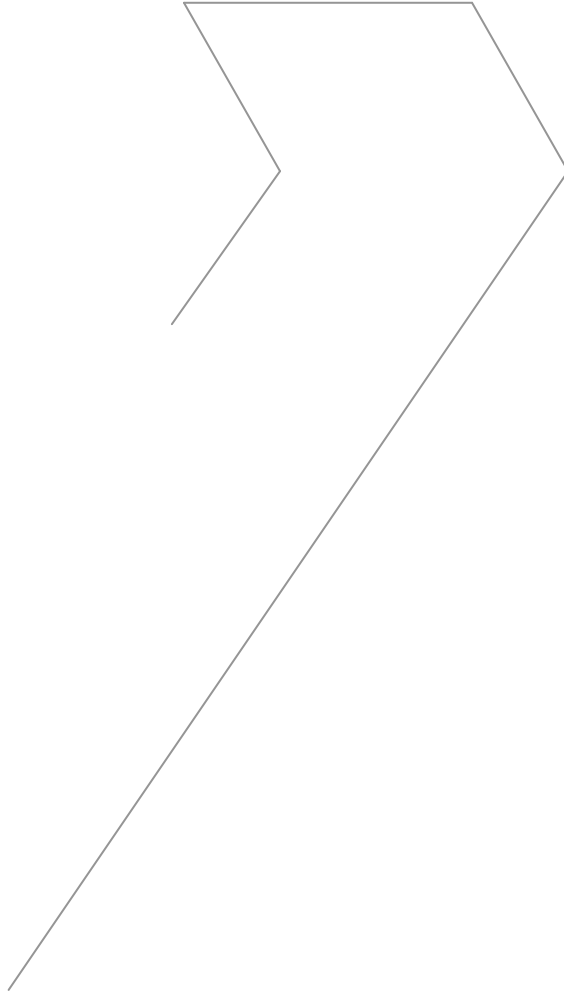




**SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**



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1. Identification of Organisation

Name: Slovak Research and Development Agency (the "Agency")
Registered seat: Mýtna 23, Bratislava
Postal address: Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava
Contact: tel: +421 2 57 20 45 01
fax: +421 2 57 20 45 99
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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

Bureau of the Agency

Director: RNDr. Lýdia Šuchová

Management Staff: Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD. – Head of the General Calls Department
Ing. Jana Blahová, PhD. – Head of the Programmes Department
Ing. Viera Dojčárová – Head of the Financial Department
Ing. Renáta Hlavenková – Head of the Audit Department
Ing. Eva Kaiserová – Head of the Personnel and Wages Department
Ing. Peter Kovačič – Head of the Information Technologies and Services Department
Ing. Zuzana Fabianová – Head of the Director's Bureau

The Agency's bodies:

- ▶ Director of the Agency,
- ▶ Presidium of the Agency,
- ▶ Councils of the Agency.

The structure of the Agency's Bureau is shown in Figure 1



Fig. 1 Organisational Structure of the Agency's Bureau

The Agency supports research and development through competitive financing of research and development projects in compliance with applicable legislation 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 the 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 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 follows:

- ▶ Organisations from the 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 to support 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.

In the short, medium and long-term horizons it is necessary to ensure that the Agency continues to announce 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 the applicants.

One of the important tasks of the Agency is to manage the situation in the field of the research and development financing through the Agency's programmes, in particular in connection with new programmes of the Agency submitted in 2011 that have not been approved yet, based on positive experience from the previous period and support the long term objectives of the state scientific and technology policy:

- ▶ Promotion of research and development in small and medium-sized enterprises – II
- ▶ Promotion of the building of personnel infrastructure for research and development in Slovakia (human potential)
- ▶ Support program for the popularization of science and technology

The priority of the Agency for the future is to publish calls under new programmes of the Agency submitted to the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research and Sports following their approval by the Slovak Government.

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.

On 25 January 2012 the Agency became a regular member of Science Europe and started to perform activities arising from the membership in this organisation. The membership in Science Europe enables the Agency to take part in promoting common interests in the support of research and development at the European level.

From the long term horizon it is expected that the Agency will further pay attention to the support of young scientists, development of research activities for the needs of business sector, support of the popularization of science, the mobility of researchers on the basis of intergovernmental agreements and promotion of the participation of research and development entities in international projects, programmes and initiatives.

3. Agency's Activities in 2012

The scope of activities in 2012 was determined by the budget in the total amount of EUR 25 million.

The following new calls were published in 2012 on the basis of the Plan of Main Tasks of the Agency and the above mentioned financial assumptions:

- ◆ General call for projects in various groups of science and technology fields (GC2012),
- ◆ Open public call for submission of applications for co-financing of projects financed from the 7th Framework Programme (CO7FP),
- ◆ Calls for promotion of bilateral cooperation on the basis of interstate agreements.

As a part of its activities during 2012 the Agency also arranged for the fulfilment of other tasks:

- ◆ Monitoring of results of the projects upon their completion in order to obtain relevant information on the impacts of the project implementation on social and economic practice,
- ◆ Financing of on-going projects, i.e. projects the financing and implementation of which had started in the previous years and continued also in 2012,
- ◆ 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 (CO7FP).

3. 1 Monitoring of Projects after Implementation

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 in the form of a monitoring report on social and economic benefits of the project. The report is submitted by filling in the form "Project Outcomes and Benefits".

The main categories of benefits and outcomes are as follows:

- 1st** category: Publications and citations
- 2nd** category: Patents, inventions and utility models
- 3rd** category: Practical applications with specific economic indicators
- 4th** category: Contributions to scientific education and popularization of science
- 5th** category: Other results
- 6th** category: Added value of the implemented research and development project

In 2012, the Agency arranged for the monitoring of practical applications of the completed projects financed under calls for proposals specified in Table 1.

Tab. 1 Monitorované projekty po ukončení riešenia

Call	Final year of financing	Number of monitored projects
General call - GC 2004	2007	27
General call - GC 2005	2009	110
General call - GC 2006	2009	80
General call - GC 2007	2010	140
Human Resources in R&D and Science Popularization - HRP 2006	2010	99
Human Resources in R&D and Science Popularization – HRP2007	2010	3
Promotion of R&D in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – RSME 2007	2009	32
Promotion of R&D in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – RSME 2009	2010	1
COST 2006	2009	10
EUREKA 2006	2009	3
EUROCORES 2006	2009	2
Framework programme EU - FPEU 2006	2009	19
7 th Framework Programme Co-financing - CO7FP	2010	2

Table 2 contains project outcomes for 2011 after the termination of their financing and submitted by investigators as of 31 March 2012. Due to the fact that the most of the monitored projects were under the calls for proposals GC 2005, GC 2006 and GC 2007, the highest number of results was achieved under the projects submitted based on these calls for proposals. A large number of practical applications was recorded in relation to the projects from the programme RSME 2007 which is 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 call HRP 2006, the number of projects with publications in the Current Contents (CC) journals and the number of citations has increased as well.

Table 2 Benefits and Outcomes of Completed Projects

Call	Number of projects with internat. CC publications	Number of new SCI citations	Number of projects with practical applications	Number of practical applications
GC 2004	8	247	4	12
GC 2005	51	2286	21	44
GC 2006	48	790	12	24
GC 2007	72	632	40	321
HRP 2006	20	384	7	15
RSME 2007	0	0	20	74
COST 2006	6	117	2	3
EUREKA 2006	0	0	2	2
EUROCORES 2006	2	35	0	0
FPEU 2006	3	192	0	0
CO7RP	0	2	1	2
Total	210	4 685	109	497

3.2 Financing of On-going Projects

The financing of on-going projects, i.e. the projects the financing and implementation of which had started in previous years and also continued in 2012, was a very important, but also financially 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 subjected 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. In the cases of the CUSASBE (Promoting Co-operation between Universities, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Business Environment) Programme and bilateral grant schemes, the funds are granted in the form of a lump-sum grant 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 reports contains a recommendation for the Director of the Agency to continue with the financing of the projects.

