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COUNTRY REPORT

Social Sciences and Humanities in

Austria

2012 Report

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METRIS is an initiative of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) which aims to become an entry and reference point for the social sciences and humanities landscapes in Europe. Commissioned by the ERA Directorate of DG RTD and performed via the Metris-Network, it pursues the collection, regular updating, and analysis of information on social sciences and humanities at national and European level.

METRIS products

All products are brought together under the website www.metrisnet.eu. It provides METRIS country profiles for all EU-27 countries plus another 15 European and non-European countries, most of them Associated countries to the European Union's Research Framework Programme. The website provides access to the following services and publications, as they become available:

- Regularly updated country profiles of SSH systems in 42 countries;
- a news service;
- annual monitoring reports for all countries covered;
- synthesis reports bringing together key points;
- links to relevant reports and websites

This document has been prepared within the framework of an initiative of the European Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate-General, addressing the ERAWATCH Network asbl. The METRIS network is managed by Technopolis Consulting Group, the project manager is Viola Peter (viola.peter@technopolis-group.com).

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The report covers the period from September 2011 to December 2012.

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1. Country Overview

1.1 Overview of SSH System

1.1.1 Overview of the structure

On the **policy level**, the most important ministry for SSH is the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BMWF). This ministry is in charge of institutional funding for the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) which is the agency providing competitive funding for fundamental research (mainly research projects and researcher mobility projects).

The three other ministries in charge of R&D (i.e., the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology and the Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ)) are all involved in SSH research but are far more active in the social sciences than in the humanities. For instance, the two major non-university research centres for economics and social sciences (WIFO (Austrian Institute of Economic Research) and IHS (Institute for Advanced Studies)) are very closely linked to the Ministry of Finance and are, among other things, in charge of the national economic forecast. Additionally, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection is involved in SSH research on a smaller scale, for example funding the European Social Survey or parts of the CESSDA[1], which are both relevant for SSH research on an international level.

The Austrian National Bank also funds research via its contribution to the National Science Foundation.

On the **operational level**, the most important funding agency for SSH is the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) which finances basic research mainly on the basis of open tenders for research projects, but also via grants and structural programmes. The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is mainly oriented towards industrial research, therefore, SSH is marginal in its funding portfolio. The Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) offers fellowship programmes for the promotion of highly qualified Austrian junior scientists, grants for interdisciplinary research teams within the SSH in a programme called "DOC Team", as well as awards for outstanding scientific achievements in various areas of research.

The most important **research performing institutions** in SSH are universities and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. There are two public research centres for economic research and social sciences (WIFO and IHS) which are financed or co-financed by the Ministry of Finance. Several institutes of the Ludwig Boltzmann Society are active in the field of SSH, as is one major department of the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)[2] and some institutes of Joanneum Research. Numerous small research institutes funded on an annual basis, some of them partly linked to universities, also perform SSH research.

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[1] CESSDA is an umbrella organisation for social science data archives across Europe. Since the 1970s the members have worked together to improve access to data for researchers and students. CESSDA research and development projects and Expert Seminars enhance exchange of data and technologies among data organisations.

[2] Formerly: Austrian Research Centres.

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Figure 1   Organogram of the Austrian research system
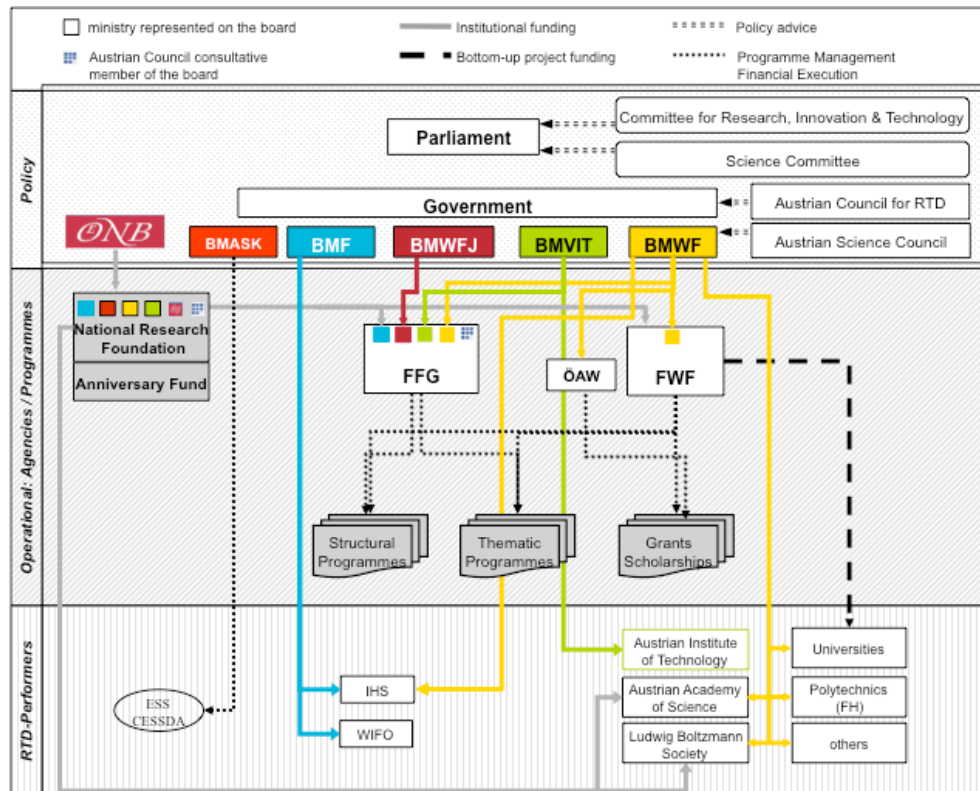
Source: European Commission, DG-RTD, METRIS country reports

1.1.2 Recent changes in the system

• In April 2011 Karlheinz Töchterle replaced Beatrix Karl as Minister of Science and Research because of a cabinet reconstitution. Töchterle is a classical philologist and was former rector of the University of Innsbruck.

• In the end of 2011, the performance contracts for the years 2013 – 2015 were successfully negotiated between the BMWF (Ministry of Science and Research) and the Austrian Universities. It emphasizes cooperation between universities and faculties and encourages universities to cooperate with non-university actors.[3]

1.2 Policy challenges and developments

1.2.1 Main societal challenges translated into SSH research

Overall, SSH research in Austria receives much less attention in policy than technological and industrial R&D. In the Austrian government's most recent programme [1] it is stated that societal questions will be addressed in a more focused way, especially the areas of demographic change, migration and climate change. The programme envisions the development of national research plans for these areas in cooperation with universities and other relevant research institutions. Another area,

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[3] Vgl. http://derstandard.at/1360681497353/Unis-werden-fuer-Kooperation-belohnt (only in German).

which is mentioned in the programme, is biomedical research as well as related ethical questions arising from research in this field. Up to now, no particular programme in this area has been launched.

However, national priorities have been formulated in the recently published National Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation by the Federal Government: The Grand Challenges identified are climate change and the need for renewable energy, as well as demographic change. In both domains, the strategy document mentions social and economic research in collaboration with technological research as necessary to comply with these challenges. Both challenges shall be addressed by the establishment of focussed research activities both within the ministries and on a trans-ministerial basis. Working groups have been installed to lead these projects into practice.

1.2.2 New SSH policy developments

- In autumn 2010, the minister of research announced to stop basic funding to the mentioned private not for profit organisations in SSH. Very quickly, this led to the creation of a platform of these organisations on the one hand (wissen-schafft-oesterreich), protesting against these financial cuts. On the other hand, it stimulated the discussion on a structural reform of the landscape for applied SSH, which is not yet finished. The Ministry wants to redirect the sector in the following way: some institutes have been or shall be integrated into universities, institutes that are particularly well positioned on the international arena shall receive specific support, and stepwise but still rapid and radical reduction of basic funding, in order to promote synergies and dissolve the fragmented landscape that could be observed so far.

