

EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS

CULTIVATING TALENTS

REALISING NEW IDEAS

**FUNDING
THE WAY FORWARD**

Content of the presentation

- What does the FWF stand for?
 - Mission statement, positioning, principles
- What are the instruments?
 - The FWF funding portfolio
- How does the FWF implement this?
 - The FWF procedures
- What has been achieved, what remains to be done?
 - Current developments and plans

What does the FWF stand for?

Mission Statement – Positioning – Principles

The FWF's corporate policy

Objectives

- Strengthening basic research in Austria across all disciplines at an international level
- Develop Austria's human resources for research based on the principle of research-driven education
- Promote interaction between scientists/scholars and all other areas of culture, the economy and society

Position

The FWF supports basic research *...

The FWF understands this as “*experimental or theoretical work that primarily leads to new knowledge about the fundamentals of phenomena and observable facts without aiming at a specific application or implementation.*”

... but is open for your application-oriented aspects:

Support for knowledge transfer and science/scholarly communication are an integral part of FWF's work.

* According to the definition in the *Frascati Manual* (<http://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/Frascati-Manual.htm>)

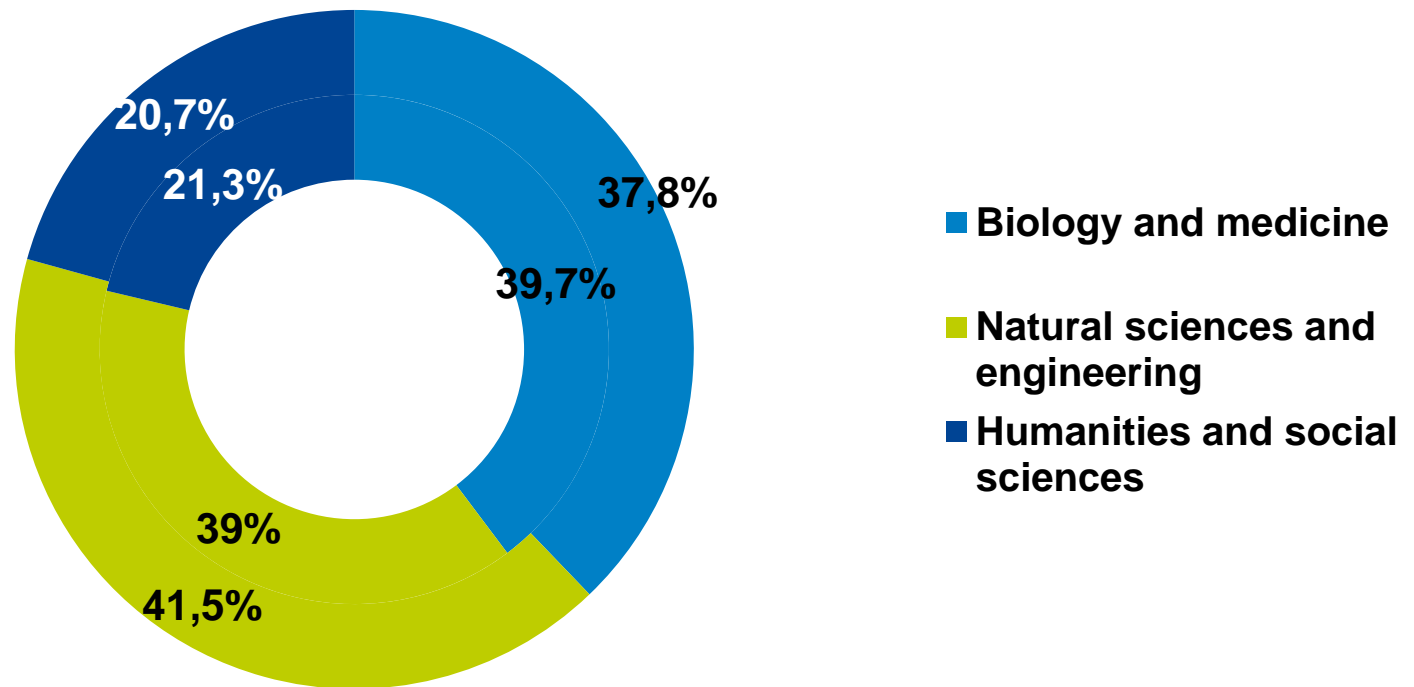
The FWF stands for

- More **basic research** in Austria
- More **competition** in the research system
- More **quality** in the research system
- More **internationality** in the research system
- More excellent **junior researchers** in the research system

The FWF supports the expansion of the research potential in Austria towards *innovation leadership* and is thus a major location factor for the research and economic system.

