

## „Profilbildung@TUGraz: FoE“: Lead Projects

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“Lead Projects” are a special funding program that identifies excellent areas of research with a critical mass and aims to develop them further. TU Graz therefore provides substantial basic funding.

### 1. What will be funded/financed?

The funds may be used for personnel, investment costs, travel expenses or material costs. This special funding will be available for a period of max. three years (starting 2023). Extension of funding for a lead project is possible only once for another three years if the project is positively evaluated. Each lead project will receive funding between 1.5 and 2 million Euro<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. Consortia

The applying consortia must prove that their consortium is sufficiently large and interdisciplinary: At least ten key-researchers (university professors, senior scientists, university lecturers and having careers with qualification agreement (= Laufbahnstelleninhaber\*innen mit Qualifizierungsvereinbarung)) from at least two different Faculties as well as from at least four different Institutes.

### 3. Granting

The selection of Lead Projects will be a two-stage process. In stage one (pre-application) the Rectorate will choose the most promising projects. The consortia on this shortlist will be invited to submit a full application and present their project to an external jury (hearing).

#### 3.1. Pre-Applications

The evaluation of the pre-applications will focus on the scientific content of the project as well as the current and recent scientific performance - relevant to the Lead Project - of the applying consortium.

The pre-application should contain:

- a. Description of the content of the Lead Project (max. 10 pages): It must be clearly defined and has to be within an internationally recognized and visible field of research.
- b. Description of the position of your project within the Austrian academic scientific landscape; it is expected that it will include a USP (unique selling proposition) in Austria.
- c. Explanation of the relevance of the project for the TU Graz and for the particular Field/s of Expertise
- d. A list of the 10 most important third party funded projects and/or contract research projects of the consortium with  $\geq 100,000$  € for TU Graz (within the last 5 years)
- e. A list of the 10 most important publications of the consortium within the last 5 years
- f. A list of 10 most important patents of the consortium (if applicable) within the last 5 years
- g. h-Index of each key researcher according to Google Scholar. h-Indices from other sources may also be included.
- h. ORCID of each key researcher

Please list only thematically relevant performance.

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<sup>1</sup> The total sum is the funding provided within the framework of the LV.

### 3.2. Full applications (max. 20 pages)

Consortia invited to submit full applications must address the following points in their applications:

- a. Scientific goals of the project
- b. Current state of research
- c. Work program
- d. Presentation of existing national and international networks
- e. Business plan for the following six years including total costs of the lead project, the use of funds received from the TU Graz and the covering of remaining costs by acquisition of further third-party funds
- f. Strategy and development plan for the further development in the field of research with a five-year and a ten-year plan.

One additional document for each key researcher including:

- CV (max. 1 page)
- h-Index according to google scholar. h-Indices from other sources may also be included.
- ORCID
- Up to 10 important third party funded projects and/or contract research projects  $\geq 100,000$  € at TU Graz (within the last 5 years)
- Up to 10 important publications relevant to the proposal within the last 5 years
- Up to 10 important patents (if applicable) within the last 5 years

Please focus on thematically relevant performance.

### 4. Submission of applications

The applications (pre- and full applications) are to be submitted in English.

Completed pre-applications must be submitted by

**February 1, 2023 (per email at [ft-haus@tugraz.at](mailto:ft-haus@tugraz.at) ).**

The application forms can be downloaded from [www.tugraz.at/go/leadprojekte](http://www.tugraz.at/go/leadprojekte) .