During 2012, the Agency financed the on-going projects submitted under the calls specified in Table 3.

Table 3 Financing of On-going Projects

GC 2010	174 projects – the start of financing in 2011
HRP 2007	13 projects – the start of financing in 2008
HRP 2009	118 projects – the start of financing in 2009
CUSASBE 2009	5 projects – the start of financing in 2009
RSME II 2009	22 projects – the start of financing in 2011

In March 2012 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 representing co-financing up to the approved amount of the 2012 budget for the projects 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 2012.

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 2012 for the implementation of on-going projects is shown in Table 4

Table 4 Funds Provided in 2012 for On-going Projects (in EUR)

Call	Number of Projects	Current Expenses	Capital Expenses	Total
GC 2010	174	11,557,430	0	11,557,430
HRP 2007	13	135,238	0	135,238
HRP 2009	118	2,081,095	0	2,081,095
CUSASBE 2009	5	269,443	98,864	368,307
RSME II 2009	22	1,023,626	0	1,023,626
Total	332	15,066,832	98,864	15,165,696

In 2012, the Agency continued with the financing of the projects which had commenced in 2011 under **bilateral cooperation** between Slovakia and Austria, Romania, Slovenia and Portugal, as specified in Table 5.

Table 5 Grants Provided by the Agency on On-going Bilateral Mobility Projects in 2012

Call under bilateral Scientific and Technology Cooperation	Number of Projects	Grant in EUR (current expenses)
Slovak-Austrian 2010	16	30,243
Slovak-Romanian 2010	15	38,551
Slovak-Slovenian 2010	12	30,755
Slovak-Portugal 2010	12	32,271
Total	55	131,820

In addition, the Agency continued with the support, to the appropriate extent, of activities performed by the investigators and researchers under the programmes of the **European Science Foundation (ESF)** (the Agency became its member in January 2006), as shown in Table 6. 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. The basic contribution of the Agency to the European Science Foundation represented in 2012 the amount of **EUR 15,208.30** and for 2013 the amount of **EUR 12,543.71**.

In January 2012, the Agency became a member of **Science Europe**, another international non-profit organisation which is the association of 51 organisations from 26 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 2012 represented the amount of **EUR 4,300** and in 2013 the amount of **EUR 7,060**.

Table 6 Agency's Support of On-going EUROCORES and RNP Activities in 2012

Call/Programme	Number of Projects	Funds in EUR
EUROCORES Project	1	24,000
EUROCORES Project Co-ordination	1	9,100
RNP Project Co-ordination	7	18,000
Total	9	51,100

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) – CO7FP.

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 which 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.

In the light of the experience of the Agency acquired with the implementation of CO7FP projects in the previous years it was evident that the CO7FP call has limitations in the context of real needs of projects implemented under the FP7. As a result of this experience and based on the incentives of beneficiaries, the Council for MVTS and the Agency's Bureau, the call was revised so that it provides better conditions for the project implementation. In the summer 2012, the Presidium of the Agency approved the up-dated COFP7 (2012) call. 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. Another important change was the rule for submitting applications which enables submitting applications for co-financing immediately after the approval of the FP7 project concerned by the European Commission and after the execution of the Grant Agreement or an amendment to the Contract of Association. The call CO7FP (2012) was published on 20 July 2012.

In 2012, the Agency supported, under the **CO7FP call**, in aggregate 49 projects in the total amount of EUR 978,204.

Table 7 Support of the CO7FP projects by the Agency in 2012 broken down by sectors

Sector	Number of projects	Funds in EUR
Slovak Academy of Sciences	18	309,346
Higher Education Institutions	24	581,128
Other	7	87,730
Total	49	978,204

3.3. Evaluation and Financing of Projects which Started in 2012



This activity of the Agency related with the evaluation of applications submitted under the call marked as GC 2011 announced in 2011, while the financing of selected successful projects started in 2012.

Characteristics of GC 2011

General call GC 2011 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 Slovak legal persons and Slovak natural persons – entrepreneurs without any prejudice to the research and development sectors.

Basic information on GC 2011

- ▶ Deadline for submission of applications: 14.9.2011 – 14.11.2011

Basic information on the registered applications

- ▶ Total number of applications received 864
- ▶ of which applications for fundamental research projects 569
- ▶ of which applications for applied research projects 290
- ▶ of which applications for development projects 5
- ▶ Amount of required funds: 182,096,000 EUR
- ▶ Financial contributions of applicants 17,726,000 EUR
- ▶ Total amount of funds 199,822,000 EUR

Table 8 Number of registered applications and required funds broken by the nature of research (in thousands EUR)

Nature of research	Number of Submitted Projects	Funds Claimed from Agency	Average amount request per application
Basic research	569	117,543,728	206,564
Applied research	290	63,916,069	220,400
Development	5	636,013	127,203
Total	864	182,095,810	210,759

The percentage of registered applications according to the nature of research is shown in Figure 2.

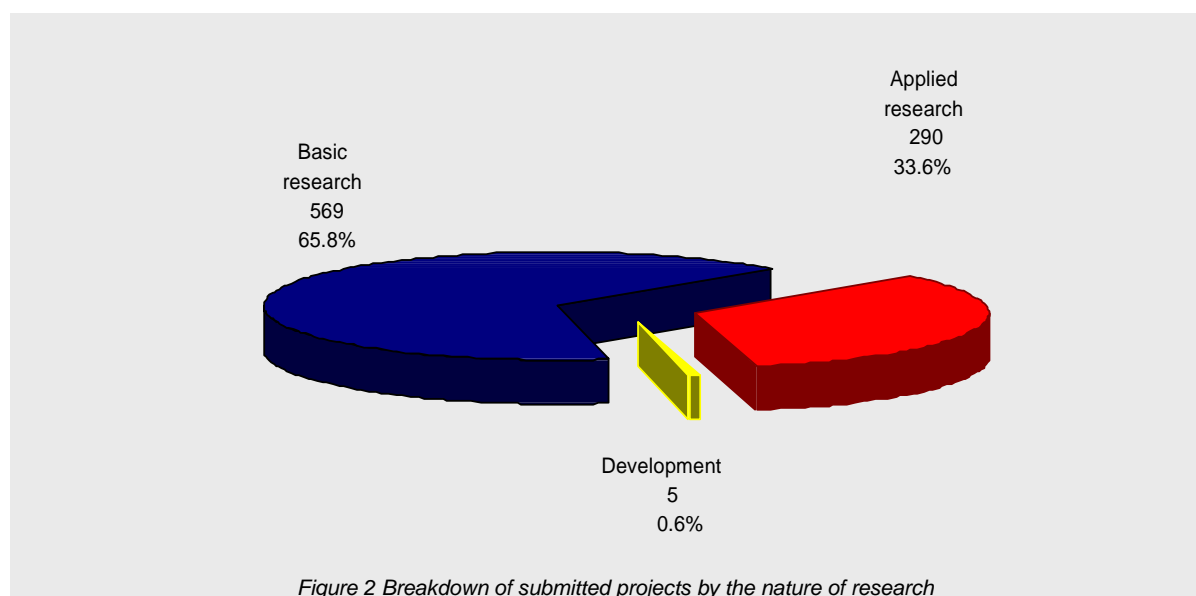


Table 9 Number of registered applications according to scientific field

Scientific field	Registered applications
Natural sciences	201
Technical sciences	296
Medical sciences	93
Land management sciences	119
Social sciences	111
Humanity sciences	44
Total	864

Breakdown of funds required for the registered applications by scientific fields and nature of research is shown in Figure 3.

