

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

CLOSING DATE: 10 November 2023 – 12 noon

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) is carried out in the frame of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of Montenegro on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 10 June 2009 and funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro.

Thematic priority areas

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

Target group

AUSTRIA:

- **Researchers** at 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 researchers¹ as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized².

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.

MONTENEGRO:

- **Public or private research organization, licensed by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro;**
- **Minimum requirement for the Montenegrin Principal Investigator:** PhD/doctoral degree
- **Minimum requirement for project team members:** Master Degree or equivalent

Project applications submitted by early-stage researchers³ as well as project applications with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritized⁴.

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.

Project duration: 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2026.

¹ 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).

² These project applications will receive additional points during the evaluation process and hence a better overall score.

³ 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).

⁴ 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 each of the countries (Austria and Montenegro) 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.

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 10,000.- per project

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices.⁵
- **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.⁶

MONTENEGRO:

Funding amount: *max.* EUR 10,000.- per project

Eligible costs:

- **Travel expenses:** Travel costs will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices and the accompanying documentation (boarding pass etc.). This refers to air transport (economy class) and local transfer (bus or train) to the specific location of the activity.⁷
 - **Daily Subsistence Allowance:**
 - Principal investigator: **EUR 100.- per day for up to 14 days** OR **EUR 1,400.- per month** for long-term stays **between 14 days and 3 months** maximum
 - Other team members: **EUR 100.- per day for up to 12 days** OR **EUR 1,250.- per month** for long-term stays **between 12 days and 3 months** maximum.
- Note: Beneficiaries are kindly requested to avoid scheduling project mobility during holiday periods to ensure responsible use of funding.**
- **Project related material costs:** *max.* EUR 3000.- as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.⁸

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Travel by car is also possible if it proves more cost-effective, in which case the reimbursement will be calculated based on the applicable rates from the national Decree on Reimbursement of Expenses for Public Sector Employees.

⁸ 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.

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 Montenegro to the Ministry of Science and Technological Development. Only applications submitted in time in both countries are eligible for funding.

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 Montenegrin)
- Further cooperation perspective

MONTENEGRO:

Project proposals applications must be submitted in English language in hard copy and to the following e-mail addresses: ivana.lagator@mntr.gov.me lidija.vukcevic@mntr.gov.me

Content: (in PDF format)

- Brief academic CV of each project team member from the Montenegrin side including their academic status (early stage researchers, PhD/doctoral students);
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Montenegrin 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 team members (Austrian and Montenegrin);
- Further cooperation perspective.

Evaluation criteria in Austria and Montenegro:

- **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**² (+10 points)
 - Or if **involving doctoral students/early-stage researchers**² (+5 points) and/or **female researchers** (+5 points) **(max. 10 points)**

Maximum score: **50 points**

Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in Austria and in Montenegro, a joint shortlist will be prepared. The **funding decision** will be taken by the Austrian - Montenegrin 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 persons⁹

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

- **Brief project progress report after one year** 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

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

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 **10 November 2023 – 12 noon** to be eligible for funding.

⁹ *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.*

Further information

In Austria	In Montenegro
<p>OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation</p> <p>Ms Isabella Scheibelreiter Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-472 Email: wtz@oead.at Website: www.oead.at/wtz</p>	<p>Government of Montenegro Ministry of Science and Technological Development Department for International Cooperation</p> <p>Ms Ivana Lagator Rimski trg bb 81000 Podgorica Tel. +382 20 405 326 Email: ivana.lagator@mnr.gov.me</p> <p>Ms Lidija Vukčević Rimski trg bb 81000 Podgorica Tel. +382 20 405 344 Email: lidija.vukcevic@mnr.gov.me Website: https://www.gov.me/mnr</p>