

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)
AUSTRIA / REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2025-2027

CLOSING DATE: 24th March 2025

12 noon CET (Austria)

18:00 KST (Korea)

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.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

- **Researchers** at universities and research institutions defined by **National Research and Development Innovation Act**. Details of eligibility for Korean applicants can be found in the Guideline on the NRF website and IRIS system (Integrated R&D Information System) in Korean.
- **University/Graduate students are not eligible for applying as Principal Investigators**, but they can be involved in the projects.

Please note: A maximum of one project can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

Funding

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

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

Project duration: 1st October 2025 until 30th September 2027

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 27.000, per project over two years

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:**
up to max EUR 2.000 Travel costs (economy class) per return trip will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.³
- **Accommodation expenses:**
EUR 150.- per working day for up to 12 days OR
EUR 1.800.- per month for long-term stays between 12 days and 3 months maximum
- **Project related material costs: max. EUR 3.000.-** as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁴

REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

Funding amount: KRW 40 million per project (KRW 20 million per project per year, for two years)

Eligible costs: Project-related costs defined by the National Research and Development Innovation Act, such as travel expenses, accommodation expenses, material costs, salary costs, etc. can be covered. Details of eligible costs can be found in the Guideline on GAIA system (Government-Assisted Integrated R&D Administration System).

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 the Republic of Korea to the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF). Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

³ Journeys of up to seven hours must be by bus or train.

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.

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)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Electronic application only **IRIS** system (www.iris.go.kr)

Content:

- Research proposal in Korean (template will be provided on the NRF website and IRIS system)
- Application in English (the documents submitted to OeAD)
- Other documents (Eligibility checklist, Agreement to provide personal information etc.) (template will be provided on the NRF website and IRIS system)

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 REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

- Creativity, excellence and fidelity of research goals, contents and research plan
- Research capability and expertise of the principal investigator
- Necessity and concreteness of joint research program
- Possibility of expanding cooperation between the two countries through joint research program
- Ripple effect of research and development outcomes through joint research program

Please note: The evaluation criteria may vary depending on the evaluation plan.

The prospect of future European projects, particularly those related to Horizon Europe, may be positively considered during evaluation; please specify in your proposal.

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Korea, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian – Korean Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by** end of September 2025.

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 Korean scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **Annual report submitted** by December 31st each year
- **Final and financial report submitted** after the end of the project:
 - Final report (within 60 days)
 - Financial report (within 90 days)

For Austria researchers:

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

For Korea researchers:

Joint publications resulting from these cooperation projects have to mention the support from the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea and National Research Foundation of Korea.

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 **24th March 2025 – 12 noon CET (Austria) / 24th March 2025 – 18:00 KST (Korea)** 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.

Further information

In Austria	In REPUBLIC OF KOREA
<p>OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation</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>NRF - National Research Foundation of Korea</p> <p>Mr Eojin Jang Tel. +82 2 3460 5721 Email: eojin@nrf.re.kr</p>