

AUSTRIA / ALBANIA
SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ Programme)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS in 2021-2023

CLOSING DATE: 22 January 2021, 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 Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Scientific and Technological Co-operation of May 2, 2012 and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and by the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI).

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.

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).

ALBANIA:

The researchers from Albania participating in this Programme, should be Researchers that are part of a research institution; early-stage or mid-career researchers as well as project proposals with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early stage and/or female researchers. All of the researchers should find ground of support based on the Law for Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Albanian Republic, No. 80/2015, specifically Article 24; 26; 93; 95.

Criteria which have to be fulfilled for application in this Programme are new international partnerships. Follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be eligible for funding if they have already been funded under this programme.

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 and in Albania to the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI).** 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 Albanian)
- Further cooperation perspective

ALBANIA:

The entire application for the research project must be submitted in Albanian and in English and will have to be submitted in hardcopy in the premises of The National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation. Address: Str. Papa Gjon Pali i II, No. 3, Tiranë 10101, ALBANIA.

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.

Funding Modalities

Collaborative research projects will be supported for a period of two years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Maximum funding: **EUR 9,000.-** per project

Eligible Costs:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers travelling to Albania based on submitted invoices.³
- Accommodation expenses:
 - **EUR 100.- per working day** for Austrian **researchers** travelling to Albania **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 Albania **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.

ALBANIA:

The total sum of **EUR 8,000.-** per project (**EUR 4,000.-** per project per year) can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: Per each trip of Albanian researchers travelling to Austria the travel tickets will be acquired case by case, respecting the national rules and regulations of public procurement.
- Accommodation expenses:
For Albanian researchers/scientists/students/graduates/experts travelling to Austria, NASRI will pay a daily allowance and the accommodation costs of persons sent according to national financial rules.

Please note:

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines
- Scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**
- Research stays in both countries are **OBLIGATORY**

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

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).

ALBANIA:

- The importance and scientific value. (max. 32 points)
- The stand of the scientific proposition of the project (max. 15)
- The value of the project in terms of originality; innovation and application on both countries (max. 14)
- Methodology (max. 10)
- Planning and feasibility (max. 4)
- Budgeting (max. 9)
- Experience and staff specialization in the research field of interest (max. 10)
- The evaluation of the documents requested for application (max. 6)

Based on the results of national evaluations carried out in parallel in Austria and in Albania joint shortlist of evaluated project applications will be prepared by the OeAD and the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI). The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Albanian Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

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

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 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 National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI).

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 **22 January 2021 – 12:00 noon**. Applications received after this date are not eligible for funding.

Please note that the OeAD and the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) 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 Albania
<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>National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation</p> <p>Ms. Mirela MUCA General Director Tel: +355 4 2222409 Mob: +355 69 20 86 815 Fax: +355 4 2222409 Email: mirela.muca@nasri.gov.al Website: www.nasri.gov.al</p>