

Information und Communication Technology

Call 2008

Der erste Projektcall zum Schwerpunkt "Information and Communication Technology" des Wiener Wissenschafts-, Forschungs- und Technologiefonds (WWTF) richtet sich an

- ▶ Wiener universitäre und außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen sowie Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler, die
- ▶ ein mehrjähriges Projekt (2-4 Jahre) im Bereich der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien planen.
- ▶ Ziel der Projekte soll es sein, substantielle wissenschaftliche Fragestellungen im Bereich der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien zu behandeln, die auch eine mittelfristige Nutzen- und Verwertungsperspektive aufweisen.

Die Einreichfrist läuft bis 16. Mai 2008, genaue Informationen finden Sie unter **www.wwtf.at**



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Wiener Wissenschafts-, Forschungs- und Technologiefonds

A new priority area of funding: WWTF Call 2008 'Information and Communication Technology' Focus and key facts

Scope of the Programme: Quality and Relevance

The WWTF 'Information and Communication Technology' programme targets scientific projects of the best sort with no sure short-term payoff but targeted in an area where there is a recognized problem affecting society, economy or technology. The results of these projects should improve the understanding of substantial scientific research questions in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Funding

The overall budget allocated for the 2008 call is EUR 5 million. It is addressed to universities and non-university research institutions in Vienna as well as to scientists and researchers in Vienna and includes researchers moving to Vienna as a result of this call. The call will be closed on 16 May 2008, 2.PM. Decisions will be made in October 2008.

WWTF provides funding for scientific projects (lasting two to four years) which should have the following characteristics:

- ▶ Projects are characterized by a well-defined scientific research programme addressing clearly identified, promising mid-term research questions with specified hypotheses and a catalogue of sound methods to be applied.
- ▶ Projects should improve the understanding of substantial scientific research questions in the field of Information and Communication Technology.
- ▶ Project results should intend to significantly expand current views and knowledge of fundamental problems and challenges in Information and Communication Technology.
- ▶ While the scope in principle includes all areas of ICT research, it excludes projects that are solely applications of existing ICT in other fields of sciences. The main criterion to decide whether or not a given project addresses ICT in this sense is whether it aims at improving information and communication technology itself - rather than, for example, improving ICT applications in medicine, biology, etc. Projects may address interdisciplinary aspects and aspects of user interfaces. However, the clear focus must be on furthering the state-of-the-art in ICT.
- ▶ Thus, a typical example of an ICT project would be 'research on scalable infrastructures' or 'research on new techniques for secure chip card protocols' while a typical example for a non-ICT project is the 'development of a new system for predicting avalanches'. Naturally, there are borderline cases where new technologies need to be developed for a new application.
- ▶ Projects can address either information technologies or communication technologies or both. Proposals come from science and engineering fields.
- ▶ Projects must exhibit a clearly identifiable perspective for medium term economic and/or social benefits.
- ▶ Projects will typically request funding in the range of € 200.000 to 800.000 for 2 - 4 years.

¹ NOTE: This is an example and not a signal for any thematic preferences of WWTF

Please also consider the following Do's and Don'ts:

- ▶ The proposing team of researchers must document a solid scientific track record.
- ▶ Only sound projects addressing important research questions using a clear methodological approach will be funded. Beside the quality of the team and the suggested approach, the jury process will include a judgement of the potential impact of the project. It is therefore essential to carefully consider the proposed research question.
- ▶ No development of business applications will be funded.
- ▶ The development of source codes, systems, or prototypes must not be the major goal of the project, but it is encouraged to demonstrate the practical applicability of the new scientific results. Development activities are only to aim at proving the developed concepts or assessing the performance of the derived solutions.
- ▶ No purely theoretical projects will be funded, i.e. no projects that are solely mathematical in nature or - as an example - address only proofs in complexity theory.
- ▶ Most of the funding money is intended to support young scientists in their career development: Researchers wanting to come to Vienna for a project are invited to apply. As a rule of thumb, 'young scientists' are researchers up to ten years after their PhD. Reviewers will be asked if the young scientists have a solid track record given their academic age.
- ▶ No industry involvement is required, but industry involvement may indicate medium-term economic exploitability. Moreover, it can be positive for the applicants to generate their ideas out of problems encountered in industry. No funding for industry partners can be provided.

Generally, applicants for funding as well as the submitted project proposals need to be characterized by **top scientific quality**. Beside the quality of the team and the suggested approach, the jury process will include a judgement of the potential social or economic impact of the project. As stated above **younger researchers** are in the core of the call. Additionally, WWTF wants to especially encourage **women** to apply for funding and to act as principal investigators. This means: In case of equal quality of proposals women as project investigators will be favoured. For the detailed criteria of evaluation - on which reviewers and a jury composed of experts from abroad will base their assessment - kindly refer to the WWTF Guidelines and the WWTF homepage.

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