Approvals by scientific discipline

(Outside: 2018 / Inside: Ø 2013 – 2017)



FWF Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in Research Funding

- Equal opportunities for female and male researchers
- Integration of gender dimension into the research programme

Mainstreaming:

Gender equality standards for all decision-making processes

Special Programmes:

Two-tier career development programme for women

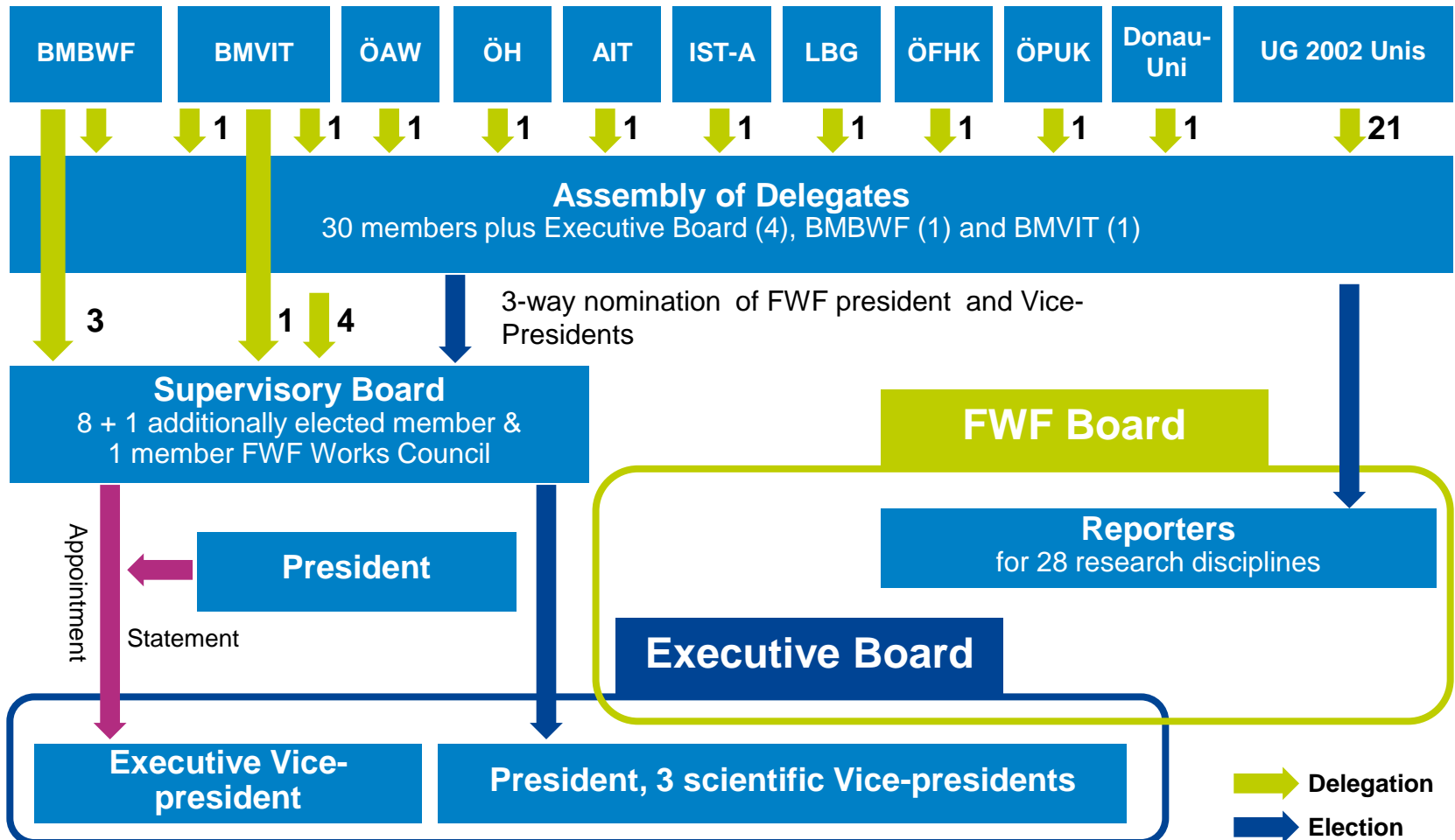
Governance:

FWF monitors gender-disaggregated data (participation, success rates, etc.)

FWF Organisation:

Gender training for FWF employees and researchers, FWF intranet page providing information, national cooperation within the genderAG, European cooperation D-A-CH

