

Matching Funds for Agri-Innovation Bavaria - South Tyrol - Austria: **Advancing Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management**



1st Call for proposals

1. General Information

The Matching Funds for Agri-Innovation Bavaria - South Tyrol - Austria is an initiative that **promotes cross-border cooperation** in research projects related to agriculture, forestry, water management, and natural resource protection. Its goal is to strengthen sustainable agriculture in the participating regions and foster innovation in the agrifood sector.

The present call is financed by the Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Austria), the Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus (Bavaria – Germany), and the Ressort für Landwirtschaft, Forstwirtschaft und Tourismus (South Tyrol – Italy).

The collaboration between the three regions began in 2016 and promotes synergies by jointly addressing topics such as biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, digitalization, and regional production.

2. Call Objectives

The key objectives of the call are:

1. Enhance collaboration between research institutions in the cooperation areas Bavaria, South Tyrol, and Austria.
2. Strengthen the capacity of research institutions focusing on high-quality, practical research findings to promote sustainable development in agriculture, forestry, and water management.

3. Eligible initiatives

1. The present call for proposals supports the implementation of **three-year cooperation research projects (max. 36 months)** in the following thematic areas:
 - **Circular Bioeconomy:** Projects should focus on optimizing resource use, minimizing waste, and promoting sustainable, circular processes within the bioeconomy in the context of agriculture, forestry and water management.
 - **Climate-friendly agriculture:** Projects should concentrate on agricultural practices that enhance among others carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation, fostering climate resilience and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Projects must address one of the two topics.

2. Only projects involving the **cooperation of at least two partners from at least two of the three cooperation areas are eligible for funding**. Grants will only be awarded for projects with a clearly recognisable scientific added value through cooperation.

4. Applicants

1. Applicants must be research organisations and eligible for funding by the following bodies: Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Austria), Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus (Bayern - Germany), Ressort Landwirtschaft, Forstwirtschaft und Tourismus (South Tyrol - Italy).
2. Each beneficiary must be based and carry out its activities within one of the following areas:
 - Bavaria
 - South Tyrol
 - Austria
3. Research consortia partners, who are ineligible or otherwise unable to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties, can also be part of research consortia if they bring in their own funding and submit an appropriate "financial commitment letter". However, these applicants cannot be Coordinator, their contribution should not be essential for the successful implementation of the project, and they will not count towards the minimum number of partners.

5. Financial Resources

1. For the granting of the subsidies under this call for proposals, the financial resources available amount to Euro 1.500.000 € (500.000 € co-financed by each region).

2. The subsidy intensity is calculated on the basis of the eligible costs and amounts to a maximum of 100 %.
3. The maximum grant for a cooperation project may not exceed Euro 500.000 €.
4. Each funding body finances only the project parts carried out by research organisations in their own area.

6. Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses are those that can be subsidized under the applicable provisions of the funding from the authorities mentioned in Article 1.

The following expenses are eligible for each cooperation area:

South Tyrol:

The eligible expenses are operational costs (personnel, consumables, external services etc.) and equipment costs.

Bavaria:

The eligible expenses are operational costs (personnel, consumables, external services etc.), depreciation for equipment costs (only depreciation for project duration), costs for open access publications, software and travel costs.

Austria:

The eligible expenses are operational costs (personnel, consumables, external services etc.) in accordance with the provisions set out in the dafne.at guidelines (see [here](#)).

7. Proposal submission

Applications can be submitted by the coordinator, who coordinates and manages the research consortium at proposal stage and during the entire lifetime of the transnational project.

Proposals can be submitted in English or German. Please note that the portal is only available in German.

Proposals can be submitted no later than **30.09.2025, 17:00** through the portal www.dafne.at in accordance with the provisions set out in the dafne.at guidelines (see [here](#)).

