

# Research and Innovation Policy in Austria

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# Overview

- The Austrian Research & Innovation system
- Current and planned initiatives in R&I policy
- Austrian performance in Horizon 2020 and ERA
- Reflections on the future of Austria in EU R&I policy

# The Austrian R&I System

## Some R&I Statistics:

**R&D Expenditure as percentage of GDP Austria 2018: 3,19 % (2018)**

- Target by 2020: 3,76%

### **European Union:**

- 2nd highest rank after Sweden (3,25%)
- Strong innovator according to European Innovation Scoreboard 2018

### **Global perspective:**

- 7th highest rank in terms of R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP, (OECD Science and Technology indicators - latest figures July 2018)
- on 8th position of per capita R&D expenditure in OECD, ahead of EU-average

# The Austrian R&I System

## Main challenges in a nutshell

- Strong focus on traditional sectors as areas of specialisation
  - Need for strong push in digitalisation and Industry 4.0
- Strong input orientation
  - Impact focus to be further developed
  - A broader vision of innovation and prioritisation along societal challenges to be developed
- Stronger emphasis on culture of excellence in higher education and research

# Governance Framework: Magic number of 3

## 3 Sectoral Ministries with responsibilities in R&I Policy

New Federal government as of December 2017:

- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF);
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT);
- Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW)

## 3 Funding Agencies

- FWF (Austrian Science Fund), FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency), AWS (Austrian Federal Promotional Bank)

No tradition of private philanthropy

## 3 Advisory Councils for RTI Policy

- RFTE (Council for RTD), ÖWR (Science Board), ERA Council Forum

New Government policy aims to merge the 3 Councils

# Ongoing initiatives in R&I policy

- OECD-Review of the Austrian R&I landscape ongoing, to be published by December 2018
- Evaluation of implementation of H2020, EUREKA, COSME, EEN and ERA in Austria finalised in June 2018
  - adaptation of coordination and support structure for Horizon Europe and ERA
- New university funding model applicable with the new period of performance agreements with public universities 2019-2021
- Budgetary increase for public universities (+ EUR 1.3 billion for 2019-2021) and FWF (+ EUR 110 million for 2018-21)

## New Government Initiative for Research, Technology and Innovation (August 2018)

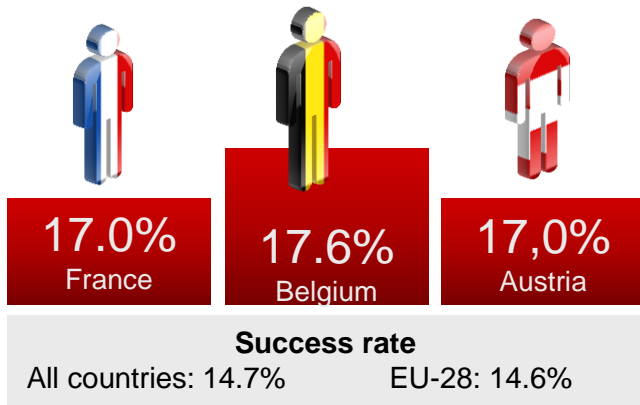
- In 2019: Start of reflection and drafting of new R&I strategy until 2030 to be ready for RTI-Government-Summit in 2020
- Merger of the 3 current Government advisory councils in the field of R&I with the addition of expertise in economics
- New Act on Research financing – “Pact for R&D”:
  - for longer-term planning and funding security, defining performance agreements with funding agencies and non-university performing institutions
  - Attempt to consolidate funding programmes, incentivise alignment and joint calls between funding agencies

# New Government Initiative for Research, Technology and Innovation (August 2018)

- Excellence Initiative to enhance the competitive basic research funding (in preparation)
- Research project funding data base federal government together with regions to be integrated into the wider transparency register (in preparation)
- Stronger coordination efforts for missions-oriented policies as a response to European developments for alignment and partnership approaches (outlook on new RTI Strategy)



# AT Performance in the current EU- Research Framework Programme



**2.533**  
approved participations  
2.9% of all countries

**509**  
approved coordinators  
2.6% of all countries



Funding received since 2014  
(EUR million)



