

# DIGITAL HUMANISM

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Information and Communication  
Technology 2023

W|W|T|F

# Digital Humanism

Information and Communication Technology 2023

- This call targets interdisciplinary research projects between ICT and social sciences / humanities (SSH) that **address digital technologies & practices from a human-centered and societal perspective.**

## Scope of the Call

This call invites researchers from ICT and SSH to submit an interdisciplinary proposal in the field of Digital Humanism. Through cooperation between ICT and SSH researchers, projects should draw upon knowledge and insights from SSH to lay scientific foundations for digital technologies & practices that are more socially robust and promote human values. The call is open to all research topics in the area of digital technologies & practices. Proposals that aim for theoretical and conceptual contributions to Digital Humanism are particularly welcome.

## Who can apply?

- An interdisciplinary team of 2-3 researchers encompassing both ICT and SSH as Principal Investigators
- The Principal Investigator & Coordinator must be based at a university or non-university research institution in Vienna
- Co-Principal Investigators can be based outside of Vienna (funding limited to 20% of the overall sum)
- Co-Principal Investigators from Lower Austria can apply for up to 49% of the overall funding (Joint Projects)
- The Principal Investigators must demonstrate capacity to carry out high-quality research

## Project Duration

24 – 48 months

## Funding

- Call volume: € 3.5 m
- Project size: € 300,000 to € 600,000 (Joint Projects up to € 650,000)
- Personnel and non-personnel costs can be claimed
- Up to 20% overhead costs can be claimed

## Timeline

- Short Proposal deadline: October 4, 2023, 2pm CET
- Full Proposal deadline: February 20, 2024, 2pm CET
- Expected funding decision: June 2024
- Project start: latest January 1, 2025

## Process

- This is a two-stage selection process
- Full proposals are only accepted upon invitation
- International Jury
- International Peer-Review
- Application via WWTF Funding Portal

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# **Call Specifications**

**Information and  
Communication Call 2023**

**Digital Humanism**

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## 1. About this Document

This document specifies the process, criteria, and instrument of a specific WWTF call. It is aimed at applicants who wish to submit a proposal in the Information and Communication Call 2023–Digital Humanism. For further information regarding the funding and submission guidelines, as well as references to WWTF policies, please also consider the following documents:

- **[WWTF Funding Guideline](#)**: General guideline for WWTF funding activities
- **[Guideline for Good Scientific Practice](#)**: Guidelines from the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity
- **[WWTF Open Science Policy](#)**
- **[Gender Equality Strategy & Plan](#)**
- **[Reporting and Accounting Guideline](#)**: Specifies reporting and accounting for funded projects

All documents are available [here](#).

- **Submission Guideline**: Go to [this page](#) to find the current guide to creating, editing, and submitting a short or full proposal in the WWTF Funding Portal.
- **For the submission** of the proposal, please go to the [WWTF Funding Portal](#).

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## 2. Scope of the Call

### Digital Humanism

This call is issued within WWTF's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programme. It invites research teams to submit proposals that engage with digital technologies and digital practices from the perspective of Digital Humanism. Digital technologies & practices exert enormous transformative forces on our society – including many that are considered positive but also which question the very foundations of our society—in particular, human rights and liberal democratic orders.

Rather than rejecting digital technologies in principle or accepting them in a techno-deterministic fashion, Digital Humanism takes a constructive stance. It considers the ability of humans and societies to actively shape technological developments, while also take into account that we (our behaviours and values) are in turn shaped by technologies, since they incorporate implicit and explicit values and interests.

**Digital Humanism as a field of research** brings together researchers from ICT and the social sciences & humanities (SSH, including artistic research). With knowledge and insights from SSH, ICT research can lay the foundations for digital technologies & practices that are more socially robust and promote human values. In this way, Digital Humanism can contribute to more inclusive and sustainable technological development and supporting democratic values.

To ensure the scientifically robust integration of human and societal aspects into digital technologies & practices, collaboration between ICT and disciplines from the wide spectrum of SSH is central to Digital Humanism research.

