



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS

CULTIVATING TALENTS

REALISING NEW IDEAS

**FUNDING
THE WAY FORWARD**

FWF – contact points

Today for you from the FWF office

- **Uwe von Ahsen** (Strategy Department – National Programmes / Head of Department)
- **Stefan Uttenthaler** (Specialist Department – Natural and Technical Sciences / Scientific Project Officer)
- **Eva Wysocki** (Strategy Department – Career Development / Programme Management, Scientific Project Officer)

Content of the presentation

- What does the FWF stand for?
Mission statement, positioning, principles
- What are the instruments?
The FWF funding portfolio
- How does the FWF implement this?
The FWF procedures
- What has been achieved, what remains to be done?
Current developments and plans

What does the FWF stand for? Mission Statement – Positioning – Principles

The FWF's corporate policy: Objectives

- Strengthening basic research in Austria across all disciplines at an international level
- Develop Austria's human resources for research based on the principle of research-driven education
- Promote interaction between scientists/scholars and all other areas of culture, the economy and society

Position

The FWF supports basic research *...

The FWF understands this as “*experimental or theoretical work that primarily leads to new knowledge about the fundamentals of phenomena and observable facts without aiming at a specific application or implementation.*”

... but is open for your application-oriented aspects:

Support for knowledge transfer and science/scholarly communication are an integral part of FWF's work.

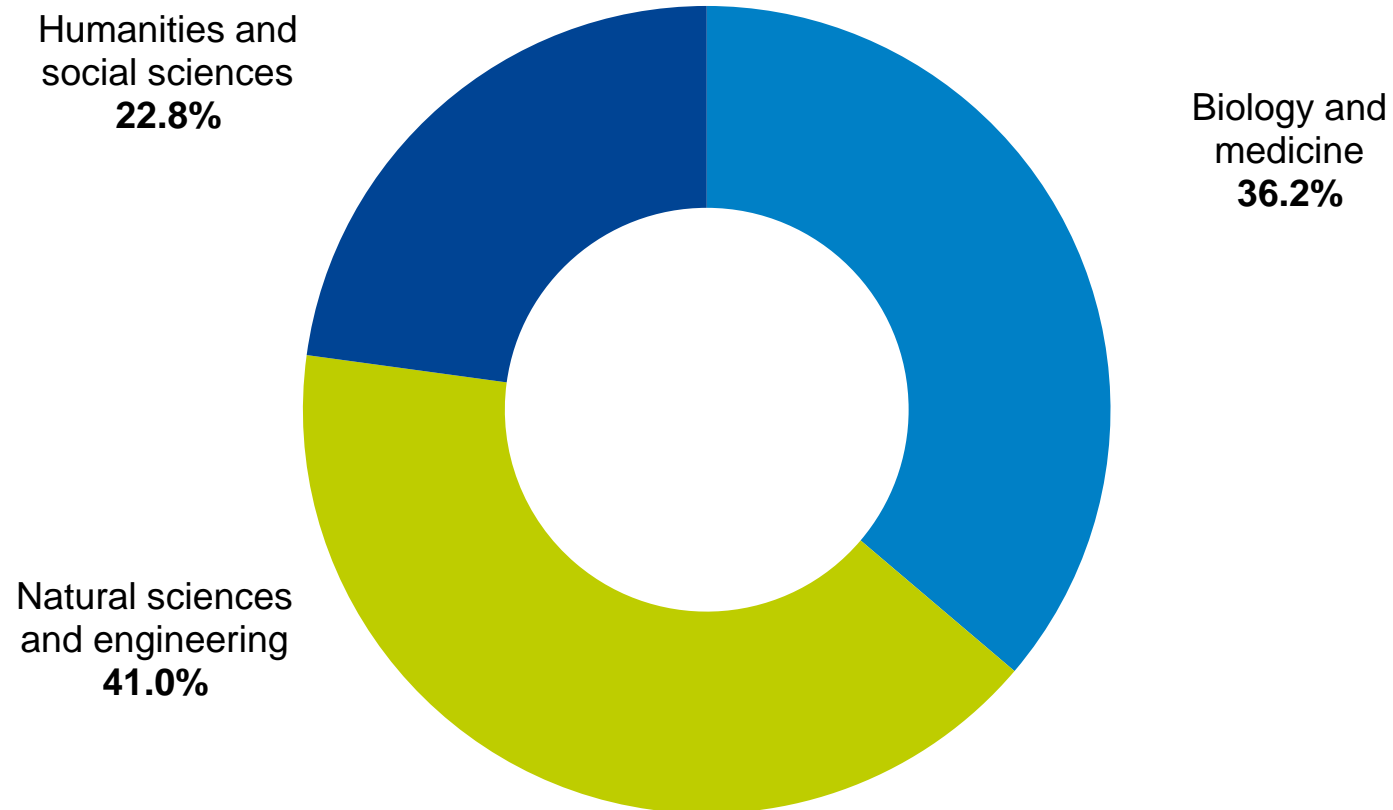
* According to the definition in the *Frascati Manual* (<http://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/Frascati-Manual.htm>)

The FWF stands for

- More **basic research** in Austria
- More **competition** in the research system
- More **quality** in the research system
- More **internationality** in the research system
- More excellent **junior researchers** in the research system

The FWF supports the expansion of the research potential in Austria towards *innovation leadership* and is thus a major location factor for the research and economic system.

