



appear

Austrian Partnership Programme
in Higher Education and Research
for Development



**International
Partnerships
Austria**

appear.at

Programme Overview

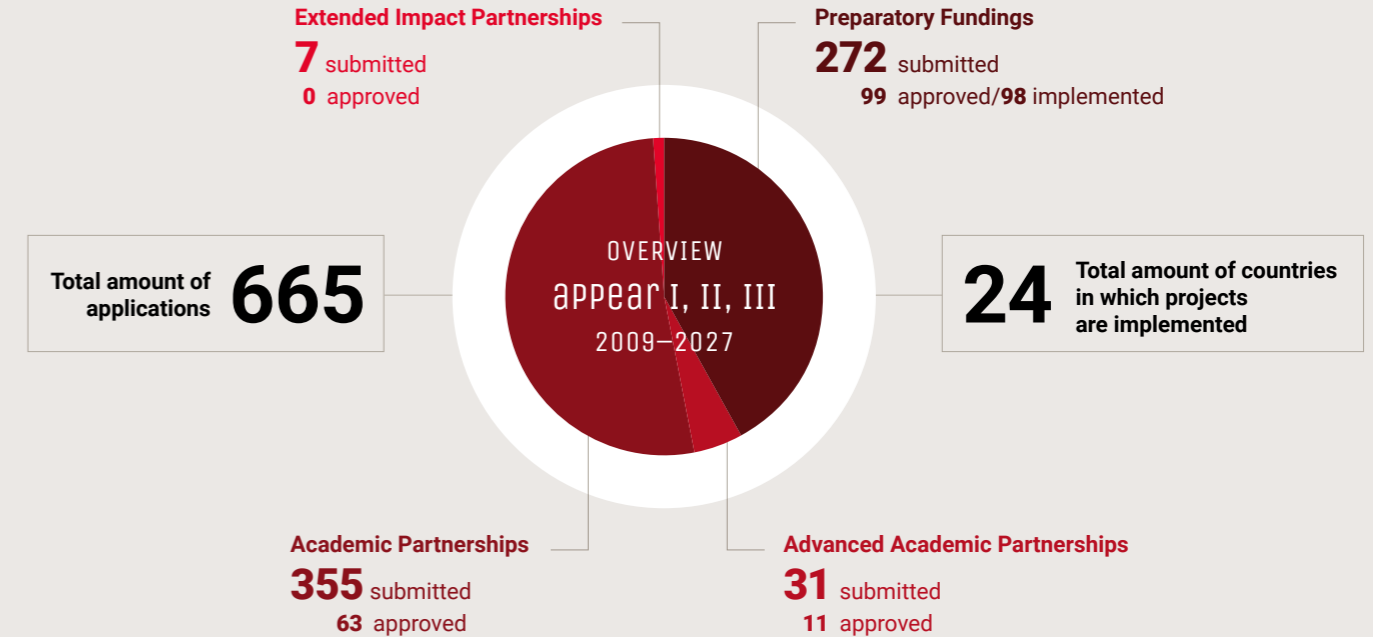
The overall objective of APPEAR is to strengthen scientific foundations and institutional capacities in higher education, research, and management at participating institutions. This is achieved through collaborative projects between Austrian higher education institutions and partner institutions, as well as through Master's and PhD scholarships. The programme also promotes the commitment of Austrian higher education institutions to development cooperation and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

APPEAR supports cooperation between higher education institutions and professionals in Austria and the partner countries to jointly develop innovative projects based on shared interests and local needs. These projects pursue clearly defined objectives and contribute

to improved standards in higher education, research, and management.

Since its launch in 2009, 665 projects have been submitted under four funding instruments. Preparatory Funding supports the development of Academic Partnerships, which form the core of the programme and focus on institutional development. Advanced Academic Partnerships and Extended Impact Partnerships build on completed projects by expanding or applying their results. Overall, 98 Preparatory Fundings, 63 Academic Partnerships, and 11 Advanced Academic Partnerships have been implemented.