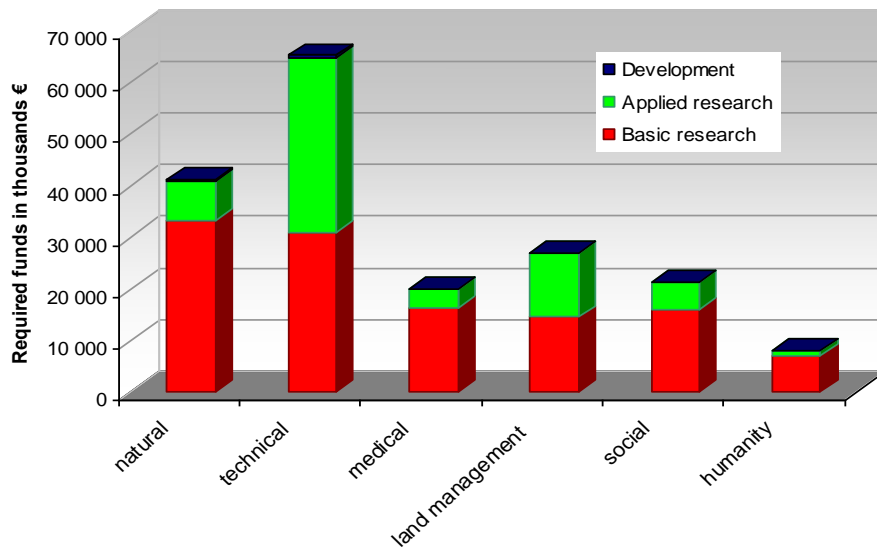


Figure 3 Breakdown of required funds by the nature of research and by scientific field

Breakdown of request for funds by regions is shown in Figure 4 (in thousands EUR).

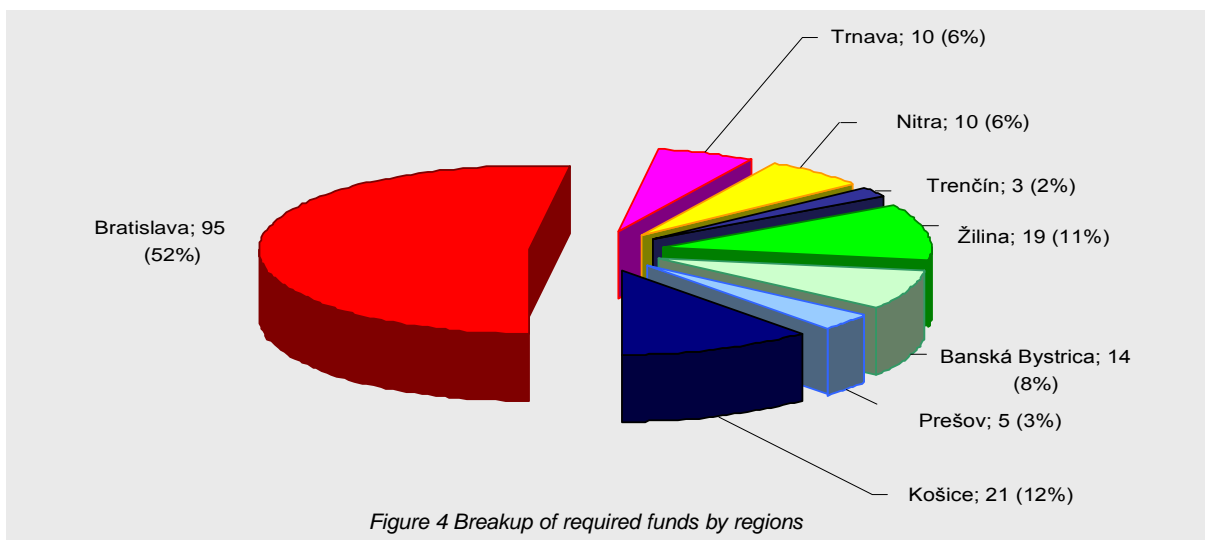
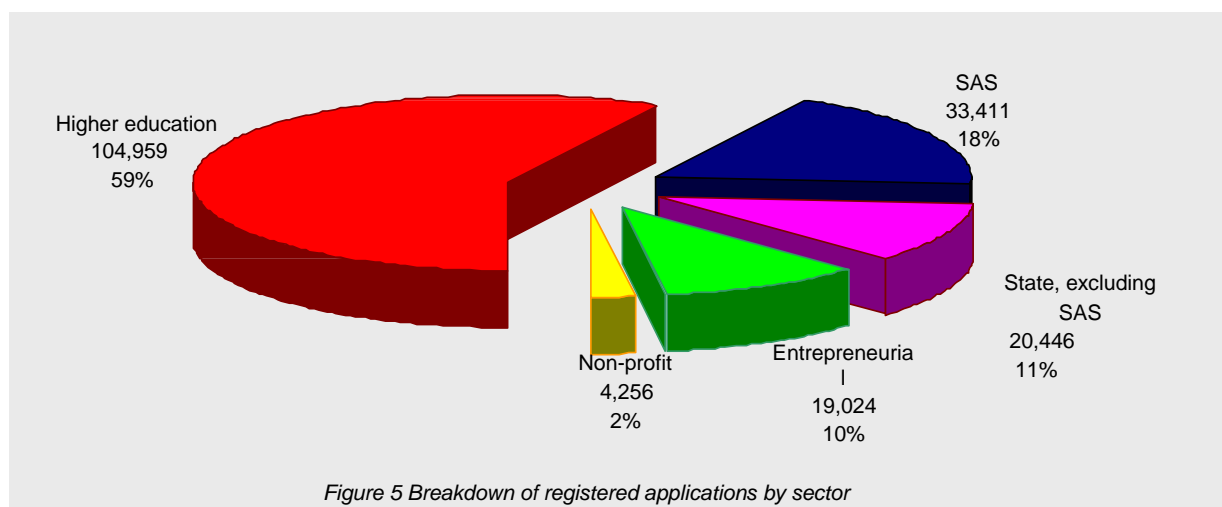


Figure 4 Breakup of required funds by regions

Figure 5 illustrates the share of funds required in the applications submitted under the call GC 2011 by sectors.



Basic information on the evaluation process:

▶ deadline for the evaluation of applications:	May 2012
▶ total number of applications	864
▶ number of excluded applications (technical and formal control)	91
▶ number of applications undergoing evaluation by specialists	773
▶ number of applications on which the funds were granted	166
▶ of which applications for fundamental research projects	122
▶ of which applications for applied research projects	44
▶ of which applications for development projects	0
▶ average percentage of successful applications	19,2 %
▶ total approved funds	31,956,000 EUR
▶ funds granted in 2011	5,370,000 EUR

Under the public call GC 2011, as much as 864 applications for granting funds for the support of research and development project implementation were received and registered. Following the technical and formal controls 91 applications were excluded, the remaining 773 applications underwent evaluation by specialists upon which 166 applications were financed. The project implementation started on 1st July 2012. The latest date for the completion of the project implementation is 31st December 2015.

Table 10 Number of supported applications according to the nature of research

Nature of research	Number of applications	Approved financial support (in thousands EUR)
Fundamental research	122	22,478
Applied research	44	9,478
Development	0	0
Total	166	31,956

The percentage of financed applications by the nature of research is shown in Figure 6.

