conditions of the funding programmes are reviewed and adapted as appropriate through a comprehensive dialogue involving all stakeholders.

Approximately every three years, the CDG commissions Elsevier to conduct an analysis (most recently in 2025). Using Elsevier SciVal, based on Scopus data (more than 50 million publications)

and data from five of the world's largest patent offices, the analysis examines and presents the scientific output generated and its transfer to industry at a big-data level.

The BMWET regularly commissions external evaluation agencies to analyse the impact of the CDG's funding programmes through comprehensive programme evaluations (most recently in 2025).



Indicator 3: Human potential and skills

Office staff	Heads									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	4	4	4	100%	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Experts	12	14	9	75%	10	71%	3	25%	4	29%
Management level	5	5	3	60%	3	60%	2	40%	2	40%
Total	21	23	16	76%	17	74%	5	24%	6	26%

Source: CDG.

	Full-time equivalents (rounded)									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	3	3	3	100%	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Experts	10	11	7	70%	8	73%	3	30%	3	27%
Management level	5	5	3	60%	3	60%	2	40%	2	40%
Summe	18	19	13	72%	14	74%	5	28%	5	26%

Source: CDG.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

The CDG places great value on its employees and demonstrates this appreciation through targeted staff development measures and individual support. Human resource development is designed as a continuous and systematic process. Demand-oriented training and development programmes support both the further development of the organisation and the professional and personal development objectives of employees. In addition, regular training is provided on organisation-wide cross-cutting topics such as digitalisation, data protection (GDPR), compliance and IT security. The objective of these measures is to strengthen employees' professional, methodological and personal competencies on a sustainable basis, thereby making a significant contribution to the CDG's long-term performance and future viability.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Investments and persons	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Equity interests in companies	210		199	
of which SMEs	49	23%	40	20%
Equity interests in research institutions	28		29	
of which are universities in Austria	15	54%	15	52%
of which non-university research institutions	1	4%	2	7%
of which universities of applied sciences	10	36%	10	34%
of which universities abroad	2	7%	2	7%
Supported persons*	1,360		1,282	
of which women	510	37.5%	467	36%
of which men	850	62.5%	815	64%

* The figures for 2025 are provisional and have not yet been finalised. Beneficiaries may still submit additional claims. Source: CDG.

Time to contract and consultations	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Time to contract for applications without revision, in days	200	197	
Time to contract for applications requiring revision, in days	363	369	
Number of consultations for (potential) funding applicants *	47	48	~45

* Includes only individual consultation appointments. Regular information sessions were held at universities and universities of applied sciences but are not included in the above statistics. Source: CDG.

Number of scientific publications from the funded projects	2024	2025*
Monographs and editions	7	12
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited vol-umes and proceedings	793	731

* Preliminary data, not yet finalised. Late submissions by funding recipients are still possible. Source: CDG.

Patents and invention disclosures	2024	2025*	Target value 2026
Patent applications	N/A		N/A
Issued patents	17	6	>6
Notifications of inventions to the university/ university of applied sciences/research institution	21	32	>15

* Preliminary data, not yet finalised. Late submissions by funding recipients are still possible. Source: CDG.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Projects with international participation*	42	35%	44	38%
Foreign company partners	49	23%	45	23%

*Involvement of foreign company partners or CD laboratories based abroad.

Source: CDG.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

	2024*	2025
Total funding volume in €1,000, including company contributions	40,848	57,596
of which science/industry cooperation	40,848	57,596
Percentage	100%	100%

* Budget figures for 2025 represent the maximum budget allocation, as actual expenditure figures are not yet available.

Source: CDG.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

The openings of Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres were used, in close cooperation with the public relations departments of universities and universities of applied sciences, to strengthen public science communication and facilitate targeted knowledge transfer. The annual CDG Prize for Research and Innovation made scientific topics accessible and understandable to a broad audience through print and online media. Success stories emerging from CDG-funded projects were prepared and disseminated in cooperation with companies and researchers at higher education institutions. Researchers and their fields of work were regularly featured through LinkedIn and the CDG website. The CDG Future Talks (CDG-Zukunftstalks) provided an interactive forum for discussing current topics such as “Human Senses and Technology” and “The Future of Steel” from scientific, entrepreneurial and political perspectives, while also being made easily accessible through online streaming. Research funded by the CDG is featured in around 1,000 media reports each year, underlining its significant role in public science communication. The CDG is a member of the Open Science Association and Uni.PR.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	
Funded projects					
Women in CD laboratories and JR centres	510	37.5%	467	36%	
Female heads of CD laboratories and JR centres	17	13%	12	10%	>10%
Evaluation committees and reviews					
Women on permanent evaluation committees and advisory boards	12	25%	12	24%	>20%
Reviews carried out by women	19	25%	29	30%	>25%

* Preliminary data, not yet finalised. Beneficiaries may still submit additional claims.

Source: CDG.

Programmes/initiatives with gender or equality as a funding criterion:

To support women in science, CDG Foundation Endowments enable the partial funding of personnel costs for female researchers who do not hold an active employment contract with the respective university.

3.8.3 New initiatives and instruments for 2025 and outlook

The bottom-up funding programmes for Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres provide excellent framework conditions for flexible, application-oriented and scientifically ambitious research without thematic restrictions. This enables funded research units to respond at an early stage to emerging scientific and technological developments and, in many cases, to generate impulses beyond established mainstream research. Considering this role as an early indicator of future developments, it is unsurprising that the majority of Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres conduct research in the key technology fields identified in the Federal Government's current Industrial Strategy.

Following the call launched in 2024, the first projects under the Transfer Science to Spin-off (Transfer.S2S) funding programme were approved in 2025. Financed by the Austrian Future Fund, the programme supports researchers in translating excellent basic research into innovative applications with commercialisation potential. The first call attracted exceptionally strong interest, with around 100 project proposals submitted.

In addition, projects funded under the thematic doctoral call on the energy transition and circular economy commenced in 2025. This call was financed entirely by the CDG's member companies. Overall, the CDG model continues to enjoy strong demand from both academia and industry, reaffirming its central role within Austria's research, technology and innovation system.

Further figures, data and facts can be found on the CDG website.²⁰²

202 <https://www.cdg.ac.at/en/about-us/facts-and-figures-on-the-christian-doppler-model>

3.9 The Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

3.9.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding institution for basic research and arts-based research. Through a competitive international peer-review process, the FWF supports researchers and research ideas that are pioneering on the basis of their scientific quality. The knowledge generated strengthens Austria as a research nation and provides a broad foundation for addressing future societal challenges more effectively.

Investments in basic research awarded through the FWF are highly efficient and generate substantial leverage effects across science, the economy and society. In this way, they make a sustainable contribution to strengthening Austria as a location for research and innovation.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total funding budget in €1,000	440,089			353,676		
of which new or extended projects (new grant allocation)	407,815			339,138		
Number of approved research projects	683			749		
Number of individuals funded by FWF funds	5,006			5,311		
FWF Office	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	46	106	154*	43	114	160*
Full-time equivalent (rounded)	41	91	133*	38	96	135*

* Difference due to the omission of the “diverse” category here.

Source: FWF.

3.9.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding and external funding

Source of funding	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000
Public funding at federal level	436,486	348,643
of which basic budget (BMFWF)	396,158	302,771
of which NFTE, Ö-Fonds and FZÖ	40,328	45,872
Regional governments	2,284	2,187
EU	25	379
Other (including third-party funding)	1,294	2,467
Total	440,089	353,676

Source: FWF.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Surveys of (potential) applicants and funded individuals

A survey of more than 3,300 researchers in Austria was completed and published in September 2025.²⁰³

Evaluations of funding programmes, impact assessments

The doc.funds.connect funding program²⁰⁴ was discussed with stakeholders during a consultation process (four workshops) in order to identify strengths and weaknesses, determine areas for improvement and implement corresponding measures.

In addition, three further studies involving FWF participation were published through the Research on Research Institute (RoRI).²⁰⁵



Indicator 3: Human potential and skills development

Office staff	Heads									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	80*	83*	58	72%	61	73%	20	25%	19	23%
Experts	54	60	34	63%	41	68%	20	37%	19	32%
Management level	20	17	14	70%	12	71%	6	30%	5	29%
Total	154*	160*	106	69%	114	71%	46	30%	43	27%

Office staff	Full-time employees (rounded)									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	64*	65*	47	73%	48	75%	16	25%	14	22%
Experts	49	54	30	61%	36	66%	19	39%	18	34%
Management level	20	17	14	69%	12	71%	6	31%	5	29%
Total	133*	135*	91	68%	96	71%	41	31%	38	28%

*Difference due to the omission of the “diverse” category here.

Source: FWF.

203 SPECTRA Marktforschung. (2025). The FWF's 2025 Survey of the Austrian Research Community. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17062066>

204 Dörflinger, A., & Lehner, P. (2025). Consultation process on the doc.funds.connect funding programme. Final report. Zenodo; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17099198>; <https://www.fwf.ac.at/foerderung/foerderportfolio/karrieren/docfundsconnect>

205 RoRI, Research on Research Institute; Newman-Griffis, Denis; Buckley Woods, Helen; Youyou, Wu; Thelwall, Mike; Holm, Jon (2025). Funding by Algorithm – A handbook for responsible uses of AI and machine learning by research funders (ISBN 978-1-7397102-2-4). Research on Research Institute. Book. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.29041715.v1>
 RoRI, Research on Research Institute (2025). RoRI Insights: Funding Transdisciplinary Research. Research on Research Institute. Report. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28228688.v1>
 RoRI, Research on Research Institute; Traag, Vincent; Brady, Emer; Vincent-Lamarre, Philippe; Bidet, Flavie; Lopes-Bento, Cindy; et al. (2025). The Matthew effect and early-career setbacks in research funding – a replication study (RoRI Working Paper No. 16). Research on Research Institute. Preprint. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.29302004.v2>

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

The importance of staff qualifications is highly recognised by the FWF as an expert organisation and through its funding activities. In order to ensure that the quality standards upheld by its staff are lived and further developed, the FWF invests in the training and professional development of its employees. Each department is allocated an annual training budget.

Key priorities for 2025 and 2026 continue to include topics related to the FWF4.0 project (change management and onboarding), as well as IT security in light of its growing importance, handling challenging situations and individuals, and leadership development.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Projects and individuals	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Funded projects (new grants)	683		749	
of which universities*	574	84%	645	86%
of which universities of applied sciences	9	1%	6	1%
of which non-university research institutions**	100	15%	98	13%
Funded individuals (from new grants)	942		874	
of whom women	343	36%	297	34%
of which men	597	63%	576	66%
of which diverse***	2	<1%	1	<1%

* Including private universities. ** Includes research institutions abroad. *** Including "no information provided".

Source: FWF.

Time to contract* and consultations	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Processing time for programmes without a deadline**, in days	159	158	
Number of advisory sessions for (potential) funding applicants			
Total	69	62	>50
of which coaching workshops	25	26	
of which webinars	44	36	

* The period from receipt of the application by the FWF until the funding decision is made. If the application is approved, it usually takes only a few days for the funding agreement to be drawn up. ** Programmes with no deadline are individual projects, the Clinical Research Programme, the ESPRIT Programme and the Schrödinger Programme.

Source: FWF.

Scientific publications from funded projects*	2024	2025
Monographs and editions	86	78
Articles/contributions in scientific journals, edited volumes and proceedings	6,468	5,454

* Figures taken from final project reports received in the respective year.

Source: FWF.

Patents and invention disclosures*	2024	2025
Patent applications	5	2
Issued patents	14	16

Patents and invention disclosures*	2024	2025
Invention disclosures to the university/university of applied sciences/research institution	N/A	N/A

* Data from final project reports received in the respective year.

Source: FWF.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	in %
Projects with international partners	1,860	74%	1,906	73%	> 70
Participating persons located abroad	5,647	41%	5,652	40%	

Source: FWF.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements with foreign research funding agencies (these are existing agreements; this does not imply that calls for proposals are open every year or that projects are funded annually):

		2024	2025
Within Europe	Multilateral	7 ERA-Net participations Weave* (Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Switzerland, Slovenia, Czech Republic) European Partnership Biodiversa+ European Partnership Water4All European Partnership ERA4Health European Partnership Personalised Medicine	6 ERA-NET participations Weave* (Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Switzerland, Slovenia, Czech Republic) European Partnership Biodiversa+ European Partnership Water4All European Partnership ERA4Health European Partnership Personalised Medicine European Partnership EUPAHW (Animal Health) European Partnership FutureFoodS European Partnership ERDERA (Rare Diseases) European Partnership One Health AMR European Partnership BrainHealth European Partnership BE READY European Partnership Resilient Cultural Heritage CSA LUKE (Ukraine)
	Bilateral	France Italy/South Tyrol Russia (suspended) Hungary	France Italy/South Tyrol Russia (suspended) Hungary
Outside Europe	Multilateral	Belmont Forum	Belmont Forum
	Bilateral	China India Israel Japan South Korea Taiwan USA	China India Israel Japan South Korea Taiwan USA

* Weave is a network of European research funding organisations whose aim is the joint funding of international research projects.

Source: FWF.

Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

The FWF funds bottom-up, application-oriented basic research across all disciplines. In addition to an explicit transfer component within the Clusters of Excellence, knowledge and technology transfer through exchange and cooperation with societal and/or economic partners is possible in principle across all FWF programmes.

Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) promotes communication and interaction with society on multiple levels. On the one hand, this takes place at programme level through specific funding opportunities that enable researchers to strengthen dialogue with society. These include the Science Communication and Top Citizen Science programmes, as well as the transdisciplinary #ConnectingMinds programme. In the Clusters of Excellence programme, communication and transfer activities are an integral part of the funding scheme. In addition, the FWF as an institution implements a wide range of communication and outreach activities to convey the impact of basic research. These include the stakeholder conference “Think Beyond Summit”, the event series “Am Puls” and “What Connects the World” (“Was die Welt zusammenhält”), as well as the “Science Lectures” at Vienna’s adult education centres. The FWF regularly reports on new basic research findings in its online science magazine “scilog”, and also on its “What we know” (“Was wir wissen”) podcast launched in 2025. The FWF also maintains several social media channels to communicate scientific findings from FWF-funded projects. Another key instrument is the online Research Radar, a freely accessible database providing information on thousands of FWF-funded research projects and their outputs.

Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	
Women in funded projects					
Female project staff	2,363	47%	2,543	48%	
Project managers	248	36%	247	33%	> 30%
Women on committees and juries					
Executive Committee	2	40%	2	40%	
Supervisory Board	6	60%	6	60%	
Delegates' Assembly	31	52%	32	53%	
Board of Trustees	31	45%	31	45%	
Jury for the FWF-ASTRA/START Prize and the Wittgenstein Prize	6	50%	10	63%	
Jury for the Arts-Based Research Programme (PEEK)	3	50%	3	50%	
Jury doc.funds	6	43%	5	38%	

	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	
Women in funded projects					
Jury 1000 Ideas	9	47%	9	47%	
Jury #ConnectingMinds	5	50%	6	50%	
International expert reports by women	1,477	30%	1,547	28%	
Difference in approval rates between women and men*	−1.1 percentage points		−4.5 percentage points		± 2.0 percentage points

* A positive value indicates a percentage point higher success rate for women compared to men. A negative value indicates a lower success rate for women than for men. The relatively large gap between approval rates in 2025 represents an exception within the past 15 years (with a comparable disparity to the detriment of women observed only in 2017). In addition, in seven of the past 15 years, women have had a higher approval rate than men. Nevertheless, in response to the 2025 discrepancy, the FWF is introducing a monitoring system to enable more detailed tracking of developments in approval rates across individual decision-making rounds. Source: FWF.

Programmes/initiatives with gender or equality as a funding criterion:

With the exception of a few programmes, all programme applications are required to address gender- and sex-related aspects in the project description. Certain exceptions apply, for example to the Wittgenstein Award, as no project descriptions are submitted in this case; instead, nominations are made by third parties. In addition to the consideration of these content-related aspects in research proposals, cooperative programmes aim for at least one-third representation of the underrepresented gender within consortia, with consortium composition defined as an evaluation-relevant criterion in the peer-review process. Within the ESPRIT programme and the ASTRA Prize, the FWF allocates 50% of funding to female researchers.

3.9.3 New initiatives and instruments for 2025 and outlook

In 2025, the FWF awarded 18 ASTRA Prizes for the first time. With funding of approximately €1 million each, the ASTRA Prizes enable advanced postdoctoral researchers to make a decisive step towards becoming leaders in their respective fields. Another highlight of the 2025 funding year was the awarding of the FWF Wittgenstein Award to biochemist Elly Tanaka from IMBA – the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW). With the WE&ME Award, the FWF launched a new privately funded research prize in 2025 for projects in the field of ME/CFS research. In 2025, the FWF also further developed its funding portfolio in the area of cooperative research: the highly endowed and simultaneously flexible “Special Research Programmes” enable both smaller and larger groups to implement collaborative research projects at Austrian research institutions, with first awards scheduled for 2026. In 2026, the next funding round of “Emerging Fields” will mark another implementation step of the excellence initiative “excellent=austria”.

A Spectra survey published by the FWF in autumn 2025, involving more than 3,300 researchers, provides insights into the living and working conditions of scientists in Austria and shows a general level of satisfaction, particularly in the areas of research freedom and international collaboration.

Further information can be found in the FWF Annual Report.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁶ <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-us/annual-report>

3.10 OeAD-GmbH (OeAD)

3.10.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

OeAD-GmbH, Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation, supports and connects people and institutions in education, science and research through forward-looking programmes. As the Republic of Austria’s agency for education and internationalisation, the OeAD contributes to inclusive, equitable and high-quality education and promotes innovation in education, teaching and research. In 2025, mobility and project funding aimed at supporting the internationalisation of higher education institutions was expanded through the introduction of the new Busek Scholarship Programme. Programmes in the school sector were also further extended. In addition, the OeAD implements a range of accompanying measures, including support for the European Higher Education Area and the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework.

The OeAD’s headquarters are located in Vienna. It also operates cooperation offices in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as in Lviv and Shanghai. Through OeAD Housing Office Ltd. (OeAD-Wohnraumverwaltungs-GmbH), accommodation is provided for approximately 12,000 international students, researchers and lecturers.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

	2024			2025		
Total funding budget, disbursements in €1,000	112,580			125,028		
Number of employees	2024			2025		
	m	f	total	m	f	total
Employees (=headcount)	113	256	369	114	273	387
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	101	205	306	108	218	326

Source: OeAD.

The further increase in the key indicator “funding budget” in 2025 is attributable to the introduction of the new Busek Scholarship Programme, as well as quantitative growth in the Extremism Prevention Programme, study and research stays, and implemented projects, particularly under Erasmus+ and Sparkling Science. The expanded programme portfolio and the extension of ENIC NARIC activities also resulted in an increase in OeAD staffing resources.

3.10.2 Development of indicators

In contrast to the key performance indicators, the indicators presented below relate exclusively to the OeAD’s research-relevant activities. Funding provided by the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) covers research-related activities such as incoming and outgoing

scholarship programmes; the bilateral Actions with Austria's neighbouring countries Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia; the Lectureship Programme (Lektoratsprogramm); Scientific and Technological Cooperation (WTZ – Wissenschaftlich-Technische Zusammenarbeit); International Research Cooperation (Internationale Forschungsk Kooperation); internationalisation measures; support for university networks with South-East Asia and African countries; as well as the Children's and Youth Universities and Sparkling Science programmes. Third-party funding comprises programmes financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and other funding organisations for research-related activities.



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

	2024 in €1,000	2025 in €1,000
Total research-related income	20,284	25,117
of which federal funds – UG 31.03 (disbursements)	17,188	19,595
of which other federal funds – BMEIA (Austrian Development Agency; disbursements)	2,242	3,785
of which other (third-party funding, e.g. Indonesia, Pakistan; disbursements)	854	1,737

Source: OeAD.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

Funding applications

The multi-stage selection procedures are conducted in accordance with the provisions set out in the relevant funding guidelines and ensure that funding is awarded only to applications of outstanding academic quality.

Grant recipients

Scholarship holders are regularly surveyed regarding the implementation of their study or research projects and the services provided by the OeAD. Among other aspects, these surveys provide insights into satisfaction with programme administration by the OeAD. The results indicate overall satisfaction ratings ranging from 1.1 to 2.0 on a four-point scale (1 = very good; 4 = unsatisfactory).

Evaluations of funding programmes, impact analyses

The external evaluation of Sparkling Science 2.0 conducted in 2025 assessed the programme design, implementation and outcomes very positively. The programme is a unique funding instrument in Austria and plays a central role in research and education cooperation as well as in the national citizen science landscape. The evaluation also demonstrated that the programme strengthens the scientific literacy of pupils and teachers.

As part of an evaluation of APPEAR projects, 15 projects were assessed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The projects examined were primarily located in the partner countries Armenia, Ethiopia and Uganda. The evaluation results were consistently very positive.