APPEAR III, the third phase of the programme, with a budget of EUR 18.7 million is running from 2020 to 2027. Four calls for proposals have been launched.



APPEAR is funded by the Austrian Development Agency as part of International Partnerships Austria and is implemented by OeAD – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation.

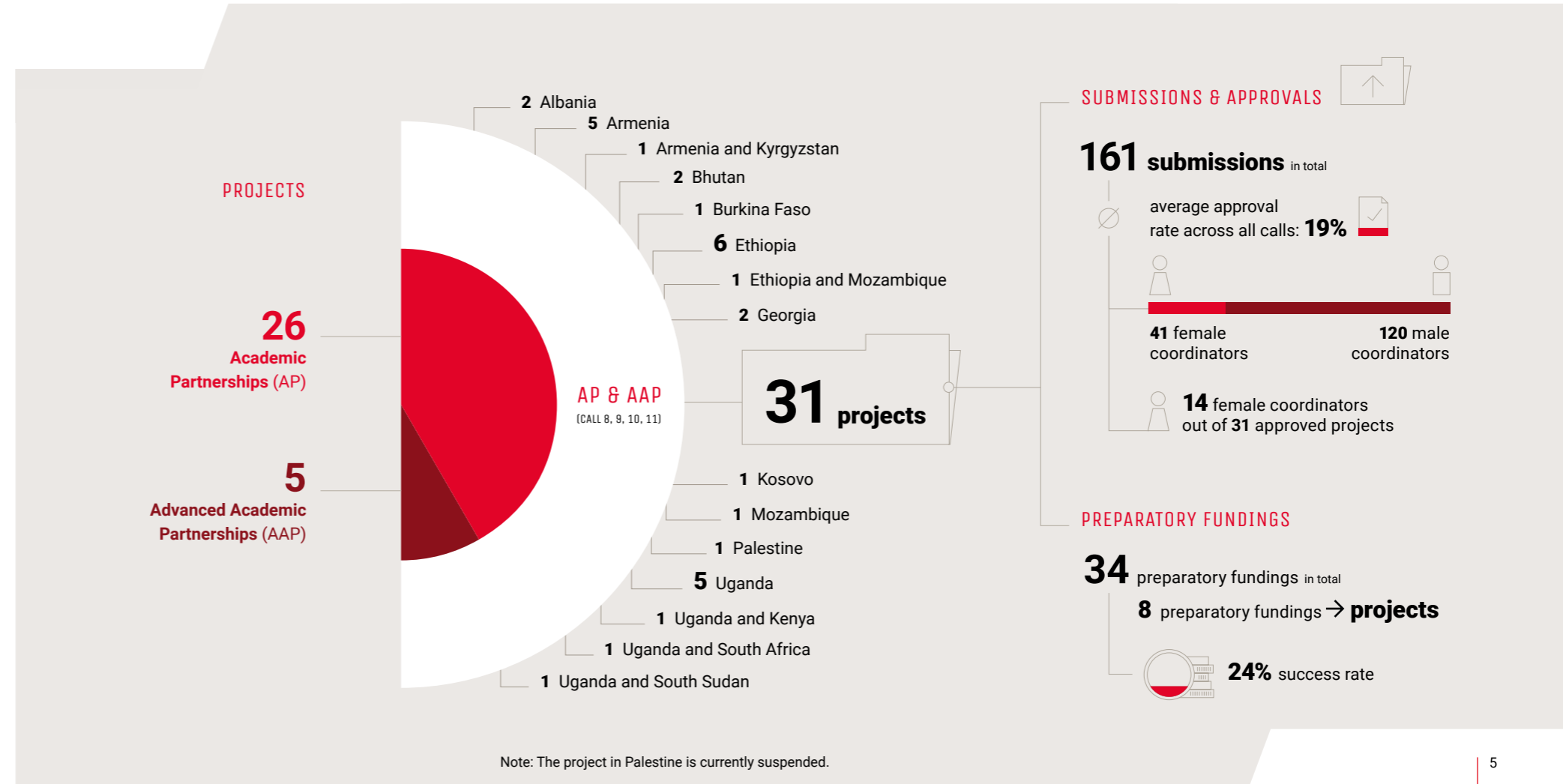
Projects APPEAR III

Interest in APPEAR has been and continues to be high. There is strong and sustained demand for the programme from both Austrian higher education institutions and academic institutions in the partner countries. Within APPEAR III a total of 161 project proposals were submitted under four calls.

