

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / ALBANIA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2026-2028

CLOSING DATE: 6th November 2025 – 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 areas

Open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as humanities.

Target group

AUSTRIA:

- **Researchers** at higher education institution (minimum requirement PhD degree) and researchers at non-university research institutions in areas of basic research (minimum requirement Master degree)
- **PhD/Doctoral students** as team members only (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding)

Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers¹ as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized².

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.

ALBANIA:

- Any researcher (minimum requirement PhD degree) who is part of an institution (public or private) that has scientific research as its object of activity can submit a project proposal within the framework of bilateral calls.
- PhD and MSc students can be part as team members but are not eligible for funding.

All 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.

The main objective that must be fulfilled to apply to this Programme is the collaboration with a new international partner.

Applicants cannot submit the same project proposal that they have submitted to other calls announced by NASRI.

Please note:

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 on time in both countries are not eligible for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore the application does not guarantee funding. More detailed criteria will be published by NASRI in the general guide for Albanian researchers.

¹ 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).

² These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

Funding

Funding will be provided for the **mobility of researchers to carry out bilateral research projects**.

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

Project duration: 1st July 2026 until 30th June 2028

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

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

In accordance with the Austrian University law, UG 2002 §26 (5) the funding will be transferred to an account managed by the institution. The reimbursement of all project-related expenses will be handled by the Austrian Principal Investigator.

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: min EUR 5.000, max EUR 10.000, per project over two years

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:**
up to max EUR 1.200 Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.³
- **Accommodation expenses:**
EUR 120.- per working day for up to 12 days OR
EUR 1.440.- 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.⁴

ALBANIA:

The total grant that can be awarded will be 8.000EUR - per project, (EUR 4.000 - per project per year).

The funds will 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 of public procurement.
- **Accommodation expenses:**

For Albanian researchers travelling to Austria, NASRI will pay a daily allowance, and the accommodation costs for each member of the team, 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

³ 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.

⁴ 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 Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and in Albania to NASRI. Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

AUSTRIA: Electronic application only [web-link](#)

Content:

- Brief academic CV of Principal Investigator incl. academic status (early-stage researchers) and language skills
- Abstract
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years Austrian PI
- Project description including methodology (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions (incl. reason of choice of cooperation partner)
- Brief description of the project tasks of ALL project members (Austrian and partner incl. their academic status PhD students/researcher and their competence in Austria) and project timeline (template)
- Further cooperation perspective
- Brief description: monitoring, exit strategy, added value for home institution and Austria
- Detailed budget plan (template)

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. "Naim Frashëri", No. 37, 1023, Tirane, ALBANIA.

Content:

- Project proposal form that will contain: General information about partner institutions and researchers, general description of the project, experience of the foreign and Albanian team in the field of the proposed project, methodology and proposed rationale purpose and objectives, expected achievements and benefits.
- CVs of both working groups from both countries, In English and Albanian.
- 1(one) covering letter from the Rector (HEI)/head of the institution (NGO, etc.).
- A detailed budget plan and a Calendar of Activities.

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 researchers**(max. 25 points)**
- **Perspective for further joint cooperation activities** **(max. 10 points)**
- **Added value for the institution and Austria, monitoring, exit strategy** **(max 5 points)**

- Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,
 - Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers² (+10 points)**
 - Or if **involving doctoral students** (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points)
(max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

Evaluation criteria in 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);

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Albania, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian – Albanian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by** end of June 2026.

Reporting and publications

In Austria 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 later than 6 weeks 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 persons⁵
 - Financial report

In Albania:

Each project manager, at the end of the first and the second year of the project implementation, is obligated to submit to NASRI all the necessary documented data, for the:

- the scientific report, along with the summary of all the realized objectives of the project. In this report is important also attaching all the evidence for the activities carried out (scientific data, photos, agenda, nominal invitation, etc).
- the financial report: documented financial expenditures of all team members along with the document of the detailed list of expenses.

Joint publications resulting from these cooperation projects have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and NASRI.

⁵ 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.

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 **6th November 2025 – 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

Information for application in Austria:

OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter
Ebendorferstraße 7
A-1010 Vienna
Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472
Email: wtz@oead.at
Website: www.oead.at/wtz

Information for application in Albania:

AKKSHI- National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation

Ms Mirela Muca
General Director
Rr. Naim Frashëri, Nr. 37
Tirana, Albania
Tel: +355 692086815
Email: info@nasri.gov.al
Website: www.nasri.gov.al