

Romanian – German Cooperation in Science and Technology

PROTOCOL

Background and objectives

Science and Technology are virtually important for the economic and social progress in Romania and Germany and for the development of Europe as a whole. To make use of the full potential and of the opportunities arising from the growing European Research Area and the Research Programmes of the European Union, Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania represented by the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany have agreed to join forces in funding the preparation of joint R&D projects.

The present Protocol between Romania and Germany aims at further deepening and advancing the European Research Area and thus fully contributing to the renewed Lisbon strategy.

What is funded?

The National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS) from Romania and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) from Germany (hereinafter referred to as Parties) agree to support new forms of bilateral cooperation arising from the inter-governmental Agreement on cooperation in the scientific research and technological development areas, signed in Bonn, on June 29, 1973.

The guiding principles of this Protocol are laid down in the "Announcement on international cooperation in education and research with Central, Eastern and South Eastern European region", launched by BMBF in June 2004 and extended in April 2007.

The general aim is to make use of existing bilateral contacts and cooperation and establish new collaborations in order to link and develop innovation potential and achieve productive synergies for the mutual benefit of all parties. Innovative small and medium-sized enterprises should be more strongly involved in bilateral cooperation and European networks. Focussing on key areas which are of mutual interest, it is intended to generate an added value at both a bilateral as a European level with regard to the EU's Lisbon target.

Under the present Protocol, the following two forms of cooperation are intended to be financially supported from both Parties:

- A. **"Preparatory grants for collaborative research projects"**
- B. **"Organization of workshops & events"**

Support from both Parties will be given only to the preparation of projects relating to the thematic areas of the 7th EU Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development and Demonstration activities.

A. “Preparatory Grants for collaborative research projects”

Funding will be provided for the initiation and planning phase of FP7 project proposals. The applications for funding may include preparatory missions, meetings of experts, thematic workshops, short-term investigations of feasibility (of up to a maximum of 4 months) and pilot investigations (maximum of 12 months).

The duration of grants is limited to one year. Specific activities to enable more intense networking will be funded. Eligible costs include travel, workshops/conferences, additional personnel and consumables for feasibility studies.

B. “Organization of workshops & events”

According to the provisions of the inter-governmental Agreement on cooperation in the scientific research and technological development areas, the organization of joint specific activities (like thematic workshops, brokerage events, expert delegations etc.) is one form of bilateral cooperation that can be further exploited for the benefit of both Parties.

This Protocol aims at encouraging the setting up of these joint specific activities based on a “top down” approach.

The two Parties will agree upon the themes to be tackled during the events and subsequently all the organizational aspects will be dealt with by the responsible agencies (see below).

The duration of one specific joint activity is limited to one week. Eligible expenses include travel, cost of visits and events.

Who is funded?

Applications for project funding may be submitted by public and private institutions of higher education, non-university research establishments and clinics/hospitals which are active in the field of research as well as by commercial companies whose established place of business are in Romania in conjunction with partner institutions from Germany and vice versa. Preference will be given to applications for projects involving small and medium-sized enterprises.

What does the funding cover?

A. Preparatory grants for collaborative research projects

The funding will provide non-repayable grants with the following eligible types of expenditure:

- Travelling expenses incurred by own experts.
- Cost of visits incurred by foreign experts.

In special cases there are eligible the following types of expenditure on the German side:

- Staff for the implementation of events and investigations of feasibility (max. 1-4 person-months)
- Cost of events (e.g. rental of venue, logistics, etc.)
- Physical resources (e.g. consumables for pilot investigations, etc.).

The grant may amount to a maximum of 50,000 EUR for the preparation of particularly complex projects.

As the Romanian side is concerned, funding of the accepted projects will be provided as follows:

- A maximum number of three travelling tickets per project for the Romanian experts;
- Costs of accommodation, daily allowance and internal transportation, according to the legal provisions into force, incurred by the visits of the German experts for a totally period of three months per project.
- Other categories of costs like cost of events, consumable costs and small equipment and personnel costs for a young researcher are as well eligible, according to the Romanian legislation and provisions into force.

The grant may amount to a maximum of 40,000 EUR, not exceeding the limits per category of costs set out by the Romanian legislation and provisions into force.

