

## PROTOCOL

of the Austrian-Indian Joint Committee  
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of India on  
Scientific and Technological Co-operation, of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Vienna/New Delhi, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Austrian-Indian Joint Committee for scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of India on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 (for the list of delegation members see Annex 1), discussed and adopted the following:

**1. Welcome and introduction of the delegation members**

As host to this virtual meeting, Mr. Heribert Buchbauer, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria headed the Austrian delegation. Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma headed the Indian delegation on behalf of Mr. Sanjeev K. Varshney, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India.

**2. Exchange of information on science and research**

Both sides supplied information on current developments of their national research policies.

**3. Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme for the years 2022-2024**

The Joint Committee adopts the Work Programme for the years 2022-2024. The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of co-operation, general administrative regulations, the administration of the exchange of scientists and experts as well as financial regulations.

The Work Programme for 2022-2024 is attached to this protocol as Annex 2.

**4. Selection of projects for the period 2022-2024**

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 15 cooperation projects lasting for two years from the date of issue of sanction orders from the Indian side listed in Annex 3.

**5. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2024-2026**

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 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 opened in January 2024 until March 2024.

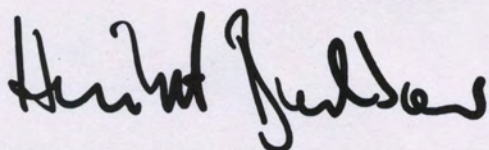
Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee in New Delhi in October 2024. The exact date will be agreed upon through (diplomatic) notes by email.

**6. Adoption and effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna/New Delhi, on 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

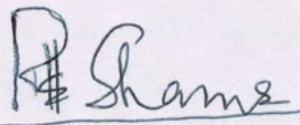
Head of the Austrian delegation



Mr. Heribert Buchbauer

Federal Ministry for Education, Science and  
Research of the Republic of Austria

Head of the Indian delegation



Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma

Ministry of Science and Technology  
of the Republic of India

**Work Programme  
for the Years 2022-2024**

Adopted on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, implementing the Agreement between the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India on scientific and technological cooperation.

Vienna/New Delhi, October, 2022

1. Forms of Cooperation
2. Aspects of Cooperation
3. General Administrative Regulations
4. Financial Regulations

## **1. Forms of Cooperation**

- 1.1 According to Article 3 of Agreement, joint cooperation projects in the field of science and technology between Austrian and Indian researchers will be supported by funding the mobility of researchers.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee 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 cooperation projects should be balanced between the two sides.

## **2. Aspects of Cooperation**

- 2.1 The Joint Committee agreed to support cooperation projects in all research fields.
- 2.2 Project applications with the potential for follow-up applications in bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs in Austria, India and the EU will be favoured.
- 2.3 In Austria, 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

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

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

The OeAD GmbH 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  
Rosengasse 2-6, 1014 Vienna  
Telephone: +43 53120 7223  
Email: [dorian.taylor@bmbwf.gv.at](mailto:dorian.taylor@bmbwf.gv.at)  
Internet: <http://www.bmbwf.gv.at>

### 3.1.2 In India:

The mobility programme shall be implemented by:  
Department of Science and Technology  
Technology Bhawan  
Ministry of Science and Technology,  
New Mehrauli Road  
Kutub Institutional Area  
Delhi-110016, India  
Telephone: +91 011-26590566  
Email: [c.agarwal@gov.in](mailto:c.agarwal@gov.in) ; [sharma\\_rk@nic.in](mailto:sharma_rk@nic.in)  
Website: <https://dst.gov.in/>

## 3.2 Selection procedure of cooperation projects and administration

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.

3.2.2 Submitted project applications have to include:

- Topic
- Names and contact information of the cooperating Austrian and Indian institutions, Austrian and Indian 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 Indian 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 both 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 and female research talent (in Austria)

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

3.2.7 The Joint Committee 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 further 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 Indian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Austria (3.1.1).

3.3.3 The Indian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian researcher in question at the responsible institution in India (3.1.2).

#### **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 (might include public holidays) for Indian 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 (might include public holidays) for Indian 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 Indian 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 India

4.3.1 For stays of Austrian researchers in India, will be provided fully furnished institutional guesthouse accommodation or a hotel (if the institutional guesthouse is not available), with reasonable facilities subject to a maximum of Rs. 4,000/-per day. In addition, they will be provided a per diem allowance for meals and out of pocket expenses including local travel and airport transfers at Rs. 2,500/- per day for each visit.

##### 4.4 Health insurance:

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