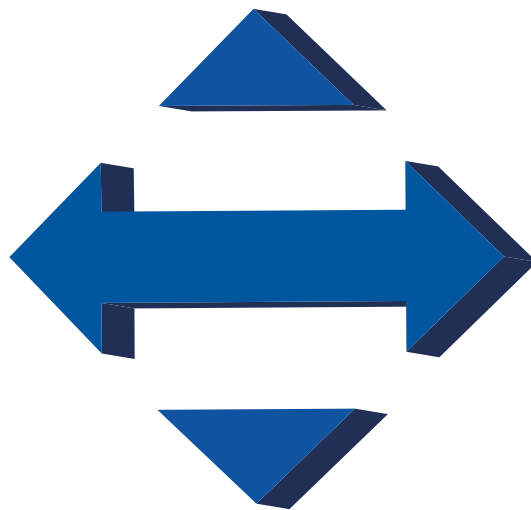


# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS IN 2016





**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SLOVAK  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
OPERATIONS IN 2016**

# THE CHAIRPERSON'S PREAMBLE



*We can define the year of 2016 as quite successful in terms of completing fundamental tasks of the Agency. After some time we finally did not have to fight to survive and run an argumentative campaign focused on reasoning the Agency existence. The mentioned year might be called as the year of the Agency development.*

*What is more, after a relatively long period of stagnation of the Agency activities, when it was not able to meet its tasks defined by its bylaws and the Act No. 172/2005 Coll., a sudden change in the financial development occurred in 2016. Not only we completed all obligatory liabilities from the past but also we were able to essentially, due to the special attitude to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, extend our funds in the General Call 2015 and announce a new general call having an immediate and positive impact on scientific community. Despite positive statements on financial extension of the Agency, we have to clearly state the financial means, set for its operations and particularly for the support of research and development, are just on the edge of rational minimum.*

*In order to meet the legislation provisions and particularly to improve support of research and development in Slovakia Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Agency programmes that undoubtedly became the second crucial pillar of its activities, apart from general calls. Three approved programmes focused on the support of young scientists and their teams, on the cooperation of small and medium enterprises with academic institutes and finally on the support of intense participation of Slovak scientists into programmes within European research area. By now the programmes have been approved only in their content but we strongly believe we will be able to acquire necessary funds in 2017 and we might start implementing at least one of them.*

*The forthcoming period will definitely be significant for the Agency as it will be included into the system of the state support of research and development concerning the use of structural funds and research, development and innovation vision defined in the RIS3 strategy. The Agency will be prepared for crossing the period when substantial*

*financial means part for science, research and innovation are not coming from structural funds but from Slovak sources. And then the significance of strong and smoothly administered home grant agency shall rise.*

*The mid-term perspective of the Agency lies in its extended ability to support projects from home sources by rising budget for general calls and specific agency programmes. Another new and extremely important aspect is the support of international scientific-technical cooperation and the use of cohesion tools of European Union to support science and technology. The support of excellent research and development has to become a ground condition for all supporting schemes of the Agency. And that is why improvement of application evaluation, preferably on opponents level, as well as monitoring of projects implementation, their outcomes and impact seem to be a crucial task to achieve.*

*In spite of the above-mentioned lack of funds and permanent effort to improve the Agency operations, it has a single complex and the most objective system of evaluation and monitoring of research and development projects in the Slovak Republic. Regarding the fact, the structural funds may be used the last time, it is necessary to rise the Agency to higher level and open the door to turn the Agency from a little player in scientific-technical field to a remarkable pillar of Slovak science that will become an equal partner for partner agencies in EU countries and the world.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jozef Masarik', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**prof. RNDr. Jozef Masarik, DrSc.**  
Chairperson of the Agency



# Content

<b>1 On the Slovak Research and Development Agency</b>	
1.1 Institute identification.....	7
1.2 Mission of SRDA.....	8
<b>2 Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency</b>	
2.1 SRDA Bureau.....	11
2.2 SRDA Presidium.....	12
2.3 Agency councils of SRDA.....	14
<b>3 Activities of SRDA in 2016</b>	
3.1 Activities in 2016.....	15
3.1.1. Announcement of the General Call GC 2016.....	17
3.1.2. International cooperation.....	20
3.2 General call GC 2015.....	21
3.3 Financing of on-going programmes.....	24
3.4 Supplemental financing of the 7th Framework Programme (SF7FP).....	26
3.5 Projects completed and evaluated in 2016.....	26
3.6 Monitoring projects after their completion.....	27
<b>4 State support and minimal aid</b>	
4.1 Evaluation of state support provided from SRDA.....	29
4.2 Further steps within state support from SRDA.....	30
<b>5 SRDA budget</b>	
<b>6 Human resources section</b>	
6.1 SRDA Bureau.....	33
6.2 SRDA social policy.....	34
6.3 Education and trainings of employees.....	34
<b>7 Surveillance activities</b>	
7.1 External surveillance activities.....	35
7.2 Internal surveillance activities.....	36
7.3 Surveillance activities conducted by external supervising bodies.....	36
7.4 Management of complaints.....	36
<b>8 SRDA annual conference</b>	
<b>9 Missions and the survey of their completion</b>	
<b>10 Evaluation of the Agency operations in 2016</b>	

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42





# 1 On the Slovak Research and Development Agency

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter „The Agency“ is a national grant agency and the only dominant grant agency supporting research and development in Slovakia from the state budget in all fields of science and technology.

## 1.1 Institute identification

**Title:** Slovak Research and Development Agency

**Settle:** Mýtňa 23, 811 07 Bratislava

**Post address:** Mýtňa 23  
P.O.BOX 839 04  
839 04 Bratislava

**Contact:** Tel.No.: +421 2 57 20 45 01  
e-mail: [agentura@apvv.sk](mailto:agentura@apvv.sk)  
www: <http://www.apvv.sk>

**Establishment:** The Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on state support of research and development administration as amended and amendments of the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on Government operations and Central State Administration Structure as amended. (hereinafter “The Act N. 172/2005 Coll.”).

**Economic form:** budget institute related to the budget of the Slovak Republic via the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport of the Slovak Republic

**Resort:** Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport

**SRDA bodies:** Director of the Agency  
The Agency Presidium  
The Agency Councils

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

### 1.2 Mission of SRDA

The Agency's main mission is to support exquisite fundamental research, applied research and development of all science and technology fields including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research conducted by universities, state sector of research and development, business and non-profit sector of research and development and physical bodies of research and development in terms of the Trade Licencing Act.

The support of research and development is conducted by research and development projects selected by the Agency bodies within open calls announced by the Agency. Home legal and physical bodies can submit their research and development projects. The quality of the proposed project is a ground term for the research and development support. Stimulation of research and development subjects of Slovakia to participate in international and European programmes and initiative belongs to other fundamental missions of the Agency as well as the support of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in science and technology.

The Agency is established to support research and development by providing financial means for projects implementation as follows:

- „bottom-up“ supporting system – related to general calls for project applications in particular science and technology fields (with no theme limits) while missions, goals and content of the research and development project are defined by an applicant – the Act No.172/2005 Coll. Art. 12 section 2 a),
- specific support form on the grounds of the Government approved programmes of the Agency (bottom-up) reflecting needs to fulfil selected missions and goals according to a long term aim of the state scientific and technological policy – the Act No.172/2005 Coll. Art. 12 section 2 b),
- support on the grounds of announced general calls within international contracts and within international programmes and initiative including transportation costs – the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. Art. 12 section 2 c).

The following institution types are funds receivers:

- ▶ sector of public, state, private universities,
- ▶ sector of state research and development,
- ▶ sector of entrepreneurial research and development,
- ▶ non-profit sector of research and development,
- ▶ physical bodies of research and development in terms of Trade Licensing Act.

From **mid-term perspective** the Agency deals with completing tasks issuing from the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on State Support of Research and Development Administration as amended and from the Agency's bylaws. The Agency plays an important role as a tool of fulfilling the Programme Announcement of the Government of the Slovak Republic as it is directly connected to several goals of section 5 of The Programme Announcement of the Government and tasks issuing from it.

In 2016 obligatory indicators were specified to the Agency within 06K National Programme of Research and Technology development and its sub-programme „**06K11 – Research and development tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency**“ (hereinafter „06K11“).

**The Programme is aimed at** „Efficient system of research and development by providing funds to implement projects and to increase fruitfulness of Slovak subjects within international scientific-technical cooperation“.

Regarding a wide range of its operation and the Agency significance, we defined **5 following goals** in its sub-programme level:

- 1) to support projects of international scientific-technical cooperation implemented within international programmes/institutes/contracts co-financed from the Agency funds,
- 2) to support projects by co-financing from out-of-budget sources (for example from private and foreign sources),
- 3) to support projects with application outcome into practice,
- 4) to support projects of fundamental research whose conclusions are published in international Current Contents Magazines,
- 5) to support connection between research and development with the market and economic evaluation of research and development results by projects focusing on transfer of research and development results from universities and state sector into entrepreneurial sector as well as by projects focusing on the support of research and development in small and medium enterprises.

**The main task of the Agency** is as follow in terms of its bylaws:

- to support exquisite fundamental research, applied research and development in all science and technology fields including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research,
- to administer development and implementation of new research support forms in Slovakia concerning the increase of cooperation between fundamental and applied research, development and their users' scope,
- in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport of the Slovak Republic to administer development and implementation of new programmes and forms of international cooperation support within research and development,
- to support participation of research and development institutes from Slovakia in European programmes and initiatives within research and development,
- to participate in sharing research and development outcomes within Slovakia and promote significance of research and development in order to meet the society needs,
- to cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport in creation and implementation of the state scientific and technological policy.

The Agency provides funds for the following solutions:

- of research and development projects in particular science and technology fields,
- of projects within the Agency programmes,
- of projects within international contracts on scientific-technical cooperation and projects within international programmes and initiative within research and development including preparation costs.

In mid and long-term horizons it is necessary the Agency continued in its regular announcement of so called general calls dealing with the support of projects in particular fields of science and technology (with no theme limits) while an applicant defines aims, goals and content of the project.

In November 2013 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Strategy of Research and Innovations for Intelligent Specialisation of the Slovak Republic (RIS3) whose aim is to connect research and innovations with immediate needs of practice. The Strategy's important tool for goals implementation is also the Agency programme focusing on building and stabilisation of human resources in all research and development sectors, cooperation of research area with economic practice and support of wider participation into European and international initiatives particularly a new EU frame programme for research and innovations Horizon 2020.

The Agency will continue in paying attention to support of activities issuing from inter-governmental bilateral or multilateral contracts on international scientific-technological cooperation, especially to the support of researchers' mobility and research and development subjects' participation in international projects, programmes and initiatives.

The Agency will further deal with evaluation improvement and financing system in order to increase objectivity and transparency of the assessment process.