B. “Organization of workshops & events”

The sending side will cover the travel expenses incurred by their experts, whilst the receiving side will cover the cost of events and full costs of stay (e.g. accommodation, meals and internal transportation) of the foreign experts for a period of up to five working days per event. The workshops & events will be jointly organized in Romania and Germany on a reciprocity basis.

Conditions for funding

Within the context of the proposed project, applicants should familiarize themselves with the funding programmes of the 7th EU Research Framework Programme. Funding is subject to the relevance of the proposed project to the topics of the calls for proposals to be opened under FP7 and to confirmation of the expertise of the applicants based on their previous work.

In addition to the Romanian and German applicant, third partners from the EU and EU candidate countries are welcomed to be partners in the proposed project. The costs borne by the participation of the third parties to the project will be covered from their own resources. Larger cooperation projects involving several German and foreign partners would be particularly welcome. The application must contain the details necessary to assess the appropriateness and the need for funding.

Procedure & responsible agencies

Applications should describe in as much detail as possible the objectives and the measures necessary for preparing the project. Applications should contain details on the following points and be structured as follows:

1. Topic
2. Cooperating partners
 - 2.1 Coordinator
 - 2.2 Partners involved
3. Summary stating the EU funding programme towards which the project preparation is targeted as well as the application deadline
4. Structured financing plan with details of the applicants' own funding contributions and the total volume and funding volume of the proposed project
5. Project description
 - 5.1 Description of the current state of the art of science and technology; scientific objectives with detailed description of the relevance to the themes of the calls/funding programmes of the EU.
 - 5.2 Nature and extent of the proposed cooperation
 - 5.3 Planned results of the project and proposed exploitation
6. Work plan
 - 6.1 Planned preparatory measures and proposed procedural steps
 - 6.2 Division of work packages between the partners
 - 6.3 Schedule
7. Proof of the qualifications of the coordinator and the project partners for the project planned
 - 7.1 Key areas of relevant work to date
 - 7.2 Most important relevant publications/patents
8. Involvement of young scientists

Applications aiming at preparing and submitting a proposal under type A "Preparatory grants for collaborative research projects" will be submitted by the German partner, in close collaboration with at least one partner from Romania, to the following German project management agency in charge:

International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at the
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR) (German Aerospace Center)
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1
D-53227 Bonn
Contact person: Ms. Anett WARD
Tel.: +49 (0) 228 3821-492, Fax: +49 (0) 228 3821-444
E-mail: anett.ward@dlr.de
Internet: www.internationales-buero.de

In parallel, the Romanian project leader in close collaboration with at least one partner from Germany will submit the project proposal to the following Romanian project management agency in charge:

National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS)
21-25, Mendeleev Str., 010362, Bucharest 1, Romania

Division for European Integration and International Cooperation
Contact person: Ms. Anca GHINESCU
Tel/Fax: +40.21.318.30.53
E-mail: anca.ghinescu@mct.ro
Internet: www.mct.ro

The submission of an application does not establish a legal claim to funding. Applications will be considered on the basis of the following criteria:

- Prospects of the proposed project for receiving specialist programme funding from the EU
- Scientific quality of the work plan, originality of the approach
- Qualifications and expertise of the coordinator and the project partners
- Potential for solving problems
- Quality of the cooperation and mutual benefit
- New partnerships
- Commercial exploitation of the anticipated results
- Promotion of young research talent.

Deadlines for applications

Applications are accepted and processed continually on the entire period of validity of this Protocol.

Final provisions

Each side will inform the other, in written form including the electronic means, on the results of the internal evaluation process. There will be accepted for funding those projects which have obtained an average mark above 70 points from the Romanian evaluators and an average qualification of "high" from the German evaluators. In case that only one of the afore-mentioned thresholds is passed, the sides keep the right to further consult each other and jointly decide upon the acceptance of that particular project.

An official letter containing the title of the accepted projects, name of the projects leaders, period of funding and costs covered will be exchanged between the two management agencies, whenever it will be considered necessary.

At the end of the project, a final report on the results achieved, signed by both of the project leaders, shall be submitted to the management agencies.

This Protocol has been done in two copies in English and will be valid from June 2008 until December 2009.

On behalf of the Romanian side

Iulia MIHAIL



Bucharest

Date 28.05.2008

On behalf of the German side

Erika ROST



Bonn

Date 03.06.2008