Urban Environments

Information Session

24th October 2023

Benjamin Missbach Grace Liu



Agenda

W|W|T|F

- Introduction to WWTF
- "Urban Environments" Call
 - ► Important considerations for the proposal
 - ► Key facts and steps of call
- Using the WWTF Funding Portal
- Q & A

Find a match | Networking platform



- Showcase your expertise and current/future project ideas
- Search for and contact researchers with complementary expertise
- ▶ Identify partners in Vienna/Lower Austria for Joint Projects

Register and connect!

https://environmental-systems-research-call2024.b2match.io/



ESR 24 | Call documents





→ <u>Download here: https://www.wwtf.at/funding/programmes/esr/index.php?lang=EN#ESR24</u>



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WWTF | Key facts

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- Largest private non-profit research funder in Austria
- > Since 2002: approx. € 230 Mio in funding (private foundation, City of Vienna)
- ► Funding per year: €15-17 Mio.
- WWTF's mission:
 - ► Funding top scientific research in Vienna
 - Providing substantial funding for larger research projects and international research group leaders coming to Vienna
 - Running competitive calls according to highest international standards

WWTF | Funding schemes



Thematic programmes

Life Sciences (*2003)

Information and Communication Technology (*2008)

Cognitive Sciences (*2011)

Environmental Systems Research (*2017)

Funding instruments

Projects

Vienna Research Groups

Additional Funding
Measures

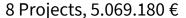
WWTF | Environmental Systems Research













2xVRG Group Leaders; 3.199.110 €

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ESR24 | Scope of call

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"... interdisciplinary cutting-edge research projects responding to fundamental research questions relevant to human-environment interaction in urban and peri-urban spaces."

ESR24 | Scope of call

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- Advance knowledge of urban and peri-urban environmental systems
 - All disciplines are invited (e.g., social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, etc.)
- Target for novel and fundamental research questions, and focus on quantitative approaches
 - Bring together modelling, field and/or experimental approaches
 - Mixed-methods and/or the integration of societal actors are welcome but are not a formal prerequisite for this call

ESR24 | Interdisciplinarity

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- Meaningful interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged
 - Keep in mind: interdisciplinarity is a team effort!
- Expertise may be within the same research group, traverse research groups or institutions
- Plans for interdisciplinary training of junior researchers is strongly recommended and will be positively considered

WWTF | Open Science Policy



WWTF aims to:

- fund research guided by principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary"
- provide funds related to the cost of OA publication and data management
- place more emphasis on Open Data by adoption of FAIR principles

→ https://wwtf.at/funding/our-principles/downloads/open-access-and-open-science-policy



WWTF
Open Science Policy

Version 09.03.2022

ESR24 | Data Management Plan

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- ➤ Brief explanation in Short Proposal regarding how data and/or code generated in project will be managed and made available
 - More detailed plan required in Full Proposal
- Data management plan should consider:
 - Documentation and metadata that accompanies data
 - Ethical and legal aspects
 - Process to store, preserve and share data
- ► See "Research data and data management" in Call Specifications

WWTF | Gender Equality Plan



WWTF aims to:

- play an active role in closing the gender gap in science and research
- further improve processes and conditions to increase the proportion of female scientists, their resources and career opportunities
- implement measures internally and for researchers, their home institutions and external evaluators (jury members and reviewers)

→ https://www.wwtf.at/funding/our-principles/downloads/gender-equality-plan/



WWTF Gender Equality Plan & Strategy

WWTF | Gender Equality Plan

WWTF:

- Encourages gender-balanced teams and more female researchers to apply as PIs of research projects
- Uses evaluation criteria that account for career breaks
- Strives for gender balance in jury panels and reviewer pools

Applicants:

- Consider gender and specific roles in research team composition
- Address sex and/or gender in research content
- See "Gender aspects in the application phase" in Call Specifications

WWTF | Gender Equality Strategy & Plan (II)



- Evaluation criteria that account for career breaks & atypical career paths (e.g. care duties)
- WWTF encourages balanced teams & more female researchers to apply as PIs of research projects
- Childcare and / or career coaching costs for female funded personnel may be included to a small extent
- Consideration of research in content
- Guidance is given in the call specifications and further documents (checklist)



Gender Equality Plan & Strateg

WWTF | Gender Equality Strategy & Plan (III)



Gender balance in research teams:

