

# CELTIC Proposers Day Vienna, 30th January 2026 Funding updates from the

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)



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# Funding for CELTIC-NEXT Projects in Austria

# FFG Funding Programmes for CELTIC- NEXT Projects

As part of the Austrian innovation ecosystem, FFG provides a wide range of funding programmes tailored to specific needs of CELTIC-NEXT projects, e.g.:

- FFG General Programmes
- FFG Thematic Programmes

In addition, different (regional) funding programmes are available in Austria as well, and self-funded participation in CELTIC-NEXT projects is an option.

# FFG General Programme

## Open Call, Open Budget

- All year bottom-up call for single-firm applicants
- Experimental development, TRL 5-7

## Evaluation criteria

- Technical funding criteria include in particular the degree of innovation and the technical challenge of the submitted project
- The economic assessment focuses on the commercialization potential and the applicant's economic performance
- Ecological soundness and social aspects are considered

# Funding Outlook in FFG General Programme -

Funding conditions for Austrian partners in CELTIC-NEXT projects

- **SME:** grant of up to 60% of eligible costs (60% for small companies, 50% for medium sized companies)
- **Large Company:** mixed funding of up to 50% (funding is composed of a grant and a loan part), or grant of up to 40% (tbc)
- **Universities and research organizations** a) can be subcontracted by a company partner from Austria, or b) can submit a partner application with a grant of up to 50% of eligible costs

Max. funding € 3 Mio. p.a.

Website for more information:

<https://www.ffg.at/initiative/basisprogramm>

# Project Preparation for FFG General Programme -

## **Project.Start** for SMEs and Start-ups

- Features: attractive funding instrument for start-ups and SME to get support for preperation work for a concrete research project
  - definition of project aims
  - assessment of the state of the art and literature and patent research and technical risks
  - execution of well-founded market and competitor analyses
  - preperation of the project organization an project partners and cost plan with obtainment of offers
- Submission of an application is possible at any time - swift approval processes

Website for more information:

<https://www.ffg.at/programm/projektstart>

# FFG Thematic Programmes

Thematic focus is expressed in calls for projects organized by, e.g.,

- Digital Technologies:
  - <https://www.ffg.at/digitale-schluessestechnologien>
  - National deadline: 05.03.2026
- Take Off:
  - <https://www.ffg.at/TakeOff/ausschreibung-2025>
  - National deadline: 11.03.2026
- ...

Details may vary in each call, usually

- Industrial research & experimental development, TRL 2-7
- A balanced Austrian consortium is required
- Dedicated budget

# Matchmaking

How to get in touch with partners from Austria?

1. Via the ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA office in your country:  
<https://www.advantageaustria.org/>
2. Contact your local EEN node: <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>. EEN is one of the largest online database for collaboration opportunities
  - Find a partner via EEN in three steps:
    - Search the global partnership database based on your criteria
    - Express your interest by telling your EEN representative about your company, project idea, and the type of partner you are looking for
    - The EEN representatives put interested partners in touch





[CelticNextEurekaCluster](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CelticNextEurekaCluster)



[@CelticNext](https://twitter.com/CelticNext)



[CELTIC-NEXT Video Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

# MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

CELTIC-NEXT



FFG Websites for more information:

- Eureka
  - <https://www.ffg.at/eureka>
- Eureka Cluster
  - <https://www.ffg.at/europa/eureka/cluster>
- CELTIC-NEXT
  - <https://www.ffg.at/europa/eureka/cluster/celtic-plus>
- CELTIC-NEXT Spring Call 2026
  - [https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka\\_celtic\\_call\\_spring\\_2026](https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka_celtic_call_spring_2026)