



ANNUAL REPORT 2014



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND SPORT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



SRDA

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1 Identification of the Organization

Name: Slovak Research and Development Agency (the "Agency")

Registered office: Mýtňa 23, 811 07 Bratislava

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Establishment: Act No. 172/2005 Coll., on Organisation of State Support to Research and Development and on Amendments to Act No. 575/2001 Coll., on Organisation of Activities and Organisation of Central State Administration, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 172/2005 Coll.).

Form of Management: The Agency is a state-budget organisation linked to the State Budget of the Slovak Republic through the budgetary chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

Government Department: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

Agency's Bureau:

Director: RNDr. Lýdia Šuchová (*till 28 February 2014*)
Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD. (*from 1 March 2014*)

Management members: Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD. - *Head of the General Calls Department (till 23 March 2014)*
Ing. Stanislav Jursa - *in charge of the General Calls Department (from 24 March 2014)*
Ing. Jana Blahová, PhD. - *Head of the Programmes Department*
Ing. Viera Dojčárová - *Head of the Financial Department*
Ing. Brigita Francová - *Head of the Audit Department (till 24 January 2014)*
Ing. Jana Müllerová - *Head of the Audit Department (from 1 February 2014 to 27 May 2014)*
Ing. Eva Kaiserová - *Head of the Personnel and Wages Department*
Ing. Peter Kovačič - *Head of the Information Technologies and Services Department*
Ing. Alena Bokrošová - *Head of Director's Office*

Bodies of the Agency: Director of the Agency
Agency Presidium
Councils of the Agency

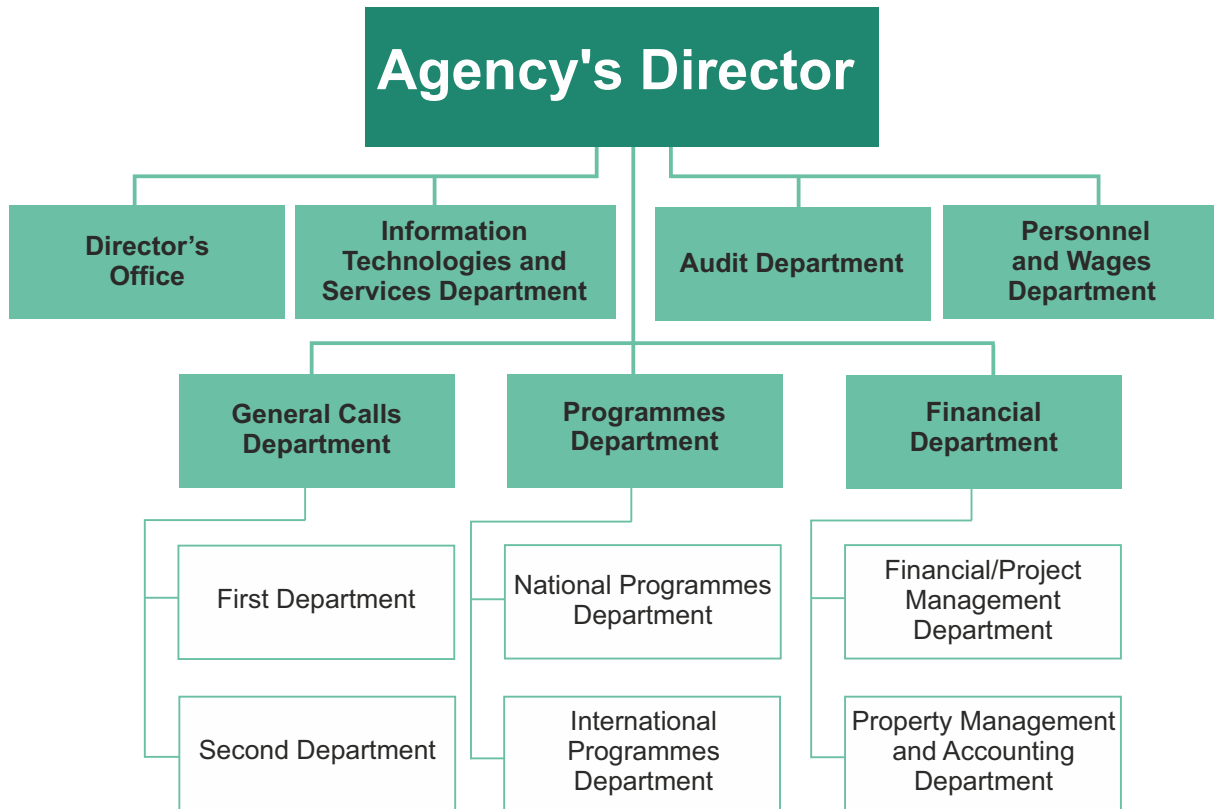


Figure 1 Organisational Structure of the Agency's Bureau

The Agency is established for the purposes of the support of research and development by providing the funds as follows:

- The bottom-up support means public calls for projects in various groups of science and technology fields (without thematic limitations), while the objectives, aims and the contents of research and development projects are specified by applicants – Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12 (2) (a);
- The special purpose support based on the programmes of the Agency approved by the Government (the "top-down support") reflecting requirements for the fulfilment of the selected objectives and aims in compliance with the long-term objective of the State Scientific and Technology Policy – Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12 (2) (b);
- The support based on published public calls under international agreements and under international programmes and initiatives, including the costs for their preparing - Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12 (2) (c).

The beneficiaries of the funds are as organizations:

- Sector of public, state, private higher education institutions;
- State research and development sector;
- Private research and development sector;
- Non-profit research and development sector;
- Natural persons engaged in research and development within the meaning of the Small Trade Act.



2 Mission and Medium-Term Vision of the Agency

The main objective of the Agency is the promotion of high level of fundamental and applied research and development in all fields of science and technology carried out by the state sector, the sector of higher education institutions, the business sector and non-profit sector under the Agency's programmes. Research and development is supported in the form of research and development projects selected by the bodies of the Agency in open calls published by the Agency. Research and development projects may be submitted by resident legal entities or resident natural persons. The main assumption for the promotion of research and development is the quality of submitted project proposals. Another objective of the Agency is to stimulate the participation of research and development entities from the Slovak Republic in international and European programmes and initiatives, as well as the support of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of research and technology.

From the medium-term perspective, the Agency fulfils tasks arising from Act No. 172/2005 Coll., on Organisation of State Support to Research and Development, as amended, and from the Statute of the Agency. The Agency also plays an important role as a tool for fulfilment of the Programme Declaration of the Slovak Government, because a few targets of Point 5 of the Programme Declaration of the Slovak Government and related tasks directly concern the Agency.

This concerns mainly:

- increase utilization of research outputs in industry and social practice;
- increase the role of universities in science and research;
- stimulate the exploitation of research and development for the development of business environment in Slovakia;
- increase support for research and development by the private sector;
- the orientation of science and research to participate in projects of international programs.

In the short, medium and long-term horizons it is necessary to ensure that the Agency continues to announce regularly the so-called general calls. Through these calls projects from various groups of research and technology fields are supported (without thematic limitations), while objectives, aims and the contents of the projects are specified by applicants.

In November 2013, the Government approved a strategy for research and innovation for smart specialization of the Slovak Republic (RIS3), whose objective is to link research and innovation with immediate practical needs.

One important tool to implement the objectives of the strategy can be the Agency's programs aimed at building and stabilization of human resources in all sectors of research and development, collaboration of the research circles with economic reality and to promote wider involvement in European and international initiatives, in particular in the new EU Framework Programme for Research and innovation Horizon 2020.

The Agency will continue to pay attention to supporting activities under intergovernmental bilateral or multilateral agreements on international scientific and technological cooperation, both supporting the mobility of researchers and encouraging the participation of research and development institutions in international projects, programs and initiatives.

The Agency will further pay attention to the improvement of the system of evaluation and financing of projects in order to improve the objectiveness and transparency of the evaluation process.

3 Agency's Activities in 2014

The scope of activities of the Agency in 2014 was determined by the budget in the total amount of EUR 26.27 million.

The following new calls were published in 2014 on the basis of the Plan of Main Tasks of the Agency and the above mentioned financial assumptions:

- Open public call for submission of applications for co-financing of projects financed from the 7th Framework Programme (DO7RP);
- an open call for research and development project proposals in various science and technology fields – VV 2014

The scope of activities of the Agency for 2014 is shown in the following table:

Table 1 Funding of projects in 2014

Call	Number of projects in 2014	Amount of support in EUR in 2014
VV 2010	165	7 293 740
VV 2011	166	8 551 555
VV 2012	172	8 635 307
Bilateral calls	97	248 356
ENV Activities	4	23 951
DO7RP	32	414 115
Total	636	25 167 024

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3 Agency's activities in 2014

Figure 2 shows the total number of funded projects and the amount of support per type of grant schemes in 2014.

