

Funding of Interregional Project Networks (IPN)

4th Call

European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino (EGTC)

Diversity in nature, culture and language characterizes the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and its citizens. This European region consists of three mountain areas that share history and similarities, despite having their own particular characteristics. It is a European region with a high potential for further development.

In 2011, according to European Parliament's Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006, the EVTZ "Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino" respective GECT "Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino", from now on referred to as EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino or EGTC was established as the first EGTC in Austria, the second one in Italy and the 21st EGTC in Europe. The EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino is a non-profit legal entity and strives to promote and facilitate cross-border, transnational and interregional collaboration among its members within the context of European Integration.

The European region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino unites 1.8 million citizens living in a total area of 26,255 km², within the two autonomous Italian provinces of Bolzano-South Tyrol and Trentino and the Austrian federal state of Tyrol. This European region is an interface and a platform where diverse cultures and mentalities come together to enrich each other. The idea of a united Europe has prevailed. Chances for further cultural, political and economic integration are pursued. Cross-border collaboration upgrades and strengthens the whole European region by enhancing and promoting economic growth while preparing for the challenges given by globalization. All important aspects of life of its citizens are covered by the EGTC's sphere of action: from communication, culture, education, youth policy, research, and economy, tourism, up to transport policy, health, nature and energy.

Establishment of the Euregio Science Fund

Article 5 (2)(b)(iv) of the Convention of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino stipulates that research and innovation are areas of cooperation of particular interest for the EGTC. Article 7 (1)(f) stipulates that the establishment and intensification of networks of knowledge and excellence is a specific field of action for the EGTC.

On 27 March 2014, the EGTC's Board of Directors and its Assembly decided upon the establishment of a joint science fund, preceded by a close technical examination by the regional authorities. The Board of Directors and the Assembly agreed upon the establishment of the Euregio Science Fund as a direct project of and managed by the EGTC Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, according to Article 3 (5) of the EGTC's Rules of Procedure, which stipulates that all costs associated with the Euregio Science Fund have to be borne by the EGTC and anchored within its budget.

On 12th September 2019, the EGTC's Board of Directors decided that the cooperation with FWF shall be continued regarding a 4th call of the Euregio Science Fund. Further on, the EGTC's Board of Directors assigned the Secretary General to prepare the call documents together with FWF and the regional administrations.

On 02nd June 2020, the EGTC's Board of Directors and its Assembly decided upon the publication of the fourth call of the Euregio Science Fund.

The Euregio Science Fund provides financial support for interregional basic research projects which fulfil international criteria with respect to scientific quality standards. Proposed projects shall foster and strengthen networks between scientists and researchers as well as existing research centres within the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and, at best, be the basis for joint project proposals for EU research programmes.

The goals of the Euregio Science Fund (EGTC) are as follows:

- To develop new ideas in various scientific areas of non-profit scientific research
- To reach out and establish and / or foster research networks between the 3 regions Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
- To fund interregional research networks that necessarily involve all 3 regions Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, present an overarching common goal and discuss a collaborative approach
- To foster interregional research networks in the main thematic fields of interregional cooperation
- To support project networks with a project volume of 250.000 Euro up to 500.000 Euro and a funding period of 24 up to 36 months
- To foster and increase international visibility of scientists and researchers from the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
- To give young scientists and researchers an opportunity to improve their knowledge, professional skills and integration into the scientific community

Application Guidelines¹ for Interregional Project Networks (IPN)

4th Call for Proposals

The Euregio Science Fund is implemented by the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino based upon the principles of fairness, transparency and equal treatment. Having consulted the Scientific Expert Group, the EGTC's Board of Directors shall decide upon the necessary directives for the implementation and settlement of payments for all fundable projects in the field of non-profit-oriented scientific research. Within the framework of the present call for proposals, a total of 3 million euros is available for the funding².

Funding is provided by the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. Specific administrative tasks within this call are delegated to the Austrian Science Fund (FWF):

- Administration of the external scientific review of all project proposals provided
- The administration of all tasks associated to project parts funded based within the federal state of Tyrol, in particular funding contract, financial transfers, reporting and audition.

¹ Please note that all limits (e.g. on the number of pages, publications, enclosures) specified in these guidelines must be observed. Please note also that only the English version of the guidelines is the legally binding version for the EGTC / FWF.

² Please note that EGTC works on the basis of multi-year-budgets. At the moment, the financial provision for the period 2020-2022 is in force. The amount of 3 million euros will be reduced to 2 million euro in the case that the Assembly of the EGTC does not approve the financing of the 4th call for the year 2023. The decision by the Assembly of the EGTC is expected by Oct. 1st 2020.

The administration of project parts based within the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol or the Autonomous Province of Trento, in particular funding contract, financial transfers, reporting and audition, will be carried out by the EGTC itself or contracted out to one or institutional partner(s) by the EGTC.

A. What may be applied for?

Interregional project networks (IPNs) are research projects in which scientists and researchers from the three European regions Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino co-operate in pursuing a common research goal corresponding to the goals of the EGTC. It is only advisable to apply for such a project if all three parts of the project are closely integrated so that one part could not be carried out without the others (see also application processing p.18). It is expected that all sides contribute significantly in terms of scientific input. Each region must be represented once in form of a scientific project part in such an interregional project network.

The project should be in the field of non-profit-oriented scientific research and its duration should be limited (24 to not more than 36 months). Non-profit-oriented scientific/scholarly research refers to research whose value is primarily related to the further development of science and research (scientific work directed at enhancing our understanding of the field).