# 2 Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

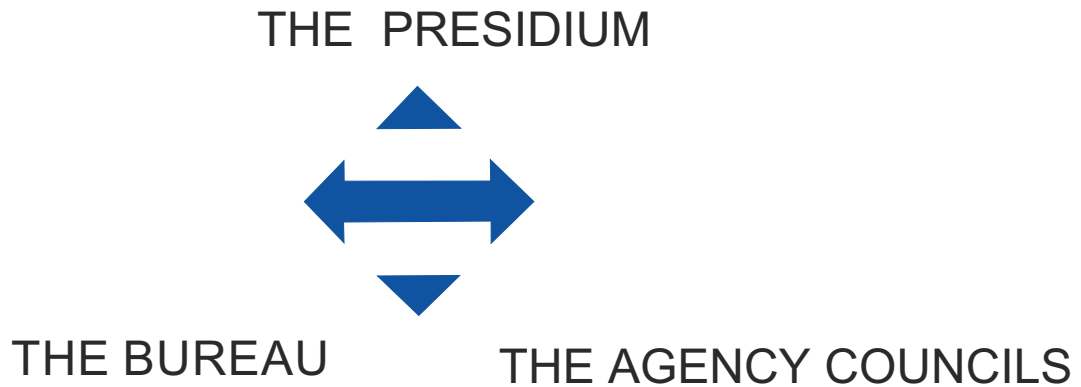


Figure 1 The SRDA bodies

## 2.1 SRDA Bureau

State as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

**Director:** Ing. Martina Hasayová, PhD.

**Management members:** Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD. – *head of Section of Grants, Vice-director*  
Ing. Viera Dojčárová – *head of Section of Economy and Internal Operations*  
Ing. Eva Kaiserová – *head of Department of Human Resources*  
Ing. Alena Bokrošová – *head of Director's Office*

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

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page  
29-30

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page  
31-32

6  
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37-38

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39-40

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page  
41-42

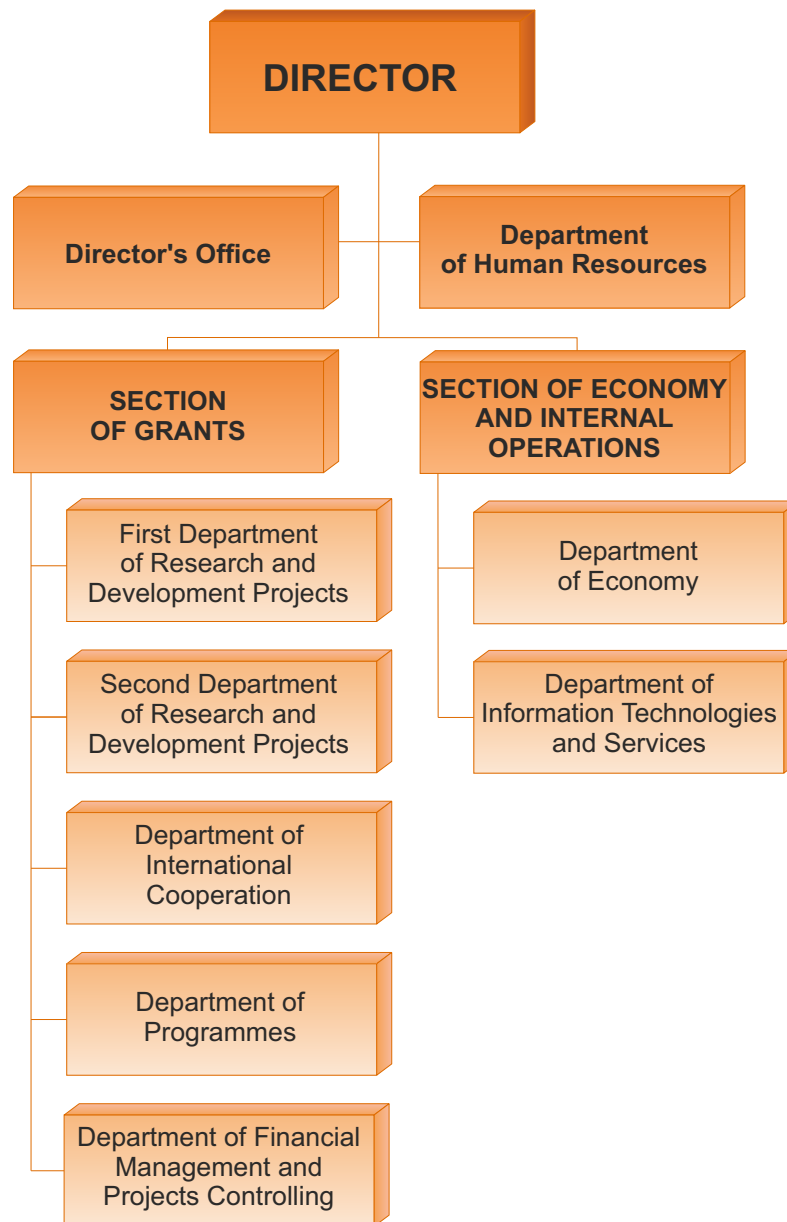


Figure 2 Structure of SRDA Bureau

## 2.2 SRDA Presidium

The Agency Presidium is a top field body of SRDA. When fulfilling its tasks it follows the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. establishing the Agency. The Presidium members are appointed and withdrawn by the Government and the proposal of the Minister of Education. The functional period of the Presidium members lasts four years with an option to be appointed for no longer than two consequent periods. The Presidium has 13 members, out of whom 11 are significant experts of science and technology from all over Slovakia and two members represent the Ministry of Education, Science, Development and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.

The Chairperson's main activities include management of the Presidium as a field body of the Agency and representation of the Agency at home and abroad in fields related directly to the Agency operations as well as other fields related to research and development in Slovakia. He regularly participates in meeting of international institute Science Europe as its member since 2012.

The Presidium activities follow the Agency work plan elaborated by its director on grounds of the Agency concept for the relevant period and it is approved by the Presidium.

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

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

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

Ing. Rastislav Havrila, PhD.  
*Electrotechnical Research and Projecting Company, Nová Dubnica*

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

prof. Ing. Štefan Mihina, PhD.  
*Department of Production Technology, Faculty of Engineering  
Slovak University of Agricultural, Nitra*

PhDr. Slavomír Michálek, DrSc.  
*Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava*

JUDr. Anton Ondrej, MBA  
*Slovak Chamber of Commerce, Bratislava*

prof. Ing. Ľudovít Parilák, CSc.  
*Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s., Podbrezová*

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

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

Ing. Róbert Szabó, PhD.  
*Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport of the  
Slovak Republic, Section of Science and Technology, Bratislava*

prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc.  
*Institute of Vertebraea Biology AV Czech Republic, Brno, Czech Republic*

**Secretary:** Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD.

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

The Presidium discussed strategic tasks issuing from its bylaws in their meetings in 2016. It paid a great attention to issues of improving evaluation systems of application, notions from field council meetings as well as ad hoc issues related to projects implementation and monitoring.

The most widely discussed issues were as follow:

- the plan of SRDA main issues,
- issues and problems of general call evaluation process,
- proposals of new plans for bilateral cooperation calls,
- approval of the general call in GC 2016 as well as the calls of bilateral cooperation,
- budget formation for the consequent programme period,
- actual use of the budget during the year,
- chairman's activities related to extension of SRDA budget.

### 2.3 Agency councils of SRDA

The Agency Council is a professional body of the Agency established for the defined field to evaluate and to approve applications for funds to implement projects of research, development and development projects via the Agency and to monitor projects implementation the Agency provided funds.

The Council has at least seven members who are significant experts in their profession. At least one foreign expert is its member as well.

In 2016 the Agency administered the following Councils:

**Council for Natural Sciences:** Chairman  
**prof. RNDr. Peter Samuely, DrSc.**  
*Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice*

**Council for Technical Sciences:** Chairman  
**prof. Ing. Jaroslav Kováč, CSc.**  
*Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Bratislava*

**Council for Medical Science:** Chairwoman  
**prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc.**  
*Virological Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava*

**Council for Agricultural Science:** Chairman  
**prof. RNDr. Ján Kraic, PhD.**  
*University of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Trnava*

**Council for Social Science:** Chairwoman  
**JUDr. Martina Lubyová, PhD. (from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016)**  
*Institute of Forecasting, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava*  
**prof. PhD. Darina Malová, CSc. (till 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016)**  
*Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Bratislava*

**Council for Human Sciences:** Chairman  
**PhDr. Matej Ruttkay, CSc.**  
*Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra*

**Council for International Scientific-  
Technological Cooperation (ISTC):** Chairman  
**prof. Ing. Pavol Ochotnický, PhD. (from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016)**  
*Faculty of National Economics, University of Economics, Bratislava*  
**prof. Ing. Stanislav Marchevský, CSc. (till 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2016)**  
*Technical University in Košice, Košice*



# 3 Operations of SRDA in 2016

## 3.1 Activities in 2016

On the grounds of the Main Tasks Plan of the Agency and within the defined financial issues the following calls were open in 2016:

- open general call to apply for supplemental financing of 7FP projects (SF7FP),
- general call to apply for research and development projects in particular fields of science and technology - GC 2016,
- international bilateral call to support scientific-technical cooperation - SK - SRB 2016,
- multilateral scientific-technical cooperation in the Danube region - DS 2016.

The Agency within its operations administered also completion of the following tasks in 2016:

- monitoring project outcomes after their implementation in order to achieve relevant data about project impacts on social and economic practice,
- financing of on-going projects i.e. projects whose financing and implementation had started in previous years and continued in 2016,
- announcement of new calls and evaluation of applications for funds to the relevant calls,
- financing of projects supported within open general call for applications of supplemental financing of 7FP projects (SF7FP).

The scope of the Agency activities in 2016 is depicted in the Tab. 1.

Tab. 1 Financing projects in 2016

Call	Number of projects in 2016	Funds sum in EUR in 2016
GC 2012	167	7,765,208
GC 2014	148	9,552,966
GC 2015	268	8,684,967
Bilateral calls	119	287,916
SF7FP	28	1,049,615
<b>Overall</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>27,340,672</b>

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

### 3 Activities of SRDA in 2016

Figure 3 depicts the sum of funds and Figure 4 overall number of financed projects according to specific types of grants schemes in 2016.

