

PROTOCOL

**on co-operation in science and technology between
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
and
The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania**

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), recognizing the importance of science and technology in the development of their national economies, wishing to strengthen and develop scientific and technological co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, have agreed as follows.

Article 1 Forms of Co-operation

The Parties shall encourage and support co-operation in the field of science and technology between their affiliated research entities according to the provisions of this Protocol and the existing legislation and regulations of each country.

The co-operation will have the following forms in particular:

- a. Joint research and development projects, including exchange of research results and exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers;
- b. Exchange of individual scientists and experts for the purpose of conducting research work, exchange of information about ongoing research activities, adoption of new scientific methods, delivering lectures, establishing new scientific contacts for developing joint projects, attending scientific events;
- c. Organising and participating in joint scientific meetings, conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions, etc.;
- d. Exchange of scientific and technological information and documentation;
- e. Joint use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment;
- f. Other forms of scientific and technological co-operation which may be mutually agreed upon.

Article 2 Joint Committee

2.1. For the purpose of implementing this Protocol, a Joint Committee, composed of the representatives designated by the two Parties, shall be established. The tasks of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:

- a. Identifying the fields of co-operation on the basis of information delivered by institutions of each country and the national policies in science and technology;



- b. Approves Bilateral Working Program of Activities for a three year period, the Call for Proposals for joint projects, Application Forms, evaluation criteria and the list of the joint projects that shall be financed;
 - c. Creating favourable conditions for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - d. Facilitating the implementation of joint programmes and projects;
 - e. Encouraging exchange of experience arising from the bilateral scientific and technological co-operation and evaluating proposals for its further development.
- 2.2. The Joint Committee meetings are arranged by mutual protocol when matters requiring detailed discussion arise. However, the Joint Committee may also operate by correspondence.
- 2.3. The Joint Committee may elaborate its own rules of procedure.

Article 3
Joint Research and Development Projects

- 3.1. The joint projects will be implemented as follows:
- a. In accordance with Article 1, the Parties will publish simultaneously a Call for Proposals every two years;
 - b. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule and the proposed budget of the projects.
 - c. Project proposals prepared in English using the special "Project Proposal Form" distributed by the Parties should be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to TÜBİTAK and to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania. Proposals will be independently evaluated and approved by each of the two Parties, following their own rules and regulations, and only those proposals which are approved by both Parties will be supported.
- 3.2. The execution period of a joint research project should not exceed two years. The total duration of visits in one direction of a specific project should not be more than two months a year, with a total quota of six months a year for all the joint research projects supported under this Protocol.
- 3.3. Each scientific visit has to be reported by the Turkish scientists to TÜBİTAK and by the Albanian scientists to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania one month in advance. The application must include a brief description of the work to be performed during the planned visit.
- 3.4. Within a month after completion of a scientific visit, a progress report outlining



54

the work performed during the visit will be submitted to TÜBİTAK and to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania. The following visit will not be permitted, unless the progress report for the preceding visit has been evaluated and approved.

- 3.5. Within two months after completion of the execution period, a final report, presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in English jointly by the two research teams and submitted to both TÜBİTAK and the Ministry of Education and Science.
- 3.6. Besides the financial support towards the exchange of project researchers mentioned above, the Parties may provide additional research funds (such as consumables, small equipment and etc.) to their respective project teams whenever they consider it appropriate. It is desirable but not essential to fund the two sides equally.

Article 4 **Exchange of Individual Scientists and Experts**

- 4.1. Parties agree upon an annual quota of four weeks for exchange of individual scientists and experts in each direction. The quota runs per calendar year and unused quota from one year can not be transferred to the following year.
- 4.2. The sending Party shall supply the receiving Party with the following information about its candidates at least two months prior to each visit:
Name, date and place of birth, sex, scientific degree, position, fields of specialisation, knowledge of languages and a list of publications.
- 4.3. Before proposing a scientific visit, the scientists of both Parties shall make the first contacts themselves; agree to cooperate on a specific topic. The sending Party shall provide a draft programme including details of the planned visit and timing. The receiving Party shall review, finalise and approve the programme.
- 4.4. Not later than one month after receipt of a nomination, the receiving Party has to inform the sending Party about the acceptance of the proposed candidate.
- 4.5. After confirmation of acceptance, but not later than four weeks before the commencement of each visit, the sending Party should provide arrival and departure information.

Article 5 **Other forms of cooperation**

The executive details concerning the other forms of cooperation listed in Article 1 of the Protocol will be elaborated by the Joint Committee.

Article 6 **Expenses**

- 6.1. The cost of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists, resulting from this Protocol, unless mutually agreed otherwise, will be covered on the following basis:



04

- a. The sending Party will meet the cost of international travel to the town where the joint work will be executed.
- b. The receiving Party will meet the cost of trips within its territory, boarding and lodging, subject to the current regulations. The current daily allowances are listed below. These will remain valid, unless they are modified by mutual protocol of the Parties. Allowances will be periodically reviewed by the Joint Committee with regard to inflation rates.

In Turkey:

- Free accommodation in a university guest house or equivalent
- Daily allowance 20 Euro per day

In Albania:

- Free accommodation in a hotel or guest house
- Daily allowance 25 Euro per day

- 6.2. The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists, including medical care.

Article 7
Dissemination of Resulting Information

- 7.1. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this Protocol, will be announced, published or commercially exploited with the consent of both co-operation partners and according to international conventions and/or agreements concerning intellectual property rights to which both Parties are signatories.
- 7.2. Scientists, technical experts and institutions of the third countries or international organizations may be invited, upon consent of the both co-operating partners, to participate in projects and programmes being carried out under this Protocol. The cost of such participation shall normally be borne by third countries, unless both sides agree otherwise in writing.

Article 8
Implementation and Legal Aspects

- 8.1. Any disputes related to the interpretation or implementation of this Protocol shall be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee or between the Parties.
- 8.2. With respect to the co-operation activities established under this Protocol, each Party shall take, in accordance with its laws and regulations, all necessary measures to ensure the best possible conditions for their implementation.
- 8.3. This Protocol shall not affect the validity or execution of any obligation arising from other international treaties or agreements concluded by either Party.

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24

Article 9
Initiation and Termination

- 9.1. This Protocol is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an agreement binding upon the States of the Parties under international law. No provision of this Protocol shall be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for the States of the Parties.
- 9.2. This Protocol shall enter into force on the date when it is signed by both Parties.
- 9.3. This Protocol shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for further periods of five years, unless either Party notifies in writing its intentions to terminate this Protocol.
- 9.4. The termination will come into effect in six months from the date of the said notification. The termination of this Protocol shall not affect the projects or programmes undertaken under this Protocol and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Protocol.

Signed in Ankara on 6 April 2010 in two copies in English, both being equally authentic.

For the Scientific and Technological
Research Council of Turkey
(TÜBİTAK)



Prof. Dr. Nüket YETİŞ
President of TÜBİTAK

For the Ministry of Education
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Prof. Dr. Myqerem TAJAJ
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