Any aspects of a research project that go beyond basic research (results of relevance to society, to the environment or to the economy) may be mentioned, although they play no part in the assessment of whether the project should be funded.

The scope and content of the IPN research work must be laid out in the IPN project description which is part of the free-form application³ (as explained further on p.11-12) must address the following points:

1 Scientific aspects

- Aims (hypotheses or scientific/scholarly questions):
- Description of methods;
- Work plan, time plan as well as strategies for dissemination of results explaining which task will be done by each partner;
- Cooperation arrangements (national and international) – clear description of the collaborative approach among the 3 individual project parts (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino) describing the aim to achieve the overarching research question and produce added value
- Where ethical issues⁴ and sex-specific and gender-related aspects have to be considered in the proposed research project

³ Further details on required content to be addressed in the frame of the project description and formal requirements are described under point D5 on p.12

⁴ For orientation purposes, applicants may wish to review the document "Ethics for researchers" published by the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89888/ethics-for-researchers_en.pdf) or "The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity" (http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/Code_Conduct_ResearchIntegrity.pdf). In cases of uncertainty, researchers can also contact their more experienced colleagues or the person/department responsible for ethical issues at their respective research institution.

- 2 Human resources (qualification and potential of the project leaders)**
- 3 Broader effects (for other branches of science, beyond the specific field)**
- 4 Financial aspects (per applicant/research institution Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino)**

The EGTC provides 100 percent funding in accordance to the national and European law regarding the funding of basic research. The overall project volume of an IPN should be within the scale of 250.000 Euro and 500.000 Euro.

Research activities within the IPN shall be performed at all participating partners, the difference between the largest and the smallest project part (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino) may not be more than 25 percent of the total costs of the project. This financial correlation will be checked by the EGTC after the submission of the application.

B. Who is eligible to apply?

For Tyrol:

Any scientist or researcher working in the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino who possesses the qualifications, available capacity and the infrastructure necessary to carry out the project submitted. Each researcher/scientist can participate as an IPN coordinator or project part leader only in one IPN consortium in the course of the 4th call.

No particular academic title is needed, nor is Austrian citizenship required. However, the project part must be carried out in Tyrol or based at a Tyrolean research institution. Applications for this type of projects may only be submitted by individual natural persons. Applications from institutes, institutions or companies are not permitted.

For South Tyrol and Trentino:

Applications for project parts regarding South Tyrol and Trentino may only be submitted by research organisations such as university or research institute, irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development and to disseminate their results by way of teaching, publication or technology transfer which are situated within the territory of the Autonomous Provinces of South Tyrol and Trento; all profits are reinvested in these activities, the dissemination of their results or teaching; undertakings that can exert influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, shall enjoy no preferential access to the research capacities of such an entity or to the research results generated by it.

The Research Organisation has to name a scientist or researcher who will lead the project and possesses the qualifications listed below. Any scientist or researcher can participate as an IPN coordinator or project part leader only in one IPN consortium in the course of the 4th call.

Scientific/Scholarly Demands on the Leaders of the Project Parts

The following criteria are decisive in the assessment of the scientist or researcher's research qualifications and determine whether a review procedure is initiated:

- Peer review: All the publications listed (or more than half in the case of the humanities) must have been subject to a quality assurance procedure in line with high international standards, which usually means that journals should be listed in the Web of Science, Scopus, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). For journals not listed in those databases, or monographs, edited volumes or contributions therein, or other publication types, the peer-review procedure must be documented on the publisher's website to which applicants should provide a link. Should no such documentation be available on the website, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence that the publication has been subject to an appropriate quality assurance procedure.
- Number and quality of the applicant's publications must be commensurate with his/her career stage. At least two publications must be peer-reviewed and internationally visible publications with a substantial and independent contribution on the part of the applicant.
- International nature: In the natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences, most of the publications listed must be in English. In the humanities and cultural studies, as well as arts-based research, most of the applicant's publications must have a wider than national reach.

Principal investigators from Tyrol must mention the ORCID persistent digital identifiers (<http://orcid.org/>) in the application forms.

Internal structure of the IPN:

The partners should nominate an IPN coordinator who then overtakes several tasks in the course of the administration of the funded projects such as e.g. yearly reporting. It is expected that the role of the Coordinator comprises at least the following duties:

- Submission of the proposal
- Communication within the IPN
- Supervision of the IPN overall work progress
- Notification to the EGTC regarding facts that could lead to extension of the IPN or the repayment and reclamation of funds
- Yearly reporting to the EGTC
- Integration of the expected publication costs in the category "other costs" within his/her project part
- Coordination of a consortium agreement among the partners regarding intellectual property rights on project results and specific responsibilities and liabilities
- Writing summaries in such a way as to safeguard legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defense and patent law, and that trade secrets are appropriately protected.
- All duties which apply for Other beneficiaries

The role of the other beneficiaries comprises at least the following duties:

- Planning of and working on the own project part in accordance with the guidelines for IPN
- Providing of all requested information to the Coordinator regarding the reporting
- Documentation of spending in accordance with the guidelines

- Notification to the Coordinator and EGTC regarding any fact that could lead to the extension of the IPN or the repayment and reclamation of funds
- Notification to the Coordinator regarding any fact that could lead to a contempt of safeguard legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defense and patent law, and that trade secrets are appropriately protected in the written summaries.
- Fulfilling all duties out of the funding contract with the EGTC or FWF and the consortium agreement

C. What types of funding may be requested and which costs are eligible?

Only project-specific costs may be requested, i.e. personnel and non-personnel costs that are essential to carry out the project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure.

