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KEY DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (KDT):

NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AUSTRIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE KDT-CALLS 2021

Document history:

Date and Version	Change
16.12.2021 Version 1.0	Initial version of <i>“National guidelines and eligibility criteria for Austrian participants in the KDT-calls 2021”</i>
21.12.2021, Version 2.0	Modification of the national funding rates in <i>Table 1: Funding rates (calculation based on national eligible costs)</i> (page 9).

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PREFACE

“Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking shall ... reinforce the Union’s strategic autonomy in electronic components and systems to support future needs of vertical industries and the economy at large. The overall target is to contribute towards doubling the value of the design and production of electronic components and systems in Europe by 2030, in line with the weight of the Union in products and services¹”

The Key Digital Technologies (KDT) JU, an Institutionalised Partnership under Horizon Europe, is the successor of the ECSEL JU. In ECSEL, a tripartite Partnership, the EU, Participating States and 3 Industry Associations invested a total of 4.8 billion EUR, including 16 calls and 92 projects in the area of Electronics Components and Systems.

KDT JU is an initiative for funding R&D&I in electronic and photonic (light based technologies) components and systems. KDT projects are co-funded by the EU and the KDT Participating States.

KDT calls are transnational calls that are managed by the [KDT Joint Undertaking \(JU\)](#). Relevant information on the calls (rules and conditions, budget, publication date and deadlines, ...) are published on the websites of the KDT JU and the [Funding & tender opportunities portal of the EU](#) and in particular in the [KDT Work Programme 2021](#), which can be obtained from these websites. In order to submit a project proposal, applicants must use the tools provided for this purpose by the European Commission through its “Funding & tender opportunities portal”.

In addition to the general rules and conditions, country specific eligibility rules apply. This document describes the **National Eligibility Criteria for Austrian participants** - it is designed to describe the conditions for Austrian partners and to support Austrian partners with the national submission.

In addition to that, all relevant information for Austrian participants can be obtained from the [KDT Call Website](#) at FFG, which is the National Funding Agency (NFA) for the KDT JU in Austria. National contact persons for the KDT JU Programme are Ana Almansa, T +43 (0)57755 50 29, ana.almansa@ffg.at and Doris Vierbauch, T +43 (0)57755 50 24, doris.vierbauch@ffg.at.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, SBA

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 What is the procedure for national submission?

In addition to the submission at the European Commission's "Funding & Tender opportunities Portal", national applications must be electronically submitted via the [FFG-eCall](#) before the respective deadline. The first KDT Calls will be single-stage.

How does it work?

- Register at the eCall (please note: do not register as consortium – each partner has to submit a separate national application)
- Fill in the online forms and the budget calculation – the system verifies, if the funding requirements are met (e.g. max. funding, etc)
- Upload the required documents
- Finalise the application in eCall and click "Submit application" ("Einreichung abschicken")
- Upon successful submission, an acknowledgement is automatically sent by email

Further information on how the electronic submission platform works is available in the [online eCall tutorial](#).

Please note: As the total length of KDT proposals is restricted, experience has shown that many proposals do not contain sufficient information for the national eligibility check. Therefore, national applicants must complete the national annex "KDT 2021 Description of Project Contribution for Austrian partner" in which the organisations own project contributions has to be described in detail.

1.2 What is the formal check?

In the formal check the FFG examines the national application for formal correctness and completeness, but not for thematic content.

You will be notified of the result of the formal check within 2 weeks after the submission deadline via an eCall message.

- If the formal criteria are not met and the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the application for funding will not enter the subsequent steps of the procedure.
- If the deficiencies can be corrected, you may rectify these problems within a reasonable period of time.

Should it transpire after the formal check that incorrect information has been given, the funding application may also be removed from consideration at a subsequent point in the procedure.

The following criteria are checked and deficiencies can be corrected:

- Consistency between data submitted in FFG eCall and EC Participant Portal
- Uploads to organization’s master data in eCall (e.g. annual accounts of the last 2 financial years) as specified in chapter 2.1.2.
- Attachments to eCall project data (other than the “KDT 2021 Project Contribution for Austrian partners”), e.g. Declaration of SME status as specified in chapter 2.1.2.

The following criteria are checked and deficiencies can not be corrected:

- The applicant is eligible for submission of a proposal. See chapter 2.1.1
- Minimum requirements of consortium: see chapter 2.1.3.
- Completeness of the application (complete application in FFG eCall and application in the EC Participant Portal)
- Duration: max. 48 month
- Language: English or German
- Attachment to eCall project data: “KDT 2021 Project Contribution for Austrian partners”

1.3 What is the eligibility check?

In the eligibility check we combine the results of the following checks:

- Formal check
- Check of the eligibility of costs with respect to the guidelines for costs
- Check of the financial viability of the participating enterprises by FFG experts (credit rating and liquidity). It is not possible to provide funding to undertakings in difficulty.
- Compliance with the national eligibility criteria (Consortium requirements, National Funding, etc)

The results of the eligibility check (eligible/not eligible) are communicated to the KDT Joint Undertaking.

1.4 What is the legal background for the funding?

Legal background for funding: [Themen-FTI-Richtlinie](#).

1.5 What is the legal basis for national funding?

In case of a positive funding decision, the FFG will send each partner a document or a view in the eCall system with the most important basic parameters of the funding contract (e.g. amount of funding granted, amount of eligible costs, start and ending date of the funding period, reporting obligations and possible binding

requirements). After acceptance of the document or the view within the given deadline, the FFG prepares the funding contract and delivers it to each partner. The project participant returns the stamped and signed funding contract. Thereby the funding contract is valid in law. Until then, there is no title for being funded.

