Research and Innovation Policy in Austria

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Barbara Weitgruber
Director General for Scientific Research and International Affairs
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
Overview

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

**R&D Expenditure as percentage of GDP Austria 2018: 3.19 % (2018)**
- Target by 2020: 3.76%

**European Union:**
- 2nd highest rank after Sweden (3.25%)
- Strong innovator according to European Innovation Scoreboard 2018

**Global perspective:**
- 7th highest rank in terms of R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP, (OECD Science and Technology indicators - latest figures July 2018)
- on 8th position of per capita R&D expenditure in OECD, ahead of EU-average
The Austrian R&I System
Main challenges in a nutshell

• Strong focus on traditional sectors as areas of specialisation
  ➢ Need for strong push in digitalisation and Industry 4.0

• Strong input orientation
  ➢ Impact focus to be further developed
  ➢ A broader vision of innovation and prioritisation along societal challenges to be developed

• Stronger emphasis on culture of excellence in higher education and research
Governance Framework: Magic number of 3

3 Sectoral Ministries with responsibilities in R&I Policy
New Federal government as of December 2017:
- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF);
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT);
- Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW)

3 Funding Agencies
- FWF (Austrian Science Fund), FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency),
  AWS (Austrian Federal Promotional Bank)
No tradition of private philanthropy

3 Advisory Councils for RTI Policy
- RFTE (Council for RTD), ÖWR (Science Board), ERA Council Forum
New Government policy aims to merge the 3 Councils
Ongoing initiatives in R&I policy

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

- In 2019: Start of reflection and drafting of new R&I strategy until 2030 to be ready for RTI-Government-Summit in 2020
- Merger of the 3 current Government advisory councils in the field of R&I with the addition of expertise in economics
- New Act on Research financing – “Pact for R&D”:
  - for longer-term planning and funding security, defining performance agreements with funding agencies and non-university performing institutions
  - Attempt to consolidate funding programmes, incentivise alignment and joint calls between funding agencies
New Government Initiative for Research, Technology and Innovation (August 2018)

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

17.0% France
17.6% Belgium
17.0% Austria

Success rate
All countries: 14.7% EU-28: 14.6%

2.533 approved participations
2.9% of all countries

509 approved coordinators
2.6% of all countries

1.025 million euros

Funding received since 2014 (EUR million)

Objective for 2020:
1.5 billion euros from Horizon 2020

### Top 5 areas in H2020 for Austria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main areas</th>
<th>In Mio. Euro</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Success rate (Participations)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC (European Research Council)</td>
<td>193.7</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEIT-ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)</td>
<td>147.5</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPT (Smart, Green and Integrated Transport)</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENERGY (Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy)</td>
<td>100.4</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCA (Marie Skłodowska-Curie-Actions)</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EC, Date: 11.8.2018, Analysis: EU-PM, FFG;
Horizon 2020: distribution in provinces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burgenland</th>
<th>Carinthia</th>
<th>Lower Austria</th>
<th>Upper Austria</th>
<th>Salzburg</th>
<th>Styria</th>
<th>Tyrol</th>
<th>Vorarlberg</th>
<th>Vienna</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,351,979</td>
<td>38,637,802</td>
<td>90,786,426</td>
<td>71,800,886</td>
<td>21,723,340</td>
<td>195,839,142</td>
<td>39,701,000</td>
<td>6,559,188</td>
<td>456,785,597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Funding received since 2014 (EUR million)

Funding by type of organisation (EUR million)

- Universities: 363.81
- Companies: 355.85
- Non-univ. research: 243.24
- Public institutions: 34.29
- Other: 27.68
Possible future AT measures for FP-participation

- Improvement of strategic positioning of Austria as research partner, more frequent role as coordinator in FP projects

- For R&I partnerships and future missions: national strategic prioritisation exercise needed, improved coordination and between line ministries needed

- Smaller adaptations of NCP-support following recommendations in recent evaluation to be considered:
  - Better cooperation between EU- and national programme support within FFG needed: strategic redirection of applicants towards national programmes (due to low FP-success rate)
  - More targeted ERA-Dialogues between universities and the NCP, trust-building to continue
Austrian ERA Roadmap

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

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

- In the context of the Strategic planning and coordinating process for Horizon Europe: national mirror processes for missions and partnerships, to be established asap

- Adaptation of internal ERA governance (as stated in the recent evaluation) to allow for more targeted and cross-sectoral cooperation between ministries in ERA (going beyond the ERA-related group delegates typically coming from the Ministry for Science and Research)

- Continued push for alignment in the context of R&I partnerships and future missions

- National coordinative capacity across Member States will be key for meeting future challenges collectively
Thank you for your attention!

Email: barbara.weitgruber@bmbwf.gv.at