



WIENER WISSENSCHAFTS-,
FORSCHUNGS- UND TECHNOLOGIEFONDS

VIENNA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FUND

**STRENGTHENING VIENNA'S
EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH**

MATHEMATICS AND ...

Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators

Call 2017

Kontakt: Donia Lasinger, donia.lasinger@wwtf.at



Agenda

- ▶ Overview WWTF
- ▶ Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Call 2017
„Mathematics *and* ...“

WWTF: Distinctive features

- The only larger Austrian private non-profit organisation in research funding
- Founded in 2001; funding activities since 2003: more than **135 m € have been awarded** (Banking Foundation, City of Vienna)
- WWTF **Mission:**
 - We fund **top scientific research** in Vienna
 - We provide substantial funding for **larger research projects** and bring younger **Research Group Leaders** from abroad to Vienna
 - We **organise competitive calls** according to highest international standards

The current call (I)

Thematic programmes



Life Sciences (*2003)



Mathematics *and* ... (*2004)



Information- and Communication Technology (*2008)



Social Sciences and Humanities (*2008-2013)



Cognitive Sciences (*2008)



Environmental Systems Research:
Urban Environments (Pilotcall)

New!

Instruments

Projects

Science Chairs

Vienna Research
Groups

Summer Schools

The current call (II)

Call 2017: „Mathematics *and* ...“

- ...encourages scientific research in the field of applied mathematics.
- ...targets high-quality scientific projects with no guaranteed short- term payoff but addressing an area where there is a recognized problem affecting society, the economy and/or technology.
- ...aims at proposals with a strong applied mathematics base (and development of new methods). Further, scientific applications have to demonstrate a strong interdisciplinary approach (“mathematics *and* ... another discipline”).
- ...is directed to groups that strive for innovative mathematical methods that lead to applicable solutions in and together with other disciplines. The ability to bridge disciplines is thus a key evaluation criterion.

The current call (III)

- Financed by the City of Vienna, operated by WWTF
- 8th call within Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Programme
- 2017: 2 positions with max. funding of 3.2 mio €

Life Sciences	ICT	Mathematics and ...	Cognitive Sciences	Life Sciences	Computational Biosciences	Complexity Science	Mathematics and ...
Funding volume: 4.5 mio. €	Funding volume: 3 mio. €	Funding volume: 3 mio. €	Funding volume: 1.5 mio. €	Funding volume: 4.8 mio. €	Funding volume: 3.2 mio. €	Funding volume: 1.6 mio. €	Funding volume: 3.2 mio. €
Funded VRG Leaders: 3	Funded VRG Leaders: 2	Funded VRG Leaders: 2	Funded VRG Leaders: 1	Funded VRG Leaders: 3	Funded VRG Leaders: 2	Funded VRG Leaders: 1	Positions available: 2
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017

Characteristics of a Vienna Research Group

- Typically the first “genuine” group led by a young researcher. The WWTF funding (6-8 years) should enable the group members to take the next step in their careers.
- **Vienna Research Group leaders...**
 - take responsibility for group members
 - are independent in designing their research work and recruiting their staff
 - try to increase third party funding over the years
 - are coming from abroad and are not employed in Austria at the date of submission and being employed at least 2 years within the last 3 years at a non-Austrian institution
 - are in general 2-8 years after PhD (care duties may extend this period)
- **Milestones:** (i) first phase mainly financed by WWTF (4-5 years), (ii) an interim evaluation after the first phase, (iii) increased in-kind contributions of the home institution in the second phase (i.e. years 6, 6-7 or 6-8)