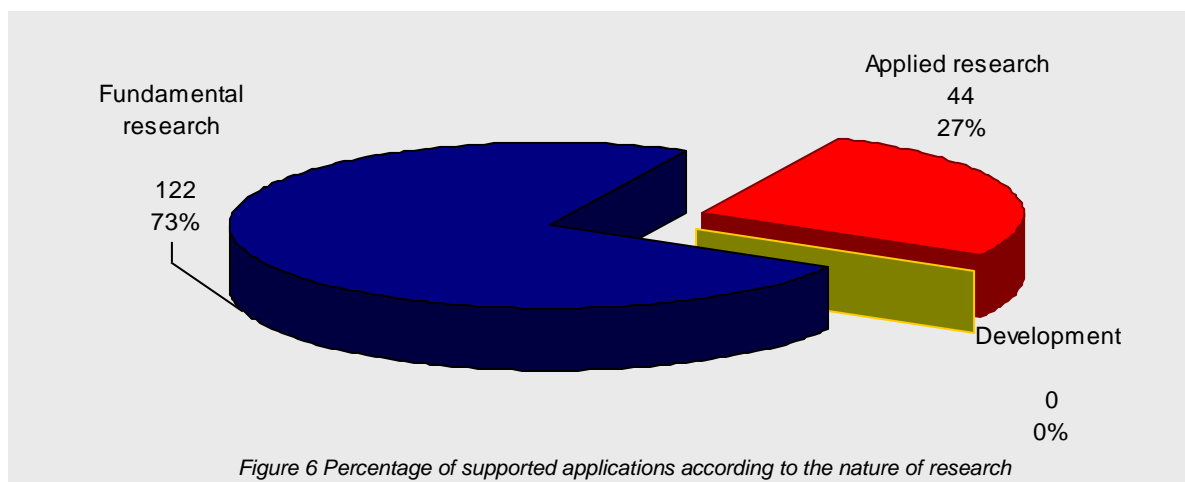
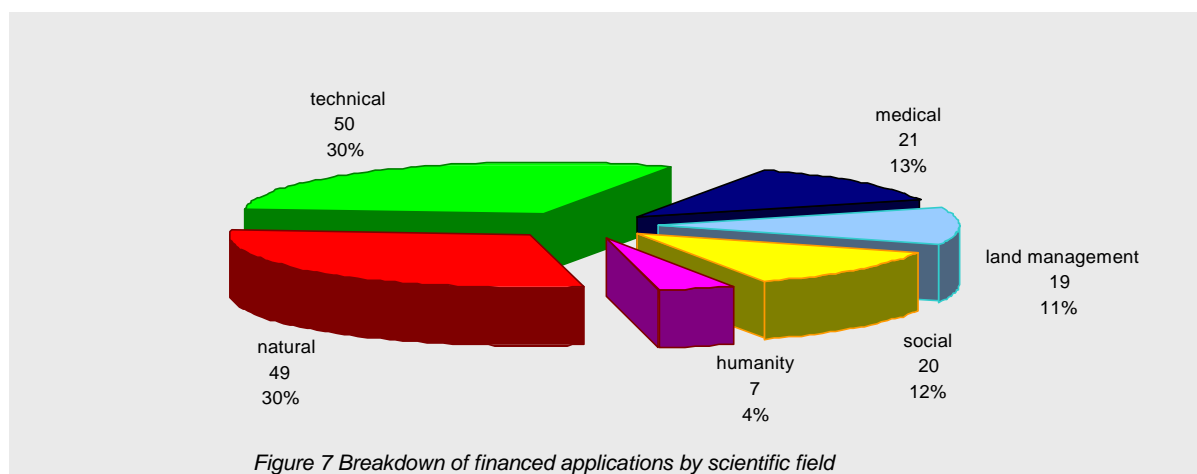


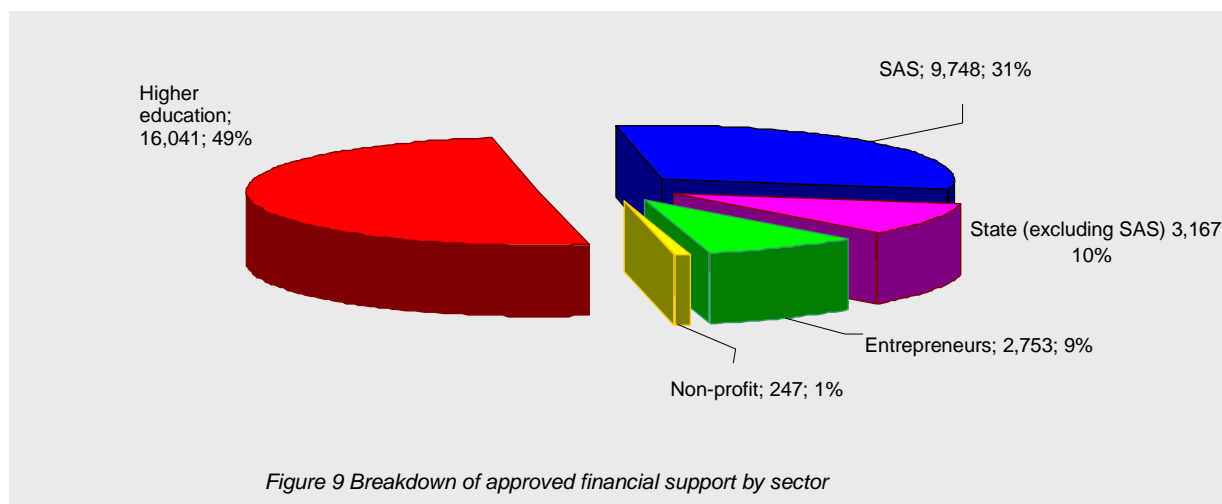
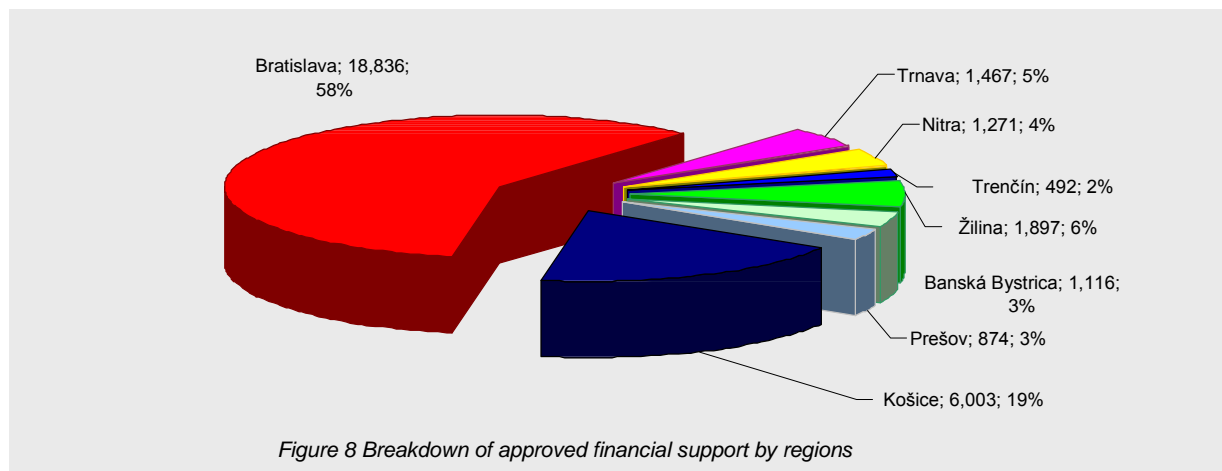
Table 11 Percentage of successful applications according to scientific field.

