

**SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (WTZ)  
AUSTRIA / SLOVAKIA  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2024-2026**

**CLOSING DATE: 11 December 2023 – 12 noon**

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) is carried out in the frame of international agreements with selected partner countries with the aim to stimulate international research.

**Thematic priority areas**

Open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as humanities.

**Target group**

**AUSTRIA:**

- **Researchers** at public universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions in areas of basic research
- **PhD/Doctoral students** (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding)

**Minimum requirement for the Austrian Principal Investigator:** PhD/doctoral degree

**Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers<sup>1</sup> as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized<sup>2</sup>.**

**Please note:** Only new project partnerships can be funded under this programme. Follow-up applications of already funded partnerships are not eligible.

A maximum of two projects can be submitted per Principal Investigator.

**SLOVAKIA:**

Within the public call SK-AT 2023, project proposals from all research and development areas can be submitted. The aim of bilateral cooperation projects is to establish new or intensify the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following instruments:

- preparation of joint international projects;
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
- active participation in conferences, organizing the joint scientific events;
- mutual use of instrumentation and laboratory techniques;
- gathering the research materials;
- involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (aged under 35).

In the submitted project proposal, the applicant shall indicate the field of science and technology the application falls into. Applications may be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without any limitation of their membership in the research and development sector.

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<sup>1</sup> *Researchers with an experience of up to 10 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family or health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).*

<sup>2</sup> *These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.*

## **Funding**

Funding will be provided for the **mobility of researchers to carry out bilateral research projects.**

**In Austria up to EUR 3,000.- per project of the granted funding may be applied for project-related material costs.**

**Funding mode:** The sending side covers the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of its researchers.

**Project duration: 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2026.**

**Please note: Research stays in both countries are obligatory.**

Funding will be provided for activities within the scope of these guidelines only.

## **AUSTRIA:**

**Funding amount: max. EUR 8,000.- per project**

### **Eligible costs:**

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.<sup>3</sup>
- **Accommodation expenses:**
  - 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.**
- **Project related material costs: max. EUR 3000.-** as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.<sup>4</sup>

## **SLOVAKIA:**

- The total amount of funding allocated for the whole projects period and assessment supported in this call shall amount to EUR 112 000 in maximum.
- The total amount of funds provided by the Agency to solve one project is limited to a maximum of EUR 8 000 for the whole project duration and a maximum of EUR 4 000 per a calendar year of the project.

## **Application process and content**

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners in the respective country.

**Applications must be submitted both in Austria to Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and in Slovakia to the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA).** Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

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<sup>3</sup> Journeys of up to seven hours must be by bus or train. A subsidy for private car usage is only possible in exceptions and in accordance with the OeAD.

<sup>4</sup> Only project-specific material costs will be reimbursed, that are essential to carry out the research project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure. Infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions cannot be funded.

**AUSTRIA:** Electronic application only [[web-link](#)].

**Content:** (in PDF format)

- Brief academic CV of each project member from the Austrian side including their academic status (early stage researchers, PhD/doctoral students)
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Austrian side
- Project description including methodology (about 3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions
- Brief description of the project tasks of ALL project members (Austrian and Slovakian)
- Further cooperation perspective

**SLOVAKIA:**

Term for submitting the applications are from 09 October 2023 to 11 December 2023.

Applications shall be submitted electronically only through the electronic application system available on the agency's website [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk). The electronic application system will be closed on 11 December 2023 at 12.00 a.m. The agency does not guarantee successful submission of the electronic forms via electronic application system in case of the system overloading or sending an electronic version of the application in the last hours before closing the system. In this case, the applicant assumes full responsibility for such unsuccessful submission of electronic version of the application. Only the required sections applications generated by the system shall be submitted in their paper forms enclosed in annex No.1 of Consolidated version of the public call. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required application sections within the stated period up to 01th December 2020 at the latest to the agency address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mýtna 23, P..BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava 32). The deadline for submitting the applications is retained if the application is submitted on the last day of the deadline to the authority responsible for its delivering.

The agency will only include those applications in the evaluation process which simultaneously meet all three of the following criteria:

- a) application is submitted through an electronic submission system for project applications;
- b) Application must be submitted and subsequently assessed simultaneously on both the Slovak and the partner's side. On the Slovak side, the Slovak applicant applies to the Agency, and a partner organisation submits the Application according to the instructions of the organisation that opens the call in a partner country;
- c) application meets all the conditions of the public call SK-AT 2023.

**Evaluation criteria in Austria:**

- **Scientific quality** of the proposed research project incl.
  - Feasibility of the joint research plan
  - Adequacy of the scientific method
  - Qualification of the scientists/research teams involved **(max. 25 points)**
- Perspective for **further joint cooperation activities** **(max. 15 points)**
- Project applications will receive up to 10 points additionally,

- Either if **submitted by early-stage researchers**<sup>2</sup> (+10 points)
- Or if **involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers**<sup>2</sup> (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points) **(max. 10 points)**

Maximum score: 50 points

Evaluation criteria in Slovakia:

- Timeliness and scientific nature of the objectives and originality of the research intent (max. 20 points)
- Timetable of solving the research intent and relevance of the activities with regard to the character of the call (max. 10 points)
- Significance and justification of the international bilateral co-operation in solving the research intent (max. 25 points)
- Benefits of the international bilateral co-operation and research intent (max. 25 points)
- Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team with regard to the involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R&D staff (max 20points).

In criterion 5, the reviewers and the council shall consider the time (in the case of women - maternity leave) of active professional life of the principal investigator and members of the team.

**Maximum score: 100 points**

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Slovakia, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian - Slovakian Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and **announced presumably by June 2024**.

Reporting and publications

In Austria scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **Brief project progress report after one year** via the OeAD online tool as a precondition for further funding!
- **Final scientific and financial report** no more than 3 months after the end of the project incl.:
  - Output of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the application
  - Short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons<sup>5</sup>

Joint publications resulting from these cooperation projects have to mention the support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Slovak Research and Development Agency Ministry.

In Slovakia scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory:

- **Brief project progress report (scientific and financial report) after one year until 31.01 following calendar year** via the SRDA online tool and also in written form by statutory sent to the SRDA as a precondition for further funding!

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<sup>5</sup> This short report will be distributed to researchers within OeAD's WTZ-funding programme in similar disciplines to increase networking in the sector of international cooperation.

- **Final scientific and financial report** no more than 30 calendar days after the end of the project via the SRDA online tool and also in written form by statutory sent to the SRDA

### **Intellectual property**

The project partners 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 before **11 December 2023 – 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

### **Further information**

<b>In Austria</b>	<b>In Slovakia</b>
OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
<b>Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter</b> Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472 Email: <a href="mailto:wtz@oead.at">wtz@oead.at</a> Website: <a href="http://www.oead.at/wtz">www.oead.at/wtz</a>	<b>Mgr. Andrea Danková</b> Stromová 1 813 30 Bratislava Phone: +421 2 5937 4715 E-mail: <a href="mailto:andrea.dankova@minedu.sk">andrea.dankova@minedu.sk</a> <a href="http://www.minedu.sk">http://www.minedu.sk</a>

#### **Contacts:**

##### **Slovak Republic**

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