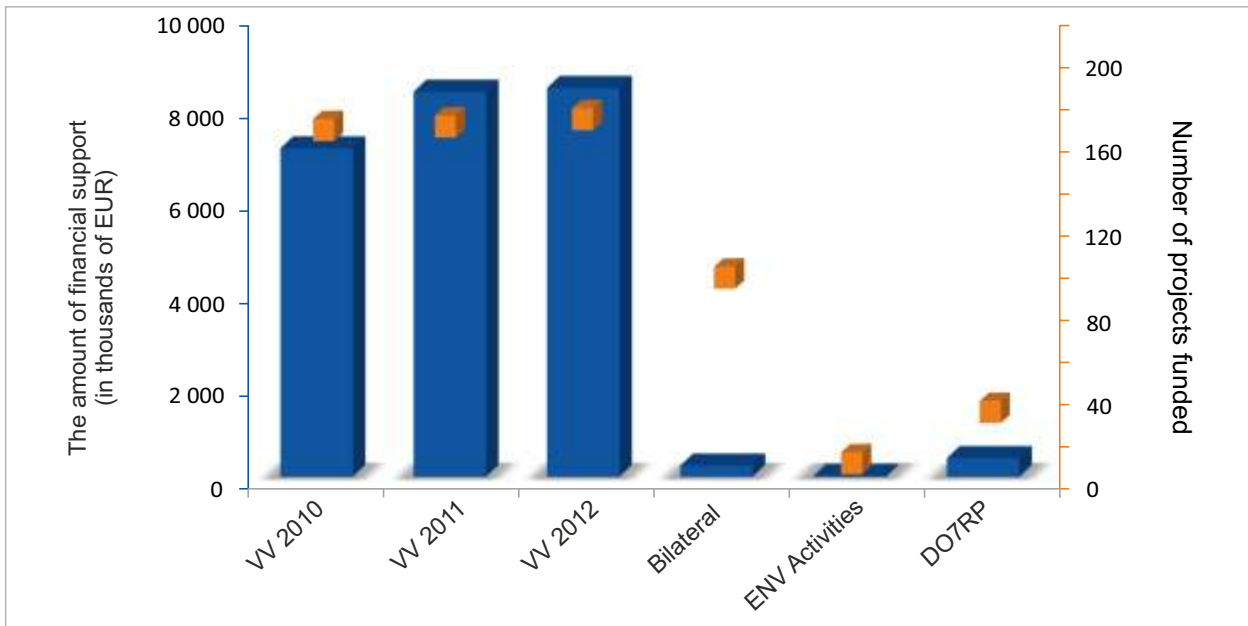


Figure 2 Funding of projects in 2014

As a part of its activities during 2014 the Agency also arranged for the fulfilment of other tasks:

- Follow-up monitoring of the projects in order to obtain relevant information on the impacts of the project implementation on social and economic practices;
- Financing of on-going projects, i.e. projects the financing and implementation of which had started in the previous years and continued also in 2014;
- Publication of new calls for proposals and evaluation of applications for financial support submitted under these calls for proposals;
- Financing of projects supported under the open public call for applications for co-financing of projects financed from the 7th Framework Programme (DO7RP).

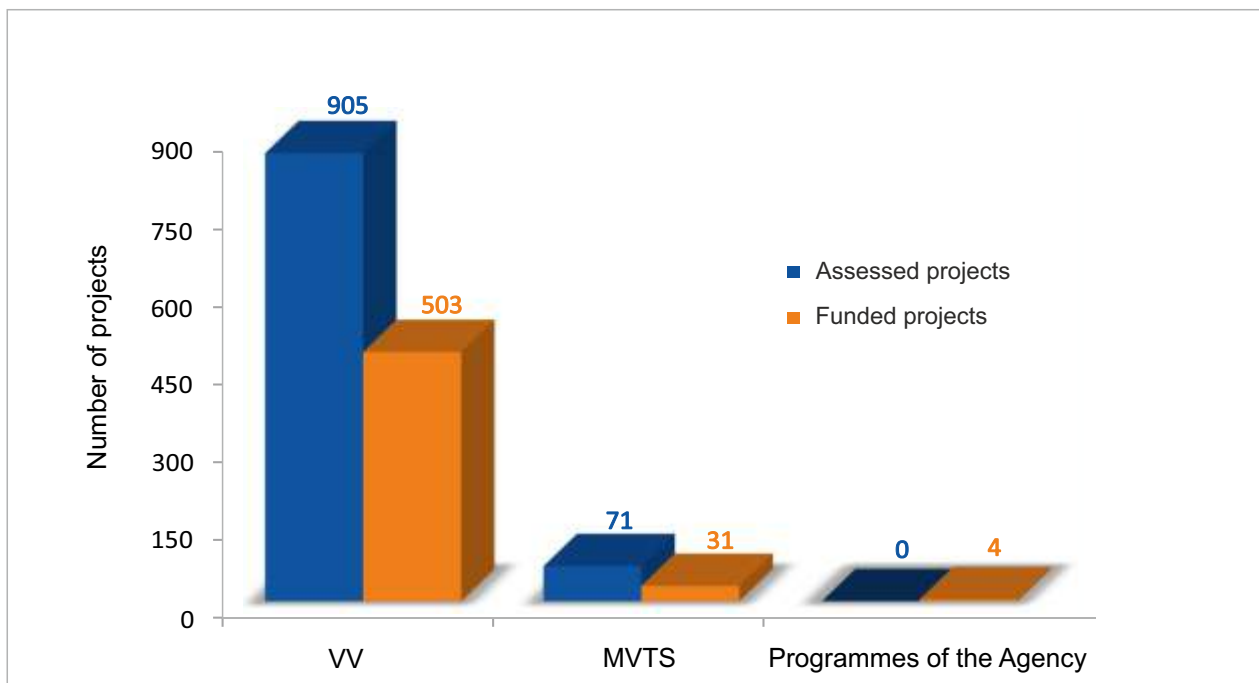


Figure 3 Evaluation and funding of projects in 2014

3.1 Follow-up monitoring of projects

According to the wording of the contract, each principal investigator of any Agency's project shall be obliged to inform the Agency during a three year period after the completion of the project on social and economic benefits of the project in the form of a monitoring report. The report is submitted by filling in the form "Project Outcomes and Benefits".

The main categories of benefits and outcomes are as follows:

1. Category: Publications and citations
2. Category: Patents, inventions and utility models
3. Category: Practical applications with specific economic indicators
4. Category: Contributions to scientific education and popularization of science
5. Category: Other results)
6. Category: Added value of the research and development project that is being implemented

In 2014, the Agency arranged for the monitoring of practical applications of the completed projects financed under calls for proposals specified in Table 2.

Table 2 Projects Monitored after Completion

Call	Final year of funding of projects under the call	Number of projects monitored
VV 2006	2009	80
VV 2007	2010	228
LPP 2006	2010	28
LPP 2007	2010	48
LPP 2009	2012	79
VMSP 2007	2009	3
VMSP 2009	2010	91
VMSP II 2009	2012	22
VVCE 2007	2012	7
SUSPP 2007	2012	2
EUREKA 2006	2009	1
EUROCORES 2006	2009	1
EUROCORES 2007	2011	3
RPEU 2006	2009	2
DO7RP	2010	32

Table 3 contains project outcomes for 2013 after the termination of their financing and submitted by investigators as of 31 March 2014. Most projects were monitored under the VV 2007 call, for the VV 2006 call it was the last year of monitoring of smaller number of projects completed in 2010. A large number of practical applications was recorded in relation to the projects from the VMSP 2009 programme which was aimed at the support of projects of applied research and development in small and medium-sized enterprises with particular emphasis on the practical implications of the projects. Due to the increase of the number of completed projects under the LPP 2006 call, the number of projects with publications in the Current Contents (CC) journals and the number of citations has increased as well.

Table 3 Benefits and Outcomes of Completed Projects

Call	No. of projects with Internat. CC publications	Number of new SCI citations	Number of projects with application in practice	Number of applications
VV 2006	10	370	3	7
VV 2007	57	1 754	27	86
LPP 2006	7	161	3	11
LPP 2007	8	111	2	2
LPP 2009	16	139	3	6
VMSP 2007	0	0	1	1
VMSP 2009	0	43	48	1 103
VMSP II 2009	0	0	12	46
VVCE 2007	6	511	1	1
SUSPP 2007	0	4	2	7
EUREKA 2006	0	0	1	1
EUROCORES 2006	2	11	0	0
EUROCORES 2007	7	34	0	0
RPEU 2006	0	28	0	0
DO7RP	2	180	4	5
Total	115	3 346	107	1 276

3.2 Funding of on-going projects

Financing of on-going projects, i.e. projects the financing and implementation of which had started in the previous years and continued also in 2014, was a very important but also a demanding task. The on-going projects were financed under the terms and conditions specified in Act No. 172/2005, as amended.

The funds broken down to current and capital expenditures for the project implementation may only be provided by the Agency for no more than one financial year. The Agency provides the funds on the on-going projects twice in the following year under amendments to the contracts. The provision of the first portion of the funds is subject to the submission of an interim annual report elaborated in compliance with the methodological guidelines set for the preparation of interim reports. The provision of the second portion of the funds is subjected to the approval of the interim annual report by the Specialist Council of the Agency. The annual report must contain, as its integral part, a section presenting specialised results in compliance with the project implementation schedule and a financial section containing a detail specification of the use of funds allocated for the financial year in question. For the projects granted under bilateral grant schemes, the funds are granted in the form of a lump-sum grant in the budgetary year concerned following the evaluation of the interim annual reports by the specialist body.