Out of the 161 applications, 34 Preparatory Funding projects, 26 Academic Partnerships, and 5 Advanced Academic Partnerships were selected for implementation. 14 of the 31 (Advanced) Academic Partnerships are coordinated by women.

Preparatory Funding is a well-accepted instrument for establishing new contacts and supporting collaborations at an early stage. It allows partners to build a common understanding, develop coordinated approaches, and provides resources for preparing a joint project proposal. Of the 34 Preparatory Funding projects, 8 were subsequently selected for funding as Academic Partnerships.

All projects are carried out in cooperation between Austrian higher education institutions and institutions in one or more partner countries.



Project Countries

APPEAR is implemented in the priority countries and key regions of the Austrian Development Agency, located in Africa, South Asia, the Middle East, the South Caucasus, and South-East Europe.

The 31 (Advanced) Academic Partnerships within APPEAR III include collaborations with institutions in 10 of these countries. Institutions from a further 4 countries participate as associate partner institutions.

17 of the 31 projects are collaborations between Austrian institutions and institutions in African countries. A particularly high number of projects involve partnerships with institutions in Uganda and Ethiopia.

PROJECT COUNTRIES

Countries incl. associate partner countries	Number of projects
Albania	2
Kosovo	1
Armenia	5
Armenia and Kyrgyzstan	1
Georgia	2
Bhutan	2
Palestine	1
Burkina Faso	1
Ethiopia	6
Ethiopia and Mozambique	1
Mozambique	1
Uganda and Kenya	1
Uganda and South Africa	1
Uganda and South Sudan	1
Uganda	5

Note: The project in Palestine is currently suspended.

■ Associate partner countries ■ Partner countries



Guiding Principles and Coordination

APPEAR promotes a participatory approach to education and research, fostering reciprocal exchange and mutual learning. Partnerships are based on respect for diverse methodological and empirical approaches, different epistemological traditions, cultural contexts and forms of interaction.

The programme follows a demand-driven approach, requiring project proposals to clearly demonstrate the needs identified by the partners involved. It emphasises the targeted, practice-oriented use of results to ensure tangible impact.

APPEAR supports the advancement of women and the systematic integration of a gender perspective across all projects, while also promoting the inclusion of marginalised and underrepresented groups. In addition, the programme advocates open access to ensure free

and sustainable access to scientific publications.

APPEAR strengthens active participation by enabling project coordination and overall responsibility to be assumed by institutions in the partner countries rather than exclusively in Austria.

Institutions from the priority countries may take full responsibility for an APPEAR project, including submission, reporting, and the complete financial management and accounting of project funds. This opportunity has been well received, with growing interest over time. In APPEAR III almost half of the projects are coordinated by non-Austrian institutions. Overall, 42% of Academic Partnerships and Advanced Academic Partnerships have been or are led by the partner institution outside Austria.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Participatory approach

A concept of culturally open-minded knowledge

Practically and empirically oriented approach

Gender sensitivity

Bottom-up and demand driven approach

Leave no one behind

Open access – open data

OVERVIEW PROJECT COORDINATION

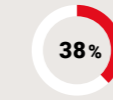
Number of (AP, AAP) projects

Coordination in partner country

21



PHASE 1

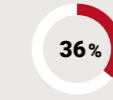


8

22



PHASE 2

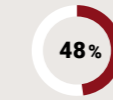


8

31



PHASE 3



15

74 projects

31

Scholarship Holders and Alumni

Students and professionals from the target countries receive scholarships to pursue Master's or PhD studies at Austrian higher education institutions. This supports the development of qualified staff who can actively contribute to improving teaching, research, and institutional management at their home institutions.

