

## **PROTOCOL**

of the Fourth Meeting of the Austrian-Serbian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, concluded in Vienna, on 13 July 2010

Vienna and Belgrade, 17 June 2024

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Austrian-Serbian Joint Commission 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 Serbia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 13 July 2010 took place in Vienna and Belgrade, 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

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

The Serbian delegation was headed by Ms. Vukašinović, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia.

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
3. Selection of projects for the period 2024-2026
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**

The Joint Commission discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the years 2024 - 2026.

The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of cooperation, general administrative regulations, the administration of the exchange of scientists and experts as well as financial regulations.

A copy of the Work Programme for the years 2024 - 2026 is attached as part of this Protocol as Annex 2.



### **Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2024-2026**

The Joint Committee agreed upon financing mobility costs of 27 cooperation projects lasting from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 listed in Annex 3.

The Austrian side supports each bilateral project up to an amount of EUR 9,000.-.

The Serbian side supports each bilateral project up to an amount of EUR 4,000.-.

### **Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2026-2028**

The Joint Commission 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 Commission 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 from 2 October 2026 to 30 November 2026.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission in Vienna in the first half of 2026. 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<sup>th</sup> of June 2026. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna and Belgrade, on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation



Mr. Christian Gollubits

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

Head of the Serbian delegation



Ms. Ivana Vukašinović

Ministry of Science, Technological  
Development and Innovation of the Republic  
of Serbia

**Work Programme  
for the Years 2024-2026**

Adopted on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held on-line in Vienna and Belgrade on 17 June 2024, implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Vienna, on 13 July 2010.

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

## **1. Forms of Cooperation**

- 1.1 According to Article 2 of the Agreement, joint cooperation projects in the field of science and technology between Austrian and Serbian 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 cooperation projects should be balanced between the two sides.

## **2. Aspects of Cooperation**

- 2.1 The Joint Commission 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, Serbia 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

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 7132

Email: [christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at](mailto:christian.gollubits@bmbwf.gv.at)

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

#### **3.1.2 In Serbia:**

The Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia - NITRA, on behalf of the Serbian side, shall be the coordinating body for the implementation of the Work Programme.

Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation

Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade

Telephone: +381 11 3616 589

Fax: +381 11 3616 589

Email: [snezana.omic@nitra.gov.rs](mailto:snezana.omic@nitra.gov.rs)

Internet: [www.nitra.gov.rs](http://www.nitra.gov.rs)

### 3.2 Selection procedure of cooperation projects and administration

3.2.1 The upcoming calls for 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 cooperating Austrian and Serbian institutions, Austrian and Serbian 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 Serbian 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:

In Austria:

- Scientific quality of the proposed research project incl.
  - Feasibility of the joint research plan
  - Adequacy of the scientific method
  - Qualification of the scientist's/research teams involved
- Perspective for further joint cooperation activities
- Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,
  - Either if submitted by early-stage researchers
  - Or if involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers and/or female researchers

In Serbia:

- Quality and scientific relevance
- Importance and attainability of the proposed goals
- Compatibility of the methodology and the plan of activities
- Achievements and the applicability of the results
- Perspective for further joint cooperation and participation of the Serbian young researchers

- 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 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 Serbian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Austria (3.1.1).
- 3.3.3 The Serbian Principal Investigator will notify the Austrian researcher in question at the responsible institution in Serbia (3.1.2).

## 4. **Financial Regulations**

- 4.1 Each side will cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its researchers.

### 4.2 Grants in Austria

- 4.2.1 Travel expenses (economy class) of the Austrian researchers will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.
- 4.2.2 Accommodation Expenses of the Austrian researchers: EUR 100.- per working day for up to 14 days or EUR 1,400. - per month for long-term stays between 14 days and 3 months maximum. PhD/Doctoral students: EUR 100.- per working day for up to 12 days or EUR 1,250. - per month for long-term stays between 12 days and 3 months maximum.
- 4.2.3 Project related material costs: max. EUR 3000.- as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.

### 4.3 Grants in Serbia

- 4.3.1 Travel expenses (economy class) of the Serbian researchers will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices. Reimbursement of travel expenses by private car will be made on the basis of the Law on the Use of an Official Vehicle.
- 4.3.2 Accommodation expenses of the Serbian researchers and Young researchers: EUR 100.- per working day for up to 14 days or EUR 1,400. - per month for long-term stays between 14 days and 3 months maximum.

### 4.4 Health insurance:

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