

fteval Board and Management Team

2021

- 👤 **Chairwoman:** [Dr. Sonja Sheikh](#)
- 👤 **Vice-Chairwoman:** [Mag. Birgit Woitech](#)
- 👤 **Secretary:** [MSc \(WU\) Philipp Witibschlager, BA](#)
- 👤 **Treasurer:** [DI Dr. Sabine Mayer](#)
- 👤 **Managing Director:** [Dr. Klaus Schuch](#)
- 👤 **Coordinator:** [Mag. \(FH\) Isabella E. Wagner, MA](#)

Sonja Sheikh – Chairwoman



Sonja Sheikh is managing director of the Austrian Cooperative Research (ACR) since 2019. Before that she was deputy director of the Austrian Institute for SME Research. She is an expert of the Austrian research and innovation system, an expertise she gathered during her 20 years activity as evaluator of projects, programmes, and institutions of the national and European Research, Technology, Development, and Innovation Policy (RTDI-Policy). On a regular basis she acts as evaluator and juror for several research support programmes and prizes, among others for the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Houska Prize for SMEs of the B&C-Foundation.

Since 2019 Sonja Sheikh represents the ACR in the Board of Research Austria (FA) and since 2020 she is the official representative of Austria in the Board of the

European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO) based in Brussels. From 2006 till 2012 she was Member of the Board of the Platform fteval - Research & Technology Policy evaluation and from 2012 till 2019 she was Member of the Board of the DeGEval – Evaluation Society (Gesellschaft für Evaluation e.V.) with 850 members in the German-speaking countries. Since 2020 Sonja Sheikh is chairwomen of the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval).

Birgit Woitech – Vice-Chairwoman

As programme manager, **Birgit Woitech** has been in charge of the FWF's doctoral programmes since 2010. In addition, she is also responsible for the FWF's service business as well as research and economy-related activities. Prior to that, she worked for more than ten years at Joanneum Research, at the Institute for Technology and Regional Policy in Vienna. The focus of her work was broad; originally coming from labour market policy, the focus has increasingly shifted to gender, regional policy, research and technology policy. The interest in and involvement with evaluation was a unifying element across all content areas. During her time at Joanneum Research, she was actively involved not only in evaluation studies but also in the development of the fteval standards of evaluation and always followed the work of the platform with great interest. In her work at the FWF, the focus is now more on the evaluation of scientific projects and the continuous examination of review processes, quality criteria and standards. Since November 2020, she has been deputy chairwoman of the fteval platform.



Philipp Witibschlager – Secretary



Philipp Witibschlager studied Business Administration at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and Aston Business School in Birmingham (UK), specialising in strategic and innovation management. During his studies of Political Sciences, he focused on questions of political communication.

He has been working at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) since 2016, where he is responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating funding programmes for research and technology, such as COMET, Frontrunner, Seedfinancing or Green IP. In this role, independent and objective evaluations play a key role to engage in evidence-based research policy. As of spring 2020, Philipp Witibschlager is acting secretary of the Fteval platform.

Sabine Mayer – Treasurer

Sabine Mayer has gathered experience in the field of RTI policy implementation since 1996. Her background is a PhD in technical sciences, she studied Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Technology (Vienna). Having had responsibility for projects related to the development of regional incubators at a forerunner organization of FFG (The Austrian Research Promotion Agency), at FFG she was programme manager, she developed funding schemes on behalf of the responsible Austrian federal ministries, and has experience in European Framework Programme projects. She worked in the field of RDI policy evaluation 2008-2011 at the Austrian Institute for SME Research. Her current position is that of an expert at FFG's Strategy Unit. She was a member of Salzburg's science and research council 2011-2017. She represents FFG in several associations, i.a. in the Taftie network (The European Network of Innovation Agencies). Sabine Mayer is a member of the Executive Board of the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval).



Klaus Schuch – Managing Director



Klaus Schuch is expert on techno-globalisation, international R&I cooperation, R&I policies, and evaluation. Klaus is director and senior scientist at ZSI (Centre for Social Innovation), Austria.

Since May 2012, Klaus is also managing director of the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation.

Klaus is and was engaged in a large number of national and international projects. From 2009 to 2012 he analysed the Austrian R&I policy and its implementation under ERAWATCH and since 2015 he is national correspondent for the EC's R&I Observatory. In 2007 he was scientific expert of the CREST (now ERAC)

Working Group on internationalisation in S&T and in 2012 member of the external expert group of the European Commission to advice on the European R&I-internationalisation strategy. In 2016/2017 he was delegated to the ERAC Working Group on Impact Measurement. He is also Austrian delegate to the European RTD Evaluation Network and was member of the COST Scientific Committee (2016-2019).

Between 2006-2014 Klaus lectured 'monitoring and evaluation' and – as of 2014 – 'techno-globalisation' at the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna. He also taught

at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the Danube University Krems, the University of Applied Sciences Vienna and at the University Linz (topics: evaluation; regional technology policy; methods of empirical social research). He was lecturer in several international summer schools and taught evaluation in the post-graduate SOQUA-course addressing young social scientists. Klaus was engaged in a number of evaluations of RTI programmes at national and international level.

Isabella E. Wagner – Coordinator

Isabella E. Wagner works on aspects of strategic communication and effective cooperation in complexity. She joined the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in 2011 with her academic background in media management and science and technology studies as well as her interest in societal development. She is project coordinator for international cooperation programmes, evaluator for science, research and innovation policy and researcher for cooperation at many levels and across different spheres. In her recent work she analyses the requirements for a communication architecture supporting mission-oriented innovation funding programmes with the example of Austria's "City of the Future" programme. Since 2020 she coordinates the daily business at the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval).

