

Hanke: City of Vienna and Business Agency launch new OPE funding programme

- Adapted special funding provides boost for Vienna-based one-person enterprises
- More money and easier access

Vienna, 8 December 2021 – One-person enterprises are also being hit hard by the recently imposed lockdown. In light of this, the City of Vienna and the Vienna Business Agency are stepping up their efforts to provide assistance for one-person businesses in the Austrian capital. OPEs (one-person enterprises) looking to alter their business model or develop now have access to more funding with relaxed eligibility criteria. The new OPE funding programme will see funding increased to 10,000 Euros per project, with the funding rate rising to 60%. What's more, OPEs can receive consultation from the Vienna Business Agency starting now. Funding can be applied for starting on 1 January.

“The 65,000 one-person businesses across Vienna are the backbone of the city’s economy, which is why we have increased special funding for this type of company. One-person enterprises in Vienna can now receive more money, and perhaps more importantly, it’s now easier for them to access funding. In doing this, we hope to help make investments possible and make businesses more crisis-proof” said Executive City Councillor of Financial Affairs, Peter Hanke.

This funding programme is the first to be aimed exclusively at OPEs.

There are approximately 65,000 OPEs in Vienna. In collaboration with the Vienna Business Agency, the City of Vienna developed its own OPE funding programme especially for these businesses in April this year. The objective of the programme is to aid the protagonists of this economic sector in developing their business model and investing sustainably in the future of their business. In addition to project-related investments, funding will also be provided for the company's personnel costs, in other words, the working time of the OPE.

NEOS Economics Spokesperson Markus Ornic also reacted to the new programme:

“Vienna’s OPEs are essential in making the city’s economy more diverse and resistant to crises. To encourage more OPEs to invest in their future, we are incentivising our funding programmes and making them more accessible.”

The OPE funding programme in numbers:

The Vienna Business Agency has 10 million Euros in its fund ready to be allocated to OPEs across the city. So far, a total of 238 projects have received funding amounting to 1.36 million Euros. With the newly revised programme, funding has been increased from 7,000 to 10,000 Euros. In addition, funding will now be available until 2022, and the funding rate has been boosted to 60% (previously 50%). This means that, if a company invests 1,000 Euros, it will receive 600 Euros in funding. What's more, the minimum investment has been lowered to 1,000 Euros, meaning even small projects can receive financial backing. For more information, visit <https://viennabusinessagency.at/>

Contact for further enquiries:

Oliver-John Perry

Press Officer for City Councillor Peter Hanke

+43 1 4000 81330

oliver-john.perry@wien.gv.at

Ralph Waldhauser

Head of Communications NEOS Wien Rathausklub

+43 664 849 15 40

ralph.waldhauser@neos.eu

Uschi Kainz

Communications Vienna Business Agency

+43 699 140 86 583

kainz@wirtschaftsagentur.at