

25  
*Years*

platform *fteval* 2021



# The Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation

was founded 25 years ago to facilitate an exchange of experience in the areas of research, technology and innovation policy (RTI-policy for short). Research and innovation programmes are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness, to ensure that funding gets where it is supposed to and that funding programmes are designed in a way to maximise societal benefits. These evaluations are carried out at research institutions, in agencies or by consulting firms knowing the funding

system well. For the various people involved in this process to understand what the others are about, a regular exchange of information and sharing of perspectives among the funding organisations, the agencies and the evaluating organisations is helpful.

In this brochure we would like to present the activities and services our platform implements to support this exchange.



**AUSTRIAN PLATFORM**  
for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation



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Technology Policy Evaluation**

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- 1.** We are *experienced in exchanging experiences*
- 2.** We *ensure understanding and comprehension*
- 3.** We *assess assessment methods*



# 1.

*We are experienced in exchanging experiences.*

Networking of professionals -  
this is how we make Austrian RTI policy stronger.

*For the last 25 years.*



In order to network professionals, we organise different exchange formats together with our member organisations. These are activities like...

Courses, meetings, workshops, working groups and regular international conferences.



# Strong women, strong ideas

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #87, #515 and #570<sup>1</sup>

## Laura Bassi and w-fFORTE Programmes

<b>Type</b>	Programme evaluations, assessment
<b>Year &amp; Implementers</b>	KMFA & Fraunhofer ISI (2014), inspire research (2020) & WPZ (2021)
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://repository.fteval.at/87">https://repository.fteval.at/87</a>   <a href="https://repository.fteval.at/515">https://repository.fteval.at/515</a> <a href="https://repository.fteval.at/570">https://repository.fteval.at/570</a>

The „w-fFORTE“ programme was launched in 2005 as one of the responses of the then Ministry of Economics to the low share of female researchers in natural sciences and technology. In the course of the programme and based on studies, the impulse funding action „Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise“ was developed. The Austrian Institute for SME Research (KMFA) carried out an accompanying evaluation during the first funding period 2009-2018 as strategic process support with a strong focus on learning and further development opportunities.

The aim was to test the effectiveness of the impulse action and to obtain qualitative evidence already during programme implementation. The findings also served as inspiration for other funding programmes in the FFG that pursue new approaches promote inter- and transdisciplinary issues: „Laura Bassi 4.0“, „Ideen Lab 4.0“. The Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) continues to rely on accompanying evaluations for structured capacity building in its programmes for the advancement of women, most recently in the accompanying survey conducted by WPZ-Research (Centre of Economic Policy WPZ) for the „Women Innovators“ programme.



# Founding the family of funders

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #257

## FFF/FWF Evaluation

<b>Type</b>	Systemic Evaluation (FWF, FFF)
<b>Year &amp; Implementers</b>	2004, Joanneum, Technopolis, WIFO, Twente, KOF
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://repository.fteval.at/257">https://repository.fteval.at/257</a>

The back then Research Promotion Fund for Industry (FFF) and the Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Research (FWF) were among the most important funding institutions for science and innovation in Austria.

The systemic evaluation of these two agencies was conducted by a large international team of evaluators and two panels of senior scientists and representatives from the research administration. It led to the establishment of today's Austrian Research

Promotion Agency (FFG) in 2004 and ensured the independence of the FWF. This evaluation is a very powerful example of the usefulness and importance of evaluations with regard to the institutional design of an entire policy field.

# 2.

***We ensure understanding and comprehension.***

Reflection on and further development of the evaluation culture -  
this is how we improve transparency in Austrian RTI policy.

***For the last 25 years.***



By organising evaluation trainings and conferences, we further develop the evaluation culture in Austria. Together we discuss and reflect on evaluations that have been carried

out. In our Journal for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation we collect contributions with regard to both Austrian and international evaluation practices.

## Evaluation Trainings



## fteval Journal



# Bird's eye perspective

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #559

## System Evaluation of 2009

**Type**

Programme evaluations, assessment

**Year & Implementers**

2009, WIFO, Convelop, KMFA, prognos

**Link**

<https://repository.fteval.at/559>

With the system evaluation of 2009, a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of Austrian research funding and financing activities was carried out, covering all federal funding programmes and their interactions in the area of research, technology and innovation policy in Austria.

This evaluation, which is unique in Austria and also in Europe to date, developed - based on its results - six central recommendations for a change in Austrian RTI policy. It thus provided very helpful

findings on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the entire funding system and contributed quite significantly to the development of modern management of public interventions in the area of RTI policy as well as to the development of the new, instrument-based funding approach of the Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

# Transformation for research centers

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #162

## Headquarter Strategy

<b>Type</b>	Programme evaluations
<b>Year &amp; Implementers</b>	2011, Technopolis
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://repository.fteval.at/162">https://repository.fteval.at/162</a>

The „Headquarter Strategy“ programme served to support the relocation of genuine R&D headquarter functions to Austria.

In 2011, it was subjected to a classic programme evaluation, which was not only very interesting in terms of methodology, but also revealed that the programme had strong deadweight effects, especially among the large companies that received funding. As a result, the Headquarters Programme was adapted and initially integrated into the Front-

runner Programme, to be completely dissolved as a separate funding line later.

This is a good example of the regulatory significance of smaller programme evaluations for shaping research, technology and innovation policy in Austria.