There are two types of APPEAR scholarships:

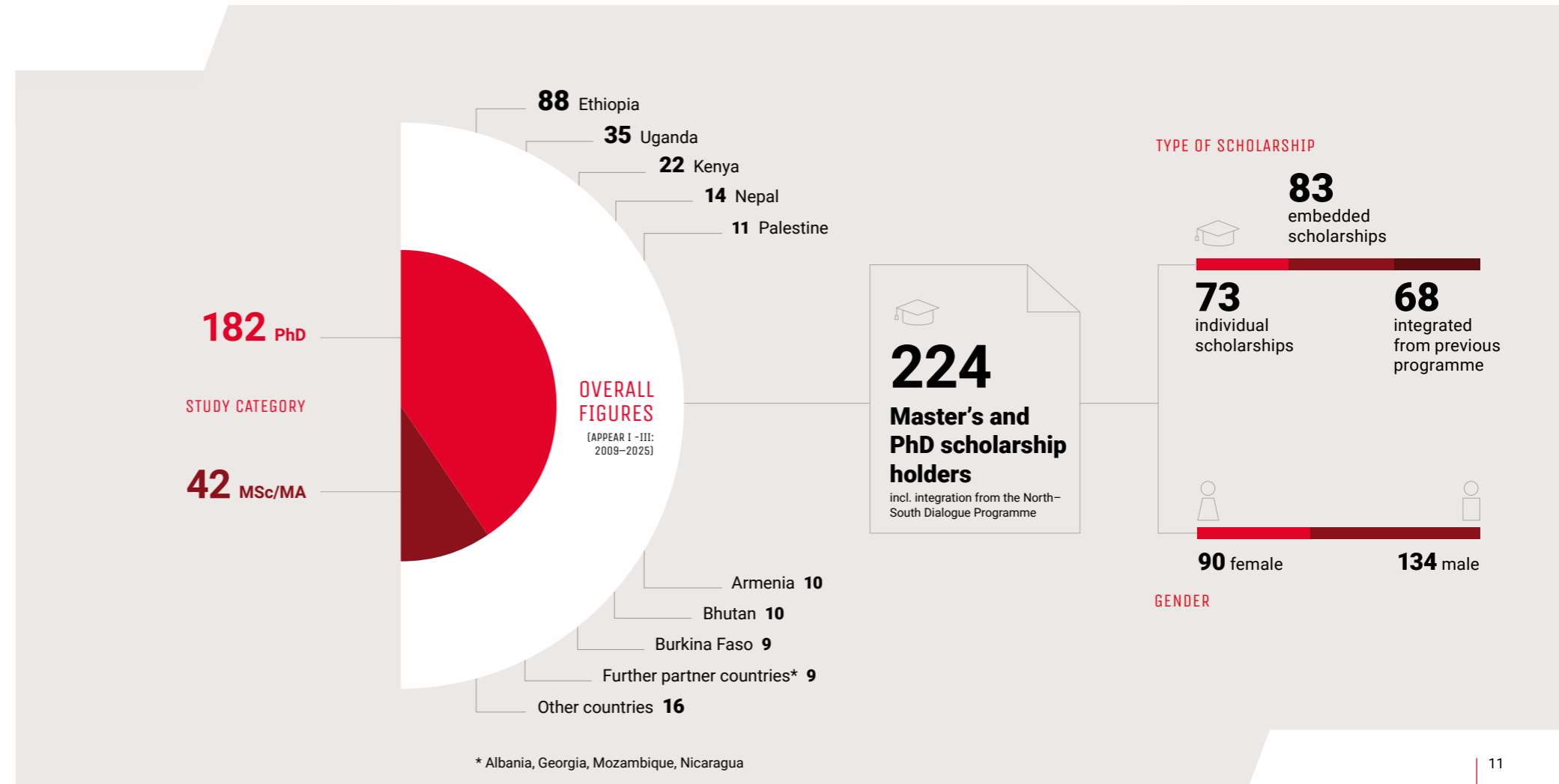
- Master's and PhD scholarships that are embedded in an ongoing APPEAR partnership.
- PhD scholarships that are individual, i.e. not embedded in an ongoing APPEAR partnership.

