



COUNTRY FICHE **AUSTRIA**

GENERAL INFORMATION

A: Legal Basis:

<p>Art 20.9 of the Single Basic Act:</p> <p>The SRG shall report to the GB, and act as an interface with the JU, on the following matters:</p>	Status of relevant national/regional R&I programmes
	Identification of cooperation areas including concrete actions for deployment/uptake of technologies/innovative solutions
	Dissemination events, communication activities
	National/regional measures concerning deployment activities in relation to JU
	National/regional initiatives ensuring complementarities with JU SRIA Agenda/AWP
<p>Art. 20.10 of the Single Basic Act:</p> <p>The SRG shall submit, at the end of each calendar year, a report:</p>	Describing national/regional policies in the scope of the JU
	Identifying specific ways of cooperation with the actions funded by the JU

B. General Information – to be filled in by each SRG representative and submitted to the EU-RAIL JU on an annual basis:

Policy	Competent authority:	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
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Strategy	Short description of priorities	In order to increase the research, technology and innovation intensity of the Austrian business sector and to develop technologies for addressing the grand societal challenges like climate change, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology offers different thematic and non-thematic programmes providing funding to participants via competitive and open calls.
	Areas covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable, climate-neutral and inclusive mobility and transport system in urban and rural areas • innovative, sustainable transport technologies, intermodal transport systems and new services in the mobility sector • digitalization and automatization • vehicle technologies
	Web-links	Mobilitätswende - Mobilitätswende (fti-mobilitaetswende.at) https://www.ffg.at/en/category/forschungsschwerpunkt/mobilitaet
Dedicated or other related programmes	Short description, including Technology Readiness Levels covered within the programme	Currently, there is no dedicated specific research and innovation funding programme in Austria solely for the rail sector. In fact, the Austrian R&I Strategy for Mobility and its implementation agenda follow a systemic approach focusing on mobility behavior and needs, mobility system and its infrastructure as a whole, and mobility and transport technologies; the yearly funding budget

		<p>amounts to about 30M € (2024-26). Of course, this encompasses all modes, thus it fully includes rail in an open integrated approach, yet without sectorial compartmentalization. Generally, covered TRL are ranging from 4-8.</p> <p>Within this framework, a couple of projects have been selected for funding throughout recent years, e. g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilient Rail (operational safety questions for increased resilience in rail) - H2RailTube (hydrogen transport on rail) - RailCharge (charging of e-cars during rail transport) - DACIO (digital automatic coupler) - AM4Rail (additive manufacturing of spare parts for rail vehicles) - TARO (digitalisation of rail operations) <p>Moreover, under the large-scale COMET funding scheme, around 20 partners from industry and science are collaborating in the Rail4Future consortium for the realisation of a fully networked and digitised railway system. Under the same COMET roof, “Virtual Vehicle” is a leading international R&D centre for the automotive and rail industries focusing on the advanced virtualization of vehicle development by linking of numerical simulations and hardware testing. In the rail segment, next to universities and research organisations there is an intense collaboration with OEMs and rail operators like Siemens, Alstom, DB, ÖBB, Knorr-Bremse, and VOEST-Alpine.</p> <p>A new sector-specific programme Rail4Climate is under elaboration and envisaged to be launched in 2024.</p>
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Calls/Funding scheme identifications	Short description	The future sector-specific programme Rail4Climate (R4C) shall focus on digitalization and automatization of the rail system at the crossroads of research and implementation, for the sake of for enhanced capacity and increased efficiency. It shall concentrate on the overall thematic areas of digital twins, data & digitalization, and automatization in maintenance. R4C is intended to address rail transport companies and infrastructure operators, industry and research via the Austrian Climate Fund.
	Time-plan	2024-2027
	Available budget	5M € per year (planned)
	Strategic priorities	digitalization and automatization of operations, maintenance, infrastructure, and rolling stock; reduction of the time-to-market; substantial contribution to climate neutrality of the mobility system
	Web-link	to be published in 2024
	Future calls (time plan if any)	foreseen as from 2024 (to be published)
General dissemination events, communication activities	Short description, including target audience for, for example, :	To be prepared in 2024, targeting rail transport companies and infrastructure operators, stakeholders from industry and research. For this purpose, the establishment of an industry-specific advisory council is envisaged in order to set up a joint research roadmap for thematic call orientation.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- General info days- National programme consultation	<p>In the meantime, an interest group uniting rail operators and industry prepares the outline in continuous exchange with the Ministry (BMK). On behalf of BMK, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is regularly organizing networking activities to foster synergies among currently running rail R&I projects.</p>
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