Please also consider the following aspects:

- This call is open to **research on all topics of digital technologies & practices**. Research on topics not well-represented in the Vienna research community (e.g., the economics of platforms) are particularly encouraged to apply in this call. Applicants must demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research

to the progress and pursuit of democratic societies and the promotion of human values.

- The proposed projects should strongly reflect the ideas and principles of Digital Humanism and thus **bring together social and technological progress on a level playing field**.

- Projects should aim for a comprehensive understanding of digital technologies & practices based on **insights from both ICT sciences and SSH**.

- Projects may place varying emphases on methods development, theoretical and conceptual work, or addressing of real-world cases. However, all proposed projects should **improve understanding of current fundamental questions regarding the social and human aspects of digital technologies & practices**, and thus contribute to the rethinking of existing developments in digital technologies & practices.

- Applicants are especially invited to make **theoretical contributions** that expand Digital Humanism as a conceptual space, within which a wider range of digital technologies & practices can be understood. The focus of the theoretical contributions may either be in the ICT fields or in the SSH fields. However, based on the call's intention to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, both fields should be represented in developing theoretical approaches.

- Because Digital Humanism often cannot rely on an established set of methods to engage with research questions in an interdisciplinary way, applicants are encouraged to dedicate time and resources in the development of these methods.

- Projects in the area of digital humanities/computational social sciences, i.e., the prevalent use of computational methods to research questions in the SSH, are not within the scope of this call.

- The development of new applications and tools to pursue the idea of Digital Humanism is possible within the project. However, they should be regarded as a means to address fundamental research questions of Digital Humanism and thus not be the main output of the project.

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### 3. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

A central focus of this call, and Digital Humanism in general, is to promote collaboration between ICT-related researchers and SSH. Researchers from both ICT-related fields and SSH (including art-based research) should, therefore, collaborate across disciplines. This should be reflected accordingly in the team composition. Both areas should contribute to the project in a substantial way, although one area may assume a larger role in the project if justified by the specific topic of the project.

Plans for collaboration between ICT and SSH areas must be demonstrated throughout all critical stages of the project, from formulation of the research question, empirical research to the production of the project's output. Applicants are required to explicitly address communication and joint work plans amongst collaborators in the proposal.

### 4. Participation in the Doctoral College Digital Humanism

This project call is accompanied by a call for a Doctoral College on Digital Humanism (DCDH). The DCDH brings together larger institutions relevant to Digital Humanism to establish a shared Doctoral College focused on the topic of Digital Humanism in Vienna. The DCDH call targets Vienna-based higher education institutions as applicants instead of individual researchers.

The DCDH will provide the joint framework for Digital Humanism activities for doctoral students. It will organize courses and other events, set up a framework for supervision and recruiting, and promote increased exchange among students, faculty and with society. WWTF and the participating institutions will fund 10 new PhD positions in the area of Digital Humanism.

Many of the doctoral positions, however, will be created in the individual projects of this Digital Humanism call. The integration of these doctoral students into the DCDH will enable doctoral students working on Digital Humanism topics across Vienna to network and gain experiences and expertise.

Thus, both doctoral students and supervisors working in the funded projects will be required to participate in the DCDH. Exceptions will only be made when a well-justified reason can be brought forward to WWTF. Please note that DCDH will by no means seek to influence the work and subjects of your project.

WWTF anticipates one or two applications for the DCDH from Viennese universities. WWTF will inform all funded projects about the awarded DCDH consortium in June 2024, and organize communication between funded projects and the DCDH regarding further steps. Depending on the progress of the DCDH consortia in putting together an application, the WWTF may also hold an information event in Fall/Winter 2023.

### 5. Eligibility of Applicants and Roles in the Project

The general eligibility of applicants is specified in the [WWTF Funding Guideline](#).

#### Core team

A project's **Core Team** may include **up to three Principal Investigators (PIs)**. This includes one Coordinating Principal Investigator and up to two co-PIs.

