PROGRAMME

for

Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects

in the Danube Region

(hereinafter referred to as the “Programme”)

The Programme is adopted by

- Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

(hereinafter jointly referred to as the ”Participants” and separately as a “Participant”)

in preparation of the Joint Calls for multilateral projects in the Danube region.

1. Background and Objectives

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region is aiming at a better coordination and joint strategic use of existing resources. In view of such a better coordination of funding sources the Participants will broaden the possibilities currently offered by existing bilateral science technology and innovation cooperation schemes towards multilateral cooperation in the Danube Region.

2. Forms of Cooperation

2.1 Joint cooperation projects will be carried out among eligible institutions of the participating countries as stated in Annex 1. A joint cooperation project is an agreed activity with clearly defined objectives to be achieved within a specific time frame. Each project will be of max. two years' duration, implemented through exchanges of people and information.

2.2 For the preparation and realization of joint cooperation projects financial support is given mainly for mobility of researchers participating in the cooperation projects.

2.3 The costs arising from joint cooperation projects should be balanced among the Participants.

3. Aspects of Cooperation

3.1 The Participants agree to provide mobility funds for cooperation projects in all research fields. Cooperation projects with the potential to lead to future multilateral cooperation within national and European research and innovation programmes such as “Horizon 2020” will be favoured in order to stimulate the joint participation of Danube region scientists in these programmes.

3.2 The financing of mobility costs is also particularly intended to support the participation of young scientists and to pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality).

3.3 Further Participants may join the Programme later on.

4. General Administrative Regulations

4.1 Responsible Institutions

4.1.1 In the Republic of Austria:

The implementation of the work programme lies with the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH), ICM - Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility.
Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna
Internet: http://www.oead.at/wtz

The Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) is an institution commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.
Department for International Research Cooperation
Rosengasse 2-6, 1014 Vienna
Internet: http://www.bmwfw.gv.at

4.1.2 In the Czech Republic:

The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

Karmelitská 529/5, 118 12 Praha 1
Internet: http://www.msmt.cz/

4.1.3 In the Republic of Serbia:
The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia
Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade
Internet: www.mpn.gov.rs

4.1.4 In the Slovak Republic:
The implementation of the work programme lies within the responsibility of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA)
Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava 32
Internet: http://www.apvv.sk

Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) is an institution commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Division of Higher Education, Research and Development
Department of International Cooperation and International Organizations in Research and Development
Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava
Internet: http://www.minedu.sk/

4.2 Selection procedure of cooperation projects

4.2.1 The Pilot Joint call for application (ANNEX 1) will be published on 15 July 2016 by the interested responsible institutions (4.1).

4.2.2 Submitted project proposals have to include:

1. Topic
2. Names and addresses of the cooperating institutions, principal investigators in each country and research team members
3. Description of the proposed research project and its objectives
4. Work plan, start date and duration of the cooperation project
5. Proof of qualifications of the principal investigators
6. Involvement of young and female scientists (if applicable)
7. Project budget description

4.2.3 The distribution of funding per project is specified in ANNEX 1.

4.2.4 A joint project proposal has to be prepared by the participating researchers and has to be submitted simultaneously to each of the respective national institutions responsible for implementing the programme (4.1).

4.2.5 Applications will be evaluated on the basis of 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 and expertise 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 international cooperation (Points 0-15)
- Participation of young (5 Points) and female (5 Points) research talent (Points 0-10)

4.2.6 For a better comparability of the national evaluations the maximum score in the national evaluations will be harmonized to 100 points maximum.

4.2.7 Only project applications received by all respective responsible institutions (4.1) will be eligible for evaluation. The responsible institutions agreed to send the list of eligible proposals received on their side within 20 working days after the closure of the call and the results of national evaluations at least 10 working days before the selection meeting to all participating responsible institutions. Projects with national evaluations of 50 points and more will be put on a joint project list. Projects reaching the threshold of 70 points as an average of all national evaluation results will be considered for funding.

4.2.8 The final list of cooperation projects to be supported will be adopted in a selection meeting with all relevant Participants.

4.3 At the end of the project runtime the Principal Investigators have to submit a jointly prepared final report on the results of their research activities to the respective institutions responsible for the implementation of the programme (4.1). This provision does not exempt principal investigators from reporting duties set by their respective national legislation.

4.4 The exploitation, possible patent registration and publication of project results are subject to the national laws which are in force in the respective countries and agreements of the project partners.

4.5 Each Participant will facilitate the access to its scientific institutions, libraries, archives and museum collections for the project. Furthermore, the Participants guarantee the free exchange of scientific information and documentation in conformity with their national laws and financial possibilities.

5. Financial Regulations

5.1 Financial support to the projects will be provided by national funding bodies.

5.2 The Participants will cover the travel expenses as well as the accommodation costs of researchers from the Participant's country.

5.3 The sending Participant will take all necessary steps to ensure that the scientists and experts sent have necessary and adequate health insurance coverage.

5.4 Further project partners can take part in projects on their own costs.

5.5 The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy will provide up to € 200,000.- per call.
The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic will provide up to € 180,000.- per call.
The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia will provide up to € 70,000.- per call.
The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic will provide up to € 200,000.- per call.

6. General Provisions

6.1. Amendments of the Programme can be done in the forms of numbered approved additions to the Programme.

6.2. The inseparable part of the Programme is the Annex 1 – the text of Pilot Joint Call for Applications for 2017-2018.

Done on in 4 original copies in English language

Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region

For the Austrian Participant
Vienna,

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Heribert Buchbauer
Head of Department

Federal Ministry of Science, Research
and Economy of the Republic of Austria

Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region

For the Czech Participant
Prague,

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Robert Plaga
Deputy Minister

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
of the Czech Republic

Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region

For the Serbian Participant
Belgrade,

……
Viktor Nedović
Assistant Minister

Ministry of Education, Science and
Technological Development of the
Republic of Serbia

Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region

For the Slovak Participant
Bratislava,

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Erik Tomáš
State Secretary

Ministry of Education, Science, Research
and Sport of the Slovak Republic