

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Research infrastructures have become an essential part of the research landscape and are rapidly gaining importance in times of ever-shorter technology cycles. The Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities GmbH (VBCF), a centralized research infrastructure at the Vienna BioCenter (VBC), was established in 2011 with generous funding from the federal government and the City of Vienna. VBCF was envisioned as a competitive infrastructure available to all researchers, thus providing a locational advantage to everyone on the VBC Campus.

The VBCF offers access to state-of-the-art equipment, scientific services, and expertise for academic and non-academic researchers in the Life Sciences. We systematically develop our portfolio to include the latest technologies and expert support in optical and electron microscopy, histology, mass spectrometry, high-throughput sequencing, model organism phenotyping, structural biology, protein production, and *Drosophila* research.

Our academic and non-academic customers can book all services at VBCF for a fee or operate various instruments themselves with guidance. We are proud that about 400 scientific publications are realized annually with our support. Most of our users are academics, including virtually all research groups on the VBC campus. This reflects that our services are an excellent fit for their research requirements. That said, biotech companies increasingly requested our services in recent years. This illustrates our constant efforts to tailor our provisions for economic and non-economic use.

In addition to the financial benefits of centralization, the establishment of the VBCF represents a cultural shift towards a central research infrastructure that leverages inter-institutional synergies and provides sustainable technologies, services, and expertise. These synergies benefit the entire VBC Campus and Austria as a research location, which underscores the integrative role of the VBCF and reflects the original intention of the funding bodies.

The renewed commitment to 10-year funding by the City of Vienna until 2030 underlines the success and importance of the VBCF as a competitive research infrastructure. Therefore, the VBCF constitutes a milestone in cost efficiency, transparency, and scientific excellence, which can serve as a model for modern and performance-oriented research infrastructures in Austria and beyond.

VBCF CORE FACILITY HEADS



EXCELLENT STAFF

- Expertise and consultancy on project strategy, study design and data analysis
- High flexibility and tailor-made solutions for your research question and model organism
- Access to infrastructure via fee-for-service or self-service after user training
- Cross-facility workflows for multi-modal sample analysis and in-depth study
- Collaboration with other RIs in Europe on technological trends and developments
- Regular benchmark studies for quality control of equipment and services

10 CORE FACILITIES

- Light & Electron Microscopy
- Histology
- Metabolomics, Proteomics
- Next Gen Sequencing
- Plant Sciences
- Preclinical Phenotyping
- Protein Technologies
- Drosophila Resource Center