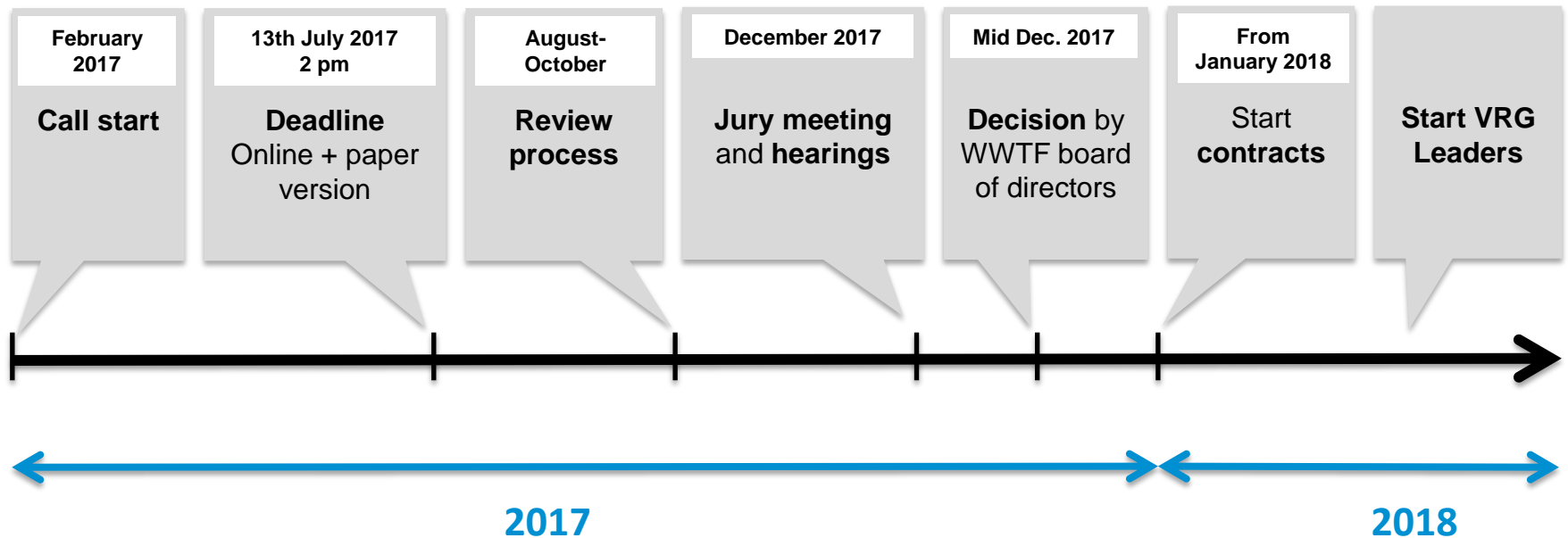
General key facts

- The prospective host institution in Vienna must provide a **clear-cut career plan**, in particular, the steps leading to a tenure position (for example the exact process of getting a “Qualifizierungsvereinbarung” including time frames).
- The call process comprises the submission of a concise proposal and a hearing of selected candidates in Vienna. Note that this call employs a **single stage procedure**
- A job announcement e.g. in a high impact journal that is relevant for the topic and/or via professional societies/ mailing lists is obligatory → we are happy to put the announcement also on our webpage (www.wwtf.at)
- WWTF encourages Vienna-based research institutions to propose women who show potential to act as group leaders. The **successful appointment of a woman** will be rewarded with a financial benefit for the Vienna host institution in order to support their gender mainstreaming activities

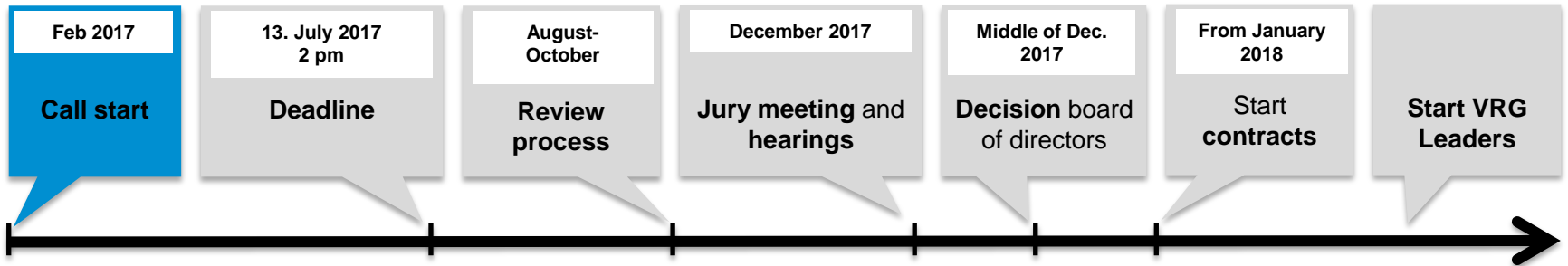
Key facts - finances

- The financial emphasis should lie on the **funding of scientific personnel** -> balance in relation to infrastructure/material costs
- **In-kind vs. overhead**: Basic infrastructure such as office equipment, rent, telephone, internet, basic lab equipment does NOT count as in-kind but is covered by the overheads (paid-out by WWTF)!
- The budgetary allocation with eventual partner institutions has to be specified already at the application stage
- WWTF does **not** cover **any travelling expenses** for candidates who are invited to the hearings. Compensation of travel expenses e.g. via <http://www.ffg.at/career-grants> (Career grants)

