

PROTOCOL

of the 11th Meeting of the Croatian-Austrian Joint Commission
for Scientific and Technological Cooperation implementing the Agreement between the
Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on
Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 12 March 2003

Zagreb, 4 December 2023

The 11th Meeting of the Croatian-Austrian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 12 March 2003, took place in Zagreb, 4 December 2023.

The Croatian delegation was headed by Mr. Staša Skenžić, Head of Independent Sector for European Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia.

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

The set-up of the two delegations can be found in Annex 1.

The Joint Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information on science and research
2. Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme for the years 2024-2025
3. Selection of projects for the period 2024-2025
4. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2026-2027
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 Commission 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 for the years 2024-2025

The Joint Commission discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the years 2024-2025.

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 2024-2025 is attached as part of this Protocol as Annex 2.

Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2024-2025

The Joint Commission agreed upon financing mobility costs of 21 cooperation projects lasting from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025 listed in Annex 3.

Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2026-2027

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 Cooperation.

The call for project proposals will be open from 24 March 2025 to 23 May 2025.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 12th Meeting of the Joint Commission in Vienna in the second 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 31 December 2025. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

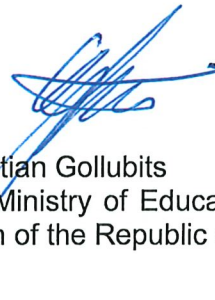
Done in Zagreb, on 4 December 2023 in two English original copies.

Head of the Croatian delegation



Mr. Staša Skenžić
Ministry of Science and Education of the
Republic of Croatia

Head of the Austrian delegation



Mr. Christian Gollubits
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and
Research of the Republic of Austria

**Work Programme
for the Years 2024-2025**

Adopted on the occasion of the 11th Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Zagreb on 4 December 2023, implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on scientific and technological cooperation, signed in Zagreb, on 12 March 2003

Zagreb, 4 December 2023

1. Administrative Regulations
2. Financial Regulations
3. Framework for the next Call for Project Proposals

1. Administrative Regulations

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement, joint cooperation projects in the field of science and technology between Croatian and Austrian 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. In Croatia, project-related material costs up to EUR 1,000.- will be reimbursed.
- 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 Croatia:

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia

Donje Svetice 38, 10000 Zagreb

Telephone: +385 1 4594-353

Email: marija.crnica@mzo.hr

Internet: <https://mzo.gov.hr>

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 Croatian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Austria (1.4.1).

1.5.3 The Croatian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Croatia (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 and accommodation costs of their outgoing researchers.

2.2 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 Commission 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, Croatia and the EU will be favoured.

- 3.3 In Austria and in Croatia, 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 Croatian institutions, Austrian and Croatian 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 Croatian 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 and female research talent (in Austria and in Croatia)
- 3.8 The responsible institutions (1.4) will provide the Joint Commission with a joint short list of evaluated project applications as a basis for the selection meeting.
- 3.9 The Joint Commission will take the final funding decision, either at a physical meeting or via exchange of Emails.