Indicator 3: Human potential and skills

Office staff	Heads									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants*	5	6	5	100%	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Experts**	47	46	39	83%	39	85%	8	17%	7	15%
Management level***	4	6	3	75%	4	67%	1	25%	2	33%
Total	56	58	47	84%	49	84%	9	16%	9	16%

* Programme assistants, ** Programme administration/clerical staff, *** Department heads.

Source: OeAD.

Office staff	Full-time equivalents (rounded)									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	5	5	5	100%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Experts	39	38	33	85%	32	84%	6	15%	6	16%
Management level*	4	6	3	75%	4	67%	1	25%	2	33%
Total	48	49	41	85%	41	84%	7	15%	8	16%

* Programme assistants, ** Programme administration/clerical staff, *** Department heads.

Source: OeAD.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

In 2025, the OeAD's comprehensive professional development programme focused on the areas of artificial intelligence, sustainability and conflict management. In the same year, a new staff development initiative, OeAD Talent Management, was introduced to support the continued professional development of OeAD employees.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Projects and people	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Funded projects*	735		749	
of which at universities	616	74%	635	75%
of which at universities of applied sciences	47	6%	38	5%
of which in other institutions	171	20%	168	20%
Beneficiaries	2,669		2,384	
of which men	1,249	47%	1,125	47%
of which women	1,420	53%	1,259	53%

* The number of funded projects does not correspond to the total number of projects across the various institutions, as projects involving multiple partners are counted only once. For the same reason, the percentages shown are not obtained by dividing the figures given in the table. The multi-stage selection procedures follow the guidelines set out in the special guidelines and ensure that only applications of outstanding academic quality are funded.

Source: OeAD.

The decline in the number of funded individuals compared with 2024 is attributable to the transition from individual funding to project funding in two major programmes.

Time to contract and consultations	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Time to contract in days*	90 to 338	90 to 180	90 to 180
Response to enquiries	7,449	7,203	> 5,500
of which immigration advice	2,304	2,561	> 2,200

* The processing time is defined as the period from the end of the application deadline until the contract is signed or the scholarship award is issued. For scholarship programmes, this period is up to 180 days. For the Children's and Youth Universities programme, the time to contract ranged from 157 to 177 days. Source: OeAD.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

All programmes reported here are, by their very nature, internationalisation programmes in the fields of science and research. This applies both to the mobility programmes, through which 2,384 individuals studied or conducted research abroad in 2025, and to the 749 cooperation projects, all of which focused on international collaboration.



Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

OeAD funding is awarded either to individuals, in the case of scholarship programmes, or to institutions (legal entities), in the case of cooperation projects. Knowledge and technology transfer therefore takes place at both the individual and the institutional level.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

In the area of Public Science, measures are implemented to promote science education both within and outside schools and to build expertise in the field of citizen science. In this context, the OeAD organises lectures and provides networking and peer-learning opportunities.

The 27 projects selected under the second call for proposals of Sparkling Science 2.0 largely commenced in autumn 2024 and continued into 2025. In addition, extracurricular science education was supported in 2025 through 24 initiatives implemented under the Children's and Youth Universities programme.

Within schools, the focus of science education activities was on measures to strengthen trust in science. In 2025, a further 124 researchers volunteered as Science Ambassadors (Wissenschaftsbotschafterinnen und Wissenschaftsbotschafter), bringing the total number to 600. Across Austria, 376 school visits were carried out. Since autumn 2025, the initiative has also been extended to nursery schools. A total of 1,777 participants took part in research activities as part of the Citizen Science Award.

The highlight of the year was the Young Science Congress, where 580 pupils experienced research first-hand. The event also included the presentation of the Citizen Science Awards, the Young Science Inspiration Award and the awards ceremony for the winning schools of the Young Science Days competition.

Participants in the following projects	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Children's and Youth Universities (funded initiatives)	23	24	21
Sparkling Science (funded partnerships between institutions)	150	No call for proposals	No call for proposals
Citizen Science Awards presented	8	7	7
Citizen Science Award (participants across all participating projects)	2,905	1,777	>2,300

Source: OeAD.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

Women on evaluation committees and in peer reviews	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	
Juries, evaluation committees	49	42%	44	39%	50%
Reviews	367	44%	269	31%	50%
Supervisory Board	5	42%	6	50%	50%
Strategy Advisory Board	5	56%	4	44%	50%

Source: OeAD.

3.10.3 New initiatives and instruments in 2025 and outlook

In 2025, the new Busek Scholarship Programme was launched with more than 60 master's students specialising in STEM subjects. It is the OeAD's first funding programme explicitly designed to address skills shortages and is expected to be expanded to accommodate up to 90 scholarship holders in 2026. Preparations for the next Sparkling Science call are also under way, with a new call for proposals planned for 2026.

It is anticipated that major international crises will continue to have a significant impact on OeAD programmes in 2026. For example, in 2025 the ENIC NARIC Austria Information Centre processed several thousand requests for the recognition and evaluation of Ukrainian higher education qualifications, and demand is not expected to decline in 2026. The scholarship programme for refugee students and researchers from Ukraine continued in 2025, supporting just under 550 scholarship holders. In addition, the OeAD established an information portal for researchers in the United States, highlighting career opportunities within Austria's research sector.

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East has also led to increased demand for funding for workshops on conflict management and violence prevention in Austrian schools.

Further information can be found in the OeAD Annual Report.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁷ <https://oead.at/en/the-oead/communication-and-publications/publications-statistics-analyses>

3.11 Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

3.11.1 Profile and key figures

Organisation profile

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) strengthens Austria's position as a location for research and innovation and helps to secure high-quality jobs in the long term. To this end, it provides comprehensive funding and support services for companies and research institutions.

Its activities includes:

- Funding research and innovation projects, both in thematic open-topic programmes and within the framework of strategic thematic priorities
- Funding research and innovation structures, including Centres of Excellence, research infrastructures, innovation platforms and innovation laboratories
- Funding qualification initiatives and measures aimed at attracting young people to research, technology and innovation (RTI)
- Mobilising and supporting companies and research institutions in their participation in European programmes and initiatives and
- Administering and assessing applications for the research premium (Forschungsprämie)

In addition to its activities in the RTI sector, the FFG also implements investment support programmes for the expansion of digital infrastructure (broadband) and e-mobility.

Key figures for 2024 and 2025

FFG R&D funding	2024				2025			
Projects	7,479				7,003			
Participations	10,148				9,271			
Stakeholders	5,572				5,262			
Subsidies including guarantees in €1,000	876,157				717,967			
Present value in €1,000	795,613				635,399			
Payments in €1,000	671,031				715,044			
FFG infrastructure grants (broadband, EBIN, ENIN)	2024				2025			
Projects	413				175			
Present value in €1,000	335,407				159,939			
Payments in €1,000	192,680				179,467			
Number of employees (FFG R&D funding and FFG infrastructure funding)*	2024				2025			
	m	f	d	total	m	f	d	total
Employees (=headcount)	186	293	0	479	192	298	0	490
Full-time equivalents (rounded)	175	247	0	422	178	257	0	435

* Figures as of 31 December. There are discrepancies with other reports that are based on average figures.

Source: FFG.

3.11.2 Development of indicators



Indicator 1: Funding, including third-party funding

Source of funds for R&D funding, excluding commissioned work (public funds and third-party funding, excluding contributions from companies)	Present values as part of contractual commitments in €1,000	
	2024	2025
Owner ministries	583,174	456,031
BMIMI	390,477	346,386
BMWET	192,697	109,645
BMFWF	14,082	2,667
BMLUK	28,000	1,400
BMF	18,718	27,114
BMASGPK	3,096	1,263
NFTE, Ö-Fonds, FZÖ	30,078	40,452
Climate and Energy Fund	57,579	88,511
Regional governments	19,718	12,932
EU	39,497	3,607
Other	1,671	1,421
Total	795,613	635,399

Source: FFG.



Indicator 2: Evaluation systems

FFG funding programmes are evaluated externally in accordance with the relevant evaluation schedules. In delegated areas of responsibility, evaluations are commissioned by the responsible federal ministries; in the FFG's own areas of responsibility, they are commissioned directly by the FFG.

Evaluation findings are discussed within the framework of the FFG's regular internal evaluation meetings. The following evaluations were on the agenda in 2025: INNOVATORINNEN (follow-up discussion); MissionERA; Digital Pro Bootcamps; *Making a Difference – Social Innovations against Child and Youth Poverty*; FFG sustainability criteria; Data Management Plans in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) projects; Spin-off Fellowships ; and FFG Innovation Vouchers with a co-payment (*Innovationsscheck mit Selbstbehalt*).

Four years after the completion of funded RTI projects, funding recipients are surveyed as part of the FFG's impact monitoring activities regarding the utilisation of project results and the effectiveness of the funding provided.²⁰⁸

Feedback from applicants is collected on a regular basis through:

- Annual telephone survey on satisfaction with the FFG's services and emerging needs
- Online surveys on satisfaction with project support, application or contract preparation, key questions on the user-friendliness of the processing systems, administrative effort, and the clarity of requirements
- Where appropriate: focus groups conducted as part of specific improvement projects

²⁰⁸ <https://www.ffg.at/content/evaluierung-der-foerderung>



Indicator 3: Human capital and qualifications

Employees	Heads									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	76	77	60	79%	58	75%	16	21%	19	25%
Experts	343	349	203	59%	205	59%	140	41%	144	41%
Team and department management	55	58	25	45%	29	50%	30	55%	29	50%
Management	2	2	2	100%	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Apprentices	3	4	3	100%	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	479	490	293	61%	298	61%	186	39%	192	39%

Source: FFG.

Employees	Full-time equivalents (rounded)									
	Total		Female				Male			
	2024	2025	2024		2025		2024		2025	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Assistants	63	65	50	79%	51	78%	13	21%	14	22%
Experts	302	310	169	56%	174	56%	133	44%	136	44%
Team and department management	52	54	23	44%	26	48%	29	56%	28	52%
Management	2	2	2	100%	2		0	0%	0	0%
Apprentices	3	4	3	100%	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	422	435	247	59%	257	59%	175	41%	178	41%

Source: FFG.

The following staff development measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025:

The focus of staff development measures during 2024 and 2025 was on leadership development, including the “Leadership Essentials” programme, which was attended by 27 internal participants, as well as targeted training on artificial intelligence and leadership. A further key element of the FFG’s human resources strategy was the development of a diversity, equity and inclusion strategy with objectives extending to 2030, together with the revision of related training programmes. In preparation for implementing the requirements of the EU Pay Transparency Directive, the FFG also revised its salary scheme.



Indicator 4: Output, innovation and excellence

Projects, participations and organisations	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Funded projects	7,479		7,003	
Total participation in projects	10,148		9,271	
Total organisations	5,572	100%	5,262	100%
of which companies	4,771	86%	4,552	87%
of which SMEs	4,011	84%	3,888	85%
of which research institutions	165	3%	154	3%
of which universities (institutes)	452	8%	380	7%
of which intermediaries and others	184	3%	177	3%

Source: FFG.

	2024	2025	Target value 2028*
	Number	Number	Number
Companies that have received funding to implement RDI projects in the field of digital technologies (development, new applications)**	967	1,032	1,376
Funded young, innovative SMEs**	1,482	1,556	619

* For the evaluation of the funding agreements, the adjusted average of the funding committed under the funding agreement for the period 2024–2028 is used. A direct conclusion regarding the achievement of targets cannot be drawn from a comparison of the annual key figures with the target values of the funding agreement. ** Target indicators according to the 2024–2026 funding agreement between BMWET and BMIMI (based on the budget for UG 33 + UG 34).

Source: FFG.

Time to contract, median values in days	2024	2025
FFG total	6	4
of which as example		
Bottom-up programmes*	141	135
Small-scale programmes**	3	2
Research premium	41	41

* Includes all funding opportunities assessed under the core programmes and approved by the Advisory Board: Core Programme Classic, Early Stage, Impact Innovation; project preparations previously included have been removed; the indicator has also been recalculated for 2024 ** Essentially comprises work placements for school pupils, work placements for female students, the diversity voucher, the eco-voucher, the further training voucher, the patent voucher and the innovation voucher.

Source: FFG.

Number of consultations for (potential) funding applicants	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Through the FFG national funding service	13,509	12,721	~ 10,000
Consultations as part of the EIP mandate	5,802	5,653	~ 6,000

Source: FFG.

Patents and licences	2024	2025	Target value 2026
Patent applications*	433	861	>500
Issued patents	N/A		
Licensing agreements	N/A		

* Change in the data basis compared to the previous year's report: From 2024, patent applications will be included in the final reports.

Source: FFG.



Indicator 5: Internationalisation

	2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%
Projects with international partners*	186	14%	239	17%
Participating companies based abroad**	165	2%	114	1%

* When counting projects with international partners, all projects are included that either have documented foreign partners in the consortium or are identified as transnational collaborations. ** The number of participations is used to calculate the proportion. Source: FFG.

Funding in transnational calls for proposals (commitments)	2024	2025
	Present value in €1,000	Present value in €1,000
Horizon Europe Partnerships	32,655	41,119
Digital Europe	3,723	1,148
ERANET (with and without co-funding)	2,644	3,029
EUREKA	7,576	9,226
Other transnational projects*	5,601	7,370
Total	52,199	68,587

* Other includes collaborations with China, Germany and Switzerland, an Africa-focused initiative, individual designated projects in big data in manufacturing and nano-EHS, and a former JPI. Source: FFG.

Participation in pillars and instruments of Horizon Europe	Instrument	Number of projects in 2024	Number of projects in 2025
Excellent Science	HORIZON CSA		1
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness	HORIZON-COFUND	1	1
	HORIZON-CSA		3
	HORIZON-FPA		
	HORIZON-IA		
	HORIZON-RIA		1
Innovative Europe	HORIZON-COFUND		
	HORIZON-CSA		1
Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area	HORIZON-CSA	1	
Total		2	7

Source: FFG.

Indicator 6: Knowledge and technology transfer

Funding of collaborative projects with partners from academia and industry			2024*		2025	
Topics and programmes	Projects	Present value in €1,000	Projects	Present value in €1,000	Projects	Present value in €1,000
Digital and key technologies (FinV)	107	58,229	88	48,132		
Co-operation structures (FinV)	55	58,275	83	42,788		
IWI (FinV)	145	40,724	197	34,957		
Energy transition (FinV)	22	19,456	32	26,104		
Mobility transition (FinV)	40	18,873	33	22,570		
Circular economy & production technologies (FinV)	21	15,395	23	18,738		
Space and aviation technologies (FinV)	29	15,449	28	18,146		
Climate-neutral city (FinV)	35	10,835	43	15,947		
Life Sciences (FinV)	2	2,937	4	7,257		
Cross-disciplinary (FinV)	12	7,501	1	2,091		
Human capital, people in FTI (FinV)	10	1,751	1	980		
Energy research (e!MISSION) (KLIEN)	29	19,707	25	22,930		
Climate-neutral industry (KLIEN)			13	16,150		
eMobility flagship projects (KLIEN)	15	10,584	14	14,432		
KIRAS (BMF)	27	11,117	28	10,539		
Smart Cities (KLIEN)	25	7,254	22	6,687		
FORTE (BMF)	6	3,578	12	5,992		
Commodities Initiative (BMF)			9	4,901		
Beacons of the Heat Transition (KLIEN)			12	3,673		
Federal state cooperation – thematic programmes (Upper Austria)	10	7,026	2	1,420		
Further programmes	22	16,153	26	11,881		

* The classification shown is based, on the one hand, on the themes of the 2024–2026 funding agreement and, on the other hand, on programmes commissioned by other funding bodies not covered by the funding agreement (e.g. BMF, KLIEN). The list shows topics/programmes with the highest funding amounts in science-industry collaboration projects. Only projects that have received more than €10,000 in funding are included. Topics from the 2024–2026 funding agreement are marked with (FinV). Source: FFG.

	2024		2025	
	Present value in €1,000	Share of total present value	Present value in €1,000	Share of total present value
All funding programmes from the science/industry cooperation*	327,058**	41%	336,845	53%

* The majority of the FFG's funding schemes support collaboration at the interface between science and industry.

** The difference from the total in the previous table is due to the fact that funding amounts of less than €10,000 are included here. Source: FFG.

	2024	2025	Target value 2028*
	Number	Number	Number
Number of funded projects involving collaborations between partners from science and industry**	382	740	768

* For the evaluation of the funding agreements, the adjusted average of the funding volume committed under the funding agreement for the period 2024–2028 is used. A direct comparison between the annual figures and the target values set out in the funding agreement does not permit conclusions to be drawn regarding target achievement.

** Target indicators in accordance with the 2024–2026 funding agreement between BMWET and BMIMI (relating to the budget of UG 33 + UG 34). Source: FFG.



Indicator 7: Communication and interaction with society

In 2024 and 2025, the following activities and formats were implemented to enhance communication and knowledge transfer, and to include and engage civil society actors:

The FFG reaches around 200 million people annually through the media activities and its own communication channels. Through its content, it raises awareness and stimulates interest among its target groups and encourages participation in FFG programmes and services.

Additional thematic impulses were provided through funding calls and targeted mobilisation activities. Notable examples include:

- Mobilising school pupils for space-related topics through the Alpbach Summer School and the Climate Detectives initiative, organised by ESERO Austria, including an interactive exhibition.
- “Astronaut for a Day”, a cooperative project involving Austria, Luxembourg and Estonia aimed at promoting young talent in the fields of space and technology.
- The funding call “Digital Solutions for People and Society 2023: Climate Change and Health – Awareness and Adaptation”, which sought to develop new approaches and solutions to support people in coping with the health impacts of climate change.
- The funding calls “Flagships of the Heat Transition” (Leuchttürme der Wärmewende, 2024) and “Technologies and Innovations for the Climate-Neutral City” (Technologien und Innovationen für die klimaneutrale Stadt, 2025), which explicitly required socially inclusive processes during the preparatory planning phase for demonstration projects involving innovative buildings and neighbourhoods.
- An event organised in cooperation with Kulturpool on open-data approaches for museums and archives.
- The New European Bauhaus Forum held at Tischlerei Melk, bringing together participants from civil society, business, politics and public administration.



Indicator 8: Gender and the promotion of equality

	2024		2025		Target value 2026
	Number	%	Number	%	
Women in funded projects					
Full-time equivalents based on audited reports	1,555	19%	1,582	20%	
Project managers*	2,864	29%	2,637	29%	
Women on committees and juries					
FFG Supervisory Board	8	47%	7	41%	
Bridge Advisory Board	3	21%	6	38%	
Basic programmes Advisory Board	10	45%	9	41%	
Reviews by women**	2,580	38%	3,926	40%	
of which for projects under the BMWET and BMIMI funding agreements (UG 33 + UG 34)**	1,729	43%	2,989	43%	>45%
Project working hours contributed by women (UG 33 + 34)	1,278	18%	1,285	19%	

* Refers to all project participations for which individuals are identified by name. Where no project management role is specified, the analysis is based on the gender of the technical contact person. ** Excluding broadband, EBIN and ENIN, covers FFG as a whole; from the 2025 reporting year onwards, internal reviews are included. Source: FFG.

Programmes/initiatives with gender or equality as a funding criterion

Gender aspects are embedded in the funding criteria of almost all funding programmes implemented by the FFG, both with regard to the composition of project teams and the orientation of projects. In addition, several dedicated programmes promote equal opportunities and diversity:²⁰⁹

- DIVERSITEC (BMIMI) supports organisational development measures aimed at fostering diversity, equality and inclusion in science- and technology-based enterprises.
- The Diversity Voucher (Diversity Scheck, BMIMI) encourages small and medium-sized enterprises to actively strengthen diversity within their organisations.
- Through People in RTI (Menschen in FTI, BMIMI), equal opportunities are promoted in companies and applied research organisations. The programme supports individuals throughout their research and innovation careers and promotes gender-sensitive research projects and innovation activities through instruments such as internships for pupils and students and qualification networks.
- Industrial Research Dissertations (Industrienahe Dissertationen, FZÖ) support application-oriented doctoral research projects; approximately 50% of the available funding is reserved for female doctoral candidates.
- INNOVATORINNEN (BMWET) supports women in shaping roles within research, technology and innovation while strengthening career-related competencies. Activities include a leadership programme, the pilot initiative called “Valorisation Workshop” (Verwertungs-Werkstatt), community exchange formats and networking events.²¹⁰
- Laura Bassi is specifically targeted at organisations, particularly SMEs, that seek to contribute to an equitable digital future.

²⁰⁹ https://www.ffg.at/Foerdermoeglichkeiten_Vielfalt

²¹⁰ <https://www.ffg.at/innovatorinnen>

3.11.3 New initiatives and instruments for 2025 and outlook

During the second year of implementation of the current funding agreement (2024–2026), the FFG continuously developed its portfolio of services and funding instruments. Additional impetus was provided through funding from the Austrian Future Fund. Of particular structural significance for Austria's innovation system is participation in European initiatives and the associated national co-funding of Austrian RTI stakeholders. Examples of the increasing integration of national and European efforts include:

- The first call for pilot facilities under the Chips for Europe Initiative
- The national implementation and co-financing of the emerging AI Factory.