- On the level of funding for public research organisations, no major developments particular to SSH can be mentioned.

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2. Policy Setting System

2.1 Government policy making and coordination

2.1.1 Policy formulation and coordination

The BMWF is the only ministry in Austria with an explicit focus on SSH. Two of its three directorates ("Sektionen") have departments dealing with SSH.

Directorate I (i.e., Sektion I) is in charge of universities and is organised thematically; for instance technical universities are under the responsibility of a dedicated unit. However, there is no department or unit solely in charge of SSH. The main lines of university policy are published in the annual 'Universitätsbericht' (university report), however, very few items refer specifically to SSH.

Universities are autonomous in their allocation of basic funding which is distributed for three-year periods on the basis of performance contracts. The negotiation of performance contracts is the critical moment in policy implementation as national objectives concerning, for instance, the profile building of universities can be defined here. Recently, the third round of performance contracts (2013-2015) have been completed in the end of the year 2011.

In the Directorate for Research (Sektion II), the unit for Research and Innovations for the Future (Abteilung Forschung und Innovationen für die Zukunft) has three departments ("Referate") in charge of SSH: the first covers research structures and their funding, the second the profile-building, networking and international cooperation, the third the funding of SSH graduates.

2.1.2 SSH policy advice

The Austrian Science Board is the main advisory body to the Federal Minister of Science, the parliament, higher education institutions and the universities in all university-related matters across all topics. Consultations result in workshops, reports and notes. One of four workshops held so far dealt with "art and research" (December 2008), in 2011, the president of the Austrian Science Board edited a book on this subject. Recommendations primarily deal with the strategic and legal aspects of university reforms.

The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development (Austrian Council) is another important advisory board. It was established in 2000 and advises the government in all matters related to research, technology and innovation; social sciences are marginal in this aspect of its work. However, in 2008 the Austrian Council published a report on the structure of SSH in Austria [2]. Greater focus has been put on science and society matters since 2004 with the publication of a recommendation for the further development of SSH in Austria [3] in 2008. New impetus on quality development and support for SSH stemmed from the strategy paper published in 2005 [4] while the strategy paper published in 2009 [5] still mentions SSH as one of ten major research domains even if it does not elaborate on prior recommendations.

Day-to-day policy advice is provided by experts and consultants from public or private research or consultancy organisations.

2.1.3 Main implementing bodies

The main funding body for SSH is the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). The fund invests in new ideas that contribute to an advance in knowledge and, thereby, to further developments in science, technology and society. It is equally committed to all branches of science and the humanities.

The FWF provides support for different types of projects: stand-alone projects; scientific publications; Priority Research Programmes (Special Research Programmes (SFBs); doctoral programmes and National Research Networks (NFNs); ESF Eurocores). The FWF also provides support for international mobility and for career development for female scientists; awards prizes; promotes programmes for translational research and assists other agencies' programmes with scientific project evaluation.

Funding decisions are taken by the FWF board, which consists of the executive board and the reporters of the FWF and is organised according to three broad scientific fields: biological and medical sciences, humanities and social sciences and natural and technical sciences. Budget is allocated to projects without any disciplinary priority.

The FWF is partner in two SSH ERA-Nets, namely HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) and NORFACE, (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe).

The Academy of Sciences, mainly a research organisation, is also in charge of mobility and award programmes which are implemented by the Department for Grants and Awards[4]. This department is responsible for developing and managing grant programmes and awards financed by public funds, private sponsors and third-party-funds. Two out of eight grant programmes are exclusively for SSH research.

The FFG, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency, is primarily oriented towards industrial research funding in cooperation with relevant research partners. SSH are not a priority for the FFG funding either in thematic programmes or in bottom-up funding of innovation projects; however, it is possible that accompanying studies on SSH issues are undertaken and receive funding. Since 2004, the FFG includes the Austrian office for support for participation in EU Programmes which is called the Division of European and International Programmes (EIP), hosting all National Contact Points for the 7th Framework Programme. This unit offers comprehensive information and expert advice to organisations and researchers located in Austria and their partners abroad who are interested in participating in European Research Programmes. Concerning SSH, top-up national funding for participation in FP7 can be provided for non university research institutes.

2.2 Impacting factors

2.2.1 Policy fields influencing SSH policies

SSH research policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF). However, both the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) and the Ministry of the Economy (BMWFJ) finance research on industry and innovation and some of their funding also goes into accompanying research projects in social sciences.

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[4] Verwaltungsstelle für Stipendien & Preise der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

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Moreover, all ministries can contract studies in SSH in their domain. For instance, the Ministry for Women's Affairs is in charge of preparing studies on women's rights and gender issues and from time to time they commission work from academics or private firms. However, there are no comprehensive data available on the scope of this extramural funding by discipline. The most comprehensive report available on research funding is the annual report of the <u>Federal Research Database</u>[5] which lists all funding and all projects commissioned by a ministry as far as they are not subject to secrecy, i.e., dealing with defence matters.

One important exception to the BMWF's leadership of the SSH research field is the <u>National Climate and Energy fund</u> which is the joint responsibility of the Ministry of the Austrian Chancellery (BKA), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) as well as the BMVIT and the BMWA. This fund, which started in July 2007, supports the national government in implementing its climate strategy. The greater part of the funds goes into technological research; however, SSH is explicitly mentioned in some of the different research programmes under this initiative.

The Ministry of Finance (BMF) governs the allocation of financial resources and sets standards for the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. Thus it plays an important role in the research policy system even though it is not directly responsible for Austrian R&D policy.

2.2.2 Influence of European and international developments

European Developments influence Austrian SSH policy at several levels as set out below:

- Austria has participated in several ERA-Nets related to SSH and this helped to increase knowledge of European SSH developments and encourage exchanges with European partner organisations.

- Both private and public research organisations are involved in international research communities and projects. The EU's approach to coordination across thematic and institutional boundaries is mentioned as exemplary by Austrian participants and has influenced the way work is done in Austria, for instance in the thematic working groups of the scientific board of the Observatory of Homelessness.

2.2.3 Relevance of European and international SSH research

Austrian institutions have been particularly active and successful in the SSH related priorities of FP6 and FP7:

- In the "Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society" priority of FP6, Austrian organisations participated in 37.2% of all funded projects and they coordinated 6.9% of these projects. For comparison: across the whole of FP6, Austrian institutions were involved in 13.5% of all projects funded and coordinated 3.3% of them. They received about 3.5% of the funding available for this priority (FP6 average for Austrian participants: 2.7%)[6]

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[5] Formerly Faktendokumentation der Bundesdienststellen.

[6] All data in this paragraph: [6].

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- In the "Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH)" priority of FP7, the situation so far is similar: by autumn 2012 Austrian organisations took part in 28.2% of all funded projects (Austrian FP7 average 21.5%) and they coordinated 5,3% of SSH projects (Austrian FP7 average 3.8%) and received 3,5% of all funding in the priority (Austrian FP7 average 2.5%).[7]

The recently published Evaluation of Austrian Support Structures for FP 7 & Eureka and Impact Analysis of EU Research Initiatives on the Austrian Research & Innovation System [8] includes a chapter on SSH where it states:

"There are basically two types of participation patterns in the SSH priority: On the one hand, there is a comparatively large number of organisations that participate in only one project. In FP6, for instance, some 31 distinct institutions took part in the Citizens priority; about 18 of them were involved in one project, six in two projects and seven in three or more projects. On the other hand, some SSH research organisations explicitly diversify their participation, not (only) participating in the respective priority but (also) in other thematic or horizontal programmes within the FP. They do so, partly because of their thematic specialisation, partly because it is a strategy to enhance rates of success and funding.