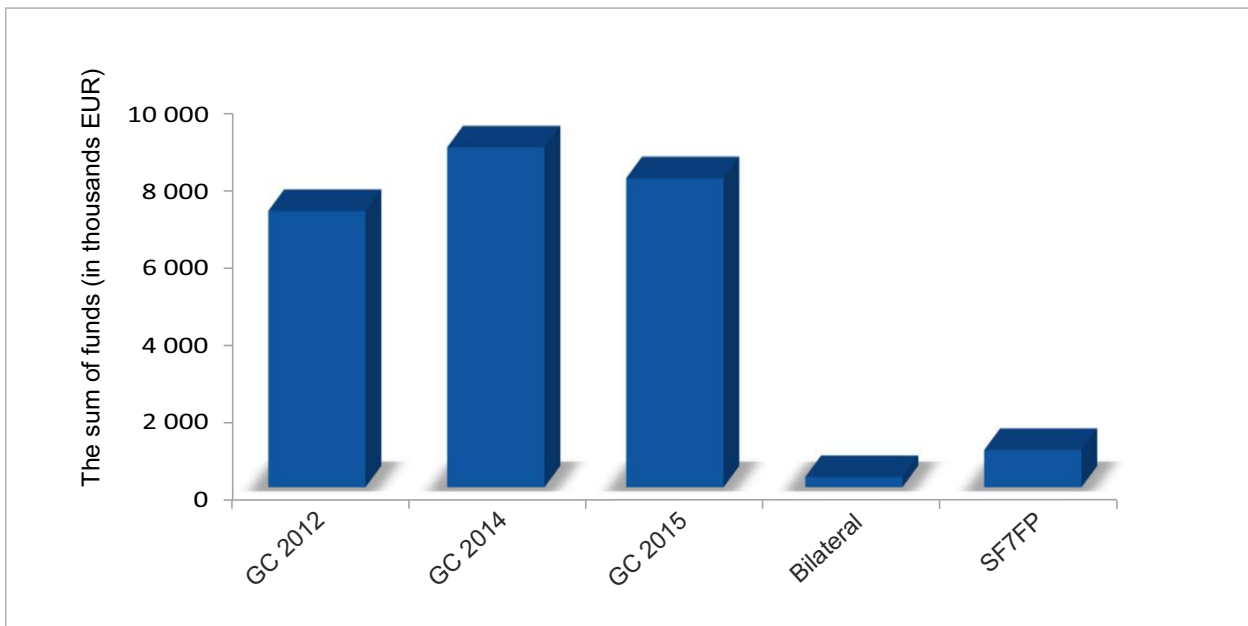


Figure 3 The sum of financial projects funds in 2016

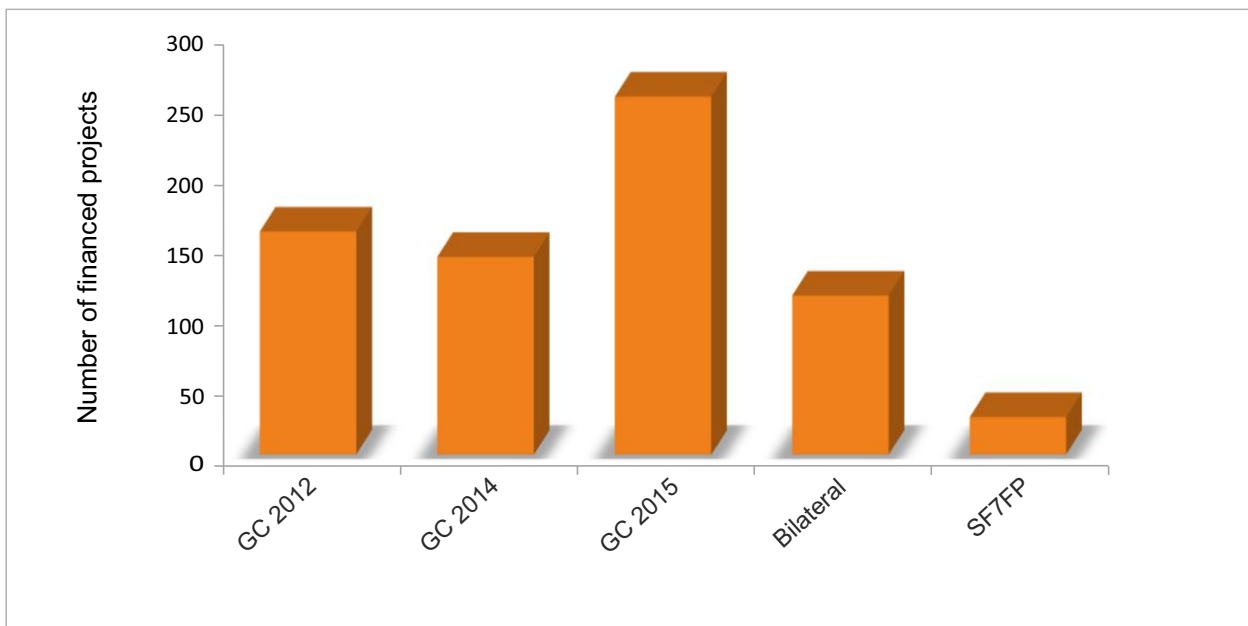
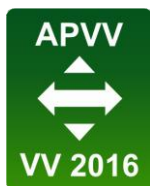


Figure 4 Number of financed projects in 2016

### 3.1.1. Announcement of the General Call GC 2016 (in Slovak VV 2016)



The Agency operation was related to evaluation of applications submitted within general call named GC 2016 opened in 2016 while financing of selected successful projects is to begin in 2017. The period for projects implementation is up to 48 months.

#### Characteristics of GC 2016

General call GC2016 had no limits related to general themes of projects. An applicant himself defined specific themes, aims and content of research and development. Legal bodies and physical bodies - entrepreneurs without any limits concerning sectors of research and development, could submit applications.

#### Basic information on GC 2016

- deadline for submitting applications: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

#### Basic information on registered applications

• overall number of submitted applications	615
• out of it applications for fundamental research projects	379
• out of it applications for applied research projects	227
• out of it applications for development projects	9
• sum of requested funds	137,481 th. €
• funds of applicants	8,231 th. €
• overall volume of funds	145,712 th. €

The share of registered applications in % according to the character of research is depicted in Figure 5.

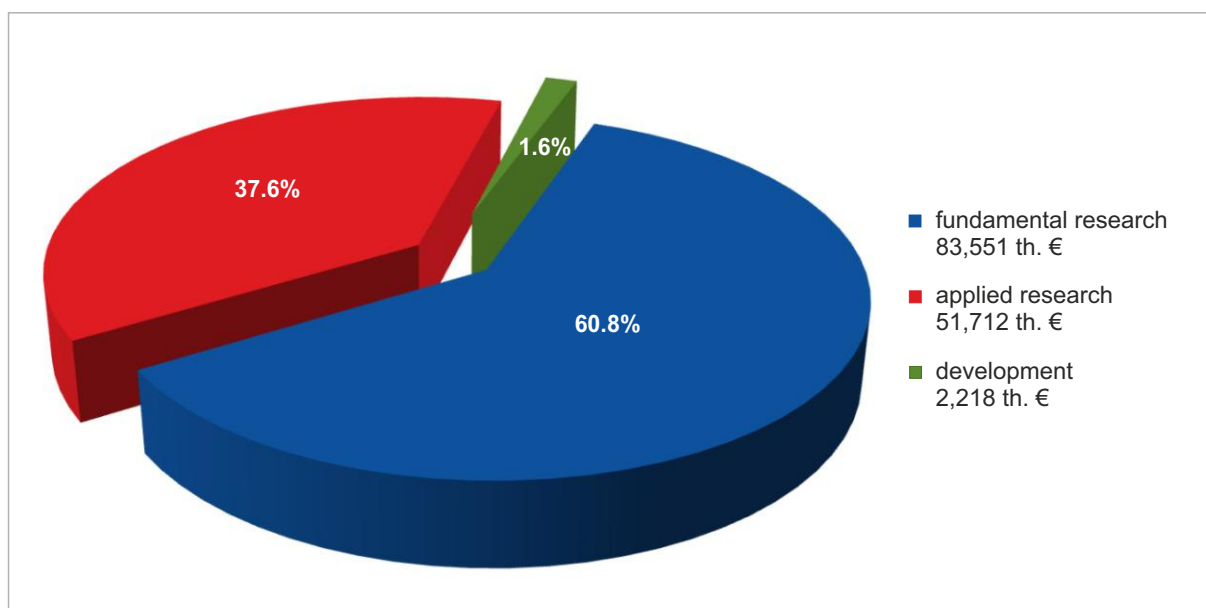


Figure 5 Division of submitted projects according to research character.

### 3 Activities of SRDA in 2016

Tab. 2 A number of submitted applications and financial requests of applicants according to research character (in thousand EUR)

Research character	No. of submitted projects	Demands on SRDA (in thousand EUR)	Average funds request per application
Fundamental research	379	83,551	220.5
Applied research	227	51,712	227.8
Development	9	2,218	246.4
<b>Overall</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>137,481</b>	

Tab. 3 A number of submitted applications according to fields of science

Field of science	Submitted applications
Natural sciences	142
Technical sciences	184
Medical sciences	56
Agricultural sciences	79
Social sciences	116
Human sciences	38
<b>Overall</b>	<b>615</b>

Division of funds requests of submitted applications according to fields of science and research character is displayed in Figure 6.

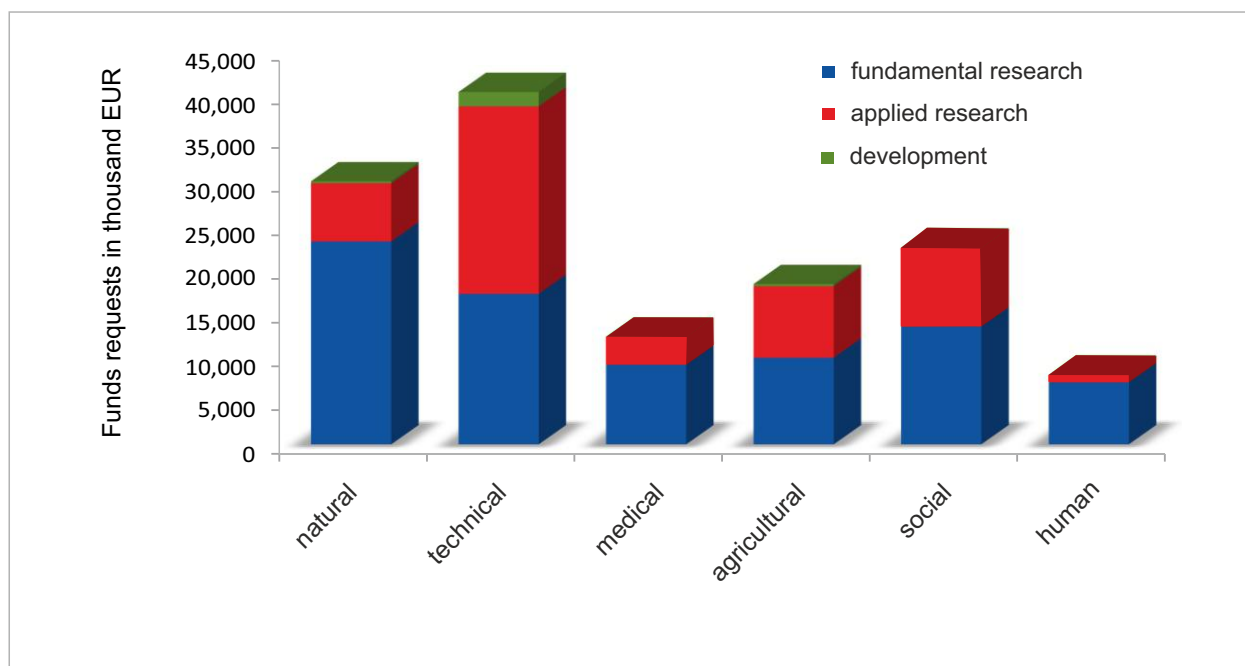


Figure 6 Division of funds requests of submitted applications according to fields of science and research character

Division of funds requests according to particular regions is depicted by Figure 7.

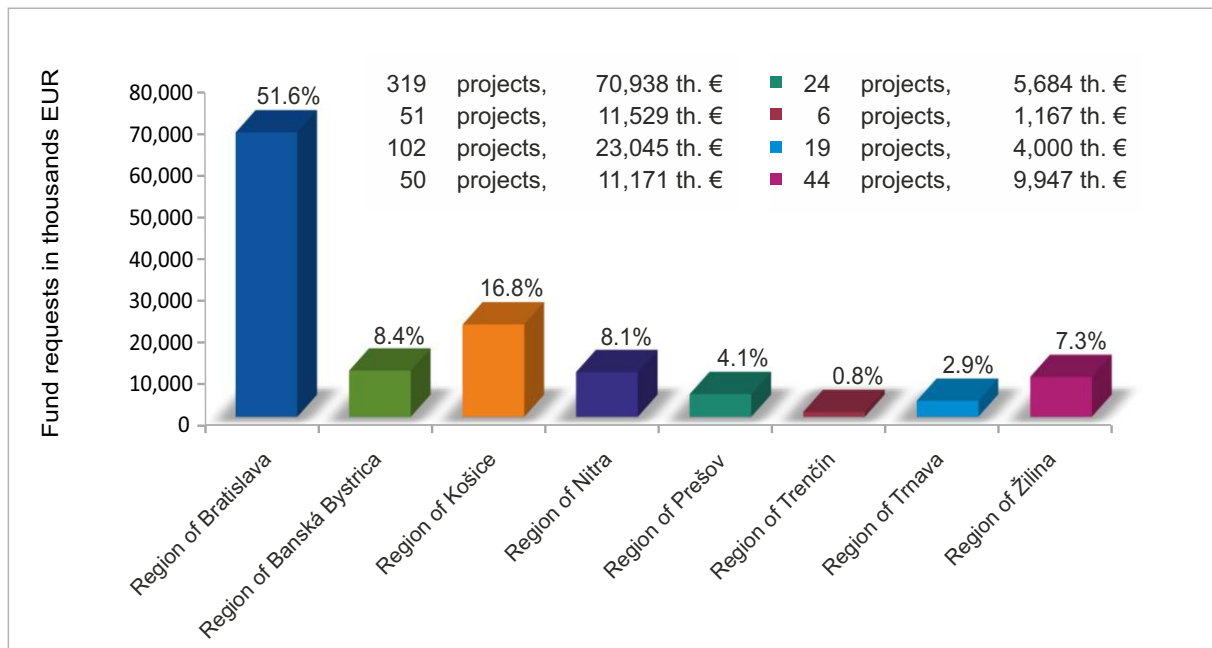


Figure 7 Division of fund requests according to self-governing regions (in thousands EUR)

Figure 8 depicts the share of funds requests submitted in the call GC 2016 according to particular sectors.

