

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / NORTH MACEDONIA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2024-2025**

CLOSING DATE: 13 June 2023 – 12:00 noon

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) is carried out in the frame of international agreements with selected partner countries with the aim to stimulate international research.

Thematic priority areas

Open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as humanities.

Target group

AUSTRIA:

- **Researchers** at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in areas of basic research
- **PhD/Doctoral students** (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding)

Minimum requirement for the Austrian Principal Investigator: PhD/doctoral degree

Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers¹ as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized².

Please note: Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme³.

NORTH MACEDONIA:

State universities in their science-focused units (science institutes) and in the units of science-based education (faculties), public science institutions, mixed science institutions, private higher education institutions, private science institutions, independent researchers and centers of excellence.

Conditions for participation: The research team of the research project should be consisted of a principal researcher, with a scientific or teaching title employed by the project holder and at least one other researcher with a scientific or teaching title, recorded in the databases of scientific researchers of the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as at least two young researchers, one of whom is an active graduate or doctoral student.

One researcher may be the lead researcher of only one domestic and one international research project funded or co-funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, and other conditions, in accordance with existing legislation.

Funding

Funding will be provided for the **mobility of researchers to carry out bilateral research projects.**

In Austria up to EUR 3,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for **project-related material costs.**

¹ *Researchers with an experience of up to 10 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family or health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).*

² *These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.*

³ *(Follow-up-) Applications of bilateral partnerships whose Principal Investigators already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.*

Project duration: 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2025.

Funding mode: The sending side covers the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its researchers.

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: max. EUR 10,000.- per project

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.⁴
- **Accommodation expenses:**
 - Researchers: **EUR 100.- per working day for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,400.- per month** for long-term stays **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum
 - PhD/Doctoral students: **EUR 100.- per working day for up to 12 days OR EUR 1,250.- per month** for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum.
- **Project related material costs:** max. EUR 3000.- as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁵

NORTH MACEDONIA:

Maximum funding: EUR 7,000.- per project.

Macedonian side will cover the travel and the accommodation costs of persons sent to Austria. Macedonian scientists and experts will be paid in accordance with the current Macedonian legislation for funding of bilateral projects with the budget in the amount of MKD 400.000 (equivalent of approximately € 7.000) per two years /per project.

Application process and content

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners in the respective country.

Applications must be submitted both in Austria to OeAD and in North Macedonia to the Ministry of Education and Science.

Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

⁴ Journeys of up to seven hours must be by bus or train. A subsidy for private car usage is only possible in exceptions and in accordance with the OeAD.

⁵ Only project-specific material costs will be reimbursed, that are essential to carry out the research project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure. Infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions cannot be funded.

AUSTRIA: Electronic application only [[web-link](#)].

Content: (in PDF format)

- Brief academic CV of each project member from the Austrian side including their academic status (early stage researchers, PhD/doctoral students)
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including methodology (about 3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions
- Brief description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and Macedonian)
- Further cooperation perspective

NORTH MACEDONIA:

Project proposals in all scientific fields must be submitted in two copies on forms prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science. Templates (OБ1 and Application Form for Call for Proposals) for submitting project proposals are an integral part of the Call (www.mon.gov.mk).

Evaluation criteria:

- **Scientific quality** of the proposed research project incl.
 - Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - Adequacy of the scientific method
 - Qualification of the scientists/research teams involved **(max. 25 points)**
- Perspective for **further joint cooperation activities** **(max. 15 points)**
- Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,
 - Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers²** (+10 points)
 - Or if **involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers²** (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points) **(max. 10 points)**

Maximum score: 50 points

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in North Macedonia, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian- Macedonian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by** December 2023.

Reporting and publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **Brief project progress report after one year** via the OeAD online tool as a precondition for further funding!
- **Final scientific and financial report** no more than 3 months after the end of the project incl.:
 - Output of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the application
 - Short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons⁶

Joint publications resulting from these cooperation projects have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia.

Intellectual property

The project partners 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 before **13 June 2023, 12:00 noon** to be eligible for funding.

Further information

In Austria	In North Macedonia:
OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of North Macedonia Department for International Cooperation
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⁶ This short report will be distributed to researchers within OeAD's WTZ-funding programme in similar disciplines to increase networking in the sector of international cooperation.