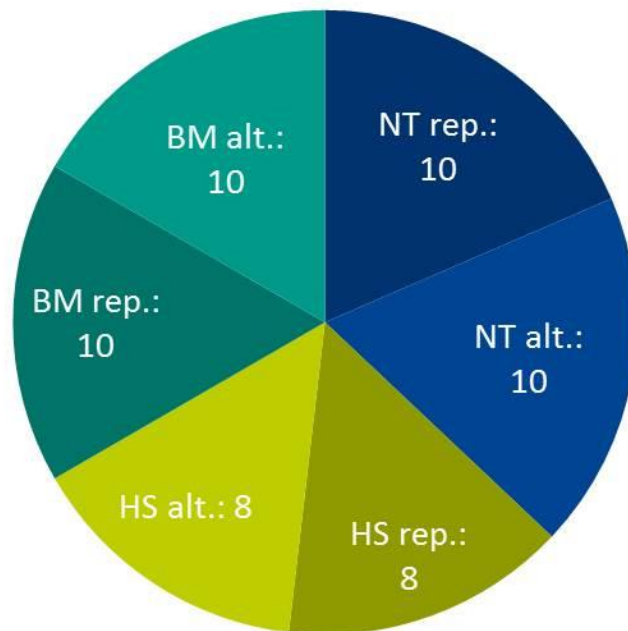
Decision-making bodies under the FTFG



The "heart" of the FWF funding machine

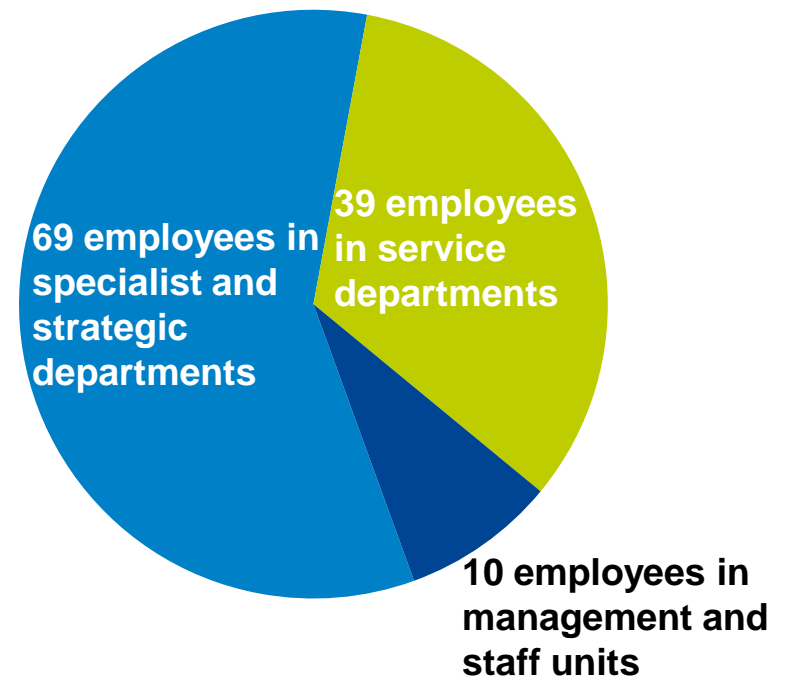
FWF Board

28 reporters,
28 alternates
(all university professors)



FWF Office

118 Employees – about 2/3 for direct project support



NT: Natural sciences and engineering; **HS:** Humanities and social sciences; **BM:** Biology and medicine

The FWF Funding Portfolio

The FWF funding portfolio



Exploring new frontiers – Funding of top-quality research

- Stand-Alone Projects
- International Programmes
- Special Research Programmes (SFBs)
- Research Groups
- START Programme
- Wittgenstein Award



Cultivating talents – Development of human resources

- Doc.funds
- Schrödinger Programme
- Meitner Programme
- Firnberg Programme
- Richter Programme/Richter PEEK
- Young Independent Researcher Groups



Realising new ideas – Interactive effects between science and society

- KLIF
- PEEK
- Support for Scientific Publications
- Science Communication Programme
- Top Citizen Science

FWF funding categories by career stage

Established researchers

- Wittgenstein Award

Researchers with post-doc experience

- Independent applicants
- Elise Richter Programme (+Elise Richter PEEK)
- START Programme
- Lise-Meitner-Programme

Post-doctoral work

- Post-docs
- Erwin Schrödinger Programme
- Hertha Firnberg Programme
- Lise-Meitner-Programme
- Independent applicants