Schedule of the current call



VRG jury and applicants



VRG jury

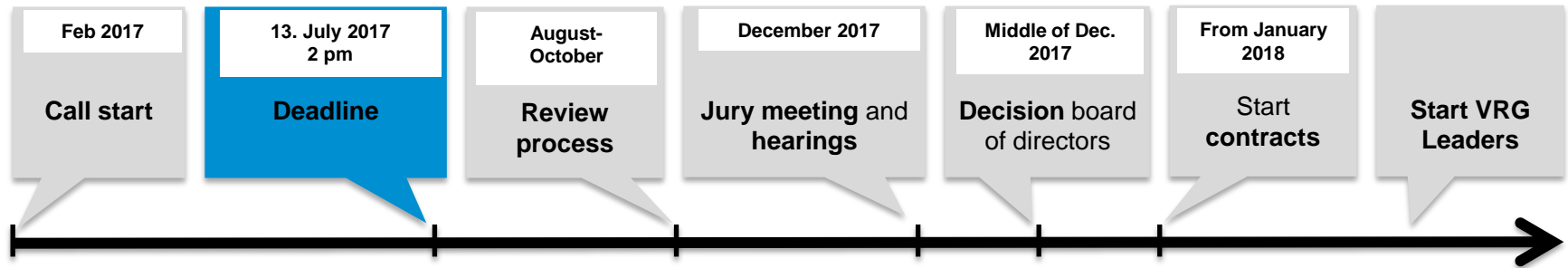
- ~6-7 international excellent scientists/experts with call-relevant expertise
- Duties within the process
 - Supporting the review process
 - Nominating reviewers
 - Inviting candidates to the hearing &
 - Evaluating the performance at the hearing
 - Comparative assessment and uttering of the funding recommendation

Applicants

- Universities and research institutions in Vienna (via a proponent)
- Suggestion of
 - excellent young researchers
 - from abroad¹⁾
 - In general 2-8 years after PhD on application date (in case of caring duties up to 4 years longer)
- Active search for female researches highly welcome

1) During the last three years at least two years at a foreign research institution and currently (submission deadline) not in Austria

Submission deadline and formal eligibility check



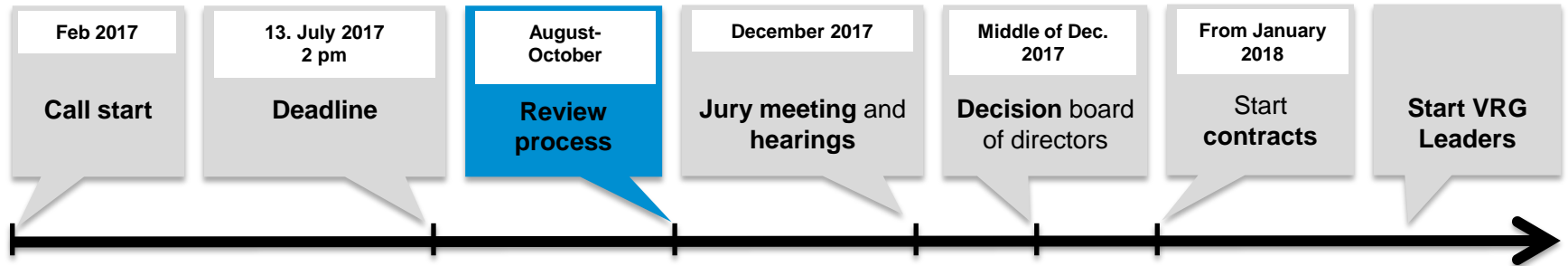
Submission

- Submission via WWTF **Online Submission System AND hard copy** (after submission!) incl. signatures
- Submission in person at WWTF office or date of post mark
- No funding of companies
 - Self funded business partners are possible
 - Project relevant services from companies can be calculated as material costs (if these services can not be provided within the projects with reasonable effort)

Formal eligibility check

- Punctual submission of paper & online version
- Both versions (online & paper) identical
- **Presence of all necessary signatures**
- In-kind contribution: >20% of total sum
- Overhead costs: the regulations of the host institutions have to be observed
- Maximum number of pages (limited by characters and uploads)
- Compliance of the academic age
- From abroad
- Active promotion (announcement, mailing lists,...)