- Core team members may share equal management and scientific roles in the project.
- One PI must be designated as Coordinating Principal Investigator (PI&C) for legal and administrative reasons. The PI&C will be the contact person for WWTF regarding all aspects of the project. The PI&C must have an affiliation at a Viennese research institution, which will serve as a legal contract partner. This also applies to researchers moving to Vienna, who will have a Viennese affiliation in case of funding.
- Co-PIs may be based in Vienna, Lower Austria or elsewhere (in Austria or internationally) in fulfilment of the requirements of regular WWTF projects or Joint Projects (see below).
- The core team must have an excellent scientific track record that demonstrates the ability to conduct

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the proposed research project. The PI&C should be an expert in an area relevant to the topic of the proposal. He/she must have an excellent scientific track record and a proven capability to manage projects.

- WWTF especially encourages young and female scientists to apply as PI.
- A researcher may appear as a core team member (i.e., PI & Coordinator, co-PI) in a maximum of two proposals in this call. In case of three or more proposals with the same PI, WWTF will accept the first two proposals submitted. Involvement in other past / ongoing / granted WWTF projects does not impact upon eligibility to apply in this call.

### **Additional collaborations**

- Additional project partners and collaborators are permitted in the research team. They can be added by name in the full proposal stage.

For regular WWTF projects, project partners outside of Vienna may receive up to 20% of the total requested funding.

- No industry involvement is required. Industry partners are not eligible for funding but may partake with in-kind funding.
- Non-academic collaboration partners (e.g., NGOs) may be part of the research team. However, the core team members and majority of additional team members in the proposal should have an academic background.

This call operates under the “Joint Projects” agreement with the Province of Lower Austria. For the criteria and conditions that exist for partners from Lower Austria (see Section 10).

## **6. Eligible Costs**

All costs that are directly attributable to the project and are regarded as commonly required in the respective scientific field are eligible for funding. Please also consider your organization’s internal guidelines for eligible expenses/costs.

### **Personnel costs**

WWTF is dedicated to funding researchers. Hence, the larger share of the project’s budget should be allocated to personnel costs for researchers working on the project.

- Eligible forms of employment contracts are full-time and part-time contracts as well as marginal employments (“Arbeitsvertrag”). Contracts for services (“Werkvertrag”) are only permitted if the nature of the work means that it cannot be performed through employment contracts.

- All persons employed through a WWTF-funded project should receive a fair employment contract with at least a minimum wage according to the “Kollektivvertrag” (collective agreement) of the Austrian Universities / extra university research institutions. For staff employed at institutions without a collective agreement, the minimum wage should adhere to the standards of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF salary scheme available online).

- Salaries higher than those stipulated in the collective agreement are permitted, subject to the agreement from the host institution and justification based on qualifications of the researcher.

- Due to projected inflation rates, the budget calculation for salaries in the Funding Portal automatically includes an increase of 6% p.a. for the duration of the project.

- Applications for personnel costs must be in one of the following categories:

*Senior Personnel:* highly qualified and experienced scientists, usually in leadership/managerial positions within the project and permanently employed at the institution.

*Post Doc:* or equivalent qualification, including Senior Postdocs.

*PhD Student:* or equivalent qualification level.

*Diploma Student:* Bachelor or Master students

*Office/Technician:* administrative or technicians (proportional funding only).

- Personnel costs cannot be claimed for permanent senior staff who are already fully financed by the institution. Exceptions apply in cases where senior staff must acquire third party funding for co-financing

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their own position (e.g., non-university research institutions and Universities of Applied Sciences). In these cases, permanently employed senior staff may claim up to 20% of their annual salary from WWTF.

#### **Non-Personnel costs**

- Non-personnel costs should not exceed 30% of the overall budget.

- Eligible cost categories:

*Equipment:* Smaller equipment can be purchased with funds from the grant. This includes devices up to € 1,500 each, as well as software specific to the projects. General office software is not eligible for funding. Funding by WWTF under this scheme is not intended to cover investment in general and larger infrastructure, however pro rata depreciation rates over the project duration for equipment necessary to the project may be funded.

*Consumables:* Costs for project-related expenses such as consumables are permitted. WWTF does not fund consumables that are general and not project-specific (e.g., paper, printer toner)

*Travel costs:* Costs for travel and accommodation for scientific meetings and conferences, field work, expeditions may be funded. Please also consider the regulations of your organization for travel costs.