Council	Registered applications	Financed projects	Successfulness (%)
Natural sciences	201	49	24,4
Technical sciences	296	50	16,9
Medical sciences	93	21	22,6
Land sciences	119	19	16,0
Social sciences	111	20	18,0
Humanity sciences	44	7	15,9
Total	864	166	19,2

The breakdown of financed applications by scientific field is shown in Figure 7.



The breakdown of approved financial support for the financed projects by regions is shown in Figure 8 and by research and development sector is shown in Figure 9.



Information on the projects under bilateral co-operation

In 2012, the Agency started to finance **bilateral projects** carried out within international cooperation which were submitted under the calls for scientific and technology cooperation published in 2011 and/or 2010 - with Bulgaria, France, Czech Republic and Serbia as shown in Table 12.

Table 12 Support provided by the Agency to bilateral mobility projects commencing in 2012

Call under bilateral scientific and technology cooperation	Number of projects	Funds in EUR (current expenses)
Slovak-Bulgarian 2010	15	36,671
Slovak-French 2011	15	38,997
Slovak-Czech 2011	50	92,718
Slovak-Serbian 2011	15	35,218
Total	95	203,604

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 16th 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 31st December 2013. This scheme applies to all types of enterprises – small, medium and also large-size enterprises.

On 27th 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 is valid till 31st December 2013.

4.1 Evaluation of State Aid Provided by the Agency

Under State Aid Scheme N 702/2007 the state aid was granted to 34 business entities and the amount of the state aid so granted represents EUR 2,202,275.

Under State Aid Scheme X 477/2009 no state aid was granted in 2012. The provision of state aid to one business entity ended in 2010.

Overall, in 2012 the state aid was granted to 34 business entities and the amount of the granted state aid represents EUR 2,202,275 (the share of EU funds is 0%, down by 42% in comparison with 2011 when it was EUR 5,270,244.50).

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 state aid according to Article 87(3)(a) of the EC Treaty (SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, SK04 Eastern Slovakia) represents 35% 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 65% of the aggregate state aid granted under the schemes.

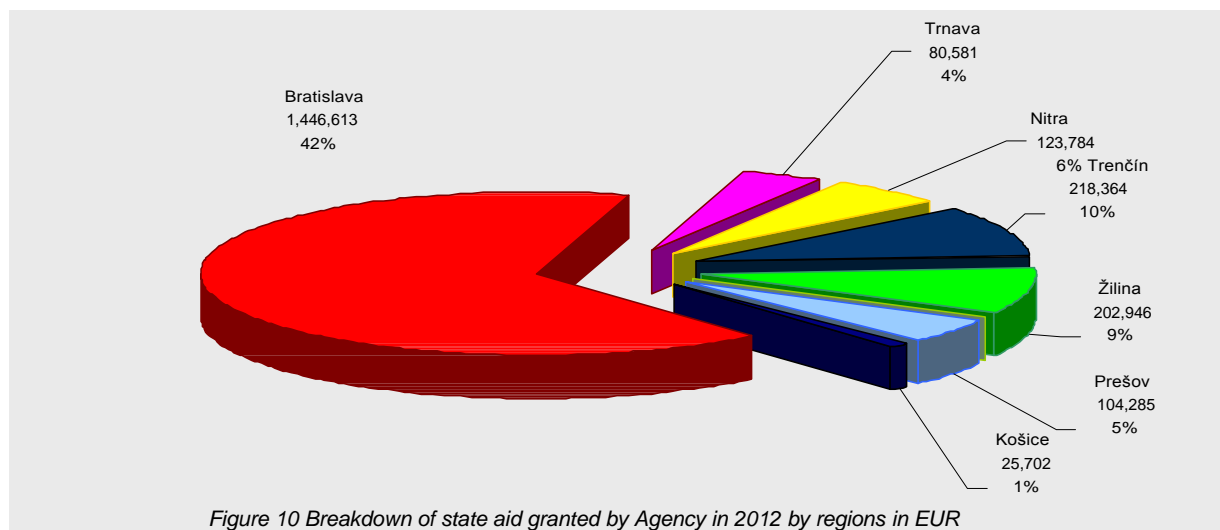
The aggregate state aid granted to regions which qualify for state aid according to Article 87(3)(a) of the EC Treaty (SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, SK04 Eastern Slovakia) represents 35% of the

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 65% of the aggregate state aid granted under the schemes.

The state aid granted to SME represents 92.61% of the aggregate state aid granted in 2012 by the Agency.

In 2012 the Agency financed mainly the projects for small and medium-sized enterprises. The state aid was granted as follows: to 19 enterprises from Bratislava Region, 0 enterprises from Banská Bystrica Region, 1 enterprise from Košice Region, 3 enterprises from Nitra Region, 2 enterprises from Prešov Region, 3 enterprises from Trenčín Region, 2 enterprises from Trnava Region and 4 enterprises from Žilina Region.

Breakdown of the state aid granted by the Agency in 2012 by regions is shown in Figure 10.



4.2 Further Steps in the Field of State Aid Granted by the Agency

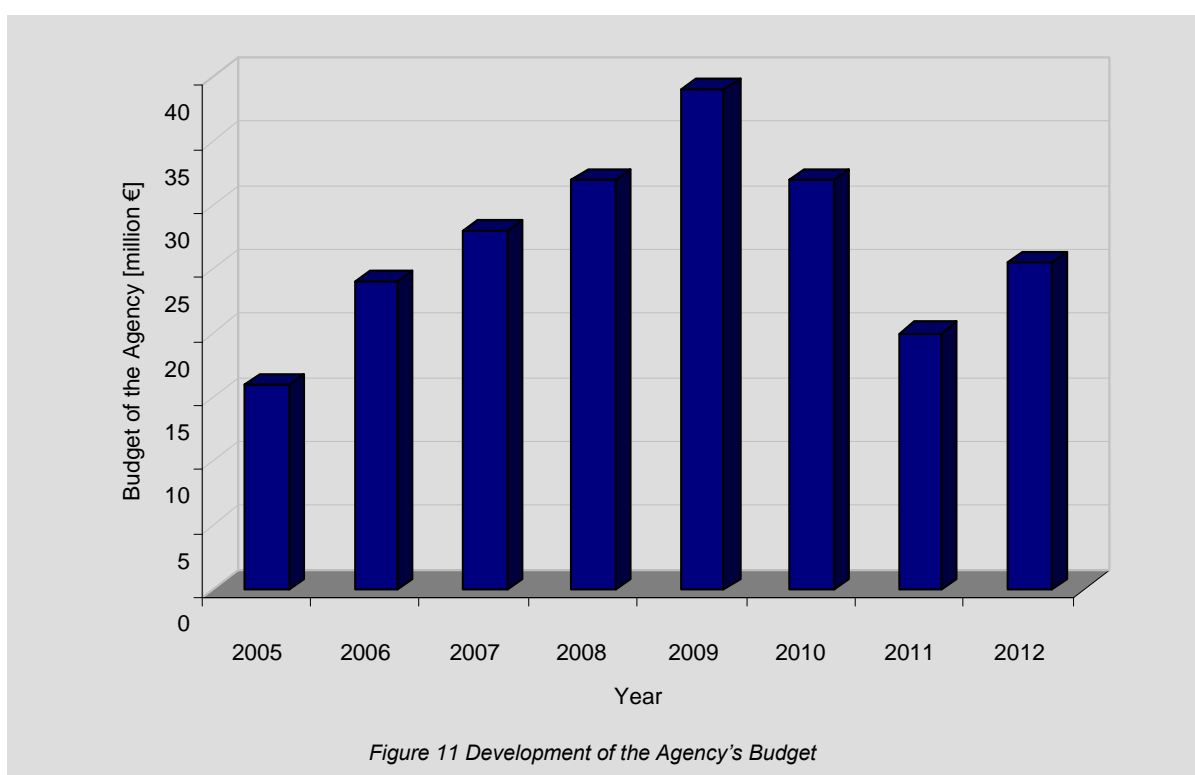
Initial evaluation and financing of new projects

At present, there are the two schemes applicable in the Agency, in particular:

- ▶ Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) N 702/2007 approved by the European Commission and valid till 31st December 2013.
- ▶ Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency in the Field of Transport X 477/2009 (Block Exemption) approved by the European Commission and valid till 31st December 2013.