Ineligible costs: The EGTC does not finance infrastructure or basic equipment at research institutions. This category includes all facilities that are required for the normal operations of the research institution (such as buildings, installations, communication facilities, scientific equipment considered part of infrastructure, etc.)

No personnel costs may be requested for project leaders (note for Tyrolean partners: applications as an "independent researcher" like in FWF "Stand alone projects" where the principal investigator's salary is to be paid from the funding provided for the project are not possible).

Within the IPN project no contribution to the indirect costs (overheads) is granted.

Funding for publication costs cannot be requested in IPN applications for this type of research projects. The EGTC does not provide additional funding for peer-reviewed publications in the category of IPN. However, publication costs can be financed, as running costs in the course of the funding period of the project.

Double funding is not permitted. Any other grants relating to the subject of the application that have been requested from or awarded by the FWF or other funding agencies (e.g. the EU, government, ministries, Italian provinces etc.) must be mentioned (see application forms).

For Tyrolean Partners: Applications that are essentially identical may not be submitted – in a different programme of the FWF – unless the programme-specific application guidelines explicitly make an exception to this general rule. The FWF's policies prohibit the conclusion of large-scale independent work contracts (i.e., exceeding the legally defined limit for marginal part-time employment) immediately after a contract of employment.

Eligible costs (project specific costs) are personnel costs, equipment costs, material costs, travel costs, other costs and general costs. Since e.g. for personnel costs and travel costs the Austrian and Italian law differs, the eligible costs are separately explained for partners from Tyrol and from South Tyrol and Trentino.

1 Personnel Costs

For South Tyrol & Trentino only:

The application should include all persons, in addition to the staff already available, who will be required for the proposed project and who will work exclusively or primarily on the proposed project.

The available legal categories of employment as well as salary scales apply as they are generally in use at the research organisation. Part-time employment may apply.

The EGTC grants only additional personnel costs including an annual increase to compensate for inflation.

For the Tyrolean Partner only:

The application should include all persons, in addition to the staff already available, who will be needed to carry out the project and will work exclusively to the extent agreed on for this project.

The available legal categories of employment are contracts of employment for full-time or part-time employees and marginal employment. A part-time (50%) contract of employment for “student assistants,” which equates to 20 hours per week, may be requested for researchers who have not yet completed a master’s or diploma degree programme in the relevant subject area.

The current FWF salary scale (“Personnel costs and salary scale” or, for graduates of medicine in Austria, “Personnel costs and salary scale – Graduates of medical studies”), indicates the salaries that may be requested. The EGTC grants an annual increase to compensate for inflation; this is applied automatically to all contracts of employment in IPN-projects that are valid when the increase is effected.

2 Equipment costs (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino)

Equipment may only be requested if it is specifically required for the project and if it does not represent part of basic infrastructure. Such infrastructure is considered to include equipment and components that should be available in a modern research institution in the scientific field in question in order to permit basic research at an internationally competitive level. Please note that if such components are requested nonetheless, the EGTC and/or FWF will first examine carefully whether it is possible to perform topical basic research in such a research environment and how it was possible to undertake the preliminary experiments related to the project.

The category “scientific equipment” includes apparatus and instruments, system components, costs for the use of software required by the project and other durable goods, provided the cost per item (including VAT) exceeds EUR 800.00 up to a maximum of EUR 50,000. An offer from a supplier (for each piece of equipment with acquisition costs higher than EUR 5,000.00 including VAT) must be included.

In the case an applicant intends to buy more expensive scientific equipment, which does not represent part of basic infrastructure and is essential to the research project, within this call co-financing by the EGTC may apply up to a maximum of 50.000 Euro in total for all items (including VAT). The EGTC does not claim any property rights.

For South Tyrol & Trentino only:

“Scientific Equipment” as described above and financed within this call shall become property of the Italian research institution, which entitles the researchers involved in project to use the equipment.

For the Tyrolean Partner only:

Equipment may only be requested if it is specifically required for the project and if it is not part of the institution’s existing infrastructure. “Infrastructure” is considered to include all equipment (and components for the equipment) that should be available in a modern research institution to conduct basic research in the relevant discipline at an internationally competitive level. Please note that if such equipment or components are requested nonetheless, the EGTC and/or FWF will first examine carefully whether it is possible to conduct leading-edge basic research in such an environment and how it was possible to carry out the preliminary work related to the project. This may have an impact on the funding decision.

In this context, “equipment“ includes scientific instruments, system components, self-constructed devices (generally assembled from smaller pieces of equipment and materials), and other tangible fixed assets as well as intangible assets such as licenses, industrial property rights, and licenses derived from such rights, whose acquisition cost per item exceeds the amount specified in Article 13 of the Austrian Income Tax Act 1988 as last amended, Federal Law Gazette No. 400/1988, which is currently EUR 800.00 (incl. VAT, unless the research institution is entitled to deduct VAT). A vendor quote from a company (PDF scan) must be uploaded with the application for each piece of equipment whose acquisition cost (including VAT) exceeds EUR 5,000.00.

For items of equipment which are required specifically for the project and whose acquisition cost (including VAT) is EUR 24,000.00 or higher, applicants must confirm with their signatures on the application form (Affirmation of applicant) that they have verified that no comparable equipment that could be used or shared is available within a reasonable distance, and that the possibility of (co-)financing by third parties has been explored. Applicants must also ensure that they are aware of any possible costs that could arise from the use, maintenance, and repairs of the equipment.