Review process and peer review



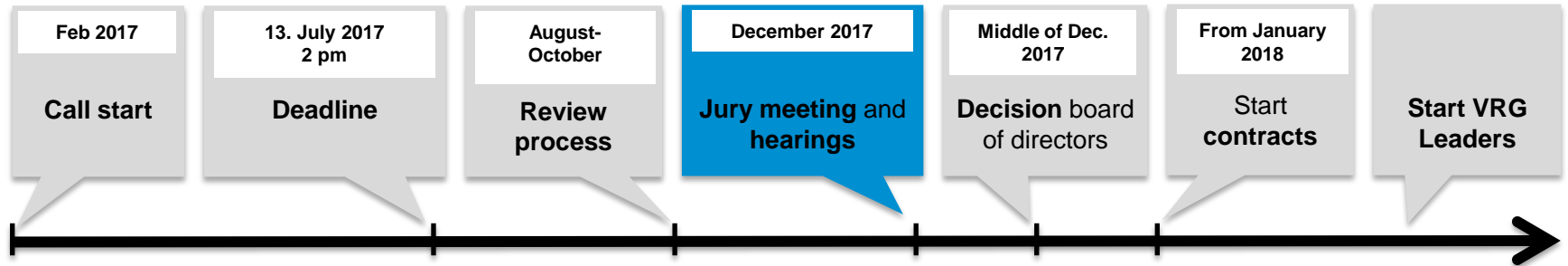
Review process

- Proposals that lie outside the subject area as well as those where a lack of quality is obvious, are not recommended for the review process by the jury
- Brief information without statement of the rejected applicants
- In case of positive proposals: reservation of both hearing days absolutely necessary (booking of a flexible ticket)

Peer review process

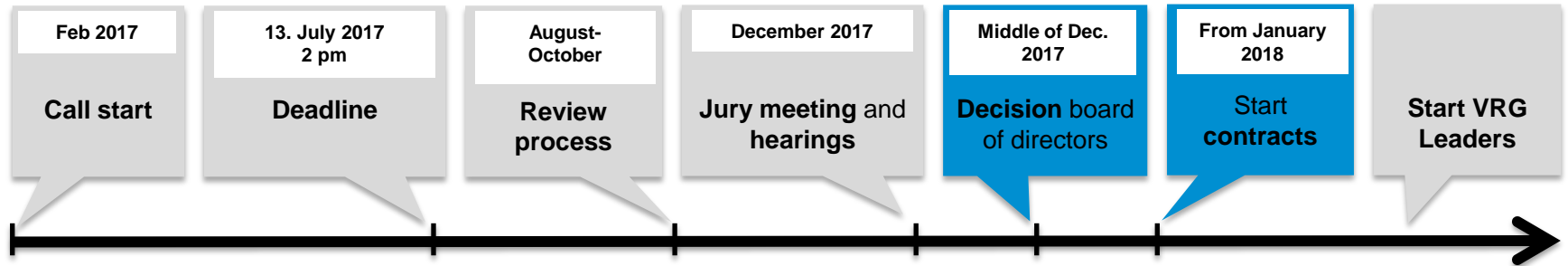
- 2-4 written reviews per proposal will be obtained
- Reviews only by international peers; remain anonymous
- Reviews form the basis of the jury's discussion

Hearing, jury meeting and decision



Hearing	Jury meeting	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to hearing (selection after review process) • Short-presentation in Vienna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific quality and potential of candidates compared to the competitive international environment • Quality of the research project • Integration into research environment • Career perspective • ... • WWTF does not cover travelling expenses. Compensation of travel expenses e.g. via http://www.ffg.at/career-grants (Career grants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision by WWTF board of directors • All applicants receive a decision letter (acceptances and rejections) with anonymous reviews