Approvals by scientific discipline 2017



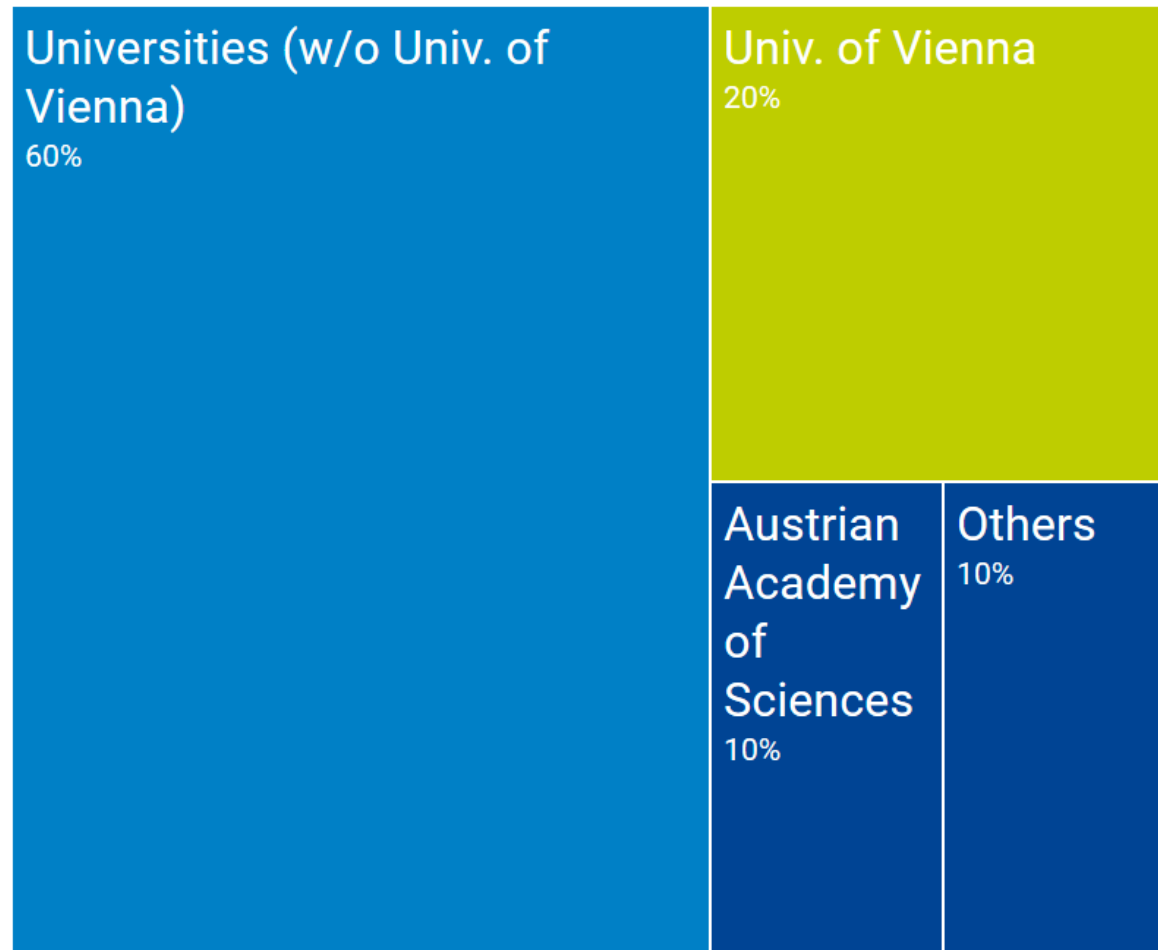
The FWF at the University of Vienna

2013–2017

- 2,296 applications
 - 698 projects approved
 - € 207.3 million in total funding
 - In average, 21% of the annual FWF approval amount
 - 825 project staff, 355 of whom are doctoral students
 - Selection of funded projects:
 - 334 Stand-alone projects
 - 58 Schrödinger fellowships
 - 52 Firnberg/Richter grants
 - 9 START-Prizes
 - 1 Wittgenstein-Award
- 2015, Claudia Rapp, Dept. of Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies

University of Vienna

2013–2017



FWF Gender Mainstreaming

FWF Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in Research Funding

- Equal opportunities for female and male researchers
- Integration of gender dimension into the research programme
(Starting point: Priority research & Doctoral programmes)

Mainstreaming:

Gender equality standards for all decision-making processes

Special Programmes:

Two-tier career development programme for women

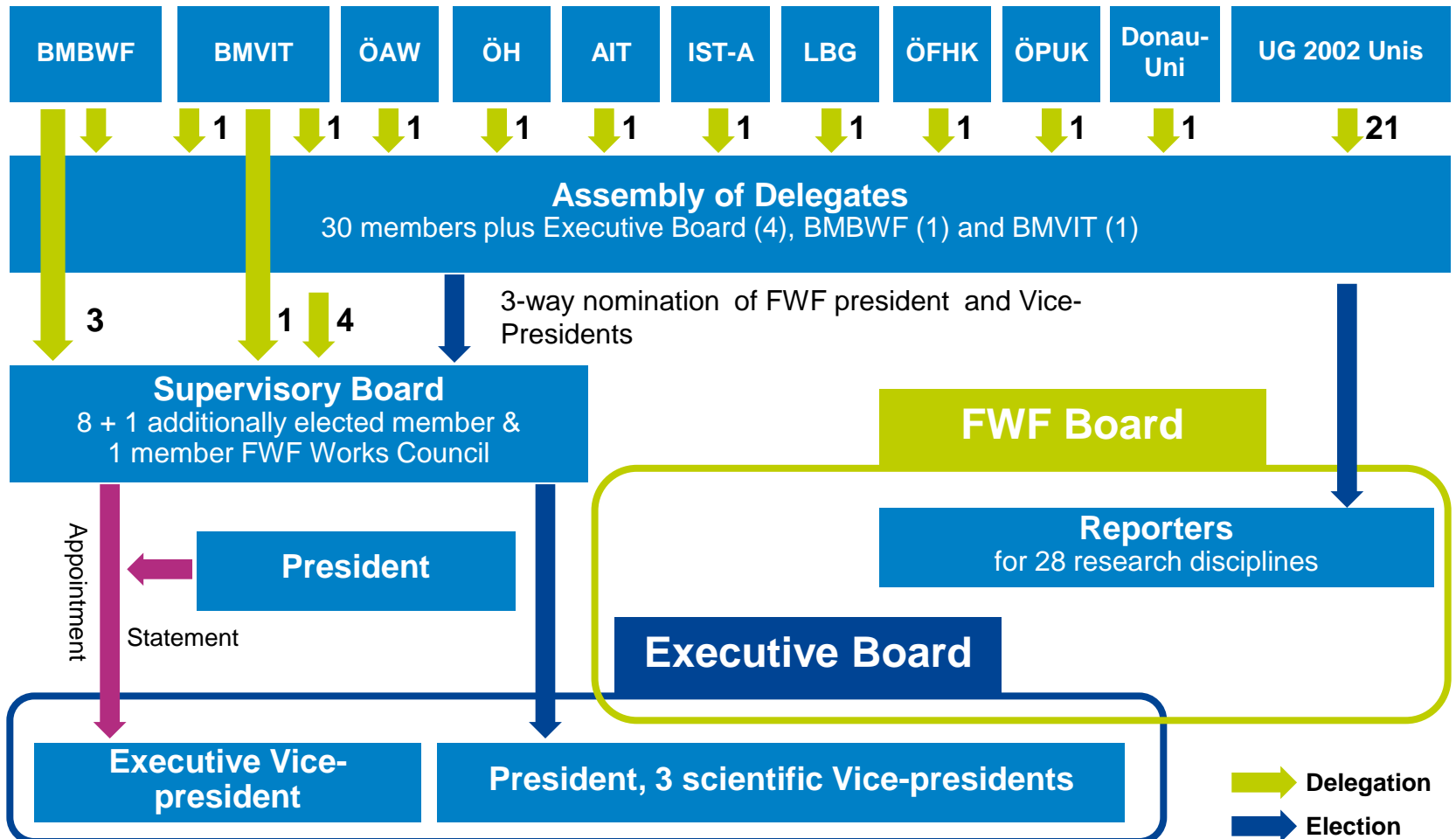
Governance:

FWF monitors gender-disaggregated data (participation, success rates, etc.)