The principal investigator is to instruct his/her research institution to order the equipment and effect payment accordingly. In all equipment purchases, the research institution’s procurement guidelines are to be observed. Each item of equipment is to be recorded in the institution’s inventory and the acquisition costs are to be reimbursed from the respective project budget in accordance with the relevant agreement between the research institution and the FWF.

3 Material costs (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino)

This category encompasses consumables and smaller pieces of equipment where the cost per item is below €800.00 including VAT.

The calculation of requested material costs should be justified with reference to the project schedule, work plan and experiment plan. Experience from previous projects should be taken into account.

4 Travel costs (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino)

Funding may be requested for project-specific travel and accommodation, field work, expeditions, etc. The project description must include a detailed travel plan broken down by project participant. This plan must indicate which persons, for what purpose, when (in which year of the project), for how long and where they will be travelling, and how much this will cost.

Travel expenses for researchers from other Italian/Austrian and foreign institutions can only be granted in exceptional cases and require detailed justification.

Each partner must provide own travel expenses within the proper project part.

The calculation of travel and accommodation costs should generally be based on:

For South Tyrol & Trentino only: research institute's internal regulations

For the Tyrolean Partner only: the federal regulations governing travel costs (RGV). The current RGV rates for travel abroad can be found in the following document

<http://www.fwf.ac.at/fileadmin/files/Dokumente/Downloads/bgbl.pdf>

For longer stays, a transparent and appropriate budget should be prepared; in general, this budget will be lower than the costs calculated on the basis of above mentioned regulations.

Applicants must not request funding for the presentation of project results at congresses; the costs associated with attending such conferences should be covered by the "general project costs" (see below point 6).

5 Other costs (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino)

- Independent contracts for work and services (costs for work of clearly defined scope and content, commissioned to individuals, provided that it is scientifically justifiable and economical).
- Costs for the preparation, archiving, open access, and reuse of research data in repositories in accordance with the Open Access Policy of the FWF;
- Costs that cannot be included under personnel, equipment, materials or travel costs, for example:
- Coverage of costs for the use of research facilities, e.g. costs incurred due to the project-specific use of available equipment (project-specific "equipment time") or large research facilities; in any case, offers from potential suppliers must be submitted. Where the costs exceed EUR 10.000,00 (not including VAT) over the entire term of the project, each offer must be accompanied by the corresponding calculation basis

for costs from the research institution involved in the project. This calculation must include information on the nature and scope of the services for which project-specific costs are incurred (according to internal charging procedures, e.g. based on usage days or hours, or based on the number and type of measurements/analyses performed, etc.) as well as a confirmation indicating for that the offer does not include any infrastructure-related costs such as equipment depreciation, supplementary charges for overhead, costs of research premises, etc.;

- Costs for laboratory animals required by and used in the project;
- Costs for project-specific work carried out outside the applicant's research institution (e.g. for analysis work performed elsewhere, for interviews, for sample collection, for preparation of thin slices etc.). Offers should be supplied;
- Costs for the disposal of hazardous waste;
- Costs for honoraria to test persons (For the Italian project parts only): the total amount of other costs may not exceed 25 Percent of each partner's total project costs.

6 General costs (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino)

For reasons of simplicity, general project costs refer to all those costs that are generally permitted but cannot be requested individually. These include, for example, costs for conference travel, dissemination activities as well as smaller, unforeseen costs necessary for the project. General project costs should not be understood in the sense of "overhead costs" of the research institution.

General project costs should be entered in the appropriate field in the Cost breakdown form and calculated as 5% of the total funding requested. No justification for general costs is needed in the project description.

D. How should applications be submitted?

Proposals can be submitted to a dedicated call for proposals. All applications received by the published deadline will be subjected to a formal check by the EGTC.

All parts of the free-form application, the abstracts and the enclosures must be submitted in 11pt type, line spacing 1.5

The application must contain the subsequent information in the electronic version:

- 1 **Academic abstract in English** comprising no more than 3,000 characters (incl. spaces; no formulas or special characters). The academic abstract will be used to inform potential reviewers about the project. The abstract must be subdivided into the following sections using the given English terms:
 - Wider research context / theoretical framework
 - Hypotheses / research questions / objectives
 - Approach / methods
 - Level of originality / innovation
 - Primary researchers involved

In one file (including items 2 to 4) (format: PDF; do not use scanned files; no protected files, no signatures required):

- 2 Completed application forms** (application form, itemisation of requested funding);
The structured part of the application consists of the application form and supplementary forms. All required forms must be completed in their entirety. For the application to be legally binding, the EGTC / FWF requires a copy of the application forms of the “Affirmation of applicant” and (Only for Tyrolean Partner the “Affirmation of applicant’s research institution” form) are digitally signed or, optionally for Tyrolean project parts, that carries original signatures and, if requested, an original stamp (seal).
- 3 Form with the names** (and contact details) **of all persons** (co-authors) who have made substantial scientific/scholarly contributions to the application, either in its conception or composition. A brief description of the nature of each contribution should be included. In cases where no co-authors are involved, it is necessary to indicate this explicitly in the attachment;
- 4 A free-form application** (with consecutively numbered pages) composed of:
 - Project description of no more than 20 consecutively numbered pages, list of abbreviations headings, figures, captions, tables, footnotes, etc.;
 - Bibliography⁵ relevant to the project (no more than 5 pages);
 - Academic curriculum vitae (hereinafter referred to as CV) and description of previous research achievements (no more than 3 pages per CV per person);
 - Collaboration letters: Confirmations (each no more than 1 page) of national and international cooperation partners that are stated to be essential in the project description

Content of the Project Description

The IPN project description⁶ must address the following points:

1 Scientific/scholarly aspects

- Aims (hypotheses or scientific questions):
 - Relationship to international scientific work in the field (international status of the research);
 - Explanation of how the project could break new ground scientifically (innovative aspects);
 - Importance of the expected results for the discipline (based on the project described);
- Description of methods;
- Work plan, time plan as well as strategies for dissemination of results explaining which task will be done by each partner;
- Cooperation arrangements (national and international) – clear description of the collaborative approach among the 3 individual project parts (Tyrol, South Tyrol,

⁵ Literature lists must include the following information: All authors, complete titles, journal, year and page numbers. For publications with more than 20 authors, and "et al." reference can be used.

