

PROTOCOL

of the 12th Meeting of the Austrian-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Vienna on 27th June 2019, implementing the "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation" concluded in Vienna on 9th November 1971.

Vienna, 27th June 2019

The 12th Meeting of the Austrian-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in accordance with Article 7 of the "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation" concluded in Vienna on 9th November 1971, took place in Vienna on 27th June 2019.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Mr. Christian AUTENGRUBER, Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The Bulgarian delegation was headed by Prof. Georgi VAYSSILOV, Manager of the National Science Fund Bulgaria.

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 2019-2021
4. Next Meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2021-2023
5. 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 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 national, international and EU projects.

Ad 2 Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme

The Joint Committee discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the years 2019-2021. The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of cooperation, 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 2019-2021 is attached as Annex 2 of this Protocol.

Ad 3 Selection of projects to be supported for the period 2019-2021

In total 30 projects were received and based on the joint evaluation process undertaken by BNSF and BMBWF, 12 projects have been recommended from both sides. The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 12 cooperation projects listed in Annex 3. The projects will last for two years starting at the date of signature of the Bulgarian contract and communicated to the Austrian side via email.

Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2021-2023

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 with duration 2021 until 2023, will be open in the last quarter of 2020.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 13th Meeting of the Joint Committee in Sofia in summer 2021. The exact date will be agreed upon through notes by email.

Ad 5 Effectiveness of the Protocol

This Protocol will remain effective until a new Protocol is signed.

Done in Vienna, on 27th June 2019 in two English original copies.

For the Austrian delegation

For the Bulgarian delegation



Mr. Christian AUTENGRUBER
Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria



Prof. Georgi VAYSSILOV
National Science Fund Bulgaria to the Ministry
of Education and Science of Republic of
Bulgaria

**Work Programme
for the Years 2019-2021**

Adopted on the occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, held in Vienna on 27th June 2019, implementing the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation, concluded in Vienna on 9th November 1971.

Vienna, 27th June 2019

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 1 of the Agreement, joint co-operation projects will be carried out between Austrian and Bulgarian researchers. 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 support co-operation projects in all research fields. Co-operation projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within Austrian, Bulgaria and EU 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 and female researchers.

3. General Administrative Regulations

- 3.1 Responsible Institutions for the implementation of the work programme

3.1.1. In Austria:

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 53408-457

Email: wtz@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 Education, Science and Research.

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
Department for International Research Co-operation
Rosengasse 2-6, 1010 Vienna

Telephone: +43 53120 7132

Email: christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at

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

3.1.2 In Bulgaria

National Science Fund Bulgaria
Ministry of Education and Science
239B Stamboliyski Blvd.
1309 Sofia, Bulgaria
Telephone: +359 887 605 455
Email: fni2012@mon.bg
Internet: <http://www.fni.bg>

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 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 Bulgarian institutions, Austrian and Bulgarian 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. Project budget description
8. Further cooperation perspective

3.2.3 A joint project proposal has to be prepared jointly by the Austrian and Bulgarian researchers and has to be submitted to the national institutions responsible for implementing the work programme (3.1).

3.2.4 Only project applications received by all respective responsible institutions (3.1) will be eligible for evaluation. The responsible institutions will exchange the lists of eligible proposals received on their side within 20 working days after the closure of the call and the results of national evaluations at least 10 working days before the selection meeting.

3.2.5 Evaluation criteria for applications:

- 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 provided by the respective responsible institutions (3.1) and adopted by the Joint Commission.
- 3.3 At the end of the first year of the project a brief project progress report has to be submitted as a precondition for further funding.
- 3.4 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 Bulgarian institutions responsible for the implementation of the work programme (3.1).
- 3.5 The exploitation, possible patent registration and publication of project results are subject to the national laws which are in force in Austria and Bulgaria.

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 Austrian Principal Investigator will notify the Bulgarian scientist in question at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH).
- 4.1.2 The Bulgarian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian scientist in question at the National Science Fund Bulgaria
- 4.2 Each side will facilitate the access to its scientific institutions, libraries, archives and museum collections for the project partners as well as 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 their outgoing researchers and the accommodation costs of incoming researchers.
- 5.2 In Austria
The total sum of EUR 7,000.- per project (EUR 3,500.- per project per year) plus additional EUR 1,000.- per project for material costs can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:
- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers based on submitted invoices. (actual costs of the trip but not exceeding EUR 500)

- Accommodation expenses: EUR 100.- per day for Bulgarian researchers travelling to Austria for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,400.- per month for long-term visits between 14 days and 3 months maximum.
- Material costs: EUR 1,000.- per project in justified cases.

Bulgarian 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 Bulgaria

The total sum up to 40,000.- BGN per project can be applied for.

The costs for mobility can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: for Bulgarian researchers travelling to Austria (actual cost of the trip but not exceeding 400.- EUR).
- Accommodation expenses: EUR 100.- per day for Austrian researchers travelling to Bulgaria for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,400.- per month for long-term visits between 14 days and 3 months maximum.
- Bulgarian team may apply for additional costs, described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria of the Bulgarian National Scientific Fund

- 5.4 The sending side will assure that its outgoing scientists and experts have necessary and adequate health insurance coverage.