

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)  
AUSTRIA / SERBIA  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2024-2026**

**CLOSING DATE: 5 December 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 public 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. Follow-up applications of already funded partnerships are not eligible.

A maximum of two projects can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

**SERBIA:**

- **Researchers** in teaching, scientific and research positions who are employed in institutions of higher education and scientific research organizations in accordance with the Law on Science and Research ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 49/19, hereinafter: the Law) and participate in the implementation of the Institutional Financing Program or other programs of general interest in accordance with the Law.
- **Young researchers** meets the following conditions: have been selected for a research or scientific title or an equivalent title in higher education; the PhD title, have obtained a maximum of 10 years of research work, before the closing date of the public call and are employed in an accredited scientific research organization.

**Please note:** Within this call, it is possible to apply in only one project (either as a Principal Investigator or as a participant).

**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.**

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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.

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

**Project duration:** 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2026.

**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>3</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>4</sup>

#### **SERBIA:**

**Funding amount:** *max.* EUR 4,000.- per project

#### **Eligible costs:**

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.<sup>5</sup> reimbursement of travel expenses by private car will be made on the basis of the Law on the Use of an Official Vehicle.
- **Accommodation expenses:**
  - Researchers and Young 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**

#### **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 Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and in Serbia to NITRA.** Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

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<sup>3</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>4</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.

<sup>5</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.

**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 Serbian)
- Further cooperation perspective

**SERBIA:** The application for the research project must be submitted in English and Serbian languages online: <https://bilateral-austria.nitra.gov.rs/>

**Content:**

- Serbian institution, Brief academic CV for each Serbian project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 5 years on the Serbian side
- Austrian institution, Brief academic CV for each Austrian project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Austrian side
- Project description
- Objectives
- Methodology
- List of project task and activities
- Expected project results and further cooperation perspective
- Bibliography, max 5 publications relevant to the project

**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 Serbia:

- **Quality and scientific relevance** (max. 10 points)
- **Importance and attainability of the proposed goals** (max. 10 points)
- **Compatibility of the methodology and the plan of activities** (max. 10 points)
- **Achievements and the applicability of the results** (max. 10 points)
- **Perspective for further joint cooperation and participation of the Serbian young researchers** (max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

### Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Serbia, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian – Serbian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by June 2024**.

### Reporting and publications

In Austria and Serbia 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!
- **Brief project progress report after one year** , delivered to NITRA 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 Serbian Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation.

### 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 **5 December 2023 – 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

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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.

### Further information

In Austria	In Serbia
<p>OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation</p> <p><b>Ms Snezana Omic</b> 22-26 Nemanjina Str., Belgrade Republic of Serbia ☎: +381 11 3616 589 ✉: <a href="mailto:snezana.omic@nitra.gov.rs">snezana.omic@nitra.gov.rs</a> Website: <a href="http://nitra.gov.rs">nitra.gov.rs</a></p>