*Publication costs:* Costs incurred for publication activities, e.g., printing costs, article processing charges (for open access), etc. are allowed. This also includes costs for archiving research data in open repositories. Please also consider WWTF's / Open Science Policy.

*Workshop and conferences:* Costs for organizing events, workshops, and conferences as well as for hosting invited speakers are eligible.

*Other costs:* Third-party costs, namely, for external collaboration, consulting, studies, and software development may be funded to a limited extent. In general, individuals should be predominantly funded through employment contracts at the participating institutions and not through other types of employment. Under special conditions, costs for childcare and/or career coaching for female WWTF-funded personnel may be requested to a small degree.

Running costs for basic infrastructure (telephone costs, rents) as well as costs for the acquisition of

infrastructure and basic equipment are not eligible for funding, as these should be covered by the category "overhead costs".

#### **Indirect costs** (overheads)

WWTF pays a maximum of 20% overhead. Overhead is calculated as a percentage of the direct costs of the project (i.e., personnel + non-personnel costs). Please note that WWTF offers the maximum 20% overhead lump sum to compensate for all administration costs. This means that flat fees for payroll or project accounting are non-eligible direct costs. The total funding volume is calculated as direct plus indirect costs.

Applicants are required to comply with the overhead regulations of the involved institutions.

## **7. Gender Aspects in the Application Phase**

WWTF's [Gender Strategy and Gender Equality Plan](#) must be considered throughout the application.

Please note that WWTF requests jury members and reviewers to consider both gender and specific roles in research team composition, as well as gender in research content, during evaluation processes.

The following questions should be considered during development of the proposal:

#### *Equal opportunities in research*

- Please take into consideration gender balance/equality in the project consortium at all levels, including in decision-making positions, e.g., what steps have been taken to approach / achieve it?

- Do working conditions allow all members of staff to combine work and family life in a satisfactory manner?

- Are there mechanisms in place to manage and monitor gender equality aspects, e.g., work-force statistics?

#### *Gender in research content and in the research ideas phase*

- If the research involves humans as research objects, has the relevance of gender to the research topic been analysed?



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- If the research does not directly involve humans, have potentially differentiated relations of men and women to the research subject (e.g., relevance, impact of findings) been sufficiently considered?

- Have literature and other sources relating to gender differences in the research field been consulted?

#### *Proposal phase*

- Does the methodology ensure that (possible) gender differences will be investigated: that sex/ gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?

- Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how gender issues will be handled?

- If there are no identifiable gender aspects after a detailed review by the applicants, this must be justified, e.g., by providing reasons to demonstrate that no sex, gender, and other relevant differences have been found.

#### *Research phase*

- If there are further aspects of the project in which sex/gender could be a factor (e.g., samples, testing groups), are these gender-balanced?

- Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?

- Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

Further resources are listed in the footnote.<sup>1</sup>

## 8. Ethics

Project proposals may include ethical aspects that require approval from an ethics committee/ institutional review board.

If an ethics vote is required for the planned project, this must be clearly stated at the short proposal stage (self-assessment by applicants).

- The approval must be submitted online with the full proposal.

- Should it not be possible to obtain a final ethical approval before the full proposal deadline due to reasons which are beyond the control of the applicant, the applicant must explain the reasons in the application and send the preliminary approval to the responsible call manager before the jury meeting.

- The approval by the ethics committee should be specific for the planned WWTF project; therefore, the title of the project should be the same as on the approval (minor deviations are possible). If the title of the approved research differs significantly from the proposed project, a statement must be provided, confirming that the approval will cover the planned research.

- If the main applicant for the ethical approval is not a core team member (i.e., PI&C or co-PI) of the WWTF proposal, a clear statement must be included in the proposal, in which a core team member confirms that he/she is authorized to conduct the planned research within this ethical approval.

- If the planned research is covered by an existing approval, the applicants must submit the extension of the approval (“Verlängerung der Gültigkeit des Votums”). The above also applies for extensions.

- Non-compliance will result in the rejection of the proposal on formal grounds.

## 9. Good Scientific Practice

Compliance with the rules for good scientific practice is mandatory. This pertains to the application process and, in case of funding, the actual research work.