There is no such thing as "the typical Austrian SSH participant". (...) Among all Austrian SSH participants, the non-university research institutes are by far the largest group, accounting for 49% of Austrian participations in "Citizens" and for 65% in SSH, while in most other European countries, universities tend to dominate in these fields."

In April 2011, a Meeting on the issue of SSH Research in Austria and in the European Research Area has been organised [9], where the representative of the Ministry of Science and Research underlined that Austria participates actively in several Joint Programming Initiatives. For the SSH sector two JPIs are particularly important, namely the JPI "More Years, Better Lives" led by Germany and the JPI "Urban Europe", where Austria is one of the initiators.

2.2.4 Impact of evaluations

Research policy evaluation has become more important during the last decade and Austria now has a well established culture of policy evaluation. The strength of this evaluation culture can be seen in such initiatives as the Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (FTEVAL) which started in 1996 as an informal cooperation and which was consolidated as a society by its members in 2006. FTEVAL has played a crucial role in anchoring evaluation as a learning instrument within the policy making process. Among the members of the platform there are the three ministries responsible for research and innovation policy, the Austrian Council, the major funding agencies, major research institutes as well as policy consulting and research companies.

In 2010, the participation of Austria at the 7th framework programme was evaluated, the evaluation has been published[8]. Results show notably non university institutes are active and successful in SSH-research, but at the same time, structural problems reveal to be hindering. Other than industry, these non profit organisations have difficulties to finance their proposal and to provide matching funds. The study was published in December 2010 and led to the deployment of a specific programme to help SSH institutes participate in the FP7.

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[7] All data in this paragraph: [7].

[8] See [8].

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Evaluations of the open call programmes funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) look at all work they supported and so cover all the SSH work which has been done through these programmes in the previous round. The evaluations reports are generally published by the FWF and are taken into account both by the decision making bodies of the FWF itself and the ministry in charge when setting policy.

The most important evaluations for SSH research policy are those done internally by research units and departments within universities. According to the 2002 University Act, universities are obliged to evaluate their achievements in teaching and research according to international standards at least every five years, although how the evaluations are implemented in detail is left up to the institutions to decide. Universities are not obliged to publish the evaluations; however, results are used as inputs by the Ministry in preparation of performance contracts between itself and the institution. Therefore, institution-level evaluation has strong impact on SSH policy both in terms of resource distribution within universities, and, indirectly, by influencing performance contracts between the Ministry and the institution.

2.2.4.1 Project evaluation

There are no particularities in project evaluation related to SSH research. The main source of project funding for SSH projects is the national science fund (FWF). Selection of projects for funding is based on a peer-review procedure described in detail by the FWF [10] as follows:

- available for this priority (FP6 average for Austrian participants: 2.7%)[9]

- "The evaluation of projects forms the backbone of the FWF's work. It represents the basis for quality assurance in all the FWF's funding programmes. Since the FWF's establishment, international peer-review has been the instrument of choice. Proven scientists with relevant experience and qualifications (scientists whose work is closely related to that of the applicant, or their "peers") are consulted and their opinions sought on applications for project support (ex ante – before the funding decision is taken),

- the project's progress (interim evaluation for quality assurance during the duration of the project, e.g. for large-scale projects in the Priority Research Areas or Graduate Schools programmes) or

- the project's results (ex post – after conclusion of the project).

The FWF does not have a fixed "pool" of referees. Instead, referees are selected for each individual project application, based on their expertise in the relevant subject area. The FWF's peer-review procedure is highly international in nature: for the past decade and more all referees' reports come from outside Austria. A third of them come from non-German speaking countries in Europe and a further third from further afield. Furthermore, the FWF attempts to ensure that at least 25% of reports come from female referees. Selection of referees is highly efficient: about 40% of those contacted agree to review applications for the FWF. The vast majority of reports are submitted in writing. However, panel hearings are used in the evaluation of complex large-scale research projects and of excellence programmes: in these, experts interact with applicants.

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[9] All data in this paragraph: [6]

In all stages of the procedure the FWF relies on a finely tuned system to avoid conflicts of interest and to ensure that all operations are checked (using the "many eyes" principle).

The ex post evaluation of projects is the FWF's most recent procedure. Since 2003, all projects are evaluated after completion."

2.2.4.2 Programme evaluation

There are no recent programme evaluations in the domain of SSH in Austria. For previous evaluations, see the 2010 and 2011 reports.

2.2.4.3 Institutional evaluation

There are no recent institutional evaluations of a research organisation active in SSH in Austria.Previous evaluations are reported in the 2010 and 2011 reports.

2.2.5 Impact of other factors

At the structural level, one factor which has affected SSH research is the university reform which took place in the early 2000s. The 2002 Universities Act came into effect on 1 January 2004 and marked a new era in the development of Austrian public universities: it gave autonomy to the universities and provided them with new governance mechanisms, most importantly control of budgets and a performance contract with the ministry. With this Act, the universities became legal entities in public law (previously they had been federal establishments) and were no longer a part of the federal administration. The 2002 Act built on reforms of the university system that had started in the 1990s. As a result, the legal basis was in place for the new 'university enterprises' which can access new funding sources in addition to the money received from the federal government.

In the course of the university reforms, higher education institutions in the arts were turned into universities in 1998 and tasked with doing research and development. Research is new to arts universities; considerable work has been done in recent years to better understand the function of research in any domain of the arts and this has led to a new funding programme from the FWF who launched a first call of PEEK (Programme for the Development and the Deployment of the Arts) in summer 2009.

On the operational level, FFG through its Division of European and International Programmes (EIP) offers comprehensive information, expert advice and financial support for the preparation of FP7 proposals to organisations and researchers located in Austria and their partners abroad.

2.3 Important policy documents

SSH is mentioned in only a few of the high-level documents on research and innovation. Generally, these documents (e.g., the National Research and Innovation Plan or the recent programme of the Austrian Government (Regierungsprogramm 2008-2013) treat SSH only at the margin.

The following policy documents are relevant for SSH research even though SSH does not feature as a separate issue among the priorities that are set out there.

- National Strategy of the Federal Government on Research, Technology and Innovation, presented on March 8, 2011 [11]

- Programme of the Austrian Government: Regierungsprogramm für die XXIV. Gesetzgebungsperiode (02/12/2008) [1].

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- Strategy papers of the Austrian Council for Research and Technology development:

  - ·Strategy 2010 – Perspectives for Research, Technology and Innovation in Austria [4]

  - Strategy 2020 – Research, Technology and Innovation for Austria [5]

2.4 Thematic priorities at national level

So far, only climate change has been translated into a research programme. It is planned, however, that national strategies in all three areas will be drawn up in close cooperation with research institutes in the near future.

Within a more comprehensive list, the Austrian priorities defined in policy papers are therefore the following:

	Priority
	Behaviour, cognition
X	Competitiveness, Innovation
	Conflicts, peace, security and human rights within the EU and beyond
	Crime and Crime prevention (including drugs, organised crime etc.)
	Cultural heritage (including preservation and conservation)
	Democracy, governance, accountability and responsibility
X	Demography (Ageing, Fertility)
	Economy and finance
	Education, skills, knowledge and life-long learning
	Employment, Work, Working conditions
	Ethics
	Families, life-styles and well-being
	Gender, gender equality
	Globalisation
	Health and Health systems
	Identity, religion, language, multiculturalism
	International relations
X	Migration
	Social cohesion, exclusion, inequalities, poverty
X	Sustainable development
X	Urban and rural development
	Others

2.5 Important research programmes

Programme title	PEEK – Programme for Arts-based Research (PEEK)
Start date	First call: 2009
Planned end date	Open: one call a year in spring
Planned total budget	Decided on an annual basis
Budget 2011/2012	€ 1,5 Mio
Implementing organisation	National Science Fund (FWF)
Target group	Any person engaged in innovative arts-based research who has the necessary qualifications
Key goals	Support high quality and innovative arts-based research in which artistic practice is integral to the inquiry. Increase research capacity, quality and international standing of arts-based researcher in Austria. Increase both public awareness and awareness within the academic and the arts communities of arts-based research and its potential applications.
Website	www.fwf.ac.at/en/projects/peek.html
Tags	Arts and Science, Arts-based research