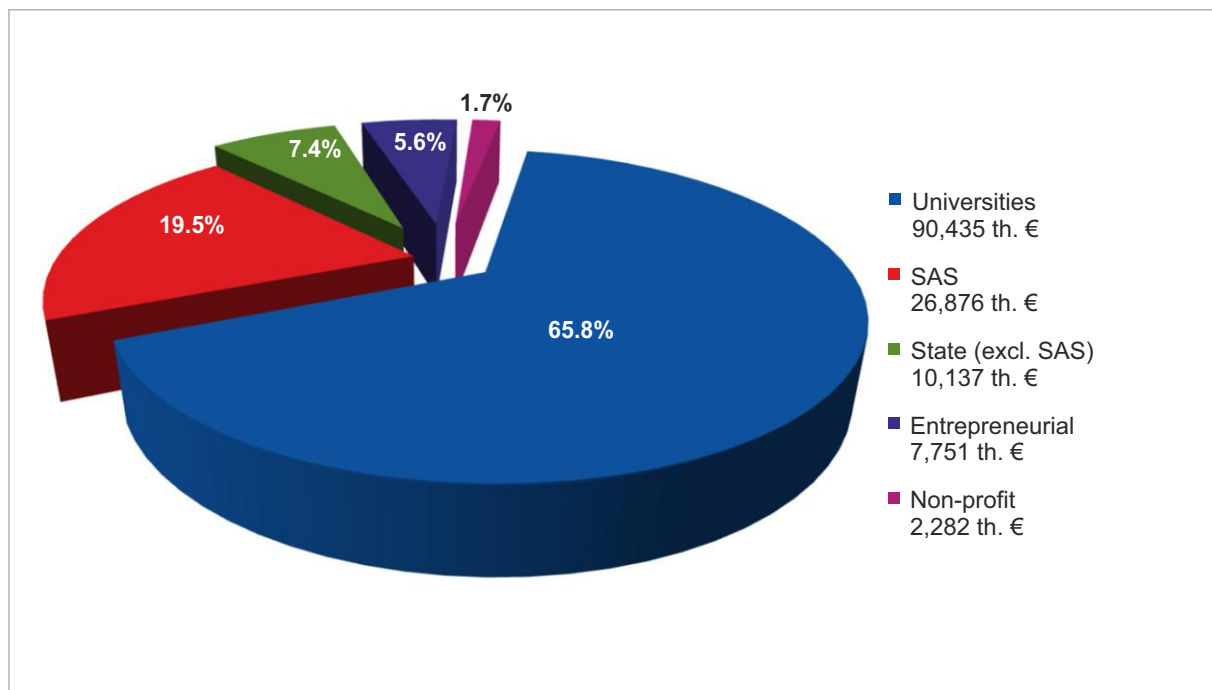


Figure 8 Division of funds requests according to sectors

### 3.1.2. International cooperation

#### New call of bilateral cooperation in 2016

In 2016 the Agency opened one call within international scientific-technical cooperation - with the Republic of Serbia.

Bilateral calls projects are of international cooperation whose aim is to begin new or to intensify on-going scientific-technical cooperation by the use of the following tools:

- preparation of mutual international projects,
- preparation of mutual publishing and other outcomes,
- active participation in conferences,
- arrangement of mutual scientific events,
- mutual use of tools and laboratory technology,
- collection of research materials,
- involvement of post gradual students and/or young scientists (up to 35 years old).

Overall volume of funds within the call SK-SRB 2016 reached up to 80,000 €.

17 projects were selected for financing within the call out of 55 submitted projects of bilateral Slovak-Serbian cooperation.

Bilateral cooperation projects SK-SRB 2016 will be conducted for two years (2017-2018). Funds will be provided according to the approved budget of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport via the Agency during the project implementation. The approved budget for bilateral international scientific-technical cooperation for 2017 and 2018 shall cover expenses in the Slovak Republic.

#### New call of multilateral cooperation in 2016

In 2016 the Agency opened a pilot call within international scientific-technical cooperation of the Danube region, where Austria, Czech Republic and Serbian Republic participated apart from Slovak Republic.

The main aims of the Strategy for Danube Region are as follow:

- to support cooperation in projects implementation among the above mentioned countries of the Danube region,
- to contribute to scientific development in the following countries via financing mobility of researchers within mutual research projects,
- to contribute to the development of research capacity in the related region,
- to support development of cross-border research cooperation,
- to provide an opportunity to young researchers from the above mentioned countries to cooperate in the international environment and to pursue their scientific carrier.

17 projects were selected for financing out of 54 submitted projects while allocation for the call reached the sum of 200,000 €.

Financial means shall cover the projects dealing with the support of research cooperation and lasting for up to two years, and which will mutually be elaborated and conducted by researchers from three participating countries at least.

Financing of Slovak applicants costs shall be provided by the approved budget from the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport of the Slovak Republic for multilateral international scientific-technical cooperation for the period of 2017 - 2018.

The Agency also supported activities conducted by researchers and scientists within European Scientific Foundation (ESF). Its scheme enabled Slovak scientific community of any research and development sector to participate in activities arranged by the European Scientific Foundation and offered an opportunity to increase the level of home research via intense cooperation on European level. ESF completed its activity in 2016.

SRDA became a regular founding member of the succession institute - Science Europe that is an association of 43 institutes from 27 member states supporting research and development from public sources in order to support mutual interests of member institutes and make coordination of scientific policy more efficient on international level. The basic fee of SRDA in 2016 reached the sum of 4,551.55 €.

## 3.2. General call GC 2015



The Agency operation was related to evaluation of applications submitted within general call named GC 2015 opened in 2015 while financing of the successful projects started in 2016 with the period of their implementation up to 2020.

### Characteristics of GC 2015

General call GC 2015 had no limits related to project themes. An applicant himself defined their specific content, aims and goals of research. Legal and physical bodies - entrepreneurial regardless research and development sector affiliation could submit applications.

### Basic information of GC 2015

- deadline for submitting applications: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Basic information on registered applications

• overall number of submitted applications	781
• out of it projects of fundamental research	483
• out of it projects of applied research	281
• out of it projects of development	17
• sum of requested funds	172,081 th. €
• financial contribution of applicants	15,433 th. €
• overall volume of funds	187,514 th. €

### Basic information on evaluation process:

• deadline for evaluation process	May 2016
• overall number of applications	781
• number of rejected applications (technical and formal check)	3
• number of withdrawn applications	0
• number of applications evaluated by experts	778
• number of applications with provided funds	268
• out of it applications of fundamental research	173
• out of it applications of applied research	87
• out of it applications of development	8
• average % of success in submitting applications	34.3 %
• overall approved funds	59,439 th. €
• provided funds in 2016	8,684 th. €

781 applications for funds to implement research and development projects were submitted and registered within general call GC 2015. After technical and formal check 3 applications were rejected. 778 applications were pursued for expert evaluation on the grounds of which 268 applications were financed. The beginning of projects implementation was 1st July 2016. The latest date of project completion is 30th June 2020.

### 3 Activities of SRDA in 2016

Tab. 4 A number of approved applications according to research character

Research character	Number of financed projects	Approved financial means (in thousand Eur)
Fundamental research	173	37,518
Applied research	87	20,182
Development	8	1,139
<b>Overall</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>59,439</b>

Percentage of registered applications according to research character is depicted by Figure 9.

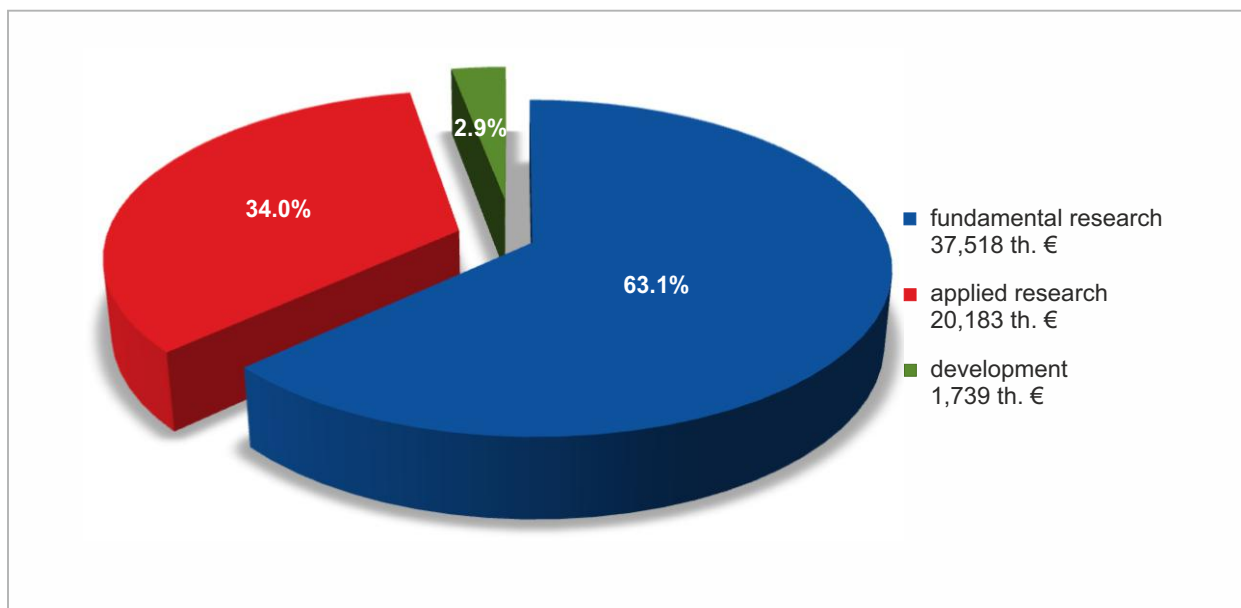


Figure 9 Division of approved projects according to research character

Division of financial means provided to projects within the call GC 2015 according to scientific fields and research character stated in Figure 10.