The implementation of the on-going projects is assessed by the specialist bodies of the Agency and the evaluation report to the annual project report contains a recommendation for the Director of the Agency to continue with the financing of the projects.

During 2014, the Agency financed the on-going projects submitted under the calls specified in Table 4.

Table 4 Financing of On-going Projects

Call	Number of projects	Beginning of funding
VV 2010	165	2011
VV 2011	166	2012
VV 2012	172	2013

In March 2014 the first portion of the funds was provided in the amount of 50% of the annual budget for the projects on the basis of the annual reports delivered to the Agency.

The second portion of the funds for 2014 was provided after the completion of the evaluation of annual reports by the specialist bodies of the Agency during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2014.

Due to the deficit of the budget of the Agency in 2014, it was not possible to fully provide the second part of the funds for projects under the VV2011 and VV2012 calls.

The funds for the projects were transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries specified in their contracts on the provision of funds entered into with the Agency.

The total amount of the support provided in 2014 for the implementation of on-going projects is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Funds Provided in 2014 for On-going Projects (in EUR)

Call	No. of projects	Current expenditures	Capital expenditures	Total
VV 2010	165	7 293 740	0	7 293 740
VV 2011	166	8 551 555	0	8 551 555
VV 2012	172	8 635 307	0	8 635 307
Total	503	24 480 602	0	24 480 602

Figure 4 shows the percentage of funds granted from the grant schemes in general calls in 2014 by the nature of research.

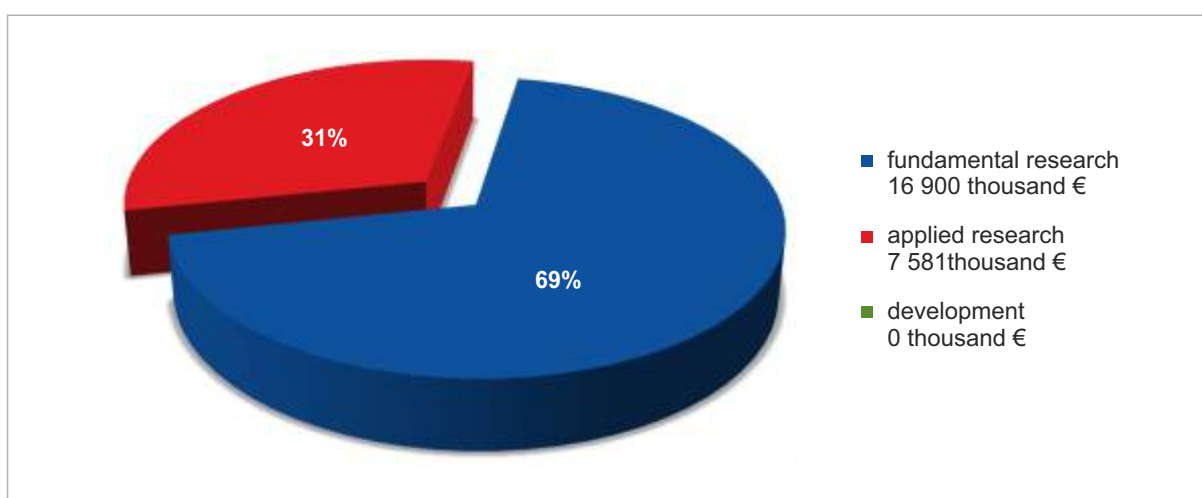


Figure 4 Breakdown of funds granted by the nature of research

Figure 5 shows the percentage of funds granted from the grant schemes in general calls in 2014 by scientific fields.

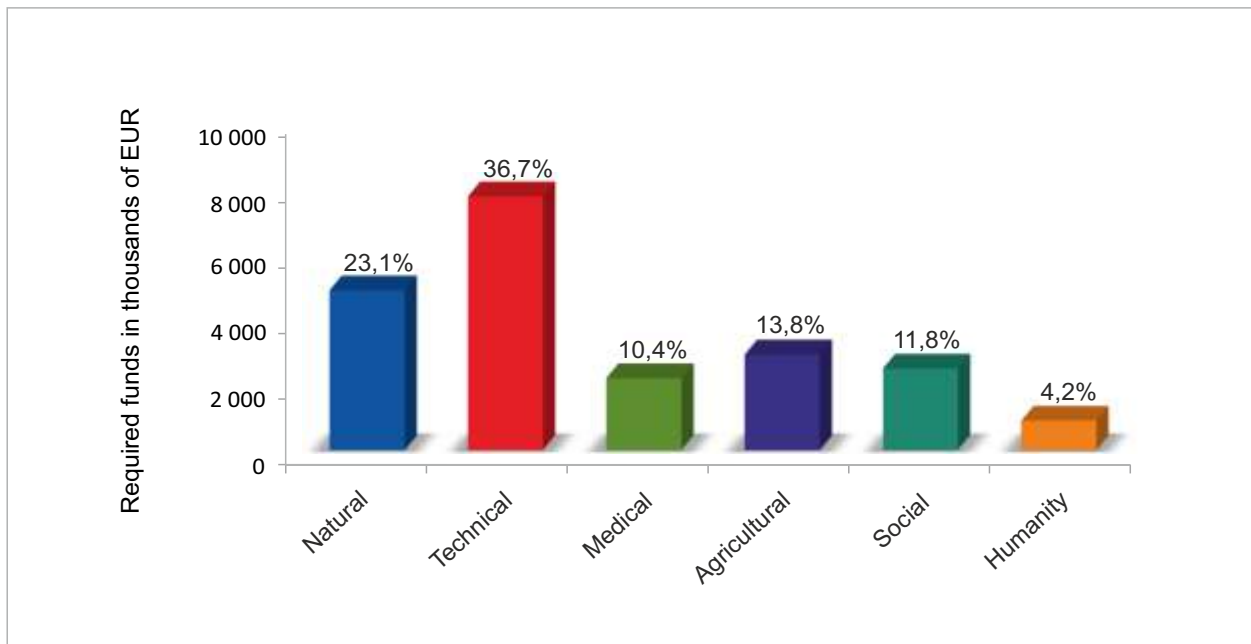


Figure 5 Breakdown of funds granted by scientific fields (in thousands of EUR)

Figure 6 shows the percentage of funds granted from the grant schemes under 2014 general calls by regions.

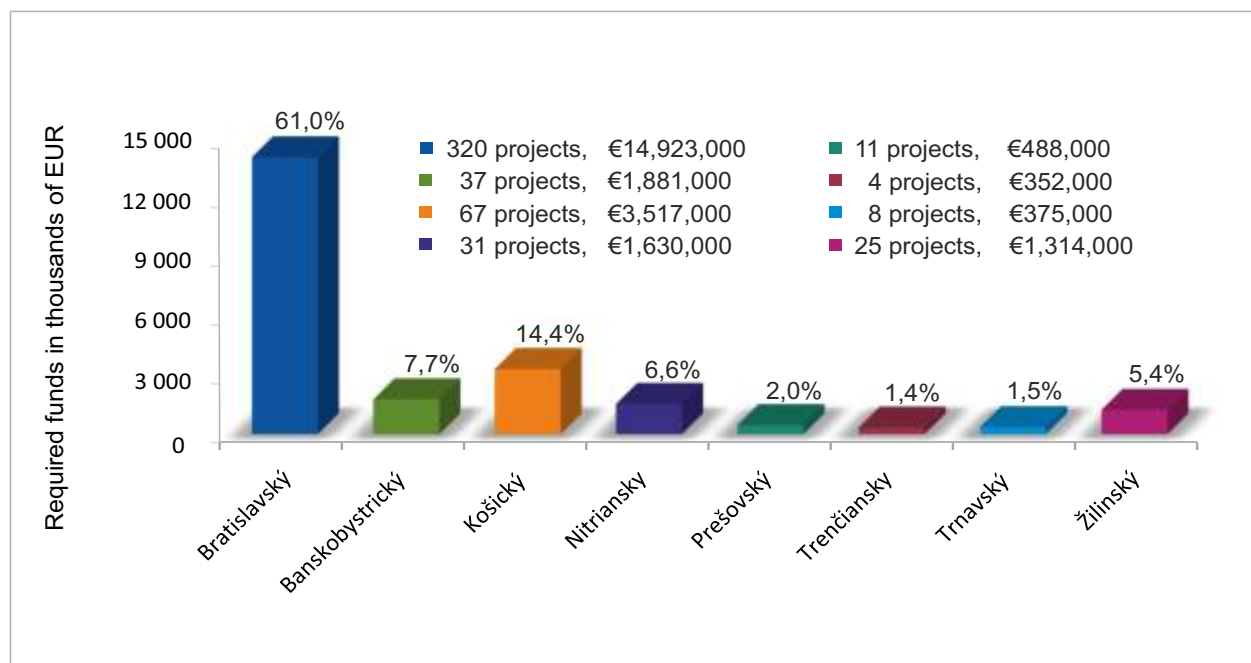


Figure 6 Breakdown of the granted funds by regions (in thousands of EUR)

Figure 7 shows the percentage of funds granted from the grant schemes under 2014 general calls by sector.

