

**Joint Declaration of Intent
on Cooperation in Research, Education and Innovation**

between

the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology (MoSIT) of the Republic of Turkey

and

**the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of the Federal Republic of
Germany**

The Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany, hereinafter referred to as "the Sides",

- recognize the need to intensify cooperation in research, education and innovation,
- highlight the successes of bilateral relations achieved during past cooperation in different thematic areas,
- realize the importance of the linkage between research and industry in the development of their respective national economies,
- emphasize that mutual relations between the two countries will always be based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit,
- bear in mind and observe the treaties concluded between both countries,

wish to further develop their scientific and technological cooperation and have come to the following understanding:

I. Goals

The Sides are guided by the necessity to encourage and support cooperation between Turkish and German research institutions, universities and innovative companies, especially in the field of application-oriented research in order to accelerate innovation processes and to achieve joint competitive advantages on international high-tech markets.

The Sides are willing to give special consideration to the involvement and the promotion of young researchers in the activities within the framework of this Joint Declaration of Intent (hereinafter Joint Declaration).

The main objectives of this Joint Declaration are to highlight the diversity and excellence of the Sides' bilateral cooperation in the field of research, education and innovation and to raise awareness among their citizens with regard to the Sides' status as key locations for research, education and innovation.

II. Areas of Mutual Interest

The Sides declare their willingness to develop cooperation, in particular in the following fields of common interest:

- a. Climate research including environmental technologies as well as geoscience, marine research and water
- b. Energy research (renewable energies and energy efficiency, Eco-innovation)
- c. Health research including biotechnology
- d. Information and Communication Technologies
- e. Physical and chemical technologies (including material research)
- f. Food & Agriculture
- g. Mobility, transport and logistics
- h. Production technologies (automotive, manufacturing, nanotechnology)
- i. Social Sciences and the Humanities

In addition to these fields of common interest the Sides intend to pay special attention to the area of education (higher education and vocational education).

Other areas of interest may be included by the Steering Group as indicated under Section IV.

III. Realisation of the Cooperation

1. This cooperation is intended to take the following forms in particular:
 - a. Mapping of existing bilateral cooperation and implementation of activities that will improve the visibility of this cooperation;
 - b. Creation of new cooperations which operate in the field of research, education and innovation at the two Sides;
 - c. Encouragement of the Sides' research institutions to expand the networks between experts and research institutions;

- d. Exchange of individual scientists, particularly young researchers, for the purpose of conducting research;
- e. Exchange of information about on-going research activities and new scientific methods, establishment of new scientific contacts for developing joint projects, attendance of scientific events;
- f. Organization of scientific meetings, conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions, etc.;
- g. Exchange of scientific and technological information and documentation;
- h. Joint use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment;
- i. Extension of activities to improve existing cooperations in the field of education and vocational training;

Other forms of scientific and technological cooperation may be mutually approved.

2. Both Sides declare their willingness to achieve the goals specified in this text through the means of joint funding.

The funding will *include* inter alia,

- exchange of scientific experts and mobility projects;
- joint funding in equal shares of German-Turkish research collaborations in higher education in the scope of the IntenC programme;
- joint funding in equal shares of German-Turkish research and development projects in selected scientific areas in which both science and industry are involved (2+2 projects).

Further programmes and instruments can be jointly determined between the Sides.

With a view to the best possible cooperation, the Sides intend to charge the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) on the Turkish side and the International Bureau of the BMBF on the German side **with** the realization of the joint funding activities.

IV. Implementation

The Sides intend to **establish** a Steering Group to accompany the achievement of the goals described in this Joint Declaration.

Each Side will inform the other Side about the members that were appointed to the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will be co-chaired by one representative of each Side.

Any relevant organizations and institutions in the field of education and research may be

invited to the Steering Group meetings as necessary.

The Steering Group will meet in principle once a year either in Turkey or in Germany. Further meetings may take place by joint decision as necessary.

The tasks of the Steering Group will include:

- a. Exchange on political and structural developments in education, science and research on both sides, and regular assessment and adjustment of research areas in which cooperation promises benefits for both sides;
- b. Informing the public, researchers and representatives of private industry on both sides about the results and developments of German-Turkish cooperation in education, science and research;
- c. In accordance with the provisions laid down in Section VI, arranging contacts between institutions of higher education, research institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Steering Group may meet in the scope of the German-Turkish Strategic Dialogue Mechanism (under the aegis of the Foreign Ministries).

V. Expenses

The Sides agree that the costs should be shared as follows:

1. The costs of exchanges of individual scientists resulting from **Section III d.** of this Joint Declaration, unless otherwise jointly decided, will be covered by the sending Side. Further project-related costs will be covered by the applicant country in accordance with its national funding regulations.
2. The costs of experts and scientists participating in joint workshops resulting from **Section III f.** of this Joint Declaration, unless jointly decided otherwise, will be covered on the following basis:
 - a. The sending Side will meet the costs of international travel to the place where the joint workshop will take place according to their national regulations.
 - b. The receiving Side will meet the cost of local transportation, accommodation and meals according to their national regulations.

VI. General Conditions

1. This Joint Declaration may be amended at any time by mutual consent of both Sides.
2. This Joint Declaration is signed in the German, Turkish and English languages. Any dispute related to the interpretation or application of this Joint Declaration will be settled through consultations between both Sides. This will be done on the basis of

the English text of the Declaration.

3. This Joint Declaration will come into effect on the date of signature. Each Side may end the cooperation under this Joint Declaration at any time. It should notify the other side of its intention to end cooperation in writing six months in advance. The termination of this Joint Declaration is not meant to affect the projects or programmes undertaken under this Joint Declaration and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Joint Declaration.
4. The cooperation activities envisaged in this Joint Declaration will be carried out in accordance with the national legislations which are valid in the Sides' respective countries.

Signed in.....on..... in duplicate, in the German, Turkish and English languages.

For the Ministry of Science,
Industry and Technology of
the Republic of Turkey



For the Federal Ministry
of Education and Research
of the Federal Republic of Germany

