

**PROTOCOL**

of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Austrian-Slovak Joint Committee  
for scientific and technological co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on  
Scientific and Technological Co-operation  
of 18 February 2004

Vienna, 3 December 2015

AS

K

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Austrian-Slovak Joint Committee for scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 18 February 2004, took place in Vienna on 3 December 2015.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Ms. Evelyn von Bülow, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The Slovak delegation was headed by Mr. Marek Hajduk, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The set-up of the two delegations can be found in Annex 1.

The Joint Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information on science and research
2. Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme
3. Selection of projects for the period 2016-2017
4. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2018-2019
5. Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol

#### **Ad 1 Exchange of information on science and research**

Both Parties supplied information on current developments of their national research policies. The Joint Committee expressed its confidence that the implementation of the bilateral programme will further contribute to the development of beneficial links between scientific institutions and scientists of both countries and will enable them to use their scientific potential more efficiently and fruitfully in regional as well as multilateral projects. Both sides reached an understanding to encourage their researchers to jointly participate in EU projects.



## **Ad 2 Adoption of the Work Programme for the Years 2015-2017**

The Joint Committee discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the Years 2015-2017.

The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of co-operation, general administrative regulations, the administration of the exchange of scientists and experts as well as financial regulations.

A copy of the Work Programme for the Years 2015-2017 is attached as part of this Protocol at Annex 2.

## **Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2016-2017**

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 16 cooperation projects lasting from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 listed in Annex 3.

## **Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2018-2019**

The Joint Committee has reached an understanding that upcoming calls for proposals will be published in principal on a biennial basis by the responsible institutions at least six months prior to the meetings of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

The Parties also agreed to send the list of eligible proposals received on their side within 20 working days from the closure of the call.

The call for project proposals will be open from 23 March 2017 to 23 May 2017.

The Parties discussed options to extend the bilateral cooperation scheme to a multilateral scheme in the framework of the EU-Danube Strategy (EUSDR) in the future. The Austrian Party will in its role as leader of the responsible Working Group within EUSDR Priority Area 7 "Knowledge society" develop and propose a respective concept for further discussion.

AS

3 K

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee in Bratislava in the second half of 2017. The exact date will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

**Ad 5 Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 31 December 2017. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna on 3 December 2015 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation

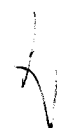


Ms. Evelyn von Bülow  
Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration  
and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

Head of the Slovak delegation



Mr. Marek Hajduk  
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and  
Sport of the Slovak Republic



**Work Programme  
for the Years 2015-2017**

Adopted on the occasion of the Sixth Meeting of the Austrian-Slovak Joint Committee for scientific and technological co-operation, implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 18 February 2004.

Vienna, 3 December 2015

1. Forms of Co-operation
2. Aspects of Co-operation
3. General Administrative Regulations
4. Administration of the Exchange of Scientists and Experts
5. Financial Regulations

## **1. Forms of Co-operation**

- 1.1 According to Article 3 of the Agreement, joint co-operation projects will be carried on between Austrian and Slovak institutions. A joint co-operation project is an agreed activity with clearly defined objectives to be achieved within a specific time frame. Each project will normally be of two years' duration, implemented through exchanges of people and information.
- 1.2 For the preparation and realization of joint co-operation projects financial support is given for mobility costs of researchers as well as experts participating in these co-operation projects.
- 1.3 On a long-term basis, the costs arising from joint co-operation projects should be balanced between the two sides.

## **2. Aspects of Co-operation**

- 2.1 The delegations agreed to provide mobility funds for co-operation projects from all scientific fields. Co-operation projects with the potential to lead to future multilateral co-operations within the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation shall be favoured in order to stimulate the joint participation of Austrian and Slovak scientists in European research programmes.
- 2.2 The financing of mobility costs within the framework of this Agreement is also particularly intended to support young scientists and to pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality).