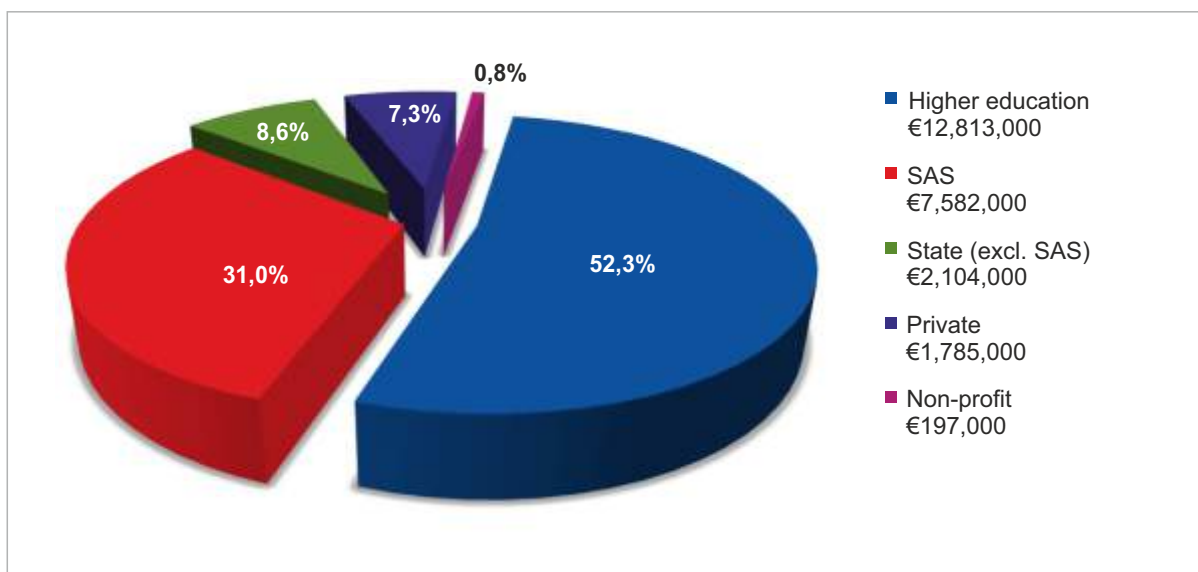


Figure 7 Breakdown of approved funds by sector

In 2014, the Agency continued with the financing of the projects which had commenced in 2013 under bilateral cooperation between Slovakia and Greece, Austria, China, Portugal and Romania, as specified in Table 6.

Table 6 Grants provided by the Agency on on-going bilateral mobility projects in 2014

Call for bilateral scientific-technical co-operation	Number of projects	Amount of support in EUR (Current expenditures)
Slovak - Greek 2011	12	31 770
Slovak - Austrian 2012	16	31 640
Slovak - Chinese 2012	12	48 000
Slovak - Polish 2012	16	31 100
Slovak - Portuguese 2012	12	31 940
Slovak - Romanian 2012	15	37 020
Total	83	211 470

Furthermore, the Agency continued to also duly support activities performed by researchers and scientists within the programmes of the [European Science Foundation \(ESF\)](#) (the Agency became its member in January 2006), as indicated in Table 7. The European Science Foundation is a European association of research organisations and grant agencies supporting by its activities cooperation in the field of fundamental research at the European level and organizes a uniform assessment of fundamental research projects. In 2014 the basic contribution of the Agency to the European Science Foundation represented the amount of €9,763.14.

In January 2012, the Agency became a member of [Science Europe](#), another international non-profit organisation which is the association of 52 organisations from 27 member states funding research and development from public funds. Science Europe was founded in October 2011 with the aim to promote the collective interests of its member organisations and to make the coordination of scientific policies at the international level more effectively. The basic contribution of the Agency in 2014 represented the amount of €6,188.

Table 7 Agency's support of on-going activities in the field of international cooperation in 2014

Call/Programme	Number of projects	Amount of support in EUR
EUROCORES project	1	8 000
ESF and SE financial contributions	-	15 951
Total	4	23 951

Open public call for submission of applications for co-financing of projects financed from the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community (EC) for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities, including the Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) – DO7RP.



The main objective of this call is the promotion of active participation of Slovak top staff and research and development teams in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Communities for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities through co-financing of the costs for the implementation of proposals of research projects under FP7 that obtained funds from the European Commission

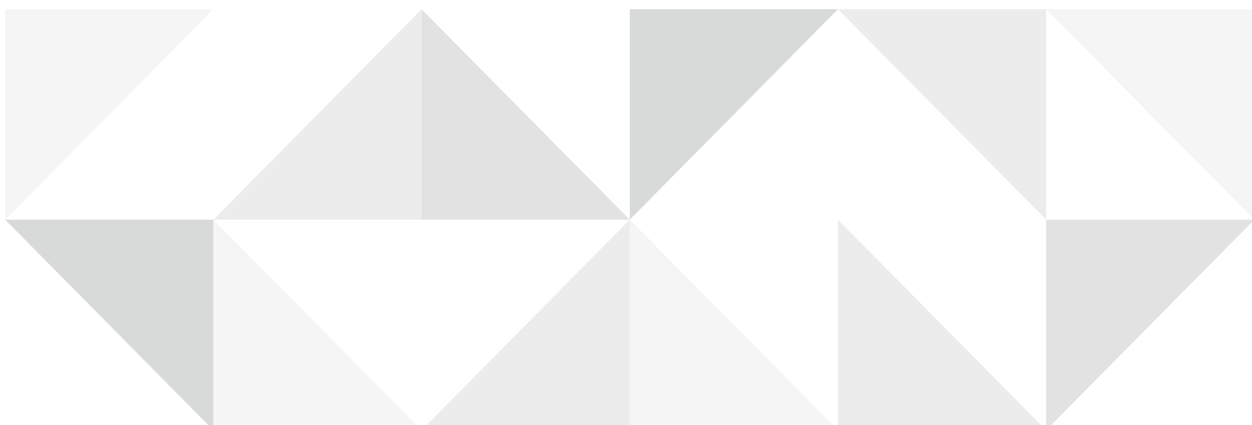
The beneficiaries are public higher education institutions and state higher education institutions, organisation of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, research and development organisations established by the central state administration authorities of the Slovak Republic and non-profit research and development organisations.

The up-dated rules of the call and the terms and conditions of the contract enable the Agency to provide funds for co-financing of projects to the successful project investigators in the FP7 in the field of research and development up to the amount of 25% of the total eligible costs provided based on the decision of the European Commission, including the final contribution paid after the completion of the project implementation under the FP7.

In 2014, the Agency supported, under the [DO7RP call](#), in aggregate 32 projects in the total amount of €414,115.

Table 8 Support of the DO7RP projects by the Agency in 2014 broken down by sector

Sector	Number of projects	Amount of support in EUR
SAS	9	82 751
Higher education	19	308 923
Other	4	22 441
Total	32	414 115



3.3 Evaluation and funding of projects commenced in 2014



This activity of the Agency related with the evaluation of applications submitted under the general call marked as VV 2014 announced in 2014, while the financing of selected successful projects started in 2015.

Characteristics of VV 2014

The general call VV 2014 did not have any limitations concerning the contents of the projects. Specific focus, objectives and contents of research and development was determined by the applicant itself. Applications were allowed to be submitted by legal persons and natural persons – entrepreneurs without any prejudice to the research and development sectors.

Basic information on VV 2014

- Deadline for submission of applications: 2 Sept. 2014 - 14 Nov. 2014

Basic information on the registered applications

- Total number of applications received 905
- of which applications for fundamental research projects 534
- of which applications for applied research projects 346
- of which applications for development projects 25
- Amount of required funds €203,034,000
- Financial contribution of applicants €16,582,000
- Total amount of funds €219,616,000

The percentage of registered applications according to the nature of research is shown in Fig. 8.

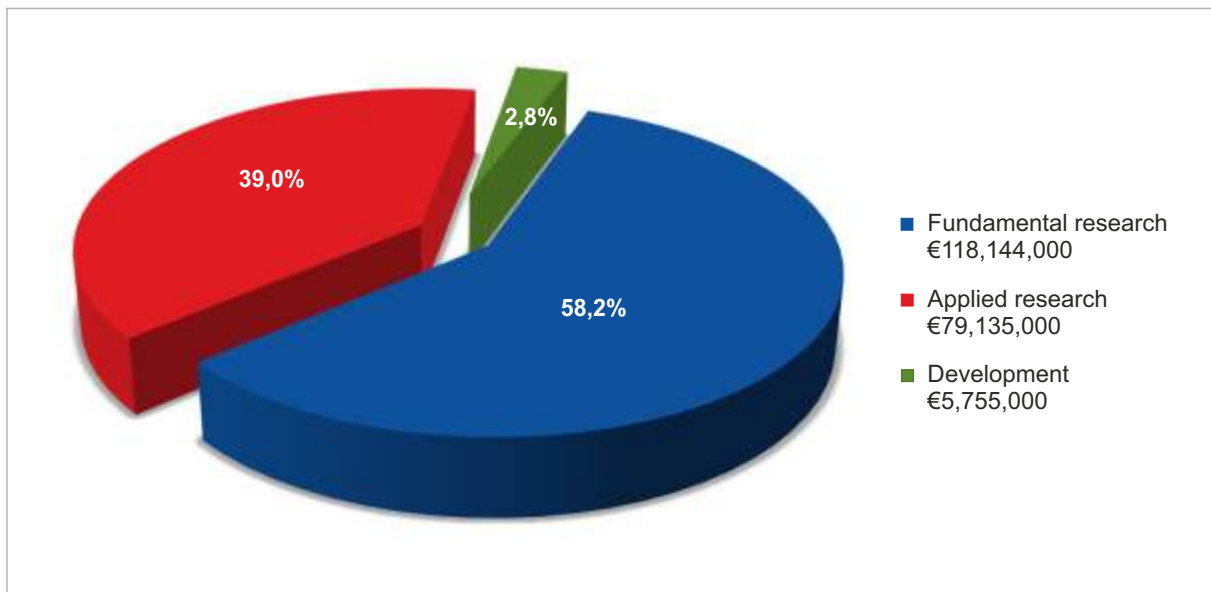


Figure 8 Breakdown of submitted projects by the nature of research

3 Agency's activities in 2014

Table 9 Number of registered applications and financial demands of applicants broken by the nature of research (in thousands of EUR)