The national funding of projects that received excellent evaluations and a Seal of Excellence, but could not be funded under the European Research Council (ERC) Proof of Concept or the European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator due to budgetary constraints, establishes a new selection principle for national funding.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, implementation of the key technologies campaign anchored in the Federal Government's Industrial Strategy will be a central priority. This provides an important strategic framework for the future orientation of substantial parts of the FFG portfolio.

With regard to the further development of funding instruments, greater emphasis will be placed on the feasibility and exploitation potential of research and development results. At the same time, the ecosystem approach will be further strengthened in order to elevate the interaction between scientific excellence and industrial innovation to a new level, while exploring new forms of inter-agency funding cooperation.

Further information can be found in the FFG Annual Report.²¹¹

²¹¹ <https://www.ffg.at/publikationen#jahresbericht>

Development of central research and research funding institutions over time based on selected indicators

As the individual indicators have been collected since 2021, it is now also possible to examine the development of the central institutions over a longer period. The following section therefore focuses on the development of the institutions between 2018 and 2025 – with regard to output and performance.

It should be noted that GeoSphere Austria cannot yet be included in this analysis, as it was established on 1 January 2023 and will only provide data from 2024 onwards. SAL is also one of the newer institutions. Established in 2018, it provides data from 2019 onwards.

The LBG is a special case in terms of its function and role. In the 2020 report, LBG was classified as a research funding organisation but not as a research institution. Consequently, not all data for the period under review is available here either.

In general, all data referred to in the following is taken from the respective Austrian Research and Technology Reports. Where data for individual institutions has been retrospectively updated in subsequent years, the updated data – i.e. the most recent report – has always been used as a reference for the following analysis.

Performance of the central research institutions

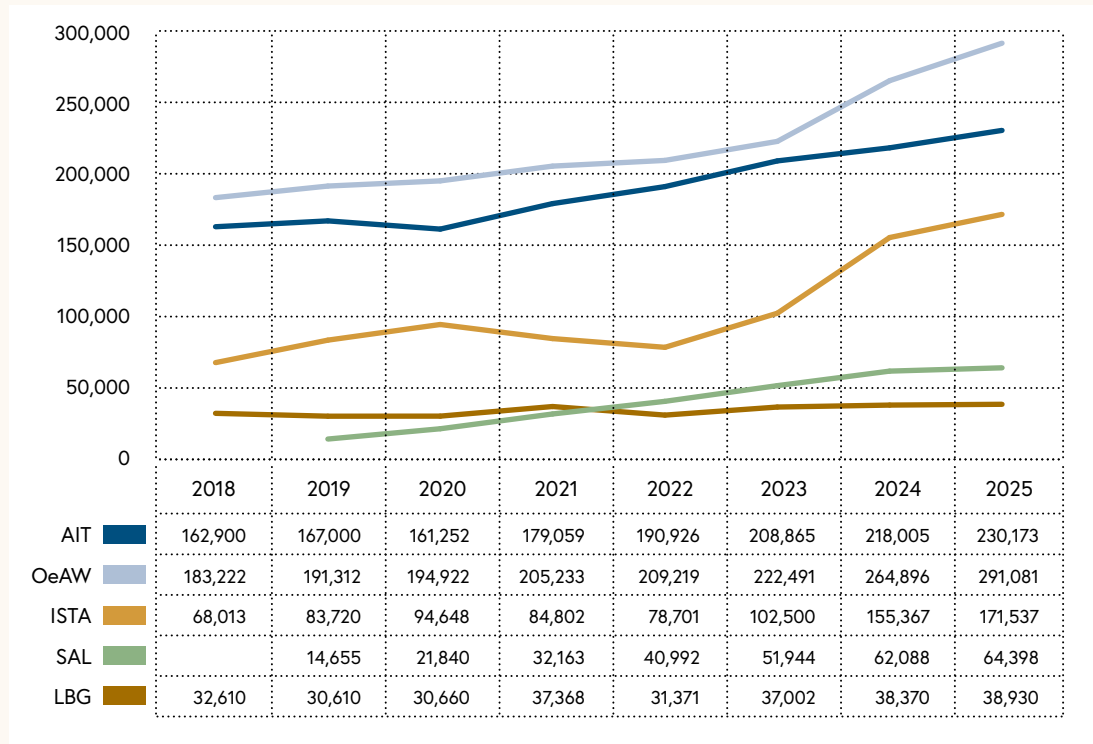
To illustrate the performance of the five central research institutions over time, the following section presents the trends in revenue, third-party funding ratios, grants under the research framework programmes, and the Glass Ceiling Index.

Development of income

With regard to revenue development, OeAW and ISTA in particular have shown significant growth in recent years.

Over the entire period 2018–2025, ISTA recorded an average annual growth in revenue of 14%. By comparison, the average for LBG, AIT and OeAW stands at 3%, 5% and 7% respectively. For SAL, starting from zero, this results in an average annual growth in revenue of 28% over the period 2019–2025.

Figure 3-1: Income of the research institutions 2018–2025 in €1,000



Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

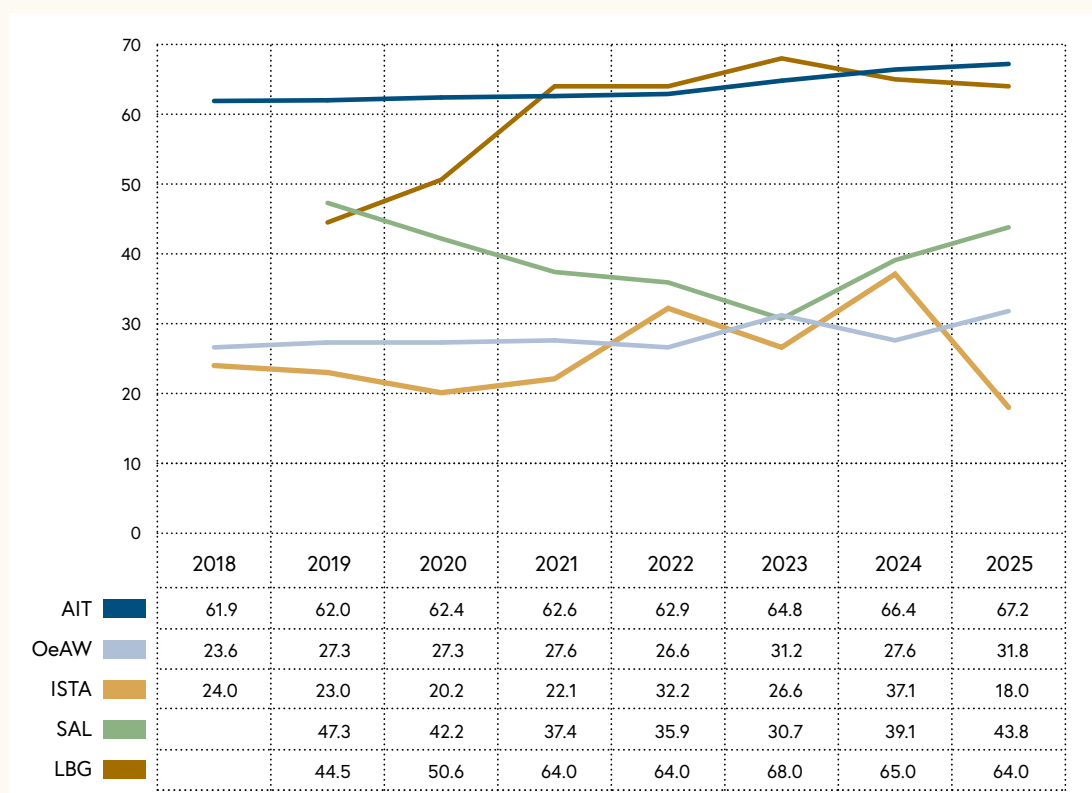
Developments of third-party funding ratios

In addition to operating income, third-party funding represents another important source of revenue. The third-party funding ratio thus represents the proportion of third-party funding in total income. However, the calculation is slightly different for OeAW: here, the third-party funding ratio represents the proportion of the total funds from the performance agreement and the third-party funding secured (excluding other income).

As shown in Figure 3-2, the proportion of third-party funding varies both between individual research institutions and over time.

Overall, LBG and AIT in particular have achieved a very high third-party funding ratio over the years. In 2025, the third-party funding ratio stood at 67.2% for AIT and 64% for LBG. OeAW and SAL show further increases, whilst ISTA has recently reported a declining third-party funding ratio. It should be noted that, in general, institutions with a strong focus on basic research, such as OeAW and ISTA, tend to have lower third-party funding ratios.

Figure 3-2: Share of third-party funding for research institutions 2018–2025 (%)



* The third-party funding ratio at the OeAW is calculated as: external funding / (funding from the performance agreement + external funding), excluding other income. Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

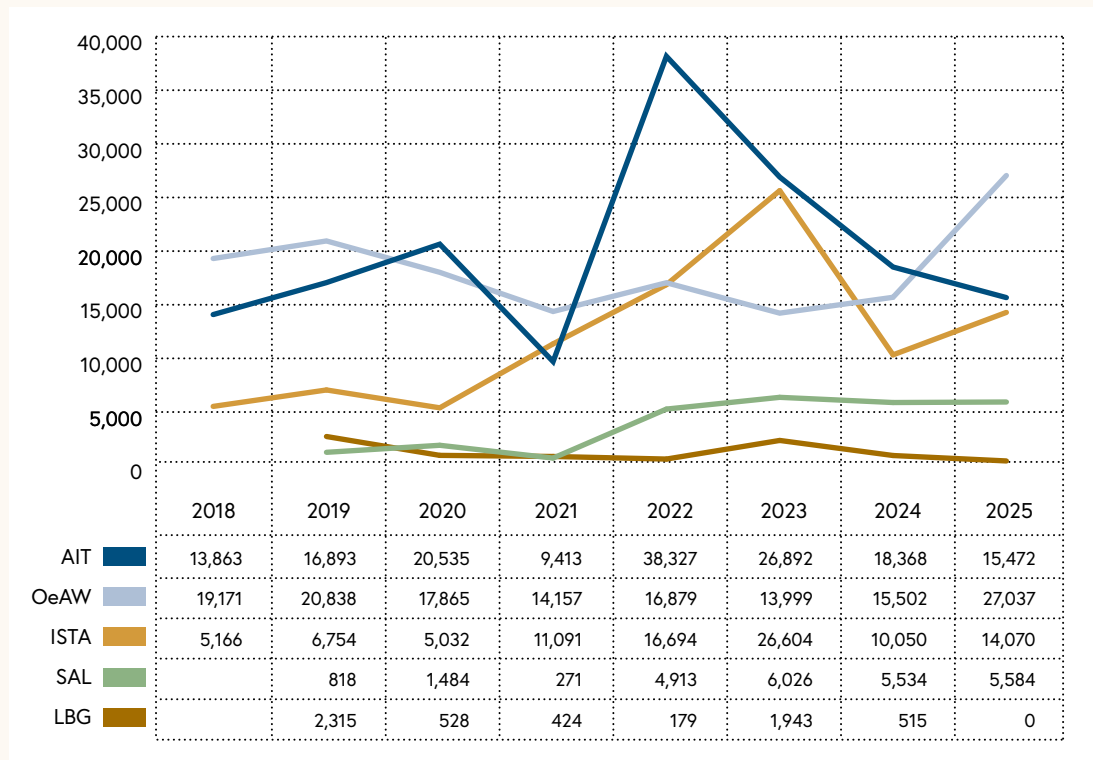
Development of participations in the research framework programmes

The success in securing European funding is subsequently illustrated by participation in Horizon 2020 (up to 2021) and participation in Horizon Europe (from 2021 onwards).

Whilst the two institutions with a strong focus on basic research, OeAW and ISTA, are particularly successful in the ERC, funding approvals rose sharply for all institutions in 2022 and 2023. In contrast, the trend in 2024 and 2025 varied across individual institutions. For instance, in 2022 AIT was very successful, and ISTA, SAL and LBG were all particularly successful in 2023. OeAW achieved its highest number of approvals in 2025. Similarly, ISTA has recently seen higher grant figures again. SAL, as the newest research institution, remains at a low level.

Not least in view of the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe in 2020 and 2021, the research institutions show a decline in the number of grants either in 2020 (ISTA) or in 2021 (all others). Overall, however, the trend over time is positive. In 2025, for instance, the research institutions defined under the FoFinaG derived on average around 7% of their total income from the Horizon Europe programme. As projects in Horizon Europe are often very large, it is worth noting in this context that there is a noticeable difference between successfully securing a project and failing to do so. For this reason, the decline at AIT must be put into perspective, given the record level in 2022.

Figure 3-3: Approvals under the EU Framework Programmes 2018–2025 in €1,000

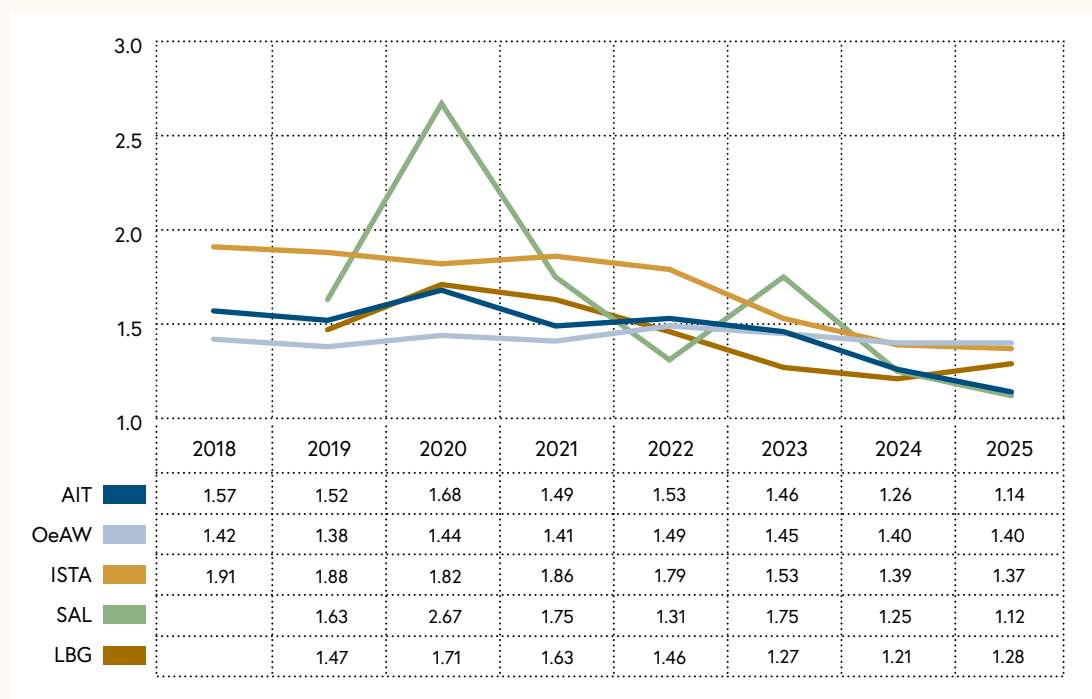


Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, FFG.

Development of the Glass Ceiling Index

The Glass Ceiling Index is used as an indicator of gender equality and equal opportunities. As illustrated in Figures 3–4, the index for all major research institutions is above one. This means that women in leadership roles are under-represented across the board. It should be noted, however, that the varying levels of the index can be explained, among other things, by the size of the institutions and the associated challenges in staff composition. Accordingly, the Glass Ceiling Index for large institutions such as OeAW has remained virtually unchanged over the years, whilst the index for small institutions such as SAL fluctuates significantly. The discipline also plays a role: as research institutions with a focus on science and technology, AIT, ISTA and SAL consistently have higher index values than OeAW and LBG, where humanities disciplines – in which more women work – are also represented. Overall, the development of the Glass Ceiling Index over time shows that research institutions are consistently striving for gender equality. In particular, AIT and SAL have approached a value of 1 in 2025, indicating an increasing presence of women in leadership positions.

Figure 3-4: Glass Ceiling Index for research institutions 2018–2025



Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

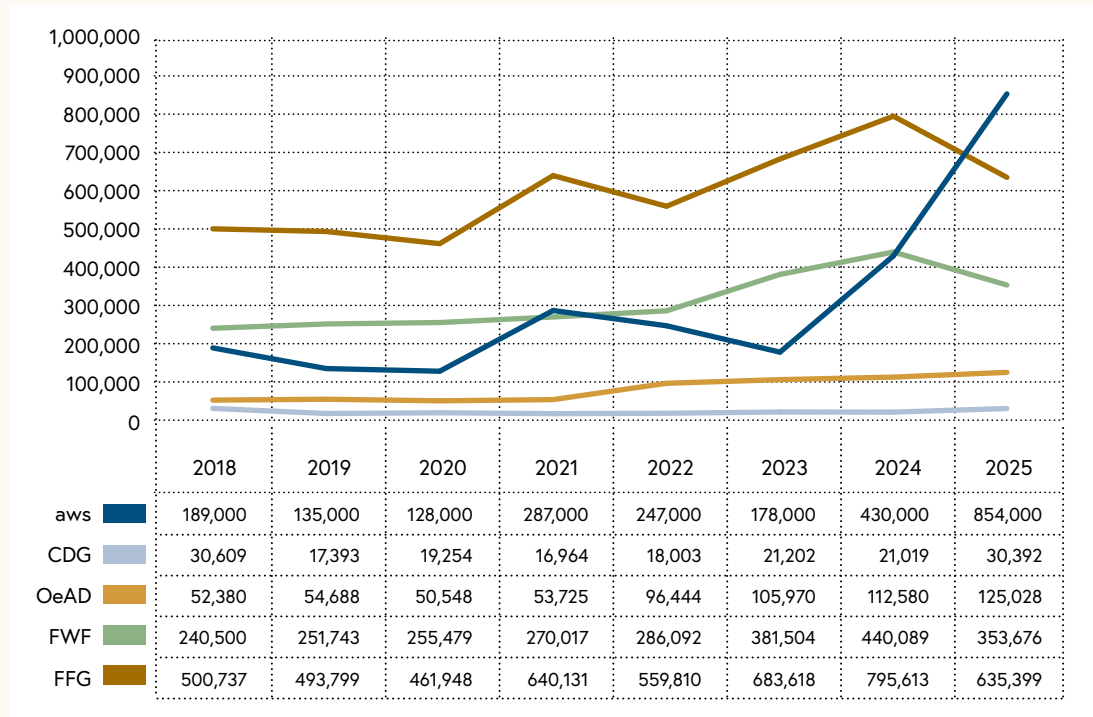
Performance of research funding institutions

To illustrate the development of the central research funding institutions, it is essential to draw on valid, comparable data. For the analysis presented below, the present value or funding budget indicator is therefore used, and attention is also paid to the presence of women in project management roles.

Development in present values and funding budgets

The trend in present values and funding budgets shows an overall dynamic development across the years 2018–2025, with significant growth up to 2024; however, differences emerge from 2024 onwards. For instance, FWF and FFG record a decline in 2025, albeit at different levels. In contrast, OeAD shows growth, which is attributable not least to additional tasks. CDG generally has a low funding budget, although this has also risen recently. Similarly, aws shows a clear upward trend.

Figure 3-5: Present value of funding from research funding bodies 2018–2025 in €1,000



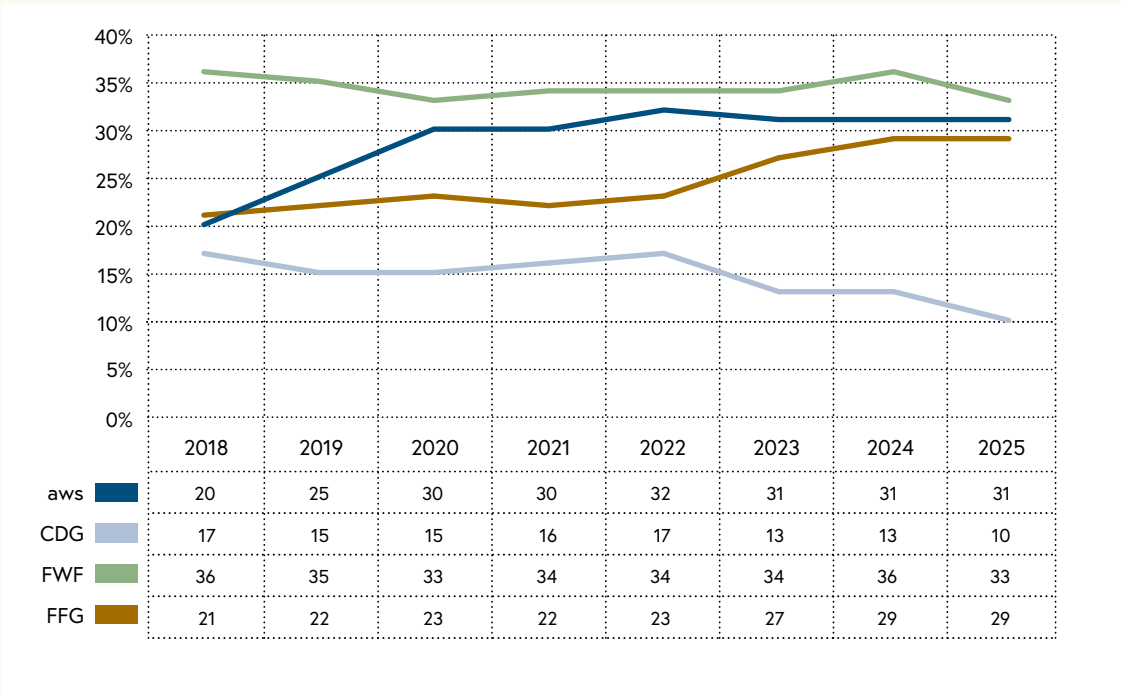
Total present value of funding or total funding volume in €1,000, excluding COVID-19 aid and special programmes relating to the Ukraine war.
Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

Development of the proportion of female project leaders

The proportion of women among all project leaders is used as an indicator of gender and equality promotion for research funding bodies. OeAD is not included in this analysis, as it primarily awards scholarships and lectorship positions and consequently does not define project leadership roles.

