

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
ON
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania hereinafter referred to as Parties,

Recognising that the scientific and technological co-operation on the basis of mutual benefit and equality is an important base of the relationship between the Parties and at the same time an element to secure the stability in Europe,

With regard to the positive experience gained thanks to the good bilateral relationship in the fields of scientific and technological co-operation between the Parties and the necessity to improve this relationship for mutual benefit,

Taking into account the rapid growth of the scientific and technological knowledge as well as the internationalisation of science and technology,

Wishing to deepen the co-operation between the Parties in the fields of science and technology according to the political, economic and social conditions, especially in connection with the processes of integration in Europe,

Accepting the importance to improve the coordination of the bilateral relationship in the fields of science and technology,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall support the development of the scientific and technological co-operation in accordance with national laws and on a mutual basis in consideration of national priorities in the field of science and research.

Article 2

(1) The Parties shall encourage the development of direct scientific and technological interrelations between their governmental institutions, institutions of higher education, the Academies of Sciences and their national centres for scientific and technological research.

(2) The Parties shall support the participation of scientists and experts in joint projects in the framework of existing and future European and international programmes in conformity with their respective national laws.

Article 3

The co-operation provided for in Article 1 shall comprise especially the following forms:

1. Exchange of scientific and technological information, documentation and publications;
2. Exchange of scientists and experts within bilateral scientific projects approved by the Parties to implement the scientific and technological co-operation;

3. Exchange of scientists and experts for consultations, lectures and special studies;
4. Realisation and support of joint bilateral or multilateral scientific events and programmes to mutually provide scientific material, instruments and equipment.

Article 4

- (1) According to this Agreement there is no financial transaction between the Parties. For joint projects provided for in Article 3, each Party shall cover the travel costs for outgoing persons and the accommodation costs for incoming persons and will be helpful, if necessary, to find an adequate housing.
- (2) Financial support for joint scientific projects according to Article 3 shall be provided for the mobility of scientists and experts.
- (3) The institutions of the Parties shall assure that their outgoing scientists and experts are sufficiently insured for health.

Article 5

- (1) For the implementation of this Agreement the Parties shall establish a Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation hereinafter referred to as Joint Commission.
- (2) The tasks of the Joint Commission shall be mainly:
 1. Consultation of basic questions regarding the scientific and technological co-operation;
 2. Agreement on the fields and forms of co-operation;
 3. Recommendations to the Parties' public authorities responsible for conducting of the co-operation according to Article 7, section 1;
 4. Evaluation of the scientific and technological co-operation;
 5. Settlement of any possible disagreements arising out of the implementation of this agreement.
- (3) The Joint Commission can, if necessary, establish task forces for defined areas of the co-operation as well as invite experts to the meetings of the Joint Commission.
- (4) The Joint Commission shall meet alternately in Austria and in Albania at a date set by both Parties normally once every two years.
- (5) The working language of the Joint Commission shall be English.

Article 6

The protection of intellectual property rights arising from the co-operative activities under this Agreement shall be regulated by agreements between the co-operating institutions of the Parties. Intellectual property rights shall be protected by provisions of applicable national laws as well as international agreements on intellectual property rights, which are applicable for both the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Albania.

Article 7

- (1) Responsible public authorities for the implementation of this Agreement are in Austria the Federal Ministry of Science and Research and in Albania the Ministry of Education and Science.
- (2) The main tasks for the implementation of the scientific and technological co-operation according to Article 3 are the following:
 1. Call for proposals of bilateral scientific co-operation projects,
 2. Evaluation of the project proposals according to point 1,
 3. Selection and approval of project proposals positively evaluated according to point 2.

Article 8

The Parties shall consult each other through diplomatic channels if any dispute concerning the interpretation or the implementation of this Agreement arises.

Article 9

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the first month, which follows the month, in which the Parties have informed each other in writing through diplomatic notes, that their national requirements for the entry into force have been fulfilled.

(2) This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time. Each Party may terminate this Agreement in writing through diplomatic notes at any time. The termination of this Agreement shall be effective after six months from the date of its notification.

(3) This Agreement may be modified or amended only upon the consent of both Parties in writing.

(4) The repeal of this Agreement shall not affect joint projects based on this Agreement and not finished at the time of repeal.

Done at Vienna on 2 May 2012, in two original copies, each in German, Albanian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergences of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the
Republic of Austria:

For the Council of Ministers of the
Republic of Albania:

Karlheinz Töchterle
Federal Minister for Science and Research

Myqerem Tafaj
Minister of Education and Science