

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Science,
Technological
Development and
Innovation



SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



Ministry of
Education, Science
and Innovation

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA / REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA / REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIC OF FRANCE / MONTENEGRO

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA / SLOVAK REPUBLIC

MULTILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE REGION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2025-2027 JOINT PROJECTS

CLOSING DATE: 17 JANUARY 2025

Aims of the Call

- To contribute to scientific advancement in the abovementioned countries by funding researchers' mobility in the frame of joint research projects;
- To contribute to research capacity development in the region;
- To support the advancement of cross-border research cooperation;
- To provide an opportunity for young/female researchers (as applicable) in the abovementioned countries to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers;
- To facilitate the joint participation in European research projects.

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. 2 years from **1st July 2025** until **30th June 2027**.

Target group

AUSTRIA:

- **Researchers** at higher education institution (minimum requirement PhD degree) and researchers at non-university research institutions in areas of basic research (minimum requirement Master degree)
- **PhD/Doctoral students** as team members only (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding)

BULGARIA:

Detailed eligibility conditions are available at the web site of BNSF: www.bnsf.bg

CROATIA:

Higher education faculty (at least assistant professors) holding permanent positions at Croatian higher education institutions, and researchers (at least research assistants) holding permanent positions at Croatian scientific research institutes are eligible for application.

PhD/doctoral students are eligible for funding as team members only (Bachelor and Master graduates are not eligible for funding).

An acceptable applicant on the Croatian side needs to have an active project (as Principal Investigator or team member with a written consent of the Principal Investigator) financed by the central national body for the funding of scientific projects or an active project financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds, from Programmes of the European Union or by the home institution.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Researchers working at research organization in accordance with Art. 1.3 point. ff) Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01). Minimum requirement for project members is a Master degree or equivalent.

FRANCE: Eligibility criteria applied by the French evaluators are available on the website of Campus France under the following link: <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/danube>

MONTENEGRO:

Researchers from Montenegro, taking part in this Programme, should be employees of Montenegrin scientific research institution licensed in accordance with Law on Scientific-Research Activities (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 80, 40/11, 57/14), and/or employees of Montenegrin innovation activity entities, registered in accordance with Law on Innovation Activities (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 82/20) – to be proved by a confirmation issued by the relevant institution/entity.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA:

- In this Call only one Serbian accredited scientific research organization can participate. List of accredited scientific research organisation: <https://enauka.gov.rs/?locale=en>
- **Researchers** from Serbia who apply for the project should be persons in teaching, scientific and research positions who are employed in institutions of higher education or scientific research organisations in accordance with the Law on Science and Research ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 49/19) and participate in the implementation of the Institutional Financing Program or other programs of general interest in accordance with the Law.
- **"Young research talent"** within the project team, means a person who meets the following conditions: has been selected for a research title in accordance with the Art.74. Law on Science and Research, has obtained a maximum of 10 years of research work before the closing date of the Call and is employed in an accredited scientific research organisation.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC:

Any Slovak legal entity or Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur who holds valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.

Application process and content

It is up to the applicants to find suitable partners in participating partner countries. **Proposals must be submitted to all responsible national funding bodies of the participating partners simultaneously.** Proposals which have not been received by all participating partners will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding.

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

Content:

- Brief academic CV of Principal Investigator incl. academic status (early-stage researchers) and language skills
- Abstract
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Austrian side
- Project description including methodology (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions (incl. reason of choice of cooperation partner)
- Brief description of the project tasks of ALL project members (Austrian and partner incl. their academic status PhD/doctoral students/researcher and their competence in Austria) and project timeline (Template)
- Further cooperation perspective
- Brief description: monitoring, exit strategy, added value for home institution and Austria
- Detailed budget plan (Template)

BULGARIA:

Proposals must be submitted online to the Management System of National Investments (NIMS) at the following address: <https://enims.egov.bg/>

CROATIA:

The application for the research project must be submitted in print by regular mail and scanned by e-mail in Croatian and English language.