Figure 3-6 illustrates the trend in the proportion of female project leaders, with FWF, as expected, having the highest proportion given the broad disciplinary scope of its funding, although a decline is evident in 2025. FFG shows significant growth over the period under review, whereas the aws has shown little change over the last six years. The trend at CDG is downward, which can be explained not least by its focus on industry-oriented basic research and the associated lower proportion of female project leaders. A slightly different survey unit is also defined here; CD laboratories and JR centres are used as the reference standard.

Figure 3-6: Share of women in all project leadership roles 2018–2025 (in %)



Proportion of women in all project leadership roles at the CDG: female heads of CD laboratories and JR centres.
Source: FTB 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

4

Annex

Annex I – Directories and data sources

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Data sources

EUROSTAT Database: The Statistical Office of the European Union provides official data on a wide range of topics. The database includes data from EU Member States and figures for some indicators are also available for major non-EU economies such as the USA.

Global Innovation Index 2025 (GII): The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) of the United Nations. From 2013–2020, the GI was published in collaboration with the French business school INSEAD and Cornell University. Since 2021, the GI has been compiled by WIPO in collaboration with the Portulans Institute, various businesses and academic network partners, and the GI Advisory Board. In 2025, 139 economies were compared both on the overall index and in terms of detailed indicators on the input and output of the innovation system.

DESI Dashboard for the Digital Decade: Since 2014, the European Commission has monitored the digital progress of the Member States using the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). The DESI has been integrated into the State of the Digital Decade report since 2023. The accompanying dashboard compares Europe's performance in the four areas of the Digital Decade policy programme: digital skills, digital infrastructure, digitalisation of businesses, and digitalisation of public services.

European Innovation Scoreboard 2025 (EIS): The European Innovation Scoreboard report provides a comparative analysis of the innovation performance of EU Member States and other European and non-European countries.

OECD – Main Science and Technology Indicators: The OECD publishes key indicators covering a broad range of topics, including the economy, education, energy, transport, and research and development.

Education at a Glance 2024: In the Education at a Glance report, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes an annual collection of internationally comparable indicators on education. The focus is on educational participation, graduation rates, investment in education, and teaching and learning environments.

The Atlas of Economic Complexity: The Atlas of Economic Complexity, produced by Harvard University, includes an index of economic complexity. The index is derived from trade data and reflects the knowledge intensity of goods and the processes required to produce them.

Scimago Journal & Country Ranks: The Scimago Journal & Country Rank database is a publicly accessible portal that provides indicators on scientific publications.

Scopus: Scopus is a subscription-based literature database that also enables advanced searches and bibliometric analyses.

Brief description of the performing and funding sectors in the R&D survey

Performing sectors

Higher education sector: This sector comprises universities (public and private), universities of applied sciences and other tertiary education institutions, as well as institutions administered and controlled by them (e.g. research centres).

Government sector: This sector includes institutions belonging to federal units (Bund), regional units (Länder), local units (Gemeinden), chambers (statutory interest groups), social security institutions and private non-profit institutions controlled by government units. Institutions belonging to the higher education sector are excluded. Classification follows the rules of the OECD Frascati Manual. For example, since 2017 the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) and Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH have no longer been assigned to the business enterprise sector but to the government sector. In addition, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) was reclassified from the higher education sector to the government sector in 2017. Such reclassifications of major institutions may have a substantial impact on statistical results.

Private non-profit sector

This sector comprises private non-profit institutions, particularly associations (Vereine), as defined by the European System of Accounts.

Business enterprise sector

The business enterprise sector is subdivided into the “institutes sub-sector” (kooperativer Bereich) and the “company R&D sub-sector” (firmeneigener Bereich). (as defined by the European System of Accounts). The company R&D sub-sector comprises all conventional profit-oriented enterprises. Institutions belonging to the institutes sub-sector are service providers that perform research and experimental development on behalf

of enterprises. These organisations generally do not operate with the primary objective of generating profits or securing their own economic advantage. This sector consists of the ordinary members of the Association of Austrian Cooperative Research Organisations (ACR – Austrian Cooperative Research) and the competence centres established under the COMET Programme (Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies), which are intended to foster sustainable research collaboration between science and industry. A further distinction is made between **R&D performing domestic enterprises** and foreign controlled enterprises. Foreign controlled enterprises are generally defined as those in which foreign ownership exceeds 50% of share capital. In simplified terms, these are subsidiaries of multinational enterprises conducting R&D activities in Austria. The country of headquarters is defined as the country in which the ultimate controlling company is located. Among Austria's major R&D-performing enterprises, a large number are subsidiaries of multinational corporations, which finance a considerable share of R&D activities carried out within their Austrian corporate groups.

Sectors of funding

Business enterprise sector: This sector comprises all enterprises located in Austria, irrespective of whether they are domestically or foreign controlled. An enterprise's own funds refers to R&D expenditure financed directly by the R&D performing enterprise itself. It also includes the R&D premium, which, in accordance with the Frascati Manual guidelines, is assigned to the business enterprise sector but may be reported separately. Funding from "domestic enterprises of the same enterprise group" refers to enterprises belonging to the same corporate group that have their registered office in Austria. "Other domestic enterprises" are enterprises not belonging to the

same corporate group that have their corporate headquarters in Austria. Enterprises located abroad are assigned to the "abroad" sector (see below).

Government sector: The government sector is further subdivided into the categories federal government, regional governments, local governments and other public sector funding. The latter includes, among others, aws, FWF and FFG. Public universities and nationalised enterprises are not included in this category.

Private non-profit sector: See the description under Performing Sectors.

Higher education sector: Self-financing comprises income generated by higher education institutions themselves, for example through technical testing and expert services, donations and sponsorship (as distinguished from basic institutional funding, which is classified as part of the government sector).

Abroad: Funding from abroad is broken down into several categories: the EU, international organisations, foreign enterprises and other funding from abroad. Foreign enterprises represent by far the largest component and are further subdivided into foreign enterprises of the same enterprise group and other foreign enterprises, analogous to the classification used for the business enterprise sector.

Annex II – Definitions and abbreviations

Monitoring definitions in accordance with FoFinaG

Time to contract: The processing time refers to the period between the receipt of an application by the research funding institutions and the finalisation (dispatch) of the contract to the funding recipient.

Participations in Framework Programmes (FP):

Indicator 4 presents the number of European Research Council (ERC) grants secured. This includes Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants awarded in the role of coordinator only (i.e. excluding co-beneficiaries). In addition, Indicator 5 reports the number of newly approved participations by research institutions in programmes and initiatives under the current EU Framework Programme, including ERC grants. Unlike Indicator 4, all participation roles are counted here (Coordinator, Partner and Third Party). Only EU funding is included in the approved funding amounts; own contributions and national co-financing are excluded. Consequently, projects involving Third Parties do not show approved funding amounts. For both Indicators 4 and 5, the reference year is the year in which the grant agreement was signed.

Third-party funding: Third-party funding received by research institutions comprises both contract research income (from private and public clients) and competitively acquired research funding. Funding from the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development (NFTE), the Austrian Fund (Ö-Fonds) and the Future Austria Fund (FZÖ) is also included as third-party funding. Contributions from project partners, other

income arising from internal cost allocation, Public Employment Service (AMS) subsidies and the research premium are not included.

Grants: The grant volumes acquired by research institutions are reported on the basis of approved funding amounts, excluding own contributions. To avoid double counting, only projects newly acquired and contractually secured during the respective reporting year are included; ongoing projects are not counted. The relevant reference year is the year in which the contract was concluded.

Research Infrastructure: All research infrastructures acquired during the reporting period are recorded if they have a cumulative acquisition value exceeding €100,000 (including VAT) as of 31 December and are located at the institution concerned. Research infrastructures are instruments for excellent research, research-led teaching, the training of early-career researchers, institutional profiling and knowledge transfer. They support technological progress and societal innovation. Research infrastructures include facilities, equipment, installations and other resources operated at a single site, across multiple sites or in virtual form. For further information, see the Knowledge Balance Sheet Ordinance 2016²¹² Wissensbilanzverordnung), the Austrian Research Infrastructure Database²¹³ and the Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2030²¹⁴.

Funding budget: Research funding organisations use different terms to describe their funding and financing activities. For FoFinaG monitoring purposes, approved funding commitments, reported as present values, are used.

212 Wissensbilanz-Verordnung 2016 – WBV 2016, StF: BGBl. II Nr. 97/2016.

213 <https://forschungsinfrastruktur.bmfwf.gv.at>

214 https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/dam/jcr:7684e7e0-1540-4084-aefb-643f90c56859/FI-Aktionsplan%202030_BF.pdf

Total Income: Total income corresponds to turnover and other operating income as reported in ownership and financial controlling in accordance with the Austrian Commercial Code (UGB).

Glass Ceiling Index: According to She Figures²¹⁵, the Glass Ceiling Index compares the proportion of women among all employees with the proportion of women in the highest decision-making positions. The index may take values between zero and infinity. A value below 1 indicates a relative overrepresentation of women in leadership positions, whereas a value above 1 indicates underrepresentation. The higher the value, the greater the degree of underrepresentation.

Global budget: The global budget or core funding (or basic institutional funding) comprises all contributions provided by owners, shareholders or maintaining bodies without earmarking, often on the basis of funding or performance agreements. The allocation of core funding is determined by the institution itself.

Employees: Employees include salaried staff, freelance contract staff, temporary workers and marginal part-time employees. Staff on parental leave or other forms of extended leave, as well as persons engaged under contracts for services, are excluded.

Practice Partners: Practice partners are cooperation partners with implementation relevance that do not belong to the industrial sector. Examples include service providers, hospitals, public authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Doctoral Candidates and PhD Students: With the exception of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA), the research institutions covered by the FoFinaG do not have the right to award doctoral degrees. Consequently, all doctoral candidates who are supervised primarily at the research institution in cooperation with a university are attributed to those institutions.

Publications: Only scientific publications are included; project reports and similar outputs are excluded. Publications must have undergone a quality assurance process (peer review), possess an identifiable persistent identifier (e.g. DOI or ISSN), and have been published in scientific journals, edited volumes, conference proceedings or monographs. Publications with multiple authors are counted on a whole-count basis, meaning that each author is credited with the publication in full.

Foundation Funding: At the end of 2020 two important sources of research funding came to an end with the final special allocation to the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development (NFTE) and the Austria Fund (Ö-Fonds). However, in subsequent years, remaining NFTE and Ö-Fonds resources can still be drawn upon. In addition, since 2022 the institutions concerned (aws, CDG, FFG, FWF, LBG and OeAW) have also had access to funding from the Future Austria Fund (FZÖ). Under Indicator 1 (Funding, including third-party funding), funding from these three sources is reported in aggregated form.

Reference Date: Unless otherwise specified, all figures refer to the reference date of 31 December of the respective reporting year.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL): The TRL is a scale used to assess the development and maturity of new technologies on the basis of a systematic evaluation. The scale ranges from 1 to 9 and indicates the degree of technological maturity. TRL 1 refers to basic research, whereas TRL 9 describes technologies that have been successfully demonstrated and proven in operational use.

²¹⁵ <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/67d5a207-4da1-11ec-91ac-01aa75ed71a1>

Country codes

AT	Austria
AU	Australia
BA	Brazil
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CH	Switzerland
CN	China
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GB	Great Britain
GR	Greece
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
RU	Russia
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
US	United States of America
ZA	South Africa

Abbreviations

ACA	Advanced Computing Austria
ACR	Austrian Cooperative Research
ACTRIS	Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure
AIM AT 2030	Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
AITHYRA	Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine
AMS	Public Employment Service
ANAM	Agence Nationale de la Météorologie
ASC	Austrian Scientific Computing
ASEP	Austrian Socio-Economic Panel
ASFINAG	Autobahnen- und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs-Aktiengesellschaft (Motorway and Expressway Financing Joint-Stock Company)
AT-C3	Austrian Chips Competence Center
aws	Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
BFG	Bundesfinanzierungsgesetz (Federal Finance Act)
BGF	Betriebliche Gesundheitsförderung (Workplace health promotion)
BJA	Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery)
BMASGPK	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health Care and Consumer Protection)
BMAW	Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Wirtschaft (Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy)
BMB	Bundesministerium für Bildung (Federal Ministry of Education)
BMBWF	Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research)
BMEIA	Bundesministerium für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten (Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs)
BMF	Bundesministerium für Finanzen (Federal Ministry of Finance)

BMFWF	Bundesministerium für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research)
BMI	Bundesministerium für Inneres (Federal Ministry of the Interior)
BMJ	Bundesministerium für Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)
BML	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Water Management)
BMLUK	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt, Klima, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)
BMLV	Bundesministerium für Landesverteidigung (Federal Ministry of Defence)
BMSGPK	Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)
BMVIT	Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie (Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology)
BMWET	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus (Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism)
BMWKMS	Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport (Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport)
BOKU	Universität für Bodenkultur (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)
CAM	Circular Advanced Materials
CDG	Christian Doppler Research Association
CeMM	Research Centre for Molecular Medicine
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CGMW	Commission for the Geological Map of the World
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
CPC codes	Cooperative Patent Classification code

CRG	Clinical Research Groups
CRMA	Critical Raw Materials Act
CTO	Chief Technology Officer
DAS	Digital Services Act
DESI	Digital Economy and Society Index
DGGV	German Society for Geosciences
EAP	Employee Assistance Programme
EASAC	European Academies' Science Advisory Council
ECF	
ECI	Economic Complexity Index
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
ECN	Entrepreneurship Center Network
EGDI	Europäische Geologische Dateninfrastruktur
EGS	European Geological Surveys
EIC	European Innovation Council
EIS	European Innovation Scoreboard
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
EPC	European Patent Convention
EPO	European Patent Office
EPOS	European Plate Observing System
ERA	European Research Area
ERA-NAP	ERA National Action Plan
ERC	European Research Council
ESBS	electronics and software-based systems
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
EU	European Union
EUDIS	EU Defence Innovation Scheme
EuroHPC JU	European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
FFG	Austrian Research Promotion Agency
FinV	Finanzierungsvereinbarung (funding agreement)
FoFinaG	Forschungsfinanzierungsgesetz (Research Financing Act)
FOG	Forschungsorganisationsgesetz (Research Organisation Act)
FTE	full-time equivalent
fteval	Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation

FWF	Austrian Science Fund	MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
FWIT-Council	Austrian Council for Sciences, Technology, and Innovation	NCIA	Net Zero Industrial Act
FZÖ	Fonds Zukunft Österreich (Future Austria Fund)	NFTE	Nationalstiftung für Forschung, Technologie und Entwicklung (National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development)
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch	NPO	Non Profit Organisation
GBARD	Government Budget Allocations for Research and Development	NZIA	Net-Zero Industry Act
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System	OAMA	Open Access Monitor Austria
GDP	gross domestic product	öbv	Österreichischer Bundesverlag Schulbuch (Austrian Federal Publishing House)
GEO	Group on Earth Observations	OeAD	OeAD-GmbH-Agency for Education and Internationalisation
GII	Global Innovation Index	OeAW	Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
GSA	GeoSphere Austria	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
GSAG	GeoSphere Austria Act	Ö-Fonds	Österreich-Fonds (Austria Fund)
GSEU	Geological Service for Europe	OIS Center	Open Innovation in Science Center
GUEP	Gesamtösterreichischer Universitätsentwicklungsplan (Austrian University Development Plan)	PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty
HMIS2030	Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030	PECVD	plasma-enhanced chemical vapour deposition
HPC	High-performance computing	PEEK	Programm zur Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste (Arts-Based Research program)
HTS	Human.technology Styria	R&D	Research and development
ICT	information and communication technology	RIC	Resources Innovation Center
iit	Institute for Innovation and Technology	RoRI	Research on Research Institute
IMBA	Institute of Molecular Biotechnology	RPA	Relative Specialisation Index
IMD	International Institute for Management Development	RTI	Research, Technology and Innovation
IPCEI	Important Projects of Common European Interest	SAL	Silicon Austria Labs GmbH
IPCEI AST	IPCEI Advanced Semiconductor Technologies	SMEs	Small and medium sized enterprises
ISTA	Institute of Science and Technology Austria	SPRIND	Bundesagentur für Sprunginnovationen (German Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation)
JPO	Japan Patent Office	SRAB	Strategic Research Advisory Board
KFG	Klinische Forschungsgruppen (Clinical Research Groups)	SSU	Scientific Service Units
KLIEN	Klima- und Energiefonds (Climate and Energy Fund)	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
KMFA	Austrian Institute for SME Research	TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
K-PASS	Kybernet-Pass	THE Rankings	Times Higher Education World University Rankings
LBG	Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft (Austrian Association for the Promotion of Scientific Research)		
LBI	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute		
MRI	Mineral Raw Materials Research Partnerships		

TRLs	Technology Readiness Levels	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
TU Wien	Technical University of Vienna	WTR	World Talent Ranking
UAS	universities of applied sciences	WTZ	Knowledge Transfer Centres
UG	Untergliederung (subheading)	ZAT	Centre for Applied Technology
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	ZSI	Centre for Social Innovation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization	WDC	World Data System
UP	Unitary Patent	WFA	Wirkungsorientierte Folgenabschätzung
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office	WIPO	Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
VSC	Vienna Scientific Cluster	WMO	Weltwetterorganisation
WDC	World Data System	WoS	World of Science
WFA	Impact Oriented Assessment	WTR	World Talent Ranking
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	WTZ	Wissenstransferzentrum
		ZSI	Zentrum für Soziale Innovation

Annex III – Research funding and contracts according to the Federal Research Database

The database for recording federal research funding and research contracts (B_f.dat) has existed since 1975 and was originally established within the former Federal Ministry of Science and Research as the Federal Fact Documentation System (Faktendokumentation des Bundes). Today, the database is maintained by the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF). The obligation of the federal ministries to report to the Federal Minister responsible for science is laid down in the Research Organisation Act (Forschungsorganisationsgesetz, FOG), Federal Law Gazette No. 341/1981, as amended. In 2008, the system was converted into a database to which all federal ministries have access and in which they independently record research-relevant funding and research contracts. Each ministry is responsible, within its area of competence, for the validity and completeness of its data. Since 1 June 2016, the Federal Research Database has been publicly accessible and provides an up-to-date overview of research projects funded by the federal ministries.²¹⁶ As a documentation database, B_f.dat also records brief descriptive information on the registered research funding and contracts.

For each reporting year, the database includes ongoing, newly approved and completed grants, together with their total funding volume and the amounts actually disbursed during the reporting year. It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of R&D studies, expert reports, evaluations, funding measures and other research-related activities commissioned directly by the federal government, as well as the federal funding.

The Federal Research Database therefore makes an important contribution to transparency in the allocation of public funds and to providing a comprehensive overview of research funding in Austria. Overall, however, the volume of research contracts and funding measures commissioned directly by the federal ministries is comparatively small, particularly when considered alongside university budgets and the resources of Austria's research funding institutions (for details, see the overview on the use of federal funds in Annex IV). The amounts should therefore be regarded as supplementary information provided in the interest of maximum transparency and completeness.

