

The FWF's rules on the quality and transparency of evaluations, studies, and research policy services

Evaluations, studies, and other research policy services commissioned by the FWF are assigned to independent, professional experts with relevant experience and qualifications, based on transparent selection procedures and pre-defined criteria. Because it is committed to the principle of open access to scientific knowledge, the FWF supports not only open-access publications and data on research results from FWF-funded projects, but also free access to FWF-funded evaluations, studies, and other research policy services. Where legally admissible, this applies to all results and data resulting from these studies, evaluations, and other research policy services.

1 Evaluations

It is important to the FWF that the evaluations of its programs meet the same high quality standards that it applies to reviewing the projects it funds. For this reason, the key criteria for the evaluations of FWF programs are defined and published.

Above all, independence and impartiality must be guaranteed as essential quality criteria of a properly conducted evaluation, and the problem of the often naturally occurring close relationship between evaluators and clients (funding bodies) should be taken into consideration. The FWF complies with the guidelines of the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation ([fteval](#)).

The awarding and implementation of evaluations must be approved and documented by the FWF Executive Board.

Quality

- Evaluations of FWF programs are scheduled either at the launch of a new program or at appropriate cyclical intervals during the program's duration.
- They are generally only assigned to independent, professional evaluators (or institutions) with relevant experience and expertise. Depending on the program, the FWF usually tries to involve evaluators based outside of Austria.
- The design and implementation of evaluations must always meet the fteval quality standards; this must be included in the terms of reference (TOR).

- Contract evaluations of FWF programs must be put out to public tender. The FWF reserves the right to evaluate small-scale programs in-house, based on publicly available indicators.

Transparency and auditing

- A neutral auditing system is planned to ensure compliance with international quality standards in future evaluations of FWF programs.
- The FWF prepares a written commentary on each evaluation, which is published along with the evaluation report.

2 Studies and research policy services

The awarding and implementation of studies and other research policy services must be approved and documented by the FWF Executive Board. For activities with a planned budget of €50,000 or more, a public tender based on transparent criteria must be issued beforehand.

Different criteria may apply when studies are awarded in cooperation with other organizations, and joint procedures for awarding these studies are selected on a case-by-case basis. The requirements for approval and documentation by the Executive Board apply in any case.

The results of research policy services (e.g. consultations and similar services) must be documented for the Executive Board, and at least a summary of the results is to be published on the FWF website.

Quality and auditing

Studies and research policy services commissioned by the FWF are only awarded to independent, professional experts with relevant qualifications. Depending on the subject of the study or service, international experts are preferred wherever possible. Where applicable, third parties (national partners, international sister organizations, or other relevant institutions) are sometimes involved in these studies.

3 Publication of the reports

The results of evaluations, studies, or other research policy services commissioned by the FWF are generally published in accordance with the [FWF Open-Access Policy](#), the [Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities](#), and the European Commission's [Open Government](#) strategy. Whether a public presentation of the

report or the results of the study is held depends on the respective study or evaluation (scope, significance).

Technical criteria of the FWF's Open-Access Policy

The following technical criteria for open access to evaluations, studies, and data apply:

- For the storage of publications and data resulting from FWF-commissioned evaluations and studies, a suitable repository (listed in the [Directory of Open Access Repositories](#)) must be selected.
- Publications and data must be assigned a [Digital Object Identifier \(DOI\)](#).
- Publications and data should be published under a [Creative Commons Attribution CC BY](#) or similar license.
- Publications should be made available in PDF and HTML or XML formats, and data in the respective data-specific formats.
- All relevant outputs (metadata, publication text, underlying data, citations, license information) must be provided in a machine-readable form via [Open Standards](#).

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The following metadata (in English) must be provided for each publication:

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