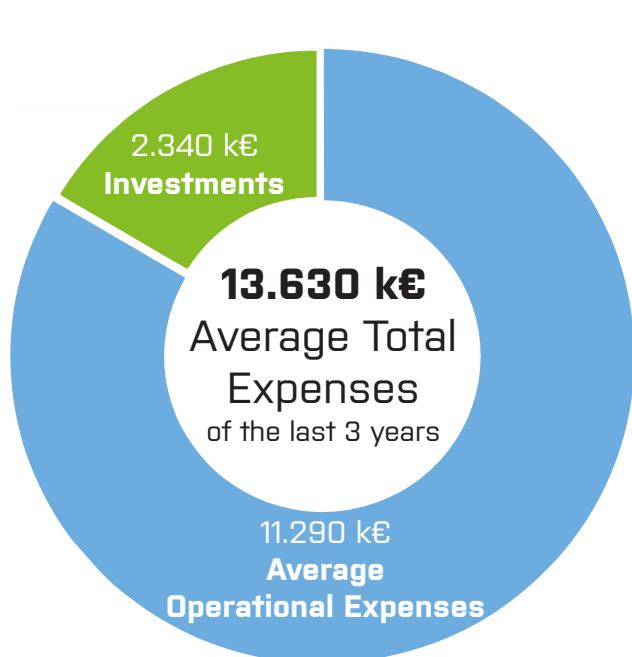
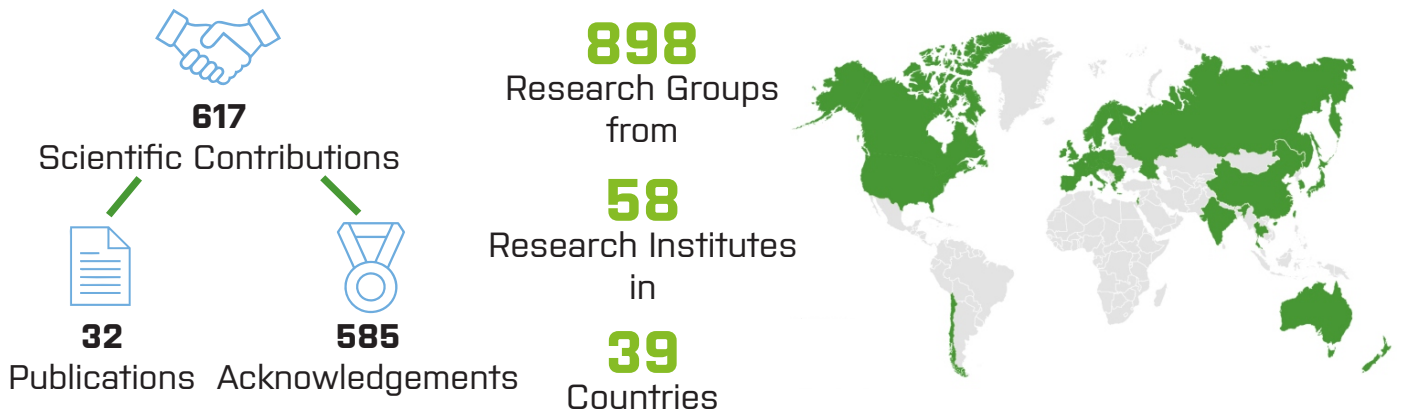
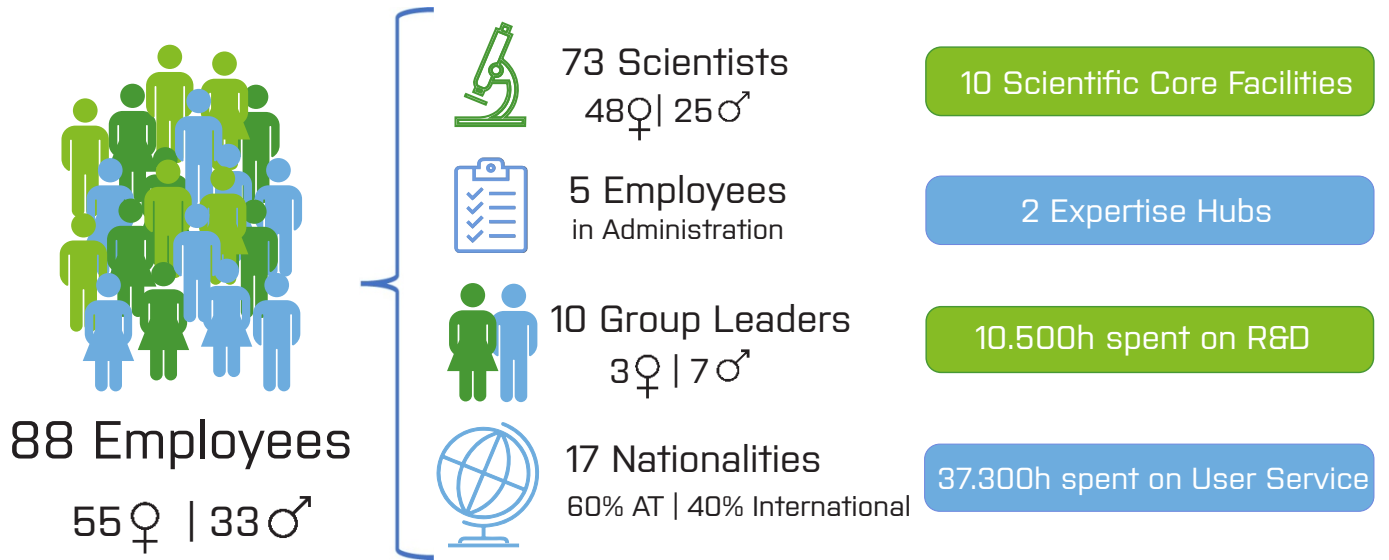
2 EXPERTISE HUBS

- Austrian Biolmaging
- Computational Biology Training

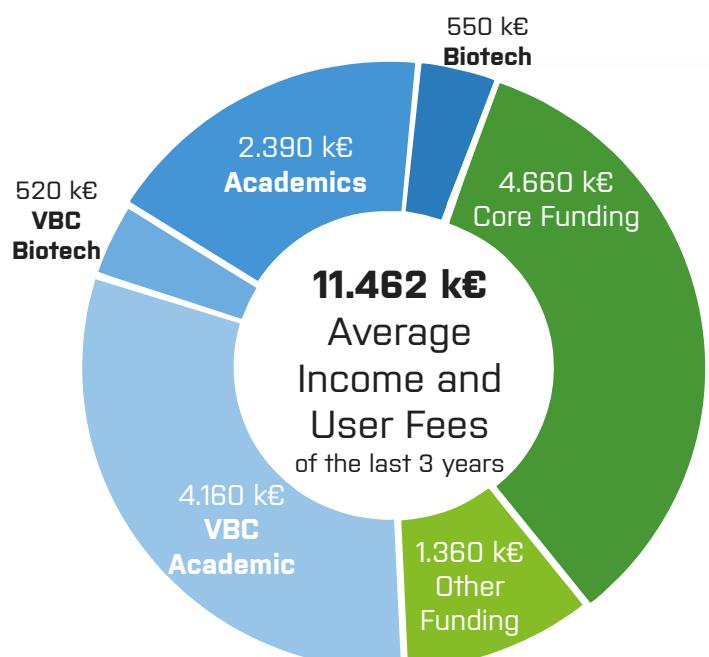
STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

- Latest [cryo]-TEMs
- Unique high-throughput plant phenotyping platform PHENOPlant
- State-of-the-art mass spectrometers for proteomics and metabolomics
- Illumina, PacBio and ONT high-throughput sequencing platforms
- Mouse phenotyping tests incl PhenoMaster, Intellicage and CatWalk
- Ultra-fast histological staining
- Protein production and biophysical characterization of proteins
- Extensive automation of sample preparations

VBCF FACTSHEET



Investments constituted 17% of the total expenses. VBCF Administration accounts for 7% of the total expenses.



