

AUSTRIA / SLOVAKIA

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ Programme) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2018-2019

CLOSING DATE: 1 August 2017

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovakia on Scientific & Technological Co-operation of 18 February, 2004” and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) and by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Aims of the Programme

- Funding researchers’ mobility in the frame of joint research projects to stimulate international research cooperation;
- Providing an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers, especially for early-stage¹, mid-career² as well as female researchers.

Areas of Cooperation

The Call is open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as humanities.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of max. two years from January 2018 until December 2019.

Who may apply?

AUSTRIA: Researchers working at universities, universities of applied sciences and other legal entities (e.g. higher education and research institutions, companies) planning to carry out a non-profit-oriented research project within the frame of this call are eligible for application.

Project proposals submitted by early-stage¹ or mid-career researchers² as well as project proposals with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage¹ and/or female researchers will be particularly considered.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. Follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be eligible for funding if they have already been funded under this programme.

SLOVAKIA: Project proposals can be submitted by any legal or natural person in science and technology in the Slovak Republic within all research and development sectors.

1. The Slovak Principal Investigator must be employed in applicant organization.
2. In this call one person is eligible to appear in role of the principal investigator (PI) just in one submitted proposal. In opposite case the Agency will not consider these proposals.

¹ Researchers with an experience up to 5 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

² Researchers with an experience of 5 to 15 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

How do I apply?

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. **Proposals must be submitted both in Austria (OeAD GmbH) and in Slovakia (SRDA)**. Proposals which have not been received in both countries will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding.

AUSTRIA: The entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at [https://asp.sop.co.at/oad/antrag?call=SK%202018_19]. The application must include the following documents (in PDF format):

- Brief academic CV for each **Austrian** project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institution
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and Slovakian)
- Further cooperation perspective

SLOVAKIA: Application must be submitted in electronic form using on-line system in Slovak and English language within the deadline on July 10, 2017 until 12:00. One original signed form should be delivered to the Agency at the latest by 16:00 on July 10, 2017, or sent by mail to the Agency address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mytna 23, P. O. BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava 32) with postmark latest on July 10, 2017.

After this deadline it is not possible to submit proposals and any such submissions will be formally rejected.

- a) Proposals must be submitted in specified form exclusively using on-line system within the call deadline.
- b) Proposal must be delivered in the paper form within the call deadline.
- c) Proposals must be submitted parallel by Slovak Principal Investigator (PI) in Slovakia and by Austrian PI in Austria and afterwards evaluated by the both sides.
- d) Proposal fulfils all the Specific call rules.

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers between the participating countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of scientists conducting joint research.

The sending state will pay the travel expenses whereas the accommodation expenses will be financed by the hosting state (and vice versa).

In Austria in well-justified cases and only within the granted maximum budget EUR 400.- per project may be applied for consumables (lump sum).

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for **collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides.

Funding Limits

AUSTRIA:

The total sum of **EUR 6,000.-** per project (**EUR 3,000.-** per project per year) can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: **EUR 200.-** per trip for Austrian researchers travelling to Slovakia (lump sum).*
* In case the travel costs are at 50% of the lump sum or below, only the actual costs will be refunded on the basis of provided travel receipts.
- Accommodation expenses: **EUR 100.- per day** for Slovak researchers travelling to Austria **for up to 14 days** OR **EUR 1,500. per month** for long-term visits **between 15 days and 3 months** maximum.

- Consumables: **EUR 400**. lump sum per project in justified cases as part of the granted maximum budget.

SLOVAKIA:

Maximum of **2 000 €/calendar year/project**; and **4 000 € for project duration**.

Eligible costs provided by the Slovak Research and Development Agency in the terms of bilateral cooperation must be in compliance with the Slovak Act No. 283/2002 Coll. on Reimbursement of Travel Expenses.

For Austrian investigators:

- Stay expenses and accommodation during the stay in Slovakia
- per diem allowances (according the national lawful rules)
- accommodation expenses (**maximum of 100 €/night**)
- travel expenses in Slovakia during the stay

For Slovak investigators:

- travel expenses for travels to/from Austria (the use of any means of transport is refunded up to maximum of an economy class air ticket price or train ticket [over 300 km 1st class express train], taxi fares shall only be refunded in extraordinary and relevant cases)
- health insurance during their stay in Austria
- during active participation in conferences, workshops, working meetings and other activities (research materials collection...) in Slovakia relevant to the project:
 - per diem allowances
 - accommodation expenses with **maximum of 100 €/night**
 - travel expenses in Slovakia
 - conference fees
- other relevant expenses connected to transportation services (visa fees, ...)

Please note:

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines
- Scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**.
- Research stays in both countries are **OBLIGATORY**.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date of the call indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project incl.
 - Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - Adequacy of the scientific method
 - Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved (max. 25 points)
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective (max. 15 points)

Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project proposals with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (5 points) or female researchers (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally. (max. 10 points)

Following national evaluation, a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the OeAD GmbH and the SRDA based on the results of the national evaluations. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Slovak Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by December 2017.

Projects follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the Austrian and the Slovak project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The final report must include a short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons. The final report will be made available to researchers within this programme in similar disciplines.
- Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from BMWFW and MESRS SR.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted by **10 July 2017**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the OeAD GmbH and the SRDA will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner countries in time.

Further information

In Austria	In Slovakia
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