Programme title	Funding Programme: Social Sciences and Humanities in Vienna
Start date	February 2008
Planned end date	2013
Planned total budget	€ 8 Mio
Budget 2011/2012	€ 2 Mio
Implementing organisation	Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)
Target group	Viennese universities and research institutions as well as individual researchers in Vienna who are planning a research project (lasting one to four years) within the thematic focus of the particular call, research organisations in Vienna which plan to attract good senior and junior researchers form abroad to Vienna
Key goals	The mix of funding both projects and individuals aims at bundling and strengthening existing potentials in the humanities, social and cultural sciences in Vienna and at creating new impulses for the research field in Vienna. The programme comprises a series of regular competitive calls, each focusing on a specific topic.
Website	http://www.wwtf.at/programmes/ssh/
Tags	Arts and Science, Arts-based research

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Programme title	ForMuse
Start date	2008
Planned end date	2013
Planned total budget	€ 2 Mio
Budget 2011/2012	
Implementing organisation	Federal Ministry of Science and Research
Target group	Museums, Universities, non University-Research Organisations
Key goals	The goal of all these activities is the perception of museums as scientific centres of competence in an international context. For these fundamental tasks of museums, for all-embracing research and collection strategies and for vital links to the current scientific discourse a focal point had been missing. This programme aims to generate innovative research processes. It helps to develop measures that enable a continuing education of scientific personnel – in order to stay competitive nationally and internationally. In addition, it supports measures that provide an interface between researchers with academic and non-academic backgrounds and intensify national and international integration. The aim of the programme "Research in Museums" is to strengthen the scientific processing and documentation of collection assets.
Website	http://www.formuse.at/
Tags	Museums

2.6 SSH research infrastructures

2.6.1 National infrastructures

Research infrastructure for SSH in Austria is easily identifiable through the European Database MORESS[10]. On the Austrian level, the following services provide entries to specific databases, the selection is of course not exhaustive:

• Austria Forum, a German-language web-based encyclopaedia endeavours to present "all about Austria". It consists of three parts: (1.) A concise alphabetical lexicon about Austria with presently 16.000 entries (AEIOU), (2.) Several "dictionaries" about various fields of interest concerning Austria, (3.) A Community Section for all users with the possibility to post and to create special user groups

• InfoNet Austria, a database covering about 1000 institutions of information and archiving, research and culture, financed by the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, and managed by the National Library

• RIS, The Legal Information System of the Republic of Austria (RIS) is a computer-assisted information system on Austrian law, which is coordinated and operated by the Austrian Federal Chancellery

• Statistics Austria, the National statistical office

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[10] Unfortunately, the MORESS homepage is not longer accessible.

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- The WIIW Databases, with more than 1000 leading indicators of the latest key economic developments in ten Central and East European countries provided by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

- THEADOK, Theatre Documentation of the Department for Theatre, Film and Media studies of the University of Vienna

- WIFO Economic Data Service, providing statistical data for the Austrian as well as for the international economy, including forecasts

- WISDOM, The Viennese Institute for Socio-scientific Documentation and Methodology

2.6.2 International infrastructures

ESFRI, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. The Austrian ESFRI delegates are representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF). The following five initiatives are related to ESFRI, with Austrian participation:

- CESSDA (the Council of European Social Science Data Archives) members are data archives and other organisations that archive social science data and provide data for secondary use. The Austrian member is WISDOM[11].

- The European Social Survey (the ESS) is an academically-driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. Austria has participated in all of the five rounds. Coordinator of the Austrian Participation is Dr. Karl Müller, WISDOM, the surveys have been conducted by the Institute for Panel Research (IPR) and financed by the Ministry of Economy and Labour (today: Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth, BMWFJ) and the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (round 1).

- The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of more than 45,000 individuals aged 50 or over. The Austrian contribution is coordinated by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rudolf Winter-Ebmer (Johannes Kepler University Linz) in cooperation with the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) and executed by the Institute for Empirical Studies (IFES).

- The CLARIN project is a large-scale pan-European collaborative effort to create, coordinate and make language resources and technology available and readily useable for the whole European Humanities (and Social Sciences) community. The Austrian Members8 contact point is the Centre for Translational Studies at the University of Vienna, Prof. Gerhard Budin. Seven further institutes form the University of Graz, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and two extra-university research institutes (Information Retrieval Facility, Secure Business Austria).

- DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) shall enhance and support digitally-enabled research across the humanities and arts. The Austrian Partner is the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

In October 2010, Austria hosted the CLARIN/DARIAH conference.

Austria participates in several international database initiatives. Besides the European initiatives, there are common initiatives of German speaking countries (Ger-

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[11] See paragraph 2.6.1.

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many, Switzerland and Austria), international database activities in SSH with a focus on Central Eastern European Countries, and other international Projects on a global basis. The following table [12] gives examples of current or recent databases and differentiates these groups.

Table 1   Overview of databases

Geographic Coverage	Title	Acronym	Type	Language
AT, D, CH	Bibliographic Database on Environment	ULIDAT	Literature	German
AT, D, CH	Cumulated Index to the Neue Deutsche Biographie (NDB) and the Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie (ADB)	ADB – NDB	Scientists and experts, Persons	German
AT, D, CH	Database of Scientists in Women- and Genderstudies		Scientists and experts	German
AT, D, CH	Electronic Information on Research Funding	ELFI	Funding organizations, Research programmes	German
AT, D, CH	Environment Research	UFORDAT	Research projects	German
AT, D, CH	German Education Index		Literature	German
AT, D, CH	PSYNDEX	PSYNDEX	Psychological literature and test procedures	English, German
AT, D, CH	Social Science Literature Information System	SOLIS	Information on German social science literature – journal articles, contributions in compilations, monographs, and grey literature.	German
AT, D, CH	Sport Sciences Research Projects	SPOFOR	Research projects	German
AT, D, CH	FORschungsInformationssystem Sozialwissenschaften	FORIS	Information on current, planned and completed research projects for a ten year period in social sciences and their application fields	German
International	Bibliography of Publications by T.G.Masaryk and by other Authors on Masaryk and his work (1875-1937)		Scientists and experts, Literature, Journals, Persons	Czech, English, French, German
International	Database for Institutional Comparisons in Europe	DICE	Literature, Data	English
International	Database women and gender researchers		Scientists and experts	German
International	European System of	EUSI	Data	English

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[12] This table is based on data from MORESS.

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Geographic Coverage	Title	Acronym	Type	Language
	Social Indicators			
International	Human Life-Table Database	HLD	Data	English
International	Human Mortality Database	HMD	Data	English
International	Migration Data		Data	English, German
International	Reference to German Literature on Design and Building	RSWB	Literature	English, German
International	Research Database – Ongoing and recently finished projects on the History of Modern Times		Research projects	German
International Focus on CEEC	WIIW Databases	WIIW	More than 1000 leading indicators of the latest key economic developments in ten Central and East European countries	English
International Focus in CEEC	Institute for Macroeconomics	IME	Research projects, Literature, Data, Journals, Conferences	Bulgarian, English
International Focus on CEEC	Literature documentation. Women in science and research	LitDok	Literature	German
International Focus on CEEC	Database of Westslavonic Literatures in Czech 20th Century Translations		Literature	Czech
International Focus on CEEC	Documentation of literature on history of East Central Europe		Literature	English, German

3. Funding System

3.1 Overview of funding flows

The organogram in section 1 describing main actors in Austrian SSH research is used again here as it also illustrates the funding flows.