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<sup>1</sup> Gender in Research Toolkit by Yellow Window: <https://www.yellowwindow.com/genderinresearch>

Gendered Innovations, Stanford University: <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/methods-sex-and-gender-analysis.html>  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research: <https://www.cihr-irsc-igh-isfh.ca/>

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- WWTF is member of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) and thus committed to their standards for good scientific practice. Hence, applicants must comply with OeAWI standards<sup>2</sup>.

- In case of suspected scientific misconduct, WWTF will employ the ombudsperson at the applicant's institution or request OeAWI to investigate the case.

- Based on the outcome of investigations by the ombudsperson or OeAWI, WWTF reserves the right to exclude the applicants and the application from the running and future calls.

- Important: The use of large language models (LLM) to write the application text must be indicated by a citation (direct and indirect quotes) of the respective software. The non-disclosure of LLM use counts as violation of good scientific practice and may lead to the exclusion of the proposal from the call.

## 10. Joint Projects with Partners in Lower Austria

WWTF welcomes Joint Project (JP) applications between Viennese and Lower Austrian universities and research institutions in this call. The aims of this initiative are to promote research cooperation between Lower Austria and Vienna on equal terms and to strengthen cooperation of research institutions in the Vienna region.

- To incentivize the cooperation, the total maximum funding amount for a JP consortium is € 650,000 (i.e., an additional € 50,000 compared to the maximum for the regular WWTF project).

- The PI&C must be affiliated to a research institution in Vienna.

- At least one co-PI must be affiliated to a research institution in Lower Austria.

- The share of the overall funding allocated to an institution in Lower Austria must be between 20% and 49%. In case that the share is <20%, the project is

considered as a regular WWTF project and is thus not eligible for the higher maximum funding amount.

- The Lower Austrian share is financed by the Province of Lower Austria. Hence, the Lower Austrian project partner must comply with the Lower Austrian Culture Promotion Act 1996 and the directives issued on the basis thereof<sup>3</sup>. Details will be regulated in the funding contract.

- Partners outside Vienna or Lower Austria are also possible and may request up to 20% of the total budget. However, the share of the budget allocated to partner(s) in Vienna must not be lower than 51%.

- Regional branches of Viennese Institutions (e.g., BOKU, VetMedUni, AIT) located in Lower Austria are considered as Vienna-based in the context of WWTF funding activities.

- A conversion between JPs and regular WWTF projects is not possible between the short and full proposal phases.

- WWTF will provide the government of the Province of Lower Austria with information regarding submitted JP (participants, institutions, title of the project, project volume and share of the budget financed by Lower Austria).

## 11. Application Process

- This project all is organized as a two-stage process. Short proposals will be assessed by the call jury only. Selected proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be reviewed by international peer reviewers. Based on the reviewers' assessments, the jury will select projects for funding.

- Applications must be submitted via the WWTF Funding Portal within the defined deadlines. No hard copies of documents are required.

- Applications that reach WWTF in any other way or after the defined deadlines will not be considered.

- To access the Funding Portal and edit the proposal, PI&C and co-PIs must register in the Funding Portal.

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<sup>2</sup> OeAWI Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice: <https://oeawi.at/en/guidelines/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.no.e.gv.at/noe/Kunst-Kultur/Richtlinien\\_zum\\_No\\_e\\_Kulturfoerderungsgesetz\\_1996\\_3.pdf](http://www.no.e.gv.at/noe/Kunst-Kultur/Richtlinien_zum_No_e_Kulturfoerderungsgesetz_1996_3.pdf)

- Only the coordinating PI can submit the proposal.
- Important: Signatures of the authorized signatory at each partner institution (“authorization”) are required in the application process (both for the short and the full proposals). Please contact your institution’s research service in advance and inform yourself about your institute’s internal processes and timelines.
- We recommend registering and creating a proposal even if you are not completely certain that you will submit a proposal. Creating a proposal will allow you to see the specific requirements. Proposals that have been created but not submitted will be deleted shortly after the submission deadline.
- Applications must be written in English. Applications in other languages will not be considered.

## 12. Content and Structure of the Proposal

The content and structure of the proposal are defined and specified in the online Funding Portal.

