

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

**CLOSING DATE: 26 May 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 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>.

**CROATIA:**

Higher education faculty (at least assistant professors) holding permanent positions at Croatian higher education institutions, and researchers (at least research assistants) holding permanent positions at Croatian scientific research institutes are eligible for application.

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

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

An acceptable applicant on the Croatian side needs to have an active project (as Principal Investigator or team member with a written consent of the Principal Investigator, the end of the project not before July 2025) financed by the central national body for the funding of scientific projects or an active project financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds, from Programmes of the European Union or by the home institution.

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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**

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.**

**In Croatia** up to EUR 1,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for **project-related material costs.**

The basic funding of the cooperation project must be provided on both sides.

**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 9,000.-** 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>

### **CROATIA:**

**Funding amount: max. EUR 7,000.-** per project (**EUR 3,500.-** per project per year)

#### **Eligible costs:**

- **Travel, accommodation and meals expenses:** **max. EUR 3,000.- per project per year** can be spent for travel, accommodation and meals of the Croatian research team members during their research stay in Austria in accordance with the Croatian national legislation.
- **Project related material costs:** **max. EUR 500.-** per project **in the first year** as part of the granted maximum budget. **In the second year**, after the report of the first year, additional **max. EUR 500.-** can be requested.

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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.

## **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 Croatia to the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia.** Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

**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 Croatian)
- Further cooperation perspective

### **CROATIA:**

The application for the research project must be submitted in print by regular mail (and additionally scanned by e-mail) in Croatian or English language (optional).

**Content:** (in PDF format)

- Brief academic CV of each project member from the **Croatian** side including their academic status
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Croatian** side
- Project description including methodology (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institution
- Brief description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and Croatian)
- Further cooperation perspective
- Proof of active project; written consent of PI

### **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 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

On the Croatian side, national evaluation criteria for bilateral projects will be applied.

## Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Croatia, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian-Croatian 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 persons<sup>6</sup>

Scientific and financial reporting on the Croatian side takes place according to national rules.

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 Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia.

## 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 **26 May 2023, 12:00 noon** to be eligible for funding.

## Further information

<b>In Austria</b>	<b>In Croatia:</b>
OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation  <b>Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter</b> Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472 Email: <a href="mailto:wtz@oead.at">wtz@oead.at</a> Website: <a href="http://www.oead.at/wtz">www.oead.at/wtz</a>	Ministry of Science and Education Independent Sector for European Affairs and International Cooperation  <b>Ms Marija Crnić</b> Donje Svetice 38 HR-10000 Zagreb Tel.: +385 (0)1/ 4594 -353 Email: <a href="mailto:marija.crnica@mzo.hr">marija.crnica@mzo.hr</a> Website: <a href="http://www.mzo.hr">www.mzo.hr</a>

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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.