⁶ Hyperlinks in the project description or in enclosures to contents, for which a login/password is required, will be disregarded.

Trentino) describing the aim to achieve the overarching research question and produce added value

- All potential ethical, safety-related, or regulatory aspects⁷ of the submitted project and the planned handling of them must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any ethical issues.
- All potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects⁸ in the planned project as well as the planned implementation of these research questions must be described in a separate section. This aspect should be addressed briefly in the text even if the applicant believes the project does not raise any sex-specific and gender-related issues.

2 Human resources

- Academic/scholarly qualifications of the researchers involved;
- Importance of the project for the career development of the participants (project leader and project staff members).

3 Broader effects

- Implications for other branches of science;
- Effects with implications beyond the specific research field.

4 Financial aspects (per applicant/research institution Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino)

- Information on the research institution/s for each individual project part:
 - Available personnel not financed by the EGTC (usually the project leader and co-applicants);
 - Available infrastructure.
- Information on the support requested by each individual research project parts:
 - Concise justification for the personnel requested (type of position[s], description of nature of work, length and extent of involvement in the project);
 - Concise justification for non-personnel costs (equipment, material, travel and other costs). If equipment is requested, applicants must specify why this does not represent part of the available infrastructure (see also Point C – Eligible costs).

⁷ For instance, the European Commission's [Ethics for Researchers](#) or [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity can serve as a guide here](#).

⁸ Positioning and reflecting on the research approaches in the planned for the project in terms of sex-specific and gender-related issues, for instance: Is the research approach likely to produce sex-specific and gender-related findings? If so, what findings? How and where are these integrated into the research approach? (For information on checking the relevance of sex-specific and gender-related issues to a project, see <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/gender-issues/fix-the-knowledge/fix-the-knowledge-detail/>)

Requirements for academic curricula vitae (CVs) and publication lists

Academic curriculum vitae (no more than 3 pages per person)

The academic CVs and research achievements for all researchers involved in the project (i.e. the principal investigator, known researchers on the project staff to be financed by the EGTC) should be described on no more than three pages per person.

Required contents for academic CVs

- Name and contact details of the person, address of the research institution, and relevant websites. It is also required to provide a publicly available link to a list of all published publications; the use of ORCID is expressly recommended for this purpose.
- List of academic milestones and relevant positions held to date (with a brief explanation of any career gaps, if applicable).
- Main areas of research and short statement of the most important scientific/scholarly results achieved to date.

Required description of previous research achievements

- Academic publications: list of no more than ten of the most important published or accepted academic publications (journal articles, monographs, edited volumes, contributions to edited volumes, proceedings, etc.), for each publication, either a DOI⁹ address or another persistent identifier should be indicated. In accordance with the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), journal-based metrics like the journal impact factor should not be included.
- Additional research achievements: list of no more than ten of the most important scientific/scholarly research achievements apart from academic publications, such as awards, conference papers, keynote speeches, important research projects, research data, software, codes, preprints, exhibitions, knowledge transfers, science communication, licenses, or patents.

Publication lists¹⁰

- A list of all published publications of the last five years (divided into peer reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) of all participants for whom a scientific curriculum vitae is enclosed, as well as for all essential project members for whom personnel costs are requested (Publication_list.pdf).
This list helps the FWF to determine if there are any potential conflicts of interest with reviewers and thus speeds up the process of identifying reviewers. This list will not be forwarded to the reviewers.

⁹ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, and “et al.” reference can be used.

¹⁰ Publication lists must include: all authors, complete titles, journal, year, and page numbers. For each publication, either a [DOI address](#) or another [persistent identifier](#) should be indicated; for publications with more than 20 authors, an “et al.” reference can be used.

Enclosures, each in a separate file (PDF format).

The project description and the application forms (one original and one on an electronic medium) should be accompanied by the following enclosures, where applicable:

- The additional forms – forms for international cooperation arrangements – assist the FWF in interpreting the application. They should be completed as required and included with the enclosures.
- Bids/offers for requested equipment (an offer from a supplier for each item requested, German and Italian language acceptable; electronic version is not obligatory).
- Bids/offers for any relevant items requested under ‘Other costs’.

Revising a rejected application (“resubmission”)

A resubmission is defined as the revision of an application which has already been rejected with the same or similar research questions, regardless of the programme category. Where an applicant submits an application on the same or very similar research questions yet does not consider it to be a resubmission but an entirely new project, the applicant must submit a separate accompanying letter to the EGTC explaining how the research questions have changed. For example, changes in research methods alone are not sufficient for a proposal to qualify as a completely new project. In cases of doubt, the decision-making bodies of the EGTC/FWF shall decide.