## **3. General Administrative Regulations**

### **3.1 Responsible Institutions**

#### **3.1.1 In Austria**

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH), ICM - Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility

Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna

Telephone: +43 1 53408-445

Fax: +43 1 53408-499

Email: [monika.staltner@oead.at](mailto:monika.staltner@oead.at)

Internet: <http://www.oead.at/wtz>

The Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) is an institution commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

Department for International Research Co-operation

Rosengasse 2-6, 1014 Vienna

Telephone: +43 53120 7132

Fax: +43 1 53120 997132

Email: [christian.gollubits@bmwfw.gv.at](mailto:christian.gollubits@bmwfw.gv.at)

Internet: <http://www.bmwfw.gv.at>

### 3.1.2 In Slovakia

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA)

Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04

839 04 Bratislava 32

Phone: +421 2 5720 4502

Fax: +421 2 5720 4599

E-mail: [sona.ftacnikova@apvv.sk](mailto:sona.ftacnikova@apvv.sk)

Internet: <http://www.apvv.sk>

Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) is an institution commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Division of Higher Education, Research and Development

Department of International Cooperation and International Organizations in Research and Development

Stromová 1  
813 30 Bratislava  
Phone: +421 2 59374 717  
Fax: +421 2 59374 720  
E-mail: [jana.krchnava@minedu.sk](mailto:jana.krchnava@minedu.sk)  
Internet: <http://www.minedu.sk/>

### 3.2 Selection procedure of co-operation projects

3.2.1 The upcoming calls for proposals will be published on a biennial basis by the responsible institutions (3.1) at least six months prior to the meetings of the Joint Committee for scientific and technological co-operation.

3.2.2 Submitted project applications have to include:

1. Topic
2. Names and addresses of the co-operating Austrian and Slovak institutions, Austrian and Slovak co-ordinators and research team members
3. Description of the proposed research subject and objectives
4. Work plan, start date and prospective duration of the co-operation project
5. Proof of qualifications of the co-ordinators
6. Involvement of young scientists (if applicable)
7. An annual calculation of costs for the realization of the co-operation project

3.2.3 Project applications have to be prepared jointly by the Austrian and Slovak researchers and have to be submitted to the national institutions responsible for implementing the work programme (3.1).

3.2.4 Project applications registered with the responsible institutions (3.1) will be entered into a joint list after national evaluation.

3.2.5 Applications will be considered on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific quality of the work plan, originality of the idea



- Qualifications of the coordinators
- Potential for solving problems
- Quality of the cooperation and mutual benefit
- Exploitation of the anticipated results
- Promotion of young research talent

3.2.6 The final list of co-operation projects to be supported will be adopted by the Joint Committee.

3.3 At the end of the second year of the project, the project leaders have to submit a jointly prepared final report on the progress and results of their research activities to the Austrian and Slovak institutions responsible for the implementation of the work programme (3.1).

3.4 The exploitation, possible patent registration and publication of project results are subject to the national laws which are in force in Austria and the Slovak Republic.

#### **4. Administration of the Exchange of Scientists and Experts**

4.1 The co-operating partners have to agree on the date and duration of each stay at the host institution at least three weeks prior to the intended date of visit.

4.1.1 The Austrian project leader will notify the Slovak scientist in question at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH).

4.1.2 The Slovak project leader will notify the Austrian scientist in question at the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA).

4.2 Each side will facilitate the access to its scientific institutions, libraries, archives and museum collections for the project partners of the other side that are sent in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

Furthermore, both sides guarantee free exchange of scientific information and documentation in conformity with their national laws and financial possibilities.

## **5. Financial Regulations**

5.1 Each side will cover the travel costs of persons sent and the accommodation costs of persons hosted.

### **5.2 In Austria**

5.2.1 For short-term stays of up to fourteen days planned in the framework of approved projects, the following rate in Euro (€), including overnight costs, will be granted:

- € 90,- per day

5.2.2 For stays longer than fifteen days planned in the framework of approved projects, the following monthly rates in Euro (€), including overnight costs, will be granted:

- € 1.300,- per month

5.2.3 Slovak scientists will receive payment personally at the local offices of the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) or directly at the Austrian host institution.

### **5.3 In Slovakia**

5.3.1 For stays of Austrian scientists and experts in Slovakia

- daily allowances for Austrian researchers in Slovakia according to the Slovak Law on Reimbursement of Travel Expenses (Art. 283/2002)
- accommodation for Austrian researchers in Slovakia up to maximum 100 €/night

5.3.2 Austrian scientists and experts will receive payment personally directly at the Slovak host institution.

5.4 The sending side will assure that the scientists and experts sent have adequate health insurance coverage.