



FFG

ERA-NET – How to coordinate national research programmes

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Overview



- Starting point
- The ERA-NET Scheme
- Austrian Participation in ERA-NET
- Coordination of Research Activities in Austria
- Outlook and Perspectives

About FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency



Established in 2004

Largest Austrian Funding Agency
for applied research

Budget ~ 600 Mio Euro year 2008

Mission

Competitiveness, networking
through national funding of
applied research

Division of European and International Programmes (EIP)



on contractual basis by 5 Ministries & Economic Chamber

Objectives: Strengthening the Austrian participation in international R&D Programmes (FP!!)

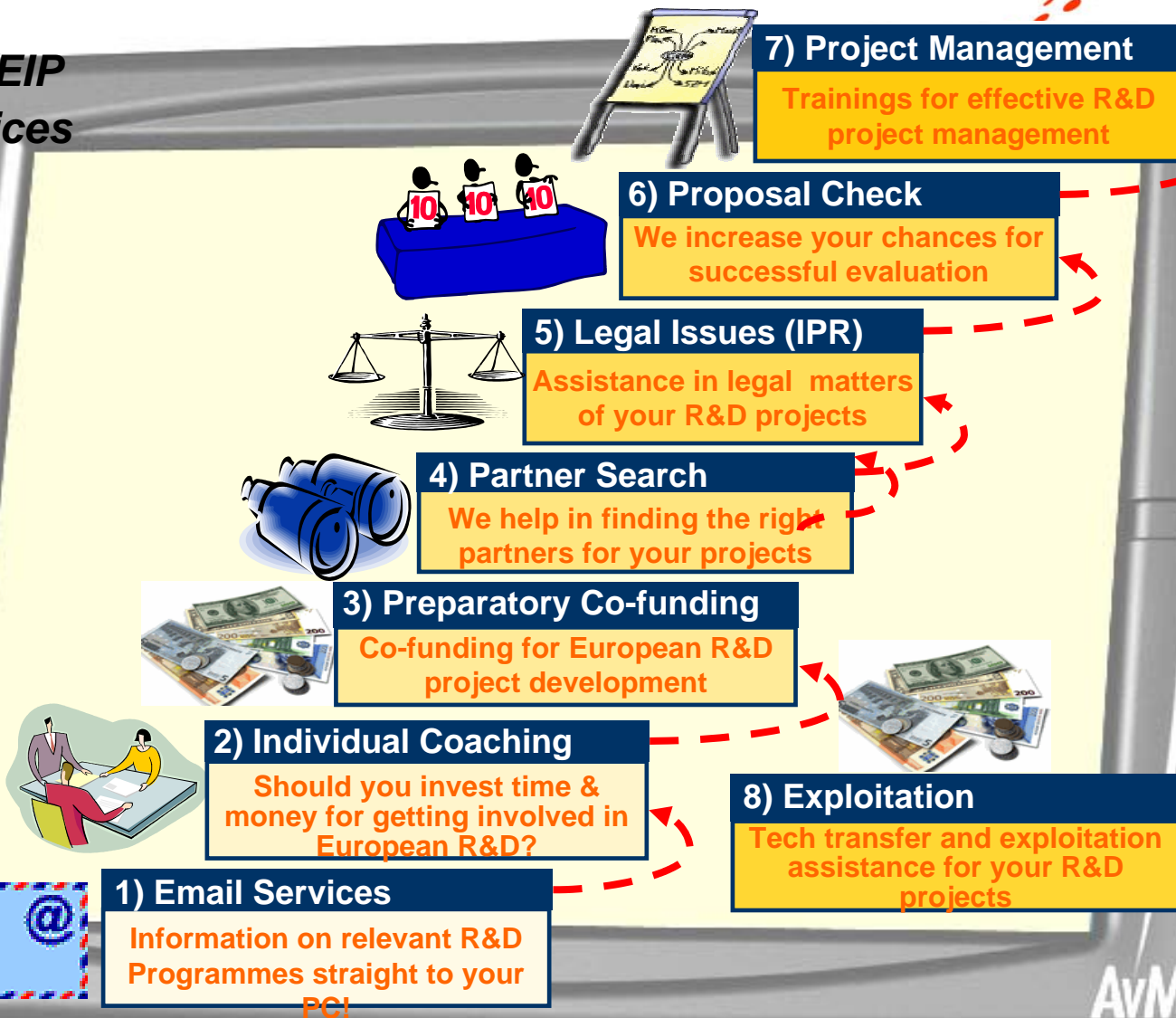
Activities: Awareness, Information, Consultation, Coaching, international Networking (Consortium building), Representation of Austrian interests in the network of National Contact Points (NCP) and EUREKA NPC

Measures: Information and Training events, Workshops and Seminars, One-on-one meetings, Cooperation with intermediary organisations, FFG Academy

www.ffg.at/rp7

... we are the Navigator through European RTD
based on excellent science!

