

AUSTRIA

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research www.steps-ph.eu), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).

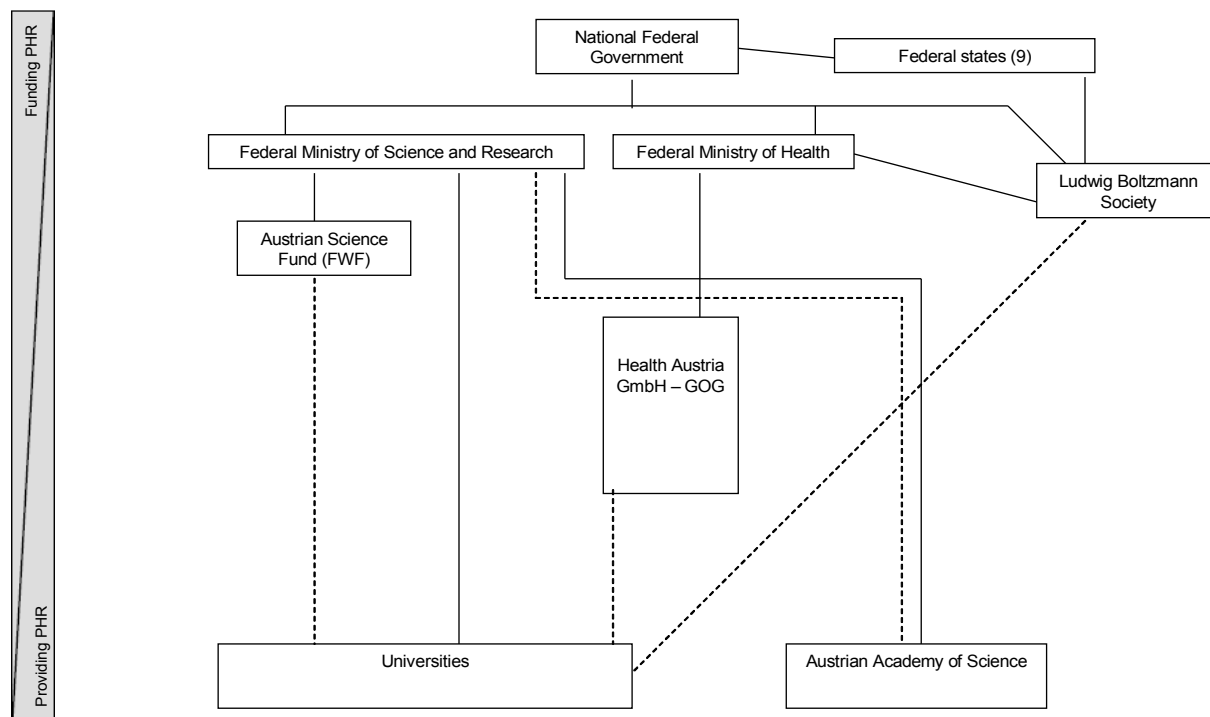


The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows.

The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

1. Organogram



PHR: Public Health research; funding negotiated between government and agency/organization; includes direct commissioning
 funding competitive process where rules are more or less explicit and known in advance

2. Research Commissioners

2.1 Ministry of Health

Federal Ministry of Health, <http://www.bmg.gv.at/cms/site/thema.html?channel=CH0993>

2.2. Ministry of Science

Federal Ministry of Science and Research, <http://www.bmwf.gv.at/english/>.

A feature of Austria's research system is its high degree of diversification on the level of policy and policy implementation. The Ministry of Science is one of the Ministries that play an important role in allocating funds and setting the framework.

The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development (<http://www.rat-fte.at/>) that was created by the Austrian government, advises the federal government, the ministers and the Federal states (*Länder*) in all matters related to research, technology and innovation; defines and monitors a long-term national RTD strategy (refer to 4.1).

In policy implementation at the federal level, there are agencies that manage competitive R&D funding and operate specific funding programmes on behalf of the ministry in charge (Austrian Science Funds, FWF).

(Source: ERAWATCH Research Inventory Report: Austria, <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=AT>, and <http://www.rat-fte.at/> assessed in June 2010)

2.2.1. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF, <http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/index.asp>), is Austria's central funding organization. It is organised in three scientific disciplines: Biological and Medical Sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Natural and Technical Sciences. The Biological and Medical Sciences includes Environmental sciences and the Humanities and Social Sciences include: economics and social sciences.

In 2009 from a total of €147.6 million spent in grants, 40.7% were spent in the area Natural and Technical Sciences, 37.4% in Biological and Medical Sciences and 21.9% in Humanities and Social Sciences.