FWF Organisation:

Gender training for FWF employees and researchers, FWF intranet page providing information, national cooperation within the genderAG, European cooperation
D-A-CH

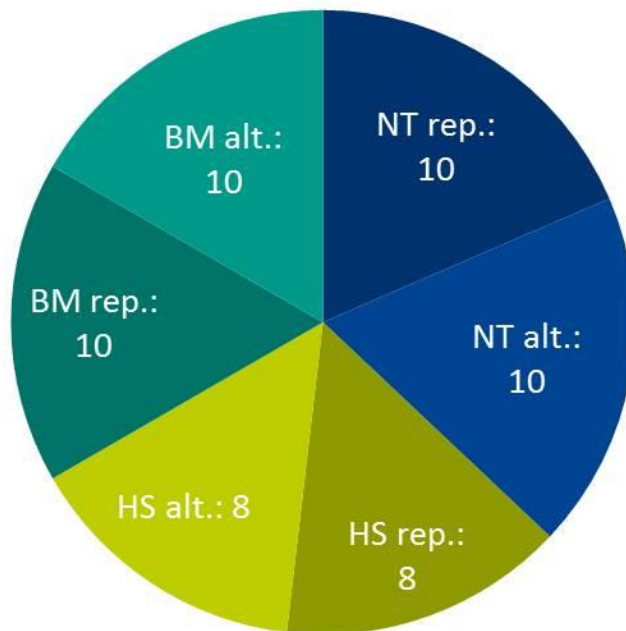
Decision-making bodies under the FTFG



The "heart" of the FWF funding machine

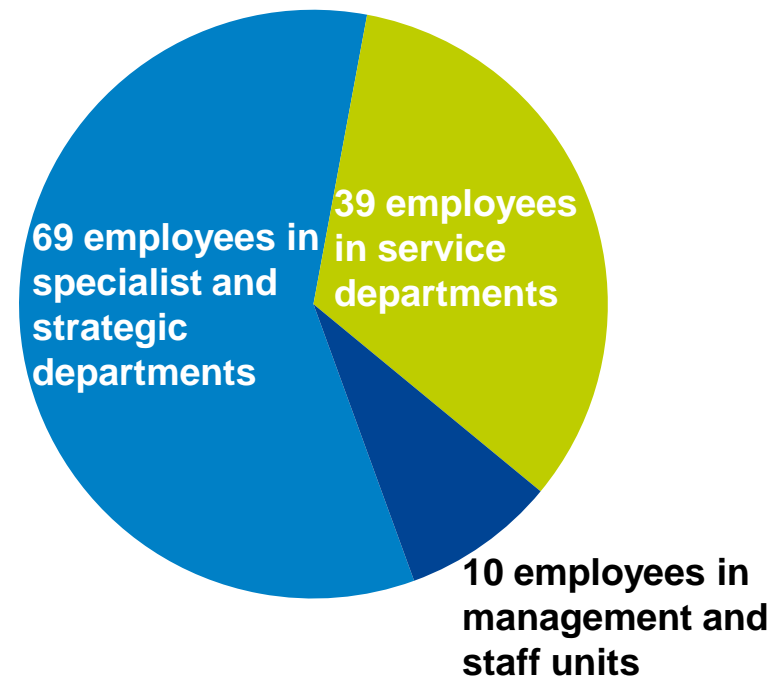
▪ FWF Board

28 reporters,
28 alternates
(all university professors)



▪ FWF Office

118 Employees – about 2/3 for direct project support



NT: Natural sciences and engineering; **HS:** Humanities and social sciences; **BM:** Biology and medicine

The FWF Funding Portfolio

The FWF funding portfolio



Exploring new frontiers – Funding of top-quality research

Stand-Alone Projects
International Programmes
Special Research
Programmes (SFBs)
Research Groups
START Programme
Wittgenstein Award



Cultivating talents – Development of human resources

Doc.funds
Schrödinger Programme
Meitner Programme
Firnberg Programme
Richter Programme/Richter
PEEK
Young Independent
Researcher Groups



Realising new ideas – Interactive effects between science and society

KLIF
PEEK
Support for Scientific
Publications
Science Communication
Programme
Top Citizen Science

FWF funding categories by career stage

Established researchers

- Wittgenstein Award

Researchers with post-doc experience

- Independent applicants ("FWF fellows")
- Elise Richter Programme (+Elise Richter PEEK)
- START Programme
- Lise-Meitner-Programme

Post-doctoral work

- Post-docs
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- Lise-Meitner-Programme
- Independent applicants (FWF fellows)

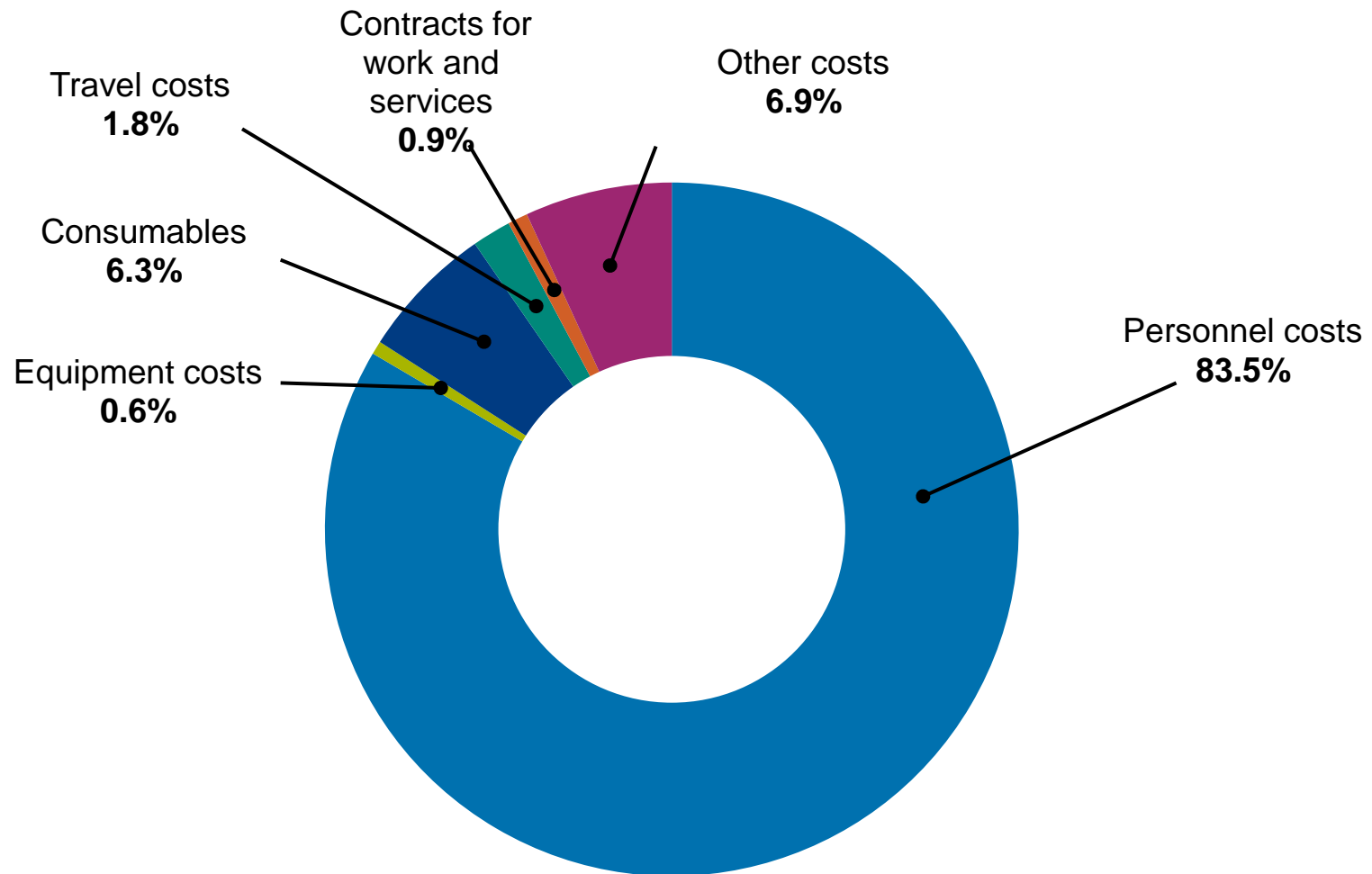
Ph.D. candidates

- Ph.D. student positions
- Ph.D. students in DK programmes
- Ph.D. students in doc.funds

