

**AUSTRIA / BULGARIA
SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
(WTZ)**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2021 JOINT PROJECTS

CLOSING DATE: 28 February 2019

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation, concluded in Vienna on 17 April 1969 and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science.

Aims of the Programme

- Funding researchers' mobility in the frame of joint research projects to stimulate international research cooperation;
- Providing an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers, especially for early-stage¹, mid-career² as well as female researchers.

Areas of Cooperation

The Call is open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as humanities.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of max. two years from 15 July 2019 until 14 July 2021.

Who is eligible to apply?

AUSTRIA: Researchers working at universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions are eligible for application.

Project proposals submitted by early-stage¹ or mid-career researchers² as well as project proposals with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage¹ and/or female researchers will be particularly considered.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. Follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be eligible for funding if they have already been funded under this programme.

BULGARIA: Applicants eligible to participate in this project selection procedure are only the following entities:

- 1) Accredited universities as defined in Art.85 para.1, p. 7 of the Higher Education Act;
- 2) Research organizations as defined in Art. 47, para 1 of the Higher Education Act.

¹ Researchers with an experience up to 5 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

² Researchers with an experience of 5 to 15 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

Detailed eligibility conditions are described in the GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION 2018" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria, available at the web site of BNSF: www.fni.bg.

How should applications be submitted ?

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. **Proposals must be submitted in both Austria (OeAD GmbH) and in BULGARIA (Bulgarian National Science Fund, BNSF)**. Proposals which have not been received in both countries will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding.

AUSTRIA: The entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at [[web-link](#)]. The application must include the following documents (in PDF format):

- Brief academic CV for each **Austrian** project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institution
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and Bulgarian)
- Further cooperation perspective (in national, European or international programmes, joint publications, etc.)

BULGARIA: Project proposals should be submitted on hard copy and electronic form in the registry office of the Bulgarian National Scientific Fund as described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria. Documents for the call are available at the web site of BNSF: www.fni.bg.

What will be funded?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers between the participating countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of scientists conducting joint research.

The sending state will pay the travel expenses whereas the accommodation expenses will be financed by the hosting state (and vice versa).

In Austria in well-justified cases EUR 1000.- per project may be applied for material costs.

Bulgarian team may apply for additional costs, described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria.

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for **collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides.

Funding Limits

AUSTRIA:

The total sum of **EUR 7,000.-** per project (**EUR 3,500.-** per project per year) plus additional EUR 1,000.- per project for material costs can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed for Austrian researchers based on submitted invoices. (actual costs of the trip but not exceeding **EUR 500**)
- Accommodation expenses: **EUR 100.- per 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.
- Material costs: **EUR 1,000.-** per project in justified cases.

BULGARIA:

The total sum up to **40 000 BGN** per project can be applied for.

The costs for mobility can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: for Bulgarian researchers travelling to Austria (actual cost of the trip but not exceeding 300 EUR).
- Accommodation expenses: **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.

Other eligible costs for Bulgarian team are described in the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria.

Please note:

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- Scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**.

How are applications evaluated?

AUSTRIA:

Following the closing date of the call indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria.

- Scientific quality of the intended research project incl.
 - Feasibility of the joint research plan
 - Adequacy of the scientific method
 - Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved (max. 25 points)
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective (max. 15 points)

Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project proposals with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (5 points) or female researchers (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally. (max. 10 points)

A maximum of 50 points can be achieved.

BULGARIA:

The evaluation procedure is described in the GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION 2018" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for Austria, available at the web site of BNSF: www.fni.bg.

Following national evaluation, a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the OeAD GmbH and the BNSF based on the results of the national evaluations. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-Bulgarian Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by June 2019.

Projects follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English to OeAD GmbH by the Austrian project leader no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in Bulgarian to BNSF by Bulgarian project leader no more than 1 month after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The final report must include a short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons. The final report will be made available to researchers within this programme in similar disciplines.
- Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Bulgarian National Science Fund.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted by **28 February 2019**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the OeAD GmbH and the BNSF will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner countries in time.

Further information

In Austria	In Bulgaria
OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for international Cooperation in Education and Research) ICM – Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility Ms. Konstanze Pirker Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-471 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz	Bulgarian National Science Fund Blvd. Dondukov 2A, Sofia (legal address) Mrs. Maya Bakalova Al. Stamboliiski Blvd. № 239 B, fl. 3 and 4 Sofia 1309, Bulgaria (postal address) Tel. +359 (0) 2/ 44 44 961 E-mail: m.bakalova@mon.bg Website: www.fni.bg