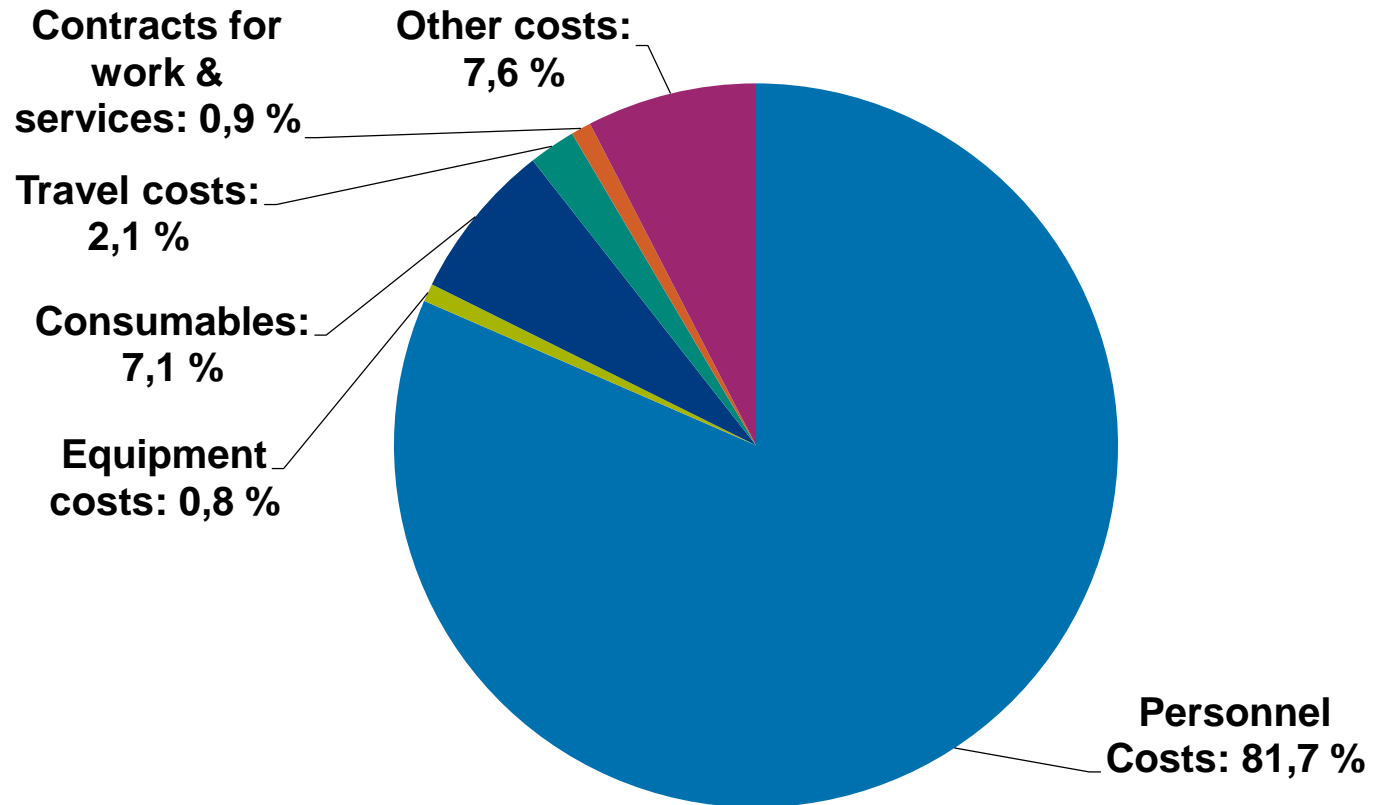
Ph.D. candidates

- Ph.D. student positions
- Ph.D. students in DK programmes
- Ph.D. students in doc.funds