2 NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AUSTRIAN PARTICIPANTS

2.1 Legal requirements for the eligibility of a partner or a project

2.1.1 Type or nature of participants (Who is eligible to receive funding?)

Legal entities, partnerships and sole traders that are not part of the Austrian federal administration are eligible to receive funding, as described in Section 2.4 of the document “Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects” (Version 3.4).

The following are eligible for funding:

- Companies of any legal form
- Institutions of research and knowledge dissemination
 - Universities²
 - Universities of applied sciences
 - Non-university research institutions
 - Technology transfer institutions, innovation agents and other research oriented organisations such as associations with a relevant purpose
 - Other non-commercial institutions
 - Local authorities and autonomous bodies (Note: Activities of local authorities falling within their statutory mandate are not eligible for funding)
 - Non-profit making organisations such as NPOs (“Non-profit making organisations” do not distribute profits to their owners, members or other natural persons or legal entities in accordance with their legal status or articles of association.)
- Other non-commercial institutions
 - Local authorities, whereas activities of local authorities falling within their statutory mandate are not eligible for funding, and autonomous bodies

² The smallest possible unit of a university is an institute of the university or an organisation comparable to a UOG 2002/§20 organisation unit. It is a precondition that the participating organisation unit (institute or comparable unit) is authorised with corresponding mandate according to UOG 2002/§ 27. Units below (for example working groups) can not act as project partners.

- Non-profit making organisations such as NPOs.
“Non-profit making organisations” do not distribute profits to their owners, members or other natural persons or legal entities in accordance with their legal status or articles of association.

2.1.2 Legal, administrative and financial conditions (Submission Procedure)

The national application of Austrian partners has to be submitted electronically via [eCall](#) before the deadline of the project submission.

Formal correctness and completeness of the application are examined in a formal check.

FFG experts will check the financial viability (credit rating and liquidity) of the participating enterprises. It is not possible to provide funding to *undertakings in difficulty* (as defined in the General block exemption Regulation (EU) N°651/2014 of 17 June 2014). Austrian enterprises have to provide the following documents:

- Annual statement of accounts (balance sheet, profit and loss account) from the past 2 financial years
- [Declaration of SME Status](#) for associations and sole traders
- The company size is to be determined according to the SME definition as specified by EU competition law: [information on SME definition](#).

2.1.3 Consortium configuration

The ratio of the personnel resources (person*month allocated for the Austrian partners according to the KDT proposal) between Austrian companies and Austrian research organisations has to be 1.5 to 1 or higher within each project.

2.1.4 Other conditions

All general Topics and Major Challenges of the ECS SRIA 2021 (KDT GB 2021.03) are eligible for national funding, both in the research category of experimental development (Call 2021-1 IA General) and in the research category of industrial research (Call 2021-2 RIA General) .

In addition, the following focus topics of the Annual Work Plan 2021 are also eligible for national funding:

Call 2021-1-IA-Focus Topic - Development of open-source RISC-V building blocks

Call 2021-2-RIA- Focus Topic - Processing solutions for AI at the edge.

Austria aims to reach a good balance between hardware oriented projects and software oriented projects. Moreover, it is intended to prioritise projects with a convincing impact in Austria.

The participation (total requested national budget) of each single Austrian institution has to be balanced in relation to the total national commitment.

Project participations of Austrian partners are eligible for national funding only if they comprise mainly R&D activities. Therefore each partner has to upload the following document in the eCall: **“KDT 2021 Project Contribution for Austrian partners”**.

2.2 Eligibility of costs and funding

2.2.1 Eligibility of costs

The eligibility of costs is in accordance with the national rules on eligible costs. For details on the eligibility of costs, see the [Cost Guidelines Version 2.1](#). Eligible costs must be allocable directly to the project. This means that:

- they are incurred additionally to the normal operating costs during the funding period
- they are in accordance with the Funding Contract
- they can be evidenced by receipts or other type of valid documentation (e.g. timesheets, equipment use records, etc)

Non-deductible value added tax paid by the beneficiary which is not refunded according to national legislation is eligible.

The earliest possible date for the start of the project is after submission of the application for funding.

2.2.2 Funding rates

Percentage of the national subsidy to the beneficiaries

Table 1: Funding rates (calculation based on national eligible costs)

Research Category	Large enterprise	Medium-sized enterprise	Small enterprise	Research institutions and other institutions (non-commercial activities)
Experimental development (call 2021-1, IA)	up to 20 %	up to 20 %	up to 30 %	up to 30 %
Experimental development (IA Focus Topic)	up to 15 %	up to 15 %	up to 25 %	up to 30 %
Industrial research (call 2021-2, RIA and RIA Focus Topic)	up to 25 %	up to 30 %	up to 40 %	up to 35 %

The total funding rate for the participating organisations will be the sum of the national funding rate (indicated in the table above) and the European funding rate

(specified separately for the different calls and topics in the corresponding sections of the KDT Work Programme 2021 document).

To determine the company size see [information on SME Definition](#):

- If the contributions to the project involve a commercial activity the funding rates for research institutions and other institutions are the same as those for enterprises.
- The centre of gravity of individual Austrian partner’s project participation has to be within the type of action that the overall project addresses (RIA/IA).
- Experimental development does not extend beyond the demonstration of the prototype (system) in a relevant environment (TRL 7). Exception: commercially usable prototypes and pilot projects if the developed product would be too expensive for demonstration and validation purposes alone.

2.3 Additional information to be provided at submission and other conditions

- Registration (national submission) at the [eCall](#) System
- Completion of all relevant forms
- Upload of relevant documents in the eCall: balance sheets, “**KDT 2021 Project Contribution for Austrian partners**”, etc