AUSTRIA / CZECH REPUBLIC

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
(WTZ Programme)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2021-2022

CLOSING DATE: 15 May 2020 (12:00 noon)
Extended deadline: 5 June 2020 (12:00 noon)


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-stage\(^1\), mid-career\(^2\) 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. Minimum requirement for project members is a Master degree or equivalent.

Project applications submitted by early-stage\(^1\) or mid-career researchers\(^2\) as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage\(^1\) and/or female researchers will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

Please note that two-year joint research projects implemented by the same investigation teams shall be supported in two consecutive calls as a maximum. A four-year period is considered to be sufficient for partner institutions to make contacts and promote cooperation in order to create a joint investigation team and prepare a project to be funded from other financial sources.

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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).
CZECH REPUBLIC:

Research organisations according to Art. 1.3. (ee) of the Communication from the Commission – Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01). Minimum requirement for the Czech Principal Investigator is a PhD/Dr degree. Minimum requirement for project members is a Master degree or equivalent.

Please note that two-year joint research projects implemented by the same investigation teams shall be supported in two consecutive calls as a maximum. A four-year period is considered to be sufficient for partner institutions to make contacts and promote cooperation in order to create a joint investigation team and prepare a project to be funded from other financial sources.

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-GmbH and in the Czech Republic to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. 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 Czech Republic)
- Further cooperation perspective

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The application for the research project must be made in Czech using the forms available on the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS): www.msmt.cz. The application with all the required annexes must be submitted in one data message via the data box of MEYS vidaawt according to the requirements stated in the call announced by MEYS.

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 scientists 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 may be requested, 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 max. two years from January 2021 until December 2022.

Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.
**AUSTRIA:**

Maximum funding: **EUR 7,000.-** per project

Eligible Costs:
- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers travelling to the Czech Republic based on submitted invoices.\(^3\)
- **Accommodation expenses:** **EUR 100.- per working day** for Czech 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.
- **Project related material costs:** **max. EUR 2000.-** per project as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:**

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

Eligible Costs:
- **Travel expenses for Czech researchers travelling to Austria:** max. CZK 7,000 per 1 travel
- **Subsistence allowances** for Austrian researchers travelling to the Czech Republic:
  - CZK 2,000 / day for short-term stays (1 - 15 days)
  - CZK 30,000 / day for long-term stays (1 - 3 months)
  - CZK 1,000 / day for stays of 16 days to 1 month

**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

Based on the results of national evaluations carried out in parallel in Austria and in the Czech Republic a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the OeAD-GmbH and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Czech Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by December 2020.

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\(^3\) For 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).
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 GmbH 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 the Czech Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport.

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 15 May 2020. Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD-GmbH and the Czech competent authorities 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

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<tr>
<th>In Austria</th>
<th>In Czech Republic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for international Cooperation in Education and Research)</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Department for Funding of International R&amp;D Programmes</td>
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</table>
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