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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2017



SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



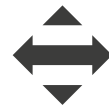
MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND SPORT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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SRDA ANNUAL
REPORT 2017



SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2017



prof. RNDr. Jozef Masarik, DrSc.,
Chairman of the Slovak Research
and Development Agency

Introductory words by the Chairman

Research and development are the pillars of development in every developed society and play an indispensable role in its economic growth as well as in improving the quality of life of its citizens. That is why the states give them proper attention and create the conditions for their progress. The conditions are primarily to create a functional and efficient system as well as a dignified financing of its individual components. Efforts to create and optimize the existing system as well as to improve the financial support of research and development in Slovakia are also declared in the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak republic.

Despite these intentions, 2017 can also be characterised as one of the most problematic years in terms of funding for research, development and innovation in Slovakia. The Structural Funds financing system experienced problems that caused substantial changes in the science, research and sports.

Nor did the Agency escape the problems. Personnel changes in the Agency's Bureau in early 2017 were negatively perceived by the scientific community, and these concerns later shifted to concerns about the meaningful existence of the Agency, which had no funds then to secure its core functions, which meant, in particular, that full funding of the 2015 Call was threatened and the 2016 Call seemed not to be funded at all. In this situation, the Agency faced the existential question: "Why having the Agency with no funding?"

Changes by the new leadership of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as MŠVVaŠ SR) in their approach to the Agency funding, allowed the Agency to meet its financial commitments from the previous years, and again to launch a General Call and to fully fund the General Calls from the previous years. At the same time, when approving the state budget for 2018, the Agency was allocated funds sufficient

to prevent the situation from last year. Despite the positive words on increase in the Agency's funding, it has to be clearly stated that the funding for its operation, and mainly for supporting the research and development, is close to the threshold of a meaningful minimum. In order to obey the law, but in particular to improve the support for research and development in Slovakia, the Agency Presidium has made efforts to raise the funds to launch the Agency's programs, which comprise, alongside the General Calls, the second pillar of its activities. The programs were approved by early 2016, but so far they are not covered. The Agency has also made efforts to reflect the strategic intentions of RIS3 in its programs, but so far with no concrete outcome.

In the coming period, it will be important for the Agency to be integrated into the Research and Development State Aid Scheme, also in view of the use of the Structural Funds and the vision for research, development and innovation formulated in the RIS3 Strategy. Critical will not be the visions but their implementation in practice, because only a real and long-term change can reverse the unflattering position of the Slovak science in the European and international contexts. And in this area, the status of a strong National Agency is irreplaceable. The medium-term perspective of the Slovak Research and Development Agency lies in its expanded capability to support national projects by increasing the budget for the Agency's general calls and specific programs.

An extremely important aspect is comprised by promotion of international scientific and technological cooperation and the use of the European Union's Cohesion Instruments for Development of Science and Technology. Here we still see a great scope for coordination of procedures with the Research and Technology Agency. The basic requirement for all the Agency support schemes must be to support excellent research and development.

One of the main tasks for achieving this goal is improving the assessment of the submitted applications, especially considering the reviewers, the monitoring of the project solutions as well as their outputs and impacts.

Despite the above lack of finances, and due to the ongoing efforts to improve the Agency's work, it has the only comprehensive and most objective system for assessment and monitoring of the research and development projects in the Slovak Republic. Aimed at further improvement in the Agency's work in this area, a new assignment system for reviewers of the projects under the 2017 General Call was launched. Given the processes taking place in the European Research Area, it is necessary to rise the Agency to a higher quality level and to open up the space for the Agency to gradually develop from a small science and technology player into a pillar of Slovak science that would be an equal partner for partner agencies in the EU countries and worldwide.

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01 / ON THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “Agency”) is a national grant agency and the only dominant grant agency providing the state budget – based support to the research and development in Slovakia in all fields of science and technology.

1.1 Identification of the Organisation

Name	Slovak Research and Development Agency
Registered office Address	Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava Mýtna 23 P.O.BOX 839 04 839 04 Bratislava
Contact e-mail	Tel.No.: +421 2 57 20 45 01 agentura@apvv.sk
www	www.apvv.sk

Established by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on the Organisation of State Aid for Research and Development and on supplementing Act 575/2001 Coll. on Organising the Activities of the Government and of Central State Administration Organisations as amended. (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 172/2005 Coll.”).

