

PROTOCOL

of the 13th 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 Cooperation"
concluded in Vienna on 9 November 1971

Vienna, 19 June 2023

The 13th 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 Cooperation” of 9 November 1971 took place in Vienna on 19 June 2023.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Christian Gollubits, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria.

The Bulgarian delegation was headed by Yuri Kalvachev, Bulgarian National Science Fund.

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 2023-2025
3. Selection of projects for the period 2023-2025
4. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2025-2027
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 EU projects.

Ad 2 Adoption of the Work Programme 2023-2025

The Joint Committee discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the years 2023-2025.

The Work Programme includes administrative and financial regulations for the support of bilateral research projects as well as key aspects of future forms of cooperation.

A copy of the Work Programme for the years 2023-2025 is attached as part of this Protocol as Annex 2.

Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2023-2025

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 9 cooperation projects lasting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025 listed in Annex 3.

Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2025-2027

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 next call for project proposals will be open from 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025.

Both sides have reached an understanding to hold the 14th Meeting of the Joint Committee in Sofia or by virtual means in the first half of 2025. The exact date will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Ad 5 Adoption and Effectiveness of the Protocol

This Protocol will remain effective until 30 June 2025. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna, on 19 June 2023 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation

Head of the Bulgarian delegation



Mr. Christian Gollubits

Mr. Yuri Kalvachev

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

Bulgarian National Science Fund

Annex 2

Work Programme for the Years 2023-2025

Adopted on the occasion of the 13th Meeting of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Vienna on 19 June 2023, 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. Administrative Regulations
2. Financial Regulations
3. Framework for the next Call for Project Proposals

1. Administrative Regulations

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 1 of the Agreement, joint cooperation projects in the field of science and technology between Austrian and Bulgarian researchers will be financially supported by both sides.
- 1.2 Funding will be provided for the mobility of researchers within the project's runtime of two years. In Austria project-related material costs up to EUR 2,000.- will be reimbursed as well.
- 1.3 The costs arising from joint cooperation projects should be balanced between the two sides.
- 1.4 The responsible institutions for the administrative and financial implementation of the projects are

1.4.1 in Austria:

OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna

Telephone: +43 1 53408-472

Email: 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

Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna

Telephone: +43 53120 7132

Email: christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at

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

1.4.2 in Bulgaria:

BNSF – Bulgarian National Science Fund

Alexander Stamboliyski St. 239B, 1309 Sofia

Telephone: +359 884 222 393

Email: I.sotirova@mon.bg

Internet: www.bnsf.bg

1.5 Administration of the Exchange of Researchers and Experts

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 The Austrian Principal Investigator will notify the Bulgarian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Austria (1.4.1).
- 1.5.3 The Bulgarian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Bulgaria (1.4.2).

1.6 Reporting

- 1.6.1 A brief midterm report has to be submitted to and adopted by the respective responsible institutions (1.4) after the first year of the project duration as a precondition for further funding.
- 1.6.2 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 (1.4).
- 1.7 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.

2. Financial Regulations

- 2.1 Each side will cover the travel costs of their outgoing researchers and the accommodation costs of incoming researchers.
- 2.2 Accommodation grants in Austria
 - 2.2.1 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.
 - 2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 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.

2.3 Accommodation grants in Bulgaria

2.3.1 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

2.4 Health insurance

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

3. Framework for the next Call for Project Proposals

3.1 The Joint Committee agreed to support cooperation projects in all research fields.

3.2 Project applications with the potential for follow-up applications in bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs in Austria, Bulgaria and the EU will be favoured.

3.3 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.

3.4 Project applications have to include:

- Topic
- Names and contact information of the cooperating 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

3.5 Project applications have to be prepared jointly by the Austrian and Bulgarian Principal Investigators and have to be submitted to both respective responsible institutions (1.4) according to the criteria defined in the call text.

- 3.6 Only project applications received in time by both respective responsible institutions (1.4) 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.
- 3.7 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
 - In Austria: Promotion of female researchers
- 3.8 The responsible institutions (1.4) will provide the Joint Committee with a joint short list of evaluated project applications as a basis for the selection meeting.
- 3.9 The Joint Committee will take the final funding decision, either at a physical meeting or via exchange of Emails and virtual meeting.