

Digital Humanism

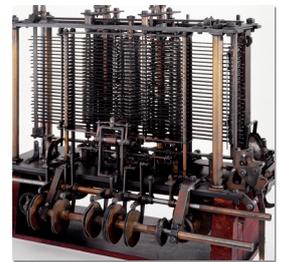
Call 2020

The special call within the thematic programme Information and Communication Technology (ICT) of the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF) aims at facilitating interdisciplinary research between social sciences & humanities (SSH) and ICT. WWTF wants to position Vienna as an internationally strong location for developing Digital Humanism as a movement and paradigm.

- The proposed project should improve the understanding of current fundamental questions in digitalisation in its social and human dimensions and thereby aim at re-conceptualizing the development of digital technologies.
- Researchers from both SSH (including art-based research) and ICT and related fields should collaborate across disciplines.
- The call addresses researchers and scientists at universities and non-university research institutions in Vienna, including those moving to Vienna as a result of this call.
- Young and female scientists are especially encouraged to apply and act as Principal Investigators
- Project duration is 2-4 years. In total, at least € 2.0 million are dedicated to this call. The funding range per project is € 200,000 to 400,000.
- The two stage call includes a short proposal and full proposal phase. The international jury will invite a limited number of proposals to submit a full proposal.



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Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, processes may be delayed. For up-to-date timelines, please go to our website: www.wwtf.at/digital_humanism/

On this page, we will also inform you about information events and matchmaking activities (all online).

WWTF Project Call 2020 ›Digital Humanism‹

Focus and Key Facts

Digitalisation—while providing substantial benefits to people’s lives—is also an enormous challenge to society and human values. In many cases, the needs of society and people for a more inclusive and sustainable technological development is neglected in economically-driven digitalisation processes and closed engineering-driven design. Engaging with digitalisation from the perspective of Digital Humanism in science therefore means:

- Building on human and societal values which are key to current and future society.
- Forming alliances between SSH and ICT to rethink digitalisation and contributing to a long-term paradigmatic shift.
- Combining social and technological progress on a level playing field by stronger linking digitalisation to human values.
- Positioning Vienna as an internationally visible place for Digital Humanism.
- Being constructive and inventive rather than expressing fundamental critique only.

We recommend to visit to www.wwtf.at/digital_humanism/ for further guidance on the topic.

WWTF provides funding for scientific projects with the following characteristics:

- Research projects may tackle issues from all areas of digitalisation: democracy, culture, education, economy, labour, health, media, politics and many more. Projects can address selective aspects of digitalisation issues, such as ethics, regulation, sustainability, privacy, gender, responsibility, diversity, fairness, etc. All fields of ICT and SSH are eligible and invited to collaborate in the projects. To facilitate bottom-up ideas, WWTF purposely provides no list of topics.
- Key element of the projects should be: (1) developing an in-depth understanding of selected aspects of digitalisation that includes both technical and societal / human aspects based on evidence, and (2) on that basis, exploring mid- to long-term concepts to rethink digitalisation processes to be better aligned with established human values.
- The teams should include researchers from both sides: social sciences / humanities / art-based research and technical disciplines in the field of ICT (informatics, data science, etc.), i.e. interdisciplinary collaboration is mandatory in this call.
- From the SSH side, the inclusion of (quantitative and/or qualitative) research that is grounded in the real-world is strongly encouraged. Projects in the area of *digital humanities* are not covered by this call. WWTF also encourages more risky proposals aiming at new questions, methods and collaborations.
- Development of applications and tools that do not include fundamental research questions is not eligible in this call: No quick fixes—this call aims for a longer-term perspective!
- Projects must demonstrate how they aim to facilitate the interdisciplinary collaboration between the partners. WWTF will take into account the plans for interdisciplinary cooperation during the evaluation process.

Please also consider the following Dos and Don'ts:

- WWTF sets great value upon gender balanced teams. Young and/or female scientists are especially encouraged to apply as Principal Investigators.
- The inclusion of potential sex-specific and gender-related aspects as part of the object of research of the proposed projects where relevant should be considered and explained.
- The main project activities should take place in Vienna. However, team members can be based worldwide. Up to 20% of the funding budget may be allocated outside Vienna.
- As a new feature, WWTF also invites major collaborations between researchers from Vienna and Lower Austria. More information is available at www.wwtf.at/noe
- Requested funding for non-personnel costs must not exceed 25% of the total budget.
- A researcher can appear in a key role (PI, Co-PI, or Core Team Member) in two proposals at most.
- No industry involvement is required. Industry partners are not eligible for funding.
- Non-academic collaboration partners (e.g. NGOs) can be part of the research team, however, the project itself should be predominantly academic.

For more details kindly refer to the ›WWTF Funding Guidelines‹ and to the ›Guide for Writing a Proposal‹ (the latter includes further details about the topic ›Digital Humanism‹), both available online at www.wwtf.at/digital_humanism/