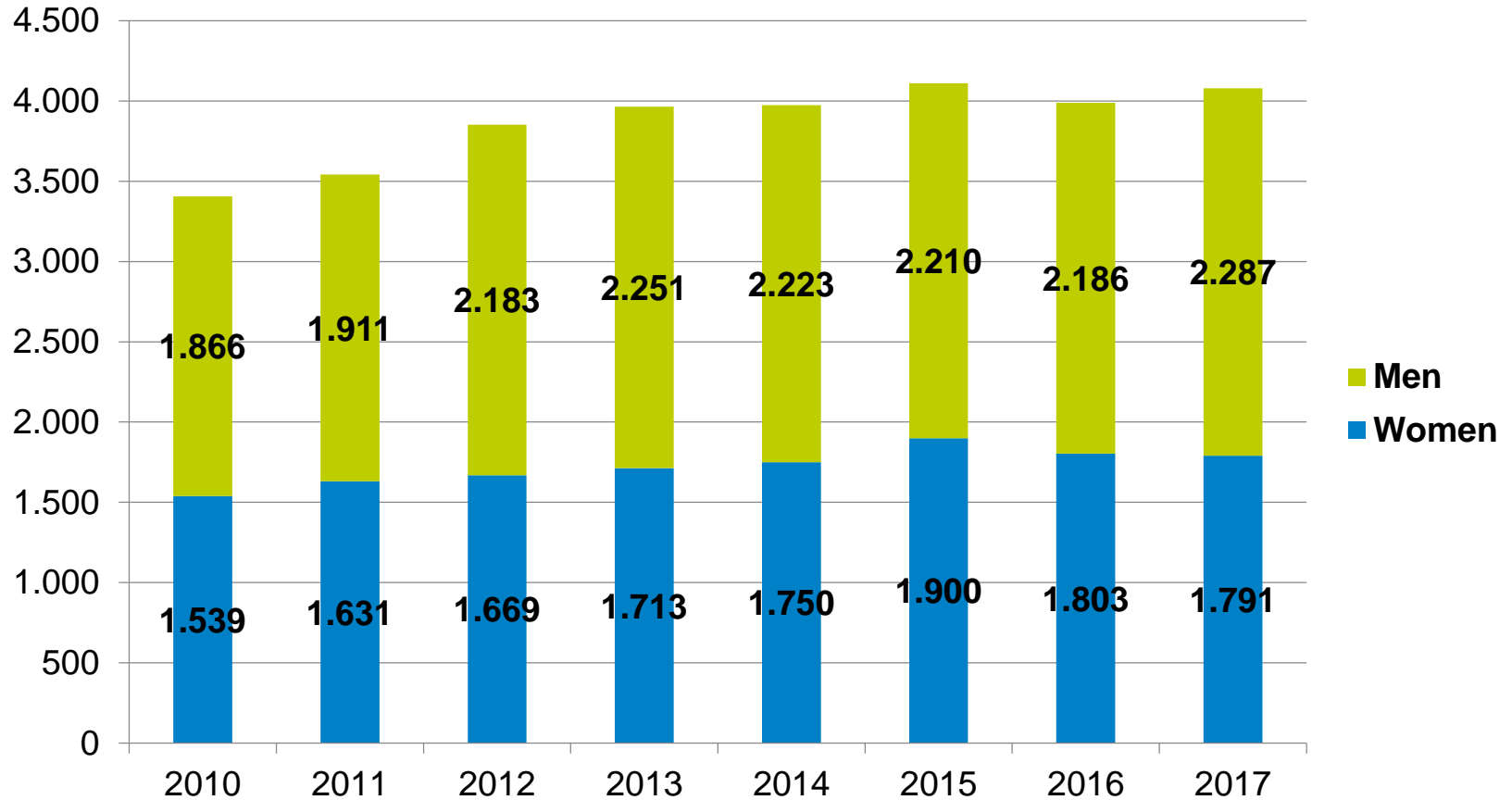
University students

- Student employees

Total funding by cost type (2017)



Research Personnel funded by the FWF



The FWF Procedures

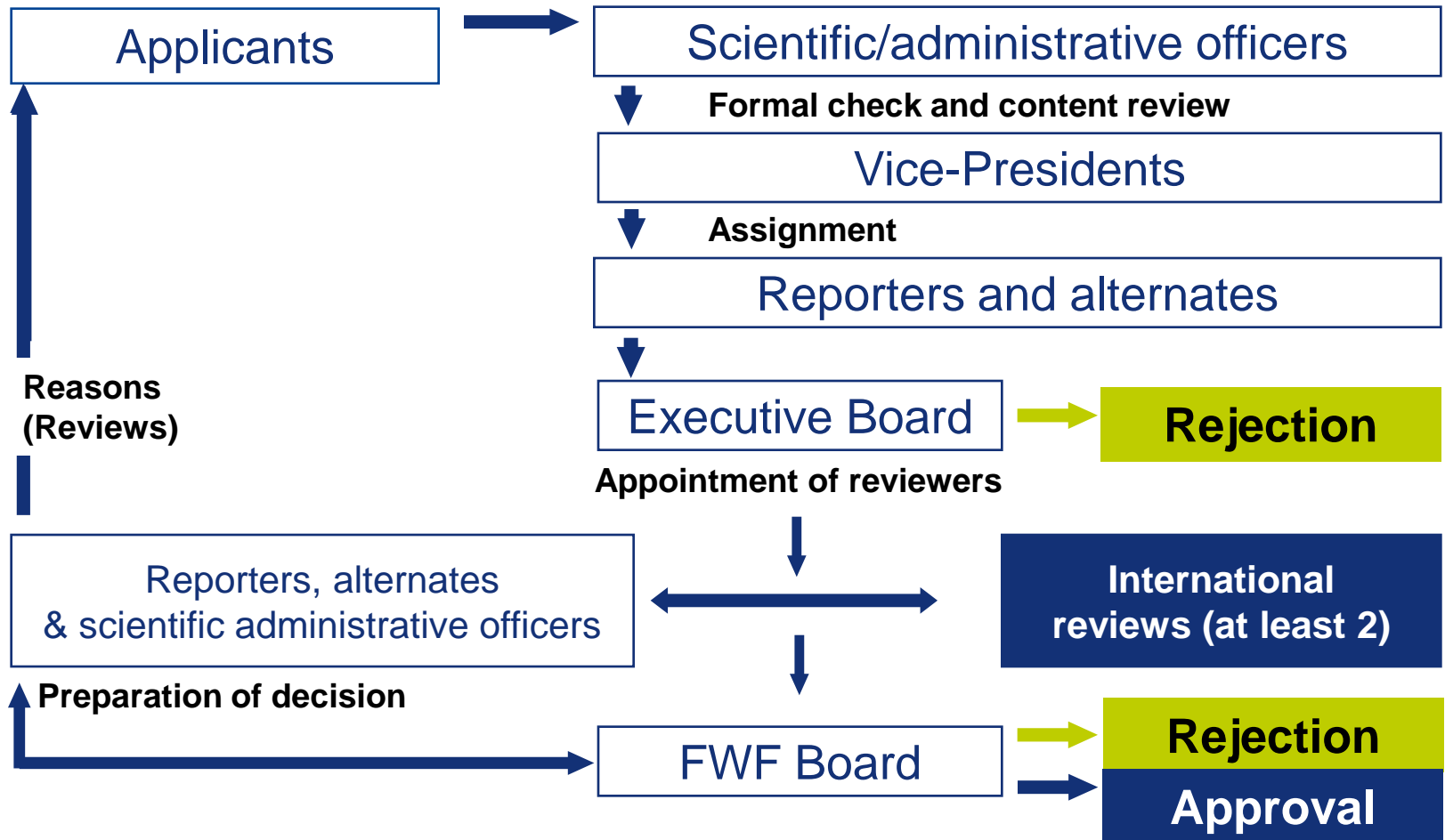
Key features of the FWF decision procedure

