

Information sheet on long-term Principal Investigator Projects (formerly Stand-Alone Projects)

Principal Investigator Projects (formerly Stand-Alone Projects) funded by the FWF are limited to a four-year duration. In general, research projects cannot be funded beyond that time limit. At the same time, the FWF is aware of the fact that the structure and content of certain projects may make it necessary to conduct additional Principal Investigator Projects (formerly Stand-alone Projects) after the initial project. For such long-term projects, it is important to note the following:

- The FWF defines long-term Principal Investigator Projects (formerly Stand-Alone Projects) as research projects which essentially consist in collecting, exploiting and/or analysing extensive quantities of data (including sources, editions, collections, archaeological excavations, sequencing, taxonomies, database creation, data monitoring, clinical studies, juridical commentaries, qualitative and quantitative social science data, and the like) **and** where it can be foreseen during the planning stage that the benefits of these research efforts will only arise once follow-up projects have been carried out.
- According to the FWF's principles, all Principal Investigator Projects (formerly Stand-Alone Projects) submitted by applicants must focus on explicitly articulated research questions/hypotheses which guide the collection, exploitation and/or analysis of data.
- A previous funding approval for a Principal Investigator Project must not influence the decision to fund a follow-up project under any circumstances. Each Principal Investigator Project must have its own scientific merits, be designed to generate scientific results, and – at the latest by the end of the project – produce at least partial results which can be published in highranking international journals, collected volumes, proceedings or monographs.
- If it can be foreseen during the planning of a Principal Investigator Project that the research will go far beyond a four-year project duration, then the application must indicate how the research efforts will be funded and provided with institutional support once the time limit for FWF funding has passed.
- If it can be foreseen during the planning of a Principal Investigator Project that the research will go far beyond a four-year project duration and there are other research initiatives on related research questions in Austria, applicants are explicitly advised to submit such projects to the "[Special Research Programmes](#)" (SFB) funding programme established by the FWF for this purpose.
- After its initial use, research data collected, exploited and/or analysed using FWF funds should – where legally permissible – be made available free of charge by principal investigators and project staff in line with discipline-specific standards no more than two years after the end of the project. The data is to be made available in discipline-specific or institutional repositories or archives on the Internet. The grant application must include a plan for these activities and account for the funding necessary for this purpose during the project. In addition, the application must also include a brief description of how free

access to the data will be ensured and financed once the FWF-funded project duration has ended (see also [Open Access to Research Data](#)).