

Austrian – Cyprus Joint Committee Meeting
14 December 2009, Vienna

SUMMARY REPORT AND STEPS FORWARD

Based on the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus and the Federal Minister for Science and Research of the Republic of Austria concerning Cooperation in the Areas of Higher Education and Research* signed on 30 August 2009, the first meeting of the Austrian – Cyprus Joint Committee took place on 14 December 2009 in Vienna. The agenda and the list of participants are enclosed.

The Cypriote partners presented their national system of science and research introducing the main actors as well as budget figures. Furthermore, the different forms of international agreements Cyprus has concluded were introduced. The Austrian side highlighted differences between the Austrian and Cypriote systems (i.e. access to universities, tuition fees). Finally, the Austrian and Cypriote performance in FP 7 and the main issues concerning FP 8 were discussed, such as securing the participation of smaller players. The upcoming EU Council Presidency of Cyprus in 2012 was identified as one of the main future challenges.

The Austrian – Cyprus Joint Committee stressed the importance of follow-up activities. According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in August 2009 the objective is to intensify cooperation in the areas of higher education and research. To this end, concrete actions and instruments have been defined, based on the input of both, the Cypriote and the Austrian side (see: enclosure). The following list reflects these activities and names the contact persons in charge.

Bilateral Activities	
Action / Instrument	Person(s) in Charge
Define Existing Links between Austrian and Cypriote Universities / Universities of Applied Sciences Define in detail already existing links between Austrian and Cypriote Universities / Universities of Applied Sciences: institutions involved, content of the agreement, contact persons, etc; In a next step, these links should be revived.	Despina Martidou Forcier Nadine Jauk
Promote Existing Instruments Promote PhD and Postdoc grants already existing (Austrian Exchange Service, Austrian Science Fund); Detailed information can be obtained at www.grants.at .	Despina Martidou Forcier Maria Eliophotou Menon
Exchange Teaching Staff Verify in which already existing cooperation agreement(s) this option is included and make use of it; Cypriote public universities can compensate for short-term stays of lecturers for two weeks, seminars for postgraduate students for three days, or fund professorships for one semester. Information on concrete requests need to be made available at the Austrian higher education institutions.	Despina Martidou Forcier Maria Eliophotou Menon Nadine Jauk

<p>Evaluate Good Practices Elaborate and communicate the reasons for successful cooperation, as a basis for new cooperation with Austrian higher education institutions.</p>	<p>Maria Eliophotou Menon</p>
<p>Evaluate Fields of Interest for New Cooperation Define the fields of interest for new bilateral institutional cooperation; Based on a detailed request, potential Austrian partner universities / universities of applied sciences can be identified.</p>	<p>Despina Martidou Forcier Maria Eliophotou Menon Nadine Jauk</p>
<p>Establish Summer Schools Establish new links between Austrian and Cypriote universities via summer schools / winter schools; First step: define study fields of interest; Second step: identify institutions to participate in such an event;</p>	<p>Maria Eliophotou Menon Hubert Dürrstein</p>
<p>Support Expert Meetings and Thematic Workshops Initiate workshops on specific scientific fields of research and teaching or on specific support programmes, based on the needs to revive existing cooperation or to start concrete new cooperation; As an incentive to participate, travel costs for experts could be covered by their (respective) ministries.</p>	
<p>Fund Bilateral Research Projects Verify the opportunity to establish an agreement between the Austrian Science Fund and the Cypriote Research Promotion Foundation; Objective: finance participation of Austrian and Cypriote researchers in joint projects based on the regular procedures in the respective country;</p>	<p>Costas Iacovou Reinhard Belocky</p>
<p>Provide Expertise for Setting Up an Agency Provide expertise supporting the setting-up of an agency for international cooperation, in case this project will be followed in Cyprus;</p>	<p>Hubert Dürrstein</p>
<p>Evaluate Demand for German as a Foreign Language / Literature Lecturers Evaluate the demand for practical placements of Austrian students of German as a foreign language in Cyprus and the interest in placement of lecturers of German language and Austrian culture and literature; Detailed information on respective programmes can be obtained via the Austrian Exchange Service.</p>	<p>Maria Eliophotou Menon Hubert Dürrstein</p>
<p>Enable Internships Facilitate contacts to enable student internships (as foreseen in the curriculum of most Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences) in Cypriote companies as part of institutional cooperation;</p>	<p>Despina Martidou Forcier Universities of Applied Sciences via Nadine Jauk</p>

EU / Multilateral Activities	
Policy Issues	Person(s) in Charge
Support EU Presidency Provide support and expertise for the upcoming EU presidency of Cyprus in 2012;	Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (already ongoing: Christian Seiser)
Continue Cooperation in Salzburg Group Continue exchange of information and cooperation within the framework of the Salzburg Group;	Anneliese Stoklaska
Action / Instrument	Person(s) in Charge
Provide Information on FP 7 AUT/CYP Cooperation Provide update on a regular basis on common projects in the frame of FP 7, using the Austrian PROVISO database;	Anneliese Stoklaska Barbara Weitgruber
Share Expertise on Erasmus Mundus and Enhance Joint Cooperation Find Austrian experts to join a consortium for Cypriote Erasmus Mundus activities, ideally using already existing links with Austrian universities;	Despina Martidou Forcier Hubert Dürrstein
Join Network on Better Information and Promotion of the Bologna Process outside the European Higher Education Area Nominate a national representative; The call is open until 15 January 2010. The first meeting of the network will take place in Austria on 25 May 2010, carrying the potential for joint activities.	Despina Martidou Forcier
Use Existing Networks Use networks in which Austrian and Cypriote partners participate – such as the UNICA network – to exchange views on possible cooperation;	

This list is not exhaustive and reflects those issues raised in the discussions on the occasion of the first Joint Committee Meeting. All participants are asked to add to this list and to redistribute it to the persons concerned for further consultation. At least every three months the partners should communicate on the status of the ongoing activities to ensure a complete follow-up.