- Team composition (sex) is an evaluation criterion: roles and workloads
 / type of activity must be explained in the proposal
- Gender balance within a team or group plays a crucial role in the team's success and for a fair decision

Gender in research content:

- Proposals must be formulated along gender considerations in all phases of the research
- If there are no identifiable gender aspects this must be justified (providing reasons)

ESR24 | Key dates and numbers

WWTF

- 2-stage selection process
 - ▶ Short proposal deadline: 16th January, 2024
 - ► Full proposal deadline: 30th April, 2024
- Maximum budget of projects: € 700,000(€ 770,000 for Joint Projects with Lower Austria)
- Project duration: 2 4 years
- Dedicated budget for call: € 5.5 Mio.

WWTF Projects

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- Up to 3 researchers per project in core team
 - Coordinating PI: must be affiliated to a Viennese research institution
 - ► Co-PIs: can be based worldwide
- Max. 2 proposals per researcher (as Core Team member)
- Up to 20% total budget may be allocated outside of Vienna

Joint Projects



- Collaborations between researchers from Vienna and Lower Austria
 - Coordinating PI: affiliated to a Viennese research institution
 - Co-PI: at least one based in Lower Austria
- ▶ Different total budget and geographic distribution
 - ➤ Vienna: Min. 51% Budget
 - ► Lower Austria: 20% 49% Budget
 - ▶ Optional: Other partners up to 20% Budget
 - Total funding volume: up to € 770,000 per project (i.e. extra 10%)

Things to Consider



- Check the scope of our call
- Get to know your institution's research office
- ► Read the guidelines → Evaluation criteria (Call Specs, page 7-8)
- Don't assume specific expertise of our Jury, especially in the first selection round
- Polish your CV, use our template
- Pay more than lip service to gender equality & open science
- Think realistically about the budget of your project (feasibility!)



A funding adviser's guide to writing a great grant application

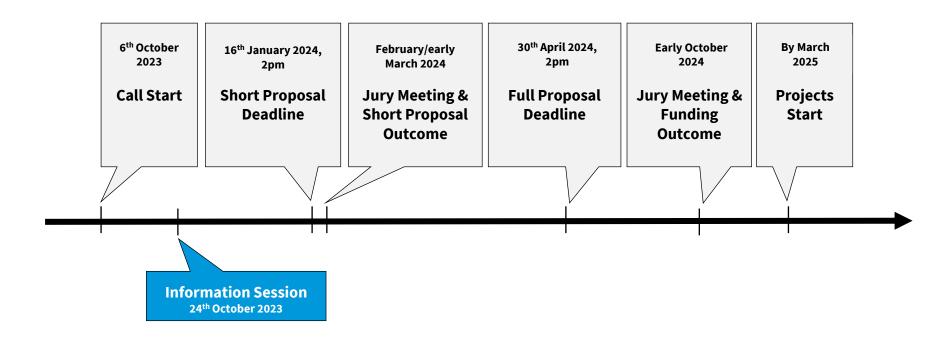
Mireille Consalvey draws on years of experience to present a 13-step checklist for success.

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-02756-6

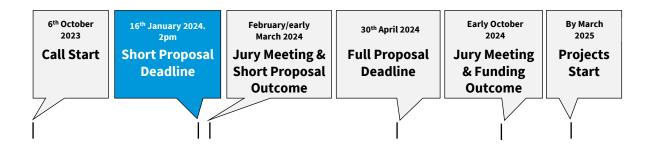


ESR24 | Call Timeline









Submission via WWTF Funding Portal

- Strict deadline (16th January 2024 at 2pm)
- Submission only possible when all parts and uploads are complete
- No data or figures at this stage
- WWTF office performs formal eligibility check
- Proposals then sent to jury for assessment

https://fundingportal.wwtf.at





Evaluation by Jury

- Panel of international scientists assess:
 - Fit to scope of call
 - Scientific excellence and impact
 - Interdisciplinarity, innovation, and suitability of methods
 - Competencies and complementarity of team
 - Feasibility

Short Proposal Outcome

- Projects will not go on to the next stage if they are outside the scope of the call or judged to be less internationally competitive
- 20-25 proposals will be invited to the full proposal phase
- All applicants will be informed of outcome shortly after meeting





Full Proposal Submission

- Upon invitation (30th April 2024 at 2pm)
- Via the online Funding Portal
- Extension of short proposal
- Detailed budget
- Additional team members

