

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / BULGARIA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2027-2028**

CLOSING DATE: 9 June 2026 – 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.

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 January 2027 until 31st December 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.

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.*

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: min. 5,000 Euro, up to 11,000 Euro per project over two years

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:**
up to 1.200 Euro Travel costs (economy class) per return trip will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.³
- **Accommodation expenses:**
130 Euro per working day for up to 12 days OR
1,560 Euro per month for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum
- **Project related material costs:** **up to 3,000 Euro** as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁴

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 Bulgaria to Bulgarian National Science Fund by using <https://enims.egov.bg/>

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 from the last 2 years by the Austrian project coordinator (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)

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.

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

Funding decision

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

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

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– **12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

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.

Information for application in Austria:

OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

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Information for application in Bulgaria:

Bulgarian National Science Fund

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