- Strictly bottom-up approach: no prescribed research topics, no quotas, no preference for specific researchers
- Multiple-party checks in all steps of procedure and decisions
- Close interaction with applicant to maximise transparency
- Independent, international peer review as the basis for quality assurance
- Text of reviews as most important basis for decisions (ratings treated as mere indicators)
- Discussion of and decisions on all projects from all disciplines during an FWF Board meeting with representatives from all disciplines

Application basics

- Choice of topic: Bottom-up (i.e. determined by applicants)
- Type of research: Scholarly research designed to generate new knowledge
- Eligibility: Based on residence (Austria)
- Quotas: None
- Processing time: Ø 4.6 months (in programmes with no application deadlines)

The FWF Decision-Making Procedure



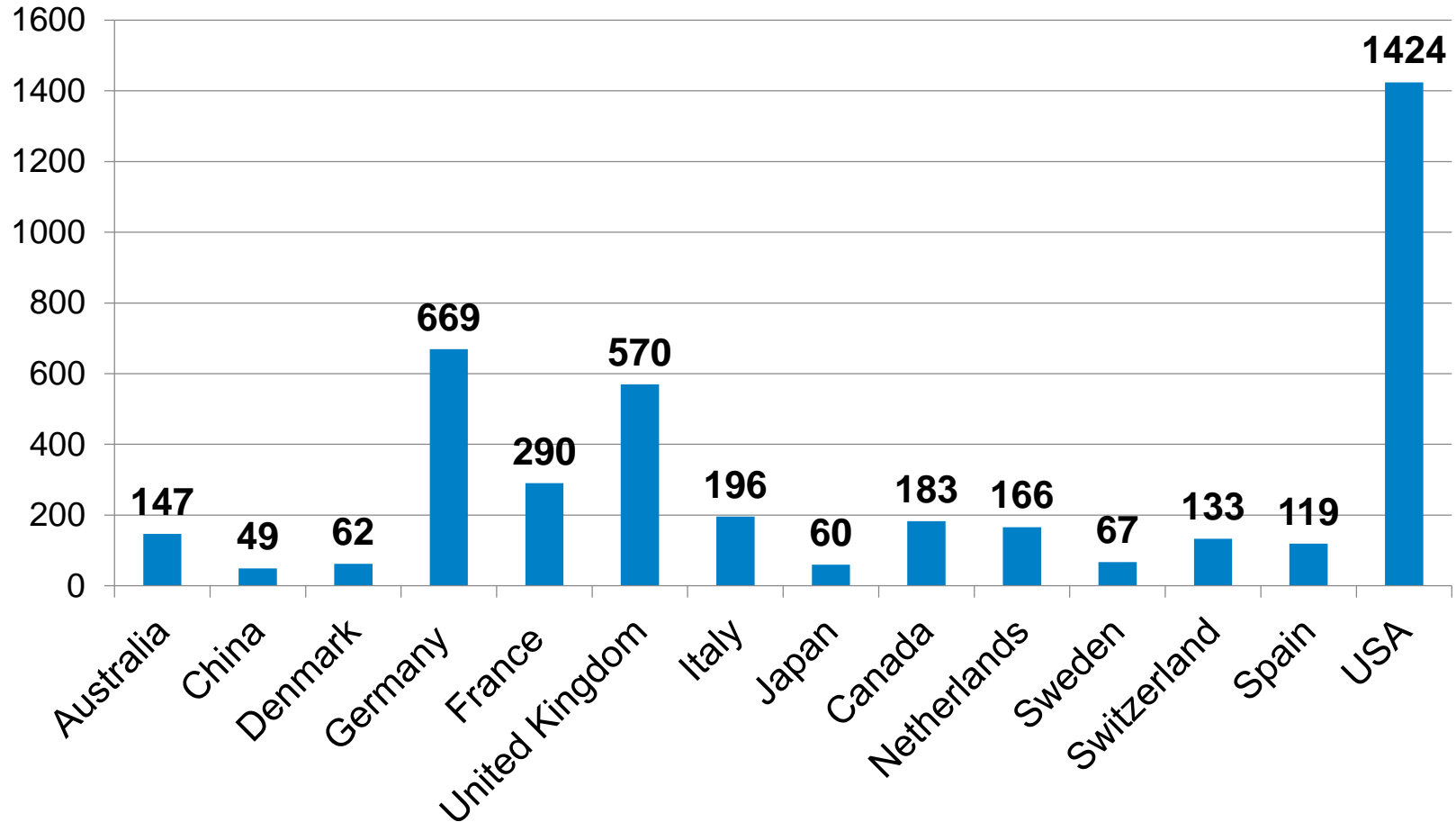
Reviewer profile in the peer review procedure

- Reviewers must be experts based outside of Austria who are still active in the field and have attained at least the same scholarly/scientific level as the applicant.
- Specific for each application, no fixed pool of reviewers (90% of reviewers are new; never more than 2 reviews per year)
- Mix of reviewers: selection of reviewers based on the researchers' career status
- Regional distribution according to share of scholarly/scientific output
- Continuous increase of female reviewers
- In smaller disciplines, "generalists" may also be called upon

Basic principles for the selection of reviewers

- “Negative list” (i.e. applicants can exclude up to three reviewers)
- Responsibilities check: forwarding of the abstract
- Checking of conflicts of interest by FWF Secretariat
- Non-conflict-of-interest declaration by reviewers