Peer Review Process

- A minimum of 3 reviews per proposal
- Applicants must suggest 5 reviewers
- Applicants may exclude up to 3 reviewers
- Only international reviewers, we check COI with core team members of the proposal
- Reviews form the basis of the jury discussion





Evaluation and Recommendation by Jury

- Scientific excellence and impact
- Interdisciplinarity, innovation, and suitability of methods
- Competencies, complementarity, and development of team
- Feasibility
- Data management
- Consideration of sex and gender aspects

Funding Decision

- Formal decision by WWTF Board of Directors
- All applicants will receive a decision letter (acceptance or rejection) with anonymised reviews





Funding Contract

- Funding contract is between WWTF and the host institution of the coordinating PI (according to § 27 of the 2002 University Law)
- For Joint Projects, the host institution of the co-PI in Lower Austrian is an additional contract partner
- Coordinating PI has scientific and financial responsibility for the project
- Project should start by March 2025 at the latest

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Register and connect!

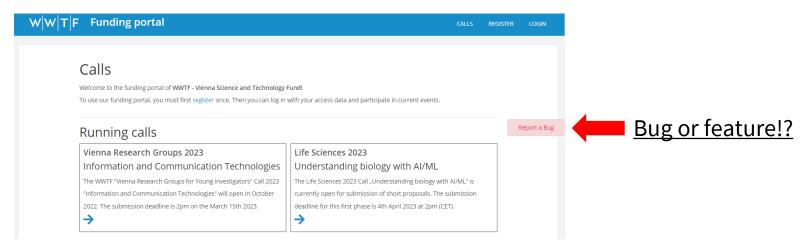
https://environmental-systems-research-call2024.b2match.io/



WWTF Funding Portal



- New Funding Portal launched in 2022
 - Old Submission System will be phased out



https://fundingportal.wwtf.at/

WWTF Funding Portal | What's new?

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- ► All core team members can contribute to and edit proposal
 - Only coordinating PI can submit proposal
- External parties can create a proposal and invite core team members
- Personal information is managed independently of proposals and can be reused across proposals
- Signatures from core team members no longer necessary
 - ► Authorising signatures from institutes still required!
 - ▶ Please check with your grant service early: Who needs to sign your proposal?

WWTF Funding Portal | Steps to submission

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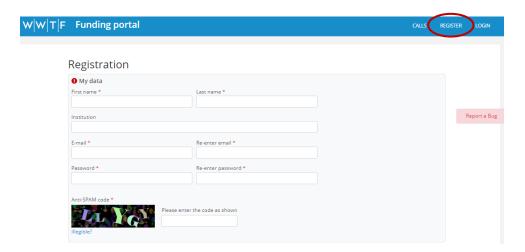
- Register or login
- Choose call and create proposal
- ► Invite coordinating PI and co-PIs
- Complete "My Profile" and "My Roles"
- Fill out short proposal
 - 1. Basic information
 - 2. Personnel and institutions
 - 3. Project

- 4. References
- 5. Budget
- 6. Signatures
- Submit proposal (only possible by coordinating PI)

Register & login



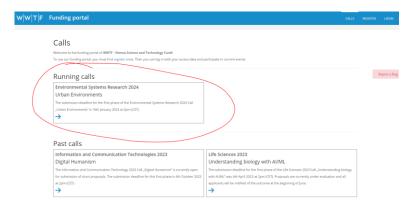
First register at https://fundingportal.wwtf.at/register/



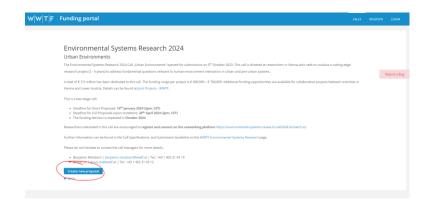
▶ If you have an account in the old system, you can re-use these credentials to register

Choose call and create proposal





1. Choose call



2. Click → "Create new proposal"

Choose call and create proposal

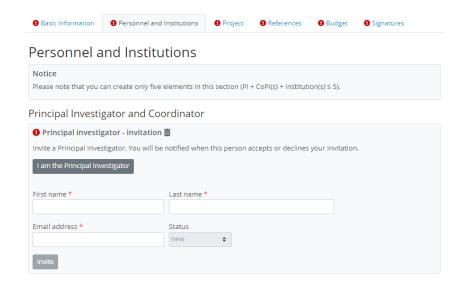


- Proposal divided into six chapters under tabs
- Click and scroll through chapters to see proposal requirements



