

**AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
AND  
THE FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - FNRS**

**Preamble**

The Czech Academy of Sciences – the CAS (Akademie věd České republiky) and the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS – the F.R.S.-FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS), hereinafter referred to as Parties, recognizing the importance of international scientific cooperation have concluded the following Agreement on Scientific Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the Agreement, with the objective to promote and develop the possibilities of scientific cooperation of researchers in both countries.

**Article I**

**Objectives and Forms of Cooperation**

1. The Agreement shall serve as a basis for the promotion and support of scientific cooperation between the Parties in all fields of their competence, and in accordance with the valid national legislation.
2. The prospective cooperation activities under the Agreement shall be carried out in the form of joint mobility projects; a project based support of exchange of researchers and research. Joint mobility projects shall be carried out by research teams from both Parties. Financial support of mobility shall be provided for visits of the research team members along with a contribution to the research expenses.
3. Other cooperation activities which may include actions conducive to mutual exchange of information and knowledge transfer, networking and promotion of excellence, and other may be defined upon mutual agreement of the Parties.
4. All cooperation activities shall be based upon the principle of reciprocity for the mutual benefit of both Parties. The exact definition and detailed conditions of individual cooperation activities shall be specified in the Protocol, which is an integral part of the Agreement.

**Article II**

**Implementation**

1. Cooperation shall be executed through the international cooperation units of the Parties.
2. Financial provisions shall be provided under conditions designated under the Agreement unless situations, such as budget cuts or limited budget drawing as a result of provisional arrangements, occur.

3. Details of implementation of the Agreement shall be determined in the Protocol. Conditions defined in the Protocol shall specify the call for proposals, schedule, selection process, financial conditions and other details of implementation.
4. The course of cooperation shall be regularly reviewed.
5. The Parties commit to solve any differences which may arise during the implementation of the Agreement by means of negotiation or exchange of correspondence between the Parties.

### **Article III**

#### **Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality**

1. Both Parties agree to share the intellectual property rights that may result from the cooperation under the Agreement in an effective and equal way. If necessary the cooperating institutions shall sign a separate agreement to set out specific provisions regarding this matter.
2. Neither Party may disclose to any third person any confidential or business information which may arise from the cooperation under the Agreement without prior written consent of the other Party. Such obligation shall not be governed by the duration of the Agreement.

### **Article IV**

#### **Final Provisions**

1. The Agreement shall come into force on 1 January 2017. It shall remain valid (in force) for a period of five (5) years, after which it shall be automatically renewed for subsequent periods of five (5) years unless a written notice of termination has been given by either Party at least six (6) months prior to its renewal.
2. The termination of the Agreement shall not affect the ongoing or approved activities under the terms of the Agreement.
3. The Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of 20 March 1997 between the Parties shall terminate on 31 December 2016.
4. The Agreement may be modified and amended on the basis of the mutual consent of both Parties made in written form.
5. The Agreement was signed in two identical copies in English with the same validity and each Party will obtain one copy.

On behalf  
of the Czech Academy of Sciences

On behalf  
of the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS

.....  
Prof. Jiří Drahoš  
President, CAS

.....  
Dr. Véronique Halloin  
Secretary General, F.R.S.-FNRS

In Prague on .....

In Brussels on .....

**PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
AND  
THE FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - FNRS  
FOR THE PERIOD 2017 - 2019**

**Preamble**

The Czech Academy of Sciences – the CAS (Akademie věd České republiky) and the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS – the F.R.S.-FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS), hereinafter referred to as Parties, in compliance with articles I.4 and II.3 of the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation signed on 9 March 2017, agree upon the following Protocol to the Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the Protocol.

**Article I**

**Objectives and Forms of Cooperation**

1. The Protocol has been signed in order to specify the terms of the implementation of the Agreement between the Parties for cooperation activities performed in the period 2017 - 2019.
2. The cooperation activities shall be carried out in the form of joint mobility projects, hereinafter referred to as mobility projects.

**Article II**

**Mobility Projects**

1. The aims of the mobility projects are:
  - Improvement of scientific cooperation between both countries;
  - Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
  - Support of research teams aspiring to cooperate on large international projects in the future;
  - Enabling the use of methodology, infrastructure and equipment for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

2. The Parties agree that up to two (2) three-year mobility projects shall be approved within the call. Approved projects shall be listed in the Annex, which is an integral part of the Protocol.
3. Eligible for project proposal submission are:
  - On the Czech side, all research team members shall be employees of the institutes of the CAS;
  - On the Belgian side, principal investigators shall be a permanent researcher of F.R.S. - FNRS or hold a tenure track position (or an assimilated position including pending tenure track) within one of the six universities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, other team members should at least have the postdoctoral level and belong to a research organization of the Wallonia-Brussels.
4. Evaluation and selection:
  - Project proposals shall be submitted to both Parties.
  - At the national level, each Party evaluates submitted proposals based on its internal rules and prepares a ranking list.
  - In case of very diverging evaluation results, Parties may exchange more detailed information about evaluations of individual project proposals on the national level in accordance with the national legislation.
  - At the international level, both Parties shall mutually approve a list of submitted proposals, exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the proposals selected for funding. Total number of projects approved for funding is dependent on the financial possibilities of both Parties.
5. Implementation of approved mobility projects:
  - The projects shall be realised according to the internal procedures of both Parties.
  - Changes in the research teams, etc.: the national principal investigator shall submit the request for change to the national contact person. The request shall be reviewed and the national principal investigator shall be informed about approval by the national contact person. In the case of approval the national contact person shall notify the other Party.
  - Annual and final reports shall be submitted by 31 January of the following year.
6. The call for proposals, schedule and other details of implementation shall be agreed upon by both Parties.

### **Article III Financial Provisions**

1. Financial contributions shall be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the Parties. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, each Party shall bear the costs of its own participation in cooperative activities.
2. CAS funding regulations:
  - The maximum financial contribution for Czech researchers is 200,000 CZK per project per year.
  - Eligible costs are: mobility costs (min. 50 %): travel, living expenses; research costs (min. 30 %): consumables, services, small equipment, networking.
  - Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding 40,000 CZK), overheads, indirect costs.
  - The ratio between mobility and research costs shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly. Transferring financial contributions between these two categories is allowed if the minimal ratio for both categories is maintained.

- The course of project implementation shall be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs and transfers between categories.
3. F.R.S.-FNRS funding regulations:
- The maximum financial contribution for Belgian researchers is 7,500 EUR per project per year.
  - Eligible costs are: mobility costs.
  - The course of project implementation shall be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs.

**Article V**  
**Final Provisions**

1. The Protocol shall come into force on 1 January 2017 and shall remain valid (in force) until 31 December 2019.
2. The implementation of the Protocol shall not be affected by the termination of the Agreement.
3. The Protocol may be modified and amended on the basis of the mutual consent of both Parties made in written form.
4. The Protocol was signed in two identical copies in English with the same validity and each Party will obtain one copy.

On behalf  
of the Czech Academy of Sciences

On behalf  
of the Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS

.....  
Dr. Hana Sychrová  
President of the Council  
for International Affairs, CAS

.....  
Dr. Véronique Halloin  
Secretary General, F.R.S.-FNRS

In Prague on .....

In Brussels on .....