- If the project submitted is a resubmission of a rejected application, the applicant should indicate this at the beginning of the project description (e.g., in a footnote).
- An accompanying letter containing an overview of all changes made in the resubmitted application must be submitted to the EGTC; this overview will not be passed on to the reviewers.
- Response(s) to reviews: the applicant can decide whether the response(s) should be passed on to the relevant previous reviewer or all reviewers (see Section 3). These response(s) should address the suggestions and criticism expressed in each review of the previous application and point out the changes made on that basis. Such responses are not necessary in the case of reviews written by persons who are to be excluded from the review process for the resubmitted application. However, such exclusions must be justified and will also be counted toward the list of reviewers who should be excluded for the resubmission.
- If all the reviewers are to receive this response, the applicant must submit a document containing an overall response. If these responses are to be passed on only to the reviewers who were previously involved, the applicant should include a short response to each review in a separate document.

Resubmissions must show changes. In the case of resubmissions of applications that have been rejected for the standardised reasons C3, C4, and C5, the changes need to be substantial (based on the comments in the reviews). If such changes are not made, the application will be returned without review by the decision-making bodies of the FWF.

Further information concerning international cooperation arrangements:

All forms of research collaboration directly related to the project are considered to be cooperation arrangements. Such arrangements are expected to create added value for the project and must work to the advantage of all parties involved.

The EGTC assumes that the costs arising from scholarly collaboration at each research institution will be borne by the respective cooperation partner.

In the course of such arrangements, funds can only be transferred to a cooperation partner (including partners abroad) in cases where they cover clearly defined and limited work assignments or services (as mentioned in Section 5) and where such assignments or services are directly necessary in order to carry out the IPN project.

All cooperation arrangements (international) planned within the proposed project should be detailed in the free-form application. In the case of individual cooperation arrangements, it is necessary to specify the persons with whom project members will cooperate as well as the object of the planned cooperation arrangement(s), i.e. their specific contribution to the project. Each of the planned international cooperation arrangements on an individual basis should be described by means of collaboration letters and included with all relevant information in the "International cooperation arrangements"¹¹ form.

Submission timelines and technical details of the IPN Proposal:

The application (as listed above) must be provided via **electronic email** to the EGTC - the latest by **October 7th 2020, 4 pm CET**:

E-Mail: research@europaregion.info

(Please note: The applicant will receive an auto-generated email confirming the receipt of the application. If the Coordinator is an institution from South Tyrol or Trentino which is familiar with the specific PEC-email-service, the application may also be submitted to europaregion.euregio@pec.prov.bz.it)

If the **Tyrolean researcher** and/or the **Tyrolean research institution** does/do not sign the application form digitally¹², the following items must be submitted to the EGTC postal address (date of postmark the latest 7th of October 2020):

- Completed application forms including the original signatures and stamps (application form, itemisation of requested funding)

Postal address: EVTZ Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino / EGTC Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino
Drususallee 1 / Viale Druso 1
I-39100 Bozen / I-39100 Bolzano

Please note: Post hoc improvements / changes to the content of the application are permitted on the basis of a list of deficiencies provided by the EGTC to the applicants within 10 days (running days) after the notification via Email through the EGTC. If the problems are not rectified within this period of time, the EGTC's will reject the application without review.

¹¹ Only those international cooperation arrangements which are discussed in the free-form project description are to be indicated on the "International cooperation arrangements" form.

¹² Accepted digital signatures e.g. <https://www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/web/digitales-osterreich/die-burgerkarte>

Files should be named as specified below and their size kept as small as possible. The total size of all files submitted on an electronic medium must not exceed 5 MB.

Guidelines for naming files

1. Required files

- **Academic_abstract.doc (academic abstract in English)**
- **Proposal.pdf** (consisting of: 1.) completed application forms, 2.) form cost breakdown of each project part (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino), 3) form naming all co-authors who contributed substantially with ideas and texts to this application, 4.) free-form application including a project-related bibliography, and 5.) academic CVs of all persons involved in the project, plus any collaboration letters)
- **Publication_lists.pdf** (mandatory, publication list of the applicant and the co-applicants for the last 5 years, broken down into peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed; merged into one file)

2. Enclosures (where necessary; see prior page)

- **Annex_Coop.pdf** (FWF form[s] for international cooperation arrangements, in one file)
- **Annex_Revision.pdf/doc** (responses to reviews or review excerpts in a separate file for each review or excerpt: Annex_Revision A pdf/doc/ Annex_Revision B pdf/doc/ eventually also Annex_Revision C pdf/doc/)
- **Annex_Negative_list.pdf** (= list of reviewers who should not be contacted)
- **Annex_Quotes_equipment.pdf**
- **Annex_Quotes_other_costs.pdf**

Applications are reviewed by **international reviewers**, whose anonymity is ensured by the FWF.

In order to enable this international peer review, **applications must be submitted in English.**

E. How does the evaluation and decision making on IPN proposals work?

Only completely filled-out applications, submitted with all the necessary enclosures and declarations, will be considered and handed over by the EGTC to the FWF for further evaluation.

All applications that pass this formal check by EGTC / FWF will be sent to reviewers (as a matter of principle outside Austria and Italy) nominated by the FWF's Executive Board. The number of reviews required for a positive decision on funding is two to three.