²¹⁶ <https://extapp.noc-science.at/apex/f?p=115:1>

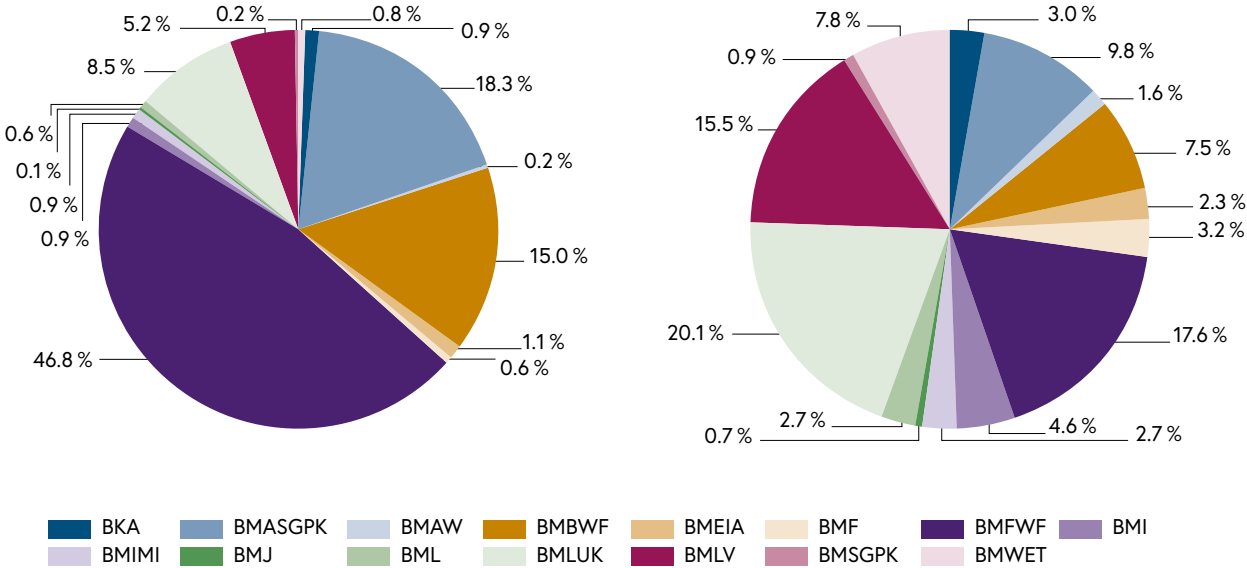
Figure A-1 provides an overview of the R&D projects recorded by the federal ministries in B_f.dat. It shows both the percentage share of R&D projects attributable to each ministry and the corresponding share of total funding. The data indicate that in 2025 a total of 438 R&D projects received funding amounting to €810.55 million. This total also includes general institutional funding. Overall, approximately 88.0% of funding disbursed in 2025 was paid as funding to various research institutions. Excluding this, the remaining funding volume amounted to just under €97.34 million. This was €15.15 million, or 13.5%, lower than in 2024. It should be noted that the annual funding volume frequently includes instalments relating to ongoing or completed projects and is therefore subject to annual fluctuations depending on project progress.

As in previous years, the BMFWF²¹⁷ (formerly BMBWF) accounted for the largest share of both project

entries and funding volumes in 2025. As shown in Figure A-1, the ministry was responsible for 25.1% of all R&D projects²¹⁸ and for 61.7% of total funding amounts (excluding general funding) . Compared with 2024, the ministry's share of funded projects increased by 1.6 percentage points, while its share of total disbursements declined by almost seven percentage points. In terms of funding volume, the next largest shares were accounted for by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK²¹⁹), with 18.4%, and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK; formerly BML²²⁰), with 9.1%.

The comparatively small share attributable to the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), at 0.9%, reflects the fact that most R&D funding within its remit is channelled through Austria's research funding institutions, primarily FFG and aws.

Figure A-1: Share of ongoing and completed R&D projects and grants by funding amounts in 2025 (left-hand chart) and by funding cases (right-hand chart), in %



Source: BMFWF, Federal Research Database B-f.dat; illustration: WPZ Research.

217 Note: On 1 April 2025, the BMBWF was renamed the BMFWF. Figure A-1 distinguishes between BMBWF and BMFWF, whereas a combined total is reported here.

218 Due to combined projects between the ministries, double-counting may occur in this form of presentation.

219 Note: On 1 April 2025, the BMSGPK was renamed the BMASGPK. Figure A-1 distinguishes between BMSGPK and BMASGPK, whereas a combined total is reported here.

220 Note: On 1 April 2025, the BML was renamed the BMLUK. Figure A-1 distinguishes between BML and BMLUK, whereas a combined total is reported here.

Annex IV – Statistics

Financing of gross domestic expenditure on R&D²²¹

According to estimates by Statistics Austria, approximately €17.6 billion will be spent on research and development (R&D) in Austria in 2026. The research intensity, i.e. the share of R&D expenditure in nominal gross domestic product (GDP), is therefore expected to amount to 3.34%. In 2025, the estimated research intensity stood at 3.39%. Nominal gross domestic expenditure on R&D is estimated to increase by 1.4% between 2025 and 2026, which is slightly below the projected growth in nominal GDP of 3.1%. Over the past two decades, Austria's expenditure on research and development has increased substantially. The research intensity amounted to 3.13% in 2016, and 2.38% in 2006.

In 2026, enterprises in Austria are expected to finance approximately €8.9 billion of R&D expenditure, accounting for around one half of total R&D funding (50%). Business sector funding of R&D also includes payments under the research premium, which the Federal Ministry of Finance estimates will amount to €1.3 billion in 2026.

The government sector is expected to contribute approximately €5.8 billion, corresponding to 33% of total R&D funding. The federal government represents the most important source of funding, accounting for more than €4.7 billion (27%). Austria's regional governments are expected to provide around €770 million, while other public institutions (e.g. municipalities, chambers, social insurance institutions and higher education institutions) are projected to contribute approximately €260 million.

Funding from abroad, primarily from foreign enterprises, is estimated to finance R&D activities in Austria

to the amount of €2.9 billion in 2026, corresponding to 16% of total R&D expenditure.

The estimate of Austria's gross domestic expenditure on R&D in 2026 is based on federal government and regional governments budget estimates and financial statements, current economic forecasts and preliminary trends derived from the most recent R&D survey for 2024.

Federal government R&D expenditure in 2026

The tables entitled "Federal Expenditure on Research and Research Funding" present all federal expenditure relevant to research, including the research-related share of Austria's contributions to international organisations. The source is the "Detailed overview of research-relevant federal expenditure" (Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendung des Bundes) contained in the R&D Annex to the Federal Finance Act (BFG) 2026 (Parts A and B). The methodological basis is the internationally applied Government Budget Allocations for R&D (GBARD) concept.²²² Unlike the domestic expenditure concept, the GBARD approach includes research-related contributions to international organisations and forms the basis for the classification of R&D budget data by socio-economic objectives for reporting to the European Union and the OECD.

In 2026, the largest shares of federal expenditure on research and research funding are allocated to the following socio-economic objectives (as a percentage of total funding):

- Advancement of knowledge: 27.0%
- Industrial production and technology: 25.9%
- Health: 21.5%

²²¹ Based on the results of the R&D statistical surveys and other currently available documents and information (in particular the R&D-relevant budget and financial data provided by the federal government and the regional governments), Statistics Austria usually produces the "Global estimate of Austrian gross domestic expenditure on R&D" each year. This global estimate also includes retrospective revisions and updates based on the latest data. The funding of expenditure on research and experimental development conducted in Austria is presented in accordance with the definitions set out in the Frascati Manual, which is recognised internationally (OECD, EU) and thus ensures comparability across countries.

²²² GBARD: Government Budget Allocations for Research and Development.

- Social structures and relationships: 6.0%
- Exploration and exploitation of the Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and space: 5.1%
- Production, distribution and rational utilisation of energy: 3.2%
- Environmental protection: 2.8%

R&D expenditure by the Austrian provinces

The subtotal for R&D funding provided by Austria's provinces shown in Table A IV-1 is based on R&D expenditure estimates reported by the regional governments, derived from their respective budgets and financial statements. R&D expenditure of provincial hospitals is estimated annually by Statistics Austria in accordance with a methodology agreed with the provincial governments.

International comparison of R&D expenditure in 2023

The overview table presents Austria's position relative to the other EU Member States and selected additional countries using key R&D indicators (source: Eurostat). For international comparisons, detailed final data on R&D funding and R&D performance by sector of the economy, as well as on R&D personnel, are only currently available up to the reference year 2023.

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Table A IV-10: Research and experimental development (R&D), 2023, international comparison

Table A IV-1: Global estimate for 2026: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D
Funding of research and experimental development conducted in Austria 2012–2026

Funding	2012	2013 ¹⁾	2014	2015 ¹⁾	2016	2017 ¹⁾	2018	2019 ¹⁾	2020	2021 ¹⁾	2022	2023 ¹⁾	2024	2025	2026
1. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (in € million)	9,287.8	9,571.3	10,275.2	10,499.2	11,145.0	11,289.8	11,912.0	12,441.2	12,199.0	13,225.5	14,236.6	15,404.3	16,509.3	17,389.5	17,628.1
Of which financed by:															
Federal Government ²⁾	2,410.2	2,383.7	2,592.8	2,528.2	2,825.3	2,681.9	2,954.6	2,848.4	3,321.1	3,217.2	3,642.1	3,787.9	4,414.1	4,856.8	4,750.8
Research premium ³⁾	574.1	469.0	493.2	508.0	527.7	637.5	713.1	841.5	1,044.1	889.6	759.5	943.0	1,163.0	1,125.0	1,300.0
Regional governments ⁴⁾	416.3	307.5	461.6	345.0	445.8	392.7	500.6	464.4	568.7	490.5	586.2	597.5	726.8	762.4	770.4
Business enterprise sector ⁵⁾	4,243.3	4,665.8	4,901.3	5,222.2	5,377.5	5,532.8	5,610.6	5,982.3	5,030.7	6,114.6	6,596.9	7,167.9	7,198.5	7,524.4	7,590.4
Abroad ⁵⁾	1,495.9	1,590.2	1,664.0	1,737.7	1,802.2	1,874.3	1,944.4	2,110.8	2,022.8	2,278.3	2,392.9	2,609.3	2,698.0	2,800.2	2,886.1
Other ⁶⁾	148.0	155.2	162.3	158.1	166.6	170.7	188.8	193.9	211.7	235.2	259.0	298.7	308.9	320.6	330.4
2. Nominal GDP ⁷⁾ (in € billion)	316.59	321.19	330.11	342.08	355.67	367.29	383.23	395.71	380.32	406.23	449.38	477.84	494.09	512.81	528.53
3. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP	2.93	2.98	3.11	3.07	3.13	3.07	3.11	3.14	3.21	3.26	3.17	3.22	3.34	3.39	3.34

Date: 23 April 2026

Source: Statistics Austria. Based on funding data for R&D carried out in Austria. Data as of: April 2026.

1) Survey results.

2) 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023: Survey results (Federal Government, including FWF, FFG and the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development). 2012: Annex T to the Federal Finance Acts (Part b, performance); 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024: Detailed overviews of federal expenditure on research under the Federal Finance Acts (Part B, performance); 2025, 2026: Detailed overview of the use of federal funds for research in the Federal Finance Act 2026 (Part B, estimate). 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026: Including the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development.

3) 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023: Survey results. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026: Federal Ministry of Finance.

4) 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023: Survey results. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026: Based on R&D expenditure reported by the regional government offices (financial statements, funding estimates for 2025 and 2026).

5) 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023: Survey results. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026: Statistics Austria estimates.

6) Funding from local authorities (excluding Vienna), chambers, social security institutions, the higher education sector, other public funding and funding from the private non-profit sector. 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023: Survey results. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026: Estimates by Statistics Austria.

7) 2012–2025: Statistics Austria. As of March 2026. 2026: WIFO, main scenario.

Table A IV-2: Global estimate for 2026: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D, funding of research and experimental development carried out in Austria, 2012–2026, as a percentage of GDP

Funding	2012	2013 ¹⁾	2014	2015 ¹⁾	2016	2017 ¹⁾	2018	2019 ¹⁾	2020	2021 ¹⁾	2022	2023 ¹⁾	2024	2025	2026
1. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP	2.93	2.98	3.11	3.07	3.13	3.07	3.11	3.14	3.21	3.26	3.17	3.22	3.34	3.39	3.34
of which funded by:															
Federal Government ²⁾	0.76	0.74	0.79	0.74	0.79	0.73	0.77	0.72	0.87	0.79	0.81	0.87	0.89	0.95	0.90
Research premium ³⁾	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.19	0.21	0.27	0.22	0.17	0.20	0.24	0.22	0.25
Regional governments ⁴⁾	0.13	0.10	0.14	0.10	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15
Business enterprise sector ⁵⁾	1.34	1.45	1.48	1.53	1.51	1.51	1.46	1.51	1.32	1.51	1.47	1.43	1.46	1.47	1.44
Abroad ⁵⁾	0.47	0.50	0.50	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.53	0.53	0.56	0.53	0.53	0.55	0.55	0.55
Other ⁶⁾	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
2. Nominal GDP ⁷⁾ (in € billion)	316.59	321.19	330.11	342.08	355.67	367.29	383.23	395.71	380.32	406.23	449.38	477.84	494.09	512.81	528.53

Date 23 April 2026.

Source: Statistics Austria.

Based on funding data for R&D carried out in Austria. Data as of: April 2026. See Table A IV-1 for footnotes.

Table A IV-3: Federal expenditure on research and research funding 2023–2026,
Analysis of the detailed overviews of federal expenditure on research (Parts a and b)

Ministries ¹⁾	Actual results		Preliminary actual results		Budget estimate			
	2023 ²⁾		2024 ³⁾		2025 ³⁾		2026 ³⁾	
	€ million	%	€ million	%	€ million	%	€ million	%
Federal Chancellery ⁴⁾	2.308	0.1	2.077	0.0	2.193	0.0	2.384	0.0
Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sport	45.790	1.1	48.928	1.1	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Housing, Art, Culture, Media and Sport	–	–	–	–	53.620	1.1	48.920	1.0
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs	4.240	0.1	3.789	0.1	4.285	0.1	4.285	0.1
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research	3,125.883	76.3	3,428.285	78.0	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Education	–	–	–	–	34.497	0.7	37.733	0.8
Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research	–	–	–	–	3,717.735	76.6	3,706.284	77.0
Federal Ministry of Finance	36.312	0.9	45.588	1.0	46.576	1.0	46.622	1.0
Federal Ministry of the Interior	1.721	0.0	1.665	0.0	2.474	0.1	1.991	0.0
Federal Ministry of Justice	0.120	0.0	0.047	0.0	0.101	0.0	0.068	0.0
Ministry of Defence	3.392	0.1	8.716	0.2	6.797	0.1	6.884	0.1
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management	90.282	2.2	68.851	1.6	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management	–	–	–	–	65.641	1.4	65.956	1.4
Federal Ministry of Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology	605.410	14.8	559.675	12.7	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure	–	–	–	–	671.874	13.9	662.070	13.7
Federal Ministry of Labour and the Economy	171.396	4.2	226.186	5.1	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism	–	–	–	–	230.031	4.7	220.917	4.6
Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection	8.638	0.2	9.516	0.2	–	–	–	–
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection	–	–	–	–	15.205	0.3	16.019	0.3
Total	4,095.492	100.0	4,403.323	100.0	4,851.029	100.0	4,820.133	100.0

Date: April 2026

Source: Statistics Austria.

1) In accordance with the version of the Federal Ministries Act 1986 in force in the relevant year (2023: Federal Law Gazette I No. 98/2022; 2024: Federal Law Gazette I No. 44/2024; 2025, 2026: Federal Law Gazette I No. 10/2025). – 2) Federal Finance Act 2025, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research. – 3) Federal Finance Act 2026, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research. – 4) Including supreme bodies.

Table A IV-4: Detailed overview of federal expenditure with research relevance, 2024–2026

The following overviews are structured as follows:

1. Contributions from federal funds to international organisations whose objectives include research and research funding (Part a)
2. Budgeted federal expenditure on research and research funding in Austria (Part b, Federal Research Budget)

For the compilation of these expenditures, the primary guiding principle is their relevance to research, based on the OECD Frascati Manual definition of research, which is also applied by Statistics Austria in its surveys on research and experimental development (R&D).

BUNDESVORANSCHLAG 2026
Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendungen des Bundes
 (Beträge in Millionen Euro)

a) Beitragszahlungen an internationale Organisationen - Finanzierungsvoranschlag													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	An n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
			Bundeskanzleramt										
			UG10										
10010100	7800	100	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Ausland		0,248	100	0,248	0,224	100	0,224	0,196	100	0,196
10010100	7800	110	Mitgliedsbeitrag AV-Infostelle		0,045	5	0,002	0,045	5	0,002	0,041	5	0,002
10010200	7800	100	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Ausland										
10010402	7800	100	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Ausland	*	0,012	100	0,012	0,012	100	0,012	0,012	100	0,012
			Summe UG10		0,305		0,262	0,281		0,238	0,249		0,210
			Summe Bundeskanzleramt		0,305		0,262	0,281		0,238	0,249		0,210
			BM für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten										
			UG12										
12020200	7800	101	Mitgliedsbeitrag für OECD		5,267	35	1,843	5,267	35	1,843	4,580	35	1,603
12020200	7800	102	OECD-Energieagentur (Mitgliedsbeitrag)										
12020200	7840	002	Organisation der VN für industr.Entwicklung(UNIDO)	*	0,950	46	0,437	0,950	46	0,437	0,876	25	0,219
12020200	7840	003	Org. VN Erziehung,Wissensch.u.Kultur(UNESCO)		2,250	30	0,675	2,250	30	0,675	2,143	30	0,643
12020200	7840	056	UNODC Büro d. VN f. Drogen- u.Verbrechensbekämpfung		1,046	10	0,105	1,046	10	0,105	1,046	10	0,105
12020200	7840	100	IAEA – Intern. Atom Energie Agentur	*	3,500	35	1,225	3,500	35	1,225	3,483	35	1,219
			Summe UG12		13,013		4,285	13,013		4,285	12,128		3,789
			Summe BM für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten		13,013		4,285	13,013		4,285	12,128		3,789
			BM für Finanzen										
			UG15										
15010100	7800	000	Laufende Transferzahlungen an das Ausland		0,151	100	0,151	0,110	100	0,110	0,110	100	0,110
			Summe UG15		0,151		0,151	0,110		0,110	0,110		0,110
			Summe BM für Finanzen		0,151		0,151	0,110		0,110	0,110		0,110
			BM für Bildung										
			UG30										
30010300	7800	104	OECD-Schulbauprogramm		0,031	100	0,031	0,031	100	0,031		100	
30010400	7800	000	Laufende Transferzahlungen an das Ausland	*	0,444	100	0,444	0,444	100	0,444	0,528	100	0,528
			Summe UG30		0,475		0,475	0,475		0,475	0,528		0,528
			Summe BM für Bildung		0,475		0,475	0,475		0,475	0,528		0,528
			BM für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung										
			UG31										
31030100	7800	000	Laufende Transferzahlungen an das Ausland		0,900	100	0,900	0,850	100	0,850	0,810	100	0,810
31030100	7800	066	Forschungsvorhaben in internationaler Kooperation		0,301	100	0,301	0,281	100	0,281	0,271	100	0,271
31030100	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		2,467	50	1,234	2,773	50	1,387	1,758	50	0,879
31030300	7800	062	ESO		6,800	100	6,800	6,800	100	6,800	5,662	100	5,662

a) Beitragszahlungen an internationale Organisationen - Finanzierungsvoranschlag													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	Anm	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
31030300	7800	063	Europ. Zentrum für mittelfristige Wettervorhersage		1,600	100	1,600	1,652	100	1,652	1,577	100	1,577
31030300	7800	064	Molekularbiologie - Europäische Zusammenarbeit		4,761	100	4,761	4,367	100	4,367	3,991	100	3,991
31030300	7800	065	World Meteorological Organisation		0,600	50	0,300	0,495	50	0,248	0,500	50	0,250
31030300	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		1,015	50	0,508	0,990	50	0,495	0,947	50	0,474
31030300	7800	242	Beitrag für die CERN		30,000	100	30,000	30,000	100	30,000	29,484	100	29,484
			Summe UG31		48,444		46,404	48,208		46,080	45,000		43,398
			Summe BM für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung		48,444		46,404	48,208		46,080	45,000		43,398
			BM für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus										
			UG40										
40020100	7800	100	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Ausland		0,550	15	0,083	0,550	15	0,083	0,437	15	0,066
			Summe UG40		0,550		0,083	0,550		0,083	0,437		0,066
			Summe BM für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus		0,550		0,083	0,550		0,083	0,437		0,066
			BM für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur										
			UG34										
34010100	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		0,070	100	0,070	0,070	100	0,070	0,014	100	0,014
34010100	7800	600	ESA-Pflichtprogramme		19,462	100	19,462	19,462	100	19,462	23,497	100	23,497
34010100	7800	601	EUMETSAT		8,801	100	8,801	8,801	100	8,801	8,856	100	8,856
34010100	7800	602	OECD-Energieagentur		0,050	100	0,050	0,050	100	0,050	0,050	100	0,050
34010100	7800	603	ESA-Wahlprogramme		56,616	100	56,616	53,616	100	53,616	45,846	100	45,846
34010100	7830	000	Laufende Transfers an Drittländer		0,194	100	0,194	0,194	100	0,194	0,255	100	0,255
			Summe UG34		85,193		85,193	82,193		82,193	78,518		78,518
			UG41										
41010100	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		0,110	6	0,007	0,110	6	0,007	0,106	6	0,006
41010300	7800	000	Laufende Transferzahlungen an das Ausland		0,371	100	0,371	0,212	100	0,212	0,394	100	0,394
41010300	7830	000	Laufende Transfers an Drittländer		0,370	100	0,370	0,370	100	0,370	0,367	100	0,367
41020100	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen			100			100		0,060	100	0,060
41020402	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		0,066	15	0,010	0,066	15	0,010	0,074	15	0,011
41020500	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		0,030	15	0,005	0,030	15	0,005	0,035	15	0,005
41020500	7830	000	Laufende Transfers an Drittländer		0,482	15	0,072	0,482	15	0,072	0,468	15	0,070
41020601	7800	200	Beiträge an internationale Organisationen		0,050	50	0,025	0,050	50	0,025	0,038	50	0,019
			Summe UG41		1,479		0,860	1,320		0,701	1,542		0,932
			Summe BM für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur		86,672		86,053	83,513		82,894	80,060		79,450
			BM f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Klima- u. Umweltschutz, Regionen u. Wasserwirts.										
			UG42										
42050300	7800	080	FAO-Beiträge		3,200	51	1,632		51		3,208	51	1,636
42050300	7800	083	Int. Vertrag für pflanzengenetische Ressourcen		0,025	100	0,025	0,025	100	0,025	0,050	100	0,050
			Summe UG42		3,225		1,657	0,025		0,025	3,258		1,686
			Summe BM f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Klima- u.		3,225		1,657	0,025		0,025	3,258		1,686

a) Beitragszahlungen an internationale Organisationen - Finanzierungsvoranschlag													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	A n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
			Umweltschutz, Regionen u. Wasserwirts.										
			Teil a -Summe		152,835		139,370	146,175		134,190	141,770		129,237

