



WISS-Förderprogramme

1st WISS-Call AI research Salzburg 2025

Based on
RTI-Directive
2023 - 2027



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Content

One of the focal points of the current Science and Innovation Strategy Salzburg WISS 2030 is digital transformation. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to fundamentally change the economy and society as a new basic technology. It enables new business models, has an impact on the organization of companies and work as well as the behaviour of consumers. Machine learning and AI are key areas of innovation and growth that open up opportunities, but also require new skills. The use of AI is not an end in itself but an innovative “tool”. In key future industries such as energy, environmental and climate protection, information and communication technologies, production, mobility, creative industries and health, it offers new opportunities through innovative solutions.

The first call for proposals in AI research launched by the Salzburg Regional Government enables high-quality research projects at the interface of basic research and application-oriented research. The projects must involve the integration of AI methods with at least one discipline from the biomedical, natural, social, cultural sciences, humanities or artistic-scientific research.

Target group

The call addresses researchers from universities and non-university research institutions in Salzburg who are engaged in technological development, as well as the effects and framework of AI, and who would like to conduct an interdisciplinary research project with a duration of 18-36 months. This project should lead to economic or social benefits at least in the medium term or contribute to solving social challenges. A researcher can act as main applicant in a maximum of two proposals.

Companies can be involved as associated¹ partners but will not receive funding. Under no circumstances may contract research take place in the projects. The cooperation may only include effective collaboration.

Funding and duration

The overall budget allocated to this call is € 2.5 million. The call is exclusively aimed at cooperative projects. The submitted project can have total eligible costs of up to € 800,000 over a maximum of three years. Up to € 270,000 per year per project can be claimed as total eligible costs.

Female scientists are particularly encouraged to apply and act as project leaders. In this case, a gender equality bonus of € 10,000 is provided.

¹ Associated partners support the project and the partnership from the outside by providing their expertise and access to relevant data and information. In addition, they support the dissemination of the project results among the target group.

Timetable

- All interested parties are cordially invited to an information event including networking opportunities on February 17, 2025, from 3-5 p.m., LAD Sitzungszimmer Chiemseehof, Stiege 1 (EG).
- A project sketch must be submitted by March 14, 2025.
- The submission deadline for the full proposal in English is May 16, 2025.
- The funding decision takes place in August 2025. The projects can start from September 1, 2025, at the earliest.

Funding criteria

- The interdisciplinary research carried out in the project in the field of artificial intelligence aims to gain new insights through innovative AI methods and/or to develop relevant new decision-making bases/solutions for socially relevant problems or challenges.
- The project must have a high level of innovation (i.e. the intended development significantly surpasses the current state of the art/technology and involves risks).
- The project must have a clearly defined scientific research programme that addresses clearly identified, promising research questions with concrete hypotheses, and a catalogue of well-founded methods for addressing these questions.
- The project must present a clear outlook on the medium-term economic and/or social benefits.
- The project must be based on solid datasets and relevant AI expertise in the consortium
- Projects focused solely on the further/ new development of AI methods without an interdisciplinary area of application will not be funded.
- Funding is available for interdisciplinary research teams composed of scientists from various disciplines.
- Research activities within the partnership must be enhanced (added value of the cooperation) and should build on existing research priorities within the organisation.



Impressum

Medieninhaber: Land Salzburg | **Herausgeber:** Abteilung 1 Wirtschaft, Tourismus und Gemeinden, vertreten durch Abteilungsleiter Dr. Reinhard Scharfetter, MBA | **Gestaltung:** Landes-Medienzentrum | **Bilder:** Adobe Stock, tabler.io | **Druck:** Druckerei Land Salzburg | **Alle:** Postfach 527, 5010 Salzburg | **Stand:** Jänner 2025



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