Austrian Society/Société Autrichienne
By Christoph Gnant, Elisabeth Lobenwein, Stefan Seitschek, Thomas Wallnig; June 2019
This report covers activities of the Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies [OGE18] from 2018 through the submission deadline of this report (June 2019).

I Organizational and strategic matters
The OGE18 was founded in 1982 and has c. 170 members. On November 30, 2018, a new board was elected which will remain in office until the end of 2020 (http://oege18.org/?page_id=18).
The OGE18 has voted for supporting the creation of an association helping the work of ISECS between the respective conferences.
The OGE18 is still dedicating specific efforts to the recruitment of colleagues at the beginning of their academic career. Also, a specific focus remains on targeted information exchange between national Eighteenth-Century Societies. The mid-term goal is to initiate and coordinate larger international and trans-regional grant proposals.

II Publications
Recently published yearbooks of the OGE18 include:

To be published later in 2019 with Böhlau:
Franz M. EYBL / Daniel FULDA / Johannes SUSSMANN (Hg.), Bündnisse: Politische, soziale und intellektuelle Allianzen im Jahrhundert der Aufklärung.

III Activities
Unlike other Societies, the OGE18 does not feature a regular series of lectures. However, it tries to reach its members through different formats of academic exchange instead, while, of course, also participating in the co-organization of talks, conferences and excursions.

In 2018, the OGE18 has presented itself again at an exhibition designed for first-grade university students in Vienna (Uni-Leben), and has thereby managed to recruit a substantial number of new members.

In order to convey hands-on knowledge about digital humanities research, the OGE18 has continued its series of “digital days”, an open exchange format for DH-oriented projects on the (long) eighteenth century (https://oege18.org/?cat=71). Such events were hosted by the local DH centers in Graz (January 2019) and Innsbruck (May 2019); the next “digital day” will take place in Salzburg.

Beyond these events, the OGE18 also (co-)organizes regular seminars for the discussion of pre-circulated papers (“jours fixes”) as well as reading groups concerned with fundamental texts on Enlightenment research (“Arbeitsgespräche zur Aufklärungsforschung”/ AGAF: https://oege18.org/?page_id=1769).
Moreover, the OGE 18 was involved in the organization of two major conferences: “The Querelle that Wasn’t? “Old” and “New” in the intellectual culture of Habsburg Europe, 1700–1750” (October 2018: https://oege18.org/?p=1847), and “Habsburg Rule and Representation 1700–1740” (March 2019: https://oege18.org/?p=2052).

Once a year, the OGE18 holds its annual meeting, called “Tag des 18. Jahrhunderts”, which usually includes book presentations, keynote lectures and other forms of reflecting and communicating the Society’s life. In 2018, the overall topic tied in with the Society’s current DH focus (https://oege18.org/?p=1924); the upcoming event will feature a high-profile panel discussion on the question “What is Enlightenment*”?

A detailed account of all OGE18 activities can be found on the website (www.oege18.org).

**IV Franz-Stephan Preis**
In late 2019, the OGE18 will publish a call for submissions to the “Franz-Stephan Preis”, an award designed to encourage excellent research by young scholars focussing on Central European topics of the eighteenth century. The evaluation process will be completed in 2020.