



## PROTOCOL

of the

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the South African-Austrian Implementing Committee  
implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science  
and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Science,  
Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological  
Cooperation**

The First Meeting of the South African-Austrian Implementing Committee in accordance with Paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation took place in Pretoria, 8 December 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Khaya Sishuba – Director Bilateral Relations (Europe and Middle East) and Mr Christian Gollubits of the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

The South African-Austrian Implementing Committee adopted the following:

- **Exchange of information**

Both sides supplied information on current developments of their national research policies paving way for identification of mutual areas of collaboration. The Implementing Committee also expressed its confidence that the implementation of the bilateral programme will further contribute to the development of beneficial links between scientific institutions, scientists/ researchers and post graduate students of both countries and will further enable them to use their scientific potential more efficiently and fruitfully in regional, AU and EU as well as other potential international research opportunities.

- **Selection of projects for the period 2017-2018**

The Implementing Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 17 co-operation projects lasting from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 as listed in the Annex 1.

- **Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2019-2020**

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

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> call for project proposals will be open from 1 March 2018 to 30 April 2018.

Both sides have reached an understanding to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Implementing Committee in Vienna in the second half of 2018. The exact date will be agreed upon by e-mail.

- **Further Recommendations of the meeting**

It was suggested that the next phase (1 March 2018 to 30 April 2018) of the research call could be expanded to involve other European countries. Such a possibility will be explored as it will add further impetus into this scientific collaboration.

Both sides also agreed to host the first South Africa - Austria bilateral researchers workshop either in the month of March or April 2017, in Vienna, Austria. The exact date of the workshop will be agreed upon through consultation with possible participating stakeholders. The Austrian side will make all the necessary preparations for the workshop including drawing up a draft program which will be shared with the South African side ahead of the meeting.

The meeting further agreed to explore other instruments and ways and means of strengthening the collaboration between the two countries. Collaboration with the European Union research platforms were discussed. Both sides welcome closer cooperation between the ASSAf and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

- **Signing the Protocol**

The Protocol was signed on 9 December, 2016 in Pretoria in two English original copies.

Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa	Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria
 Mr. Khaya Sithuba	 Mr. Christian Gollubits