(Source: Austrian Science Fund – FWF - Statistics Booklet 2009. Available at <http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/downloads/pdf/fwf-statistics-booklet-2009.pdf>, assessed in June 2010)

2.3. Other ministries

2.4. Regions

Austria is a federal republic, composed of nine constituent federal states. Most of the nine Austrian provinces have entered the stage of R&D policy making, planning and implementing specific regional strategies.

(Source: ERAWATCH Research Inventory Report: Austria, <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=AT> and <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/austria/government-and-politics/political-system.html>, assessed in June 2010)

2.5. Foundations

2.5.1. The Ludwig Boltzmann Society LBG (<http://www.lbg.ac.at/en>) is a private sponsor of research establishments in Austria. Its Institutes deal with questions relating to medicine, humanities, social sciences and cultural sciences. The Ludwig Boltzmann society, as well as its institutes, is mainly funded by the government, some ministries (including the Health ministry) and the federal states on negotiated basis.

Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes (LBI) have been set up on the basis of calls for proposals and international evaluation procedures. Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes are characterised in particular by their cooperation with institutional partner organisations. LBG includes a LBI in Health promotion research, Social psychiatry and another in Health Technology assessment (<http://hta.lbg.ac.at/en/index.php>)

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.2.1. The Health Austria GmbH, GÖG (Gesundheit Österreich GMBH, <http://www.goeg.at/en/About-Us.html>) was established in 2006 on the basis of a federal statute, as a national research and planning institute for health care and a competence and funding centre of health promotion. It includes three organizations: Austrian Federal Institute for Health Care (ÖBIG), Healthy Austria (FGÖ) and the Federal Institute for Quality Health (BIQG). GÖG has one shareholder: the Austrian Federal Government, represented by the Federal Minister of Health (<http://www.bmg.gv.at/cms/site/thema.html?channel=CH0993>).

FGÖ supports application-oriented research projects that advance the scientific basis and instruments of health promotion as well as primary prevention that pursues a comprehensive concept of health.

3.3. Universities

Currently there are 22 universities and institutes of higher education, 18 universities of applied sciences and 11 private universities in Austria. The Austrian university system was reformed through the University Act of 2002 which grants full autonomy to universities. Performance contracts between each university and the Ministry of Science and Research (BWF) have been signed in 2007. Institutional funding is now provided through three-year global budgets.

(Source: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/austria/facts-and-figures/science-and-research.html>; <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=AT>, page 8, assessed in June 2010)

3.4. Health Services

3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1. The Austrian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/english/home.html>) is the leading organisation promoting non-university academic research institutions in Austria. The fields of research comprehend: Biology & Medicine; Earth Sciences; Mathematics, Simulation and Metrology; Physics & Materials Sciences; Environmental Research; Space Research. Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences is carried out in institutes, research units and departments (commissions) located all over Austria. The Vienna Institute of Demography is part of the academy.

A number of research programmes are financed by the Federal Ministry for Science and Research and administered by national committees established at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

(Source: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/english/forschung/forschung.html>;
<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/english/forschung/programme/programme.html>, assessed in June 2010)

4. Research Strategies

4.1. The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development Strategy 2010.

The strategy aims at strengthening innovation policy and its implementation in order to position Austria amongst the leading EU states in the field of Research Technology and Innovation. The proposed recommendations cover several aspects related to research system and research policy as well as other policies that indirectly contribute to research and innovation.

Strategy 2020 structures the reforms that are necessary for this change in eight strategy elements: People; Infrastructure; Society Instruments; Input/Output; Governance; Key Areas; Internationalisation. The council, in the strategic element “key areas” points to the importance of identifying key areas and emerging thematic areas in the Austrian research landscape

(Source: http://www.rat-fte.at/tl_files/uploads/Strategie/Strategy%202020_engl_final%20version_march%202010.pdf

<http://www.rat-fte.at/index.php/strategy-documents.html>,

<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=AT>, assessed in June 2010)

5. Programmes and calls

5.1. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Programmes and calls

The funding programmes are for research capacity building, not bound to previously defined themes. The programmes include:

i) Stand-alone Projects (up to 36 months, €84.000/year); Special Research Programs (with the goal of establishing research networks between establishments, up to 8 years, €900.000/year); National Research Networks (with the goal of establishment of priority research areas by building up nation-wide research networks, up to 8years, €600.000/year);

ii) START Program and Wittgenstein Award (to support outstanding researchers)

iii) Transnational Funding Activities

(Source: <http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/projects/index.html>, http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/projects/call_overview.html, assessed in June 2010)

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)¹

6.1.1. Astrid Hoebertz (FFG-Austrian Research Promotion Agency, <http://www.ffg.at>)

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point²

6.2.1. Brigitte Magistris (Federal Ministry of Health, EU Coordination services), brigitte.magistris@bmgfj.gv.at

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010

² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm assessed in February 2010