

# Heritage Science Austria

## - A funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences -

### Preamble

The new funding programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, which is financed by the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development, is directed at the research field of heritage science, which is currently developing in Austria. It sponsors scientists and cooperative initiatives by institutions where research into cultural heritage is conducted (libraries, archives, museums, universities, non-university research institutions). Gender equality is of major concern to the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

### Objectives of the programme

Heritage science is a rapidly expanding multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research field that comprises any form of research into cultural heritage. Objects and collections in museums, libraries and archives and also archaeological sites and monuments which are especially worthy of preservation constitute the object of its research which is carried out by using a well-established and at the same time innovative methodology (which includes the search for new mixes of methods) of heritage science. The interdisciplinary combination of natural sciences and humanities is of great importance in this context.

Through this impulse programme the Austrian Academy of Sciences supports the valuable contribution that heritage science can make towards the preservation of cultural heritage. This constitutes the first programme specifically for object-related research in Austria. Several institutions may submit joint proposals which find solutions to specific questions in an interdisciplinary and innovative manner.

Research into cultural heritage is of high socio-political relevance, which goes as far as addressing the issue of the burden tourism places on cultural heritage. The programme promotes and ensures the enhancement of the transfer of knowledge between the players of the preservation of cultural heritage and science, on the one hand, and the general public on the other. The project findings will be made available through open access. The programme connects heritage science researchers with players working to preserve the cultural heritage. Young researchers are expressly encouraged to participate. The programme sees itself as a funding programme for the future of heritage science in Austria. Excellent research into object-related assignments as well as the necessary infrastructure (equipment, efficient computers) on site will be financed. This is essential for further examination of the representatives of cultural heritage, most of which are immobile.

## Target group

The funding programme addresses institutions of all disciplines in Austria where research into cultural heritage is conducted (libraries, archives, museums, universities, non-university research institutions). The topic of the project must definitely be interdisciplinary. Cooperations with cultural heritage institutions are expressly encouraged. The project teams are requested to ensure the inclusion of young researchers and equal gender representation.

## Application requirements

- Submission as a group of at least two scientists.
- One of the applicants must assume the role of application coordinator.
- Each applicant may only take part in one application.
- The applicants must be prepared to pro-actively contribute to the public presentation of the programme and attend associated events.
- The project must be conducted at a research institution or an institution for the preservation of cultural heritage (libraries, archives, museums, universities, non-university research institutions); however, cooperations with other institutions may be established.
- Approval from the representatives of the institutions involved must be enclosed with the application.
- An institution may support multiple applications.

## Funding term

- Maximum of 4 years

## Amount of grant

The budget envisaged for each of the projects is between a minimum of EUR 300,000 and a maximum of EUR 600,000. The total grant sum available is EUR 4.5 million.

The grant shall cover overheads in the amount of 10% of the direct project costs. The following direct costs may be applied for:

- staff costs
- costs for consumables
- travel expenses
- other expenses (e.g. costs of research infrastructure or equipment, software, commissioning of external services)

## Application procedure

The call for proposals is open to all topics and in all of Austria.

It is a two-step application procedure: step 1 of the application (short proposal) is open to all applicants who fulfil the application requirements (see above); step 2 of the application (full proposal) can only be entered into upon invitation.

- Call begins: **6 July 2020**
- **Application step 1:** The "**Short Proposal**" application form (description of the project), completed in full, **CVs, publication lists and declarations of consent plus enclosures** must be submitted by the coordinator by email to [programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:programmmanagement@oeaw.ac.at) by **15 September 2020**.
- All submissions which meet the necessary formal requirements for application (see application requirements) will be presented to an independent international jury. For the purposes of the objectives of the programme and based on scientific excellence and originality of the research project the jury will invite selected project managers to submit full applications **by the end of October 2020**. No expert opinions will be obtained in that stage. Unsuccessful applicants will immediately be notified of the rejection.
- **Application step 2:** Full applications must be submitted by email by **12 January 2021** (stage 2 of the selection procedure). Full applications must include a detailed work plan and a number of milestones the achievement of which must be reported in annual progress reports. Furthermore, a data management plan (DMP) must be submitted, which shall ensure that the data generated in the projects will be securely maintained for the long term and will be made available for further research (*open data* as defined by FAIR principles). Expert opinions may be obtained in that stage.
- A **hearing** before the jury during which the projects will be presented and discussed with the jury will take place in the **spring of 2021**. All project teams who have submitted a full application may be invited to the hearing.
- The award decision of the independent international jury is expected to be announced in **April 2021**. The applicants will be informed of the outcome.

→ By their submission for this call for proposals the applicants acknowledge that the related data and documents will be forwarded to the members of the jury and to experts. The data and documents will be forwarded for the purpose of evaluation of the application and decision-making with regard to the award of grants.

### **Funding modalities (excerpt)**

- The selected projects must start not later than 6 months after transmission of the grant letter and will have a maximum project term of 48 months. A funding agreement will be concluded with the project managers. Provided that no extra costs arise, the project term may be extended by up to 6 months if well-founded reasons are given.
- The project progress and the use of funds must be reported once a year. The programme management must immediately be informed of any changes to the project plan. Changes which have not been reported will result in the discontinuation of the project. The programme management shall decide at their discretion whether to accept changes or to have them evaluated externally or, in the worst case, to reject them.
- After completion a comprehensive final project report must be submitted, which will then undergo evaluation. The project shall only be deemed completed after successful evaluation of the project results.