Objective for 2020:  
**1.5 billion euros from Horizon 2020**

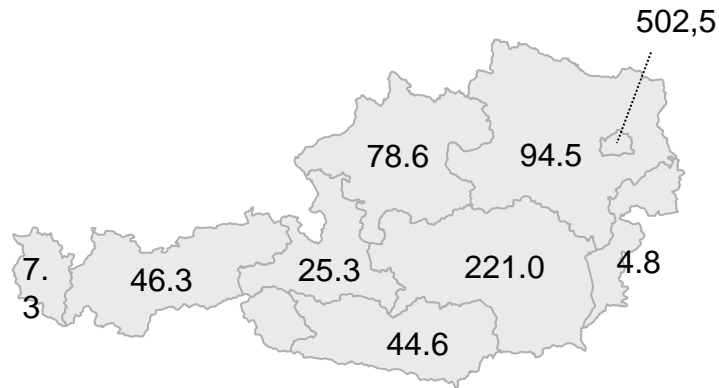
# Top 5 areas in H2020 for Austria

Main areas	In Mio. Euro	Participation	Success rate (Participations)
<b>ERC</b> (European Research Council)	193,7	113	17,6%
<b>LEIT-ICT</b> (Information and Communication Technologies)	147,5	397	18,5%
<b>TPT</b> (Smart, Green and Integrated Transport)	118,0	303	39,0%
<b>ENERGY</b> (Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy)	100,4	233	19,5%
<b>MSCA</b> (Marie Skłodowska-Curie-Actions)	85,4	423	12,7%

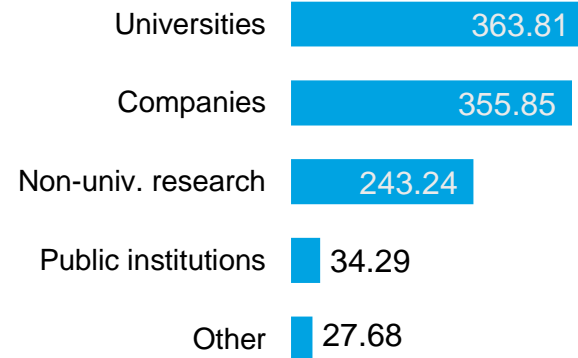
Source: EC, Date: 11.8.2018, Analysis: EU-PM, FFG;

# Horizon 2020: distribution in provinces

Burgenland	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna
2,351,979	38,637,802	90,786,426	71,800,886	21,723,340	195,839,142	39,701,000	6,559,188	456,785,597



Funding by type of organisation (EUR million)



# Possible future AT measures for FP-participation

- Improvement of strategic positioning of Austria as research partner, more frequent role as coordinator in FP projects
- For R&I partnerships and future missions: national strategic prioritisation exercise needed, improved coordination and between line ministries needed
- Smaller adaptations of NCP-support following recommendations in recent evaluation to be considered:
  - Better cooperation between EU- and national programme support within FFG needed: strategic redirection of applicants towards national programmes (due to low FP-success rate)
  - More targeted ERA-Dialogues between universities and the NCP, trust-building to continue

# Austrian ERA Roadmap



- 26 April 2016: Adoption by the Austrian Council of Ministers
- A total of 3 ERA Roadmap Progress Reports are planned with the first one published on 29 Juni 2017, second in 2019



- First ERA Roadmap Progress Report has covered:
  - Values and description of 8 High Level Indicators and 13 Subindicators
  - Assessments of the Indicators by experts responsible for ERA in Austria
  - Measures and Success in 2016-2017, Implementation Status

# Future of ERA in Austria

- In the context of the Strategic planning and coordinating process for Horizon Europe: national mirror processes for missions and partnerships, to be established asap
- Adaptation of internal ERA governance (as stated in the recent evaluation) to allow for more targeted and cross sectoral cooperation between ministries in ERA (going beyond the ERA-related group delegates typically coming from the Ministry for Science and Research)
- Continued push for alignment in the context of R&I partnerships and future missions
- National coordinative capacity across Member States will be key for meeting future challenges collectively

Thank you  
for your  
attention!

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