

AGREEMENT**BETWEEN****THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic hereinafter referred to as “Parties“,

Recognising that the scientific-technological co-operation on the basis of mutual benefit and equality is one of the most important bases 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 neighbourhood relationship in the field of scientific-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-technological knowledge as well as the internationalisation of science and technology,

Wishing to improve the co-operation between the Parties in the field 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 co-ordination of the Austrian-Slovak relationship in the fields of science and technology,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall support in accordance with the national laws and on the basis of mutual benefit, the development of the scientific-technological co-operation in consideration of the national priorities in the fields of science and technology.

Article 2

(1) The Parties shall encourage and support the development of direct scientific-technological co-operation between national institutions, Academies of Sciences, schools of higher education, research centres for science and technology as well as enterprises and other institutions.

(2) The Parties shall support the participation of scientists as well as experts of the two countries on 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:

1. Exchange of scientific and technological information, documentation and publications;
2. Exchange of scientists and experts within bilateral projects approved by the Parties to implement the scientific-technological co-operation;
3. Exchange of scientists and experts for consultations, symposia and special studies;
4. Realisation and support of joint scientific-technological events and other scientific programmes in considering initiatives of multilateral character with the possibility to mutually provide scientific material, scientific instruments and equipment.

Article 4

(1) According to this agreement there is no direct financial transaction between the Parties. For joint projects provided for in Article 3, each Party shall cover the travel costs for persons they will send and the accommodation costs for persons they will receive and they will be helpful, if necessary, to find an adequate housing.

(2) The financial support for the bilateral projects shall be used mainly for the mobility of scientists and experts and in appropriate level for current expenses of the projects.

(3) The organisations of the sending Parties shall assure that the scientists and experts are sufficiently insured for health.

Article 5

(1) For implementation of this agreement the Parties shall establish a Joint Committee for scientific and technological co-operation.

(2) The tasks of the Joint Committee shall be mainly:

1. Discussion of basic questions regarding scientific-technological areas;
2. Recommendations on the field of co-operation;
3. Evaluation recommended forms of co-operation;
4. Recommendations to the responsible institutions of the Parties for conducting of the co-operation;
5. Evaluation of the scientific-technological co-operation.

(3) The Joint Committee 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 Committee shall meet alternately in Slovakia or in Austria at a date set by both Parties normally once a year but at least every two years.

(5) The working language in the Joint Committee will be English.

Article 6

The intellectual property rights arising from the co-operative activities under this Agreement shall be regulated by implementing arrangements between the co-operating organisations of the Parties. Intellectual property protection shall be subject to the international agreements on intellectual property law, which are in force for both the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Austria and to the national laws in force.

Article 7

(1) Responsible for the implementation of this agreement in Slovakia is the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and in Austria the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

(2) Among the tasks for implementation according to Article 1 are the following:

1. Call for proposals according to Article 3, Sub-Article 2,
2. Evaluation of the proposals,
3. Selection and approval of the projects.

Article 8

The Parties shall consult each other through diplomatic notes if any disputes concerning the interpretation or the implementation of this Agreement arise.

Article 9

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third 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 can notify at any time its intention to terminate this Agreement in writing through diplomatic notes. The termination of this Agreement shall be effective within six months from the date of the above mentioned 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 this day of 18. 2. 2004, in two original copies, each in German, Slovak 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 Government of the
Slovak Republic

Elisabeth Gehrler
Federal Minister of Education,
Science and Culture

Martin Fronc
Minister of Education