

AUSTRIA / SLOVAKIA
SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ Programme)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2021-2022

CLOSING DATE: 1 December 2020, 12:00 noon

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovakia on Scientific & Technological Co-operation of 18 February, 2004” and funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

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-stage¹, mid-career² 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
- Doctoral students can participate as project team members

Project applications submitted by early-stage¹ or mid-career researchers² as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage¹ and/or female researchers will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. (Follow-up-) Applications of bilateral partnerships whose Principal Investigators already received funding from this programme to carry out a joint project are not eligible.

SLOVAKIA:

Researchers at Slovak legal entities or a Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs who hold valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and who are submitting an application for funds to solve the project. The Project for which the applicant requests funds comprises a part of the Application.

Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team with regard to the

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).

involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff will be taken into account during the evaluation process.

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 Slovakia to the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA).** 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.

In **Slovakia** applications for joint projects on both sides must include a “Future Cooperation Agreement”, which commits the research teams to collaborate on the joint project.

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 Slovakian)
- Further cooperation perspective

SLOVAKIA:

Applications shall be submitted in Slovak and English electronically through the electronic application system available on the SRDA website www.apvv.sk and at the same time written in accordance with the instructions set forth by the Slovak public call SK-AT 2020.

Applications for joint projects from Slovakia must include a “Future Cooperation Agreement”, which commits the research teams to collaborate on the joint project.

The application must include the following information:

- Brief academic information for Slovak PI and list of other project members
- List of relevant Slovak PI publications or important research results of the last 5 years
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions
- Short description of the project tasks of ALL project members
- Further cooperation perspective

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 researchers conducting joint research.

Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

The sending side will cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its own researchers.

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 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.

In **Slovakia** other expenses represent the costs of project-related material and / or services of at least EUR 100,-- and at the same time, they may not exceed 20% of the total project costs provided by SRDA in each financial year.

Funding Modalities

Estimated **14** collaborative research projects will be supported for a period of max. two years from April 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 Slovakia based on submitted invoices.³
- Accommodation expenses:
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Austrian **researchers** travelling to Slovakia **for up to 14 days** OR **EUR 1,400.- per month** for long-term visits **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum.
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Austrian **doctoral students** travelling to Slovakia **for up to 12 days** OR **EUR 1,250.- per month** for long-term visits **between 12 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.

SLOVAKIA:

Eligible Costs:

1. Travel and subsistence costs: Costs spent on domestic and foreign business trips, made on the territories of Slovakia and the partner country, which are demonstrably related directly to the project solution related exclusively to the Slovak nominal research team members up to the amount as entitled under Act No. 283/2002 Coll. as follows:

- a) travel costs (travel tickets, air tickets, use of service vehicles, fuel and the necessary costs of transporting by taxi in justified cases);
- b) accommodation costs;
- c) subsistence costs;
- d) documented necessary extra costs (visa, conference fees, travel health insurance abroad, tolls/fees and parking fees demonstrably related to the business trip covered within the project solution, compulsory and recommended vaccination, etc.).

2. Other expenses: Costs of project-related material and / or services of at least EUR 100,-- and at the same time, they may not exceed 20% of the total project costs provided by SRDA in each financial year.

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

In **Slovakia** eligible project applications will be evaluated by recognized experts in the various fields of research

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).

represented by the applications received.

Evaluation criteria (Maximum score: 100 points):

- Timeliness and scientific nature of the objectives and originality of the research intent (0 – 20 points)
- Timetable of solving the research intent and relevance of the activities with regard to the character of the call (0 – 10 points)
- Significance and justification of the international bilateral co-operation in solving the research intent (0 – 25 points)
- Benefits of the international bilateral co-operation and research intent (0 – 25 points)
- Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team with regard to the involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (0 – 20 points)

Based on the results of national evaluations carried out in parallel in Austria and in Slovakia joint shortlist of evaluated project applications will be prepared by the OeAD and the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA). The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Slovakian Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by March 2021.

Reporting and Publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory.

In Austria:

- A brief project progress report has to be submitted after one year via the OeAD 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.

In Slovakia:

Scientific and financial reporting on the project will be set forth in the contracts concluded with successful applicants.

Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Slovak Research and Development Agency Ministry

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 **1 December 2020 – 12:00 noon**. Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD and the Slovakian 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

In Austria	In Slovakia
<p>OeAD - Austrian Agency for international Cooperation in Education and Research Department International Cooperation in Higher Education - Mobility Programmes, Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation</p> <p>Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Division of Science and Technology Department of International Cooperation in Science and Technology</p> <p>Mgr. Andrea Danková Stromová 1 813 30 Bratislava Tel.: +421 2 5937 4715 E-mail: andrea.dankova@minedu.sk http://www.minedu.sk</p>