

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

**CLOSING DATE: 16 May 2023 – 12 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 researchers<sup>1</sup> as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized<sup>2</sup>.**

**Please note:** Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme<sup>3</sup>.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:**

Researchers working at **research organization** in accordance with Art. 1.3 point. ee) Framework for State aid for research, development, and innovation (C(2022) 7388; 1.3, ff). Eligible research organisations are listed on this website: <http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/vyzkumne-organizace>.

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

**Minimum requirement for the Czech Principal Investigator:** PhD/doctoral degree; **for project members:** Master degree or equivalent.

**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**.

**Project duration: 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2025.**

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

<sup>3</sup> (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 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 8,000.- per project

#### **Eligible costs:**

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.<sup>4</sup>
- **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.<sup>5</sup>

#### **CZECH REPUBLIC:**

Maximum funding: **CZK 200,000** per project (**CZK 100,000** each year)

#### **Eligible Costs:**

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs incl. travel insurance for Czech researchers travelling to Austria: *max.* CZK 7,000 per 1 travel
- **Accommodation expenses:** Accommodation costs, incl. food expenses according to the rules set by Ministry of Finance CR for Czech researchers travelling to Austria:  
*max.* CZK 3,250 / per day for short-term stays (1 - 15 days)  
*max.* CZK 45,000 / per day for long-term stays (15 days - 3 months)

In **well-founded cases** directly connected with joint project activities – **particularly mentioned in the application** (e. g. joint project data collection in CZ; joint project activities carried out in the seat of other Czech participant of the project) appropriate economic **domestic travel and accommodation expenses** (travel, accommodation, food expenses) are also **eligible**.

#### **Application process and content**

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

**Applications must be submitted according to respective rules in each country simultaneously: to OeAD by the Austrian research team and to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports by the Czech research team.** Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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 Czech)
- Further cooperation perspective

**CZECH REPUBLIC:**

**Content:** The application must include the following documents –

- Application (with project description, including the methodology, description of the project tasks of all Czech project members; description of the partner institutions and further cooperation perspective) incl. Annex 1 (in PDF format)
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Czech side (in PDF or DOCX format)
- Brief academic CV for each Czech project member (in PDF or DOCX format)

The application for the research project in Czech (unless otherwise specified) shall be preferably submitted via **data box** (MEYS data box: vidaawt). There must be a notice: „VYZVA 8J24AT - NEOTVIRAT“ in the data box message, in the column *K rukám*, please, fill “*Oddelení 33*”. The forms and other information are available on <https://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/rakousko-1-1> (under the reference of the Call).

**Evaluation criteria in Austria:**

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

Maximum score: 50 points

## Evaluation criteria in Czech republic:

### **Scientific and practical value of the project**

- Definition of project solution goals and their reality
- Actuality, originality and importance of the project
- The potential for further cooperation in European or other international R&D support schemes and the expected contribution of the projected project results
- Methodological approach and the definition of the concept **(max. 40 points)**

### **Competence of the solution team**

- Professional qualities of the researcher and members of the project's research team
- Readiness of the researcher and members of the project's research team
- Involvement of young researchers in project solutions **(max. 30 points)**

### **Mobility requirements**

- Number of persons
- Number of stays **(max. 20 points)**

Maximum score: 90 points

(Note: for bilateral evaluation purposes will be the score adjusted:  $CZ(score)/1,8$  to max. 50 points)

## Funding decision

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

## Reporting and publications

In Austria 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 persons<sup>6</sup>

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

## 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

### Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted before **16 May 2023 – 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

### Further information

| <b>In Austria</b>  | <b>In Czech Republic:</b>   |
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| <p>OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation</p> <p><b>Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter</b><br/>Ebendorferstraße 7<br/>A-1010 Vienna<br/>Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:wtz@oead.at">wtz@oead.at</a><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.oead.at/wtz">www.oead.at/wtz</a></p> | <p>MEYS - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports</p> <p><b>Ms Šárka Borecká</b><br/>Karmelitska 529/5<br/>118 12 Praha 1 – Mala Strana<br/>Tel.: +420 234 811 359<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:sarka.borecka@msmt.cz">sarka.borecka@msmt.cz</a><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.msmt.cz">www.msmt.cz</a></p> |