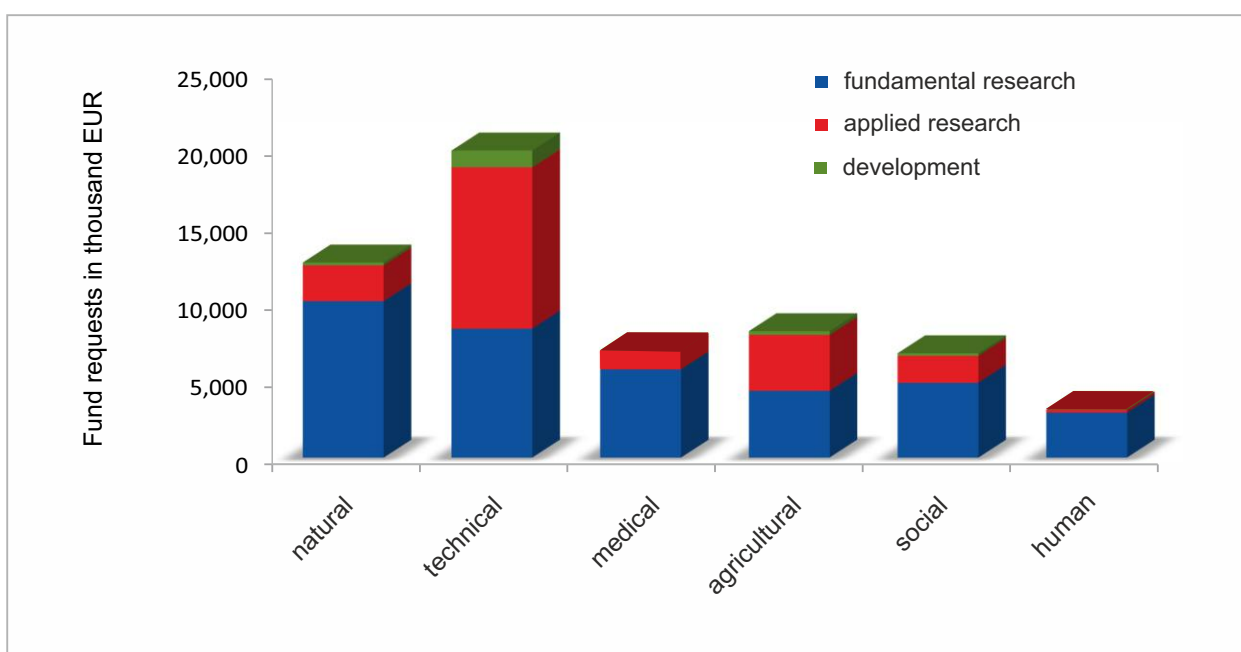


Figure 10 Division of financial means provided to projects within the call GC 2015 according to scientific fields and research character



Division of financial support for projects of the call GC 2015 according to regions is displayed in Figure 11.

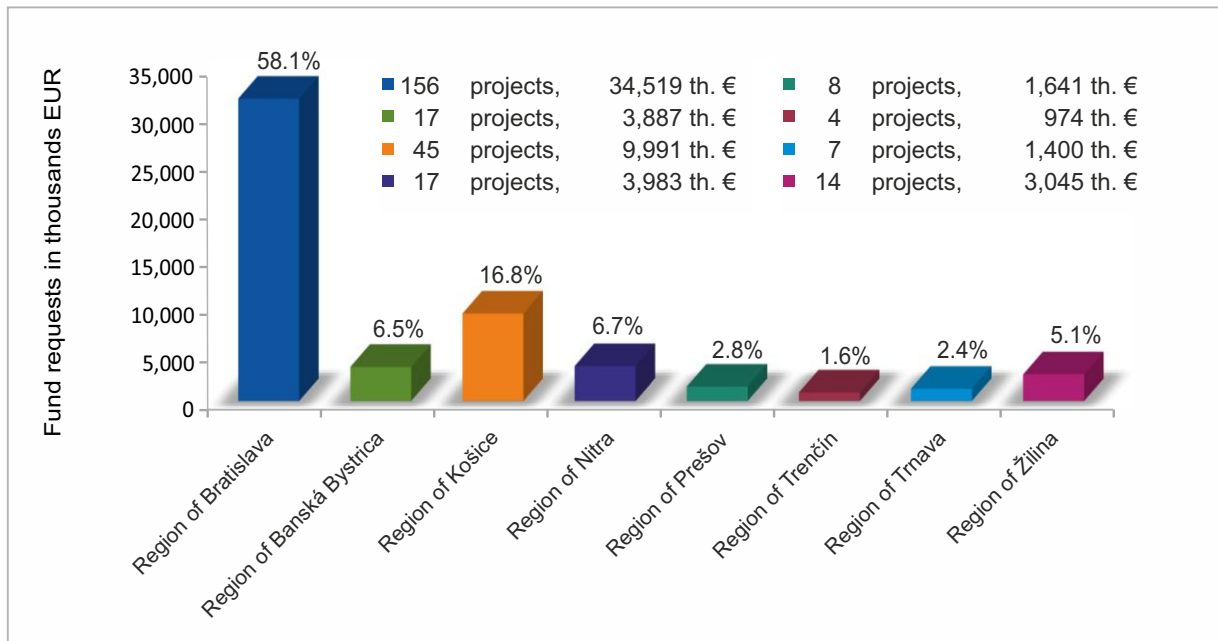


Figure 11 Division of financial support according to regions

Figure 12 depicts the share of financial means provided to projects supported in the call GC 2015 according to sectors.

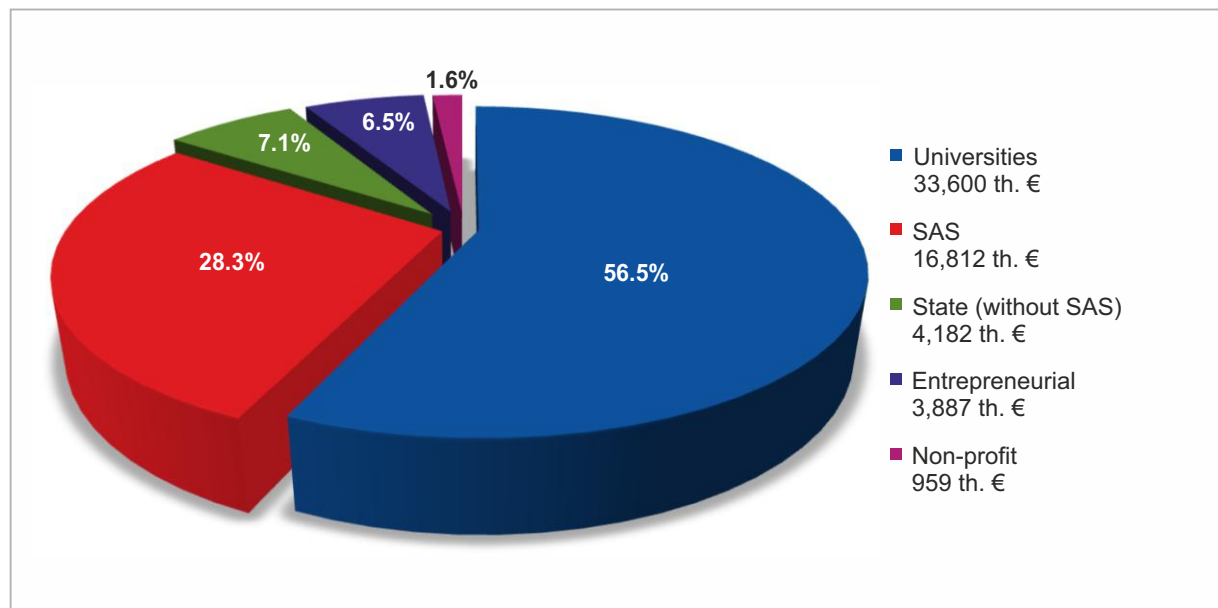


Figure 12 Division of supported projects according to sectors

1	page 7-10
2	page 11-14
3	page 15-28
4	page 29-30
5	page 31-32
6	page 33-34
7	page 35-36
8	page 37-38
9	page 39-40
10	page 41-42

### 3.3 Financing of on-going projects

**Financing of on-going projects i.e. projects whose financing and implementation had started before and continued in 2016 became an important and financially challenging task. Financing of on-going projects was implemented in terms of provisions defined in the Act No. 172/2005 Coll.**

Financial means divided into regular and capital expenses for projects implementation might always be provided for the period of one budget year. The Agency provides funds to on-going projects of a general call in the next year of implementation on the grounds of addendums to a contract in two deadlines. Provision of the first part of funds depends on presentation of annual report elaborated in accordance with methodology instructions stated for annual report elaboration. Provision of the second part of funds depends on the approval of continuous annual report by the Agency Council. Its expert part, presenting professional outcomes according to the project implementation schedule, and its financial part with detailed survey on funds use provided for the related year are essential parts of the annual report. Financial means for bilateral grant scheme projects are allocated at once by a single sum in the related budget year after evaluation of continuous annual reports by the expert body. Expert bodies of the Agency assessed implementation of on-going projects and they issued recommendation, on the grounds of continuous reports, for the Agency director to continue in financing.

During the year 2016 the Agency financed on-going projects within calls stated in Tab. 5.

*Tab. 5 Financing of on-going projects*

Call	Number of projects	Start of financing
GC 2012	167	2013
GC 2014	148	2015

In March 2016 the first part of funds was provided for 2016 reaching 50% of the year budget of projects following the delivery of annual reports to the Agency.

The second part of funds for 2016 was provided after completion of annual reports evaluation by relevant expert bodies during the second and third quarter of 2016.

Funds for projects were transferred to support receiver's bank account stated in the SRDA contract on funds provision.

The following Tab. 6 depicts overall support provided for implementation of on-going projects in 2016.

*Tab. 6 Provided funds in 2016 for on-going projects (in EUR)*

Call	No. of projects	Reg.expense	Capital expense	Overall
GC 2012	167	7,765,208	0	7,765,208
GC 2014	148	9,552,966	0	9,552,966
GC 2015	268	8,684,967	0	8,684,967
Overall	583	26,003,141	0	26,003,141

## International cooperation

The Agency support of on-going activities within multilateral contracts on international scientific-technical cooperation in 2016 reached 4,551.55€ in the form of membership fee to the Science Europe.

### Information on projects of bilateral cooperation

#### Evaluated in 2013 and continuation of financing in 2016

The Agency continued in 2016 in the field of international cooperation by financing bilateral projects submitted within calls of international scientific-technical cooperation opened in 2013 with Ukraine, the Republic of Serbia and Hungary. Its detailed survey is stated in Tab. 7.

Tab.7 Support of SRDA provided to bilateral projects evaluated in 2013 and continued by financing in 2016

Call within bilater.scien.-tech. cooperation	Number of projects	Sum of support in EUR (regular expenses)
Slovakia - Ukraine 2013	6	14,340
Slovakia - Serbia 2013	15	36,350
Slovakia - Hungary 2013	13	18,405
<b>Overall</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69,095</b>

#### Evaluated in 2013 and the start of financing in 2016

A general call to submit applications for mutual projects of research and development supporting cooperation between institutes in the Slovak and Bulgarian Republic was opened and evaluated in 2013, but due to non-confirmation of fund administration by a co-partner the financing of 13 bilateral projects began only in 2016. The overall sum of provided funds for call SK-BG 2013 reached 33,667€ in 2016.

#### Evaluated in 2015 and the start of financing in 2016

In 2016 the Agency began to finance bilateral projects provided within calls of international scientific-technical cooperation opened in 2015 with Austria, Portugal, France, People Republic of China, Poland. Tab. 8 offers its detailed survey.

Tab. 8 Support of SRDA provided to bilateral projects that were evaluated in 2015 and started to be funded in 2016.

Call within bilater.scien.-tech. cooperation	Number of projects	Sum of support in EUR (regular expense)
Slovakia - Austria 2015	16	31,403
Slovakia Portugal 2015	12	31,634
Slovakia - France 2015	15	39,038
Slovakia - China 2015	13	51,800
Slovakia - Poland 2015	16	31,279
<b>Overall</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>185,154</b>

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

## 3.4 Supplemental financing of the 7th Framework Programme (SF7FP)

The open general call to submit applications for supplemental financing of the 7FP projects of the European Community (EC) for research, technological development and demonstration activities including EC programme for atom energy (Euroatom) - SF7FP.