**FFG/EIP
Services**



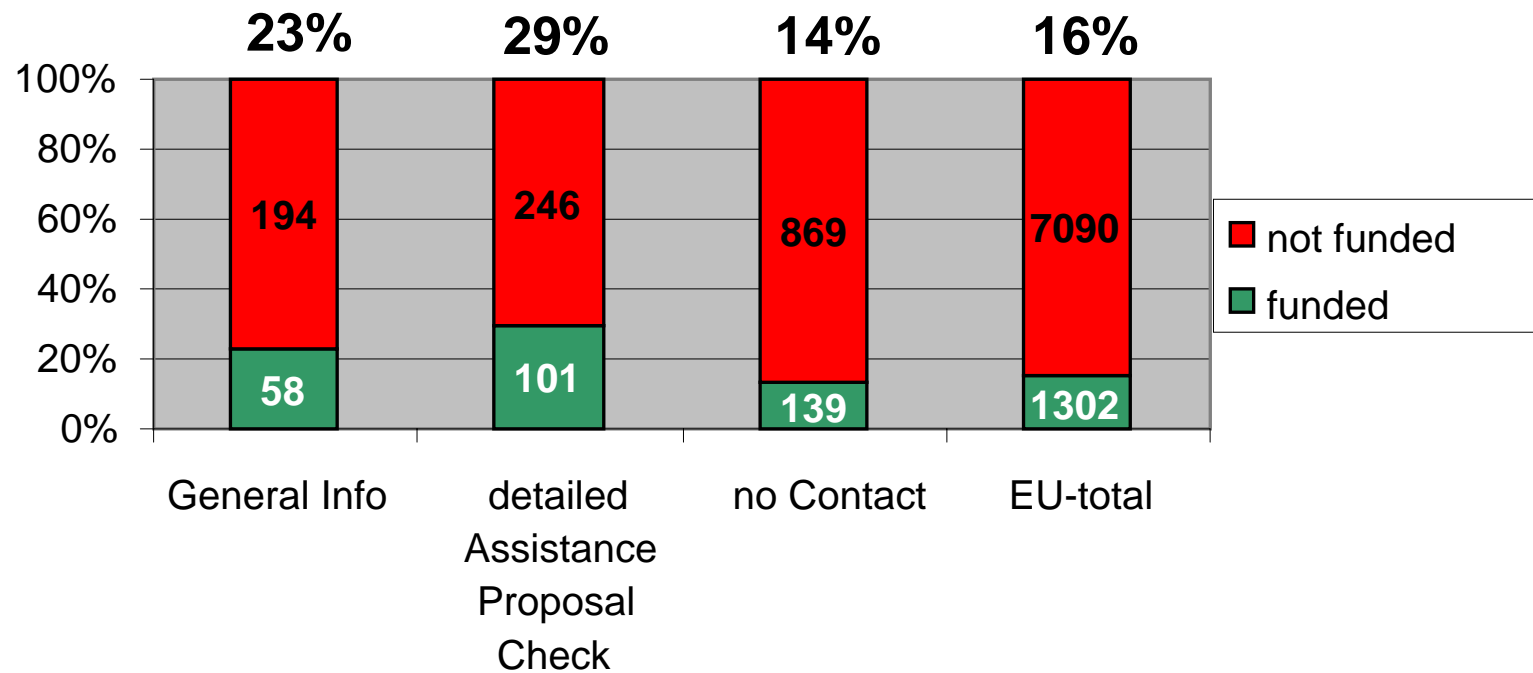
Project Development Phases

Effectiveness of Coaching



1.600 projects with AT partners submitted in the first calls under „Cooperation“ in FP7.