Invite coordinating PI and co-PIs





- All core team members must be registered on Funding Portal and invited to project
- Coordinating PI
 - ► Either click "I am the Principal Investigator"
 - > Or enter details to send invitation to the PI
- Co-Pls
 - ► Also invite with name and email

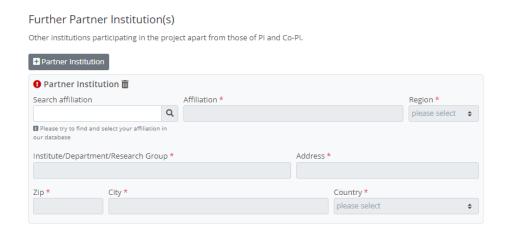
Co-Principal Investigator(s)

+ Co-Principal Investigator

Add further partner institutes

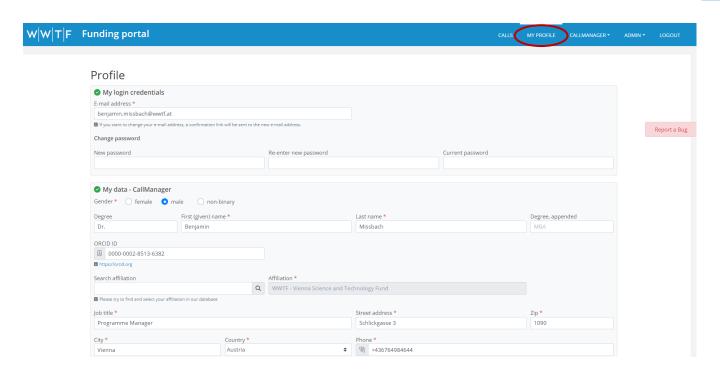


- ▶ Up to 2 additional partner institutions
- Automatically added to budget
- Names of collaborators can be provided in the full proposal phase



You need to complete your Profile!





Use the correct CV template

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Available CV Templates:

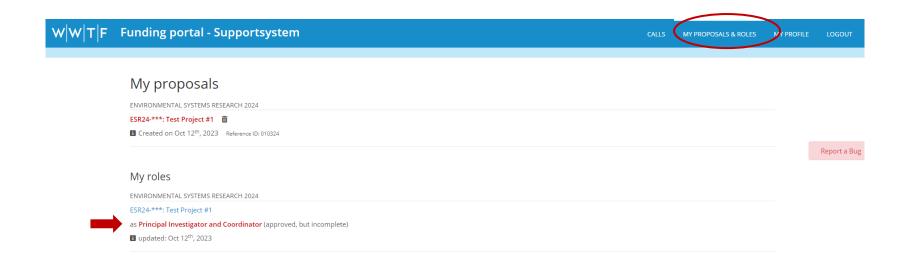
Please use the CV template for the call in which you intend to submit your proposal

VRG: wwtf_cvtemplate_vrg.docx

all other calls: wwtf_cvtemplate_project.docx

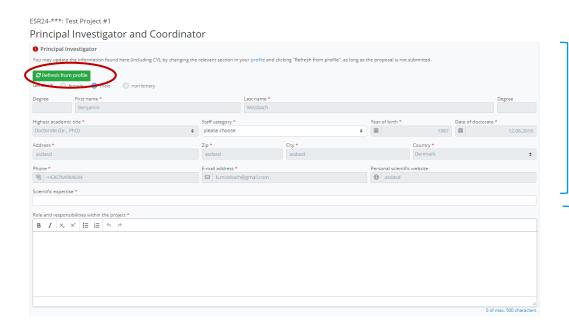
Complete "My roles" in proposal





Complete "My roles" in proposal





Data will be transferred from "My Profile"

Enter specifically for each proposal:

- Role and responsibilities within the project
- 2. Specific competencies for the project

Short Proposal | Basic Information

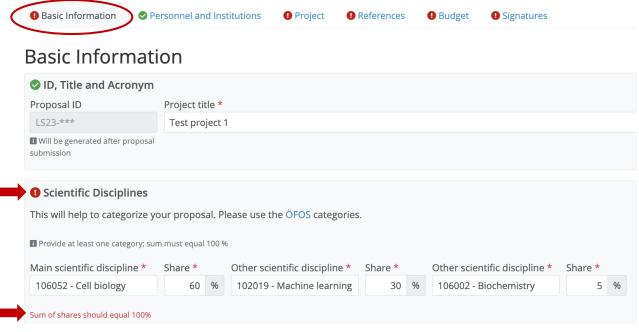
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- Basic Information
- Personnel and Institutions
- Project
- References
- Budget
- Signatures

- ► Title and acronym
- Scientific disciplines (must add up to 100%)
- Keywords
- Project duration
- WWTF Project or Joint Project?

