

Coordinating grant arrangements

Linking up grant arrangements for investments in renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency in the hotel and tourism sector at national level

Background

Certain investments in renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency in hotels are financially attractive only if they receive environmental grants from the State (handled by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH). However, upfront financing by banks or suppliers of technology comes unstuck over and over again because the hotel operator has a poor credit rating. In many such cases subsidized credit guarantees (handled by the Austrian Hotel and Tourism Bank) would be available. To date, though, it was not possible to combine an environmental grant with a subsidized credit guarantee, because the rules applying to grants prevented this.

Financing instrument

At its meeting on 31/05/2017 the Environmental Grant Commission gave formal assent to combining environmental grants with the following funding instruments used by the Austrian Hotel and Tourism Bank:

1. Directive by the Federal Minister for Science, Research and the Economy regulating the **assumption of liability for loans in the tourism and leisure sector 2014 – 2020** (issue of 26.02.2015), as per Federal Statute on special subsidies to SMEs, BGBl. Nr. 432/1996 in the version currently in force.
2. Directive by the Federal Minister for Science, Research and the Economy regulating the **TOP-Tourismus-Impuls 2014 – 2020**, (issue of 26.02.2015), Section A: TOPInvestitionen, as per Federal Statute on special subsidies to SMEs, BGBl. Nr. 432/1996 in the version currently in force.

Environmental grants can also be combined with the following instruments used by Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH.

- Acceptance of guarantees as per Federal Statute on special subsidies to SMEs
 - Guarantees for financing startups, innovation and expansion
 - Guarantees for stabilizing SMEs
- Acceptance of guarantees as per Federal Statute on guarantees
 - Guarantees for financing loans, for mezzanine financing and for internationalization projects

- SME investment growth premium (Austria) as per Federal Statute on special subsidies to SMEs
- AWS ERP tourism programme
- AWS ERP small-loan programme
- AWS ERP SME and expansion programme
- AWS ERP regional programme
- AWS ERP technology programme

In any case detailed information should be obtained for the grant administration service in question before the project starts. For instance www.umweltfoederung.at

The Platform will be glad to provide further information on this subject:

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Responsibility for the Platform lies with ÖGUT (Austrian Society for Environment and Technology) and Energy Changes Projektentwicklung GmbH, who share the goal of developing pioneering facilities (financial instruments, regulatory measures and information campaigns) together with policymakers, so as to stimulate additional investment in sustainable energy systems in Austria. As part of this project a special crowd-investing platform for sustainable energy systems (www.crowd4energy.com) has been set up as a Horizon 2020 project; it was launched in February 2016, to run for three years.



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