Overview of the main parts of the short and full proposals:

### Short Proposals

- Abstract (EN)
- Project description (about 4-5 pages): outline of the main scientific research idea and approach in an online form
  - Short CVs of the project core team (PI&C and PIs) including a publication list.
  - Budget overview
  - Signatures: required from the institutions of the core team members

### Full Proposals

- Abstract (EN and DE)
- Project description (about 12-15 pages): elaboration of the research idea and approach (upload of PDF, template with structure is provided)
  - Short CVs same as in the short proposal phase. Possibility to update the CV.
  - Detailed budget

- Signatures: required from the institutions of the core team members as well as further participating institutions.
  - The structure of the proposal and steps for completing the application in the WWTF Funding Portal are described in more detail in the **Submission Guideline**.

## 13. Selection and Decision Process

The core element of WWTF’s decision making processes is an international jury mandated to make a funding recommendation to the WWTF boards (Advisory Board and Board of Directors).

- Depending on the call (size, scope etc.), the jury is comprised of 6-10 outstanding international experts that have no current affiliation to an Austrian institution.
  - Jury members are selected by WWTF according to their expertise in the call topic. They have no known conflict of interest prior to the submission deadline.
  - Names of jury members will be published after the WWTF Board of Directors have formally decided on the jury’s funding recommendation.
  - Please note that WWTF does not allow the opportunity for rebuttals to either recommendations by the jury panel or decisions by the WWTF Board of Directors.

### Decision making process

*Formal eligibility check by WWTF office:*

- Completeness of the proposal, i.e., missing information and sections.
  - Correct authorization signatures by the institutions.
  - Limitation to two proposals / core team member.
  - All projects will be checked for plagiarism with software.

Substantial deficiencies in the application will lead to the exclusion of the application from further evaluation and rejection on formal grounds. The strict

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timeline of the call does not allow for proposals to be sent back to the applicants for amendments.

Submission of the same or largely similar research ideas at other funding organizations must be explicitly declared in the full proposal. Application for funding at other organizations is permitted and will not impact the evaluation in this call. In case of funding, applicants will be asked by which organization they wish to be funded, as double funding is not permitted by WWTF.

### **Evaluation of short proposals**

- Each proposal is independently assessed by at least two jury members based on the evaluation criteria.

- In a meeting (on-site or online), the jury decides if a short proposal should be invited to the full proposal stage. This step usually takes place 1-2 months after the short proposal submission deadline.

- All applicants will be promptly informed about the decision. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with a short jury statement explaining the decision. Successful applicants will be informed that they are invited to submit a full-length proposal.

### **Evaluation of full proposals**

- All duly submitted full proposals are checked again for formal aspects. Proposals which do not meet the formal requirements will be rejected at this stage.

- The information provided in the full proposal must be consistent with the short proposal and extend it by providing more information and details. Major deviations from the short proposal must be justified explicitly. If major deviations cannot be satisfactorily explained, the proposal may be rejected by the jury at this stage.

- Eligible full proposals will undergo a review process.

- WWTF will obtain a minimum of 2 (usually 3-4) written reviews for each proposal.

- Reviewers are international experts in the topic(s) of the proposals. WWTF does not contact reviewers based in Austria. WWTF aims for diversity in

the cohort of reviewers for a call (gender, age, countries).

- All reviewers will be checked by the WWTF office for potential conflicts of interests with the applicants. As a rule, reviewers should not have close professional relations to any of the applicants in the project team. Practically, this excludes reviewers that have published with the applicants within the last five years or have had a collaboration in a research project in this timeframe. In case of very close cooperation with the applicant(s) over a longer period of time, the reviewer will also be excluded. Joint publications in an edited volumes/proceeding, “community papers” with more than 30 authors or common attendances in workshops and conferences do not qualify as conflict of interest. Additionally, reviewers are asked to disclose any potential conflict of interest.

- Reviewers are requested to provide their assessment via a standardized online questionnaire. Usually, reviewers will have six weeks to complete the review.

- Please note that reviewers are not paid by WWTF for their work. The acceptance rate for requests is about 30% on average. To maintain the system based on mutual support, we kindly ask you to contribute with a review in case you are approached by other funders.

- The reviewers remain anonymous to the applicants.