University students

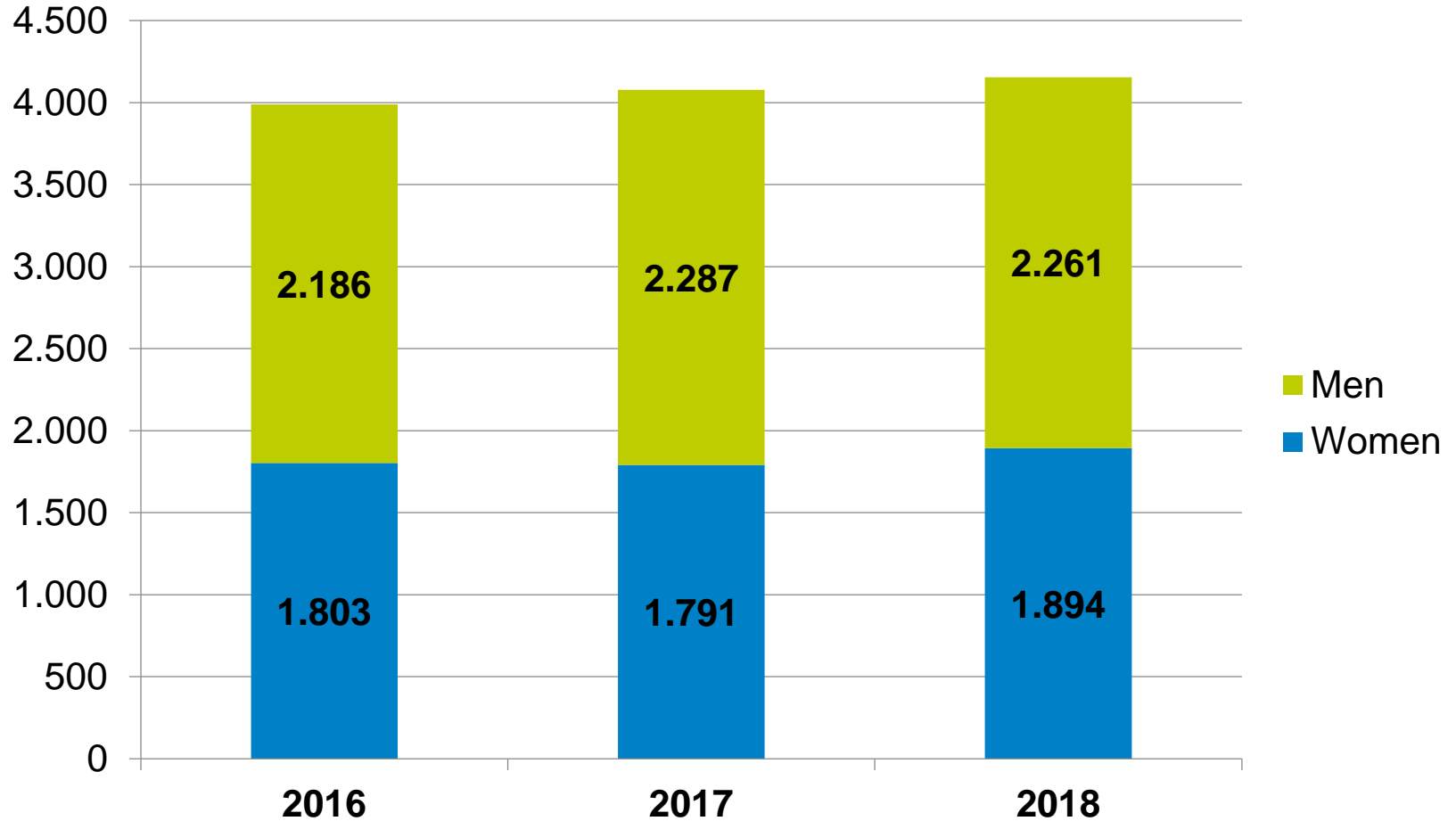
- Student employees

Total funding by cost type (2018)



Research Personnel funded by the FWF

Status: 31.12.2018



The FWF Procedures

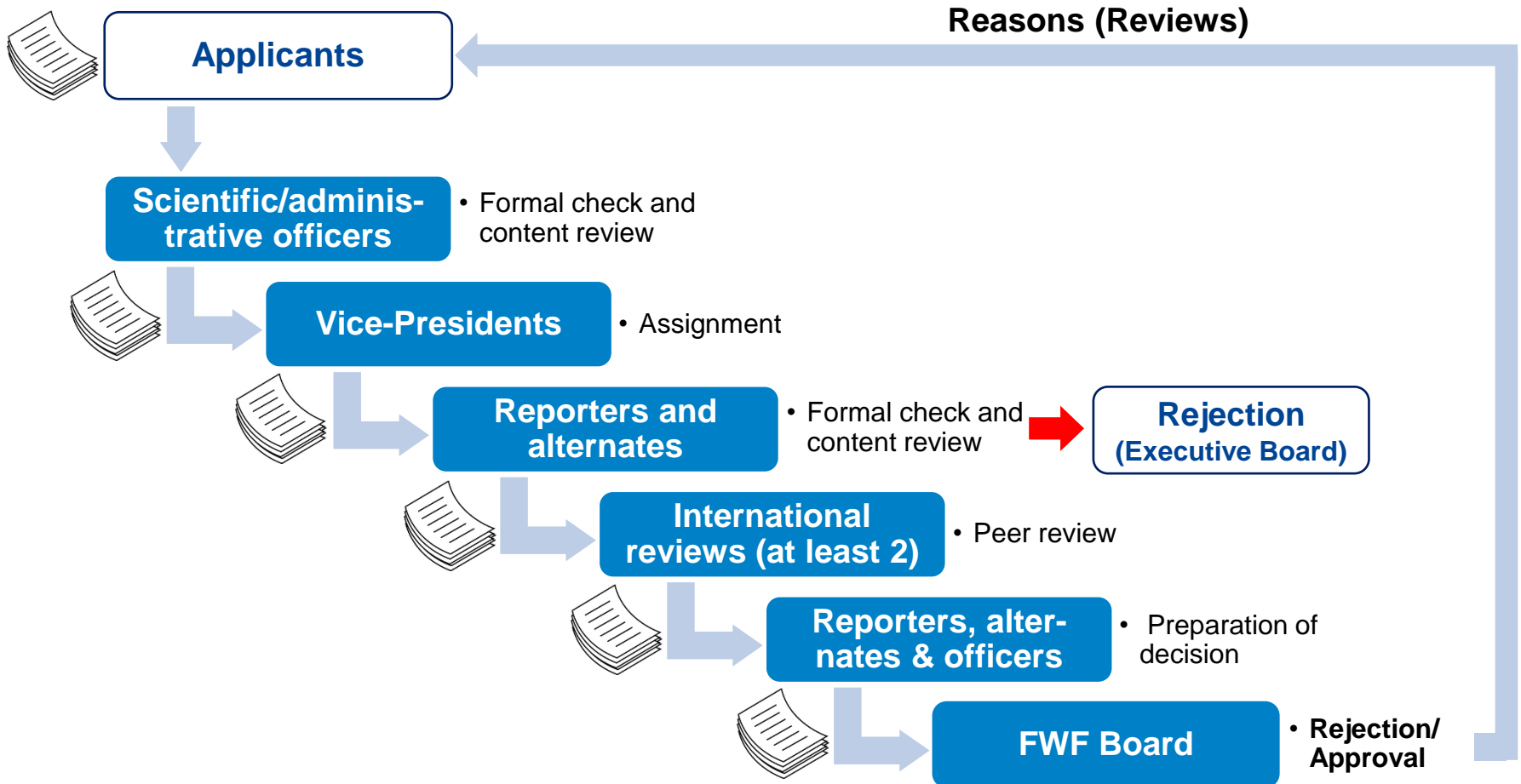
Key features of the FWF decision procedure