- Project description including the objectives and methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief academic CV for each Croatian project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years
- Brief description of the partner institutions
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members
- Expected project results and further cooperation perspective
- Proof of active project; written consent of PI

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The application for the research project in English (unless otherwise specified) shall be preferably submitted via data box (MEYS data box: **vidaawt**). There must be a notice: „VYZVA 8X25 Danube - NEOTVIRAT“ in the data box message, in the column K rukám, please, fill “Oddělení 33”. The forms and other information are available on <http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/podunajska-spoluprace> (under the reference of the Call).

The application must include the following documents:

- Project Proposal (with project description including the methodology, description of the project tasks of all Czech project members; description of the partner institutions and further cooperation perspective) incl. Annex 1.
- Brief academic CV for each Czech project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years

FRANCE:

The application must be submitted online on the following website: <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/phc-candidater>.

MONTENEGRO:

The application for the research project should be submitted in English language and must be provided in both of the following formats:

- A **physical copy in paper format**, sent/submitted to the following address:

Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation
Division for International Cooperation
Rimski trg bb
81000 Podgorica

- An **electronic copy** of the same application, sent by email to the contact persons listed below.

The electronic file **must** contain exactly the same application as the paper version enclosed.

The application must include the following documents:

- **Completed and signed Application Form**, which includes:
 - Project description, including methodology
 - Brief description of all partner institutions
 - Brief description of the project tasks for all project members (Montenegrin and partner)
 - Expected project results and future cooperation perspectives
- **Brief academic CV** for each Montenegrin project member.
- **List of relevant publications** from the last 2 years for each Montenegrin project member.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA:

Electronic application in English and Serbian language: <https://nitra.gov.rs/cir/medunarodna-saradnja/multilateralni-programi-saradnje>

Signed PDF versions of project application must be send to: prijava.dunav@nitra.gov.rs

Content:

- Project description including the objectives and methodological part
- Brief academic CV for each Serbian project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the Serbian side
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members
- Expected project results and further cooperation perspective

SLOVAK REPUBLIC:

the entire application for the research and development support project must be submitted in Slovak and English online at www.apvv.sk until call deadline. The application must include the following information:

- Brief academic information **for Slovak PI** and list of other project members
- List of relevant **Slovak PI** publications or important research results of the last 5 years
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institutions
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members
- Further cooperation perspective

Funding

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers among 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 cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs and insurance of its own researchers.

In Austria in well-justified cases EUR 3,000.- per project may be applied for material and/or other costs. In the Slovak Republic other costs associated with the project provided by the Agency in each financial year can be set at a minimum of EUR 100, while not exceeding 30% of the total project costs.

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for **collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers from a **minimum of 3 participating countries**.

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

AUSTRIA:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	EUR 13,000.-
4	EUR 15,000.-
5	EUR 17,000.-
6 and more	EUR 19,000.-

Eligible Costs:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) up to max EUR 1.200,- will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices. For travels up to seven hours bus and train shall be used.
- Accommodation expenses: EUR 120.- per working day for up to 12 days OR EUR 1,440.- per month for long-term stays between 12 days and 3 months maximum
- Project related material costs: max. EUR 3000.- per project as part of the granted maximum budget based on submitted invoices.

BULGARIA:

Maximum funding for a project: - **BGN 50,000.-** (BGN 25,000.- per year)

The funding will be allocated as follows:

BGN 50,000, of which minimum 30 % from the direct eligible cost are for mobility, and the rest funding is according to the specific rules of the BNSF for each project.

Detailed eligibility conditions are described in the GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION OF PROCEDURE "CALLS FOR PROJECTS IN PROGRAMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION" and the Appendix 'Specific conditions' for the International call for Multilateral scientific and technological cooperation in the Danube region, available at the web site of BNSF: www.bnsf.bg

CROATIA:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	EUR 10,000.- (EUR 5,000.- per year)
4	EUR 12,500.- (EUR 6,250.- per year)
5 and more	EUR 15,000.- (EUR 7,500.- per year)

