

# **PROTOCOL**

of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Austrian-Albanian Joint Commission  
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Government of the Republic of Austria and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of  
Albania on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

Vienna, 5 December 2014

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Austrian-Albanian Joint Commission for scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 2 May 2012, took place in Vienna, 5 December 2014.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Ambassador Mrs.Teresa Indjein, Deputy Director General of Cultural Policy, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The Albanian delegation was headed by Mr. Arbjan Mazniku, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania.

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

The Joint Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Exchange of Information on Science and Research
2. Selection of projects for the period of 2015 – 2016
3. Next meeting and call for proposals for the period 2017 - 2018
4. Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol

#### **Ad 1 Exchange of Information on Science and Research**

The two parties exchanged information on current developments of their national research policies.

The Joint Committee declared its intention to further intensify bilateral scientific and technological co-operation activities by supporting the mobility of scientists in the framework of joint research projects. It emphasized the particular importance of successful partnerships

within bilateral project co-operations in the field of science and research for an effective joint participation in international co-operation activities on a larger scale.

The parties put particular emphasis on the role of international cooperation for the further development of the science and technology system in their countries. They expressed their confidence that the implementation of the bilateral programme will further contribute to 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.

The two parties reached an understanding to pay serious attention that the projects lead to cooperation in international and European multilateral research and development programmes and especially in the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020".

#### **Ad 2 Selection of projects for the period of 2015 – 2016**

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 10 co-operation projects lasting from 1 January, 2015 to 31 December, 2016 listed in *Annex 2*.

#### **Ad 3 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2017 – 2018**

The Joint Commission 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 Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

The two parties agreed to exchange the (English) texts of their respective calls for proposals thirty days prior their publication. 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 2 May to 29 July 2016.

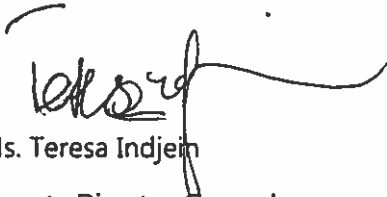
Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission in Tirana in the second half of 2016. The exact date will be agreed upon through diplomatic notes (by e-mail).

#### **Ad 4 Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 31 December 2016. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna on 5 December 2014 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation

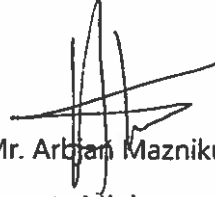


Ms. Teresa Indjei

Deputy Director General

Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

Head of the Albanian delegation



Mr. Arban Mazniku

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Education and Sports of the  
Republic of Albania

## **Annex 2**

### **Work Programme for the Years 2015-2016**

Adopted on the occasion of the First Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, held in Tirana on 24 April 2014, implementing the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.

Tirana, 24 April 2014

- 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 2 of the Agreement, joint co-operation projects will be carried on between Albanian and Austrian 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:
  - a) short-term stays of up to ten days, each per year and project, of scientists at universities or other public scientific and research institutions as well as experts participating in these co-operation projects,
  - b) longer stays of up to a maximum of one month per year and project and
  - c) the exchange of scientific and technological information and documentation in conformity with the respective national laws.
- 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 Albanian and Austrian 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 Albania

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI),

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Telephone: +355 4 222 24 09  
Fax: + 355 4 222 24 09  
Email: [robert.dumi@akti.gov.al](mailto:robert.dumi@akti.gov.al)  
Internet: <http://www.akti.gov.al>

The Albanian Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) is an institution commissioned by the Council of the Ministers of the Republic of Albania and executes its activities under the Governing Board headed by the Minister of Education and Sports.

Ministry of Education and Sports  
General Department of Education Politics and Strategic Planning  
Directorate of Higher Education and Science  
Rruga e Durrësit, Nr. 23, AL-1001, Tiranë  
Tel. +355 4 2228347  
Fax: +355 4 2232002  
Email: [linda.pustina@arsimi.gov.al](mailto:linda.pustina@arsimi.gov.al)  
[www.arsimi.gov.al](http://www.arsimi.gov.al)

### 3.1.2 In Austria:

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Scientific and Technological Co-operation of the OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research), ICM - Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility, Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna Telephone: +43 1 53408-457  
Fax: +43 1 53408-499  
Email: [samira.seferovic@oead.at](mailto:samira.seferovic@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 Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

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Department for International Research Co-operation  
Rosengasse 2-6, 1014 Vienna  
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Internet: <http://www.bmwfw.gv.at>

3.1.3. Both implementation institutions will share information and/or contacts to facilitate the link-up process between eventual applicants/research institutions, prior to the launch of the call for project proposals.

### 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 (2.1) at least six months prior to the meetings of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

3.2.2 Submitted project applications have to include:

- topic
- names and addresses of the co-operating Albanian and Austrian institutions, Albanian and Austrian co-ordinators and research team members
- description of the proposed research subject and objectives
- work plan, start date and prospective duration of the co-operation project
- proof of qualifications of the co-ordinators
- involvement of young scientists
- an annual calculation of travels necessary for realizing the co-operation project and of costs thus arising

3.2.3 Project applications have to be prepared jointly by the Albanian and Austrian scientists 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
- new partnerships
- 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 Commission.

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 Albanian and Austrian 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 Albania and Austria.

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

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

4.1.1 The Albanian project leader has to nominate the Austrian scientist in question at the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI).

4.1.2 The Austrian project leader has to nominate the Albanian scientist in question at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH).

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 Albanian - Austrian Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. Furthermore, both sides guarantee the 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 Albania**

5.2.1 For stays of Austrian scientists and experts in Albania.

The Albanian Party shall provide the Austrian scientists/students/graduates/experts accepted with a daily allowance.

**5.2.2 Austrian scientists and experts will receive payment personally at ARTI.**

For Austrian researchers/scientists/students/graduates/experts to stay in Albania, ARTI will pay a daily allowance of 8.600,00 ALL (including accommodation) for maximum 10 (ten) days.

Up to the 20th day max 10 day allowances (=ALL 86.000,-)

From the 21st day one full month allowance (=ALL 110.000,-)

Research/Short stays requests by Austrian researchers should be submitted to ARTI at least two months before the date of research' beginning.

**5.3 In Austria**

**5.3.1 10 days: Short-term research stays (incl. overnight costs)**

➤ EUR 73,- per day

**5.3.2 11 – 30 days:**

For students and graduates until the age of 30 years:

Up to the 20th day max 10 day allowances (=EUR 730,-)

From the 21st day one full month allowance (=EUR 940,-)

For graduates in the age between 30 and 35 years:

Up to the 20th day max 10 day allowances (=EUR 730,-)

From the 21st day one full month allowance (=EUR 1.040,-)

For scientists over 35 years of age:

From the 11th day up to the 30th day a daily allowance in the amount of EUR 23,50.

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