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	A n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
			Parlamentsdirektion										
			UG02										
02010500	7330	086	Nationalfonds für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus	*	1,602	10	0,160	1,602	10	0,160	2,669	7	0,187
02010500	7330	091	Individualzahlungen an NS-Überlebende	*				2,000			14,350		
02010500	7330	092	Individualzahlungen an NS-Überlebende (Härfefälle)	*	2,544			2,544					
02010500	7330	093	Projektförderungen und soziale Programme	*									
			Summe UG02		4,146		0,160	6,146		0,160	17,019		0,187
			Summe Parlamentsdirektion		4,146		0,160	6,146		0,160	17,019		0,187
			Bundeskanzleramt										
			UG10										
10010100	6430	000	Sonstige Beratungskosten	*	0,099			0,129			0,098		
10010100	7260	000	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Inland		0,029	13	0,004	0,028	13	0,004	0,001	13	
10010100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	2,584	8	0,207	2,517	8	0,201	0,223	8	0,018
10010200	7260	000	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Inland		0,005	50	0,003	0,005	50	0,003	0,016	50	0,008
10010200	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		5,145	4	0,206	4,847	4	0,194	2,169	4	0,087
10010401	7340	001	Pauschalabgeltung gem. § 32 Abs.5 BStatG		70,241	1	0,702	57,219	1	0,572	64,231	1	0,642
			Summe UG10		78,103		1,122	64,745		0,974	66,738		0,755
			UG25										
25010500	7270	006	Werkleistungen durch Dritte (zw)	*	0,318	27	0,085	0,318	21	0,066	0,399	32	0,126
25010500	7420	313	Familie und Beruf Management GesmbH Förd. (zw)	*	1,040	67	0,700	1,040	67	0,700	1,190	59	0,700
25010500	7664	007	Forschungsförderung gem. § 39i FLAG 1967 (zw)								0,003	100	0,003
25020100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	1,694	3	0,055	1,694	3	0,055	1,052	2	0,021
25020400	7270	902	Sachverständige (Werkleistungen)								0,075	100	0,075
			Summe UG25		3,052		0,840	3,052		0,821	2,719		0,925
			Summe Bundeskanzleramt		81,155		1,962	67,797		1,795	69,457		1,680
			BM für Inneres										
			UG11										
11010200	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	0,072	100	0,072	0,113	100	0,113	0,100	100	0,100
11020300	7660	900	Zuschüsse f. lfd. Aufwand an private Institutionen	*				0,206	100	0,206			
11020600			Bundeskriminalamt	*	22,113	8	1,769	20,443	8	1,635	17,606	8	1,408
11030500	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	0,150	100	0,150	0,250	100	0,250	0,157	100	0,157
			Summe UG11		22,335		1,991	21,012		2,204	17,863		1,665
			UG18										
18010400	7660	900	Zuschüsse f. lfd. Aufwand an private Institutionen	*				0,010	100	0,010			
18010400	7670	309	Projekte des AMIF (EU) (zw)	*				0,206	100	0,206			
18010400	7672	009	Projekte des AMIF (Kofinanzierung)	*				0,054	100	0,054			
			Summe UG18					0,270		0,270			
			Summe BM für Inneres		22,335		1,991	21,282		2,474	17,863		1,665
			BM für Justiz										
			UG13										
13010100	6430	000	Sonstige Beratungskosten	*	0,046	50	0,023	0,201	50	0,101	0,094	50	0,047
13030101	6430	000	Sonstige Beratungskosten	*	0,075	60	0,045						
			Summe UG13		0,121		0,068	0,201		0,101	0,094		0,047
			Summe BM für Justiz		0,121		0,068	0,201		0,101	0,094		0,047
			BM für Landesverteidigung										
			UG14										

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	A n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
14070100	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	5,200	100	5,200	5,200	100	5,200	7,311	100	7,311
14070100	7411	002	FFG - FTI-Programme, Förderungen			100			100		0,169	100	0,169
14070200			Heeresgeschichtliches Museum	*	4,535	37	1,678	4,300	37	1,591	3,310	37	1,225
14080105	4691	000	Versuche und Erprobungen auf kriegstechn. Gebiet	*	0,056	10	0,006	0,056	10	0,006	0,113	10	0,011
			Summe UG14		9,791		6,884	9,556		6,797	10,903		8,716
			Summe BM für Landesverteidigung		9,791		6,884	9,556		6,797	10,903		8,716
			BM für Finanzen										
			UG15										
15010100	6430	001	Arbeiten des WIIW		1,032	50	0,516	1,002	50	0,501	0,973	50	0,487
15010100	6430	003	Arbeiten des Wifo	*	7,230	50	3,615	7,053	50	3,527	6,775	50	3,388
15010100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	2,271	18	0,409	2,211	18	0,398	1,695	18	0,305
15010100	7662	002	Institut für höhere Studien und wiss. Forschung	*	6,414	50	3,207	5,702	50	2,851	5,128	50	2,564
15010100	7669	020	Sonstige Förderungsbeiträge	*	0,100	100	0,100	0,100	100	0,100	0,987	100	0,987
15010600	7411	002	FFG - FTI-Programme, Förderungen		13,000	100	13,000	13,000	100	13,000	14,113	100	14,113
15010600	7411	003	FFG - FTI-Programme (F&E-Dienstleist., Sonst. WV)		3,000	100	3,000	3,000	100	3,000	2,614	100	2,614
15010600	7411	004	FFG - Administrative Kosten		1,100	100	1,100	1,100	100	1,100	1,444	100	1,444
			Forschungswirksamer Lohnnebenkostenanteil		21,524	100	21,524	21,989	100	21,989	19,576	100	19,576
			Summe UG15		55,671		46,471	55,157		46,466	53,305		45,478
			Summe BM für Finanzen		55,671		46,471	55,157		46,466	53,305		45,478
			BM für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport										
			UG17										
17020100	7672	132	Sporttechnologie Projekte	*	2,500	100	2,500	7,000	98	6,860	4,787	83	3,963
17020100	7678	008	Seibersd.Laboratories/Dopingkontr.a analytik/Forsch.	*	0,380	92	0,350	0,380	92	0,350	0,365	96	0,350
			Summe UG17		2,880		2,850	7,380		7,210	5,152		4,313
			UG32										
32010300			Denkmalschutz		55,045	18	9,908	56,936	18	10,248	53,245	18	9,584
32030100			Bundesmuseen		157,225	23	36,162	157,225	23	36,162	152,307	23	35,031
			Summe UG32		212,270		46,070	214,161		46,410	205,552		44,615
			Summe BM für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport		215,150		48,920	221,541		53,620	210,704		48,928
			BM für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz										
			UG20										
20010101	7340	302	Überweisung an das AMS gem. § 41 (2) (zw)	*	747,800	1	4,750	699,000	1	4,500	699,600	1	4,344
20010201	7270	006	Werkleistungen durch Dritte (zw)	*	506,658		0,150	337,655		0,150	395,119		0,137
20010202	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	4,600	1	0,065	5,100	1	0,075	3,264	2	0,074
			Summe UG20		1.259,058		4,965	1.041,755		4,725	1.097,983		4,555
			UG21										
21010100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	10,021	3	0,301	7,768	3	0,233	2,381	3	0,071
21010300	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	1,500	16	0,240	2,000	16	0,320	1,259	16	0,201
21010300	7660	900	Zuschüsse f. lfd. Aufwand an private Institutionen	*	5,620	2	0,112	5,000	2	0,100	6,044	2	0,121
21010400	7262	001	Beitrag Europ. Zentrum Wohlfahrtspol.u.Sozialfor.		0,666	50	0,333	0,666	50	0,333	0,622	50	0,311
21010400	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	7,001	2	0,140	5,758	2	0,115	1,732	2	0,035
21010400	7270	304	Werkleistungen EU-SILC		1,900	100	1,900	1,700	100	1,700	1,447	100	1,447
			Summe UG21		26,708		3,026	22,892		2,801	13,485		2,186
			UG24										
24010200	7411	087	Basiszuwendung AGES		67,023	11	7,373	67,023	11	7,373			

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	Anm	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
24010200	7420	012	Transferzahlungen AGES			11			11		62,151	11	6,837
24030100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	15,109	4	0,604	6,365	4	0,255	10,388	4	0,416
24030200	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	2,541	2	0,051	2,541	2	0,051	3,847	2	0,077
			Summe UG24		84,673		8,028	75,929		7,679	76,386		7,330
			Summe BM für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz		1.370,439		16,019	1.140,576		15,205	1.187,854		14,071
			BM für Bildung										
			UG30										
30010400			Qualitätsentwicklung und -steuerung	*	86,827	8	6,946	77,064	8	6,165	57,815	8	4,625
30010500			Lehrer/innenbildung		324,499	8	25,960	318,166	8	25,453	291,317	8	23,305
30010800	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		4,579	90	4,121	2,414	90	2,173	1,222	90	1,100
30020700			Zweckgebundene Gebarung Bundesschulen	*	7,709	3	0,231	7,709	3	0,231	10,464	3	0,314
			Summe UG30		423,614		37,258	405,353		34,022	360,818		29,344
			Summe BM für Bildung		423,614		37,258	405,353		34,022	360,818		29,344
			BM für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung										
			UG31										
31010100			Zentralstelle und Serviceeinrichtungen		80,982	20	16,196	79,545	20	15,909	63,186	20	12,637
31020100			Universitäten		5.315,934	51	2.711,126	5.299,676	51	2.702,835	4.776,739	51	2.436,137
31020100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		0,360	51	0,184	0,360	51	0,184	0,036	51	0,018
31020100	7348	001	Institute of Precision Medicine								10,566	100	10,566
31020100	7348	788	Institute of Precision Medicine RRF		9,000	100	9,000	41,000	100	41,000	21,068	100	21,068
31020100	7353	440	Klinischer Mehraufwand (Klinikbauten)		29,995	50	14,998	29,995	50	14,998	63,218	50	31,609
31020200			Fachhochschulen		509,824	18	91,768	482,592	18	86,867	453,853	18	81,694
31020300	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		1,484	22	0,326	1,464	22	0,322	1,111	22	0,244
31030100			Projekte und Programme	*	2,776	100	2,776	3,031	100	3,031	2,426	100	2,426
31030100	7260	000	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Inland		0,086	100	0,086	0,082	100	0,082	0,077	100	0,077
31030100	7270	034	Ersatzmethoden zum Tierversuch		0,150	100	0,150	0,050	100	0,050	0,126	100	0,126
31030100	7270	900	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		5,791	100	5,791	6,704	100	6,704	5,432	100	5,432
31030100	7280	018	OeAD-Abwicklung		2,379	100	2,379	2,308	100	2,308	2,359	100	2,359
31030100	7280	788	Werkleistungen (Sonstige Leist. v. Dritten) RRF		0,236	100	0,236	0,200	100	0,200	0,135	100	0,135
31030100	7411	069	OeAD Förderungen		19,258	100	19,258	20,132	100	20,132	17,470	100	17,470
31030100	7411	070	OeAD Begleitmaßnahmen		3,822	100	3,822	3,763	100	3,763	3,505	100	3,505
31030100	7413	788	Quantum Austria-RRF		21,600	100	21,600	18,241	100	18,241	11,885	100	11,885
31030100	7662	311	Institut für höhere Studien und wiss. Forschung		0,041	100	0,041	0,150	100	0,150	0,320	100	0,320
31030100	7665	007	Stiftung Dokumentationsarchiv		0,855	100	0,855	0,855	100	0,855	1,005	100	1,005
31030100	7679	120	Lfd. Transfers an sonstige juristische Personen		18,452	100	18,452	17,139	100	17,139	13,892	100	13,892
31030300			Basisfinanzierung von Institutionen	*	16,237	100	16,237	15,741	100	15,741	13,734	100	13,734
31030300	7270	031	Med Austron		1,740	100	1,740	1,740	100	1,740	3,480	100	3,480
31030300	7332	352	FWF Programme		324,482	100	324,482	326,685	100	326,685	346,873	100	346,873
31030300	7332	452	FWF Geschäftsstelle		18,500	100	18,500	17,000	100	17,000	15,872	100	15,872
31030300	7332	552	FWF Begleitmaßnahmen		1,500	100	1,500	1,500	100	1,500	1,500	100	1,500
31030300	7332	788	Quantum Austria FWF Programme RRF		0,160	100	0,160	3,558	100	3,558	8,743	100	8,743
31030300	7333	788	Quantum Austria FWF Geschäftsstelle RRF		0,004	100	0,004	0,001	100	0,001	0,238	100	0,238
31030300	7340	004	ISTA		171,000	100	171,000	165,669	100	165,669	118,421	100	118,421
31030300	7340	006	ÖAW - LV		176,265	100	176,265	175,223	100	175,223	163,191	100	163,191
31030300	7340	020	GeoSphere Austria		45,148	37	16,705	43,354	37	16,041	47,290	37	17,497

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	A n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
31030300	7661	022	Ludwig-Boltzmann-Gesellschaft		13,243	100	13,243	12,727	100	12,727	11,861	100	11,861
31030300	7679	007	Verein der Freunde der Salzburger Stiftung		1,000	100	1,000	1,000	100	1,000	1,000	100	1,000
			Summe UG31		6.792,304		3.659,880	6.771,485		3.671,655	6.180,612		3.355,015
			Summe BM für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung		6.792,304		3.659,880	6.771,485		3.671,655	6.180,612		3.355,015
			BM für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus										
			UG33										
33010100			Kooperation Wissenschaft-Wirtschaft		50,400	100	50,400	50,350	100	50,350	39,055	100	39,055
33010200			Innovation, Technologietransfer		140,896	100	140,896	149,646	100	149,646	157,513	100	157,513
33010300			Gründung innovativer Unternehmen		28,000	100	28,000	28,500	100	28,500	24,997	100	24,997
			Summe UG33		219,296		219,296	228,496		228,496	221,565		221,565
			UG40										
40060300	7330	080	Transferzahlungen an Klima- und Energiefonds		76,875	2	1,538	72,575	2	1,452			
			Summe UG40		76,875		1,538	72,575		1,452			
			Summe BM für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus		296,171		220,834	301,071		229,948	221,565		221,565
			BM für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur										
			UG34										
34010200	7273	788	AWS Aufbau- und Resilienzfazilität RRF Abwicklung		0,300	100	0,300	0,428	100	0,428	0,272	100	0,272
34010200	7274	022	IPCEI Abwicklungskosten								0,251	100	0,251
34010200	7274	788	FFG Aufbau- und Resilienzfazilität RRF Abwicklung		0,200	100	0,200	0,127	100	0,127	0,028	100	0,028
34010200	7340	100	FWIT-Rat		0,762	100	0,762	0,762	100	0,762	0,727	100	0,727
34010200	7411	021	Important Projects of Common European Interest			100			100		30,680	100	30,680
34010200	7411	022	Important Projects of Common European Interest-Abw										
34010200	7411	788	Lfd Transfers an verbundene Unternehmungen RRF		2,000	100	2,000	17,123	100	17,123	7,115	100	7,115
34010200	7413	001	Austrian Institute of Technology AIT- Förderungen			100			100			100	
34010200	7413	002	Austrian Institute of Technology AIT		68,647	90	61,782	67,173	90	60,456	65,873	90	59,286
34010200	7413	003	Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf NES		9,500	30	2,850	9,000	30	2,700	8,930	30	2,679
34010200	7413	004	Silicon Austria Labs GmbH		21,250	100	21,250	20,150	100	20,150	26,850	100	26,850
34010200	7414	002	Austria Tech		1,324	100	1,324	1,324	100	1,324	1,280	100	1,280
34010200	7414	788	FFG Aufbau- und Resilienzfazilität RRF Abwicklung										
34010200	7417	788	AWS Aufbau- und Resilienzfazilität RRF		17,500	100	17,500	8,322	100	8,322	6,702	100	6,702
34010200	7660	075	F&T-Förderung		1,030	100	1,030	1,606	100	1,606	0,225	100	0,225
34010200	7662	341	Joanneum Research Forsch.ges.m.b.H(Techn.schwerp)		2,255	100	2,255	2,255	100	2,255	2,282	100	2,282
34010200	7667	006	Sonstige gemeinnützige Einrichtungen		1,307	100	1,307	1,245	100	1,245	1,154	100	1,154
34010200	7668	040	Salzburg Research		0,360	100	0,360	0,360	100	0,360	0,360	100	0,360
34010200	7690	002	Preisverleihungen		0,005	100	0,005	0,005	100	0,005		100	
34010300	7260	000	Mitgliedsbeiträge an Institutionen im Inland		0,400	100	0,400	0,400	100	0,400	0,393	100	0,393
34010300	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		3,817	100	3,817	3,120	100	3,120	5,546	100	5,546
34010300	7273	011	AWS Abwicklungskosten		2,300	100	2,300	2,300	100	2,300	2,566	100	2,566
34010300	7274	011	FFG Abwicklungskosten		25,000	100	25,000	24,000	100	24,000	21,394	100	21,394
34010300	7277	488	aws Covid-19 Startup Hilfsfonds		0,027	100	0,027	0,031	100	0,031	0,035	100	0,035