The applicants must be nominated by their home institution. The institution should confirm that the scholarship fits

its needs and supports the development priorities of the home country. It must also affirm that the applicant is currently employed and will return to their position after completing the scholarship. Field studies must be carried out in the applicant's home country.

APPEAR builds on the North-South Dialogue Scholarship Programme and has integrated scholars from this earlier phase.

Scholars and alumni are key multipliers for the programme. They actively initiate projects, share knowledge, and foster lasting connections between institutions in Austria and their home countries, strengthening teaching, research, and professional networks while contributing to sustainable collaboration.



Publications

APPEAR publishes a series of open access books documenting participatory knowledge production. Each volume explores methodological approaches, personal reflections, and practical experiences, highlighting lessons learned and critical perspectives.

While the first volumes focused on describing projects and partnerships, the latest volume emphasizes analytical reflections and narratives on collaborative knowledge production.



ALL VOLUMES

Open access via
the APPEAR website
appear.at



appear book series

APPEAR I

published by Böhlau Verlag, Wien

Participative knowledge production through transnational and transcultural academic cooperation



75 authors

13 partner countries



17 partnerships

APPEAR II

published by StudienVerlag, Innsbruck

New pathways towards participative knowledge production through transnational and transcultural academic cooperation



105 authors



46 female/**59** male



25 projects in 15 countries

APPEAR Metareflexions

published by StudienVerlag, Innsbruck

From transcultural and transdisciplinary university cooperation to critical epistemological analyses of knowledge production.

- personal reflections, learning experiences, personal impressions
- narrative and reflective approach
- No project descriptions, but analytical processing of different approaches to joint knowledge production.

Events and Radio Podcasts

Through APPEAR on air “Welt im Ohr”, the programme reaches wider audiences. Since 2011, over 220 podcasts have featured project staff, experts, and partner institutions, making development research accessible and engaging.

APPEAR also fosters visibility and exchange through events. Hands-on project presentations, alumni talks, country talks, university cooperation meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences bring together researchers, students, and practitioners, creating spaces for dialogue, networking, and the practical application of research.

appear on air
“WELT IM OHR”

Since 2011,

over **220** podcasts

on ORF Ö1-Campus/
Austrian Broadcasting
Cooperation



EVENTS & TALKS



APPEAR in Practice – hands-on project presentations

Alumni Talks – experiences and reflections of former APPEAR scholarship holders

Country Talks – insights from partner countries and local contexts

University Cooperation Meetings – transnational networking and knowledge exchange

Workshops, Seminars, Conferences – connecting researchers, students, and practitioners

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | **Editor & publisher:** OeAD-GmbH | Ebendorferstraße 7 | 1010 Wien/Vienna | Headquarters: Vienna | FN 320219 k | Commercial Court Vienna | ATU 64808925 | **Managing director:** Jakob Calice, PhD
Editor: Andreas Obrecht, T + 43 1 53408-0, appear@oead.at | **Graphic design:** reidinger-grafik.at
Photo: Andreas Melcher_BOKU | **Print:** Printing house Odysseus, Stavros Vrachorititis Ges.m.b.H., Himberg Vienna, May 2026

appear.at

 /OeadAlumni

 /OeAD.worldwide

 /oead.worldwide

 /company/oead-austria

 /TheOeAD

oead.at

oead.at/publications

presse.oead.at

oead.at/newsletter

oead.at/socialmedia



PEFC/06-39-302

Dieses Papier stammt aus nachhaltig
bewirtschafteten Wäldern und
kontrollierten Quellen.
www.pefc.at