

# **PROTOCOL**

of the Austrian - Bulgarian Joint Commission  
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological  
Co-operation of 9 November 1971

held by correspondence in June 2021

Vienna/Sofia



The Austrian - Bulgarian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation 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 of 9 November 1971 (for the list of delegation members see Annex 1), herewith adopts the following:

### **1 Adoption of the Work Programme for the years 2021-2023**

The Joint Commission adopts the Work Programme for the Years 2021-2023.

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

A copy of the Work Programme for the Years 2021-2023 is attached as part of this Protocol in Annex 2.

### **2 Selection of projects for the period 2021-2023**

The Joint Commission agrees upon financing mobility costs of 9 cooperation projects lasting from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as listed in Annex 3.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions the term can be extended up to one year. The extension has to be confirmed accordingly by the respective agency/ministry on both sides.

### **3 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2023-2024**

The Joint Commission has reached an understanding that upcoming calls for proposals will be published in principle 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. Any alteration to this understanding must be communicated to the other side without any delay.

The Sides also decide 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 the fourth quarter 2022 to the first quarter of 2023.



Both Sides have reached an understanding to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission in Sofia in the second quarter of 2023. The exact date will be agreed upon through (diplomatic) notes by e-mail.

#### **4 Effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 30 June 2023. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.


Done by correspondence in Vienna/Sofia in June 2021.

Head of the Austrian delegation:



Christian Autengruber  
Federal Ministry for European and  
International Affairs

Head of the Bulgarian delegation:



Svetoslav Nikolov  
National Science Fund Bulgaria

Date:

28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Date:

13.07.2021

**Work Programme  
for the Years 2021 - 2023**

Adopted by the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, implementing the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 9 November 1971.

1. Forms of Co-operation
2. Aspects of Co-operation
3. General Administrative Regulations
4. Financial Regulations

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## **1. Forms of Co-operation**

- 1.1 According to Article 1 of the Agreement, joint co-operation projects in the field of science and technology between Austrian and Bulgarian researchers will be supported by funding the mobility of researchers.
- 1.2 The Joint Commission will select joint research projects for funding on the basis of public calls for project proposals. The project duration will be two years.
- 1.3 The costs arising from joint co-operation projects shall be balanced between the two sides.

## **2. Aspects of Co-operation**

- 2.1 The Joint Commission agreed to support co-operation projects in all research fields.
- 2.2 Project applications with the potential for follow-up applications in bilateral and multilateral co-operation programs in Austria, Bulgaria and the EU will be favoured.
- 2.3 Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized.

## **3. General Administrative Regulations**

### **3.1 Responsible Institutions:**

#### **3.1.1 In Austria:**

The mobility funding programme will be implemented by the OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna

Telephone: +43 1 53408-472

Fax: +43 1 53408-499

Email: [wtz@oead.at](mailto:wtz@oead.at)

Internet: <http://www.oead.at/wtz>

The OeAD is an institution commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research to implement this funding programme.

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

Department for International Research Co-operation and Science Diplomacy

Rosengasse 2-6, 1014 Vienna

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Telephone: +43 53120 7132  
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Email: [christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at](mailto: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](mailto:fni2012@mon.bg)  
Internet: <http://www.fni.bg>

## 3.2 Selection procedure of co-operation projects and administration

3.2.1 The upcoming calls for proposals for bilateral research projects according to Article 1 of the Agreement 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.

3.2.2 Submitted project applications have to include:

- Topic
- Names and contact information of the co-operating Austrian and Bulgarian institutions, Austrian and Bulgarian Principal Investigators and research team members
- Project description (subject, objective and methodology)
- Work plan
- Qualifications of the Principal Investigators and research team members
- Project budget
- Further cooperation perspective

3.2.3 Project applications have to be prepared jointly by the Austrian and Bulgarian Principal Investigators and have to be submitted to both respective responsible institutions (3.1) according to the criteria defined in the call text.

3.2.4 Only project applications received in time by all respective responsible institutions (3.1) will be eligible for evaluation. The responsible institutions will exchange the lists of eligible applications received 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 quality incl.
  - Feasibility of the joint research plan
  - Adequacy of the scientific method
  - Qualification of the Principal Investigators and research team members
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective
- Promotion of young research talent

3.2.6 The responsible institutions (3.1) will provide the Joint Commission with a joint short list of evaluated project applications as a basis for the selection meeting.

3.2.7 The Joint Commission will take the final funding decision, either at a physical meeting or via exchange of Emails.

3.2.8 A brief midterm report has to be submitted to and adopted by the respective responsible institutions (3.1) after the first year of the project duration as a precondition for continued funding.

3.2.9 A final report about the results of their research activities has to be submitted no more than 3 months after the expiration of the project duration by the Principal Investigators to the respective responsible institutions (3.1).

3.2.10 The exploitation, possible patent registration and publication of project results are subject to the respective national and international laws that are applicable to both sides.

3.3. Administration of the Exchange of Researchers and Experts

3.3.1 The project 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.

3.3.2 The Austrian Principal Investigator will notify the Bulgarian scientist in question at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH).



- 3.3.3 The Bulgarian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian scientist in question at the National Science Fund Bulgaria

#### **4. Financial Regulations**

- 4.1 Each side will cover the travel costs of their outgoing researchers and the accommodation costs of incoming researchers.

##### 4.2 Accommodation grants in Austria

- 4.2.1 EUR 100.- per working 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 will be granted.

- 4.2.2 EUR 100.- per working day for Bulgarian doctoral students travelling to Austria for up to 12 days OR EUR 1,250.- per month for long-term visits between 12 days and 3 months maximum will be granted.

- 4.2.3 Bulgarian researchers will receive payment personally at the local offices of Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) or directly at the Austrian host institution.

##### 4.3 Accommodation grants 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:

- 4.3.1 Travel expenses: for Bulgarian researchers travelling to Austria (actual cost of the trip but not exceeding 400.- EUR).

- 4.3.2. 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.

- 4.3.3. Bulgarian team may apply for additional costs, described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria of the Bulgarian National Scientific Fund

##### 4.4 Health insurance:

The sending side will assure that outgoing personnel is sufficiently insured for health.