5 Budget of the Agency

The budget of the Agency had an upward trend up to 2009. However, in 2010 and 2011 the budget was significantly reduced. But in 2012 it again continued with an upward trend, see the Chart below.



For 2012, 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 13.

The Slovak Parliament approved the budget for the activities of the Agency assigned to the Agency by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. in the amount of EUR 21,813,643, of which EUR 1,427,463 for the operation of the Agency and EUR 20,386,180 for the promotion of research and development.

By Budgetary Decree No. MŠSR-2012-1133/3946:2-05, dated 26 January 2012, the budget of the Agency was increased in the item covering the Programme 06K11 concerning current expenses (600) by EUR 3,100,000.

During 2012 the budget was adjusted by other budgetary decrees.

Table 13 Budget in 2012 in EUR

06 K 11	R& D Tasks supported by the Agency (600+700)	24,993,643
Agency's Operation	Total operation expenses	1,507,463
01.3.3	Total current expenses (600)	1,427,463
	<i>of which:</i>	
01.3.3	– Wages, salaries, service income and other expenses (610)	679,854
01.3.3	– Number of employees (persons)	57
01.3.3	– Premium and contributions to insurance companies (620)	237,609
01.3.3	– Goods and services (630)	510,000
01.3.3	– Current transfers (640)	0
01.3.3	Total capital expenses (700)	80,000
01.3.3	Procurement of computer technology (713002)	80,000
R&D promotion	TOTAL expenditures for science and research	23,486,180
01.4.0.5	Total current expenses (600)	22,986,180
01.4.0.5	<i>of which: Research and development tasks (637010)</i>	22,986,180
01.4.0.5	Total capital expenses (700)	500,000

The final budget adjusted by the budgetary decrees and real implementation as of 31 December 2012 is in Table 14 and the financing of research and development projects in 2012 is in Table 15.

Table 14 Budgetary funds and their implementation in 2012 in EUR

Programme 06K11	Budget initially approved	Budget as of 31 Dec 2012	Use as of 31. Dec 2012
Operation	1,427,463	1,480,995	1,479,941
– current	1,427,463	1,427,463	1,426,409
– capital	0	53,532	53,532
R&D promotion	20,386,180	22,190,044	22,162,572
– current	19,886,180	22,091,180	22,063,708
– capital	500,000	98,864	98,864
Agency's Budget TOTAL	21,813,643	23,671,039	23,642,513

Table 15 Financing of research and development projects by the Agency in 2012 in EUR

Title of call/programme	Current expenses	Capital expenses	Total	Total - financing
Bilateral projects	335,424	0	335,424	0
ESF activities – EUROCORES and RNP	51,100	0	51,100	0
Membership contributions to international organisations (ESF and SE)	32,052	0	32,052	0
Co-financing of projects supported from FP7 – CO7FP	978,204	0	978,204	0
General call – GC2010	11,557,430	0	11,557,430	2,650,534
General call – GC2011	5,369,765	0	5,369,765	755,294
Human potential in the field of Research and Development and Popularization of Science– HRP 2007	135,238	0	135,238	15,700
Human potential in the field of Research and Development and Popularization of Science– HRP 2009	2,081,096	0	2,081,096	411,888
Promotion of co-operation between Universities, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the business circles	269,443	98,864	368,307	443,500
Promoting research and development in SME (start- up, spin-off) – RSME-II-2009	1,023,626	0	1,023,626	712,909
Total	21,833,378	98,864	21,932,242	4,989,825

In 2012 the beneficiaries received the funds for the support of research and development in 2012 by wire transfer from the Agency's bank account.

The breakdown of the funds for the projects submitted in 2012 by the type of beneficiary is in Table 16.

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, both in the form of current and capital expenses. These are followed by the Slovak Academy of Sciences and business entities.

Table 16 Structure of funds provided to the projects supported in 2012 in EUR

Type of organisation	Current expenses	Capital expenses	Total
State	1,828,118	0	1,828,118
Slovak Academy of Sciences	7,227,663	0	7,227,663
Civic associations, foundations	165,305	0	165,305
Non-profit organisations	228,616	0	228,616
Entrepreneurial entities	2,274,584	0	2,274,584
International organisations	59,152	0	59,152
Public higher education institutions	10,049,940	98,864	10,148,804
Total	21,833,378	98,864	21,932,242

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 2012 was 52 and the real number of the Agency's employees as of 31 December 2012 was 53.

The number of the Agency's employees of individual organisational units with the organisational structure in 2012 is illustrated in Table 17.

Table 17 Number of the Agency's employees pursuant to the organisational structure as of 31 December 2012

	Počet zamestnancov
The Agency as a whole:	53
Director's Cabinet	3
General Calls Department	14
Programmes Department	14
Financial Department	11
Information Technology and Services Department	5
Audit Department	4
Personnel and Wages Department	2

As of 31 December 2012, the average age of the Agency's staff was 40. The qualification structure of employees as of 31 December 2002 is illustrated in Table 18.

Table 18 Qualification Structure of the Agency's Staff as of 31 December 2012

Qualification Level	Number of employees
Secondary Education	9
Higher Education - first stage	0
Higher Education - second stage	36
Higher Education - third stage	8

6.2 Specialist Bodies of the Agency

The specialist bodies of the Agency are:

- ◆ Presidium
- ◆ Councils

Presidium

The Presidium of the Agency is the highest professional body of the Agency. There are 13 Presidium Members of which 12 persons are honourable experts in the science and technology fields and one is a representative of the Ministry of Education. The Presidium's activity mirrors the Work Plan of the Agency elaborated by the Agency's Director. The Presidium meets according to the schedule and the needs; however, at least once a quarter. In 2012, the Presidium met 6 times. The meetings are attended by the members of the Presidium, Director, Secretary and invited participants.

President: RNDr. Ján Sedlák, DrSc.
Institute of Experimental Oncology, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Vice-President: prof. Ing. Josef Vičan, CSc.
Department of Building Constructions and Bridges, University of Žilina in Žilina

Members: Ing. Štefan Boháček, PhD.
Výskumný ústav papiera a celulózy a.s. (the Research Institute of Paper and Pulp), Bratislava

RNDr. Marta Cimbáková
Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports, Science and Technology Section

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

Ing. Mgr. Martin Filko (till 30 April 2012)
Faculty of Social and Economic Science of the Comenius University, Bratislava

Ing. Igor Gerek, PhD.
Elektrotechnický výskumný a projektový ústav, a.s. (Electrotechnical Research and Design Institute), Nová Dubnica

prof. RNDr. Marta Kollárová, DrSc.
Department of Biochemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University, Bratislava

doc. Ing. Jozef Konôpka, CSc.
Forest Research Institute Zvolen, the National Forest Centre

doc. Ing. Jan Kudrna, CSc.
Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Technology in Brno, Czech Republic

Mgr. Ivan Lesay, MA., PhD. (from 1 August 2012)
the Slovak Ministry of Finance

doc. MUDr. Adriána Liptáková, PhD.
Abbott Laboratories Slovakia, s.r.o., Bratislava

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

prof. Ing. Ivan Wilhelm, CSc.
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Presidium's 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 for Natural Sciences, the Council for Technical Sciences and the Council for Social Sciences have created working groups due to a higher number of submitted applications for the financing of projects.

