

AUSTRIA / BULGARIA

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ Programme)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2021-2023**

CLOSING DATE: 1 March 2021

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation, concluded in Vienna on 17 April 1969 and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science.

Aims of the Programme

- To stimulate international research cooperation by promoting the mobility of researchers to carry out joint research projects;
- To provide an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting to develop their international network and experience, 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.

Who may apply?

AUSTRIA: Researchers at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in the areas of basic research are eligible for application.

- Minimum requirement for the Austrian Principal Investigator is a PhD/Dr. degree
- Doctoral students can participate as project team members

Project applications submitted by early-stage¹ or mid-career researchers² as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage¹ and/or female researchers will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. (Follow-up-) Applications of bilateral partnerships whose Principal Investigators already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.

BULGARIA: Applicants eligible to participate in this project selection procedure are only the following entities:

1) Accredited universities as defined in Art.85 para.1, p. 7 of the Higher Education Act, which are accredited by NEAA to grant educational and scientific degree "doctor";

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).

2) Research organizations as defined in Art. 47, para 1 of the Higher Education Act, which are accredited by NEAA to grant educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Detailed eligibility conditions are described in the GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria, available at the web site of BNSF: www.fni.bg.

How do I apply?

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 BULGARIA (Bulgarian National Science Fund, BNSF)**. Applications which have not been received in time in both countries are not eligible 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 [[web-link](#)]. 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 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 Bulgaria)
- Further cooperation perspective

BULGARIA: Project proposals should be submitted as described in GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria. Documents for the call are available at the web site of BNSF: www.fni.bg.

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 provided for visits and the exchange of researchers conducting joint research.

Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

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

In Austria up to EUR 2,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for project-related material costs. 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.

Funding Modalities

Collaborative research projects will be supported for a period of two years from July 2021 to June 2023. Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Maximum funding: **EUR 8,000.-** per project

Eligible Costs:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers travelling to Bulgaria based on submitted invoices.³

³For travels up to seven hours bus and train shall be used. Travel by private car will be reimbursement with the value of a second class train ticket (proof of ticket price required).

- Accommodation expenses:
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Bulgarian **researchers** travelling to Austria **for up to 14 days** OR **EUR 1,400.- per month** for long-term visits **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum.
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Bulgarian **doctoral students** travelling to Austria **for up to 12 days** OR **EUR 1,250.- per month** for long-term visits **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum.
- Project related material costs: **max. EUR 2000.-** per project as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.

BULGARIA:

The total sum up **to 40 000 BGN** per project can be applied for.

The costs for mobility can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: for Bulgarian researchers travelling to Austria (actual cost of the trip in economy class but not exceeding 400 EUR).
- Accommodation expenses: EUR 100. per day for Austrian researchers travelling to Bulgaria for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,400. per month for long-term visits between 14 days and 3 months maximum.

Other eligible costs for Bulgarian team are described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria.

How are applications evaluated?

In Austria eligible project applications will be evaluated by recognized experts in the various fields of research represented by the applications received.

Evaluation 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 applications submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project applications 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)

Maximum score: 50 points

In Bulgaria eligible project applications will be evaluated as described in GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria.

Based on the results of national evaluations carried out in parallel in Austria and in Bulgaria a joint shortlist of evaluated project applications will be prepared by the OeAD and the BNSF. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Bulgarian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by June 2021.

Reporting and Publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory.

- A brief project progress report has to be submitted after one year via the OeAD online tool. Its approval is the precondition for further funding.
- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted 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 application.
- The final report must include a short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons. The final report will be made available to researchers within OeAD's WTZ-funding programme in similar disciplines.

Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and Bulgarian National Science Fund.

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 by **1 March 2021**. Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD and the BNSF cannot be held responsible for applications that were not received. Principal Investigators have to ensure that their research partners submit their applications in time.

Further information

In Austria	In Bulgaria
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