



FFG

Achieving real Simplification of EU Framework Programmes: Trust Researchers Initiative

Sabine Herlitschka

**European and International Programmes
FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency**

FFG - European & International Programmes

based on contract with 5 Ministries and Economic Chamber



FFG

Objectives: Strengthening the Austrian participation in international R&D Programmes (FP!!)

Host of: FP National Contact Points, EUREKA, EEN

Activities: Awareness, Information, Training, Consultation, Coaching, international Networking, international cooperation

Fact & Figures: 45 experts, app. 8000 consultancy sessions per year, effectiveness of services: \approx 30%, increase of AT success rate in FP7



Our involvement in „Simplification“



- Participation in EU FP Projects since 1998, app. 100: Internal procedures set up to serve as examples for AT RTD community
- Consultancy experience, training for accountants, auditors, etc
- FP6 ex-post audit in Jan. 2009.....
- Chronology of FP6 ex-post experiences:>250 pages
- Identification of major issues for improvements
- Position on “Simplification” submitted in on-line consultation
- further detailed position papers developed
- exchange with other European partners...
- Expert Group: Impact of External Project based funding on financial management of universities
- Jan. 2010 Trust Researchers Initiative



Trust Researchers

A declaration to the attention of the European Council of Ministers and the Parliament.

- Home
- Declaration
- Background
- Sign up
- Who has signed?
- Media Corner
- Who we are

Signatures Today	88
Signatures Total	12687
Comments 16%	2091
Cities	1340
	Sign Com
Albania	8 1
Austria	1189 187
Belgium	424 74
Bosnia-Herzegovina	11 1
Bulgaria	81 14
Canada	7 2
Croatia	35 5
Cyprus	61 8
Czech Republic	316 58
Denmark	144 23
Egypt	18 5
Estonia	48 6
Finland	260 26
France	1518 234
FYR of Macedonia	12 3
Germany	970 180
Greece	341 39
Hungary	182 26
Ireland	87 15
Iceland	3 0
Israel	174 32
Italy	1010 135
Latvia	179 20
Lithuania	64 9

Do you agree that the administrative burden and the financial regulation of European research funding should be simplified?

Sign this declaration- and invite others to join!
Join our voices across Europe to get this done

The funding of European research should be based on trust and responsible partnering. Today researchers in Europe face a lot of red tape and cumbersome financial regulations. We are not against rules. But we need to simplify.

Comment of Commissioner Mrs Maire GEORGHEGAN-QUINN on the statement above:
"I agree with every single word" (29.4.2010)

Those who have signed this declaration ask the European Council of Ministers and the Parliament to simplify the administrative procedures and the financial provisions of European research funding.

read the **DECLARATION** - and - **sign it!**
invite others to join!

Thanks!
 and have a look at the Comm's Communication on Simplification, published the 29 April 2010.
There is hope to see changes!

Latest signatures [Show all](#) [Show cities](#) [Show 2091 comments](#)

- 19 May 20:21 - AT - Oliver Bender - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mountain Research
- 19 May 20:17 - IT - Barbara Gagliardi - Università degli Studi di Torino

Trust Researchers Declaration



Mutual Trust

Funding of research in Europe should be based on mutual trust and responsible partnering.

Focused on research

Research has to be funded according to the nature of research, meaning concentrated on output.

Consistency

The European Research Area (ERA) should benefit from a consistent vision shared by all actors for funding research throughout the different programmes that is avoiding all kinds of unnecessary technical and administrative details but instead promoting key funding principles based on an appropriate level of accountability.

Reliability

Research and development is of utmost importance for Europe and its future oriented development. However, we need effective, reliable and stable funding principles to make it happen.

Risk taking

Research and innovation are risk taking activities. An appropriate level of tolerable risks is vital for success and should be supported by European research programmes.

app. 2.100 comments out of 12.800 signatures



FFG

Germany Fraunhofer IST *Too many different rules and electronic systems. The money should be spent for R&D and not for building up a mess of different legal and IT things.*

United Kingdom Natural History Museum, London *I run several EU projects and the cost of administration is very high compared to other grants, such as NSF in the USA and UK foundations. EU research funding is world of administration, bureaucracy, liability, and accountability. It is unforgiving, and clashes with the very culture of science. This damages the goals of the research programs they are intended to protect.*

Germany University of Erlangen - Nuremberg *Hold us accountable for spending taxpayer money reasonably, but not by requiring a lot of forms to be filled in.*

Austria Austrian Academy of Sciences *Lower the administration duties and researchers will have more time to do what they are actually paid for...*

Romania Spiru Haret University *I would like this Declaration to be only first step in building of a virtual European Network, that will be able to support our interests in research area.*

France CNRS-Université de Strasbourg *Real democracy is based on trust, heavy bureaucracies are based on suspicion.*

United Kingdom University of Bristol *The current approach means scientific excellence plays a secondary role compared to spin.*



FFG

- Communication/29 April is a promising start
- Many recommendations are on the table
 - Clear, simple and transparent rules
 - Harmonisation of rules
 - Keeping proven systems and stable legal framework right from the beginning, etc
 - Devil is in the detail of the „how“
- Needed: change in philosophy: funding focussed on output/results
- Learning from successful examples/developments (Agencies, indicators with set targets and monitoring)
- **Most importantly: taking efforts towards real and radical simplification seriously!**
- **All actors are needed: lobbying at all levels is needed!**

The logo for the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is displayed in the top right corner. It consists of the letters 'FFG' in a bold, grey, sans-serif font. To the left of the letters is a grey circle containing a cluster of red dots of varying sizes, with several red brushstroke-like splashes extending from the circle towards the left and bottom of the slide.

FFG

Sabine Herlitschka, DI Dr. MBA

Austrian Coordinating National Contact Point
Director – European & International Programmes

sabine.herlitschka@ffg.at

FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency

www.ffg.at

Copyright / Disclaimer

The material featured in this presentation is subject to copyright protection. The use, also in extracts, is only permitted with explicit consent of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Oesterreichische Forschungsfoerderungsgesellschaft mbH, FFG). No legal responsibility is accepted for correctness, completeness, topicality or errors.

Liability claims regarding damage caused by the use of any information provided, including any kind of information which is incomplete or incorrect, will therefore be rejected.

Sabine Herlitschka-FFG/EIP