The Councils are composed of at least seven honourable experts from the areas of their activities, of which at least one is a foreign expert.

In 2012, the following Councils were active in the Agency:

Council for Natural Sciences	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> prof. RNDr. Ján Turňa, CSc. <i>Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University, Bratislava</i>
Working Group for Natural Sciences 1	Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy and Informatics
Working Group for Natural Sciences 2	Chemistry
Working Group for Natural Sciences 3	Earth Sciences and Environment
Working Group for Natural Sciences 4	Biology
Council for Technology Sciences	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD. <i>Prvá zväračská, a.s., Bratislava</i>
Working Group for Technology Sciences 1	Electrical Engineering, Information and Communication Technologies, Automation and Management
Working Group for Technology Sciences 2	Machine Engineering, Mining, Metallurgy and Other
Working Group for Technology Sciences 3	Construction, Transport and Communications, Wood, Water Management Sciences, Chemical Engineering
Council for Medical Sciences	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> prof. MUDr. Ján Danko, CSc. <i>Comenius University, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin</i>
Council for Land Management Sciences	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> doc. RNDr. Ján Rafay, CSc. <i>Animal Production Research Centre, Nitra</i>

Council for Social Sciences	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> univ. prof. dipl. Ing. Dr. Mikuláš Luptáčik <i>Department of Economics, Vienna University of Economics and Business</i>
Working Group for Social Sciences 1	Economic and Legal Sciences
Working Group for Social Sciences 2	Other Social Sciences
Council for Humanity Sciences	<i>Chairperson of the Council</i> PhDr. Gabriela Kiliánová, CSc. <i>Institute of Ethnology, Slovak Academy of Sciences</i>
Council for International Scientific and Technology Cooperation	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> prof. MUDr. Fedor Čiampor, DrSc. <i>Institute of Virology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences</i>
Council for the programme "Support of human potential in the field of research and development and popularization of science" (HRP)	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> prof. RNDr. Štefan Toma, DrSc. <i>Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava</i>
Council for the programme "Support of cooperation between universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the business circles" (CUSASBE)	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> doc. Ing. Jozef Novák, DrSc. <i>Institute of Electrical Engineering of the Slovak Academy of Sciences</i>
Council for the Programme Support of Research and Development in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (RSME)	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> Ing. Jozef Šesták, CSc. <i>VÚTCH-CHEMITEX, s.r.o., Žilina</i>
Council for the programme "Support of the establishment and activities of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education" (CERE)	<i>Chairman of the Council</i> prof. RNDr. Alexander Feher, DrSc. <i>University of Pavel Jozef Šafárik, Košice</i>

6.3 Social Policy of the Agency

The Agency has concluded the employer's agreements with the following three supplementary pension insurance companies: DDS AXA, DDS ING Tatry Sympatia and DDS of Tatra banka. As of 31 December 2012, 41 employees were enrolled in the pension saving schemes. In 2012, the contribution of the employer to the supplementary pension saving was 4% of the gross wages.

In 2012 employees were entitled to a contribution to the catering in the amount of EUR 1.96 and a contribution from the Social Fund in the amount of 0.58 EUR. The contribution to the catering is provided in the form of gastro tickets.

6.4 Training Courses

The professional qualifications of the Agency's employees were increased through external specialised training courses in the field of OSH and fire protection. 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. In connection with the introduction of a new information system SAP, mainly staff from the Department of Economics and the Personnel and Wages Department was re-trained.

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 Audit Activities

7.1 Internal Audit Activities

The Audit Department of the Agency carried out internal audits pursuant to Directive No. 5/2009 "Strategy of Carrying out Audit Activities in the Field of Competence of the Agency", as amended, and pursuant to Directive No. 14/2012 "Strategy of Carrying out Audit Activities in the Agency".

In 2012, four internal audits were carried out aimed at:

1. Control whether the applicable internal regulations issued by the Agency are up to date,
2. Control of the use of motor vehicles,
3. Control of compliance of expenditures of the Agency, as the contracting authority, with the procedures according to Act No. 25/2006 Coll., on Public Procurement,
4. Control of compliance of the implementation of the selected projects of the Agency with the terms and conditions of the call GC 2010, with contractual terms, directives and applicable legislation.

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

7.2 External Audit Activity

In compliance with Act No. 502/2001 Coll., on Financial Control and Internal Audit and on amendments and supplements to certain other acts, as amended, the Agency's employees carried out eleven follow-up financial controls.

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

Table 19 Follow-up Financial Controls Carried out by Agency's Staff

Názov kontrolovaného subjektu	Celková suma finančných prostriedkov prekontrolovaná kontrolným orgánom
Tau-chem spol. s r. o., Bratislava	EUR 175,362
Faculty of Chemical and Agricultural Technology, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava	EUR 30,805
KKV Union s r. o., Dunajská Streda	EUR 121,258
Food Research Institution, Bratislava	EUR 72,908
Natures s r. o., Trnava	EUR 10,000
Výskumný ústav papiera a celulózy a.s. (Research Institute of Paper and Pulp), Bratislava	EUR 35,949
Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University Bratislava	EUR 37,542
National Forest Centre, Zvolen	EUR 45,070
Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Žilina, Žilina	EUR 21,237
Institute of Neuroimmunology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava	EUR 44,027
Geneton s r. o., Bratislava	EUR 56,630

Breaches of financial discipline occurred as a result of:

1. The use of public funds for materials and/or services not approved in the project
2. The payment of wages, including contributions to social and health insurances, in relation to a person that was not a member of the research team
3. The reimbursement of higher than actually incurred costs
4. The reimbursement of costs beyond of the project implementation period
5. Incorrect data on the number of hours worked

7.3 Audit Activities Carried out by External Auditing Bodies

In 2012 the external auditing bodies carried two audits in the Agency.

On May 18, 2012 a July 20, 2012, the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic carried out audits in the Agency in relation to the projects for the support of research and development belonging to the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic and a follow-up control.

The audits were closed by audit reports.

Five measures were taken to remedy weaknesses and shortcomings identified by the audits. The report on fulfilment of the measures taken was sent to the Supreme Audit Office on 31 October 2012.

In the period 24 August to 13 September 2012, the Labour Office in Bratislava carried out an inspection for compliance with labour-law and wage regulations arising from Act No. 311/2001 Coll., as amended, Act No. 552/2003 Coll., on Performing Work in Public Interest, as amended, and Act No. 553/2003 Coll., on Remuneration of Certain Employees Performing Work in Public Interest, as amended.

The audit was closed by the Protocol of Inspection Findings, which ordered to remove the detected shortcomings specified in two points on or before 31 October 2012 and then to inform the Labour Inspectorate in writing on the remedy of those shortcomings.

The written information on the removal of shortcomings was sent to the Labour Inspectorate in Bratislava on 29 October 2012.

7.4 Dealing with Complaints

The Audit Department did not record, in 2012, any submission marked as a complaint.

8. Conferences, training courses, seminars organized by Agency

Annual Conference of the Agency

On 18 June 2012 in the Historic Building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava, the Slovak Research and Development Agency organised the Annual Conference on which presented the results of its activities performed during the previous year. The invitation to the conference was accepted, inter alia, by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission Responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, and Dominique Ristori, Director General of the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The conference was held under the auspices and in the presence of Dušan Čaplovič, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.



Information Days of the Agency

In 2012, the Agency organised information seminars for the investigators of the projects under the calls GC 2010 and GC 2011 in the following four Slovak towns: Košice, Žilina, Zvolen and Bratislava. The Agency also organised the Information Days of the Agency in relation to the call GC 2012. The employees of the Agency provided the participants of the Information Days with the information on the public call GC 2012, the budgeting and financial rules and practical recommendations for the submission of projects.