- Strictly bottom-up approach: no prescribed research topics, no quotas, no preference for specific researchers
- Multiple-party checks in all steps of procedure and decisions
- Close interaction with applicant to maximise transparency
- Independent, international peer review as the basis for quality assurance
- Text of reviews as most important basis for decisions (ratings treated as mere indicators)
- Discussion of and decisions on all projects from all disciplines during an FWF Board meeting with representatives from all disciplines

Application basics

- Choice of topic: Bottom-up (i.e. determined by applicants)
- Type of research: Scholarly research designed to generate new knowledge
- Eligibility: Based on residence (Austria); scientific qualification (publications)
- Quotas: None
- Processing time: Ø 4.8 months (in programmes with no application deadlines)

The FWF Decision-Making Procedure



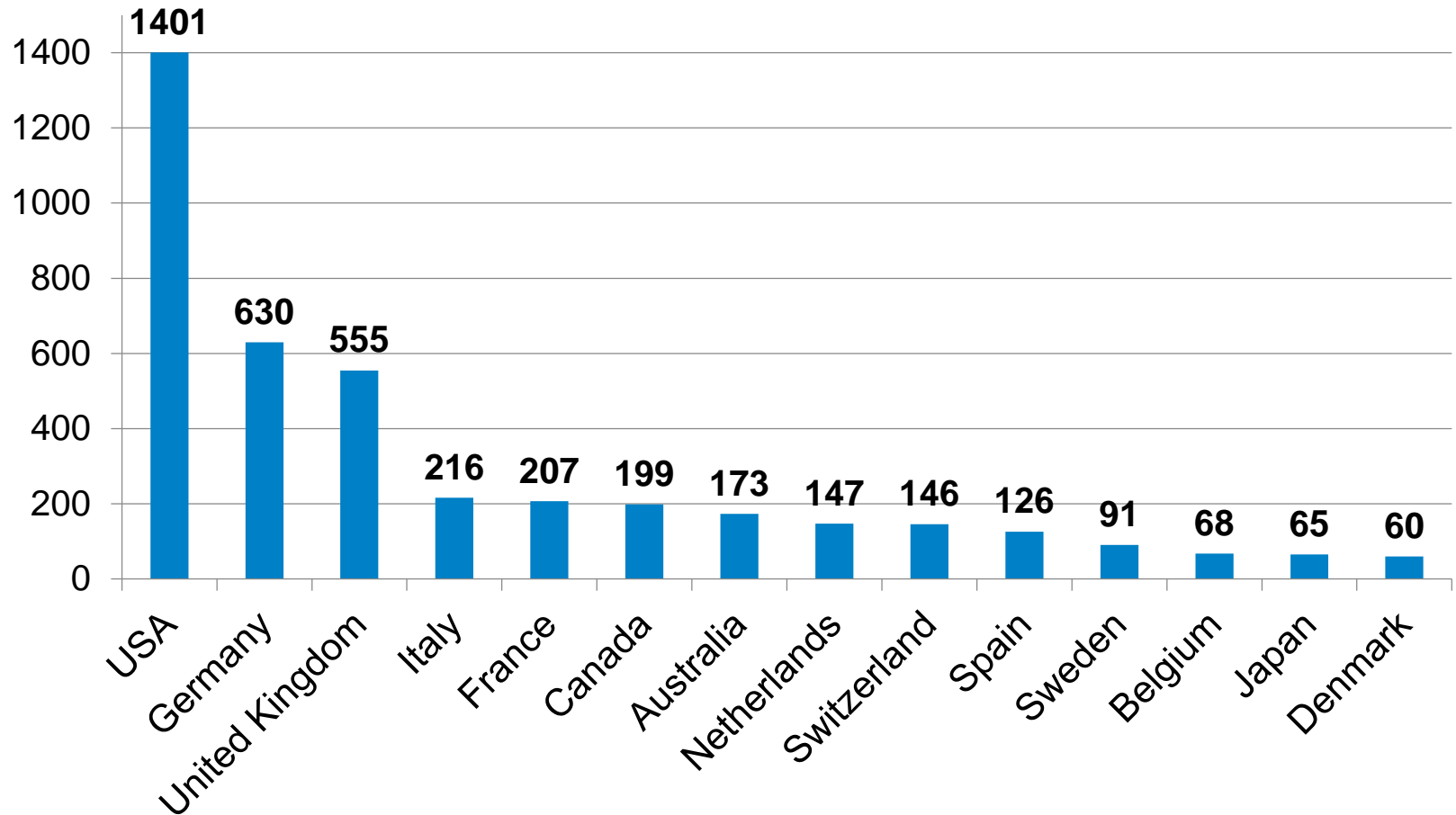
Reviewer profile in the peer review procedure