Success depending on Services received



The ERA-NET scheme



ERA-NET scheme launched in 2002 as part of FP6

Important instrument towards the creation of the European Research Area (ERA)

Aim: “To step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national and regional level in the Member States and Associated States, through the networking of research activities, including their mutual opening and the development of joint activities”.

The ERA-NET scheme



Process in four steps:

- 1) Systematic exchange of information and good practices on existing programmes and activities
- 2) Identification and analysis of common strategic issues
- 3) Planning and development of joint activities between national and regional programmes
- 4) Implementation of joint trans-national activities, including joint calls and programmes

Commission support for additional costs associated with the transnational aspects of coordination

The ERA-NET scheme



FP6: 71 ERA-NETs funded (plus 26 additional Supporting Actions)

Thematic areas: Industrial Technologies, Life Sciences, Environment and Energy, Humanities and Social Sciences
„Horizontal” areas: International Cooperation and Fundamental Research

FP7: Scheme is continued

Experienced organisations should move to step 4, the implementation of joint calls and programmes

Also new initiative, ERA-NET Plus: COM contributes to the costs of a joint call (up to one third of the call budget).

Austrian Participation in ERA-NET



Mainly 3 Ministries involved:

- Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWRF)
- Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour (BML)

Also other ministries and national & regional funding agencies

Most important national funding agencies:

FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Funding applied industrial research)

FWF Austrian Science Fund (Funding basic research)

Austrian Participation in ERA-NET



FP6: Austria had high interest in ERA-NET scheme, almost half of all ERA-NETs are with Austrian participation!

41 participations: AT 6th place after DE, FR, NL, UK, ES

4 ERA-NETs are coordinated by Austrian organisations

European Success rate: 58,0%

Austrian success rate: 58,7%



➤ Studies and Reports

At the end of FP6, several studies were performed with the aim of assessing the ERA-NET scheme in general / Austria's participation as a preparation for FP7

Most important Studies:

1. ERA-NET Review 2006:

Report of the Expert Review Group, December 2006

General Review of the ERA-NET scheme and its achievements,
Lessons learnt and Recommendations for FP7



➤ Studies and Reports

2. Perspectives of the ERA-NET Scheme in Austria:

Report on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), February 2006

Review of ERA-NETs with BMVIT Participation,
Recommendations for further participation

➡ Case-by-case decision for (or against) participation is necessary, no participation „just for the sake of it”!

Exchange of experience between Austrian players recommended

➤ Studies and Reports

3. Reviews of Funding Agencies FFG and FWF:

Internal reviews of ERA-NETs with FFG/FWF participation (FWF February 2006, FFG July 2007)

➡ Development of Criteria for Participation and Checklists

FFG: additionally, ranking of ERA-NETs with FFG participation:
High, medium or low strategic relevance (i.e. should be continued in FP7 or not)

before FFG decides on participation in new ERA-NET, checklist has to be completed



➤ Studies and Reports

4. ERA-NET: Objectives for National R&D Policy:

Catalogue of Criteria for ERA-NET participations of Federal
Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT),
September 2007

➤ **Steering Committee „Integration in FP7”**

Regular Meetings chaired by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF)

Participants from BMWF, BMWA, BMVIT, the two major national funding agencies FFG and FWF, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development, the Austrian Representation to the EU in Brussels, etc.

Topics: ERA-NETs, but also JTI, Article 169 Initiatives and other Joint Activities



➤ **FFG: ERA-NET working group**

Chaired by the person responsible for coordination of FFG
ERA-NETs and implementation of FFG strategy

Working group: Programme Managers from all divisions,
including European and International Programmes

Objective: Exchange of experience and regular updates,
coordination of activities



➤ **FFG: Coordinating NCP**

- Provides information (Website: Overview and links to all European ERA-NETs, Austrian participation, FP7 calls, etc.)
- National Contact Point for submission of new ERA-NETs (not only for FFG!)
- Support within FFG regarding implementation of joint calls (use of data base, mailings to research community, etc.)

Outlook and Perspectives



- What's needed: national R&D strategy!
- ERA-Net participation based on national strategy – is it feasible??
- ERA-Net participation only in strategically relevant area at national level - decision making should follow a formalized structure
- The role of networks: ERA-Net Task Force within TAFTIE would be useful
- ERA-Nets are important elements towards Joint Programming!



Any Questions?

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