



Brussels, 8th April 2009

*Vienna, 7 May 2009*

**AUSTRIA**

**Questionnaire on the effects of the economic crisis on R&D investment of EU Member States**

1. Has the public budget planned for allocation to R&D in 2009 been modified as a result of the financial and economic crisis?

**No** \*                       **Yes**

If yes, what is the change compared to initial plan?

Increase by 15.5 % \*\* *compared to R&D spending 2008*

Decrease by \_\_\_\_\_ % \*

*\* Due to general elections in autumn 2008, there had not been legal budgetary provisions for 2009 ante crisis. The new federal government was thus in the position to react to the economic crisis by making science & research, and education focus areas for the budgets of 2009 and 2010.*

*\*\* The 2009 budget allows for an increase of public R&D spending by 15.5% (compared to the 2008 budget). Austria will hence continue to proceed on an overall growth path for R&D, and still envisages to meet the Barcelona target of a 3% GDP allocation for R&D by 2010.*

*The Austrian federal R&D budget has three components: direct public spending, research funding at universities and tax incentives/premium on research. As a result of the economic crisis, the new federal government (autumn 2008) had to modify previous financial forecasts for 2009 by slowing the growth of direct public R&D spending.*

2. Is the crisis leading to changes in the allocation of the 2009 R&D budget between R&D area(s) or programme(s)?

**No**                       **Yes**

If yes, indicate which area(s) or programme(s) will benefit or suffer from the reallocation:

*A national STI-strategy process is underway, drawing upon two major projects, the Austrian Research Dialogue ("Österreichischer Forschungsdialog", 2007-08) and an evaluation of the Austrian RTDI funding system ("Systemevaluierung", 2008-09). Changes in the budget allocation between R&D areas and programmes will take into account this strategic process.*

3. What are the current plans for the public budget for R&D in 2010 compared to the latest budget planned for 2009?

Increase by 8.3%\* *compared to the R&D budget for 2009*

Constant

Decrease by \_\_\_\_\_%\*

\* *If can not yet be quantified, indicate "NA".*

4. Is the crisis leading to changes in the allocation of the 2010 R&D budget between area(s) or programme(s)?

**No**                       **Yes**

If yes, what area(s) or programme(s) will benefit or suffer from the reallocation?

*See answer to question 2 (above).*

5. Has your government launched any new measures/initiatives towards capacity building (e.g. on human resources/employment of researchers, PhD training, new research facilities, new research partnerships) that are investments expected to increase productivity in the future?

**No**                       **Yes**

If yes, please specify the initiatives, indicate the amount invested:

*A set of measures/initiatives towards capacity building has already been in place ante crisis, and will continue to operate. Adaptations will be subject to the results of the ongoing assessment and strategy process (see answer to question 2).*

6. Has your government launched any new measures or strengthened existing ones to stimulate private spending in R&D as a response to the crisis?

**No**                       **Yes**

**If yes:**

*X Grants            FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency): bottom up funding, Headquarters programme, Austrian Cooperative Research Centers (battery technology), Christian-Doppler-Research Association (automotive sector)*

- Tax incentives
- Other measures,

7. Are actions launched or planned to support public-private partnerships in key sectors (e.g. green cars, energy-efficient buildings, and technology in manufacturing) as a response to the crisis?

No                       Yes

**If yes:**

already launched

planned

Please specify (e.g. sectors and amounts):

- *green cars, e-mobility - launched*
- *energy-efficient buildings, energy producing buildings – launched*
- *technology in manufacturing is under preparation*

8. Are there changes planned in the share of Structural funds allocated to R&D compared to the plans made in 2008?

No\*                       Yes

If yes, please indicate share initially foreseen and its new value:

Previous share: \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify the period covered:  
\_\_\_\_\_

New share: \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify the period covered:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please specify (e.g. reasons, regions and domains):

*\* Notice: No changes foreseen for the time being (future changes possible according to programme implementation)*

Please send the filled questionnaire by 20 May 2009 to:

European Commission  
DG for Research  
Benedikt HERRMANN  
8, Square de Meeûs  
SDME 9/90  
1049 Brussels, Belgium

[Benedikt.HERRMANN@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Benedikt.HERRMANN@ec.europa.eu)