

## **PROTOCOL**

of the First Meeting of the Albanian-Austrian Joint Commission  
for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the  
Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of  
Austria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

Tirana, 24 April 2014

The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Albanian-Austrian Joint Commission for scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012, took place in Tirana, 24 April 2014.

The Albanian delegation was headed by Mr. Arbjan Mazniku, Deputy Minister of Education and Sports of the Republic of Albania.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Ms Evelyn von Bülow, Director, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

The set-up of the two delegations can be found in Annex 1.

The Joint Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information on science and research
2. Discussion and adoption of the Work Programme
3. Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2015-2016
4. Effectiveness of the Protocol

#### **Ad 1 Exchange of information on science and research**

The two parties exchanged information on scientific and technological policies and priorities as well as on the content and directions of mutual international scientific and technological cooperation.

The parties put particular emphasis on the role of international cooperation for the further development of the science and technology system in their countries. The two parties have reached an understanding to recognize the growing importance of science and technology for the economic, social and cultural development of the two countries. They expressed their confidence that the implementation of the bilateral programme will further contribute to development of beneficial links between scientific institutions and scientists of both countries and will enable them to use their scientific potential more efficiently and fruitfully in regional as well as multilateral projects.

The both parties have expressed support for the idea of a future strengthening of mutual science and technology cooperation through the financial support of whole selected joint projects.

The two parties also reached an understanding to pay serious attention that the projects lead to cooperation in international and European multilateral research and development programmes and especially in the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020".

The Joint Commission has reached an understanding upon holding additional bilateral meetings to settle strategic questions should they arise.

#### **Ad 2 Adoption of the Work Programme until 31 December 2016**

The Joint Commission discussed and adopted the "Work Programme for the Years 2015-2016".

The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of co-operation, general administrative regulations, the administration of the exchange of scientists and experts as well as financial regulations.

A copy of the "Work Programme for the Years 2015-2016" is attached as part of this Protocol in Annex 2.

#### **Ad 3 Next meeting and call for project proposals for the period 2015-2016**

The Joint Commission has reached an understanding that upcoming calls for proposals will be published in principal on a biennale basis by the responsible institutions (see Work Programme) at least six months prior to the meetings of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

The two parties agreed to exchange the (English) texts of their respective calls for proposals thirty days prior their publication. The Parties also agreed to send the list of eligible proposals received on their side within 20 working days from the closure of the call.

The call for project proposals will be open from May 28<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Both parties have reached an understanding to hold the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Commission in Vienna in December 2014. The exact date will be agreed upon through diplomatic notes (by e-mail).



#### **Ad 4 Effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 31st December 2016. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Tirana on 24 April 2014 in two English original copies.

Head of the Albanian delegation

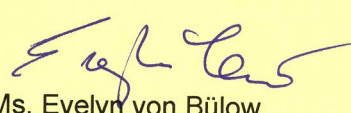


Mr. Arbjan Mazniku

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Education and Sports of the  
Republic of Albania

Head of the Austrian delegation



Ms. Evelyn von Bülow

Director

Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

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**The Albanian Delegation:**

Mr. Arbjan Mazniku, Head of Delegation  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Sports

Mrs. Linda Pustina  
Director of Higher Education and Science  
Ministry of Education and Sports

Mrs. Mirela Bimo  
Director of Finances, Ministry of Education and Sports

Mr. Robert Dumi  
Director of International Relations, Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI)

Ms. Evis Tasellari  
Head of Unit - Bilateral Relations, ARTI

**The Austrian Delegation:**

Ms. Evelyn von Bülow, Head of Delegation  
Director, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Dr. Christian Gollubits  
Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

Dr. Barbara Steiner  
Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria

Ms. Samira Krpuljević-Seferović  
Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD GmbH)  
Scientific and Technological Co-operation  
ICM - Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility

Ms. Sigrid Kodym  
First Secretary and Consul  
Austrian Embassy Tirana

**Work Programme  
for the Years 2015-2016**

Adopted on the occasion of the First Meeting of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, held in Tirana on 24 April 2014, implementing the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Co-operation of May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.

Tirana, 24 April 2014

- 1 Forms of Co-operation
- 2 Aspects of Co-operation
- 3 General Administrative Regulations
- 4 Administration of the Exchange of Scientists and Experts
- 5 Financial Regulations

## **1. Forms of Co-operation**

- 1.1 According to Article 2 of the Agreement, joint co-operation projects will be carried on between Albanian and Austrian institutions. A joint co-operation project is an agreed activity with clearly defined objectives to be achieved within a specific time frame. Each project will normally be of two years' duration, implemented through exchanges of people and information.
- 1.2 For the preparation and realization of joint co-operation projects financial support is given for:
  - a) short-term stays of up to ten days, each per year and project, of scientists at universities or other public scientific and research institutions as well as experts participating in these co-operation projects,
  - b) longer stays of up to a maximum of one month per year and project and
  - c) the exchange of scientific and technological information and documentation in conformity with the respective national laws.
- 1.3 On a long-term basis, the costs arising from joint co-operation projects should be balanced between the two sides.

## **2. Aspects of Co-operation**

- 2.1 The delegations agreed to provide mobility funds for co-operation projects from all scientific fields. Co-operation projects with the potential to lead to future multilateral co-operations within the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation shall be favoured in order to stimulate the joint participation of Albanian and Austrian scientists in European research programmes.
- 2.2 The financing of mobility costs within the framework of this Agreement is also particularly intended to support young scientists and to pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality).

## **3. General Administrative Regulations**

- 3.1 Responsible Institutions
  - 3.1.1. In Albania

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI),



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The Albanian Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) is an institution commissioned by the Council of the Ministers of the Republic of Albania and executes its activities under the Governing Board headed by the Minister of Education and Sports.

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### 3.1.2 In Austria:

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Scientific and Technological Co-operation of the OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research), ICM - Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility, Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna Telephone: +43 1 53408-457

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The Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) is an institution commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

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