Form of management

A budgetary organisation linked to the budget of the Slovak Republic through the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Sector

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The SRDA BODIES

Director of the SRDA
The SRDA Presidium
The SRDA Council

1.2 SRDA Mission

The Agency’s main mission is to promote excellent basic research, applied research and development in all fields of science and technology, including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research conducted by universities, state-owned research and development sector, business and non-profit research and development sector, and physical persons of research and development in terms of the Trade Licencing Act.

Support of research and development is conducted by research and development projects selected by the Agency bodies within the open calls launched by the Agency. Research and development projects can be submitted by both national legal and natural persons.

Research and development support is allocated based on the quality of the submitted project proposals. Another mission of the Agency is to stimulate participation of research and development entities in the Slovak Republic in international and European programmes and initiatives as well as to support the bilateral and multilateral cooperation in science and technology.

The Agency is established to support research and development by project funding as follows:

- Bottom-up based support – these are general calls for projects in individual groups of science and technology (with no thematic limitation), while the intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project are determined by the Applicant – Act No. 172/2005 Coll. § 12 Article 2 a)
- Special-purpose form of the support based on the Government-approved Agency programs (top-down system), reflecting the requirements to fulfil the selected intents and objectives in accordance with the long-term goal of State Science and Technology Policy – 172/2005 Coll. § 12 Article 2 b)
- Support based on the open public calls within the international agreements and international programs and initiatives, including the costs of their preparation – Act No. 172/2005 Coll. § 12 Article 2 c)

The following organisations are funds recipients:

- public, state, private universities
- state research and development sector
- business research and development sector
- non-profit research and development sector
- natural persons of research and development in terms of the Trade Licensing Act

In terms of the medium-term perspective, the Agency is committed to fulfil the tasks arising from Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on the State Support for Research and Development, as amended, and on the Statute of the Agency. The Agency plays an important role as a tool for fulfilling the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic as concerned directly by several objectives of point 5 of the Manifesto of the Government and the related tasks. The 2017 binding indicators for the Slovak Research and Development Agency are defined under the O6 K National Science and Technology Development Program and the sub-program “O6K11 – Research and Development Tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency” (hereinafter referred to as “O6K11”). The sub-program is aimed at “Effective system of research and development support by project funding, and at increasing the success of Slovak entities in the international scientific and technical cooperation”.



Given the wide scope and importance of the Agency, the following 5 objectives were set at the sub-program level

- 1) to support projects of international scientific and technological cooperation solved within the international programs / organisations / agreements co-financed by the Agency's funds
- 2) to support projects co-funded from the off-budget resources (e.g. private and foreign)
- 3) to support projects with application output in practice
- 4) to support basic research projects whose findings are published in international Current Contents Journals,
- 5) to support interconnection of the research and development with the market and the economic valorisation of research and development results in the form of projects aimed at transferring the research and development results by universities and state institutions to the business sector, as well as in the form of projects aimed at supporting the research and development in small and medium-sized enterprises

The main tasks of the Agency in terms of the Statute are, in particular

- to support excellent basic research and applied research and development in all fields of science and technology including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research
- to ensure the development and implementation of new forms of supporting the research in the Slovak Republic with regard to increasing the cooperation between basic and applied research and development and their user application
- in cooperation with the MŠVVaŠ SR, to ensure the development and implementation of new programs and forms of support for international cooperation in research and development
- to support participation of research and development organisations from the Slovak Republic in the European research and development programmes and initiatives
- to participate in the dissemination of research and development results within the Slovak Republic, and

to promote the importance of research and development for the needs of the society

- to cooperate with the MŠVVaŠ SR on the creation and implementation of National Science and Technology Policy

Strong support for research and innovation essentially requires the Agency to continue its regular opening of so-called general calls. These calls include support for projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology (with no thematic limitation), while the intents, objectives and substance of the project are determined by the Applicant.

Pursuant to Point 3 of the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic, and in line with the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), the Government of the Slovak Republic will plan for inter-institutional interconnection and interdisciplinary coordination of the preparation and implementation of the research and innovation support. An important tool for interlinking the research and innovation with immediate needs in practice is comprised by the Agency's programs aimed at building-up and stabilizing human resources in all the research and development sectors, in co-operation of the research sphere with economic practice, and encouraging greater involvement into the European and international initiatives, in particular the Horizon 2020, the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Agency will continue to pay attention to support for activities resulting from intergovernmental bilateral or multilateral agreements on international scientific and technical cooperation, namely supporting both the researchers' mobility and the participation of research and development entities in international projects, programs and initiatives. The Agency will continue to focus on improving the assessment and funding of the projects in order to increase the objectivity and transparency of the assessment process.