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	Anm	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
34010300	7280	030	Abwicklungskosten FTI-Projekte, Beauftragungen an Dritte		0,500	100	0,500	0,500	100	0,500	0,331	100	0,331
34010300	7411	001	FFG - Basisprogramme		148,135	100	148,135	151,123	100	151,123	112,720	100	112,720
34010300	7411	002	FFG - FTI-Programme, Förderungen		202,439	100	202,439	202,439	100	202,439	138,917	100	138,917
34010300	7411	003	FFG - FTI-Programme (F&E-Dienstleist.,Sonst.WV)		10,000	100	10,000	10,000	100	10,000	2,698	100	2,698
34010300	7411	004	FFG - Administrative Kosten										
34010300	7412	001	Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH AWS - Förderungen		17,200	100	17,200	17,200	100	17,200	20,677	100	20,677
34010300	7412	002	Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH AWS		2,000	100	2,000	2,000	100	2,000	2,100	100	2,100
34010300	7412	003	Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH AWS - Admin.Kost.										
34010300	7417	488	aws COVID-19 Startup Hilfsfonds (Abwicklung)										
34010300	7432	030	FTI-Projekte, Förderungen		0,200	100	0,200	0,200	100	0,200	0,266	100	0,266
34010300	7470	000	K-Transfers an Unternehmungen m.Bundesbeteiligung		0,500	100	0,500	0,700	100	0,700	0,295	100	0,295
			Summe UG34		538,958		525,443	543,893		530,876	460,667		447,829
			UG41										
41010200	7330	080	Transferzahlungen an Klima- und Energiefonds	*	144,300	30	43,290	169,400	30	50,820	59,900	30	17,970
41020100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		4,530	50	2,265	4,530	50	2,265	2,154	50	1,077
41020100	7270	800	Dekarbonisierung/E-Mobilität			10			10		1,606	45	0,723
41020100	7270	801	E-Mobilität für alle: Urbane Elektromobilität										
41020100	7411	002	FFG - FTI-Programme, Förderungen		1,000	100	1,000	1,000	100	1,000		100	
41020100	7411	003	FFG - FTI-Programme (F&E-Dienstleist.,Sonst.WV)		0,010	100	0,010	0,010	100	0,010		100	
41020100	7411	004	FFG - Administrative Kosten		0,010	100	0,010	0,010	100	0,010		100	
41020100	7480	501	Progr.Kombinierter Güterverk.Straße-Schiene-Schiff		4,800	50	2,400	4,800	50	2,400	2,330	50	1,165
41020100	7660	000	Zuschüsse f. lfd. Aufwand an private Institutionen		1,030	95	0,979	1,030	95	0,979	1,303	95	1,238
41020100	7668	055	Technisches Museum Wien		0,621	80	0,497	0,621	80	0,497	0,450	80	0,360
41020402	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		0,963	5	0,048	0,963	5	0,048	0,766	5	0,038
41020402	7270	006	Werkleistungen durch Dritte (zw)		1,500	5	0,075	1,500	5	0,075	2,550	5	0,128
			Summe UG41		158,764		50,574	183,864		58,104	71,059		22,699
			Summe BM für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur		697,722		576,017	727,757		588,980	531,726		470,528
			BM f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Klima- u. Umweltschutz, Regionen u. Wasserwirts.										
			UG42										
42040100			Zentralstelle	*	6,790	100	6,790	6,767	100	6,767	5,797	100	5,797
42040200	7411	027	Lfd Transfers an Ernährungsagentur- AGES	*	31,483	33	10,389	31,483	33	10,389	28,235	33	9,318
42040200	7411	029	Lfd Transf.an Bundesamt u. Forschungszentr.f.Wald	*	24,500	33	8,085	22,500	33	7,425	29,160	33	9,623
42040200	7411	081	Lfd Transf.an Span.Hofreitschule- Lipizz.Gest.Piber		4,500	3	0,135	4,500	3	0,135	2,500	3	0,075
42040500			Land- und forstwirtschaftliches Schulwesen	*	110,201	22	24,244	107,409	22	23,630	106,466	22	23,423
42050300	7660	022	Nationale Agrarmaßnahmen	*	0,050	100	0,050	0,075	100	0,075	0,075	100	0,075
420504			Dienststellen Landwirtschaft	*	11,900	28	3,332	12,210	28	3,419	10,726	28	3,003
42060100	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte		0,692	20	0,138	0,692	20	0,138	0,514	20	0,103
42060200			Nationale und internat.	*	3,022	100	3,022	5,522	100	5,522	11,031	100	11,031

b) Bundesbudget Forschung - Finanzierungsvoranschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)													
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Bezeichnung	A n m	Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2026			Finanzierungsvoranschlag 2025			Vorläufiger Erfolg 2024		
					Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon		Insgesamt	hievon	
						%	Forschung		%	Forschung		%	Forschung
			Forstmaßnahmen										
42060300	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	0,250	100	0,250	0,340	100	0,340	0,245	100	0,245
42060400	7270	000	Werkleistungen durch Dritte	*	0,300	100	0,300	0,300	100	0,300	0,300	100	0,300
42060500			Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft		7,500	25	1,875	7,500	25	1,875	11,711	25	2,928
42060600			Siedlungswasserwirtschaft	*	1,200	100	1,200	1,200	100	1,200	1,244	100	1,244
			Summe UG42		202,388		59,810	200,498		61,215	208,004		67,165
			UG43										
43010200	7700	500	Investitionszuschüsse		170,376	1	1,704	170,214	1	1,702	108,033	1	1,080
43010300			Klima- und Energiefonds		76,750	2	1,535	72,450	2	1,449	364,150	2	7,283
43010500	7270	080	Forschungsaufwendungen		0,300	100	0,300	0,300	100	0,300	0,366	100	0,366
43020100	7270	080	Forschungsaufwendungen		0,200	100	0,200	0,200	100	0,200	0,218	100	0,218
43020100	7420	021	Transferzahlungen an die UBA Ges.m.b.H		25,000	3	0,750	25,000	3	0,750	25,000	3	0,750
			Summe UG43		272,626		4,489	268,164		4,401	497,767		9,697
			Summe BM f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Klima- u. Umweltschutz, Regionen u. Wasserwirts.		475,014		64,299	468,662		65,616	705,771		76,862
			Teil b -Summe		10.443,633		4.680,763	10.196,584		4.716,839	9.567,691		4.274,086
			Gesamtsumme Teil a + b		10.596,468		4.820,133	10.342,759		4.851,029	9.709,461		4.403,323

BUNDESVORANSCHLAG 2026

Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendungen des Bundes

Anmerkungen

Allgemeine Anmerkungen

Hinweis: BVA 2022 ist auf Grund der zwei BFG-Novellen (BGBl. I Nr. 100/2022 und BGBl. I Nr. 66/2022) aktualisiert.

*) F & E Koeffizienten geschätzt

Die Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendung des Bundes:

a) Beitragszahlungen aus Bundesmitteln an internationale Organisationen, die Forschung und Forschungsförderung (mit) als Ziel haben,

b) Bundesbudget-Forschung - Finanzierungsvorschlag (ausgen. die bereits im Abschnitt a) ausgewiesen sind)

Für die Aufstellung dieser Ausgaben ist in erster Linie der Gesichtspunkt der Forschungswirksamkeit maßgebend, der inhaltlich über den Aufgabenbereich 99 "Grundlagen-, angewandte Forschung und experimentelle Entwicklung" hinausgeht und auf dem Forschungsbegriff des Frascati-Handbuchs der OECD beruht, wie er im Rahmen der forschungsstatistischen Erhebungen der STATISTIK AUSTRIA zur Anwendung gelangt.

Forschungswirksame Anteile bei den Bundesausgaben finden sich daher nicht nur bei den Ausgaben des Aufgabenbereiches 99 "Grundlagen-, angewandte Forschung und experimentelle Entwicklung" sondern auch in zahlreichen anderen Aufgabenbereichen.

Finanzierungsvorschlag

VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Anmerkung
			Parlamentsdirektion
02010500	7330	091	BVA 2024: Forschungsanteil liegt bei 0,375 % (System rundet auf 0)
02010500	7330	086	*) Forschungsanteil für den FV 2022 liegt bei 4,55%, für den FV 2021 bei 3,79% und für den Erfolg 2020 bei 4,50% (System rundet).
			*) Erfolg 2022 wurden 13 Forschungsprojekte und 1 Rest-Teilbetrag in der Höhe von 190.163 Euro ausbezahlt, das wären rd. 3,615 vom NF-Gesamtbudget (5,260 Mio. Euro)
			*) BVA 2024: Forschungsanteil liegt bei 0,375 % (System rundet auf 0).
			vorläufiger Erfolg 2024: Forschungsanteil liegt bei 6,71 % (System rundet auf 7).
			*) Erfolg 2023: Die genannte Summe von 111.100 Euro für Forschungsprojekte umfasst Auszahlungen aus Fördermitteln des Nationalfonds 2023 für Förderprojekte, die von Projektfördernehmer:innen explizit unter dem Titel "Forschungsprojekt" beim Fonds eingereicht und genehmigt wurden.
02010500	7330	093	BVA 2024: Forschungsanteil liegt bei 0,375 % (System rundet auf 0 %)
02010500	7330	092	BVA 2024: Forschungsanteil liegt bei 0,375 % (System rundet auf 0 %)
			Bundeskanzleramt
10010100	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil ist 21,750 % System rundet.
			*) Ab 2023 unter sonstige Beratungskosten zu finden.
10010100	6430	000	*) Forschungsaufträge der Sektion IV 40010 und 40011
10010402	7800	100	*) jährlicher Betrag des österreichischen Staatsarchivs an den Internationalen Archivrat sowie an das DLM-Forum MTÜ.
25010500	7420	313	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei rd. 67,31 % (System rd. auf 67 %), im BVA 2025 bei rd. 67,31 % (System rd. auf 67 %) und im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei rd. 58,82% (System rd. auf 59 %).
25010500	7270	006	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei rd. 26,73 % (System rd. auf 27 %); im BVA 2025 bei rd. 20,75 % (System rd. auf 21 %) und im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei rd. 31,58 % (System rd. auf 32 %).
25010500	7664	007	
25020100	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei rd. 3,25 % (System rd. auf 3 %), im BVA 2025 bei rd. 3,25 % (System rd. auf 3 %).
25020400	7270	902	
			BM für Inneres
11010200	7270	900	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
11020300	7660	900	Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
11020600			* Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle
11030500	7270	900	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
18010400	7660	900	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
18010400	7670	309	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle
18010400	7672	009	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle
			BM für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten
12020200	7800	101	
12020200	7800	102	
12020200	7840	002	vorläufiger Erfolg 2024: Forschungsanteil ist 25,2 % (System rd. auf 25 %).

12020200	7840	100	IAEA 35 % Forschung => 1.190 BM für Justiz
13010100	6430	000	BVA 2025: * Erstellung „Rechtsextremismus-Bericht“ (Auftragnehmer: DÖW), im Jahr 2025 wurden 59.730 EUR für den 1. REX-Bericht 2023 bezahlt (Pauschalpreis 108.600 EUR exkl. USt.); jährliche Berichte für die Folgejahre 2024 bis 2028 (Kosten BMI/BMJ jeweils 46.020 EUR p.a. inkl. Ust.) * Studie zum Thema "Vor dem Gesetz sind alle gleich? Ein Projekt zur Sichtbarmachung von Diskriminierung und Ungleichheit von lesbischen, schwulen, bisexuellen, trans*, nichtbinären, intersexuellen und queeren Personen im Justizbereich" (Auftragnehmer: QWIEN - Zentrum für queere Geschichte), Auftragsvolumen: 30.000 EUR, Bezahlung in vier Raten, wobei 2 Raten im Jahr 2022, 1 Rate im Jahr 2023 (= 7.500 EUR) und 1 Rate (= 7.500 EUR) im Jahr 2024 bezahlt wurden. *"Evaluierung der Arbeit der Familiengerichtshilfe" (Auftragnehmer: Universität Wien), Auftragsvolumen: 93.207 EUR; davon wurden im Jahr 2023 46.603,50 EUR und weitere 46.603,50 EUR im Jahr 2024 bezahlt. *Studie zum "Modellprojekt Einigungsverfahren" (Auftragnehmer: Universität Innsbruck - Institut für angewandte Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie), Auftragsvolumen: 79.703 EUR, davon wurden 39.851,50 EUR im Jahr 2023 und nach ordnungsgemäßer Auftragsbefriedigung weitere 39.851,50 EUR im Jahr 2024 bezahlt. *"Historische Prüfung allfälliger nationalsozialistischer Vorbelastungen der in der Strafsache Gerszon Kupferblum als Entscheidungsorgane tätigen Justizbediensteten" (Auftragnehmer: Stiftung Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes), Auftragsvolumen: max. 5.500 EUR (inkl. 10% USt.). * Pilotstudie "Die Beamt:innen des Bundesministeriums für Justiz nach 1945 – Kontinuitäten und Brüche" (Auftragnehmer: Stiftung Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes), Auftragsvolumen: 90.121,37 EUR (inkl. 10% USt.).
13030101	6430	000	*) Studie iZm StVG-Novelle, Auftragsvolumen: 75.000 EUR BM für Landesverteidigung
14070100	7270	900	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle
14070200			Teilbetrag (eigene Fisl)
14080105	4691	000	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle BM für Finanzen
15010100	7662	002	*) Forschungsanteil liegt bei 100 %.
15010100	7669	020	Forschungsanteil liegt bei 100 %.
15010100	6430	003	Forschungsanteil liegt bei 50 %.
15010100	7270	000	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle; Forschungsanteil 18 %. 15010100 7270 000 (Statistik Austria) wird hinzugefügt, dass vor Jahren beschlossen wurde, dass für "Statistik" in der Beilage T 18 % der Gesamtsumme angenommen werden.
17020100	7678	008	BM für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport Erfolg 2022: Forschungsanteil ist 94,851 % (System rundet). BVA 2024: Forschungsanteil ist 92,105 % (System rundet). vorläufiger Erfolg 2024: 95,89 % (System rundet).
17020100	7672	132	Prozentsatz ist im vorläufigen Erfolg 82,78 (es wurde gerundet). BM für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz
20010101	7340	302	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei 0,64 % (System rd. auf 1 %), im BVA 2025 bei 0,64 % (System rd. auf 1 %) und im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 0,62 % (System rd. auf 1 %).
20010201	7270	006	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA bei 0,03 % (System rd. auf 0 %) im BVA 2025 bei 0,04 % (System rd. auf 0 %) und im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 0,03 % (System rd. auf 0 %).

20010202	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA bei 1,41 % (System rd. auf 1 %) im BVA 2025 bei 1,47 % (System rd. auf 1 %) und im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 2,27 % (System rd. auf 2 %).
21010100	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 2,98 % (System rd. auf 3 %).
21010300	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 15,97 % (System rd. auf 16 %).
21010300	7660	900	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei rd. 1,99 % (System rd. auf 2 %).
21010400	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im vorläufigen Erfolg 2024 bei 2,02 % (System rd. auf 2 %).
24030100	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2025 bei 4,01 % (System rd. auf 4 %).
24030200	7270	000	*) Forschungsanteil liegt im BVA 2026 bei rd. 2,01 % (System rd. auf 2 %, im BVA 2025 bei rd. 2,01 (System rd. auf 2 %).
			BM für Bildung
30010400			*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
30010400	7800	000	*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
30020700			*) Teilbetrag der Voranschlagsstelle.
			BM für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung
31030100			*) Der Restbetrag ergibt sich rechnerisch bei dieser VA-Stelle.
31030300			*) Der Restbetrag ergibt sich rechnerisch bei dieser VA-Anstelle.
			BM für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur
41010200	7330	080	* KLIEN: ab 2016 werden bei dieser Post nur mehr F&E-Projekte finanziert; daher die Erhöhung von 39 auf 95 %.
			BM f. Land- u. Forstwirtschaft, Klima- u. Umweltschutz, Regionen u. Wasserwirts.
42040100			*) PSP-Element 42P101010001
42040200	7411	029	*) Finanzstellen 90306 (AGES) und 90309 (BFW)
42040200	7411	027	*42040200 Finanzstellen 90306 (AGES) und 90309 (BFW)
42040500			*) Finanzstellen 22010 (Francisco-Joseph.), 22013 (Raumberg-Gump), 22016 (Gartenbau), 22112 (alpenl. Milchw.), 22014 (Hochschule) und 30812 (Klosterneuburg)
42050300	7660	022	HHP/PSP-Element 42P101010001
420504			*) Finanzstellen 25010 (BAB) und 30811 (BA Weinbau)
42060200			*) HHP/PSP-Element 42P101010001/002 - 1,692 irrtümlich mit HHP verbucht.
42060300	7270	000	HHP/PSP-Element 42P101010001+nicht auf HHP verbuchte Projekte.
42060400	7270	000	*) HHP/PSP-Element 42P101010001
42060600			*) Teilbetrag des DB; lt. Mitteilung der Förderungsabwicklungsstelle
Ergebnisvoranschlag			
VA-Stelle	Konto	Ugl	Anmerkung
Keine Anmerkungen erfasst.			

Table A IV-5: Federal expenditure, 2006 to 2026, on research and research funding by socio-economic objectives

Analysis based on Appendices T of the supporting documentation and the detailed overviews of federal expenditure with research relevance (Parts a and b) accompanying the Federal Finance Acts

Reporting years		Total federal expenditure on R&D													
			Funding the exploration of the Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and space	Funding of agriculture and forestry	Funding of trade, commerce and industry	Funding of energy generation, storage and distribution	Funding of transport, traffic and communications	Funding of education and training	Funding of health-care	Funding of social and socio-economic development	Funding of environmental protection	Funding of urban and spatial planning	Funding of national defence	Funding of other objectives	Funding of the general expansion of knowledge
2006 ¹⁾	in €1,000	1,697,550	76,887	57,698	411,462	20,951	42,795	18,997	379,776	81,812	53,279	9,602	126	-	544,165
	in %	100.0	4.5	3.4	24.2	1.2	2.5	1.1	22.4	4.8	3.1	0.6	0.0	-	32.2
2007 ²⁾	in €1,000	1,770,144	80,962	64,637	435,799	28,001	40,013	19,990	373,431	90,639	56,075	9,673	27	894	570,003
	in %	100.0	4.6	3.7	24.6	1.6	2.3	1.1	21.1	5.1	3.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	32.1
2008 ³⁾	in €1,000	1,986,775	87,751	66,273	525,573	24,655	39,990	37,636	422,617	90,879	57,535	12,279	142	-	621,445
	in %	100.0	4.4	3.3	26.5	1.2	2.0	1.9	21.3	4.6	2.9	0.6	0.0	-	31.3
2009 ⁴⁾	in €1,000	2,149,787	104,775	66,647	538,539	32,964	47,300	42,581	456,544	97,076	67,985	14,522	133	-	680,721
	in %	100.0	4.9	3.1	25.1	1.5	2.2	2.0	21.2	4.5	3.2	0.7	0.0	-	31.6
2010 ⁵⁾	in €1,000	2,269,986	103,791	67,621	587,124	39,977	56,969	50,648	472,455	99,798	67,114	12,792	123	-	711,574
	in %	100.0	4.6	3.0	25.9	1.8	2.5	2.2	20.8	4.4	3.0	0.6	0.0	-	31.2
2011 ⁶⁾	in €1,000	2,428,143	107,277	63,063	613,692	41,294	54,043	59,479	510,359	115,792	77,578	20,170	99	-	765,297
	in %	100.0	4.4	2.6	25.3	1.7	2.2	2.4	21.0	4.8	3.2	0.8	0.0	-	31.6
2012 ⁷⁾	in €1,000	2,452,955	103,432	60,609	607,920	55,396	47,934	65,537	499,833	121,570	86,776	20,338	120	-	783,490
	in %	100.0	4.2	2.5	24.8	2.3	2.0	2.7	20.4	5.0	3.5	0.8	0.0	-	31.8
2013 ⁸⁾	in €1,000	2,587,586	108,966	70,897	641,851	76,014	53,713	83,087	542,560	117,714	83,556	21,985	280	-	786,963
	in %	100.0	4.2	2.7	24.9	2.9	2.1	3.2	21.0	4.5	3.2	0.8	0.0	-	30.5
2014 ⁹⁾	in €1,000	2,647,489	113,173	60,714	689,214	64,582	64,675	81,354	566,058	119,780	48,381	22,639	961	-	815,958
	in %	100.0	4.3	2.3	26.0	2.4	2.4	3.1	21.4	4.5	1.8	0.9	0.0	-	30.9
2015 ¹⁰⁾	in €1,000	2,744,844	124,648	58,414	678,572	122,624	51,785	78,241	584,254	128,733	49,176	26,817	1,949	-	839,631
	in %	100.0	4.5	2.1	24.7	4.5	1.9	2.9	21.3	4.7	1.8	1.0	0.1	-	30.5
2016 ¹¹⁾	in €1,000	2,875,706	131,240	60,828	747,264	122,903	46,654	82,610	592,407	135,709	49,586	28,435	2,610	-	875,460
	in %	100.0	4.6	2.1	26.0	4.3	1.6	2.9	20.6	4.7	1.7	1.0	0.1	-	30.4

Reporting years		Total federal expenditure on R&D													
			Funding the exploration of the Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and space	Funding of agriculture and forestry	Funding of trade, commerce and industry	Funding of energy generation, storage and distribution	Funding of transport, traffic and communications	Funding of education and training	Funding of health-care	Funding of social and socio-economic development	Funding of environmental protection	Funding of urban and spatial planning	Funding of national defence	Funding of other objectives	Funding of the general expansion of knowledge
2017 ¹²⁾	in €1,000	2,889,779	144,552	70,329	728,136	106,887	68,214	74,493	609,919	159,300	45,228	35,171	4,899	9,730	832,921
	in %	100.0	5.0	2.4	25.2	3.7	2.4	2.6	21.1	5.5	1.6	1.2	0.2	0.3	28.8
2018 ¹³⁾	in €1,000	2,913,369	147,535	69,753	752,214	107,966	69,823	75,212	615,795	158,546	45,196	35,534	5,245	8,955	821,595
	in %	100.0	5.1	2.4	25.8	3.7	2.4	2.6	21.1	5.4	1.6	1.2	0.2	0.3	28.2
2019 ¹⁴⁾	in €1,000	3,009,644	160,949	70,930	780,351	92,750	82,573	75,403	609,233	172,216	48,224	30,273	5,466	-	881,276
	in %	100.0	5.3	2.4	25.9	3.1	2.7	2.5	20.2	5.7	1.6	1.0	0.2	-	29.4
2020 ¹⁵⁾	in €1,000	3,287,074	157,168	76,088	838,117	147,692	86,093	66,989	644,298	187,622	124,921	31,374	4,817	-	921,895
	in %	100.0	4.8	2.3	25.5	4.5	2.6	2.0	19.6	5.7	3.8	1.0	0.1	-	28.1
2021 ¹⁶⁾	in €1,000	3,269,575	158,085	85,861	853,128	125,493	89,392	65,745	709,763	190,817	70,974	45,476	4,275	-	870,566
	in %	100.0	4.8	2.6	26.2	3.8	2.7	2.0	21.7	5.8	2.2	1.4	0.1	-	26.7
2022 ¹⁷⁾	in €1,000	3,605,800	168,401	98,776	982,777	159,175	84,316	73,935	756,930	201,330	71,819	48,242	6,771	-	953,328
	in %	100.0	4.7	2.7	27.3	4.4	2.3	2.1	21.0	5.6	2.0	1.3	0.2	-	26.4
2023 ¹⁸⁾	in €1,000	4,095,492	204,453	138,619	1,036,752	154,003	88,362	81,703	880,721	244,942	81,989	60,101	7,332	-	1,116,515
	in %	100.0	5.0	3.4	25.2	3.8	2.2	2.0	21.5	6.0	2.0	1.5	0.2	-	27.2
2024 ¹⁹⁾	in €1,000	4,403,323	222,950	119,633	1,148,844	125,270	92,195	86,858	990,986	264,085	108,268	64,153	12,924	-	1,167,157
	in %	100.0	5.1	2.7	26.1	2.8	2.1	2.0	22.5	6.0	2.5	1.5	0.3	-	26.4
2025 ²⁰⁾	in €1,000	4,851,029	241,360	120,642	1,252,201	161,560	102,109	97,659	1,064,416	291,012	141,704	71,167	11,245	-	1,295,954
	in %	100.0	5.0	2.5	25.8	3.3	2.1	2.0	21.9	6.0	2.9	1.5	0.2	-	26.8
2026 ²¹⁾	in €1,000	4,820,133	243,583	119,353	1,247,687	155,234	104,037	101,081	1,036,931	289,222	135,095	71,423	11,481	-	1,305,006
	in %	100.0	5.1	2.5	25.9	3.2	2.2	2.1	21.5	6.0	2.8	1.5	0.2	-	27.0

Date: April 2026

Source: Statistics Austria.

