

PROTOCOL

of the 3rd Meeting of the Albanian-Austrian Joint Commission
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation 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 2nd May 2012

Tirana, 06 November 2018

The 3rd Meeting of the Albanian-Austrian Joint Commission for scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with Article 5 of 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 2 May 2012, took place in Tirana, 06 November 2018.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Mr. Christian Autengruber, Head of Unit for Cultural and Scientific and Technological Agreements, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The Albanian delegation was headed by:

Ms. Evis Tasellari, Head of Bilateral Relations Unit of the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation.

Ms. Herla Jorgji, Expert of Bilateral relations Unit of the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation.

Ms. Alba Domi, Expert of Bilateral relations Unit of the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation.

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 2019 – 2020
3. Next meeting and call for proposals for the period 2021 - 2022
4. Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol

Ad 1 Exchange of Information on Science and Research

Both sides supplied 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.

Both sides 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 programme "Horizon 2020".

Ad 2 Selection of projects for the period of 2019 – 2020

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 10 co-operation projects lasting from 1 January, 2019 to 31 December, 2020 listed in *Annex 2*.

Ad 3 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2021 - 2022

The Joint Commission has reached an understanding that upcoming calls for proposals will be published in principal on a biennale 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 announced in spring 2020.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 4th Meeting of the Joint Commission in Vienna in the last quarter of 2020. 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 2020. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Tirana on 06 November 2018 in two English original copies.

Head of the Albanian delegation

Robert Dumi

National Agency for Scientific Research and
Innovation



Head of the Austrian delegation

Christian Autengruber

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



**Work Programme
for the Years 2018-2020**

Adopted on the occasion of the Third Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, held in Tirana on 06 November 2018, implementing the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Austria.

Tirana, 06 November 2018

1. Forms of Co-operation
2. Aspects of Co-operation
3. General Administrative Regulations
4. 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 mobility of researchers participating in the co-operation projects.
- 1.3 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 in all research fields. Co-operation projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within Austrian, Ukrainian, and European research and innovation programmes will be favoured.
- 2.2 The financing of mobility costs within the framework of this Agreement is also particularly intended to support the participation of 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 National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI), "Papa Gjon Pali II", Nr 3, Tirana, Albania.

3.1.2 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

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

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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:

1. Topic
2. Names and addresses of the co-operating Austrian and Albanian institutions, Austrian and Albanian co-ordinators and research team members
3. Description of the proposed research subject and objectives, including the methodological part
4. Work plan, start date and duration of the co-operation project
5. Proof of qualifications of the co-ordinators
6. Involvement of young and female scientists (if applicable)
7. Annual calculation of costs for the realization of the co-operation project
8. Further cooperation perspective

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 value of the intended research project

Feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the scientific method

Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved

Added value expected from the bilateral research collaboration

Potential for further or future international cooperation

Promotion of young and female 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 (2.1).

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. Financial Regulations

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

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