

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / BULGARIA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2023-2025**

CLOSING DATE: 31 January 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 (minimum requirement Dr./PhD degree)
- **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.

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";
- 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.

Funding

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

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

Project duration: 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2025.

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.

Funding mode: The sending side covers the travel expenses whereas the accommodation expenses will be financed by the hosting side (and vice versa).

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory as long as the COVID-19 situation allows travelling. Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: *max.* EUR 8,000.- 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 2000.- as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁵

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).
- 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 the Bulgarian team are described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria.

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 Bulgaria to the Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF). 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 Bulgarian)
- 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.

Evaluation criteria from Austrian side:

- **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 researchers**² (+10 points)
 - Or if **involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers**² (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points) **(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.

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Bulgaria, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian-Bulgarian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by** June 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 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 before **31 January 2023, 12:00 noon** to be eligible for funding.

Further information

In Austria	In Bulgaria:
OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation	BNSF - Bulgarian National Science Fund Bilateral and International cooperation
Ms Konstanze Pirker Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-471 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz	Mrs. Lyubomira Hristova Al. Stamboliyski Blvd., 239 B, 1309 Sofia Tel. +359 884 222 393 Email: l.gyneva@mon.bg Website: www.fni.bg

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.