- Reviewers must be experts based outside of Austria who are still active in the field and have attained at least the same scholarly/scientific level as the applicant.
- Specific for each application, no fixed pool of reviewers (90% of reviewers are new; never more than 2 reviews per year)
- Mix of reviewers: selection of reviewers based on the researchers' career status
- Regional distribution according to share of scholarly/scientific output
- Continuous increase of female reviewers
- In smaller disciplines, "generalists" may also be called upon

Basic principles for the selection of reviewers

- “Negative list” (i.e. applicants can exclude up to three reviewers)
- Responsibilities check: forwarding of the abstract
- Checking of conflicts of interest by FWF Secretariat
- Non-conflict-of-interest declaration by reviewers

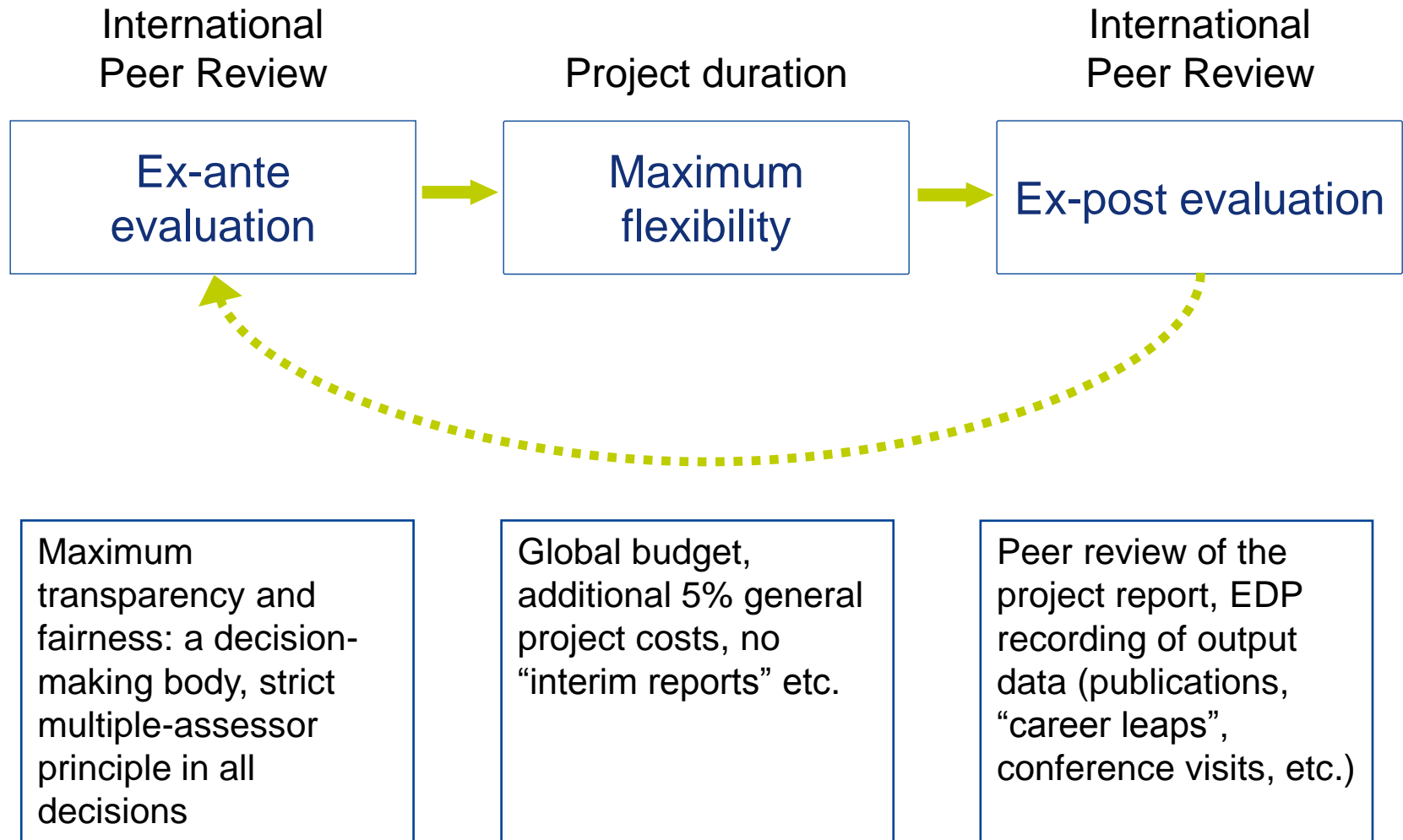
Reviews received by country (2018)