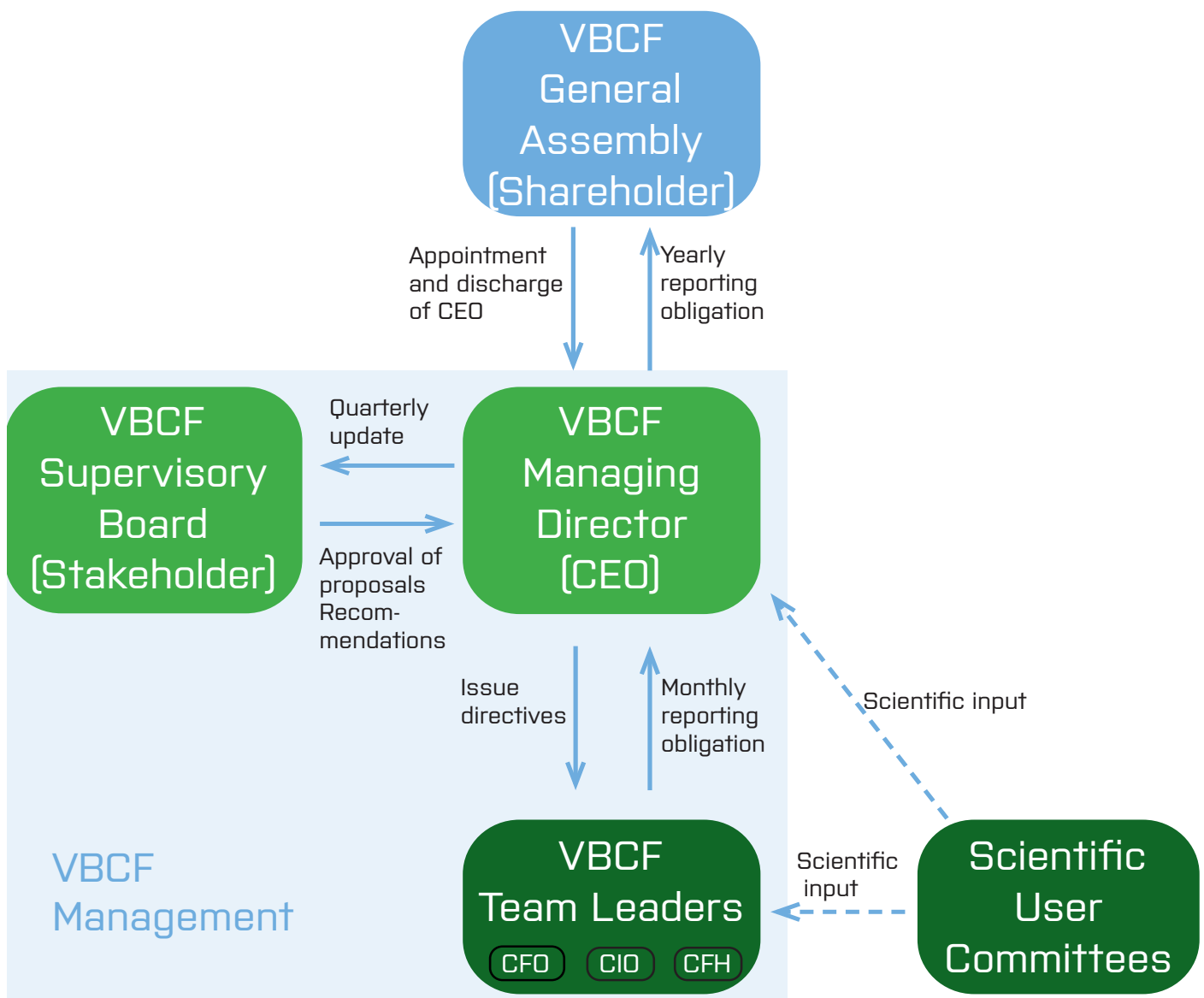
More than half of the expenses were covered by user fees from our customers. Public funds covered the rest.

VBCF GOVERNANCE MODEL

The Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities GmbH (VBCF) is a publicly funded, non-economic research infrastructure located at the Vienna BioCenter (VBC). Founded in 2011 as a joint venture of the major organizations at the VBC, the VBCF operates as shared research infrastructures to leverage economies of scale and increase the utilization of instruments.

As a registered company, we have a corporate governance structure and transparent decision-making processes. All major decisions must be approved unanimously by the supervisory board composed of delegates of our stake- and shareholders and our funders, the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, and the City of Vienna.

An essential part of the VBCF governance are scientific user committees comprised of key users and technology experts of the individual core facilities. The VBCF Managing Director provides quarterly updates to the Supervisory Board composed of delegates of all relevant parties at VBC Campus and yearly updates to the General Assembly.



CONTACT

Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities [VBCF]
<https://www.viennabiocenter.org/vbcf>
contact@vbcf.ac.at