Nature of research	No. of applications submitted	Funds Claimed from Agency (in EUR)	Average financial requirement per application
Fundamental research	534	118 144	221,2
Applied research	346	79 135	228,7
Development	25	5 755	230,2
Total	905	203 034	

Table 10 Number of registered applications by scientific fields

Scientific fields	Registered applications
Natural sciences	216
Technical sciences	295
Medical sciences	94
Agricultural sciences	119
Social sciences	128
Humanities	53
Total	905

Breakdown of funds required for the registered applications by scientific fields and nature of research is shown in Figure 9.

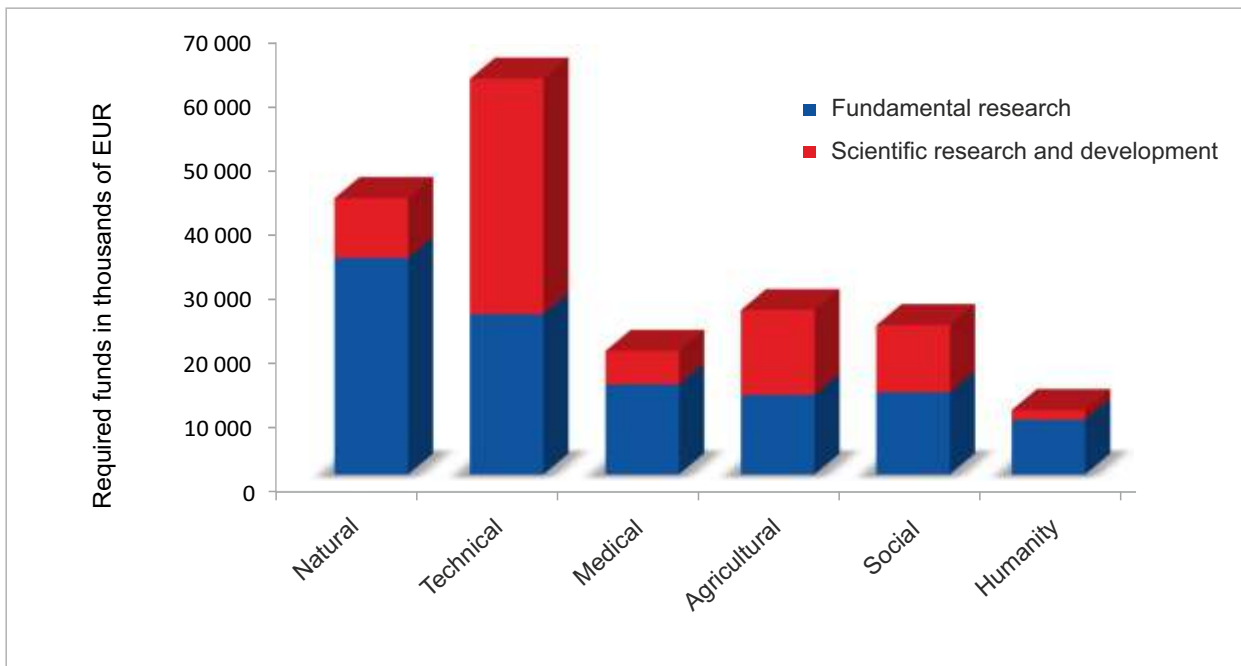


Figure 9 Breakdown of required funds by the nature of research and by scientific field

Breakdown of requests for funds by region is shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10 Breakdown of requests for funds by regions (in thousands of EUR)

Figure 11 illustrates the share of funds required in the applications submitted under the VV 2014 of individual sectors.

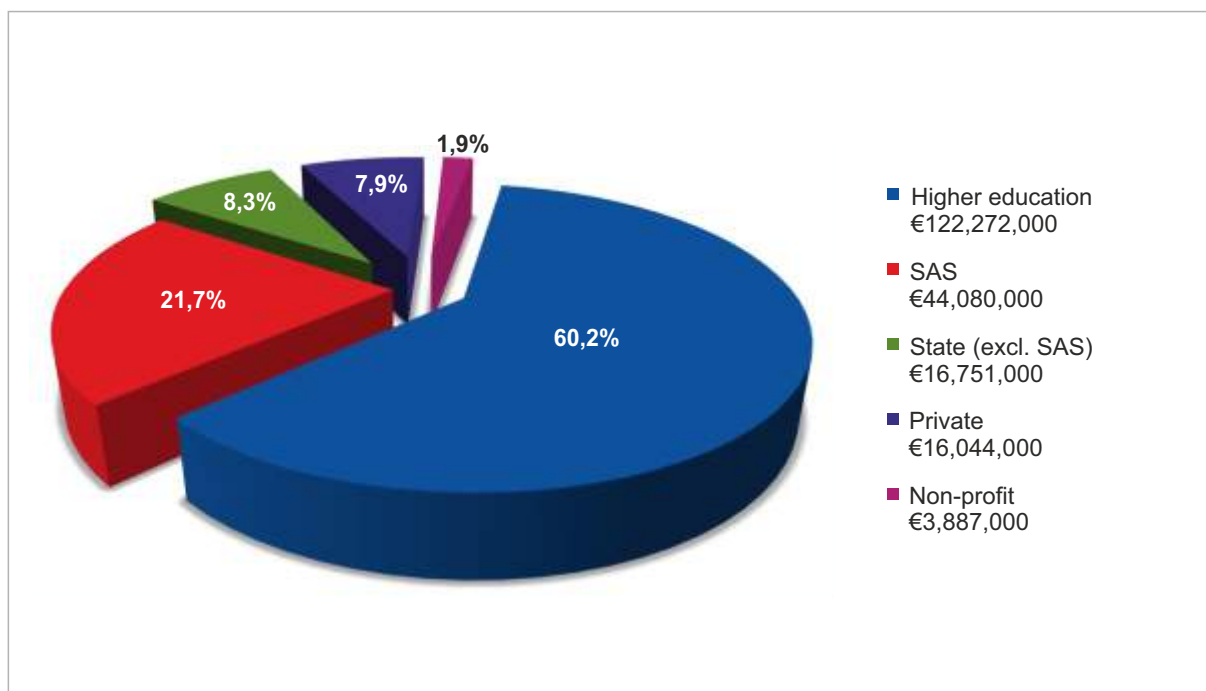


Figure 11 Breakdown of approved financial support by sector

Information on bilateral co-operation projects

In 2014, the Agency started to finance **14 bilateral projects** carried out within international cooperation which were submitted under the calls for international scientific and technology cooperation published in 2013 with France in the total amount of **€36,886**.

Due to the budget deficit in 2014, the Agency could not be fully supported by new activities aimed at allocation of funds in 2014, therefore, making contracts and financing of successful projects under the calls SK-CZ 2013, SK-HU 2013, SK-SRB 2013 were postponed, in agreement with the partners, to 2015.

4 State Aid

The financial support provided from the public funds to business entities (the State aid) enables promotion of the most effective process of utilisation of the research findings, linking research and market needs and related economic and social development of the country. It contributes to the better competitiveness of enterprises, increases their production and the quality of products and services, stimulates the creation of new jobs, etc.

On 16 June 2008, the European Commission approved the Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) N 702/2007 valid till 31 December 2013. This scheme applies to all types of enterprises – small, medium and also large-size enterprises. By Amendment No. 1 to Scheme N 702/2007, dated 20 January 2014, the Agency requested an extension of the Scheme. By its decision, dated 13 March 2014, the European Commission communicated the approval of the Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme SA.38272 (2014/N)) which is the amended Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency SA.24634 (N 702/2007). The scheme entered into force and effectiveness on the date of its publishing on the website of the provider with validity until 30 June 2014.

On 27 April 2009 the European Commission approved the Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency in the Field of Transport X 477/2009 (Block Exemption). The scheme was valid till 31 December 2013.

By Amendment No. 1 to Scheme X477/2009, dated 20 January 2014, the Scheme was extended to 31 December 2014.

4.1 Assessment of state aid granted by the Agency

Under State Aid Scheme N 702/2007 the State aid was granted to 20 business entities and the amount of the state aid so granted represents €1,784,690.50.