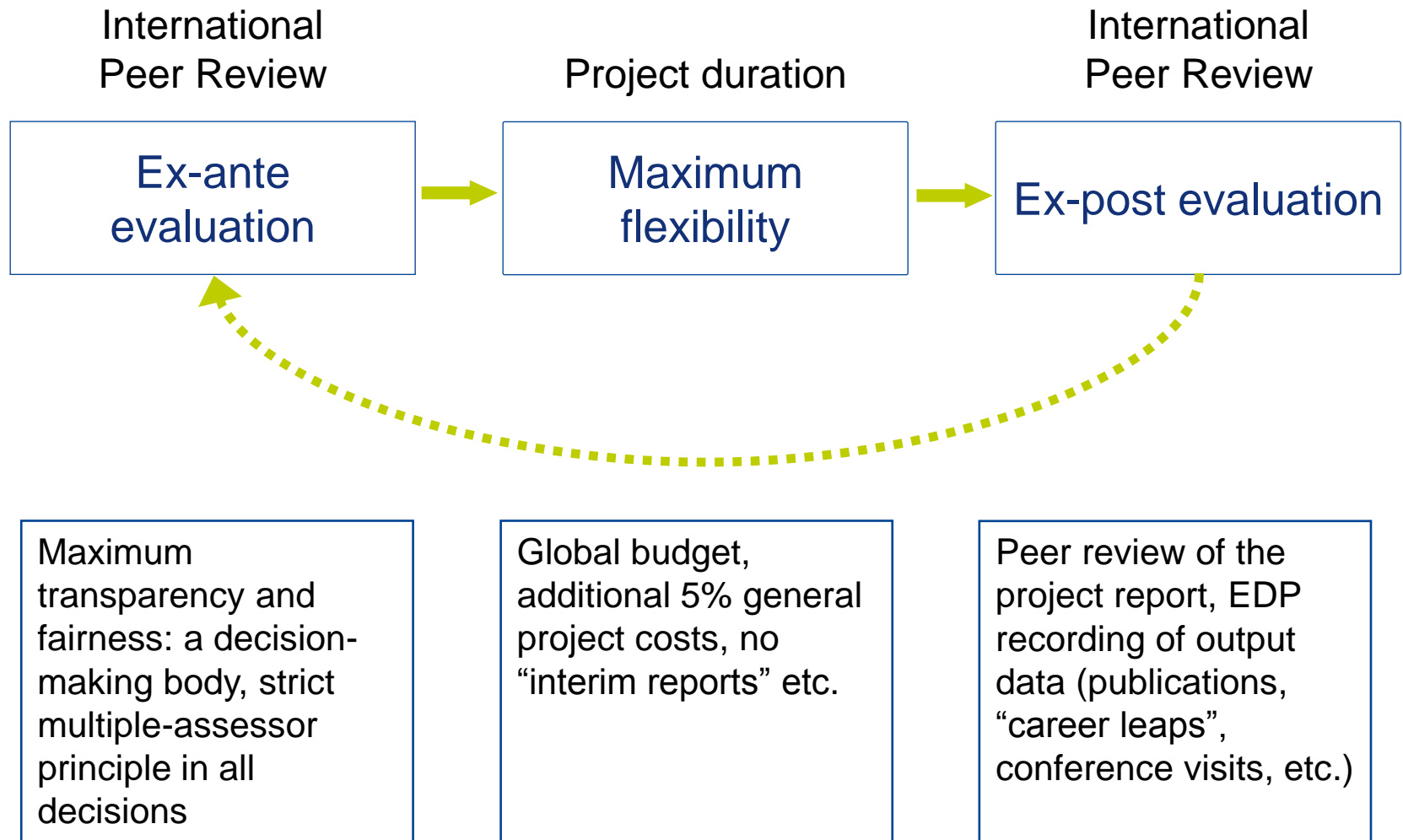
Reviews received by country (2017)



Principles of the decision

- Quality benchmark → International research community
- Peer Review → All reviewers based outside Austria
- Number of reviews → At least 2
- Decisions → Issued by FWF Board on basis of reviews
- Reasoning → Communication of the complete review to applicants
- Checks and Balances → Comparative discussion of all projects of all disciplines
- Decision meetings → 5 per year

Controlling (quality control)

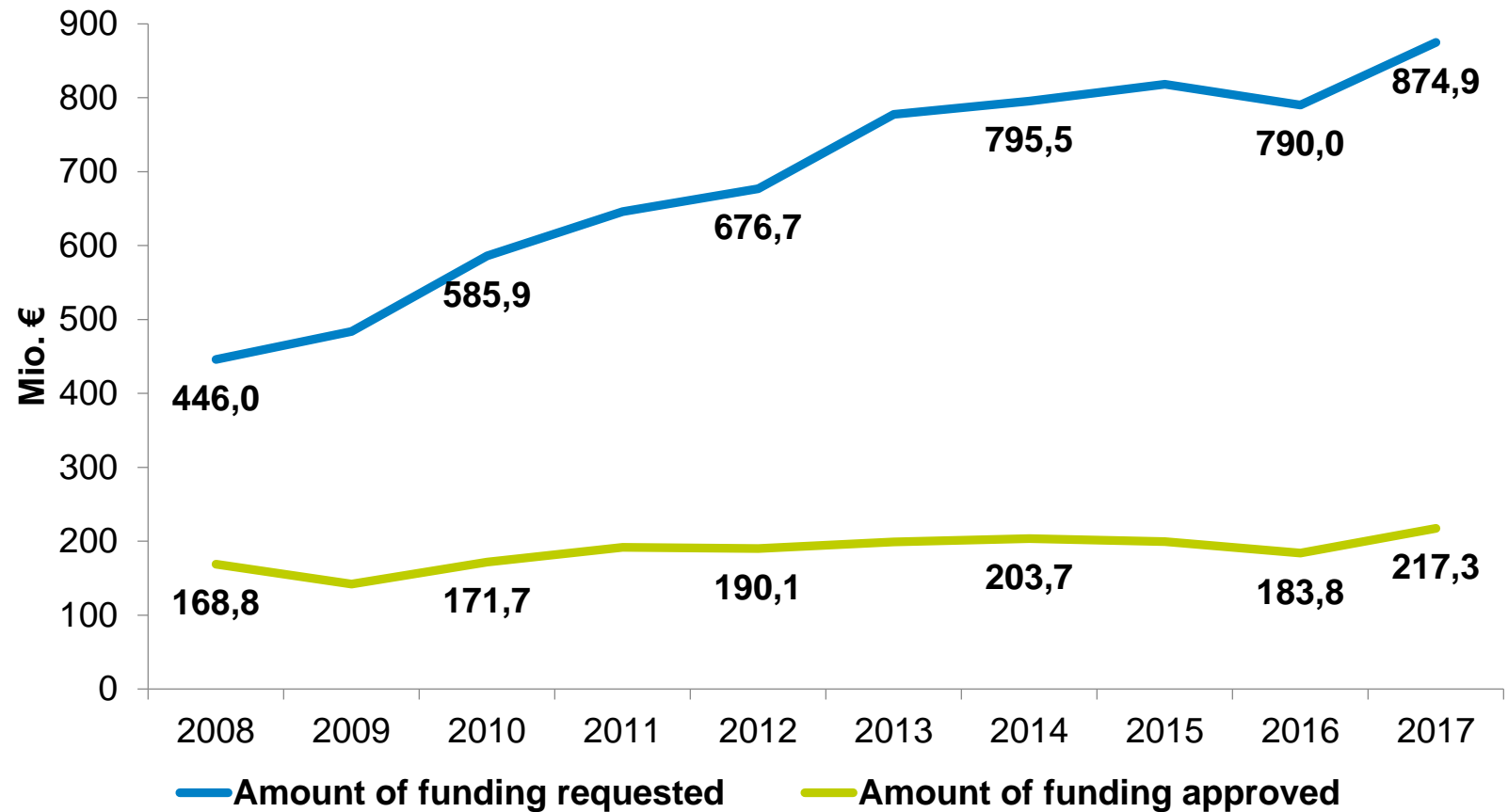


Current developments and plans

A good start – more to come...

