

DECISION DOCUMENT

on co-funding of Slovenian - Bulgarian joint research projects in the period 2011 – 2012

held by correspondence in March 2011

Article 1. Introduction

Based on the Agreement between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed in Sofia on March 20, 2007, on the Protocol of the 1st Meeting of the Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, signed on November 14, 2008 in Ljubljana, and on the Call for proposals for joint research projects in the years 2011-2012, announced by the Slovenian Research Agency and by the Bulgarian National Science Fund respectively in March 2010, the two sides realize:

Article 2. Evaluation of Joint Slovenian – Bulgarian project proposals

The Slovenian and Bulgarian Party received 28 (twenty-eight) proposals for joint research projects.

The project proposals were peer reviewed by each Party. Three project proposals, received by the Slovenian side were rejected for formal reasons as the principal investigators do not fulfil the requirements for project leader. 25 (twenty five) project proposals were thus considered for co-funding.

Article 3. Approval of joint Slovenian – Bulgarian projects for funding in 2011 and 2012

3.1. Based on the results of the evaluation of the project proposals both Parties came to an agreement that according to the peer review screening 12 projects listed in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this Decision Document, shall be jointly funded for the period of two years. The research mobility exchanges for both parties should be finished up to December 31, 2012 at the latest.

3.2. Due to organizational problems, the Bulgarian National Science Fund (NSF) delayed the second payment to Bulgarian coordinators, for implementation of the second phase of the projects, approved by the 1st Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, hold in Ljubljana on November 14, 2008. In this respect NSF decided to extend the duration of the projects till 30 June 2011. Research visits, which were postponed due to the delay of the second payment from the Bulgarian National Science Fund, will be realized within the prolongation period. Detailed list of the research visits planned to be realized in the period till 30 June, 2011 is given in Annex 2, which is an integral part of this Decision Document

Article 4. Financial support for the approved projects

The implementing institutions responsible for the overall management of the cooperation in science and technology between the two countries will cover the costs of the exchange of scientists, i.e. travel and accommodation costs in accordance with the following mutually agreed provisions:

4.1. The travel costs to and from the receiving country shall be covered by the sending Party.

4.2. The receiving Party shall cover the costs of accommodation and the costs of living as follows:

In Slovenia

In case of short (up to 14 days) and long term visits (up to 3 months) paid accommodation at the House of Postgraduates (exceptionally *** category hotel up to 100€ per day in case of short term visits) and daily allowance in accordance with the Slovenian regulations on reimbursement of travel expenses (currently 21,39 €). In case the House of Postgraduates is not available, Slovenian side covers for long term visits 1252€ per month for accommodation. Preference will be given to use the university/academic accommodation facilities.

In Bulgaria

In case of short (up to 14 days) term visits up to 100 € for accommodation and 21€ allowance per day will be provided. For the long term visits (up to 3 months) maximum 1250€ per month will be paid for accommodation and daily allowance.

4.3. The amounts of daily allowances may be adjusted by the receiving Party according to the regulations in force.

4.4. The researchers, who perform exchange visits on the basis of this Protocol should acquire the European health insurance document, prior to their departure.

4.5. Both countries will consider internal transportation as an eligible cost.

4.6. The amount of the grant for the Slovenian Part will be up to 4500 € per project for two years.

4.7. The amount of the grant for the Bulgarian Part for each project will be based on the contract between the beneficiary and the funding organization.

Article 5. Preparation of the Working Program for the Next Period

- a. The Joint Commission agreed that the next call for proposals will be decided via correspondence.
- b. The parties agreed to encourage the cooperation of young scientists especially at the postdoctoral level.

Article 6. Closing provisions

The implementing institutions in charge of the cooperation in science and technology between the two countries are as follows:

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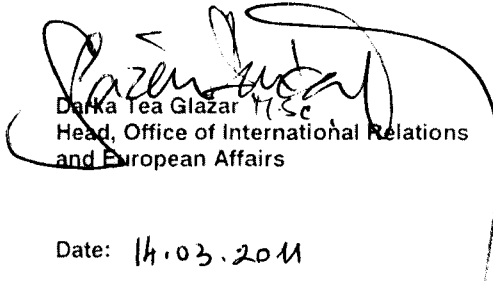
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The Parties agreed to hold the second meeting of the Joint Commission in Bulgaria. The exact date of the meeting shall be fixed via correspondence.

The present Decision Document was signed by correspondence in March 2011, in two copies in the English language.


For the Ministry of Higher Education,
Science and Technology of the Republic
of Slovenia



Darka Tea Glazar M.Sc.
Head, Office of International Relations
and European Affairs

Date: 14.03.2011

For the Ministry of Education, Youth and
Science of the Republic of Bulgaria



Albena Vutsova
Director, Science Directorate

Date: 14.03.2011