The main aim of the call is to support active participation of Slovak experts and teams of research and development in 7FP of EC for research, technological development and demonstration activities via supplemental financing to implement proposals of 7FP research projects that were approved by the European Commission.

Universities and state colleges, Slovak Academy of Sciences institutes, institutes of research and development established by central state administration of the Slovak Republic and non-profit organizations of research and development are authorised applicants.

Updated rules of the call and conditions of a contract enabled the Agency to provide financial means for supplemental financing of projects to successful applicants of 7FP projects in research and development reaching up to 25% of overall authorised expenses provided on the grounds of EC decision and including final contribution paid after 7FP project implementation.

Within the call of SF7FP in 2016 the Agency supported overall 28 projects in the amount of 1,049,615€.

Tab. 9 SRDA support to SF7FP projects in 2016 according to its sector

Sector	Number of projects	Sum of support in EUR
SAS	10	317,597
Universities	11	465,822
Others	7	266,196
<b>Overall</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,049,615</b>

## 3.5 Projects completed and evaluated in 2016

In 2016 the Agency conducted final evaluation of 247 projects whose implementation period ended as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. SRDA provided them specific financial support and their applicants presented final reports as to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. The councils in specific fields and the Agency Council for International Scientific-Technical Cooperation evaluated projects results according to former defined criteria and they completed their projects.

### Projects of the general call GC 2011

Agency councils evaluated 166 completed projects, out of which 103 reached an excellent level of implementation, 60 reached a satisfying level and three of them ended up on an insufficient level.

The Agency shall inform on the selected excellent projects from GC 2011 evaluated in 2016 in its brochure and shall inform general public of science and technology in Slovakia.

### Projects of bilateral cooperation

The Agency Council for International Scientific-Technical Cooperation evaluated 14 projects of bilateral call SK-FR 2013, out of which all of them achieved an excellent level and 50 projects of bilateral call SK-CZ 2013, out of which 45 achieved excellent level and 5 projects achieved satisfying level.

### Projects of SF7FP

The Agency Council for international scientific-technical cooperation evaluated 17 projects, out of which 14 achieved excellent level and 3 projects ended on satisfying level.

Specifics of SF7FP projects - projects are completed continually all over the year while their final evaluation is carried out twice a year. In 2016 we collected the following data:

Tab. 10 Evaluation of SF7FP projects in 2016

Evaluation date by Council Intern.Coop.	Project completion date	No. of evaluated projects	Excellent level	Satisfying level
24/2/2016	31/8/2015 - 31/12/2015	8	6	2
25/8/2016	31/3/2016 - 30/6/2016	9	8	1
Overall		17	14	3

## 3.6 Monitoring projects after their completion

**In terms of a contract an SRDA project applicant is obliged to inform the Agency by his monitoring report on social and economic impacts of project implementation after the project is completed, an applicant fills in the form called "Outcomes and benefits of the project".**

The main categories of benefits and outcomes of projects are as follows:

- 1.category: Publishing and quotations
- 2.category: Patents, inventions and utility models
- 3.category: Applied outcomes with defined economic indicators
- 4.category: Outcomes into education and science popularisation
- 5.category: Other outcomes
- 6.category: Added value of an implemented project of research and development

In 2016 the Agency administered monitoring of completed projects outcomes of calls stated in Tab. 11. Majority of projects were monitored in the calls GC 2010 and GC 2011.

Tab. 11 Monitored projects after completing their implementation

Call	Year of completing funds of the call	No. of monitored projects
GC 2010	2014	174
GC 2011	2015	134
LPP 2007	2010	10
LPP 2009	2012	88
VMSP II 2009	2012	20
SUSPP 2009	2013	5
EUROCORES 2007	2011	2
EUROCORES 2010	2014	1
SF7FP	Open call	49

### 3 Activities of SRDA in 2016

Tab. 12 depicts projects outcomes after the end of their financing presented by applicants as to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in 2015.

*Tab. 12 Benefits and outcomes on completed projects*

Call	No. of projects with internat. CC publishing	No. of new SCI quotes	No. of projects with application outcomes	No. of application outcomes
GC 2010	101	2,815	50	109
GC 2011	119	1,603	60	183
LPP 2007	3	112	0	0
LPP 2009	26	494	2	2
VMSP II 2009	3	18	9	43
SUSPP 2009	2	19	2	9
EUROCORES 2007	2	52	0	0
EUROCORES 2010	1	1	0	0
SF7FP	9	734	4	28
<b>Overall</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>374</b>

# 4 State support and minimal aid

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

**Providing financial support from public sources to subjects, which are economically active regardless their legal position and the way of financing, is considered to be the state support. Such support enables to support the most efficient process of research assessment, interconnection of research with the market and economic and social development of the country issuing from it. It contributes to increase of competitiveness of enterprises, to increase their production and quality of products and services, to creation of new job opportunities etc.**

In 2016 the Agency provided state support to research and development projects implementation pursuant to the Scheme of state support N 702/2007 and the Scheme of research and development support by the Agency to support research and development SA.42450. State support by ad hoc minimal aid was provided for mobility projects.

On 16th June 2008 the European Commission approved the Scheme to support research and development by the Agency for research and development support (State support scheme) N 702/2007 valid to 31st December 2013. The scheme is related to all types of enterprises - small, medium and large ones. The Agency asked for the scheme validity prolongation by the Addendum No. 1 to the Scheme N 702/2007 from 20th January 2014. The Scheme came into force and effect as of the day of publishing on the provider's webpage and it was valid as to 30th June 2014.

On 3rd July 2015 the European Commission registered the Scheme to support research and development of the Agency. The mentioned scheme is registered with its number SA.42450 (State Support Scheme No. SA.42450). The scheme is related to all types of enterprises - small, medium and large ones. Its validity ends on 31st December 2020.

## 4.1 Evaluation of the support provided from SRDA

Within valid schemes of state support and ad hoc minimal aid the support was provided to **28 enterprises**. Its overall volume provided by the Agency reached **1,697,802 €** in 2016.

Compared to 2015 (1,767,234.50 €) the sum is by **3.93% lower**. The greater volume of funds provided in 2015 was caused by its additional financing in 2015 that balanced deficit in 2014.

Out of the overall state support provided by the Agency its **ad hoc minimal aid reached 0.12%**.

In 2016 projects focusing on small and medium enterprises (SME) were supported. The State support provided to **SME reached 82.05%** out of overall state support provided in 2016 by the Agency.

Regional division of overall state support (including ad hoc minimal aid) on regional level is as follows:

## 4 State support and minimal aid

Tab. 13 Regional division of overall state support

Self-governing region of	Sum in Eur
Bratislava	1,007,906
Trenčín	232,999
Žilina	137,679
Košice	127,590
Nitra	111,584
Prešov	44,867
Trnava	35,177
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,697,802</b>

According to the division into self-governing regions the state support was provided to 14 enterprises from self-governing region of Bratislava, 4 enterprises from Trenčín region, 4 enterprises from Žilina region, 2 enterprises from Košice region, 2 enterprises from Nitra region, 1 enterprise from Prešov region and 1 enterprise from Trnava region.

Regional division of overall provided support (including ad hoc minimal aid) on regional levels is depicted by Figure 13.

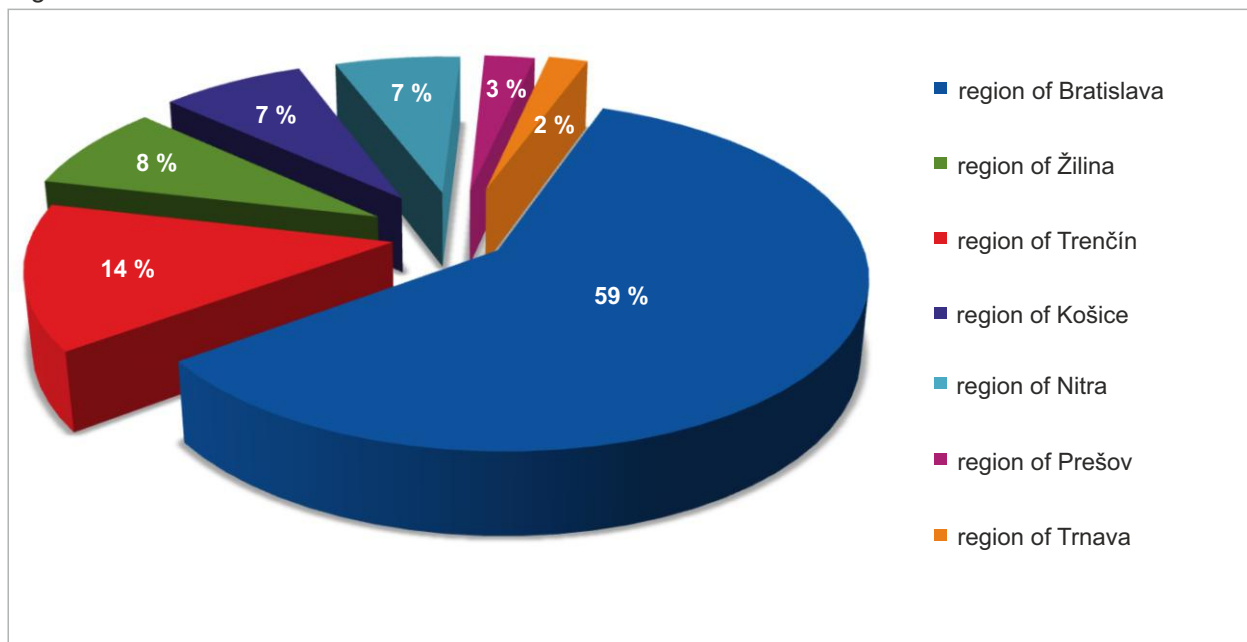


Figure 13 Division of SRDA state support in 2016 according to regions in EUR

## 4.2 Further steps within state support from SRDA

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 the European Commission registered the Scheme to support research and development by the Agency to support research and development and the mentioned scheme is registered with its number SA.42450 (State Scheme Support No. SA.42450). The scheme is related to all types of enterprises - small, medium and large enterprises and it is valid for provision of funds for research projects. The scheme is valid until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The state support provided for bilateral cooperation projects that do not rank to the approved scheme of the state support shall be provided pursuant to measures on minimal aid.



# 5 SRDA budget

Figure 14 depicts the budget development of the Agency in the period 2005-2016.

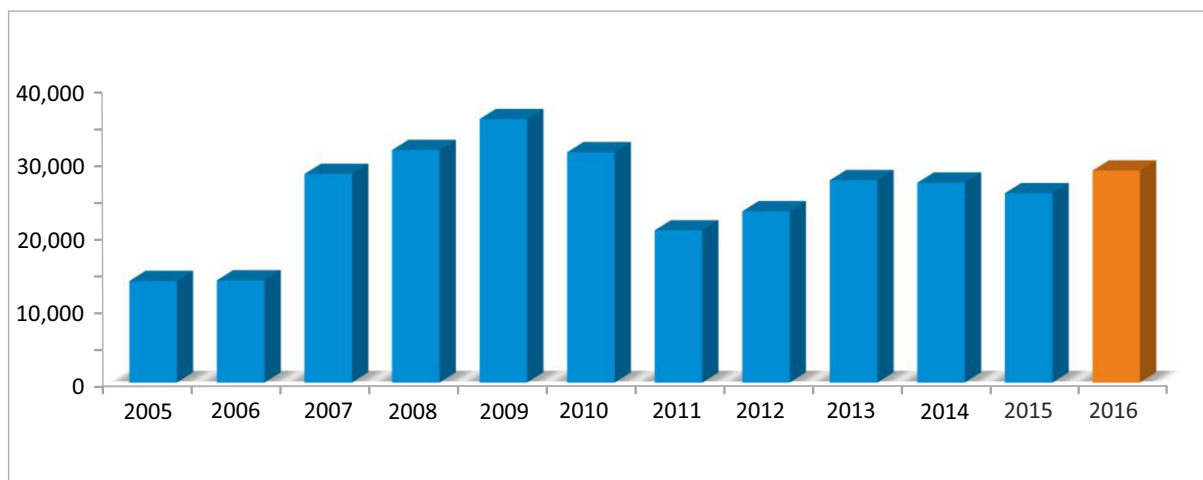


Figure 14 Budget development of SRDA 2005-2016 (in thousand EUR)

The Act No. 172/2005 Coll. defines the approved budget to the Agency by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport in order to regulate its operation for 2016 by detailed specification of obligatory indicators - the budget reaches the sum 29,305,308 € for financing the Agency operations and for projects financing i.e. for the support of research and development.