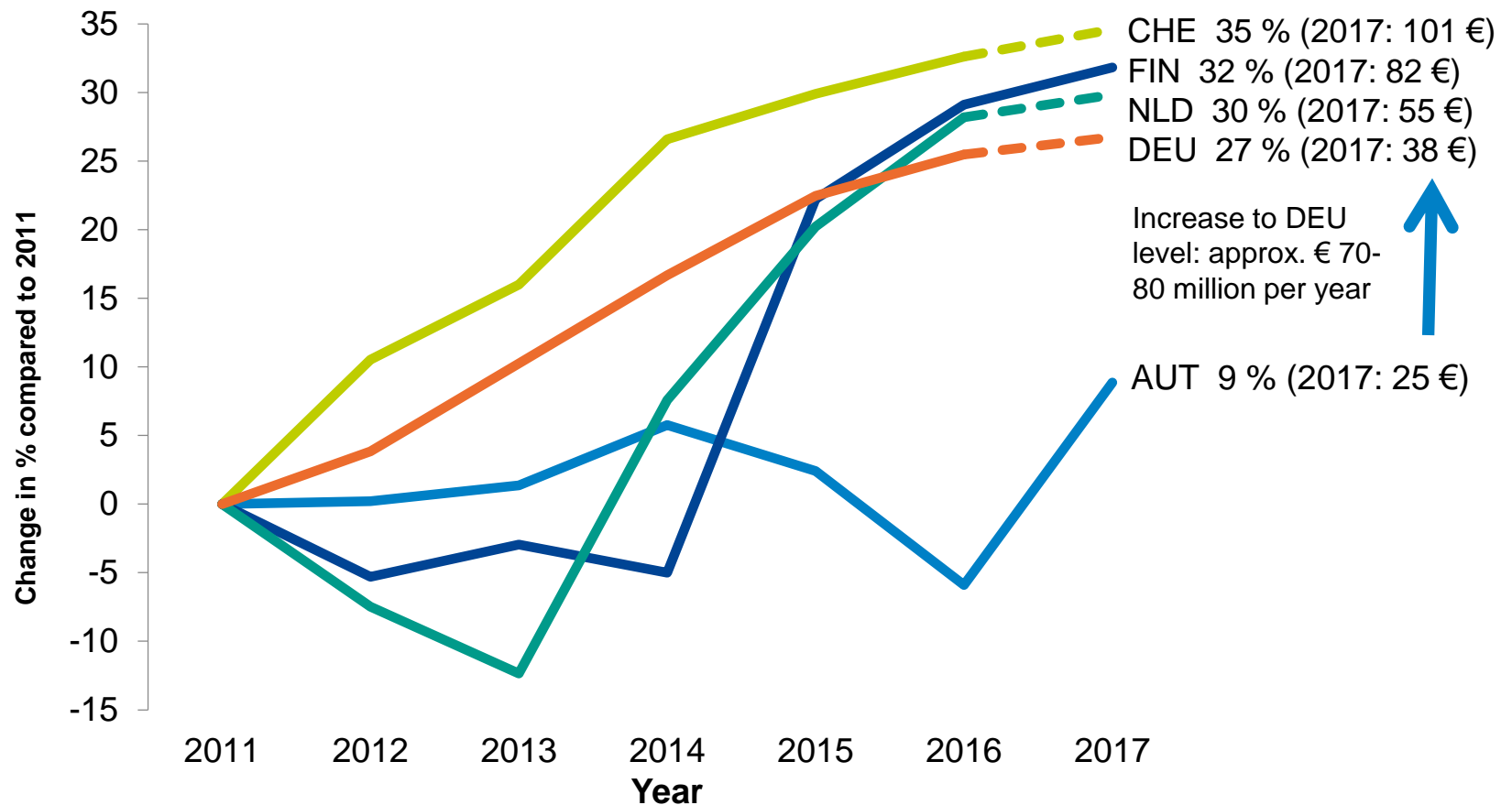
- 1st step has been taken: **additional € 110 million for 2018-2021**, additional funds from the **National Foundation for RTD**
- FWF new approval amount 2017: **€ 217.3 million**
 - Plus of € 33.5 million (18 %)
- Requested amount 2017: **€ 879.4 million**
 - Plus of € 89.4 million (11 %)
- ***Matching Funds* strengthen partnership with the federal states**
 - 2017: 30 projects / € 9,7 million
 - 2016: 17 projects / € 4.2 million

Increased demand for competitive FWF funds



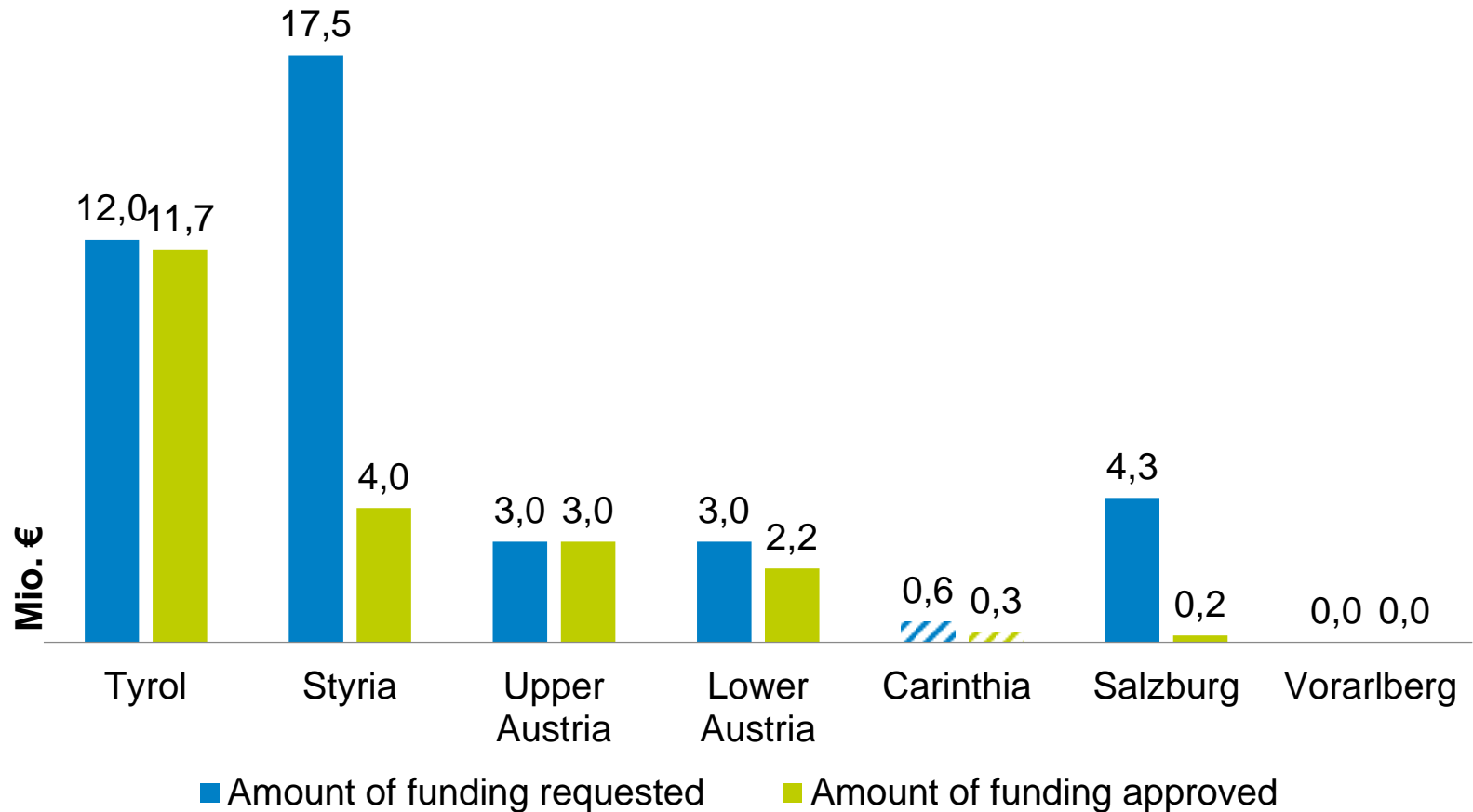
Development of the budget (€ / inhabitant)