The evaluation takes into account the following aspects¹³ :

- 1 Scientific/scholarly quality of the proposal with special attention to strengths and weaknesses
- 2 Approach/methods and feasibility of the proposal with special attention to strengths and weaknesses (Note: a special focus should be put on the collaborative approach, the integration and complementarity of the scientific contributions of the different project partners)
- 3 Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved (based on their academic age) with special attention to strengths and weaknesses
- 4 Sex-specific and gender-related aspects
- 5 Ethical issues
- 6 Overall evaluation with regard to key strengths and weaknesses

Application processing

Proposals can be submitted to a dedicated call for proposals via E-mail (see p.15). All applications received by the published deadline (**October 7th 2020, 4 pm CET**) will be subjected to a formal check by the EGTC/ FWF.

Post hoc improvements / changes to the content of the application are permitted within 10 days (running days) after the notification via Email through the EGTC on the basis of a list of deficiencies provided by the EGTC to the applicants. If the problems are not rectified within this period of time, the EGTC's will reject the application without review.

Only completely filled-out applications, submitted with all the necessary enclosures and declarations, will be considered and handed over by the EGTC to the FWF for further evaluation.

Before the evaluation starts the FWF will check for eligibility of the Tyrolean project part leader. If positive the FWF will be sent the eligible IPN to reviewers (as a matter of principle outside Austria and Italy) nominated by the FWF's Executive Board. The number of reviews required for a positive decision on funding is at least two or a maximum of three depending on the budget size of the project.

¹³ For additional information Reviewers' Evaluation form [LINK](#)

Based on the reviews provided by the peer review process the FWF Board will provide a recommendation for funding and all project proposals will be assigned to one of the following categories:

- A-Projects: projects rated “excellent” which can be funded by the EGTC, subject to the availability of sufficient funds
- B-Projects: projects rated “very good” which can be funded only to a small extent/or not at all funded by the EGTC; according to the FWF recommendation this projects would be rated as C1 or C2; not fundable through the FWF with proper FWF financial means, but fundable by financial means of the EGTC in correspondence to the established matching funds cooperation agreement (e.g. “Tyrolean Science Fund”).
- C-Projects: projects “not fundable” by the EGTC.

Please note that the EGTC places high demands on the quality of the projects it funds and thus predominantly supports projects rated as “excellent” and “very good” if sufficient funds are available.

The EGTC has appointed a Scientific Expert Group consisting of the three members of the EGTC’s General Secretariat including the Secretary General and one representative of the competent department for science of each EGTC member region, both appointed by the individual provincial government. The Secretary General of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino takes the chair of the Scientific Expert Group.

The Scientific Expert Group discusses all evaluated Category A and Category B projects, based upon the estimation prepared by the Board of the FWF, and proposes a funding recommendation. The Scientific Expert Group shall select the scientifically best projects based on the scientific evaluation.

Should there be several proposals of equally high scientific standards (e.g. in Category A) the Scientific Expert Group shall recommend at least one project related to the fields of natural sciences, technology or life science and medicine and at least one project related to the fields of humanities, law and social sciences for funding within the context of this call.

Should there be several proposals of equally high scientific standards (e.g. in Category A) the Scientific Expert Group will take into consideration the strategic relevance of the project regarding the scientific cooperation within the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. Strategically relevant are in particular a) research pathways and transformation chains in the fields of enabling technologies and digital transformation, technologies for decarbonisation, biotechnologies and technologies for health and health care, agri-food, natural resources and bioeconomy, b) social impact, c) human capital and formation, d) enabling territorial infrastructures and e) international position within the scientific community. Moreover, the Scientific Expert Group will be put attention on the relevance of the projects regarding each Regions Research & Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy or similar strategical documents.

The final funding decision is taken by the Executive Board of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino.

F. Which further explanations and definitions apply for IPN?

1 Cooperation arrangements

All forms of research collaboration directly related to the project are considered to be cooperation arrangements.

Such arrangements are expected to create added value for the project and must work to the advantage of all parties involved.

The EGTC assumes that the costs arising from scholarly collaboration at each research institution will be borne by the respective cooperation partner.

2 Suggested reviewers

Applicants may include (in electronic form [Word format]) a list of reviewers who should not be asked to review the application due to possible conflicts of interest (“negative list”):

Negative list: Applicants may exclude up to three potential reviewers from the review procedure if they feel that biases or conflicts of interest may arise. If the grounds for exclusion can be verified, the Executive Board will generally fulfil such requests. The negative list must include a brief justification for excluding the persons in question.

Reviewers are considered to have a potential conflict of interest if:

- They stand to gain professionally, financially or personally from the approval or rejection of the application;
- They have published, cooperated, served on professional boards or other bodies involving frequent or regular meetings, or worked at the same research institution with the applicant or any co-applicants (including project employees) in the last five years (see also below);
- They have fundamental differences of scientific opinion with the applicant or any co-applicants (including project employees);
- Any other close professional or personal ties exist between the reviewers and applicants or any co-applicants - (including project employees) which may give rise to suspicions of bias or of conflicts of interest in the eyes of uninvolved third parties.

Please note that the FWF’s Executive Board does not accept suggestions for possible reviewers from applicants. Any such suggestions (i.e. a “positive list” of reviewers) will be disregarded.

3 Evaluation and reporting during and at the end of the project

Financial and scientific reports have to be provided on a yearly basis. The scientific reports comprise 1-2 pages and point out the progress of the project. It is obvious that for an IPN there has to be established a common scientific report.

The financial reporting occurs to the contractual funding partner EGTC or FWF. The applicant has to prepare and submit a yearly financial report which includes an overview of the expenditures and the original bills.

Note: All duties regarding evaluation during and at the end of the project will be specified by the funding contract.