Figure 2   Organogram of the Austrian research system
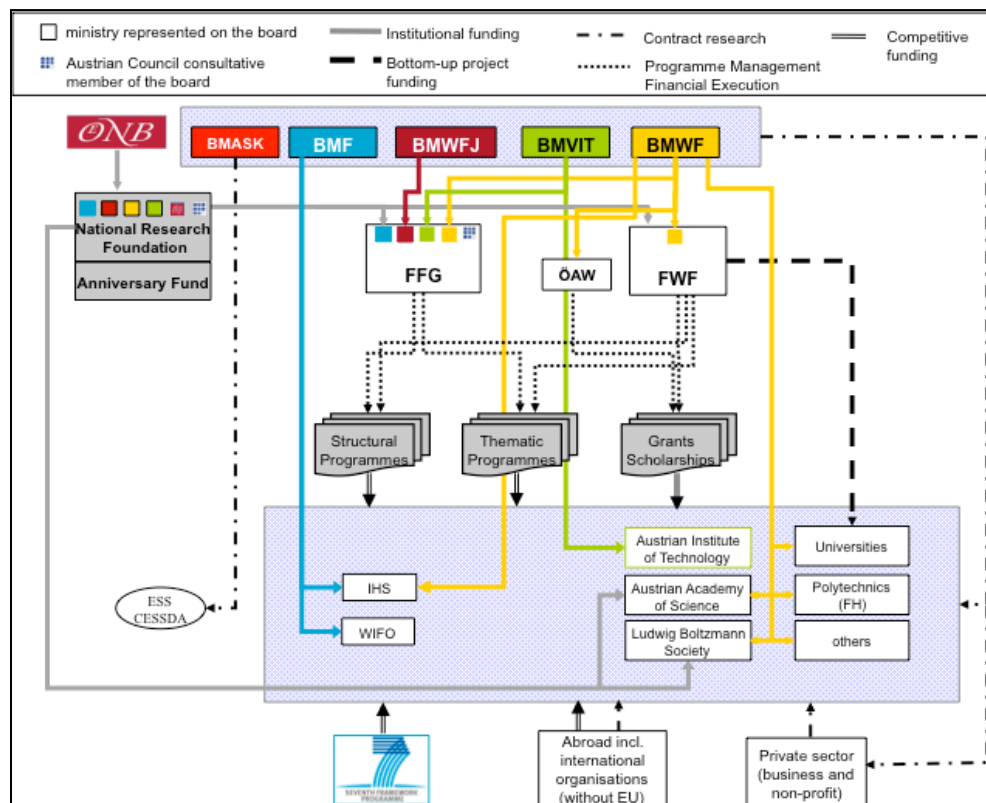
Source: European Commission, DG-RTD, METRIS country reports

There are four main funding categories:

•   Institutional funding makes up a large part of SSH funding for the majority of research performers in Austria. However, there are no data available about the proportion of institutional funding which goes to SSH13 or about the distributions between the disciplines. The bulk of institutional funding goes to the universities and the Academy of Sciences, followed by the Ludwig Boltzmann Society and the public research centres. Several of the private non-profit research organisations also receive basic financing from the Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF), mostly on an annual basis, and often to relatively small amounts of core funding.

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[13] Data on university funding are available in the national financial act, but not for disciplines or faculties as the internal distribution of funds is decided autonomously by the universities.

• "Bottom-up" project funding of scientific research projects is provided by the FWF and is the second largest source of funding, with a high impact on the orientation and the activity as well as the prestige of institutes in SSH.

• Thirdly, competitive funding by calls for proposals plays a limited role, even though currently there are no thematic programmes in SSH. The programmes of recent years, funded with extra-budgetary resources, have finished in the last few years. The programmes that are "live" at the moment are not SSH specific even if, for instance, gender programmes may address SSH issues in their work. FP7 plays a major role in the category of competitively funded project work.

• Finally, research institutes in SSH also work for third parties on a consultancy basis. Ministries and other institutions close to policy makers (i.e., social partners) are important clients of these services as are the private sector, both for-profit and non-profit enterprises.

3.2 National public SSH research funding

3.2.1 Overview of funding importance

National statistics provide detail on financing of SSH research in nonbusiness sectors where SSH receives 25% of the total financing. The following table presents data on financing for research and development (R&D) in 2009 by research performers and funding source. For comparison, the totals for all disciplines are provided.

Table 2   Total funding of SSH and all disciplines

Research performing sector (SSH)	R&D performing Institutions	Total	Buisness sector	Sources of funds					Private non-profit sector	Abroad incl. International organisations (without EU)	EU
				Government Sector							
				Total	Central govern-ment ("Bund")[1]	Provincial govern-ments ("Länder")[2]	Local Govern-ments ("Gemein-den")[2]	Other[1]			
				in 1 000 EUR							
Government Sector[3])	168	122.411	10.309	100.615	61.414	27.629	3.041	8.531	1.644	1.717	8.126
Private non-profit sector[4])	16	2.624	1.330	648	94	152	-	402	344	188	114
Universities[5])	413	382.828	5.755	368.931	340.487	3.031	524	24.889	1.303	1.877	4.962
Other Higher Education[6])	119	74.325	1.503	65.613	52.729	5.500	73	7.311	5.046	729	1.434
Total SSH	716	582.188	18.897	535.807	454.724	36.312	3.638	41.133	8.337	4.511	14.636
Total all disciplines[7])	1.567[8])	2.386.843	128.772	2.101.341	1.618.718	232.766	6.216	243.641	38.942	39.610	78.178
%SSH in total	46%	24%	15%	25%	28%	16%	59%	17%	21%	11%	19%

Source: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on Research and Development (R&D) 2009

Notes:

1) The funds of research promotion funds as well as R&D funding by the higher education sector is included in "Other".
2) Provincial governments ("Länder") including Vienna. Local governments ("Gemeinden") without Vienna.
3) Central, regional and local institutions (except those of the higher education sector), chambers, R&D facilities of the units belonging to the social security system, private non-profit institutions controlled and/or mainly financed by government as well as R&D institutions of the Ludwig Boltzmann society.
4) Private non-profit institutions with a mainly private, religious or other non-public status or under private law.

5) Without universities of the Arts.
6) Including universities of the Arts, Austrian Academy of Science, Fachhochschulen, Private universities, Danube University Krems, universities of education, experimental institutes at schools of higher technical education and other institutions of the higher education sector.
7) Including university clinics and provincial hospitals. Provincial Hospitals were not surveyed with a questionnaire, but R&D expenditure was estimated by Statistics Austria based upon reports from the regional governments.
8) Number of R&D performing units without provincial hospitals.
The classifications are based on the international OECD standard "New Fields of Science and Technology Classification (FOS)".

"Bottom-up" project funding is provided by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). In 2011, SSH research projects received 33,2 million EUR which was 17.0% of total FWF funding.

3.2.2 Institutional funding

The Austrian universities receive institutional funding from the government via the BMWF. In 2009, total expenditure of the central government going to universities, the academy of science, polytechnics, and other public organisation for basic research was € 1.618.718 million. The main proportion of this funding is basic institutional funding. The part of SSH in that was 29%

Details about how each institution allocates funding are not available as universities and the Academy of Sciences have discretion over the distribution of their funds.

3.2.3 Individual funding

The FWF supports all branches of science and the humanities. There is no quota system. Decisions on funding are based solely on the scientific quality of the research. To ensure that research funded is of high quality, all applications received are submitted to a peer review process in which reviews are requested exclusively from foreign scientists [5].

In 2011, about 17.0% of total financial support granted went to humanities and social sciences. In 2011, the proportion was 19,6%, 2009 22% and in 2008 20,8%. Until 2009 SSH research experienced a slight increase in the relative importance of SSH in individual project funding. But after 2010 and till 2011 the SSH share of total funding decreased by about 5%.

