

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

CLOSING DATE: 28th November 2025 - 12 noon

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) is carried out in the frame of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of Montenegro on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (2009), with the aim to stimulate international research cooperation.

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.

MONTENEGRO:

- Public or private research organizations **licensed** by the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro.
- Minimum requirement for the Montenegrin **Principal Investigator**: PhD/doctoral degree.
- Minimum requirement for **project team members**: Master's degree or equivalent.

Project applications submitted by **Principal Investigators who are early-stage researchers³**, as well as project applications with **involvement of PhD/doctoral candidates** and/or **female researchers**, will be prioritized.

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 one project proposal can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

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

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.

³ Early-stage researchers are PhD students (doctoral candidates) and researchers who obtained their PhD/doctoral degree within the last five years, i.e., after 1 October 2020. **Please note: only researchers holding a PhD degree may act as Principal Investigators; PhD/doctoral candidates may participate as team members only.**

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.

Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory. Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

AUSTRIA:

Funding amount: min. 5,000 Euro, up to 10,000 Euro per project over two years

Eligible costs:

- o **Travel expenses:**
up to 1.200 Euro Travel costs (economy class) per return trip will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.⁴
- o **Accommodation expenses:**
120 Euro per working day for up to 12 days OR
1,440 Euro per month for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum
- o **Project related material costs:** **up to 3,000 Euro** as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁵

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.

MONTENEGRO

Funding amount: min. EUR 5,000 up to EUR 10,000 per project over two years.

Eligible costs:

- o **Travel expenses:**
Maximum reimbursement per person per return trip: **EUR 800**. Expenses will be reimbursed on the basis of submitted invoices and supporting documentation (boarding pass, tickets for bus/train). Travel by car is possible if proven cost-effective; reimbursement in that case will be calculated in accordance with Article 25 of the national Decree on Reimbursement of Expenses for Public Sector Employees⁶, but only up to the maximum limit specified above.
- o **Daily Subsistence Allowance:**
 - **EUR 140 net** per working day for up to 12 days, OR
 - **EUR 1,800 net** per month for long-term stays between 12 days and 3 months.***Note: Beneficiaries are kindly requested to avoid scheduling project mobility during holiday periods to ensure responsible use of funding.***
- o **Project-related material costs:** **up to EUR 3,000** as part of the granted maximum budget (based on submitted invoices)⁷.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ <https://www.gov.me/dokumenta/3d246ccf-3825-491a-aa3c-7208f64482a4>

⁷ 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 Montenegro to the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation. Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

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

Content:

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

MONTENEGRO: Applications must be submitted both in hard copy to the address of Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Vaka Đurovića bb, 81000 Podgorica, and electronically to the following addresses: ivana.lagator@mpni.gov.me, lidija.vukcevic@mpni.gov.me.

Content:

- o Completed and signed application form.
- o Brief academic CV of each project team member (with indication of status: early-stage researcher, PhD student, etc.).
- o List of relevant publications of the last 2 years.
- o Project description, including methodology (3–5 A4 pages).
- o Brief description of partner institutions (including justification for cooperation).
- o Description of project tasks of ALL project members (Montenegro and Austria) and project timeline.
- o Further cooperation perspective.
- o Monitoring, exit strategy, and added value for the home institution and Montenegro.
- o Detailed budget plan (template in the application form).

Evaluation criteria in Austria:

- **Scientific quality** of the proposed research project incl.
 - o Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - o Adequacy of the scientific method
 - o 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,
 - o Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers² (+10 points)**
 - o Or if **involving doctoral students (+5 points) and/or female researchers (+5 points)** (max. 10 points)

Maximum score: 50 points

Evaluation criteria in Montenegro:

- **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 Montenegro, 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 Montenegro, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian – Montenegrin 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 persons⁸
 - Financial report

In Montenegro scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **First periodic progress report after one year**, as a precondition for further funding!
- **Second periodic progress report / Final report**, no more than 1 month after the end of the project.

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

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 **28th November 2025 - 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

⁸ 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

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 Montenegro:

Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation

Division for International Cooperation and EU
Funds in the Field of Science and Innovation

Ms. Ivana Lagator

Vaka Đurovića bb

81000 Podgorica

Email: ivana.lagator@mpni.gov.me

Ms. Lidija Vukčević

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81000 Podgorica

Email: lidija.vukcevic@mpni.gov.me

Website: <https://www.gov.me/mps>