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The following documents must be entered to the portal:

1. Acronym
2. Field of science

3. Research title (in German and English max. 255 characters)
4. Keywords (in German and English)
5. Project abstract (maximum 2500 characters)
6. Project partners, their roles and legal representatives
7. Project goals: Explain the research question, the goal of the research and corresponding sub-goals in German. Max. 8000 characters.
8. Project description: Present the project description in German. Max. 8000 characters.
9. Practical relevance: Demonstrate the significance and relevance of the research topic for practice in German. Max. 5000 characters.
10. State of knowledge in the research field: Explain the current state of knowledge in the field of research in German. Max. 5000 characters
11. Characterization of novelty: Presentation of the degree of innovation, the novelty of the research project compared to other disciplines or existing solutions in German. Max. 5000 characters.
12. Possibilities for scientific exploitation: Explain in what form the results will be used, e.g. Presentations at conferences/meetings, articles in practice-relevant journals, peer-reviewed publications, etc. In German, max. 5000 characters
13. Animal testing (optional): If the research project includes animal experiments, further information must be entered here in German.
14. Cooperation partners: Name cooperation partners and list the details of the project cooperation in the form of a short description of tasks in the text field provided.
15. Funding partners: Name financing partners. When it comes to financing, a distinction can be made between pledged, planned participation and expected participation amount. Any written confirmations must be enclosed.
16. Financial plan: The following information must be entered: Subject to VAT yes/no; Personnel costs; Materials; Travelling expenses; External services (corresponding offers must be enclosed); Other costs (e.g. overheads, publication costs)
17. Offers for external services

Attachments can be uploaded. The following annexes are possible for the presentation of the project:

- Letter of Intent / Support
- Commitment for participation contribution from financing partners (mandatory if funding is guaranteed)
- Long versions of the project proposal
- Project structure plan (workplan and timeline)

For more information on requirements also see corresponding section in the guidelines for dafne.at:
<https://info.bml.gv.at/im-fokus/forschung/projekte-und-berichte/forschungsplattform.html>

8. Evaluation Procedure

1st Step: Formal control

1. The Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Austria) carries out an initial examination of submissions, in order to verify the completeness and regularity of the documents submitted. If the documentation is incomplete, the Bundesministerium may request that the missing documentation be supplemented, which must be submitted within 10 days of receipt of the request. If it is not submitted within 10 days of receipt of the request, the application is dismissed.
2. Applications that do not meet the essential research standards and/or formal requirements set out in Article 7 are not admitted to the evaluation procedure.

2nd Step: Project evaluation

3. After passing the formal control (first step), the project proposals are submitted to the Evaluation Committee. Each funding body nominates one person who becomes a member of the Evaluation Committee and evaluates the proposals. If necessary, additional expert feedback can be obtained by the nominees.
4. Each member of the Evaluation Committee formulates a detailed evaluation for each application individually, assigning points based on the criteria outlined in Article 9, along with corresponding justifications. In a joint meeting, these evaluations are discussed and result in a ranking list of the projects.

After the project evaluation, funding bodies meet and select the projects for funding, following the ranking list and based on the availability of funds. If proposals have the same ranking and if it is not possible to fund all equally-ranked proposals, the following criteria will be applied successively: a) funder balance, b) balancing the two themes of the call text and c) maximisation of allocation of funding. Final decisions will be sought by consensus and each funding body has to agree on the final list of selected proposals.

9. Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance for the strategies and programmes of each funding organisation
- Coherence and overlap with other regional research programmes
- Project Management and Scientific Excellence
- Importance of the problem statement, degree of innovation and contribution to problem solving
- Urgency for the desired solution to the problem
- Appropriateness of the project scope
- Added value of scientific cooperation
- Feasibility of the expected actions in practice

10. Financial and technical reporting

Each region will conclude agreement(s)/contract(s) with their relevant national/regional applicant(s) to cover the funding of the selected transnational projects.

Interim and final reports must be submitted and will be evaluated. Proposed deadlines should be specified in the application and will then be contractually agreed upon.

11. Call schedule

The funding call will be launched 30th May 2025, with an application deadline 30th September 2025. Following the evaluation process, selected project will be announced in November 2025. The earliest possible project start date is 1st December 2025, with flexibility for project initiation until 30th March 2026.