Table 20 List of Conferences, Specialised Seminars and Training Courses Organised by the Agency in 2012

Title of event	Date	Venue
Annual Conference of the Agency	18.06.2012	Bratislava
Information seminars for Project Investigators under the calls GC 2010 and GC2011	25.09.2012	Košice
	26.09.2012	Prešov
	27.09.2012	Bratislava
	04.10.2012	Zvolen
Information Days of the Agency to the call GC 2012	12.11.2012	Košice
	15.11.2012	Bratislava
	28.11.2012	Zvolen

9. Objectives and their Fulfilment

1. Monitoring of Supported Projects with Expired Implementation Period

After the completion of the project implementation, the practical applications of the projects were monitored. According to the wording of the Contract with the Agency, the beneficiary is obliged, within three years after the completion of the project, to submit to the Agency a written monitoring report on social and economic benefits (impacts) of the project. All activities related to the administration and evaluation processes in relation to the practical applications of the projects were performed in relation to:

- ▶ General call announced in 2004
- ▶ General call announced in June 2005
- ▶ General call announced in June 2006
- ▶ General call announced in June 2007
- ▶ Call under Programme HRP 2006
- ▶ Call under Programme HRP 2007
- ▶ Call under Programme RSME 2007
- ▶ Call COST 2006
- ▶ Call EUREKA 2006
- ▶ Call EUROCORES 2006
- ▶ Call FPEU 2006
- ▶ Call CO7FP

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

In 2012, the following calls were evaluated and financed:

- ▶ General call GC 2010
- ▶ Call under Programme HRP – HRP2007
- ▶ Call under Programme HRP – HRP2009
- ▶ Call under Programme CUSASBE – CUSASBE2007
- ▶ Call under Programme CUSASBE – CUSASBE2009
- ▶ Call under Programme RSME – RSME2009, RSME II 2009
- ▶ Call under Programme Promoting the Establishment and Activities of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education (CERE) – CERE2007
- ▶ Call ENV – EUROCORES 2006
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – China 2009
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Czech Republic 2009
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – France 2009
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Poland 2009
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Serbia 2009

- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Ukraine 2009
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Austria 2010
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Rumania 2010
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Slovenia 2010
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Bulgaria 2010
- ▶ € Bilateral call SK – Portugal 2010

3. Initial Evaluation and Financing of New Projects

In 2012, the following calls, which were announced and evaluated in 2011, were financed:

- ▶ General call 2011 – GC 2011
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – France 2011
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Czech Republic 2011
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Serbia 2011

4. Publishing of New Calls and Initial Evaluation of Submitted Projects

In 2012, the Agency published the general call GC 2012. The call was announced on 5 November 2012 and the date of closure of this call was set for 21 January 2013.

The Agency will published the decision on the applications no later than 6 months from the date of the submission of the last application, and it shall do so through the website of the Agency www.apvv.sk and subsequently by delivery of a written notice to the applicants. On its website, the Agency will publish the following information on all applications: the application number, the title of the project, the applicant, decision on the provision of funds.

The expected beginning of the project Implementation is 1 October 2013. The project implementation period may not be longer than 48 months.

In 2012, the Agency announced the following six calls under international scientific and technology cooperation:

- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Austria 2012
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Romania 2012
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Poland 2012
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – China 2012
- ▶ Bilateral call SK – Portugal 2012
- ▶ Open call CO7FP

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

The Agency promoted the participation of the Slovak research and development entities by the following activity

- With the aim to improve incentives for participation of individuals and research institutions (higher education institutions, institutions of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, research and development organisations established by the Slovak central state administration authorities and non-profit research and development organisations), the Agency continued with the promotion of the participation of the Slovak Republic in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union through the **Open public call for the submission of 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 Programmes. Co-financing is aimed at the promotion of participation of Slovak entities in two types of projects: collaborative projects and the Networks of Excellence projects.

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

In 2012 the following tasks were fulfilled within the fulfilment of specific tasks:

- Preparation of documents:
 - Plan of main tasks of the Agency for 2012
 - Annual Report on the Activities of the Agency for 2011
 - Annual Report on the Financial Management of the Agency for 2011
 - Report on State Aid granted in 2011
 - Annual Accounts of the Agency for 2011
- Organisation of the Annual Conference of the Agency
- Organisation of Information Days of the Agency in relation to various calls
- Preparation and testing of a new information system for the administration and submission of applications under public calls announced by the Agency

10. Evaluation of Agency's activities in 2012

In 2012, the Slovak Research and Development Agency further played its role as a dominant tool for the promotion of research and development in Slovakia financed from the state budget. The Agency fulfilled its tasks pursuant to Act No. 172/2005 Coll., on Organisation of State Support to Research and Development, as amended, and in order to fulfil the Programme Declaration of the Slovak Government in compliance with the State Scientific and Technology Policy, relevant resolutions of the Slovak Government and in compliance with the Plan of Main Tasks of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

Its activities are based on the National Programme for the Support of Science and Technology 06K, in particular its 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.

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 specification of the main tasks of the Agency for 2012 was based on the amount of funds for 2012, which was EUR 25 million.

The Agency fulfilled its mission within the meaning of Section 12 (a) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. through the financing of projects approved under the public calls GC 2010 and projects under the public call GC 2011. In September 2012, the Agency published the general call GC2012 the evaluation of which will be completed in summer 2013.

The Agency fulfilled its mission within the meaning of Section 12 (b) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. through the financing of projects approved under the call HRP 2009.

One of the important tasks of the Agency was to deal with the situation with the suggestion of new programmes of the Agency elaborated and submitted for approval in 2011, in particular it submitted the following three programme proposals:

- ▶ Promotion of research and development in small and medium-sized enterprises – II for the period 2012-2016
- ▶ Promotion of the building of personnel infrastructure for research and development in Slovakia (human potential) for the period 2012-2016
- ▶ Support program for the popularization of science and technology for the period 2012 – 2016

Due to the fact that the proposals of new programmes of the Agency submitted to the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic were not approved during 2012 by the Slovak Government, the old programmes of the Agency were closed, the Agency did not have opportunity to publish in 2012 new calls under the programmes.

The Agency fulfilled its mission in compliance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12 (c). In the field of international co-operation, the tasks connected with the co-financing of projects successful in the 7th Framework Programme, as well as with the promotion of bilateral mobility projects in the effort to increase the interest of researchers in the participation in foreign projects and international initiatives. The Agency financed the projects under these schemes. In 2012, the Agency published calls for the support of bilateral cooperation, as well as the updated call CO7FP (2012).

In that period, the Agency was active in the European Science Foundation and fulfilled its obligations arising

from its membership in this Foundation. On 25 January 2012 the Agency became a regular member of Science Europe and started to perform its activities arising from the membership in this organisation.

The Agency further paid 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.

The Agency also paid attention to the planned comprehensive amendments to Act No. 172/2005 Coll. in the form of preparing comments to the Act which were sent as a supporting material to the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports.

Generally, the year 2012 may be seen as a successful but, at the same time, also demanding. It was caused by the fact that the Agency financed a huge amount of projects continuing from the previous years, prepared and evaluated new calls and started with financing of newly approved projects. The tasks required a huge amount of highly specialized and administrative work.

The Agency successfully fulfilled its mission and all its tasks thanks to effective co-operation between the Agency's Bureau and specialist bodies of the Agency.

The Agency's Bureau takes this opportunity to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of all specialist bodies of the Agency for their highly professional and dedicated work, as well as for professional and personal effort made in order to attain the goals set for the Agency.