Table 3 shows the development of funding in the Humanities and Social Sciences (in million Euro), and the part of SSH in total FWF funding for 2010.

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Table 3   Funding of SSH (in million Euro), and as a share of total FWF funding

	Million Euro	Share
Philosophy	1,3	0,7
Theology	0,8	0,4
Historical Sciences	8,5	4,4
Linguistics and Literature	3,2	1,6
Other Philological and Cultural Studies	4,1	2,1
Aesthetics and Art History	3,7	1,9
Other areas of humanities	0,9	0,4
Political Science	0,6	0,3
Legal Science	1,1	0,6
Economics	3,5	1,8
Sociology	1,3	0,7
Psychology	2,0	1,0
Regional Planning	0,2	0,1
Applied Statistics	0,2	0,1
Pedagogy, Educational Sciences	0,2	0,1
Other areas of social sciences	2,2	1,3
Total	33,2	17,0
Total grants	195,2	

Source: FWF annual report 2011 [12]

The Austrian Academy of Science (ÖAW) offers three types of grants:

- APART (Austrian Programme for Advanced Research and Technology) addresses Post-Docs doing research within Austria and abroad, and provides 60 000 EUR personal remuneration per year plus a maximum of 10 000 EUR for equipment. Every year, about 11 grants are provided. In the years 2002-2009, half of the grants have gone to researchers in SSH.

- DOC (The ÖAWs Programm for PhD students) finances the elaboration at the PhD dissertation within Austria and abroad, it is open to all research domains and provides 35 000 EUR for personal costs and 500 EUR for travel expenditure per year. Around 35 grants are accepted per year with varying duration. SSH scholars represent more than half of the grant winners.

- DOC Team is a programme addressing transdisciplinary research in SSH, presented by groups of 3-5 doctoral students that work in or outside Austria. The implication of researchers form natural sciences, medicine or technical sciences is welcomed. The remuneration amounts to 30 000 EUR personal costs per year and a maximum of 4 000 EUR for travel expenditure.

Table 4   Individual funding in Social Sciences and Humanities by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), 2002-2010

		Sub-missions	Grants	% of total sub-missions	% of total grants	Success rate
APART	Social Sciences	127	19	18%	15%	15%
	Humanities	213	34	31%	27%	16%
	Other scientific fields	357	75	51%	59%	21%
	Total	697	128	100%	100%	18%
DOC	Social Sciences	415	57	29%	19%	14%
	Humanities	495	108	34%	36%	22%
	Other scientific fields	528	136	37%	45%	26%
	Total	1438	301	100%	100%	22%
DOC-Team	Social Sciences	90	30	52%	56%	33%
	Humanities	72	24	42%	44%	33%
	Other scientific fields	11	0	6%	0%	0%
	Total	173	54	100%	100%	31%

Source: Data: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Calculation and presentation: Technopolis

3.2.4 Programme Funding

Programme funding has no particular weight in funding of SSH research

3.3 Private research funding

There are no details available concerning SSH funding by the private sector, beyond Statistic Austria data referred to in section 2.2.1.

3.4 Foundations/ not-for-profit funding

In Austria, the term "foundation" is used basically in two ways: the "National Research Foundation" is an assembly of national funding sources providing funding to, for instance, the FFG for national programmes. However, Austria also has about 3,000 Privatstiftungen (private foundations) – very often family-owned foundations which are set up for reasons of tax efficiency. Some of these foundations are found at universities or institutes (for example, the Jubiläumsstiftung of the Vienna University for Economics and Business or the Sigmund Freud Privatstiftung).

3.5 European and international funding

In the non-business sector, international funding of SSH research represents 3,3% of total SSH funding which is less than the average across all research areas (5%). However, international funding is particularly important in the private non-profit sector where it represents 11,5% of total funding. The "government sector" shows the highest proportion of EU funding with 6,6% of total of SSH funding coming from the

EU and this includes both several public research institutions and research performed in public interest organisations. Other financing from abroad makes up a very small part of the total in the non-business sector research.

Table 5 International funding of SSH research according to performing sector

Financing sector	Government sector[3])	Private non-profit sector[4])	Universit-ies[5])	Other Higher Education[6])	Total SSH	Total all disciplines
Abroad incl. int'l org. (without EU)	1,4%	7,2%	0,5%	1,0%	0,8%	1,7%
EU	6,6%	4,3%	1,3%	1,9%	2,5%	3,3%
Abroad + EU	8,0%	11,5%	1,8%	2,9%	3,3%	5,0%
Total	**122411**	**2624**	**382828**	**74325**	**582188**	**2386843**

Source: Data: Statistics Austria, R&D Survey 2009; Calculation and presentation: Technopolis; References see table 'Total funding of SSH and all disciplines' in 3.2.1

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4. Performing System

4.1 Overview of the performers

The most important players in SSH research in Austria are the universities followed by some important non-university research organisations such as the Academy of Sciences, the Ludwig Bolzmann Gesellschaft (LBG), the Institute for Economic Studies (WIFO) and the Institute for Advanced Studies (HIS). The two big business-oriented research organisations (the Austrian Institute of Technology and Joanneum Research) both have one or two institutes with a focus on social sciences. According to a study commissioned in 2008 by the Austrian Council for Research and Technology (RTFE), there are 272 university units in SSH, 36 units in the Academy of Sciences, 17 in the LBG and 253 other units in other institutions [2].

Statistics Austria figures are somewhat different suggesting there are 671 active research units in SSH: 389 in universities and 100 in the remaining higher education sector covering Universities of the Arts, the Austrian Academy of Science, Polytechnics ("Fachhochschulen"), private universities and the Danube University Krems. 157 other institutes make up what is called the "government sector" covering: central, regional and local institutions (except those in the higher education sector); chambers of commerce; R&D facilities of the units belonging to the social security system; private non-profit institutions controlled and/or mainly financed by government as well as R&D institutions of the Ludwig Boltzmann Society. 25 private non-profit research institutes are identified by Statistics Austria.

The differences in the figures coming from the two sources set out above are mainly due to different approaches to the attribution of research fields to institutes, but also to the different level of attention given to very small institutes in the private non-profit sector which are not necessarily identified as research performers in official statistical surveys. However, both sources show that there are a large number of performers who are known to be working in a very wide range institutional settings and in a wide variety of research fields.

4.2 Higher Education Institutions

4.2.1 HEIs as education performers

There are 21 universities in Austria and eight of them do SSH research. According to a recent report of the Austrian Council on SSH, 272 university units are active in SSH.

The relevant public universities are:

- The University of Vienna http://www.univie.ac.at/

- Karl-Franzens-University of Graz http://www.uni-graz.at/

- The University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna, http://www.wu-wien.ac.at/

- The University of Innsbruck http://www.uibk.ac.at

- Johannes Kepler University Linz http://www.jku.at

- The University of Klagenfurt http://www.uni-klu.ac.at

- The University of Salzburg http://www.uni-salzburg.at

- The University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, http://www.boku.ac.at/home

The number of graduates in the field of SSH increased from 12.732 in 2007 to 22.275 graduates in 2010. In other words, SSH graduates increased in absolute numbers considerably over the years. The share of SSH graduates stabilized around 39% after 2007.

Table 6   Number of SSH tertiary graduates (headcounts), 2007-2010

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Social Sciences Graduates	11098	15144	17501	19626
Humanities Graduates	1634	1974	2484	2649
Graduates SSH Total	12732	17118	19985	22275
Share of SSH Graduates in Total Graduates	35%	39%	38%	39%

Source: Eurostat

4.2.2 HEIs as research performers

Austrian universities all carry out research and of the 21 universities[14], 8 are active in SSH. Of these 8, 6 are general universities, one is the University of Economics and Business Administration which specialises in economics and management and the last is the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences which has a Department of Economics and Social Sciences. The rest of the university system is made up of five arts universities and seven which are either medical universities (four) or technical universities (also three) where SSH appear only at the margin, if at all. An overview of the Austrian universities provides http://tinyurl.com/yc24s3f.