4 Repayment and Reclamation of Funds and Extension of the IPN and single project parts

The project leader will be required to repay the grant funds paid out plus interest in the amount of three percentage points over the base interest rate in cases where:

- a) The EGTC and/or FWF has been deceived or given incomplete information about significant matters or circumstances; or
- b) The research project is not carried out (or not carried out in due time) at the fault of the grant recipient; or the grant funds are not used in line with their designated purpose(s) or terms or conditions intended to ensure the success of the project are not observed at the fault of the grant recipient, or required reports or records are not submitted.

A **cost-neutral extension** of the IPN is only possible in exceptional cases upon written request to the EGTC and for the maximum of one year. The decision regarding the request for cost-neutral extension will be taken after having heard the EGTC's Scientific Expert Group /FWF Board.

Compliance with legal requirements and standards of research integrity

The EGTC / FWF would like to point out that applicants must comply with all legal requirements and safety provisions (e.g., Federal Disabilities Act) that apply for their project part and obtain all the necessary permits in Austria (e.g., from the Ethics Commission, the Commission for Animal Experimentation, the Federal Monuments Authority Austria, or the relevant foreign authorities) or Italy.

Applicants must also comply with the guidelines for good scientific practice of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI) when submitting the application and carrying out the project.

If there is reason to believe that an applicant has failed to comply with these standards, the EGTC / FWF will arrange for the ombudsperson of the respective research institution or the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI) to carry out an investigation. The EGTC / FWF reserves the right to suspend, in part or in whole, any procedures related to applications or ongoing projects until the investigation has been concluded. For more detailed information, see FWF procedure in cases of suspected scientific misconduct.

General remarks

The EGTC / FWF would like to point out that should the project be approved, the EGTC / FWF will publish on its website a summary of the project in English, possibly also in German (FWF / EGTC) and Italian (EGTC), for public relations purposes – which must be sent to the EGTC / FWF when returning the grant agreement – as well as the amount of funding granted and, on project completion, summaries of the final report of the project. The Coordinator should ensure that these summaries are written in such a way as to safeguard legitimate interests of secrecy for reasons of national defense and patent law, and that trade secrets are appropriately protected.

In addition, the EGTC / FWF requires a data management plan (DMP) for all approved IPN per project part. This should also be sent to the EGTC/FWF when returning the grant

agreement. The template for the DMP can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/open-access-policy/research-data-management/>.

In presentations and publications of project results (e.g. scholarly publications, research data), applicants must comply with the relevant requirements on acknowledging the EGTC/FWF as the funding institution(s) and the FWF's Open Access Policy.

JURISDICTION

The funding agreement between the applicant (South Tyrol, Trentino) and the EGTC as well as the consortium agreement are exclusively governed by Italian law as it is in force for the territory of South Tyrol. Any dispute arising in connection with this contracts/agreements and which cannot be resolved outside court, shall fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent court at Bolzano-Bozen.

The funding agreement between the Tyrolean applicant and the FWF is exclusively governed by Austrian law. Any disputes arising from claims relating to a funding agreement with the Austrian Science Fund/FWF shall be settled in an official court. The venue is the competent court in Vienna.

Any disputes which may arise from a suspected infringement of the rules of proper scientific conduct shall be settled solely through arbitration.

APPENDIX I: Notes and questions for FWF reviewers of IPN proposals¹⁴

In all of its programmes, the FWF actively supports equal opportunities and equal treatment. The review of an application must not put applicants at a disadvantage for non-research-related reasons such as age, gender, etc. For example, the review of applications should not focus on the applicant's actual age, but on the relation between the applicant's previous research achievements and the length of his/her research career. For the FWF, equal opportunities also means taking into account any unavoidable delays in applicants' research careers that have led to publication gaps, less time spent abroad, etc. (e.g., due to well-founded, extended qualification periods; time spent raising children; long-term illness; caring for relatives; etc.).

In writing your review, please keep in mind that your comments in the first section of the review will be forwarded to the applicant and, where applicable, other reviewers, in an anonymous way.

The FWF would like to point out that the length and the form of the project proposal must fulfil the form requirements¹⁵ of the FWF, and therefore we ask that you keep these restrictions in mind when writing your review.

The FWF is obligated to ensure the best possible use of public-sector funds for basic research according to scientific/scholarly research criteria. We therefore ask you to comment on the following aspects of the application in Section 1a. What are the specific strengths of the project? Does it have weaknesses, and if so, what are they?

Section 1a (to be transmitted to the applicant in its entirety):

- 1 Scientific/scholarly quality of the proposal with special attention to strengths and weaknesses
- 2 Approach/methods and feasibility of the proposal with special attention to strengths and weaknesses (Note: a special focus should be put on the collaborative approach, the integration and complementarity of the scientific contributions of the different project partners)
- 3 Research-related qualifications of the researchers involved (based on their academic age) with special attention to strengths and weaknesses
- 4 Sex-specific and gender-related issues
- 5 Ethical issues
- 6 Overall evaluation with regard to key strengths and weaknesses

Section 1b (optional remarks to the applicant)

Reviewer's recommendations to the applicants for implementing the project (in the case of approval). The recommendations made here generally should not play a role in the funding decision.

Section 2 (confidential remarks to the FWF)

¹⁴ Further information about the FWF's corporate policy and the relevant application guidelines can be found on the FWF's website at <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/about-the-fwf/corporate-policy/> and <http://www.europaregion.info/research>

¹⁵ Form requirements: Project description incl. figures and tables, no more than 20 pages; list of literature cited no more than 5 pages; academic CVs and description of previous research achievements of the project participants incl. the 10 most important publications, no more than 3 pages each.

Other comments intended solely for the FWF