02 / BODIES OF THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

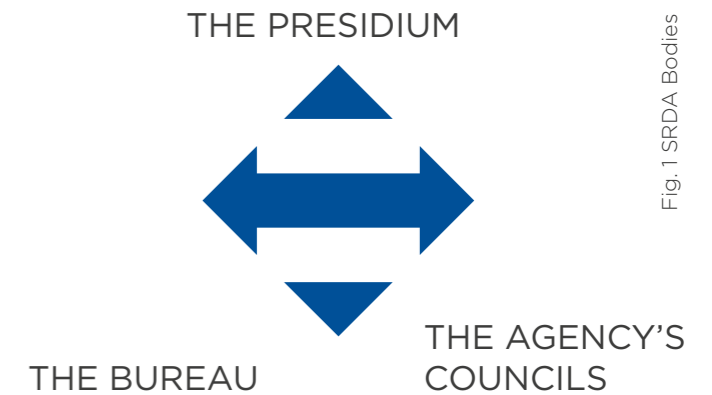


Fig. 1 SRDA Bodies

2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2017

Director

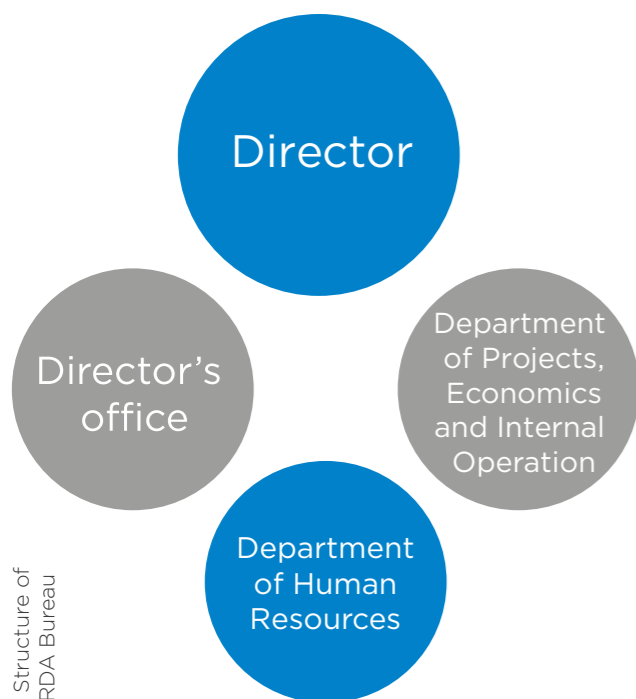
Mgr. Pavol Balžanka

Authorised Representative

JUDr. Ing. Anna Ďurfina, PhD. et PhD.

Management Members

Ing. Viera Dojčárová – Head of Department of Projects, Economics and Internal Operation
 Ing. Alena Bokrošová – Head of The Director's office



Coll. establishing the Agency. The Presidium members are appointed and removed by the Government based on a proposal from the Minister of Education. The term of office of the Presidium members is four years, for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Presidium of the Agency consists of 13 members, of which 11 members are significant nationwide respected science and technology experts, and two members are representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. The main activities of the Agency's Chairman include the management of the Presidium as the Agency's expert body, and the representation of the Agency nationally and abroad in the areas directly related to the Agency's activities, as well as in other areas related to the research and development in Slovakia. Activities of the Presidium are governed by the Agency's Work Plan, prepared by the Agency's Director, on the basis of the Agency's concept of activity for the relevant period and as approved by the Presidium.

Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman

PhDr. Slavomír Michálek, DrSc.
Historical Institute of SAS, Bratislava

RNDr. Eva Majková, DrSc. (until 25 October 2017)
Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Members

prof. Ing. Anetta Čaplanová, PhD. (until 25 October 2017)
Department of Economic Theory, Faculty of National Economy, University of Economics in Bratislava

Ing. Marek Franko, PhD. (from 30 November 2017)
EVPÚ, a. s., Nová Dubnica

JUDr. Svetlana Gavorová (from 30 November 2017)
Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, Bratislava

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor (from 30 November 2017)
Klub 500, Bratislava

Bc. PhDr. Marek Hajduk, PhD. (from 30 November 2017)
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

Ing. Rastislav Havrila, PhD. (until 25 October 2017)
Electrotechnical research and projecting company, Nová Dubnica