Within the sub-programme 06K11 the budget for the Agency operation was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 in the sum of 1,341,577 € and for project financing (to support research and development) in the sum of 27,963,731 €, its details are stated in Tab. 14.

All over the year of 2016 the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport additionally amended the budget for the Agency by 9 budget measures. Their purpose was to administer financing of research and development projects as well as the Agency operation in the scope of conducted activities due to salaries and wages valorisation and the increase of regular expenses for the Agency operations, re-classification of regular expenses to capital expenses, reclassification of regular expenses to salaries and decrease of stated income for 2016. Tab. 14 displays an overall amended budget of the Agency for its operations and support of research and development as well as the budget use as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

Tab. 14 Budget financial means and their use in 2016 in EUR

Programme 06 K 11	Original approved budget	Budget as to 31/12/2016	Use as to 31/12/2016
Agency operation	1,341,577	1,502,128	1,502,128
<b>regular</b>	<b>1,341,577</b>	<b>1,482,128</b>	<b>1,482,128</b>
<b>capital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Support of res.and dev.	27,963,731	27,798,181	27,773,994
<b>regular</b>	<b>27,963,731</b>	<b>27,753,181</b>	<b>27,729,311</b>
<b>capital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>44,683</b>
<b>SRDA budget overall</b>	<b>29,305,308</b>	<b>29,300,309</b>	<b>29,276,122</b>

## 5 SRDA budget

Survey of supported projects according to particular calls/programmes and the sum of provided financial support in 2016 is depicted in Tab. 15.

*Tab. 15 Financing of SRDA projects to support research and development in 2016 in EUR*

Programme/call title	Regular expenses	Capital expenses	Overall
General call - GC 2012	7,765,208	0	7,765,208
General call - GC 2014	9,552,966	0	9,552,966
General call - GC 2015	8,684,967	0	8,684,967
Bilateral projects	287,916	0	287,916
Suppl.financing of projects supported in 7FP EU - SF7SP	1,049,615	0	1,049,615
Membership fee of international institution SE in 2017	4,303	0	4,303
<b>Overall</b>	<b>27,344,975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,344,975</b>

Structure of provided of financial means for supported projects in 2016 according to a receiver type are state in Tab. 16.

*Tab. 16 Provision of financial means to supported projects in 2016 in EU*

Institution type	Expenses
State institutions and SAS	9,988,347
Public universities	14,744,636
Non-profit organisations	532,434
Entrepreneurial bodies	2,075,255
International institutes	4,303
<b>Overall</b>	<b>27,344,975</b>

As the survey of receivers structure of research and development support displays, most of funds were provided to public universities and then to SAS and state institutes.

# 6 Human resources section

## 6.1 SRDA Bureau

**The average record list of SRDA employees (SRDA Bureau) as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was 46, physical state of SRDA employees as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was 48.**

It is necessary to make a note the Agency is not formed only by its root employees but also by 148 experts of science and technology of the Slovak Republic who represent particular SRDA bodies.

In terms of obligatory indicators of the state budget for 2016 there was a limit of employees number for SRDA set by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport to 57. As to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 the Agency had 48 employees i.e. there was 16% fewer employees due to the decreased limit for wage means in the budget.

The Agency decided not to occupy the rest of job due to the lack of financial means for 2016 in the category 620 Wages. In February - March 2016 we carried out a personal audit in the Agency whose aim was to change its organisational structure and make work tasks of employees optimal so the basic tasks of SRDA could be completed even with its deficit budget in 610 Wages category. Having cumulated work tasks of the employees the work tasks for 2016 were completed also with a decreased number of employees and extended work tasks for the staff, although the work time of core employees was exceeded and with extreme work effort.

The average age of the Agency employees was 44.

A number of the Agency employees in particular bodies within its organisational structure in 2016 is displayed in Tab. 17 and the qualification structure of employees is displayed in Tab. 18.

*Tab. 17 A number of employees of SRDA according to its organisational structure as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016*

Organisation bodies	No. of employees
Director's Office	4
Section of Grants	30
Section of Economy and Internal Operations	12
Department of Human Resources	2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>48</b>

*Tab. 18 Qualification structures of employees of SRDA in 2016 - the state as to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016*

Education	Number of employees
Secondary education	6
1 <sup>st</sup> level university education	0
2 <sup>nd</sup> level university education	32
3 <sup>rd</sup> level university education	10

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

## 6.2 SRDA social policy

SRDA concluded employees' contracts with 3 complementary pension agencies DDS ING Tatry Sympatia, DDS AXA and DDS Tatra banka. As to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 the Agency's 39 employees were involved into complementary pension saving programme. The employer's contribution to complementary pension saving system for an employee reaches 4% of brutto wage in 2016.

In 2016 employees were provided benefits for catering reaching 2.26 € and social fund benefit of 0.58 €. An employee catering was arranged by gastro-tickets system.

## 6.3 Education and trainings of employees

The Agency allowed its employees to participate in trainings, courses and special seminars organised by field education institutions in order to increase their qualification. Training at the Agency employees was carried out within the scope of its relevant financial situation.

During the year 2016 employees participated in field seminars on acts amendments, for example in the field of consolidation packet of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, Development and Sport of the Slovak Republic in 2016, property administration in 2016, personal data protection, accountancy and reporting of state administration, changes in social and health care etc.

An external supplier arranged special seminars on work safety rules and fire protection as well as obligatory trainings of referent drivers from the Agency.

Courses and field seminars were focused preferably on legislation changes of general legal norms and regulations dealing with particular fields of SRDA operation.



# 7 Surveillance activities

## 7.1 External surveillance activities

The SRDA employees carried out monitoring on the site in 2016 pursuant to the Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on financial surveillance and audit and its amendments.

The aim of financial on site surveillance was a check of following economic and efficiency effect, impact and purpose when working with public financial means and respecting terms of their use when implementing the project.

In terms of the Monitoring schedule for year 2016 - financial surveillance on the site in terms of its valid amendments, 17 financial on site controls were planned and carried out in 2016. Their survey is stated in Tab. 19.

### Survey of consequent financial surveillance in 2016:

- Number of planned controls 17
- Number of carried out controls 17
- Number of controls completed as to 31/12 17
- Found faults - number of controls 10

Tab. 19 On site financial surveillance carried out by SRDA employees in 2016

Title of obligatory body	Overall sum of funds in EUR checked by SRDA
Pan-European University (project SK-PT-0014-12)	4,990
Neuro-immun.Institute of SAS (projects APVV-0200-11, APVV-0677-12)	306,048
Slovak Agricult.University in Nitra (project APVV-0636-11)	245,229
National Agricultural and Alimentary Centre (project SK-PL-0100-12)	4,000
Astronomic Institute of SAS (projects LPP-0078-09, SK-BG-0015-10, SK-AT-0003-12)	95,605
University of Žilina, Faculty of Electrotechnics (projects APVV-0025-12)	183,809
Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Faculty of Electrotechnics and Informatics (project APVV-0365-12)	178,872
Biomedicine centre of SAS (project APVV-0646-11)	112,000
Trenčín University of Alexander Dubček in Trenčín (project APVV-0487-11)	249,764
Catholic University in Ružomberok (project SK-CZ-0063-11)	3,942
Technical University in Košice, Faculty of Prod.Technologies (project APVV-0207-12)	138,356
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (project APVV-0452-12)	59,270
Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Medicine (project APVV-0205-11)	200,000
Slovak Healthcare University in Bratislava (project APVV-0444-11)	210,000

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

In 2016 financial controls on site checked how accurately were financial means used reaching the sum of 1,991,885.00 €. The breach of financial discipline was found in the sum of 33,561.57 € within financial controls. Overall 33 measures were approved to correct the findings and the causes of their occurrence.

Financial discipline was interfered because of the following reasons:

1. unauthorised use of public financial means used in contradiction with valid legislation, measures and terms under which public financial means were provided,
2. the use of public means exceeding authorisation when an extended use of public financial use was found,
3. exertion of higher funds/expenses than factually spent expenses/costs,
4. exertion of costs/expenses out of accounting period.

### 7.2 Internal surveillance

**The Director's Office of SRDA carried out 8 internal surveillances in 2016 focusing on the following issues:**

1. surveillance according to director's requests - internal personal audit of SRDA,
2. surveillance of respecting the regulation Elaboration, recording, use and liquidation of stamps,
3. surveillance of respecting the order General internal methodology for financial support provision for SRDA grant schemes,
4. surveillance of respecting regulation on Free access to information,
5. surveillance of respecting regulation Concept of Safety work system in SRDA,
6. surveillance of the regulation Circulation of accountancy documents in SRDA,
7. surveillance of respecting the regulation Management and administration of service vehicles operation in SRDA,
8. surveillance of respecting the regulation Monitoring the use of financial means provided for project implementation.

On the grounds of monitoring findings the measures for correction of faults were approved.

### 7.3 Surveillance activities conducted by external supervising bodies

**In 2016 two surveillances by external supervising bodies were conducted in SRDA.**

Prague's Administration of Social Security, Trojská 1997/13a, Prague 8 conducted control of completing duties in sickness insurance, pension insurance and social security taxes and contribution for state policy of employment from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to the end of accounting period before the day of control execution.

General Health Care Insurance of the Czech Republics, Benešova 10, Brno conducted a control of settling insurance fee for general healthcare and following other duties of an insurance payer from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### 7.4 Management of complaints

The Department of Surveillance did not register any notice named as a complaint in 2016.

# 8 SRDA annual conference

The Agency arranged an annual conference in Bratislava on 12th September 2016 under the patronage of Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Peter Plavčan where it presented its operations and activities during the previous year.

Agency's Director Martina Hasayová surveyed the SRDA operations for the previous year 2015, Agency's Chairperson Jozef Masarik evaluated the general call opened in 2015 in his speech and Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Peter Plavčan ceremonially opened the new general call GC2016 and handed over the appointment decrees to SRDA programmes councils members.



1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42





# 9 Missions and the survey of their completion

1  
page  
7-10

## Monitoring of supported projects after projects implementation

2  
page  
11-14

In three consequent years after projects end monitoring of outcomes on social and economic impacts of projects implementation was carried out in projects whose implementation deadline has been over. All activities related to administration process and project evaluation were conducted within: general calls opened in 2010 and 2011, programme calls LPP2007, LPP2009, VMSP II 2009, SUSPP 2009, calls EUROCORES 2007, EUROCORES 2010 and SF7FP.