WWTF Funding Portal | Error





- Within the flagged chapter, click on the red symbol beside the section title
- Help text in red will explain problem

Short Proposal | Project



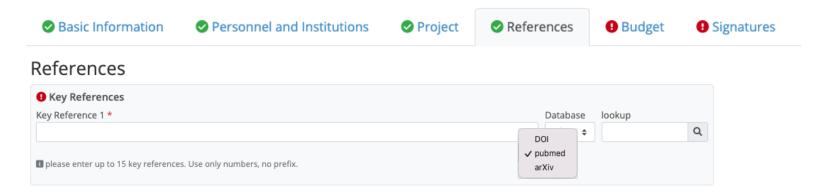
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- 1. Abstract (1500 characters)
- 2. Introduction, background, and state of the art (1500 characters)
- 3. Research questions, objectives, and/or hypotheses (2000 characters)
- 4. Methodology, novelty, and feasibility (3000 characters)
- 5. Interdisciplinarity (2500 characters)
- 6. Scientific impact and contribution (2000 characters)
- 7. Ethical considerations (500 characters)

→ Gender aspects should be considered throughout and explained where appropriate

Short Proposal | References





- Up to 15 key references for proposal (not publication list of applicant)
- ► Search for and insert publications using DOI, PMID, or arXiv identifier
- Please use uniform referencing style

Short Proposal | Budget

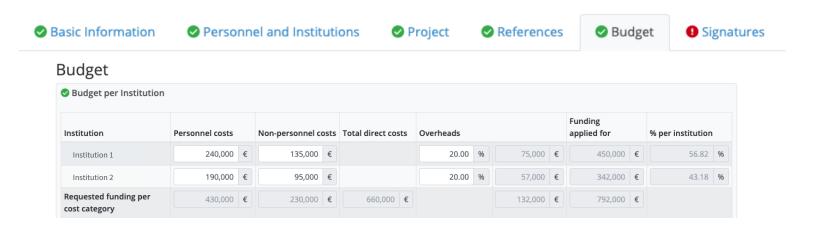


- Basic Information
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- Personnel + non-personnel costs = direct costs
- Overhead costs (= indirect costs): up to 20% of direct costs
- Salaries ≥ minimum wage according to Kollektivvertrag or FWF standards
 - https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/personnel-costs
- Non-personnel costs should not exceed 30% of total budget
- No funding of companies or industry partners
 - Self-funded business partners are possible
- Budget changes in the full proposal stage require justification

Short Proposal | Budget





- Institutions of core team members and partner institutes added automatically
- Cost distributions are automatically checked and verified
- Provide brief explanation of cost planning

Short Proposal | Signatures

W|W|T|F

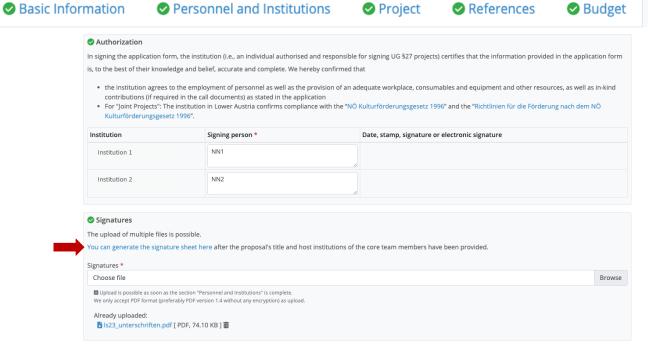
- Basic Information
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- ➤ Signatures from core team members no longer necessary
- Signatures from authorising persons at institutions of core team members still required
 - ► Check with research support, grant offices, etc.
 - Allow ample time
- Signature sheet can be generated once the project title and core team members' institutes have been entered
- All signature forms are accepted

Short Proposal | Signatures



Signatures



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Q&A

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All documents available at wwtf.at

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