

EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS

CULTIVATING TALENTS

REALISING NEW IDEAS

**WE STRENGTHEN
SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES
IN AUSTRIA.**

DACH experience of peer review

- Lead Agency Procedure
- Money follows Researcher

IncoNet EaP RTD Evaluation Workshop

Chişinău, 8 May 2014

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Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

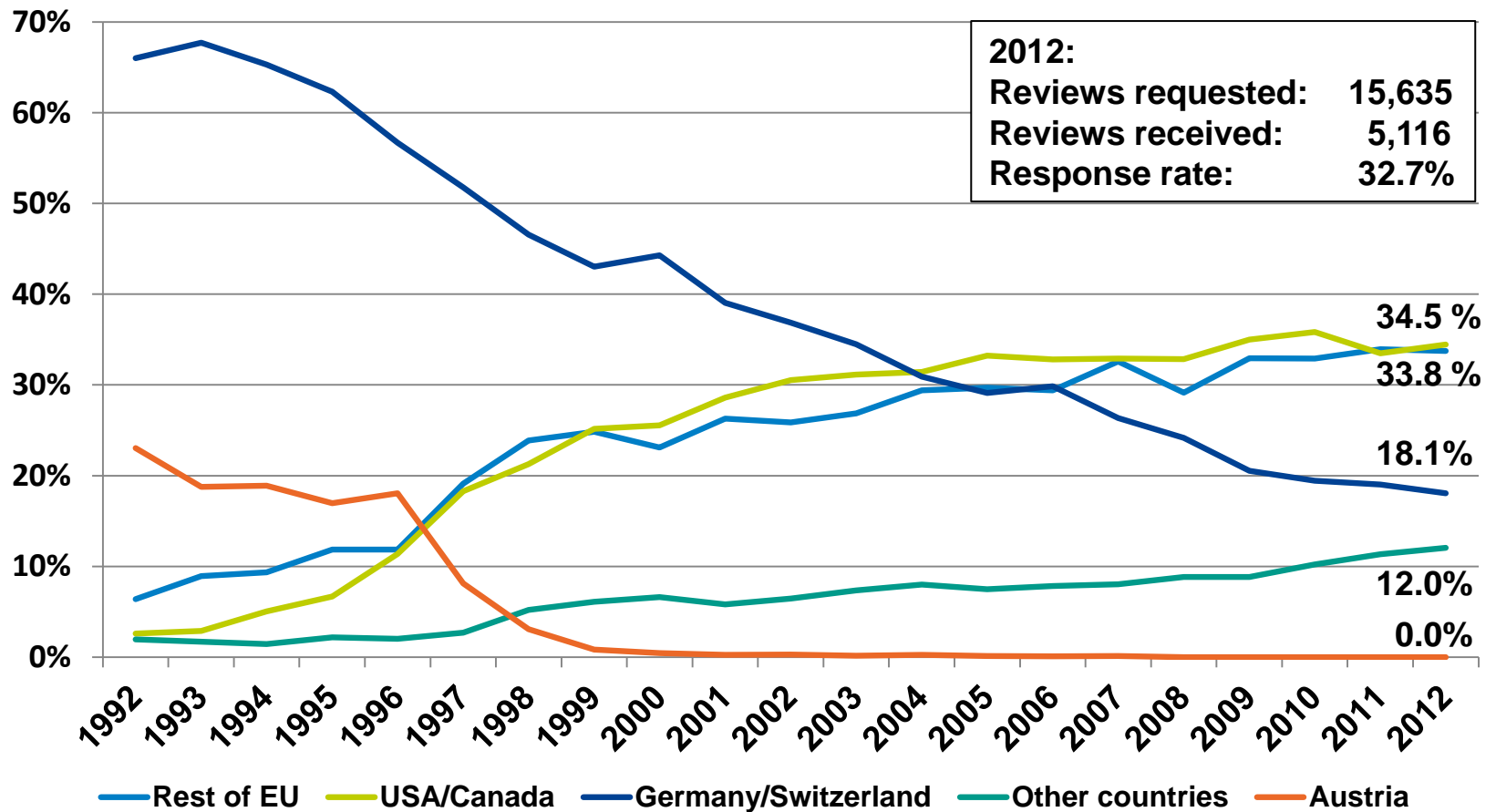
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FWF Characteristics

The FWF is Austria's central agency for the promotion of basic research.