3  
page  
15-28

## Annual and final projects evaluation and financing of on-going projects

In 2016 the following calls were evaluated and financed: general calls GC 2011, GC 2012 and GC 2014, bilateral cooperation projects and SF7FP. During continual evaluation field bodies evaluated completion of partial aims of projects and respecting the set schedule as well as planned outcomes of projects for the defined period. In final evaluation they also assessed overall level of project implementation. SRDA web page presents final charts of projects implementation for all ending projects which shows also the most significant project outcomes and results.

4  
page  
29-30

## New projects financing

In 2016 only the calls opened and evaluated in 2015 were financed: the general call GC 2015 and bilateral cooperation projects with Bulgaria, Austria, Portugal, France, China and Poland.

5  
page  
31-32

## New calls opened and entry evaluation of submitted projects

In 2016 the Agency opened a general call GC 2016. The estimated date of results publishing is May 2017.

6  
page  
33-34

In 2016 the Agency opened a call for cooperation with Serbia within international technical cooperation and for the first time it opened a pilot call within international scientific-technical cooperation of the Danube region where the Slovak Republic, Czech and Serbian Republic participated.

7  
page  
35-36

## Support of Slovak subjects participation in 7th Framework Programme of European Union

SRDA continued to support participation of the Slovak Republic in 7th Framework Programme of EU via the Open General Call for submitting applications on supplemental financing of successful projects within 7th framework programme of EU for research, technical development and demonstration activities. The call's mission is to support active participation of top Slovak experts, research and development teams in 7FP. Supplemental financing focuses on the support of Slovak subjects participation in two project types: Collaborative Projects and Networks of Excellence.

8  
page  
37-38

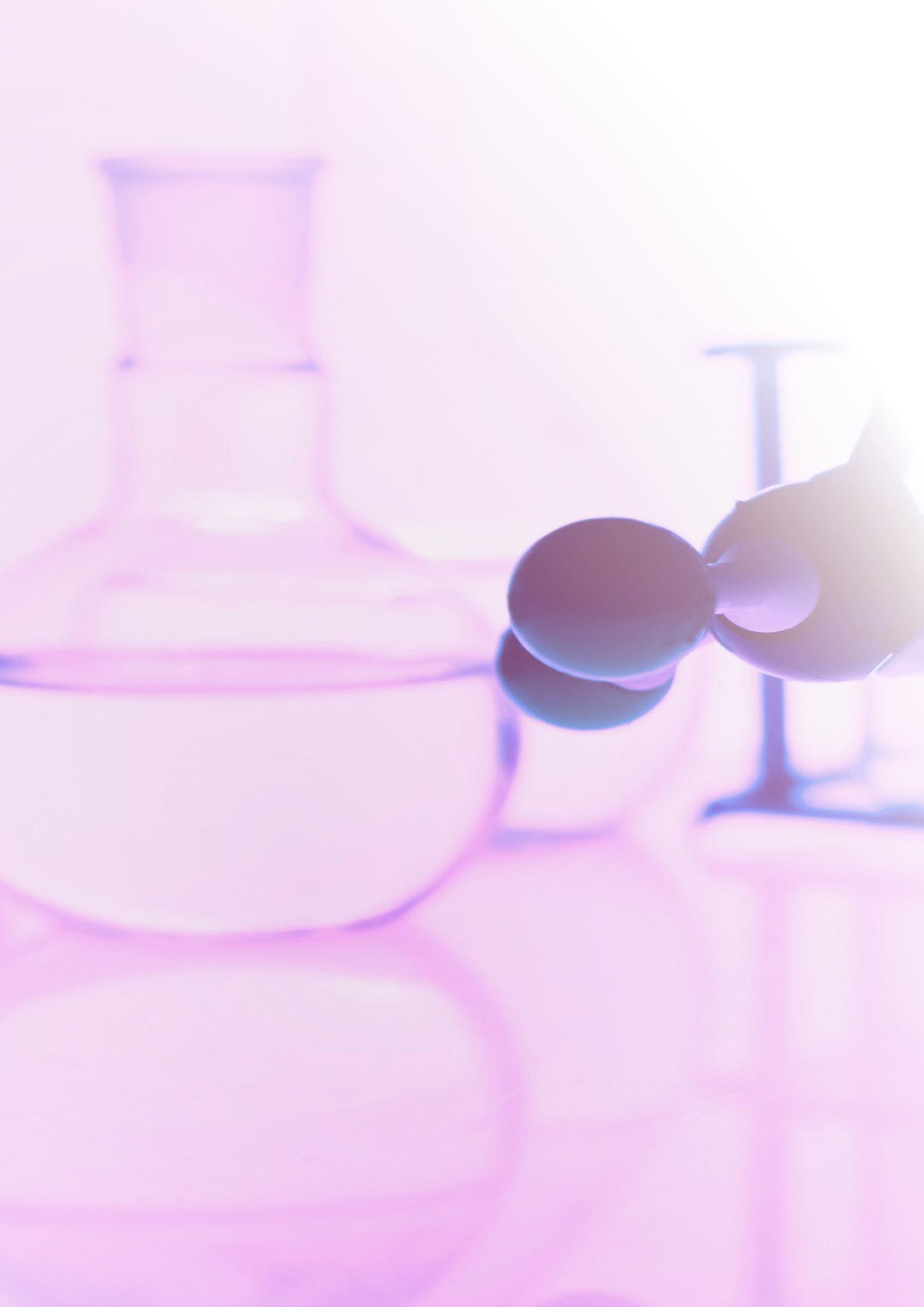
## Specific tasks of the Agency focusing on administration of its operation

In 2016 the following tasks were completed within fulfillment of specific tasks:

- preparation of documents:
  - SRDA main tasks plan for 2016
  - SRDA annual report on its operation in 2015
  - SRDA annual report on management in 2015
  - Report on provision of the state support in 2015
  - Year financial statement of the Agency for 2015
- preparation for general call opening of SRDA programmes in a new information system for applications administration and submitting

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42



# 10 Evaluation of the Agency operations in 2016

1  
page  
7-10

2  
page  
11-14

3  
page  
15-28

4  
page  
29-30

5  
page  
31-32

6  
page  
33-34

7  
page  
35-36

8  
page  
37-38

9  
page  
39-40

10  
page  
41-42

The Agency operations in 2016 depended on the mission of 06K programme - National Programme of Science and Technology Development, sub programme 06K11 - Tasks of Research and Development supported by the Agency in order to complete basic aims defined by the sub-programme and to reach defined measurable indicators. The sub-programme's aim is to build up an efficient system of research and development research by providing financial means for projects implementation and to increase competitiveness of Slovak subjects within international scientific-technical cooperation.

When preparing the concept and defining main activities and tasks of the Agency we took into an account tasks issuing from the Slovak Republic Government resolutions and intentions and aims of the state scientific and technical policy. The Agency completed its mission pursuant to the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. Art.12 on the projects support within grant schemes of general calls and calls within international cooperation (bilateral, multilateral projects, SF7FP projects).

In 2016 the following general calls were opened or announced:

- open general call for submitting applications for supplemental financing of projects 7FP (SF7FP 2012),
- general call for submitting application for research and development projects implementation in particular groups of science and technology - GC 2016,
- call to support bilateral cooperation on the inter-state contract with Serbia in the early financing in 2017,
- call to support multilateral cooperation on the grounds of the Programme for financing projects of multilateral scientific-technical cooperation in the Danube region approved between institutes in Slovak Republic, Austria, Czech Republic and Serbian Republic - the Strategy for the Danube Region 2016.

The Agency within its operation administered also fulfillment of the following basic tasks:

- monitoring projects outcomes after completing their implementation in order to acquire relevant data on impacts of projects on social and economical practice,
- financing of on-going projects i.e. projects whose financing and then also implementation had started in previous year and continued also in 2016,
- opened new calls and evaluated submitted application on financial support to the calls,
- financed projects whose implementation began in 2016.

In relation to the idea of the Government Programme Declaration: "The Government puts all effort to empower financing of research and development from state budget means" and on the negotiations grounds and the approval of Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport Peter Plavčan competitive financing of science and research was greatly increased in 2016 via a grant scheme of the general call GC 2015 by 4 mil.€ for 2016 and during the whole period of projects implementation it was increased overall from the planned 22 mil.€ up to 58.4 mil.€.

The Agency paid a great attention to improve the quality of evaluation system. SRDA Presidium, having analysed evaluation process of the call GC 2015, remade methodology of scientific-research projects evaluation. Its propositional evaluation form was replaced by grading. A differentiating attitude to projects of fundamental and applied research evaluation was preserved. New adjustment of evaluation, which was applied when approving and opening the call GC 2016, highlights the meaning value of expertise. Then the new methodology should have an impact on quality and objectivity increase of projects evaluation process.

The Agency approved several measures in financing and project management in order to:

- increase objectivity and transparency of evaluation process,
- administer an efficient system of research and development research by providing financial means for projects solution and to increase success of Slovak subjects in international scientific-technical cooperation,
- improve the quality of services provided by the Agency to receivers as well as to single project implementers.

The Slovak Republic's Government Decision from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 approved the Proposal of the Agency's Programmes for the period from 2016 to 2019:

- to support building of personal infrastructure in all sectors of research and development in Slovak Republic for the period from 2016 to 2019,
- to support research and development in enterprises and to support cooperation of enterprises with research institutes for the period from 2016 to 2019,
- to support preparation, research and development projects implementation of EU framework programme for research and innovations up to 2020 - Horizon 2020.

Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic appointed members of Councils of the mentioned Agency's programmes.

The Agency generally presents and communicates particularly via its Internet page [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk). The previous one went through a great remake whose aim was to make a clear survey and to simplify orientation of its visitors. Its new and modern design and administration system enable better and easier information filling in and updates. The web page is now able to fulfill its aim much better and it helps all interest groups to find necessary information.

Publishing a brochure named Research Projects with Exquisite level 2016 was remarkable news the Agency introduced last year. The brochure presents projects of all scientific and technology fields completed in the Agency evaluated process in 2016 and reaching top quality level. Agency councils selected such projects from a number of successful projects financed by SRDA within the general call opened in 2010.

In conclusion we can state the Slovak Research and Development Agency completed its fundamental task in 2016 i.e. it administered fulfillment of main tasks issuing from the Act No. 172/2005 as amended as well as defined by the Main Tasks Schedule for 2016.



# Used abbreviations and marks

<b>06K11</b>	sub-programme of the National programme of science and technology development - Tasks of research and development supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency
<b>7FP</b>	7th framework programme
<b>SRDA</b>	Slovak Research and Development Agency
<b>CC publishing</b>	publishing in current magazines (Current Contents)
<b>SF7FP</b>	open general call for submitting applications for supplemental financing of 7FP projects
<b>DS 2016</b>	Strategy for Danube region 2016
<b>EC</b>	European Community
<b>ESF</b>	European Science Foundation
<b>EURATOM</b>	European Atom Energy
<b>LPP</b>	human resources potential in research, development and science popularisation
<b>SME</b>	small and medium enterprises
<b>MVTS</b>	international scientific and technological cooperation
<b>RIS 3</b>	Strategy of research and innovations for intelligent specialisation of the Slovak Republic
<b>SAS</b>	Slovak Academy of Science
<b>SCI quotes</b>	quotations in foreign publishing registered in quotes indexes
<b>SE</b>	Science Europe – international non-profit organisation
<b>SK-AT</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Austria
<b>SK-BG</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Bulgaria
<b>SK-CZ</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Czech Republic
<b>SK-FR</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - France
<b>SK-PL</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Poland
<b>SK-PT</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Portugal
<b>SK-SRB</b>	bilateral call Slovakia - Serbia
<b>SUSPP</b>	support of cooperation of universities and SAS with entrepreneurial
<b>VMSP</b>	support of research and development in small and medium enterprises
<b>GC</b>	general call



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