Principles of the decision

- Quality benchmark → International research community
- Peer Review → All reviewers based outside Austria
- Number of reviews → At least 2
- Decisions → Issued by FWF Board on basis of reviews
- Reasoning → Communication of the complete review to applicants
- Checks and Balances → Comparative discussion of all projects of all disciplines
- Decision meetings → 5 per year

Controlling (quality control)



New programmes for unconventional research ideas & approaches

In development

- **„1000 Ideen“** – first call for proposals in November 2019
 - Promotion of particularly high-risk or innovative research approaches at an early stage
 - In a time-limited explorative phase, indicators for the sustainability of the concept are to be gained
 - Estimated amount of funding per project: € 50,000-150,000
 - New selection procedure (including anonymous application)
 - Duration: 18-24 months
- **„Pionierlabore“** – first call for proposals in Q1/2020
 - Promotion of excellent collaborative research projects addressing real, complex problems with a strong societal positioning of the research idea (= transformative Forschung)
 - active contribution (solution-oriented approach) to social change processes
 - focus on societal utilization of scientific results
 - Integration of knowledge from outside the science system (e.g. stakeholders, "practitioners"), other approach in knowledge production (= transdisciplinary research)
 - Duration: 3 years + 2 years extension

PROFI

Project funding through research institutions

- Conversion from *ad personam* funding to PROFi: Grant agreement is concluded with the research institution of the project leader
- Autonomy of the project leaders on research content and the use of the project funds is guaranteed.
- Project application and processing via PROFi will be introduced in stages:
 - Coordinated funding programs (*SFBs*, *Zukunftskollegs*, research groups, *doc.funds*) from 2018/19 via PROFi
 - Individual projects and related programmes as well as career programmes from 2020 on (with exceptions, e.g. Schrodinger outgoing phase)

Services of the FWF

Interactions

- **FWF Newsletter**

Registration at: www.fwf.ac.at/de/service/newsletter/

- **FWF Information Events**

Information on dates and venues can be found in the calendar on the FWF website

- **FWF Coaching Workshops**

The working methods and procedures of the FWF as well as critical points of application and project management are made transparent in a practice-oriented manner

Further information:

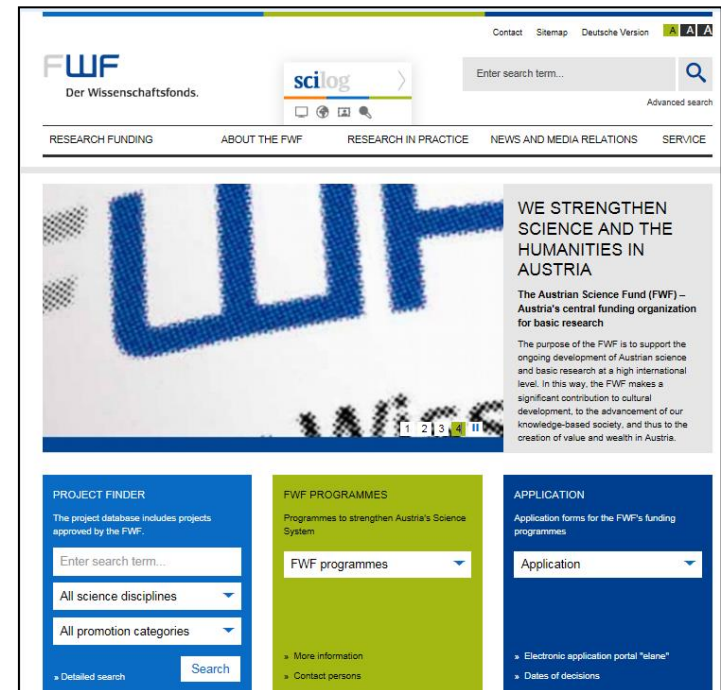
<http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/information-events/>

Information and Registration: nina.thomann@fwf.ac.at

The FWF website

The information resource

- **FWF-Website: www.fwf.ac.at**
- **Funding programmes overview**
- **Application documents**
- **Principles of the decision-making process**
- **Contact directory**



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