The funding can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: Travel costs (economy class) up to max EUR 500,- will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices. For travels up to seven hours bus and train shall be used.
- Accommodation expenses shall not exceed the price of a 3-star hotel. Food expenses per person and per day in accordance with the Croatian national legislation: for Austria EUR 90.-, for Bulgaria EUR 70.-, for the Czech Republic EUR 80.-, for France EUR 90.-, for Montenegro EUR 50.-, for Serbia EUR 50.- and for the Slovak Republic EUR 70.-.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	250 000 CZK (125 000 CZK per year)
4	300 000 CZK (150 000 CZK per year)
5 and more	350 000 CZK (175 000 CZK per year)

The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses (including the costs of health insurance): maximum 10 000 CZK/person - per trip for Czech researchers travelling to an abovementioned country.
- Accommodation expenses (including food expenses according to the rules set by the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic): Austria up to EUR 150.-, Bulgaria up to EUR 120.-, Croatia up to EUR 120.-, France up to EUR 170.-, Montenegro up to EUR 120.-, Serbia up to EUR 120.-, Slovakia up to EUR 120.-, per person and per day for Czech researchers travelling to abovementioned countries for up to 14 days **OR** CZK 45 000.- per month for long-term visits between 15 days and 3 months maximum.

FRANCE:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	EUR 10,000.- (EUR 5,000.- per year)
4	EUR 12,500.- (EUR 6,250.- per year)
5 and more	EUR 15,000.- (EUR 7,500.- per year)

The funding will be allocated as follows:

- Travel costs will be reimbursed for French researchers travelling to an above-mentioned country based on submitted invoices: maximum EUR 500.- per trip
- Accommodation and food expenses: EUR 125.- flat rate per person and per day for French researchers travelling to an above-mentioned country

MONTENEGRO:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	EUR 7,000.- (EUR 3,500.- per year)
4	EUR 8,500.- (EUR 4.250.- per year)
5 and more	EUR 10,000.- (EUR 5.000.- per year)

The funds can be allocated as follows:

- Travel expenses, including the costs of Health Insurance, will be reimbursed for Montenegrin researchers travelling to an abovementioned country based on submitted invoices: maximum EUR 400.- per trip
- Accommodation and food expenses: EUR 100.- per day for Montenegrin researchers travelling to an abovementioned country for up to 14 days or EUR 1,400.- per month for long-term visits between 15 days and 3 months maximum.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	840.000 RSD- (420.000 RSD- per year)
4	1.020.000 RSD (520.000 RSD- per year)
5 and more	1.080.000 RSD (540.000 RSD- per year)

Eligible costs within maximum funding amount per project year, for Serbian researchers travelling to an abovementioned country based on submitted invoice, include:

- Travel expenses
- Health Insurance and
- Accommodation expenses.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC:

Number of participating countries	Maximum funding per project
3	EUR 10,000.- (EUR 5,000.- per year)
4	EUR 12,500.- (EUR 6,250.- per year)
5	EUR 15,000.- (EUR 7,500.- per year)
6 and more	EUR 17,500.- (EUR 8,750.- per year)

The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses for Slovak researchers travelling on the territories of Slovakia and the participating partner countries, which are demonstrably related directly to the project.
- Accommodation expenses: for Slovak researchers travelling on the territories of Slovakia and the participating partner countries, which are demonstrably related directly to the project.
- Subsistence costs for Slovak researchers
- Documented necessary extra costs for Slovak researchers (visa, conference fees, travel health insurance abroad, tolls/fees and parking fees demonstrably related to the business trip covered within the project solution, compulsory and recommended vaccination, etc.)

The other expenses associated with the project implementation covered by the agency's resources shall not exceeding 30% of the total project costs provided by the agency in each financial year (material, services).

More details about Slovak national rules can be found in the consolidated version of the public call and their annex.

Evaluation criteria

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 value of the intended research project (Points 0-25)
- Feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the scientific method (Points 0-15)
- Competence, expertise and complementarity of the scientists/research teams involved (Points 0-20)
- Added value expected from the multilateral research collaboration (Points 0-15)
- Potential for further or future European and international cooperation (Points 0-15)
- Participation of young research talents (5 Points); gender balanced team (5 Points) (Points 0-10)

A maximum of 100 points can be achieved.