- Budget: 202,6 Mio. EUR (2013)
- finances approx. 4000 research positions (~80% of budget for personnel costs)
- covers all fields of science and the humanities
- does not set thematic priorities
- has a single budget for all disciplines
- uses exclusively international peer review

Percentage of reviews by region



FWF's Portfolio



EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS

FUNDING TOP-QUALITY RESEARCH

Stand-Alone Projects
International Programmes
Priority Research
Programmes
START Programme
Wittgenstein Award



CULTIVATING TALENTS

DEVELOPEMENT OF HUMAN RESSOURCES

Doctoral Programmes
International Mobility
Career Development for
Female Scientists



REALISING NEW IDEAS

INTERACTIVE EFFECTS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Clinical Research
Programme
Programme for Arts-Based
Research
Support for Scientific
Publications

What is DACH?

Collaboration between research funding organisations of Germany, Austria and Switzerland

- DFG (German Research Foundation)
- FWF (Austrian Science Fund)
- SNF (Swiss National Science Foundation)

Transnational funding initiatives:

- Money Follows Researcher
- Lead Agency Procedure

Lead Agency Procedure

Objective:

- Funding of transnational research projects

Guiding principles:

- Avoid double jeopardy
- Keep it simple
 - for applicants
 - for funding agencies

Lead Agency Procedure – in a nutshell (1/2)

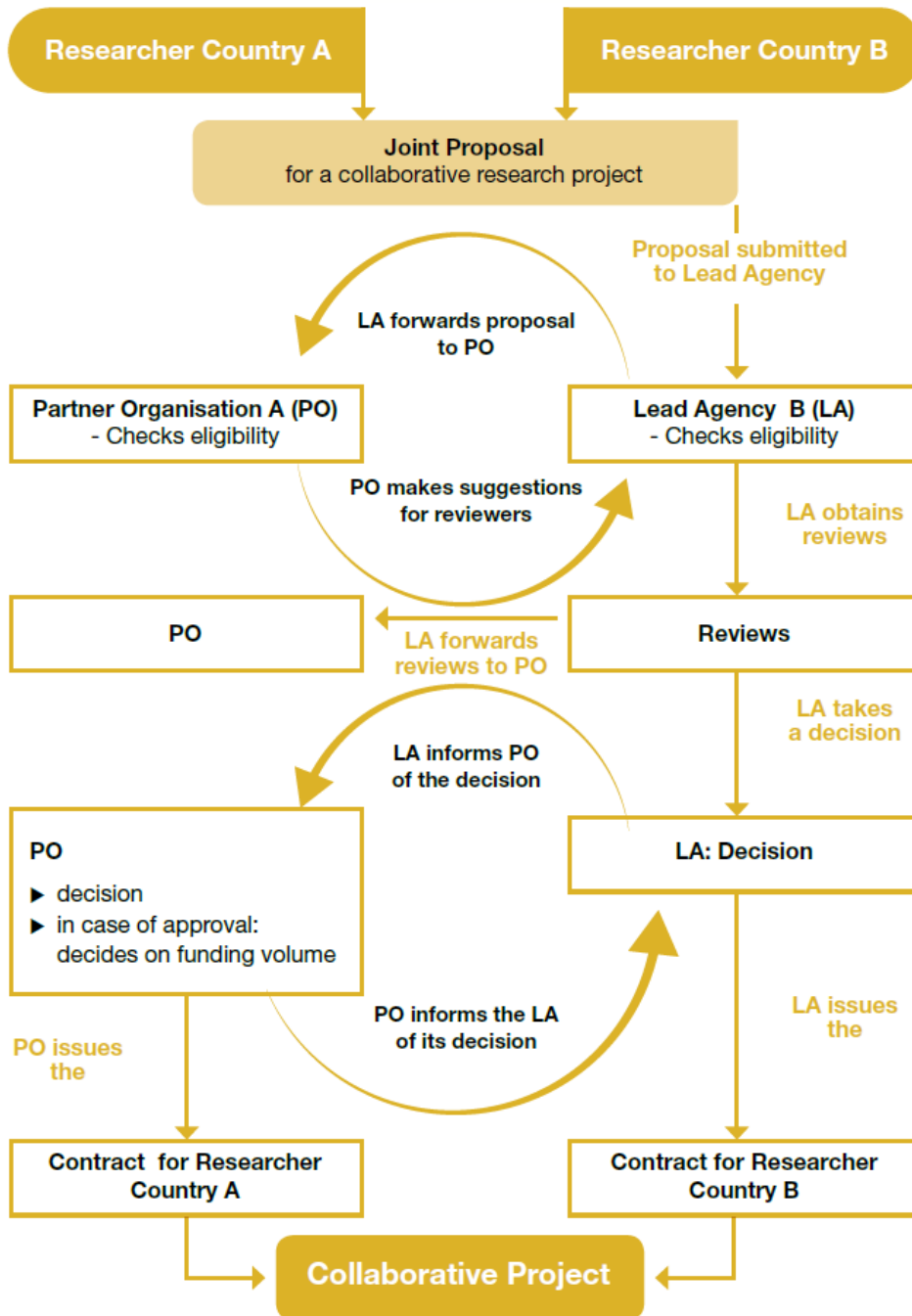
- one integrated application is submitted to the Lead Agency
- application must follow the formal guidelines of the LA
 - 2nd application may be required for formal reasons
- ways of defining the Lead Agency:
 - Lead Agency is the funding agency which finances the bigger part of an individual application (→ different Lead Agencies for each application)
 - one funding agency is in charge of carrying out the reviews for all applications
- costs are calculated in accordance with the respective national guidelines