Under State Aid Scheme X 477/2009 no State aid was granted in 2014.

Overall, in 2014 the State aid was granted to 30 business entities and the amount of the granted State aid represented €1,784,690.50 (the share of EU funds is 0%). This represents a decrease of 3.78 % (1,852,248) compared to 2013. Due to the lack of funds from the state budget, the approved funds allocated to the projects were not granted in full. The cuts in appropriations in the amount of 179,807.50 were financed at the beginning of 2015.

The State aid granted under the State aid schemes represents 100% of the total State aid granted by the Agency.

The State aid granted under the schemes for the regions which qualify for the State aid according to Article 87(3)(a) of the EC Treaty (SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, SK04 Eastern Slovakia) represents 39% of the aggregate State aid granted under the schemes, the State aid granted under the schemes to the regions which qualify for State aid according to Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty (SK01 Bratislava Region) represents 61 % of the aggregate State aid granted under the schemes.

The aggregate State aid granted to the regions which qualify for state aid according to Article 87(3)(a) of the EC Treaty (SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, SK04 Eastern Slovakia) represents 39% of the aggregate State aid granted, the aggregate State aid granted under the schemes to the regions which qualify for State aid according to Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty (SK01 Bratislava Region) represents 61% of the aggregate State aid granted.

The State aid granted to SME represents 89.2 % of the aggregate State aid granted in 2014 by the Agency.

In 2014 the Agency financed mainly the projects for small and medium-sized enterprises. With regard to the breakdown by region, the aid was granted as follows to 12 enterprises from Bratislava Region, 1 enterprise from Košice Region, 3 enterprises from Trenčín Region, and 3 enterprises from Žilina Region.

Breakdown of the State aid granted by the Agency in 2014 by region is shown in Figure 12.

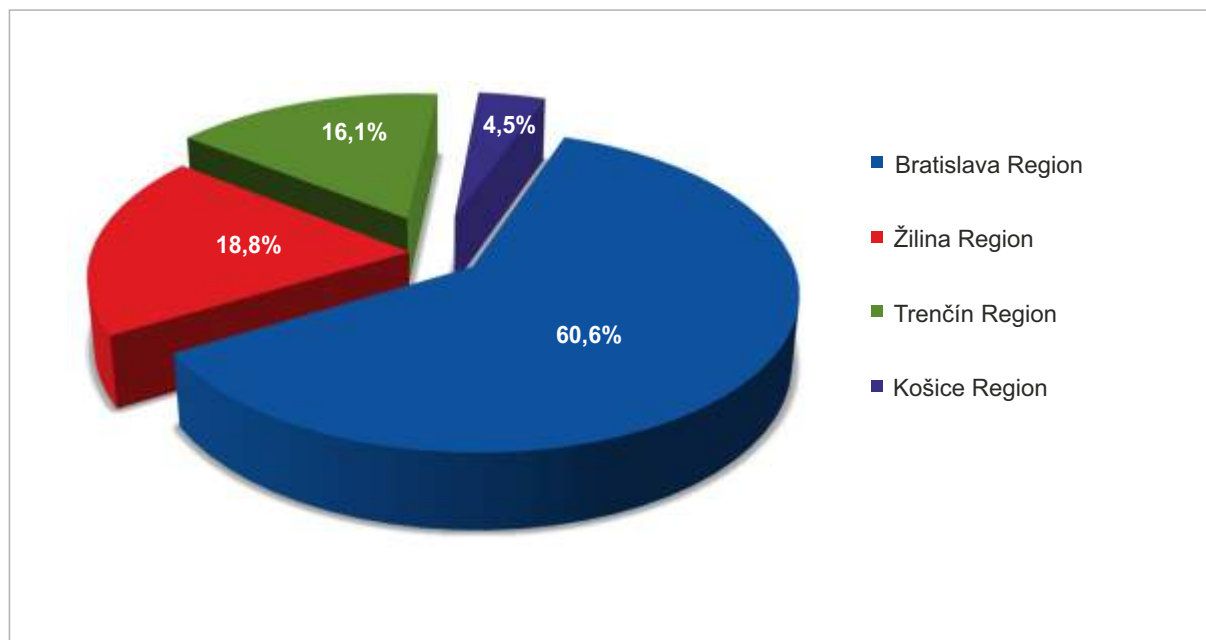


Figure 12 Breakdown of state aid granted by Agency in 2014 by regions in EUR

4.2 Further steps in the field of state aid granted by the Agency

The Slovak Research and Development Agency prepares at present a new scheme of State aid according to Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 with the expected date of approval in April 2015. The new scheme will cover the scope of the completed scheme N 702/2007, as well as scheme X 477/2009 (research and development in the transport sector).



5 Agency's Budget

The development of the Agency's budget in the period 2005 - 2014 is shown in Figure 13.

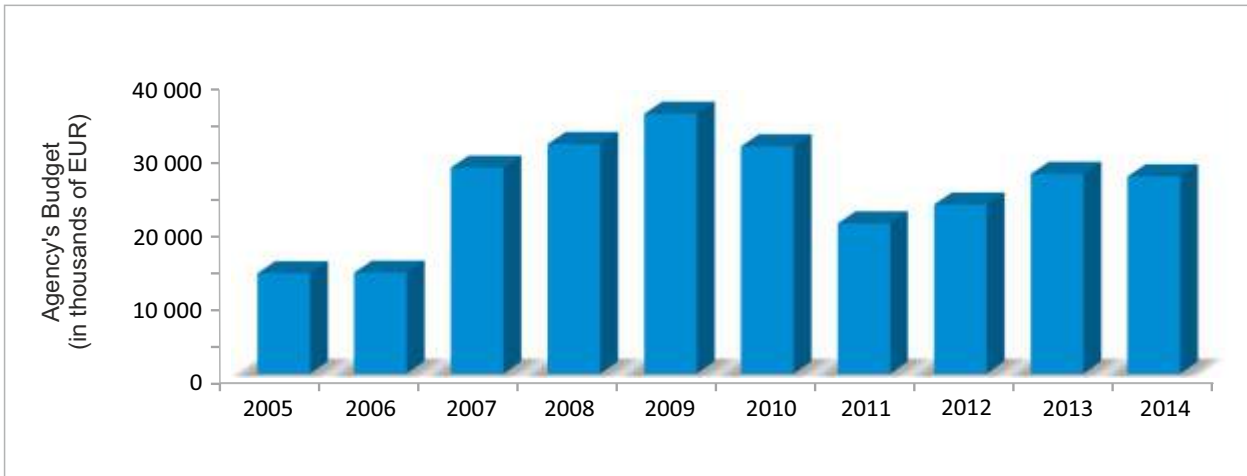


Figure 13 Development of the Agency's Budget in 2005-2014 (in thousands of EUR)

For 2014, the Agency was initially allocated binding funds from the state budget under the Programme 06K "National Science and Technology Development Programme" – 06K11 "Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency" as shown in Table 14.

The Slovak Parliament approved the 2014 budget for the activities of the Agency, as determined by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., in the amount of EUR 26,271,370, of which EUR 1,307,639 for the operation of the Agency and EUR 24,963,731 to support research and development

During 2014 the budget was adjusted by other budgetary measures. Their purpose was to secure funding for research and development projects, as well as the operation of the Agency within the scope of the activities performed.

Table 11 Breakdown of binding indicators in 2014 in EUR

Programme 06 K 11	Budgetary items	Amount in EUR
Agency's operation	Total operation expenses	1 307 639
01.3.3	Total current expenses (600)	1 307 639
01.3.3	Salaries, service income and other pers. exp. (610)	645 861
01.3.3	Number of RO employees (persons)	57
01.3.3	Premiums and contributions to insurance comp.(620)	225 728
01.3.3	Goods and services (630)	436 050
01.3.3	Current transfers (640)	0
01.3.3	Total capital expenses (700)	0
01.3.3	Procurement of computer technology (713002)	0
Promotion of research and development	Total research and development expenditures	24 963 731
01.4.0	Total current expenses (600)	24 863 731
01.4.0.4	Current transfers to address R&D challenges (640)	3 038 680
01.4.0.5	Goods and services for R&D challenges (630)	344 560
01.4.0.5	Current transfers to address R&D challenges (640)	21 480 491
01.4.0.5	Total capital expenses (700)	100 000
Total	R&D tasks supported by the Agency (600+700)	26 271 370

The final budget adjusted by the budgetary measures and real implementation as of 31 December 2014 is shown in Table 12 and the financing of research and development projects in 2014 is in Table 13.

Table 12 Budgetary funds and their implementation in 2014 in EUR

Programme 06 K 11	Initial approved budget	Budget as of 31 December 2014	Implementation as of 31 December 2014
Operation	1 307 639	1 301 417	1 301 417
Current exp.	1 307 639	1 301 417	1 301 417
Capital exp.	0	0	0
R&D support	24 963 731	25 024 472	25 021 428
Current exp.	24 863 731	25 024 472	25 021 428
Capital exp.	100 000	0	0
Total Agency's Budget	26 271 370	26 325 889	26 322 845

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Table 13 Research and development projects funded by the Agency in 2014 in EUR

Title of call/programme	Current expenses	Capital expenses	Total
Bilateral projects	248 356	0	248 356
ENV Activities - EUROCORES, RNP	8 000	0	8 000
Contribution to international organization	15 951	0	15 951
Co-financing of projects supported under 7FP EÚ - DO7RP	414 115	0	414 115
General call - VV 2010	7 293 740	0	7 293 740
General call - VV 2011	8 551 555	0	8 551 555
General call - VV 2012	8 635 307	0	8 635 307
Total	25 167 024	0	25 167 024

In 2014 the beneficiaries received the funds for the support of research and development by wire transfer from the Agency's bank account.