West/North European funding organizations



AUT – FWF, CHE – SNF, FIN – AKA, NLD – NWO, DEU – DFG
 Percentages: Growth since 2011; 2017 data expected for CHE, NLD and DEU (estimated)

Funding under Matching Funds / federal state agreements 2014-2017



FWF programme outlook

- New START call in 2019 in existing format (further development not yet completed)

Newly established programmes:

- Zukunftskollegs - Decision of the 1st call in December 2018; further call in preparation
- Research Groups - Decision on 1st stage submission in May 2019
- Doc.funds - 2nd call ongoing, decision in March 2019
- CEUS: Central European Science Partnership - Building Bridges for Researchers in Central Europe

In development:

- Pilot programme for transdisciplinary research approaches

Comparison of SFB & Pilot Programmes

	Special Research Programme (SFB)	Research Groups (FG)	Young Independent Researcher Groups (YIRG)
Research Approach	inter-/multidisciplinary	inter-/multidisciplinary	interdisciplinary
Researchers	5 – 15	3 – 5	3 – 5
Research Experience as Post doc	≥ 2 years of experience	≥ 2 years of experience	0-4 years of experience
Programme Goals	Building up of extremely productive, tightly interconnected research establishments through autonomous research concentration at a single university location; long-term research work should be done to in mixed teams	A medium-term research cooperation on a complex research topic between researchers (in mixed teams) at smaller locations or in certain scientific / scholarly disciplines	A medium-term research cooperation on a complex, current and interdisciplinary topic is to be deepened or newly consolidated by researchers in mixed teams
Location of research	50% at one single university location	throughout Austria	throughout Austria; 2 research organisations or at least 2 organisational units of one research org.
Duration	2x4 years	1x5 years	1x4 years

New application guidelines (from 01.01.2019*)

Goal: Better comprehensibility and clarity of the application process

- Editorial and structural revision of the application guidelines.
Harmonisation of the application guidelines for all funding programmes.
- Adaptation of application forms and templates for CVs, publication lists, project participants, forms, ...
- New criteria: explicit presentation of the degree of scientific innovation/novelty, also as a question to the reviewers
- Creation of PR abstracts and submission of a data management plan only upon conclusion of the grant agreement.
- Easier project reporting via research information system, connection to established publication databases

*: for all funding programmes w/o deadlines

Application submission from 01.01.2019

Goal: Reduction of requests for changes following the submission

- Detailed information in November 2018 (via FWF Newsletter)
- Publication of the new application guidelines in December 2018
- Creation of a glossary and FAQ on the FWF website
- Additional check boxes in Elane to check completeness
- after a transitional period, the completeness of the application submission is assumed (afterwards, requests for changes are only possible in exceptional cases)
- Tolerance period until end of February 2019: during that time applications could be submitted according to the old application guidelines

The main changes

Goal: To improve the design of proposals for peer review procedures

- Structured abstracts according to template
- New specifications regarding the scope of the project description
- Separate list of scientific references and separate cost justification
- New guidelines for CVs in form and scope → ORCID
- Publication list of the applicant limited to the 10 most important
- Query of the degree of scientific innovation or novelty
- Important cooperation partners are to be confirmed by cooperation letters
- Written offers for devices only above 5000,- EUR
- No description of dissemination plan

PROFI = Project funding through research institutions

- Conversion from *ad personam* funding to PROFI: Grant agreement is concluded with the research institution of the project leader
- Autonomy of the project leaders on research content and the use of the project funds is guaranteed.
- Project application and processing via PROFI will be introduced in stages:
 - Coordinated funding programs (SFBs, Zukunftskollegs, research groups, doc.funds) from 2018/19 via PROFI
 - Individual projects and related programmes as well as career programmes from 2020 (with exceptions, e.g. Schroedinger outgoing phase)

In conclusion: Services of the FWF (excerpt)

Interactions

- **FWF Newsletter**

Registration at: www.fwf.ac.at/de/service/newsletter/

- **FWF Information Events**

Information on dates and venues can be found in the calendar on the FWF website

- **FWF Coaching Workshops**

The working methods and procedures of the FWF as well as critical points of application and project management are made transparent in a practice-oriented manner

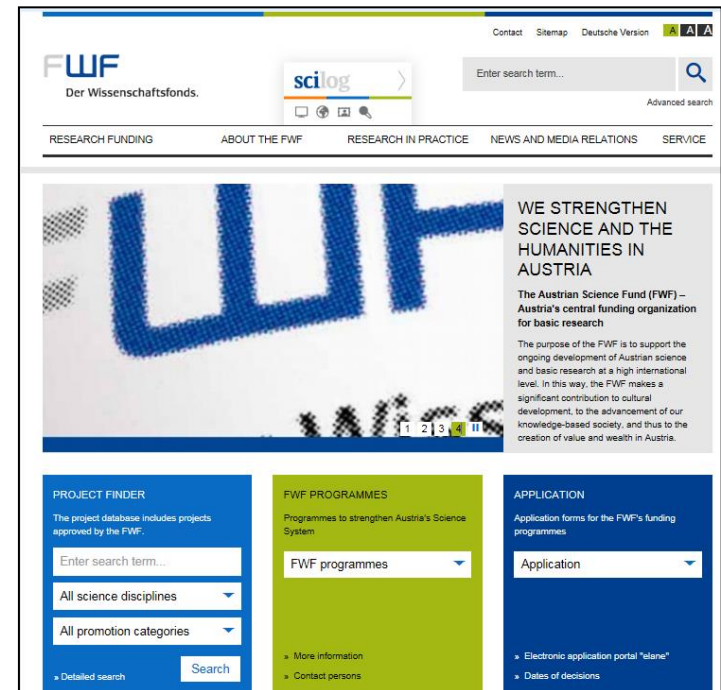
Further information:

<http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/information-events/>

Information and Registration: nina.thomann@fwf.ac.at

The FWF website: The information resource

- FWF-Website: www.fwf.ac.at
- Funding programmes overview
- Application documents
- Principles of the decision-making process
- Contact directory





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