

SOUTH AFRICA / AUSTRIA JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-2018 JOINT PROJECTS

CLOSING DATE: 31.05.2016

A MAXIMUM OF 20 JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral “*Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation*” and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) and by the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Aims of the Programme

- To contribute to scientific advancement in both countries by funding researchers’ mobility in the frame of joint research projects in specified research fields;
- To provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- To support the advancement of basic research; and
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of Cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas prioritised by South Africa / Austria collaboration:

- Biotechnology
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Renewable Energy
- Health Sciences
- Food and Nutrition
- Mining
- Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Co-operation projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within the South African, Austrian and European research programmes will be favourably considered.
- Also, the joint projects that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.
- In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting January 2017 and ending December 2018).

Who may apply?

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Austria, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as

scientific and financial reporting.

SOUTH AFRICA: This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

AUSTRIA: Researchers working at universities, universities of applied sciences and other legal entities (e.g. higher education and research institutions, companies) planning to carry out a non-profit-oriented research project within the frame of this call are eligible for application.

How do I apply?

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. **Proposals must be received in both South Africa (NRF) and Austria (OeAD GmbH).** Proposals which have not been received in both countries will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Both the NRF and the OeAD GmbH will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

SOUTH AFRICA: Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My applications” and select “create new application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: SA-Austria 2016 Joint Call for Proposals.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF file in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Completed applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to call document for details on eligibility).
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission system will not be accepted.
- **No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.**
- Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.
- Please contact the university research office if you have any queries.

AUSTRIA: the entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at <https://www.oead.at/wtz-application>. The application must include the following documents (in PDF format):

- Brief academic CV for each **Austrian** project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institution
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and South African)
- Further cooperation perspective

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers, scientists, post-docs and doctoral students between the two countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts conducting joint research within the above-mentioned thematic areas of cooperation.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of workshops, seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this partnership, **the sending side will be responsible for all expenses associated with their travel (i.e. international travel, visas, medical insurance, accommodation and subsistence).**

The following may **NOT** be funded from the funds allocation:

- Consultant's fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

In South Africa up to 10% of the funds may be used for consumables. In Austria in well-justified cases and only within the granted maximum budget EUR 400.- per project may be applied for material costs.

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for **collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above.

The funders will also organise a launching and closing workshop for the programme and Principal Investigators should include, in their budget plans, the costs of attending these two workshops (i.e. travel and accommodation costs). The launching workshop will be held in Austria and the closing workshop in South Africa.

Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

How much may I apply for?

SOUTH AFRICA: The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R200 000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments (**R100 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2017. This amount excludes the Principal Investigator's costs (travel and accommodation) of attending both the launching and closing workshop organized by the funders. The cost for the Principal Investigator's participation in these two workshops will be a top-up on the overall amount requested (R200 000) for project activities and should be included in the project application.

AUSTRIA: The total sum of **EUR 10,000** per project (**EUR 5,000.** per project per year) can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: EUR 1,200. per trip for Austrian researchers travelling to South Africa (lump sum).
- Accommodation expenses: EUR 90. per day for Austrian researchers travelling to South Africa for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,300. per month for long-term visits between 15 days and 3 months maximum.
- Material costs: EUR 400. per project can be granted in well-justified cases as part of the granted maximum budget.

For the obligatory participation of the Principal Investigator at the joint launching and closing workshop an additional travel grant (**lump sum of EUR 2,000.-**) will be granted and has to be included in the project application. Therefore a total amount of **EUR 12,000.-** can be applied for each project.

Note that a commitment to both scientific and financial reporting on the project following its completion is an obligatory condition of funding. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- For the obligatory participation at the joint launching and closing workshop additional travel grants up to a maximum of three days per workshop have to be included in the project applications.
- a **maximum of 20 joint projects** will be funded for this call; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognised 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 relevance of the intended research project
- Feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the scientific method
- Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams concerned
- Relevance to the call, added value expected from the bilateral research collaboration
- Potential for further or future international cooperation
- Promotion of young and female research talent

The integration of young researchers and students, and the exchange of post-doctoral researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of students and researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities in South Africa.

Following national evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and the OeAD GmbH based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-South African Implementation Committee. The results of this project selection meeting will be announced presumably by December 2016. Please note that, although the two Parties undertake to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

Projects follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the South African and the Austrian project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The joint publications by researchers has to mention the support from the DST, NRF and the BMWFW.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and Austria must be submitted by **31 May 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the NRF or the OeAD GmbH will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

For South Africa	For Austria
National Research Foundation International Relations and Cooperation (IRC) Directorate	OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for international Cooperation in Education and Research) ICM – Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility
Mr Teuns Phahlamohlaka Professional Officer: Overseas Cooperation Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4385 Email: teuns.phahlam@nrf.ac.za	Ms Monika Staltner Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-445, Fax +43 (0)1/ 53408-499 EMail: wtz@oead.at , Website: www.oead.at/wtz