The breakdown of the funds for the projects supported in 2014 by the type of beneficiary is in Table 14.

As it arises from the structure of the beneficiaries of the funds for research and development, the most subsidies were provided to public higher education institutions, followed by the SAS and subsidised organizations.

Table 14 Funds provided to the projects supported in 2014 in EUR

Type of organization	Total expenses
State	2 289 847
SAS	7 728 801
Civil associations, foundations	0
Non-profit organizations	304 349
Private organizations	1 784 691
Multilateral organisations	15 951
Public higher education institutions	13 043 385
Total	25 167 024

6 Personnel Issues

6.1 Bureau of the Agency

The average recorded number of employees of the Agency (the Bureau of the Agency) as of 31 December 2014 was 48 and the real number of the Agency's employees as of 31 December 2014 was 47.

The number of the Agency's employees of individual organisational units within the organisational structure in 2014 is illustrated in Table 15.

Table 15 Number of the Agency's employees pursuant to the organisational structure as of 31 December 2014.

Department	Number of employees
Director's Office	3
General Calls Department	13
Programmes Department	9
Financial Department	12
Information Technology and Services Department	5
Audit Department	3
Personnel and Wages Department	2
Total	47

As of 31 December 2014, the average age of the Agency's staff was 41. The qualification structure of employees as of 31 December 2014 is illustrated in Table 16.

Table 16 Qualification Structure of the Agency's Staff in 2014 - as of 31 December 2014

Level of education	Number of employees
Secondary education	7
Higher Education - first stage	0
Higher Education - second stage	32
Higher Education - third stage	8

6.2 Professional bodies

The specialist bodies of the Agency are as follows:

- presidium
- councils

Presidium

The Presidium of the Agency is the highest professional body of the Agency. The Presidium is composed of 13 members, of which 12 persons are honourable experts in the science and technology fields. One is a representative of the Ministry of Education

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The activities of the Presidium are governed by the Agency's work plan developed by the Agency's Director based on the concept of the Agency's activities for the period concerned and approved by the Bureau. The Presidium meets according to the work plan and the needs; however, at least once a quarter. In 2014, the Presidium met 5-times. The meetings are attended by the members of the Presidium, Director, Secretary and invited participants.

President: prof. RNDr. Jozef Masarik, DrSc.
Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University Bratislava

Vice-President: RNDr. Eva Majková, DrSc.
Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Members: prof. Ing. Anetta Čaplánová, PhD.
Department of Economic Theory, the Faculty of National Economy, the University of Economics in Bratislava

prof. RNDr. Anatolij Dvurečenskij, DrSc.
Institute of Mathematics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Ing. Rastislav Havrila, PhD.
Electrotechnical Research and Design Institute, Nová Dubnica

prof. Ing. Jan Kudrna, Csc.
Faculty of Civil Engineering, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic

Ing. Anton Marcinčin, PhD.
Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

prof. Ing. Štefan Mihina, PhD.
Department of Production Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra

JUDr. Anton Ondrej, MBA
Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bratislava

prof. Ing. Ľudovít Parilák, Csc.
Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s., Podbrezová

MVDr. Ján Rosocha, Csc.
Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

prof. Ing. Viktor Smieško, PhD.
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava

Ing. Róbert Szabó, PhD.
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports, Science of the Slovak Republic, Universities, Science and Research Section

Secretary: Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD.

Agency's Council

The Agency's Council is a professional body of the Agency established for the assessment and approval of applications for granting funds for the financing of the implementation of scientific and research projects and development projects through the Agency and for the audit of supported projects for the implementation of which the Agency provided funds.

The Council is composed of at least seven honourable experts from the area of its activities, of which at least one is a foreign expert.

In 2014, the following Councils were active in the Agency:

Council of Natural Sciences: Chairman of the Council

prof. RNDr. Ján Turňa, Csc. (till 15 March 2014) *Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava*
Prof. RNDr. Peter Samuely, DrSc. (from 9 April 2014) *Institute of Experimental Physics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice*

Council of Technical Sciences: Chairman of the Council

Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD. (till 15 March 2014) *Prvá zvaračská, a.s., Bratislava*
Prof. Ing. Jaroslav Kováč, CSc. (from 16 April 2014) *Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, the Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava*

Council of Medical Sciences: Chairman of the Council

prof. MUDr. Ján Danko, CSc. *Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, the Comenius University in Bratislava*

Council of Agricultural Sciences: Chairman of the Council

doc. RNDr. Ján Rafay, CSc. *Animal Production Research Centre, the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra*

Council of Social Sciences: Chairman of the Council

univ. prof. dipl. Ing. Dr. Mikuláš Luptáčik (till 15 March 2014) *Faculty of National Economy, the University of Economics in Bratislava*
Prof. PhDr. Darina Malová, CSc. (till 15 April 2014) *Faculty of Philosophy, the Comenius University in Bratislava*

Council of Humanities: Chairperson of the Council

PhDr. Gabriela Kiliánová, Csc. (till 15 March 2014) *Institute of Ethnology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava*
PhDr. Matej Rutkay, CSc. (from 29.4.2014) *Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra*

Council of International Scientific and Technology Cooperation (MVTŠ)

Chairman of the Council

prof. MUDr. Fedor Čiampor, DrSc. (till 14 October 2014) *Institute of Virology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava*
Prof. Ing. Stanislav Marchevský, (from 26 November 2014) *The Technical University in Košice*

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6.3 Social policy of the Agency

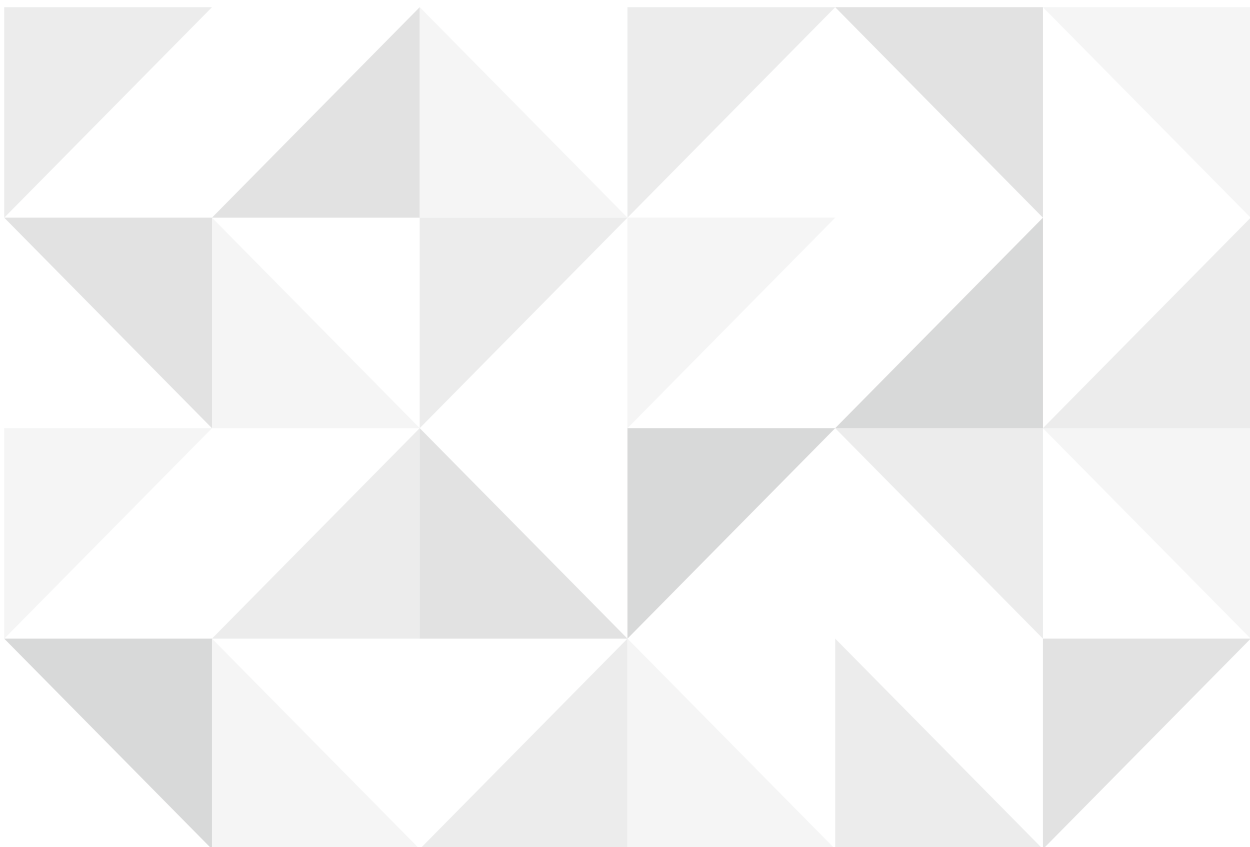
The Agency has concluded employer's agreements with the following three supplementary pension insurance companies: AXA, DDS ING Tatra Sympatia and DDS of Tatra banka. As of 31 December 2014, 36 employees were enrolled in the pension saving schemes. In 2014, the contribution of the employer to the supplementary pension saving was 4% of the gross wages.

