

PROTOCOL

of the 8th Meeting of the Austrian-Slovenian Joint Committee
for Scientific and Technological Cooperation implementing the Agreement between the
Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on
Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 8 May 1998
as amended by the Protocol of Amendment of 30 June 2009

Vienna, 4 December 2019

The 8th Meeting of the Austrian-Slovenian Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 8 May 1998 as amended by the Protocol of Amendment of 30 June 2009, took place in Vienna, 4 December 2019.

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

The Slovenian delegation was headed by Ms. Meta Dobnikar, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia.

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 recent developments of science and research
2. Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme 2020-2021
3. Selection of projects for the period 2020-2021
4. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2022-2023
5. Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol

Ad 1 Exchange of information on science and research

Both sides exchanged 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 research institutions and researchers 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 2020 - 2021

The Joint Committee discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the Years 2020 - 2021.

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

A copy of the Work Programme for the Years 2020 - 2021 is attached as part of this Protocol as Annex 2.

Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2020-2021

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 32 cooperation projects lasting from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 listed in Annex 3.

Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2022-2023

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 Cooperation.

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 in spring 2021. Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 9th Meeting of the Joint Committee in Slovenia in the second half of 2021. 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 2021. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna, on 4 December 2019 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation



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

Head of the Slovenian delegation



Ms. Meta Dobnikar
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of
the Republic of Slovenia

**Work Programme
for the Years 2020-2021**

Adopted on the occasion of the 8th Meeting of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Vienna on 4 December 2019, implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 8 May 1998 as amended by the Protocol of Amendment of 30 June 2009.

Vienna, 4 December 2019

1. Forms of Co-operation
2. Aspects of Co-operation
3. General Administrative Regulations
4. Administration of the Exchange of Researchers 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 out between Austrian researchers and Slovenian research organizations. 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 realization of joint co-operation projects financial support is given for mobility of researchers as well as experts 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 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 Slovenian researchers in European research programmes.
- 2.2 The financing of mobility costs within the framework of this Agreement is also particularly intended to support early career researchers 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

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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.

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Department for International Research Co-operation
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Fax: +43 1 53120 997132
Email: christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at
Internet: <http://www.bmbwf.gv.at>

3.1.2 In Slovenia

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, International Cooperation and European Affairs Department, Masarykova cesta 16, 1000 Ljubljana and the Slovenian Research Agency, Bleiweisova cesta 30, 1000 Ljubljana.

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
International Cooperation and European Affairs Department
Telephone: +386 1 400 53 94
Fax: +386 1 400 53 21
Email: slavi.krusic@gov.si
Internet: <http://www.mizs.gov.si/>

Slovenian Research Agency
Department of Research Infrastructure and International Cooperation
Telephone: +386 1 400 59 50
Fax: +386 1 400 59 57
Email: fani.rozic-novak@arrs.si
Internet: <https://www.arrs.gov.si/>

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 in Austria have to include:

1. Topic
2. Names and addresses of the co-operating Austrian and Slovenian research institutions, Austrian and Slovenian 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 researchers (if applicable)
7. Project budget description
8. Further cooperation perspective

3.2.3 Submitted project applications in Slovenia have to be completed according to the call for proposals and application form.

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

3.2.5 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.

3.2.6 Applications will be considered on the basis of evaluation criteria valid in each of the countries; in Slovenia they include involvement in nationally or internationally funded research of the proposing institution and recent research output of the coordinator. Evaluation criteria for applications in Austria:

- 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
- 3.2.7 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 Committee.
- 3.3 Project progress reports have to be submitted as a precondition for further funding according to the national regulations.
- 3.4 At the end of the second year of the project, the project leaders have to submit a final report on the progress and results of their research activities to the Austrian and Slovenian 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 Slovenia.

4. Administration of the Exchange of Researchers 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 Slovenian scientist in question at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH).
- 4.1.2 The Slovenian project leader autonomously plans and conducts visits from and to Austria.
- 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 Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. 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 their outgoing researchers and the accommodation costs of incoming researchers.

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:

➤ € 100,- per day

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

➤ € 1.400,- per month

5.2.3 Slovenian researchers 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 Slovenia

5.3.1 For stays of Austrian researchers and experts in Slovenia the accommodation costs will be covered by the hosting institution that will also provide per-diems according to national regulations.

For short-term stays of up to fourteen days the following rate in Euro (€) will be granted:

- paid accommodation up to 100,-€ per day and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21,39€).

For stays longer than fifteen days the following rate in Euro (€) will be granted:

- paid accommodation up to 1250,-€ monthly and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21,39€).

5.4 The sending side (in Slovenia the sending institution) will assure that its outgoing researchers and experts have necessary and adequate health insurance coverage.