Universities Austria is a non-profit association under private law. Its purpose is to assist the Austrian universities in the fulfilment of their tasks and responsibilities and thus to foster scholarship and research. Universities Austria handles the internal coordination of the 21 public Austrian universities, it represents them in national and international organisations and is the universities' public voice. Universities Austria also provides administrative and organisational support to the National University Federation (Dachverband der Universitäten). Universities Austria is funded through membership fees which are scaled according to the size of the institutions.

4.3 Public Research Organisations

Six major Austrian public research organisations are active in SSH. Two of them are umbrella organisations (the first two in the list below) and the four others individual research institutes:

- The Austrian Academy of Sciences

- The Ludwig Boltzmann Society

- The Austrian Institute for Economic Research (WIFO)

- The Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

- The Austrian Institute of Technology

- Joanneum Research

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14 The following link provides access to all Austrian universities: http://tinyurl.com/yc24s3f.

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The Austrian Academy of Sciences

The Academy of Sciences (http://www.oeaw.ac.at) promotes the sciences and humanities in every field with a particular emphasis on basic research. The Academy has an annual budget of 71 million EUR. It receives funds from the federal budget (from the BMWF), the specific funds for R&D (Offensiv-Programm II) and the National Foundation for R&D as well as from the federal states, contracts and donations.

The recent report of the Austrian Council on SSH lists 36 institutes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences which are active in SSH including the Institute for Studies of Ancient Culture, the Institute for Urban and Regional Research and the Institute for European Integration Research. In the medium-term research strategy for SSH growth and development targets are set for each institute.

Ludwig Boltzmann Society

The Ludwig Boltzmann Society (LBS) is a research organisation which operates through institutes in the fields of the humanities, social sciences and human medicine. The Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes are financed by the Federal Government and the City of Vienna and from research partners who are mostly the organisations who will use the research findings. The Society employs over 380 people. The Society has an annual budget of 6 million EUR. The report of the Austrian Council lists 17 LBS institutes doing SSH research, among them the LB Institute for Human Rights, the LB Institute for Social Psychiatry and the LB Institute "Media. Art. Research".

The Austrian Institute for Economic Research (WIFO)

The Austrian Institute for Economic Research was founded in 1927. Its brief is to analyse economic developments in Austria and internationally, thereby contributing to the establishment of a sound basis for economic policy and entrepreneurial decision-making and helping to ensure that economic policy discussion is fact-based. WIFO obtains its funding from contributions by members, subsidies, revenues from scientific, and the sale of scientific publications and a number of other revenue sources.

The Institute of Advanced Studies

IHS is a private non-profit organization. From its very beginning, the IHS has operated on the principle that scientific enterprise, scientific co-operation and scientific problem solving are an outstanding platform for critical discussion, help create consensus on key emerging issues and open up new and interdisciplinary spaces for critical and challenging science.

At present one third of the Institute's budget comes from commissioned research. The remaining funding is provided by subsidies from the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the Austrian National Bank, the City of Vienna, and other institutions. The Institute for Advanced Studies is divided into three research departments: Economics and Finance, Political Science and Sociology.

The Austrian Institute of Technology

The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), formally the Austrian Research Centres, is a limited company (GmbH) owned by the Republic of Austria (which holds 50,46%) and the Federation of Austrian Industries (which holds 49,54%). There are five specialised departments researching the key infrastructure issues of the future. One of the departments mainly uses social science methods while the others are more focussed on technical research. The Department of Foresight and Policy Development focuses on innovation and sustainability research into the Grand Challenges of the future such as, resource scarcity, climate change, the increasing complexity of social and natural systems and globalization. The department has 50 employees from different scientific disciplines.

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Joanneum Research

Joanneum Research is one of the biggest non-university research centres in Austria and does research mainly geared to the demands of business. Its main fields of research are: development and improvement of products and processes in the fields of geological sciences and the environment; biotechnology and environmental technology; electronics and information processing; materials and processing and the economy and technology. Two of its 14 institutes are active in social sciences. Firstly, The Institute of Applied Statistics and System Analysis has a team consisting of computer scientists, mathematicians and psychologists. The Institute provides a variety of services, ranging from systems analysis, data collection and data analysis through to reporting, visualisation and results presentation. Secondly, The Institute of Technology and Regional Policy (InTeReg) focuses on technology, regional and labour market policy as well as environmental economics and the development of quantitative methods of analysis and evaluation.

4.4 Private research performers

The Austrian non-university research sector in SSH is made up of a large number of very small institutes which have between 3 and 40 researchers (on average 8-10 researchers). Most of these institutes have been created as "bottom-up" initiatives based on the enthusiasm and research interests of the scientists involved. The sector suffers from a lack of basic funding - only a small number of institutes receive a relatively limited basic funding in comparison to research organisation in other scientific fields. The institutes cover a broad spectrum of research themes and cover the spectrum between basic research and more service based, applied expertise. The recent report of the Austrian Council lists 253 such institutes[15].

4.5 Research performance

4.5.1 Scientific publications

According to the national report on universities in 2012 (Universitätsbericht), the 2011 data on publications by university personnel are as follows (please note, fractional data are due to the decentralised reporting system in case of multiple authorships).

Between 2009 and 2011 the publications in SSCI, SCI or A/HSCI-journals consistently increased both in Socials Sciences as well as in the Humanities, while what is referred to as 'other scientific publications' in the table above was decreasing. Surprisingly, this phenomenon was strongest in the Humanities with a growth of ca. 45% in this time period whereas Social Sciences grew by ca. 30%, both exceeding the average growth of all publications (ca. 15%) during that period. All in all, according to Scopus, Austrian SSH publications in indexed journals showed an average annual growth of 14 % between 2005 and 2011.

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[15] For more information refer to [2] and [13].

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Table 7 Publications by University personnel in Austria (2009 - 2011), Social Sciences, Humanities, and all disciplines

	2009				2010				2011			
	Soc. Sc	Hum.	All	Share of SSH	Soc Sc	Hum.	All	Share of SSH	Soc. Sc	Hum.	All	Share of SSH
Monographs (1)	676	732	2033	69%	686	761	2003	72%	635	693	1836	72%
Articles in indexed journals (2)	633	179	10157	8%	770	189	11090	9%	835	263	11724	9%
Other scientific publ.	2579	1447	8015	50%	2356	1356	6665	56%	2293	1412	6353	58%
Contributions to books	2377	2458	6610	73%	3230	2945	14495	43%	2959	2980	14402	41%
Other publications	1208	799	5079	40%	1324	698	5148	39%	1298	866	5476	40%

Data: uni:data

Notes: (1): First edition of books; (2): SSCI, SCI or A/HSCI-publications

The Austrian Academy of sciences reports the following data on publications in 2011 in SSH [14]:

- 64 books and monographs

- 458 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals or books, of which 135 in indexed scientific journals

- 127 instances of editing activities

- 344 longer contributions without peer-review in scientific journals or books

- 218 other publications.

Austria fosters as well international cooperation in regard to its publication activities. Main partners were Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, Italy and Netherlands. Cooperation was relatively often undertaken with the language-sharing neighbours, the top research nations UK and US and with other neighbours (Table 8.

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Table 8 Co-publications Austria between 2005 and 2011 in absolute terms:

Country	Partner country	Number of co-publications
Austria	Germany	1230
	United States	633
	United Kingdom	523
	Switzerland	276
	Italy	265
	Netherlands	260
	France	192
	Canada	154
	Spain	149
	Sweden	121
	Belgium	94
	Denmark	83
	Finland	78
	Poland	70
	Japan	64
	Norway	60
	Czech Republic	51
	Israel	51
	Greece	50
	Hungary	48

Source of Data: Scopus, Calculation: Technopolis

4.5.2 Interdisciplinarity

In the following, we use the terms interdisciplinarity and multidiciplinarity. Interdisciplinarity is used for this purpose as cooperation between researchers of SSH disciplines. If researchers in SSH discipline cooperate with those in non-SSH disciplines such as natural sciences, engineering, medical sciences etc., it is labelled multidisciplinary.