Employment contract and funding contract



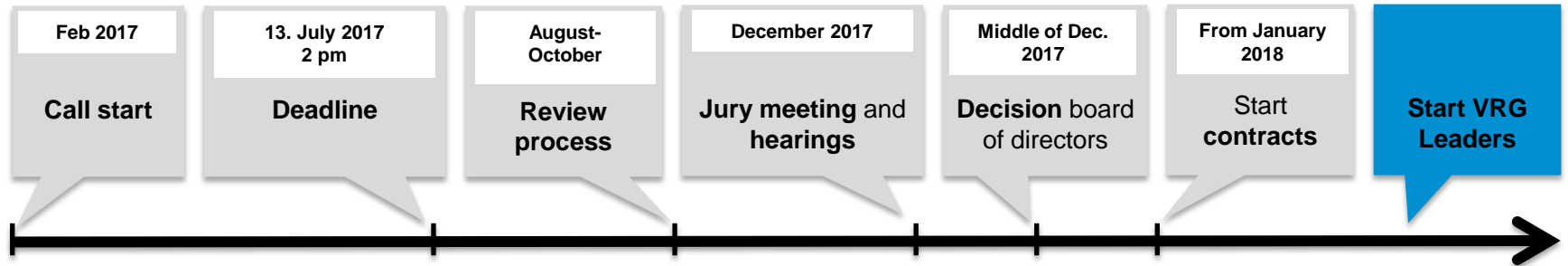
Employment contract

- The employment contract has to be available by no later than 2 months after the decision of the WWTF board of directors has been made
- Clarification until when a qualifying agreement will be offered
- Agreement on a coordinated evaluation of the candidate between the host institution and WWTF
- If the employment contract cannot be achieved within 2 months, the funding will be attributed to a reserve candidate

Funding contract

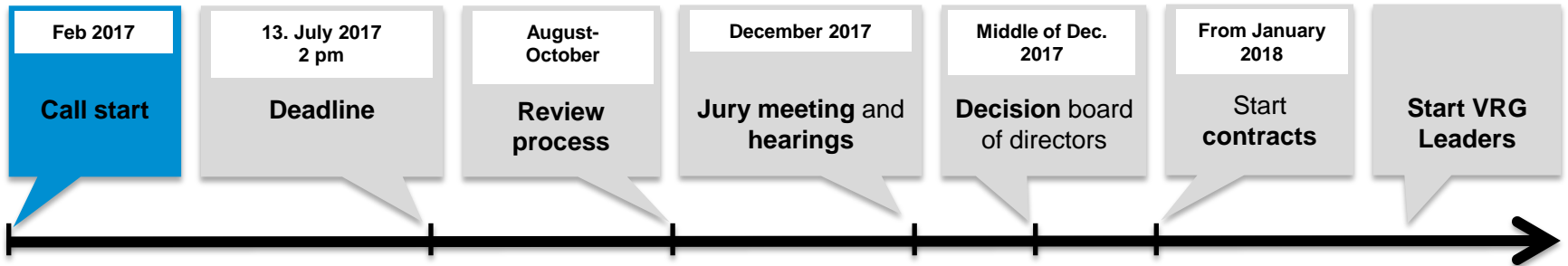
- Funding contract between WWTF and the host institution of the VRG leader (§ 27 according to UG2002 for universities)
- VRG leader has scientific and financial responsibility

Project start, project duration, project completion



- **Project start:**
 - Latest start date: 18 months after decision by WWTF board of directors
- During **project duration:**
 - WWTF pays funding rates every six months in advance to the host institution
 - Short annual electronic reports to WWTF as prerequisite for the release of installments
 - Site visit by WWTF
- After **project completion** :
 - Comprehensive final report (online)

Online submission system



- Registration with email address and name via <https://funding.wwtf.at>
- Login, select VRG-Call and press „create a new proposal“
- Fill in proposal (online forms, upload of the required data in PDF-format)
- Submit proposal (one PDF file with project number is generated automatically)
 - Only possible when the proposal is filled completely
 - No changes are possible after the submission
- A complete proposal consists of **7 parts**:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Overview	VRG Leader	Host & Partner Inst.	Work Progr.	Integration	Resources	Appendix

Overview key facts

- Complete PDF is generated automatically after the submission based on the input → download and obtain relevant signatures
- Include sheet with wet signatures of the authorized persons in the hard copy and hand in at WWTF before the deadline
 - Observe intern rules/habits!
 - Signatures do not have to be all on one sheet!
- Some useful rules:
 - Keep applications short and precise!
 - Use a language aimed at the scientific community
 - Ambitious but feasible
 - In English
 - Contact the research service at your institution in advance!

Contact and consultation



- All documents available at www.wwtf.at
- Personal consultation upon appointment

Donia Lasinger
donia.lasinger@wwtf.at
T: 01/ 402 31 43 – 16

Michael Strassnig
michael.strassnig@wwtf.at
T: 01/ 402 31 43 – 15



- WWTF office: Schlickgasse 3/12, 1090 Vienna