

## **PROTOCOL**

of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Austrian - Croatian Joint Commission  
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on  
Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 12 March 2003

Vienna, 1 December 2025

The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Austrian - Croatian Joint Commission 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 Croatia on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 12 March 2003, took place in Vienna, 1 December 2025.

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

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

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 2026-2027
3. Selection of projects for the period 2026-2027
4. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2028-2029
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 2026-2027**

The Joint Commission discussed and adopted the Work Programme for the years 2026-2027.

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 2026-2027 is attached as part of this Protocol as Annex 2.

### **Ad 3 Selection of projects for the period 2026-2027**

The Joint Commission agreed upon financing mobility costs of 15 cooperation projects lasting from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027 listed in Annex 3.

### **Ad 4 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2028-2029**

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.

The call for project proposals will be opened in spring 2027.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 13<sup>h</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission in Zagreb in the second half of 2027. 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 2027. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Vienna, on 1 December 2025 in two English original copies.

Head of the Austrian delegation

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

Head of the Croatian delegation

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

**Annex 2**

**Work Programme  
for the Years 2026-2027**

Adopted on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Vienna on 1 December 2025, implementing the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Scientific and Technological Co-operation, signed in Zagreb, on 12 March 2003.

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

## 1. Administrative Regulations

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement, joint cooperation projects in the field of science and technology between Austrian and Croatian 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 3,000.- 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](mailto:wtz@oead.at)

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

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

Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research

Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna

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

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

### 1.4.2 in Croatia:

The implementation of the Work Programme lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia

Donje Svetice 38, 10000 Zagreb

Telephone: +385 1 4594-353

Email: [marija.crnic@mzom.hr](mailto:marija.crnic@mzom.hr)

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

## 1.5 Reporting

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 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).

1.6 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 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, Croatia 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 Croatian institutions, Austrian and Croatian Principal Investigators and research team members
- Project description (subject, objective and methodology, partner institutions, project tasks of ALL project members)
- Work plan
- Qualifications of the Principal Investigators and research team members
- Detailed budget plan
- Further cooperation perspective
- Brief description: monitoring, exit strategy, added value

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
- Added value for the institution and Austria, monitoring, exit strategy
- 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.

### Annex 3 AT-HR Projects 2026-2027

Project Title	AT Organisation	HR Organisation
The economics of natural disasters: Evidence from riverine floodings in Austria	Johannes Kepler Universität Linz	The Institute of Economics Zagreb;
Asymptotic components in models of planar attractors	Universität Wien	University of Zagreb;
Advanced Materials for Fusion-Relevant Applications	Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften	Institut Ruder Boskovic;
Pulmonary Metamorphosis: Illuminating Lung Metabolic Response through Stable Isotope Profiling and Precision-Cut Slices	Medizinische Universität Graz	University of Zagreb;
EarthSim: Modeling Earthworm Population Dynamics for Sustainable Soil Management	Universität für Bodenkultur Wien	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek;
Diversification and polyploid evolution in Centaurea, Cerastium and Euphorbia	Universität Innsbruck	University of Zagreb;
Optical measurements of metallic and insulating antiferromagnetic SrCrO <sub>3</sub>	Technische Universität Wien	University of Zagreb;
Exploring opioid signalling using machine learning to advance drug discovery	Medizinische Universität Wien	University of Rijeka;
A Systems-Based Holistic Approach to Polyoxometalate Engineering	Technische Universität Graz	University of Zagreb;
Modality in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS) and Croatian Sign Language (HZJ): Typological differences between an SOV and an SVO language	Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg	University of Zagreb;
Exploring sirtuin 3 as a modulator of sex differences in metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) progression in obesity	Medizinische Universität Graz	Institut Ruder Boskovic;
Seashell Concrete - a novel, eco-friendly building material from marine biological waste (ShellCrete)	Technische Universität Wien	Juraj Dobrila University of Pula;
Biochemical and biophysical characterisation of lysophospholipase PNPLA7	Universität Graz	Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health;
Novel Approaches in Micropollutants Removal from Natural Waters Using Synthesized Nanomaterials (NANOREMWATER)	Universität für Bodenkultur Wien	University of Zagreb;
Diophantine m-tuples and related topics	Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg	University of Osijek;