1) Appendix T to the supporting documentation for the BFG 2008, results. Revised data. – 2) Appendix T to the Working Guide for the BFG 2009, results. – 3) Appendix T to the Working Guide for the BFG 2010, results. – 4) Appendix T to the supporting documentation for the BFG 2011, Results. – 5) Appendix T of the supporting documentation to the BFG 2012, results. – 6) Appendix T of the supporting documentation to the BFG 2013 (financing estimate), results. Revised data. – 7) Appendix T of the supporting documentation to the BFG 2014 (financing estimate), results. – 8) Appendix T of the supporting documentation to the Federal Finance Act 2015 (funding estimate), results. Revised data. – 9) Federal Finance Act 2016, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. – 10) Federal Finance Act 2017, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. Revised data. – 11) Federal Finance Act 2018, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. – 12) Federal Finance Act 2019, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. Revised data. – 13) Federal Finance Act 2020, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. – 14) Federal Finance Act 2021, Detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. Revised data. – 15) Federal Finance Act 2022, Detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. – 16) Federal Finance Act 2023, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, success. Revised data. – 17) Federal Finance Act 2024, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. – 18) Federal Finance Act 2025, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, results. Revised data. – 19) Federal Finance Act 2026, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, provisional results. – 20) Federal Finance Act 2026, detailed overview of federal expenditure on research, estimate.

Table A IV-6: Federal expenditure, 2026, on research and research funding by socio-economic objectives and departments

Breakdown of the annual values for 2026 of the “Detailed overview of the use of federal funds for research” for the Federal Finance Act 2026 (Part a and Part b)

Ministries		Total federal expenditure on R&D	Funding the exploration of the Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and space	Funding of agriculture and forestry	Funding of trade, commerce and industry	Funding of energy generation, storage and distribution	Funding of transport, traffic and communications	Funding of education and training	Funding of healthcare	Funding of social and socio-economic development	Funding of environmental protection	Funding of urban and spatial planning	Funding of national defence	Funding of other objectives	Funding of the general expansion of knowledge
BKA ²⁾	in €1,000	2,384	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1,962	–	420	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	–	0.1	–	–	82.3	–	17.6	–	–	–
BMWKMS	in €1,000	48,920	6,292	–	–	–	–	–	350	12,408	–	–	–	–	29,870
	in %	100.0	12.9	–	–	–	–	–	0.7	25.4	–	–	–	–	61.0
BMEIA	in €1,000	4,285	–	–	–	1,225	–	–	–	3,060	–	–	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	28.6	–	–	–	71.4	–	–	–	–	–
BMASGPK	in €1,000	16,019	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,028	7,991	–	–	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	0.0	–	–	–	–	50.1	49.9	–	–	–	–	–
BMB	in €1,000	37,733	–	–	–	–	–	37,733	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
BMF	in €1,000	46,622	1,575	1,523	16,142	2,096	597	647	6,358	9,810	1,788	497	51	–	5,538
	in %	100.0	3.4	3.3	34.6	4.5	1.3	1.4	13.6	21.0	3.8	1.1	0.1	–	11.9
BMFWF	in €1,000	3,706,284	189,572	53,578	732,237	52,029	55,135	62,701	988,885	243,327	47,467	68,467	4,680	–	1,208,206
	in %	100.0	5.1	1.4	19.8	1.4	1.5	1.7	26.7	6.6	1.3	1.8	0.1	–	32.6
BMI	in €1,000	1,991	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,991	–	–	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	100.0	–	–	–	–	–
BMIMI	in €1,000	662,070	40,977	6,398	329,915	80,014	46,508	–	28,438	6,069	65,581	2,039	1,159	–	54,972
	in %	100.0	6.2	1.0	49.8	12.1	7.0	–	4.3	0.9	9.9	0.3	0.2	–	8.3
BMJ	in €1,000	68	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	68	–	–	–	–	–
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	100.0	–	–	–	–	–
BMLUK	in €1,000	65,956	2,218	56,572	655	768	–	–	–	1,767	3,721	–	–	–	255
	in %	100.0	3.4	85.7	1.0	1.2	–	–	–	2.7	5.6	–	–	–	0.4
BMLV	in €1,000	6,884	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5,206	–	1,678
	in %	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	75.6	–	24.4
BMWET	in €1,000	220,917	2,949	1,282	168,738	19,102	1,795	–	4,872	769	16,538	–	385	–	4,487
	in %	100.0	1.3	0.6	76.5	8.6	0.8	–	2.2	0.3	7.5	–	0.2	–	2.0
Insgesamt	in €1,000	4,820,133	243,583	119,353	1,247,687	155,234	104,037	101,081	1,036,931	289,222	135,095	71,423	11,481	–	1,305,006
	in %	100.0	5.1	2.5	25.9	3.2	2.2	2.1	21.5	6.0	2.8	1.5	0.2	–	27.0

Date: March 2026

1) Estimated funding.

2) Including supreme bodies.

Source: Statistics Austria.

Table A IV-7: General research-relevant expenditure on higher education by the federal government (General University Funds) 2000–2026¹⁾

Years	General university expenditure	
	Total	R&D
	€ million	
2000	1,956.167	842.494
2001	2,008.803	866.361
2002	2,104.550	918.817
2003	2,063.685	899.326
2004	2,091.159	980.984
2005	2,136.412	1,014.543
2006	2,157.147	1,027.270
2007	2,314.955	1,083.555
2008	2,396.291	1,133.472
2009	2,626.038	1,236.757
2010	2,777.698	1,310.745
2011	2,791.094	1,388.546
2012	2,871.833	1,395.130
2013	3,000.004	1,453.596
2014	3,059.949	1,481.744
2015	3,117.320	1,509.576
2016	3,262.376	1,610.742
2017	3,319.288	1,638.460
2018	3,294.879	1,658.500
2019	3,488.597	1,755.220
2020	3,698.739	1,859.785
2021	3,894.654	1,957.235
2022	4,040.988	2,069.802
2023	4,563.005	2,337.556
2024	4,889.719	2,517.490
2025	5,391.373	2,779.359
2026	5,375.158	2,755.177

Date: March 2026

Source: Statistics Austria.

- 1) 2000–2026: Based on Appendices T of the supporting documentation and detailed overviews of federal expenditure on research under the Federal Finance Acts.

Table A IV-8: Research funding and research contracts awarded by federal agencies in 2025 by implementing sectors/areas and awarding ministries
 Analysis of the Federal Research Database¹⁾ excluding “major” block grants²⁾

Ministries	Partial amounts 2025	of which allocated to																				
		Higher education sector					Public sector							Private non-profit sector			Business enterprise sector			Austrian Science Fund	Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Abroad
		Universities (including hospitals)	Universities of the Arts	Universities of applied sciences	Other higher education sector ³⁾	Combined	Federal institutions (outside the higher education sector)	AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	Austrian Academy of Sciences	Predominantly publicly funded private non-profit institutions	Ludwig Boltzmann Society	Other public sector ⁴⁾	Total	Private non-profit institutions	Individual researchers	Total	Institutes' sub-sector "Kooperativer Bereich", incl. competence centres	Company R&D sub-sector "Firmeneigener Bereich"	Combined			
	in %																					
in €	in %																					
BKA	842,476	1.2	-	7.7	-	8.9	41.0	-	4.7	21.0	-	-	66.7	8.4	-	8.4	-	16.0	16.0	-	-	-
BMASGPK	17,774,953	2.2	-	-	-	2.2	92.7	-	-	1.8	-	0.4	94.9	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	2.0	2.3	-	-	-
BMAW (until 31 March 2025)	242,182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.8	-	-	73.8	5.3	-	5.3	8.3	12.6	20.9	-	-	-
BMBWF (until 31 March 2025)	13,788,327	8.8	-	-	-	8.8	8.6	0.4	-	2.5	-	3.2	14.7	2.8	0.0	2.8	-	0.1	0.1	-	27.7	45.9
BMEIA	1,106,415	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BMF	582,244	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	48.3	-	-	22.8	-	-	71.1	-	-	-	-	9.8	9.8	-	-	18.9
BMFWF	45,509,022	3.8	-	-	-	3.8	15.3	0.0	-	13.0	0.1	3.8	32.2	3.1	0.1	3.2	-	0.2	0.2	-	41.2	19.4
BMI	921,065	41.2	-	-	-	41.2	-	-	-	40.7	-	-	40.7	-	-	-	-	11.4	11.4	-	-	6.7
BMIMI	838,465	-	-	0.2	-	0.2	-	-	-	58.4	-	-	58.4	6.6	-	6.6	27.5	7.3	34.8	-	-	-
BMJ	114,371	-	-	-	-	-	16.4	-	-	83.6	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BML (until 31 March 2025)	592,908	45.0	-	-	-	45.0	26.9	-	-	-	-	-	26.9	11.8	-	11.8	13.5	2.8	16.3	-	-	-
BMLUK	8,230,413	69.3	-	-	-	69.3	13.9	-	-	6.3	-	3.5	23.7	1.2	-	1.2	1.3	4.4	5.7	-	0.1	-
BMLV	5,094,512	5.8	-	5.7	0.2	11.7	1.1	17.5	0.4	-	-	4.4	23.4	-	0.4	0.4	7.4	53.5	60.9	-	3.6	-
BMSGPK (until 31 March 2025)	160,276	61.9	-	-	-	61.9	24.9	-	-	13.2	-	-	38.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BMWET	751,561	15.1	-	-	-	15.1	-	13.4	-	41.8	-	-	55.2	5.1	-	5.1	13.4	11.2	24.6	-	-	-
Total	96,549,190	10.6	-	0.4	0.0	11.0	28.6	1.1	0.1	9.2	0.0	2.9	41.9	2.3	0.1	2.4	1.0	4.2	5.2	-	23.6	15.9

Date: April 2026

Source: Statistics Austria.

1) Data: 13 March 2026

2) i.e. excluding institutional funding with grants exceeding €500.000

3) Private universities, teacher training colleges, research institutes at higher technical colleges and other institutions attributable to the higher education sector.

4) Provincial, municipal and chamber institutions, as well as institutions of the social security providers.

Table A IV-9: Research funding and research contracts awarded by federal authorities in 2025 by socio-economic objectives and awarding ministries
 Analysis of the Federal Research Database¹⁾ excluding “major” global funding²⁾

Ministries		Partial amounts 2025	Funding by socio-economic objectives											
			Funding the exploration of the Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and space	Funding of agriculture and forestry	Funding of trade, commerce and industry	Funding of energy generation, storage and distribution	Funding of transport, traffic and communications	Funding of education and training	Funding of healthcare	Funding of social and socio-economic development	Funding of environmental protection	Funding of urban and spatial planning	Funding of national defence	Funding of the general expansion of knowledge
BKA	in EUR	842,476	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,694	756,723	-	-	-	76,059
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	89.8	-	-	-	9.0
BMASGPK	in EUR	17,774,953	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,862,122	2,724,570	118,825	-	-	69,436
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.6	15.3	0.7	-	-	0.4
BMAW (until 31 March 2025)	in EUR	242,182	-	-	-	-	-	5,036	-	148,612	10,000	-	-	78,534
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	2.1	-	61.4	4.1	-	-	32.4
BMBWF (until 31 March 2025)	in EUR	13,788,327	2,145,957	-	-	-	-	-	5,566,796	147,500	50,000	-	-	5,878,074
	in %	100.0	15.6	-	-	-	-	-	40.4	1.1	0.4	-	-	42.5
BMEIA	in EUR	1,106,415	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,106,415	-	-	-	-
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
BMF	in EUR	582,244	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	471,071	99,425	-	-	11,748
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.9	17.1	-	-	2.0
BMFWF	in EUR	45,509,022	6,283,000	-	-	-	-	104,344	3,395,422	3,130,857	117,141	-	-	32,478,258
	in %	100.0	13.8	-	-	-	-	0.2	7.5	6.9	0.3	-	-	71.3
BMI	in EUR	921,065	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	921,065	-	-	-	-
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-
BMIMI	in EUR	838,465	-	-	361,500	-	-	-	-	13,312	-	-	-	463,653
	in %	100.0	-	-	43.1	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	55.3
BMJ	in EUR	114,371	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,750	-	-	-	-	95,621
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.4	-	-	-	-	83.6
BML (until 31 March 2025)	in EUR	592,908	36,800	284,920	-	-	-	-	-	171,188	-	-	-	100,000
	in %	100.0	6.2	48.0	-	-	-	-	-	28.9	-	-	-	16.9
BMLUK	in EUR	8,230,413	2,148,318	4,904,439	40,000	-	-	-	156,558	192,755	459,860	198,725	-	129,758
	in %	100.0	26.1	59.6	0.5	-	-	-	1.9	2.3	5.6	2.4	-	1.6
BMLV	in EUR	5,094,512	20,200	-	-	-	-	-	54,384	-	-	-	4,572,894	447,034
	in %	100.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	89.7	8.8
BMSGPK (until 31 March 2025)	in EUR	160,276	-	-	-	-	-	-	94,235	66,041	-	-	-	-
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	58.8	41.2	-	-	-	-
BMWET	in EUR	751,561	-	-	-	-	-	88,689	-	358,002	6,200	87,500	-	211,170
	in %	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	11.8	-	47.7	0.8	11.6	-	28.1
Total	in EUR	96,549,190	10,634,275	5,189,359	401,500	-	-	198,069	24,157,961	10,208,111	861,451	286,225	4,572,894	40,039,345
	in %	100.0	11.0	5.4	0.4	-	-	0.2	25.0	10.6	0.9	0.3	4.7	41.5

Date: April 2026

Source: Statistics Austria.

1) Data: 13 March 2026.

2) i.e. excluding institutional funding with grant amounts exceeding €500,000.

Table A V-10: Research and experimental development (R&D), 2023, international comparison

Country	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as % of GDP		Funding of gross domestic expenditure on R&D by				R&D personnel in full-time equivalents		Gross domestic expenditure on R&D by the							
			government		economy				business enterprise sector		higher education sector		government		private non-profit sector	
			in%						in % of total gross domestic expenditure on R&D							
Belgium	3.24		18.2		60.2		119,825		72.2		17.5		9.7		0.6	
Bulgaria	0.79		26.4		31.1		25,410		64.3		6.5		28.7		0.5	
Denmark	3.07		27.3		55.5		70,689		62.2		34.9		2.5		0.4	
Germany	3.13		29.8		62.6		824,396		68.5	b)	17.4		11.7	b)	2.3	b)
Estonia	1.83		35.7		49.5		8,772		57.8		32.8		8.5		0.9	
Finland	3.09		26.0		57.0		59,724	d)	67.6		24.2		7.6		0.6	
France	2.18		33.1		54.1		513,230		66.1		20.7		11.6		1.6	
Greece	1.50		41.6		39.9		73,263		49.3		29.2		21.0		0.5	
Ireland	1.54		11.8		44.8		43,714		86.5		11.3	e)	2.2		0.0	
Italy	1.37		36.9		51.1		348,065		58.4		25.0	e)	14.9		1.7	
Croatia	1.37		33.4		45.1		16,664		54.7		28.0		17.2		0.1	
Latvia	0.82		36.4		35.7		6,483		36.4		44.5		19.1		.	
Lithuania	1.04		38.1		34.5		14,670	d)	41.6		42.8		15.2		0.5	
Luxembourg	1.06		50.0		42.9		6,082		46.4		28.8		24.8		0.0	e)
Malta	0.58		29.2		58.9		2,217		64.2		34.1		1.7		.	
Netherlands	2.30		29.1		58.6		193,043		69.0		26.1		4.8	d)	0.0	d)
Austria ⁵⁾	3.22		29.0		52.7		93,631		68.9		23.0		7.5		0.5	
Poland	1.56		31.9		54.7		199,867		64.6		33.4		1.8		0.2	
Portugal	1.68		33.8		55.5		79,570		62.6		30.3		4.6		2.6	
Romania	0.52		28.4		55.7		35,273		61.7		11.0		26.5		0.8	
Sweden	3.64		22.0		63.5		123,317		74.3	b)	21.4		4.1		0.2	b)
Slovakia	1.04		33.9		41.1		24,330		55.8		26.3		17.8		0.1	
Slovenia	2.13		27.7		47.5		17,879		68.8		13.8		16.4		1.1	
Spain	1.49		38.3		48.0		282,415		56.4		25.5		17.8		0.3	
Czech Republic	1.82		29.9		37.6		85,468		64.7		18.8		15.6		1.0	b)
Hungary	1.38	d)	30.2	d)	49.4		59,739		72.7		15.8		11.0		.	
Cyprus	0.66		36.2		36.4		2,308		42.0		36.0		7.5		14.6	
EU-27 countries	2.26	e)	30.1	e)	56.7		3,330,043	e)	66.7	e)	21.4	e)	10.6	e)	1.4	e)

Country	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as % of GDP		Funding of gross domestic expenditure on R&D by				R&D personnel in full-time equivalents		Gross domestic expenditure on R&D by the							
			government		economy				business enterprise sector		higher education sector		government		private non-profit sector	
			in%						in % of total gross domestic expenditure on R&D							
Bosnia and Herzegovina ³⁾	0.19		43.1		38.7		1,928		37.4		57.7		4.9		0.0	
Iceland	2.62		24.4		41.2		4,226		74.9		22.8		2.4		.	
Montenegro	0.34	p)	73.5	2)	11.8	2)	761	p)	49.4	p)	44.4	p)	5.1	p)	1.0	p)
North Macedonia	0.37		46.0	4)	25.9	4)	3,812		27.6		63.5		8.6		0.4	
Norway	1.78		42.9		45.6		54,596	d)	56.8		31.3		11.9		0.0	e)
Switzerland	3.10		26.2		63.7		96,712		69.4		28.4		0.9		1.3	
Serbia	0.88		40.2		0.9		24,485		43.5		30.1		26.4		0.0	
Turkey	1.39		33.1		52.6		290,850		65.1		30.0		4.9		.	
United Kingdom	1.76	p)2)	25.9		54,8	1)	486,088	p)2)	68,0	p)2)	23,1	p)2)	6,6	p)2)	2,3	p)2)
Japan	3.44		15.9	e)			927,402	d)	79.1		11.1		8.7		1.1	
Russia ²⁾	1.04		66.3		78.0		753,796	p)	60.7		10.6		28.3		0.4	
South Korea	4.94		22.9		30.2		610,824		79.2		9.1		9.6		2.1	
United States	3.44	d)p)	18.9	d)p)	69.6		2,726,638	4)	78.4	b)e)	10.7	d)p)	7.9	d)p)	3.0	d)p)
People's Republic of China (excl. Hong Kong)	2.58		17.1		79.3	d)p)	7,240,582		77.7		8.3		14.0			

Source: Eurostat (18 March 2026), Statistics Austria.

b) Break in the time series. – d) Different definition. – e) Estimated values. – p) Provisional values.

1) 2018. – 2) 2019. – 3) 2021. – 4) 2022. – 5) Statistics Austria; results of the R&D survey.