Lead Agency Procedure – in a nutshell (2/2)

- Lead Agency forward application to Partner Agency
- Partner Agency checks formal requirements
- Lead Agency carries out the review process
 - partner organisations can suggest reviewers
- Partner Agency receives full review documentation
- Lead Agency takes provisional decision
- Partner Agency adopts decision
- national financing & monitoring

Lead Agency Procedure

schematic flowchart



Lead Agency Procedure – preconditions

- Compatibility of funding instruments
- Similar peer review criteria and standards
- Available funding budget
- Approval rates
- Knowledge about Partner Organisation

Lead Agency Procedure – general approach

- flexibility
 - budget allocation
 - (national) timelines
 - specific procedural requirements
- simplicity
 - adopt national procedures afap
 - avoid unnecessary harmonisations
- trust
 - share the workload
 - doing things differently can still lead to comparable results
- level playing field
 - go for the mutual benefit
- wider picture
 - focus on overall benefit not on the tiny problems

FWF Lead Agency Agreements

- 2007: informal collaboration with UK (ESRC = LA)
- 2008: DACH agreement
 - Germany (DFG)
 - Switzerland (SNF)
- 2011: Slovenia (ARRS)
 - S-Korea (NRF, 1 Call)
 - France (ANR = LA)
- 2012: Hungary (OTKA)
 - Luxemburg (FNR)
- 2013: Czech Republic (GAČR; FWF = LA)
 - France (ANR; FWF = LA)
- 2014: Belgium (FWO)

Lead Agency Procedure - figures

- DACH agreement: 200-250 applications per year
~900 applications (DFG, FWF, SNF, 2008-2013)
- FWF 2008-2013:
~700 applications, 160 projects funded
(DE, CH, FR, SL, HU, KR)
- savings of >900 reviews due to external peer review
- FWF 2013:
~10% of project funding (~13 Mio. EUR) in relevant
programm categories based on external peer review
(5% Lead Agency Procedure, 5% ERA-Net Calls)

Money follows Researcher

Objective:

- Transnational portability of research grants

Guiding principles:

- Provide continuity for researchers
- Avoid loss of investment for funding agencies
- Keep it simple
 - for applicants
 - for funding agencies

Money follows Researcher – in a nutshell

- PI applies for transfer of a grant
- Funding agency evaluates application according to specific conditions (e.g. suitability of new host institution, impact on initial project plan, effects for project personnel, residual project duration, ...)
- Funding is continued at new host institution (money crosses borders, different modalities)

Money follows Researcher – figures

- DACH agreement (2003-2012):
transfer of >25 Mio. EUR
- Balanced financial distribution

NEUES ENTDECKEN

TALENTE FÖRDERN

IDEEN UMSETZEN

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