The Federal Ministry for Science and Research is the most important ministry in charge of R&D, including SSH research. While the Ministry website does not contain any reference to multi- and interdisciplinary, a web search of the Ministry's website with 'interdisciplinary' (and to a lesser extent 'multidisciplinary') brings forth dozens of hits, often links to inter/multidisciplinary educational programmes.

While the FWF's mission statement, its objectives and corporate values do not refer to inter- or multidisciplinarity, the FWF funds a number of programmes with an explicit link to inter/multidisciplinarity – mainly the Special Research Programmes, the National Research Networks, and the Programme for Arts-based Research (see below).

At institutional level, there are a large number and a great variety of interdisciplinary educational programmes and institutes/centres. While some refer to multi/interdisciplinarity in their titles, others refer to them in their description.

All in all, there is no discussion on multi- and interdisciplinary visible in Austria. Rather, multi- and interdisciplinarity is 'done', as testified by funding programmes, educational programmes and institutions dedicated to multi/interdisciplinary research.

Those programmes are for example:

Educational programmes

Examples of multi/interdisciplinary educational programmes are: the Master programme "Interdisciplinary Balkan Studies" as well as the Master programme History and Philosophy of Science (both University of Vienna), the doctoral programme "Arts and Politics" (University of Innsbruck), or the Master programme "Interdisciplinary Gerontology" (University of Graz).

Institutes at Universities

Examples of multi/interdisciplinary research institutes are: Interdisciplinary Centre for Medieval Studies (University of Salzburg), Interdisciplinary Institute for Development Cooperation (University of Linz), Interdisciplinary Group of Management and Organisational Behaviour (Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration), Centre for Development Research (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Faculty for Interdisciplinary Research and Development (IFF) (University of Klagenfurt).

IFF is a particularly interesting example: IFF develops, pilots and assesses new forms of scientific working in research, teaching and organisation. The aim is to contribute to solving topical societal problems through adequate processes of research and learning. The faculty is organised along selected societal problems, as is typical for a multi/interdisciplinary centre.

Members of staff come from the SSH, the natural sciences and the engineering sciences. The team is complemented by a number of experts from practice. IFF is dedicated to methodological and disciplinary variety. This involves work in interdisciplinary teams and an intense and self-reflecting culture of communication.

FWF Programmes

Special Research Programmes

FWF's Special Research Programmes funds research groups from all disciplines working at Austrian universities or non-university research institutions. The objectives of the programme is to establish research networks on a par with international standards through autonomous research concentration at a single university location and to build productive, tightly interconnected research establishments for long-term, generally *interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary* work on complex research topics. Despite this statement underlining the inter/multidisciplinary nature of the research projects, the projects are classified by disciplines.

National Research Networks (NFNs)

NFNs are open to scientists and researchers from all disciplines at Austrian universities or non-university research institutions. They aim to promote concentration in specific areas of research, generally by developing nationwide networks for collaborative *interdisciplinary* work on large-scale research projects in the medium term. Again, although the programme funds networks for collaborative interdisciplinary work, the networks are classified by disciplines.

In early 2011, the NFN Programme was merged with the re-designed Special Research Programme (SFB).

Programme for Arts-Based Research (PEEK)

The programme funds high-quality, innovative arts-based research in which artistic practice plays a key role.

The projects approved in 2011 can be attributed to the following categories: 25.4% of the projects concern the field of fine arts, 20.4% deal with media arts, 13.7% focus on other/*interdisciplinary humanities*, 8.9% are based on performance practice, and 8.2% are in the field of natural and technical sciences.

Austrian Academy of Sciences programme

Doctoral Fellowship Programme for Teams from the Humanities, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences (DOC-team)

Within the SSH programme DOC Team, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) offers fellowships for inter/multidisciplinary teams of three to five doctoral candidates cooperating on a research project across discipline boundaries. As such, DOC-team is an excellence programme for the promotion of junior scientists.

The funding of team-oriented research demands a differently structured fellowship programme; that is, only teams of doctoral candidates may apply for fellowships, not individuals. Accordingly, these teams file applications which are problem-oriented instead of object-oriented, as is typical for multi/interdisciplinary research.

The teams of doctoral candidates (3 to 4 persons from at least two different disciplines each), supervised by at least two tutors, together address a problem which can be solved only by crossing disciplinary boundaries. The tutors should be from different disciplines; one of them should be from a well-known research institution abroad. Members of a team must come from at least two different research areas of the Humanities, Cultural Studies or Social Sciences. Doctoral candidates from the fields of medicine, the natural or technical sciences may also be members of a team.

Institutions have to give a declaration of intent to integrate the project into their research programme.

Examples of interdisciplinary initiatives at institutional level

Research Platforms at the University of Vienna

For the advancement of especially innovative research areas and interdisciplinary research projects, the implementation of Research Platforms as organisational units between the faculties is possible. The research projects supported by using this instrument are aimed to open new perspectives, and to enable new opportunities in scientifically already well-established fields.

Newly established Research Platforms are e.g. the Research Platform "Active Ageing" involving the Faculty of Life Sciences, Centre for Sports Sciences and University Sports or the Research Platform "Cognitive Science" involving the Faculty of Philosophy and Education, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Psychology, Faculty of Life Sciences, Centre for Translation Studies.

The University of Vienna also maintains an interdisciplinary forum for dialogue, established in 2008/2009, to support multi/interdisciplinary, trans-departemental debates and research at the university.

4.5.3 International Cooperation

As well as a wide range of European cooperations and collaboration described in earlier sections, Austria has a variety of other international research partnerships in SSH which is as well displayed in Austria's publications (see Table in 4.5.1).

Firstly, three international research organisations are situated in Austria:

- Austria hosts the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) which does important SSH research on a number of topics (in particular on demographics, population and migration research). The institute is funded by the 16 Member countries, among them five EU countries (including Austria) and other countries such as China, India, Japan and the USA.

- The European Centre for Social Policy and Research is located in Vienna. It is a UN-affiliated intergovernmental organization concerned with all aspects of social welfare policy and is jointly funded by a number of States (there are 34 affiliated countries). The Centre has broad expertise in welfare and social policy development - in particular in areas where multi-or interdisciplinary approaches, integrated policies and inter-sectoral action are called for. Currently, citizenship, civil society and volunteering and migration and integration are the priority research themes.

- The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is a Vienna-based agency of the European Union inaugurated on 1 March 2007. A major task of the Fundamental Rights Agency is to collect and analyse official and non-official information and data on fundamental rights issues in the EU. Given the differences in data availability and quality across the EU, the Agency also has the job of developing methods and standards to improve data quality and comparability. However, since much secondary data are often not readily available, the Agency is also tasked with conducting its own EU-wide policy-relevant research and surveys or encouraging others to do so.

Secondly, there are bilateral agreements between research organisations:

- The Austrian Academy of Sciences maintains bilateral agreements with 43 partner institutions. However, none of these agreements focus specifically on SSH cooperation.

- As in other European countries, both universities and university departments have bilateral agreements with partner institutions overseas. These agreements range from statements of intention to cooperate which are not supported by budgets through to more concrete cooperations, for instance in the common development of graduate schools. However, a broad overview of such bilateral agreements in the domain of SSH is not available.

- Similar agreements also exist in the non-university research centres, for example, the Institute for Advanced Studies maintains a joint Ph.D. programme in economics with Columbia University in the USA.

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