- Reviewers are nominated by jury members as well as selected by WWTF office. In addition, applicants are asked to suggest 5 experts, whom they deem qualified to review the proposal and who have no conflict of interest with the applicants. WWTF office will check all reviewers for potential conflict of interests. WWTF office is free to choose / not to choose any of the suggested experts.

- Applicants may also exclude up to 3 persons without stating any reasons. Excluded reviewers on will not be contacted.

### **Full proposal jury meeting**

The jury will convene about 3-4 months after the submission deadline of the full proposals to select full

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proposals to recommend for funding. The jury may be extended by additional members in case supplementary expertise is needed to cover the topics of the proposals. At least 2 jury members are assigned to each proposal and act as rapporteurs for the proposals.

- The basis for their assessments is the full proposals as well as the reviews. The arguments brought forward in the review reports will be carefully balanced with the jury's own expertise.
- The result is a recommendation for each project: "to be funded" or "not to be funded".

### **Formal funding decision**

- The projects recommended for funding by the jury will be recommended by the WWTF Advisory Board to the WWTF Board of Directors, which then formally confirms the funding decision.
- Applicants will be promptly informed about the decision after the Board of Directors made the decision.
- The funding decision may include budget cuts as well as additional conditions and recommendations to the applicants.
- Applicants will receive anonymized full text reviews. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive a short statement by the jury explaining the main reasons why the project was not selected for funding.

## **14. Funding and Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria are used in the evaluation.

- **Scope:** Is the project within the scope of the call as described in this document? Projects that are not within the thematic scope will be rejected by the jury, regardless of scientific quality.

The key criteria in the evaluation of proposals are scientific quality and interdisciplinarity:

- **Innovative character of the proposed research project:** Does the proposed research work meet the highest relevant international quality standards? Does the project show scientific originality and innovative aspects? Are the methods and research approaches appropriate and innovative?

- **Scientific excellence and academic potential of the applicant(s):** Accomplishments and potential of the applicants to conduct the proposed research (with respect to academic age).

- **Team composition and interdisciplinary collaboration:** Teams should include an appropriate mix of expertise, bringing together ICT and SSH researchers. A clear description of the roles of the individual partners and a clear project management plan must be presented. This should demonstrate how both ICT and SSH researchers will contribute to critical stages of developing and executing the project, and how communication will be fostered throughout the project lifetime.

- **Relevance:** does the proposed research contribute to mid- to long-term concepts that question/redefine/reevaluate how digital technologies & practices can be better aligned with established human values? Does the proposal contribute to advances in Digital Humanism?

- **Feasibility:** Can the project realize its goals given the competences of the research team, the methods suggested, the timeframe, resources, and budget?

- **Gender aspects:** Have sex- and/or gender-related aspects of the research field and research question been considered in the project? Has gender balance in the research team been adequately addressed? For WWTF's Gender Equality Strategy & Plan and considerations for drafting the proposal, see Section 7 in this document.

Please note that career breaks such as for parental leave, care duty and prolonged illness will be taken into account in the evaluation of the proposals. In order for these to be considered, please provide the relevant time periods.

## **15. Funding Contract**

To commence the project, a signed funding contract is a prerequisite for funding. WWTF will contact the PI&C of all funded projects after the communication of the funding decision.

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- The project team will be invited to a contract meeting in which all details of WWTF funding will be explained.

- Projects may start immediately and should start no later than 6 months after the formal funding decision by the WWTF Board of Directors.

- The formal funding contract will be signed between WWTF and the host institution of the PI&C. In Joint Projects, the host institution of the co-PI in Lower Austria is an additional contract partner.

- For universities, this is a project according to §27 of the Universities Act 2002. The institution then authorizes the respective PI&C to sign for the full scientific and financial responsibility of the project.

## 16. Monitoring and Reporting

Funded projects must deliver reports and participate in evaluation and monitoring. WWTF offers the possibility to adapt the work plan according to project needs. For details see the / Reporting and Accounting Guideline.

## 17. Open Science

WWTF requires compliance with its [Open Science Policy](#). This document outlines the rights, roles and responsibilities of WWTF, researchers, and research organizations.