In 2014 employees were entitled to a contribution to catering in the amount of EUR 2.06 and a contribution from the Social Fund in the amount of EUR 0.58. The contribution to catering is provided in the form of gastro tickets.

6.4 Training

The professional qualifications of the Agency's employees was raised through external specialised training courses in the field of OSH and fire protection. 4 employees were re-trained in 2014 to provide pre-medical first aid. Further training courses were performed in the field of work, wages and information systems in relation to the amendments to legislation applicable to public administration and budgetary organisations, as well as legislative amendments in the field of labour law and the acts in the field of social and health insurance schemes.

The Agency continuously arranged for compulsory retraining of referent drivers. The Agency's employees attended seminars, conferences and other events organised by partner institutions.



7 Control Activities

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7.1 External control activities

Pursuant to Act No. 502/2001 Coll., on financial control and internal audit and on amendments and supplements to certain other acts, as amended, the employees of the Agency carried out eight follow-up audits.

The aim of carrying out of follow-up financial controls was to check the compliance of the terms and conditions of the use of funds provided for the projects.

Table 17 Follow-up financial controls carried out by agency's staff

Name of audited entity	Total amount of funds audited by auditing body in EUR
ARDOS AZ, a.s., Bratislava	182 095
Vojenský opravárenský podnik Nováky, a.s.	154 082
TAU-CHEM, s.r.o., Bratislava	43 910
ATIM, spoločnosť s ručením obmedzeným Košice	143 962
P-MAT, n. o., Bratislava	78 207
P-MAT, n. o., Bratislava	89 859
Institute of Construction and Architecture of SAS	41 150
Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Technical University in Košice	4 200

Breaches of financial discipline occurred as a result of:

1. unauthorized spending of public funds used in contravention of the principles, conditions and applicable legislation under which public funds were granted;
2. the use of public funds in excess of authorization resulting in higher spending of public funds;
3. reporting of higher than actually incurred expenditures/costs;
4. reporting of expenditures/costs outside the accounting period.

7.2 Internal control activities

The Audit Department of the Agency carried out internal audits pursuant to internal regulation - Directive No. 14/2012 "Strategy of Carrying out Audit Activities in the Agency", as amended, and pursuant to its applicable addendums 1-3.

In 2014, six internal audits were carried out aimed at:

1. check for updates of applicable internal regulations issued by the Agency;
2. check for compliance with procurement procedures with emphasis on record keeping, completeness and correctness of documents according to the relevant internal regulation;
3. check for compliance with the directive on drafting, commenting, concluding and registration of operational contract;
4. check for compliance with the registry guidelines;
5. check of inventory conducted as of 31 December 2013 with emphasis on record keeping, completeness and correctness of documents;
6. check for compliance with the measures taken as a result of the internal and external audits carried out in 2013 and 2014.

Based on the audit findings measures were taken in order to remove the detected shortcomings.

7.3 Control activities performed by external control bodies

In 2014 external auditing bodies carried out two audits in the Agency.

On 24 January 2014 and 19 March 2014, the Prague Social Security Administration conducted checks of contributions to the social security scheme and contributions to the State Employment Policy, contributions to the health insurance scheme and contributions to the old age insurance scheme. The controls conducted have not identified any deficiencies.

Based on the authorisation of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, dated 1 December 2014, the employees of the Audit Department conducted a follow-up financial check focused on compliance with the principles of purpose, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the use of funds. This follow-up check was not completed in 2014.

7.4 Complaints handling

The Audit Department did not record in 2014 any submission marked as a complaint.

8 Objectives and their Fulfillment

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Monitoring of Supported Projects with Expired Implementation Period

With regard to the projects for which the deadlines for the execution of the project have been exceeded, the monitoring of the project outcomes and social and economic benefits (impacts) of the project results over the next three years from the completion of the projects has been performed. All activities related to the administration process and the assessment of the outcomes of the projects have been performed under general calls published in 2006 and 2007, the calls for proposals to implement the following programmes: LPP2006, LPP2007, LPP2009, VMSP 2007, VMSP 2009, VMSP II 2009, VVCE 2007 and SUSPP 2007, the calls for proposals to implement the following programmes: EUREKA2006, EUROCORES 2006, EUROCORES 2007, RPEU 2006 and DO7RP.

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Annual and Final Evaluation of Projects and Financing of On-going Projects

In 2014 the following calls were financed and assessed: the general calls VV 2010, VV 2011 and VV 2012, the calls ENV – EUROCORES 2007, DO7RP and EUROCORES 2010, the bilateral calls SK- Greece 2011, SK -Austria 2012, SK - China 2012, SK - Poland 2012 , SK - Portugal 2012, SK - Romania 2012.

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Initial Evaluation and Financing of New Projects

In 2014, the following calls, announced and evaluated in 2013, were funded: bilateral call SK - France 2013, open call DO7RP

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Publishing of New Calls and Initial Evaluation of Submitted Projects

In 2014, the Agency published the general call VV 2014. The call was announced on 2 September 2014 and the date of closure of this call was set for 14 November 2014. In 2014, the Agency started to consider the applications submitted under this call. The expected date for the publication of the results is at the beginning of May 2015.

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In 2014, the Agency did not announced any call in the field of international scientific and technological cooperation.

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Promoting the Participation of Slovak Entities in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union

The Agency continued to support the participation of the Slovak Republic in the 7th EU Framework Programme through the [Open public call for applications for co-financing of successful projects under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities](#). The aim of the above call is to promote active participation of the Slovak top investigators and research and development teams in the 7th Framework Programme. Co-financing is aimed at the promotion of participation of the Slovak entities in two types of projects: Collaborative Projects and the Networks of Excellence Projects.

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Specific Tasks of the Agency Aimed at Ensuring the Full Operation of the Agency.

In 2014 the following tasks were fulfilled within the fulfilment of specific tasks:

- ☞ Preparation of documents:
 - Plan of main tasks of the Agency for 2014
 - Annual Report on the Activities of the Agency for 2013
 - Annual Report on the Financial Management of the Agency for 2013
 - Report on State Aid granted in 2013
 - Annual Financial Statements of the Agency for 2013

- ☞ The preparation and announcement of the first public calls of the Agency in the new information management system and the submission of applications.

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9 Assessment of the Agency's Activities in 2014

The activities of the Agency were based on the objectives of the programme 06K The National Programme for the Development of Science and Technology, the sub-programme 06K11 Research and Development Tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency with the aim to achieve objectives specified in the programme and attain stipulated measurable indicators. The intention of the sub-programme is the development of an effective system of support for research and development by providing funds for the implementation of projects and increasing competitiveness of Slovak entities in the field of international scientific and technological cooperation.

When preparing the strategy and stipulating the main activities and tasks of the Agency, the tasks arising from the resolutions of the Slovak Government and the objectives and aims of the State Scientific and Technology Policy were taken into account. The Agency has carried out its mission in accordance with Section 12 of Act No. 172/2005 through financing of the projects approved under the general calls VV 2010, VV 2011 and VV2012 and the calls in the framework of international cooperation (bilateral projects and projects DO 7RP).

The specification of the main tasks of the Agency for 2014 was based on the amount of funds for 2014, which was EUR 26.27 million which did not cover in full even the financing of any legally enforceable obligations.

Due to a lack of finances in the budget of the Agency in 2014, it can be concluded that the statutory role of the Agency was fulfilled only partially.

The Agency drew attention of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic while looking for solutions in order to minimize negative impacts on the implementation of contracted projects.

In 2014, the Agency was not able to meet the Agency's intention to present to the Government of the Slovak Republic new programmes of the Agency which represent one of the main instrument for the competitive research and development funding for in Slovakia. In 2014, the Agency prepared and submitted to the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic the proposals for the following programmes:

- The promotion of research and development in enterprises and the promotion of cooperation between enterprises and research organisations for the period 2014-2018
- The promotion of the building of personnel infrastructure in all research and development sectors in Slovakia for the period of 2014-2018
- The promotion of the research and development projects within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014-2020 - Horizon 2020

The programmes were then submitted to the ministries for comments and after incorporation of comments they were placed on the agenda of the Government Council for Science, Technology and Innovation for 23 October 2014. According to the minutes of the meeting, the Council approved the programme proposals with the recommendation to present them to the Government together with the document on a new research agency which will take them over.

The insufficiency of funds in the 2014 budget of the Agency had negative effects on the promotion of projects in the field of bilateral cooperation starting in 2014.

It can be concluded that despite the issues raised above the Agency is the only national grant agency promoting research and development through national resources with established standard procedures with competitive funding for research and development comparable with the EU Member States. These processes include in particular an objective and transparent system for evaluation of applications and a fully operational project management system.

Annual Report 2014



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