# 3.

## *We assess assessment methods.*

Professionalisation of evaluation practice –  
this way we make Austrian RTI policy more comprehensible.

*For the last 25 years.*



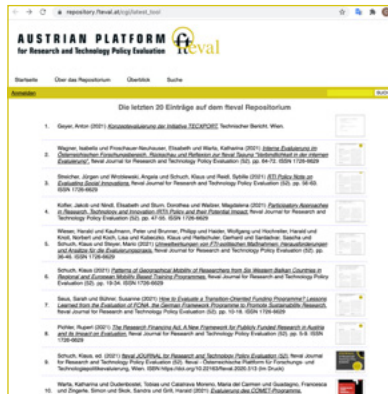
We contribute to the professionalisation of evaluation practice by developing standards and maintaining a database, the fteval Repository, where all evaluations of RTI policy in Austria that have been carried out to date can be accessed.

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## Standards



## Repository



## Award



# Innovation for Innovation Agencies

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #320

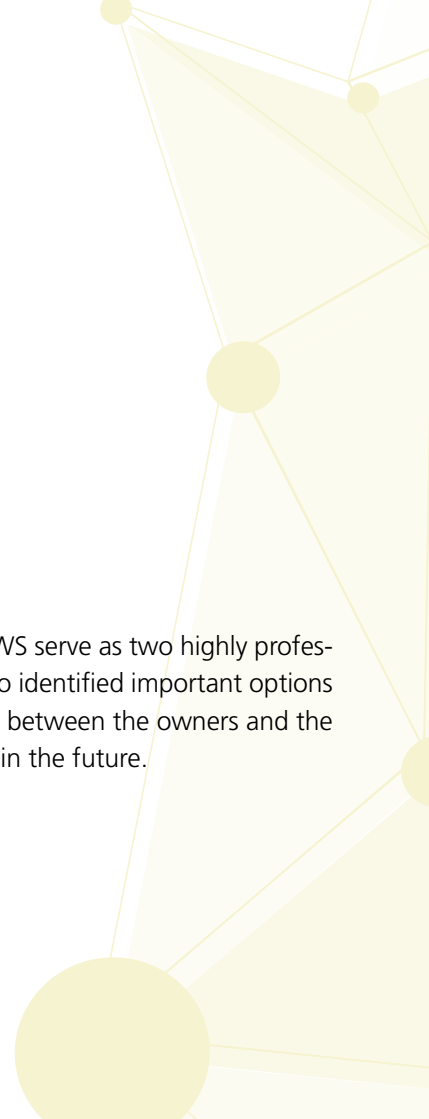
## Evaluierung AWS & FFG

<b>Type</b>	Evaluation of Institutions
<b>Year &amp; Implementers</b>	2017, KMU Forschung Austria, Fraunhofer ISI
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://repository.fteval.at/320">https://repository.fteval.at/320</a>

In 2017, an evaluation of the two federal funding agencies, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS), was conducted by the German Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research.

The aim of the evaluation was to take stock of the achievement of the objectives of the structural reforms in the funding sector more than 10 years after their implementation.

The evaluation showed that FFG and AWS serve as two highly professional funding agencies in Austria. It also identified important options for the future design of the relationship between the owners and the agencies, to develop their full potential in the future.





# Special order for special research

Evaluation experiences of the last 25 years: #531

## Evaluierung der Spezialforschungsbereiche

<b>Type</b>	Programme evaluations
<b>Year &amp; Implementers</b>	2020, AIT
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://repository.fteval.at/531">https://repository.fteval.at/531</a>

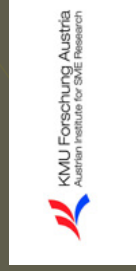
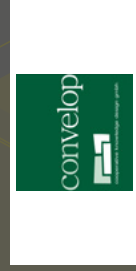
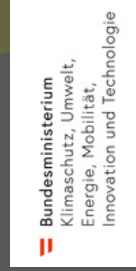
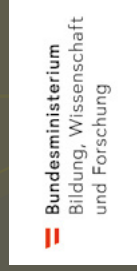
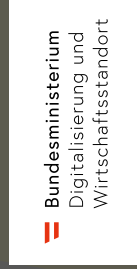
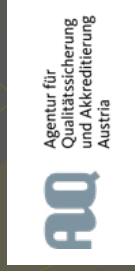
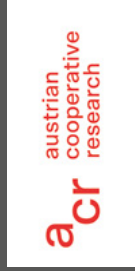
The evaluation of the Austrian Science Fund's (FWF) Special Research Areas (SFB) critically reviewed the SFB programme on the basis of the projects and research proposals approved in the period 2004-2018.

The aim of this evaluation was to assess the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the SFB programme against its stated objectives and to make recommendations for the future implementation of the programme.

The methodologically rigorous and highly innovative programme evaluation stimulated extensive discussions within the FWF on how it could use its network programmes to support individual researchers and groups in terms of their research disciplines, career stage and gender and increase diversity.

While the structure of the SFB in terms of network size, funding, duration, etc. was considered very appropriate by the reviewers, numerous recommendations contributed significantly to introducing more flexibility into the FWF's funding portfolio.

# Mitglieder der fteval





Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft

ÖAW

AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

OEAD



austrian  
council

technopolis group

WIFO



wirtschafts  
agentur  
wien

WPZ  
Research GmbH

W|W|T|F



ZSI

*steval members*