Funding decision

Following national evaluation, a joint shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the implementing agencies/ministries based on the results of the national evaluations. The project selection will be carried out by the funding agencies and ministries of the participating countries. The results of the project selection meeting will be announced presumably by **June 2025**.

Reporting and Publications

Scientific and financial reporting on the project is obligatory.

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English (for Slovakian partners only in Slovak, for Czech partners in English or Czech) by all project partners to their national implementation agencies/ministries no more than 30 days after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- Joint publications by researchers have to mention the support from the respective funding agencies/ministries.

Additionally in Austria: A brief project progress report has to be submitted after one year via the online tool as a precondition for further funding.

Additionally in France: A scientific and financial progress report has to be submitted after one year to the Campus France website (please see below) as a precondition for further funding.

Additionally in Croatia: Scientific and financial reporting on the Croatian side takes place according to national rules.

Additionally in the Czech Republic: A brief project progress report has to be submitted after each calendar year to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic (MEYS) according to the guidelines published by the MEYS.

Additionally in Montenegro: A scientific and financial progress report has to be submitted after one year to the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, as a precondition for further funding.

Additionally in Serbia: A scientific and financial progress report has to be submitted after one year to the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation in Serbian language, as a precondition for further funding.

Additionally in the Slovak Republic: A brief project progress report has to be submitted online and per regular post after one year to the Slovak Research and Development Agency as a precondition for further funding.

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 before **17 January 2025**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the implementing agencies/ministries will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Principal Investigators have to ensure that their research partners submit their applications in time.

Further information

For Austria	For Bulgaria
<p>OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research)</p> <p>Isabella Scheibelreiter Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel.: +43 (0)1/ 53408-472 E-mail: wtz@oead.at</p>	<p>BNSF - Bulgarian National Science Fund Bilateral and International cooperation</p> <p>Lyudmila Sotirova Al. Stamboliyski Blvd., 239 B, 1309 Sofia Tel. +359 884 222 393 Email: l.sotirova@mon.bg</p>
For the Republic of Croatia	For Czech Republic
<p>Ministry of Science, Education and Youth Independent Sector for European Affairs and International Cooperation</p> <p>Marija Crnić Donje Svetice 38 HR-10000 Zagreb Tel.: +385 (0)1/ 4594 -353 Email: marija.crnica@mzom.hr Website: www.mzom.hr</p>	<p>Ministry of Education Youth and Sports Management of International R&D Programmes Unit</p> <p>Luděk Kos Karmelitská 529/5 118 12 PRAHA 1 Tel.: +420 234 812 299 E-mail: ludek.kos@msmt.gov.cz</p> <p>Jarmila Dvořáková Karmelitská 529/5 118 12 PRAHA 1 Tel.: +420 234 811 333 Email: jarmila.dvorakova@msmt.gov.cz</p>

For the Republic of France	For Montenegro
<p>Ministry of Higher Education and Research and Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Kristiana Stoitseva 1, rue Descartes 75231 Paris Cedex 05 Tel : +33 1 55 55 80 02 kristiana.stoitseva@recherche.gouv.fr</p> <p>Campus France Gestion PHC E-Mail: extranet@campusfrance.org</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation Unit to Division for International Cooperation in the Field of Science and Innovation</p> <p>Ivana Lagator Rimski trg bb 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro Tel: +382 20 405 326 E-mail: ivana.lagator@mpni.gov.me</p> <p>Lidija Vukčević Rimski trg bb 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro Tel: +382 20 405 344 E-mail: lidija.vukcevic@mpni.gov.me</p>

For the Republic of Serbia	For Slovak Republic
<p>NITRA - Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation</p> <p>Andjela Zdravković 22-26, Nemanjina St. 11 000 Belgrade Tel.: +381 64 8166 084 E-mail: andjela.zdravkovic@nitra.gov.rs</p>	<p>SRDA (Slovak Research and Development Agency) Department of International Cooperation</p> <p>JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04 839 04 Bratislava Tel.: +421 2 5720 4101 E-mail: stanislav.mydlo@apvv.sk</p>