Mgr. Milan Chrenko (from 30 November 2017)
Ministry of Environment SR, Bratislava

Ing. Anton Marcinčin, PhD. (until 12 June 2017)
Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

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

prof. Ing. Miloslav Milichovský, DrSc. (from 30 November 2017)
University of Pardubice - Faculty of Chemical Technology

JUDr. Anton Ondrej, MBA (until 25 October 2017)
Slovak Chamber of Commerce, Bratislava

prof. Ing. Ľudovít Parilák, CSc. (until 25 October 2017)
Železiarne Podbrezová, a. s., Podbrezová

Mgr. Dana Peškovičová, PhD. (from 30 November 2017)
National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky

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

prof. Ing. Viktor Smieško, PhD. (until 25 October 2017)
The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava

prof. RNDr. Pavol Sovák, CSc. (from 30 November 2017)
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Ing. Róbert Szabó, PhD. (until 12 June 2017)
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc.
The Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences CR Brno

Secretary
JUDr. Ing. Anna Ďurfina, PhD. Et PhD. (from 18 December 2017)

Ing. Bibiána Remiarová, PhD. (until 31 July 2017)

In 2017 at its meetings, the Presidium discussed the strategic tasks arising from the Agency's Statute.

The most discussed and debated topics were:

- SRDA's Main Tasks Plan
- Approval of the 2017 General Call (GC) as well as calls on international cooperation
- re-nomination of the members of the Councils with the mandate in termination and addition of the members
- ensure the full project funding under the 2014 GC and 2015 GC Calls
- organisational changes in the SRDA Bureau and guaranteeing its smooth running
- budgeting for the next program period
- current budget execution during the year
- Chairman's activities related to increase in the SRDA's budget

2.2 SRDA Presidium

The Agency Presidium is a top expert body of the 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 Bureau is the highest professional body of the Slovak Research and Development Agency. Fulfilling its tasks, it is governed by Act No. 172/2005

2.3 SRDA Councils

The Agency Council is an expert body of the Agency set up for a designated area to assess and approve applications for solving the Agency - funded research and development projects and to control solution of the Agency- funded projects.

The Council comprises at least seven members who are significant experts in the field of its competence. At least one foreign expert is a member of the Council. In 2017, these Councils of the Slovak Research and Development Agency worked as follows:

Council for Natural Sciences

Chairman of the Council / prof. RNDr. Peter Samuely, DrSc. *Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice*

Council for Technical Sciences

Chairman of the Council / prof. Ing. Jaroslav Kováč, CSc. *Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Bratislava*

Council for Medical Sciences

Chairperson of the Council / prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc. *Institute of Virology of SAS, Bratislava*

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chairman of the Council / prof. RNDr. Ján Kraic, PhD. *The University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Trnava*

Council for Social Sciences

Chairperson of the Council / JUDr. Mgr. Martina Lubyová, PhD. (until 12 September 2017) *Institute for Forecasting of SAS, Bratislava*

Vice-Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Tomáš Klieštik, PhD.
University of Žilina, Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications, Žilina

Council for Humanities

Chairman of the Council / PhDr. Matej Ruttkay, CSc. *Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra*

Council for International Scientific and Technical Cooperation (ISTC)

Chairman of the Council / prof. Ing. Pavol Ochotnický, PhD.
University of Economics in Bratislava, Faculty of National Economy, Bratislava

Council for the programme “Support of Building Personnel Infrastructure in All Fields of Research and Development in Slovakia for the period 2016 – 2019”

Chairman of the Council / prof. JUDr. Vojtech Tkáč, CSc. *St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Sciences, Bratislava*

Council for the programme “Support of Research and Development in Enterprises and Businesses to Foster Collaboration with Research Institutes in the period 2016-2019”

Chairman of the Council / host. Prof. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD. *Prvá zväračská, a. s., Bratislava*

Council for the programme “Assistance with Project Preparation of Research and Development of EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2020 - Horizon 2020”

Chairman of the Council / prof. Ing. Vladimír Slugeň, DrSc.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Institute of Nuclear and Physical Engineering, Bratislava

03 / THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2017

3.1 Activities in 2017

Based on the Agency's Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2017:

- open public call for supplementary financing applications for FP7 projects (SF7FP)
- general call for submitting the applications for research and development projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology – GC 2017
- international bilateral calls for support of scientific technical cooperation – SK-CN 2017, SK-FR 2017, SK- TW 2017, SK-AT 2017

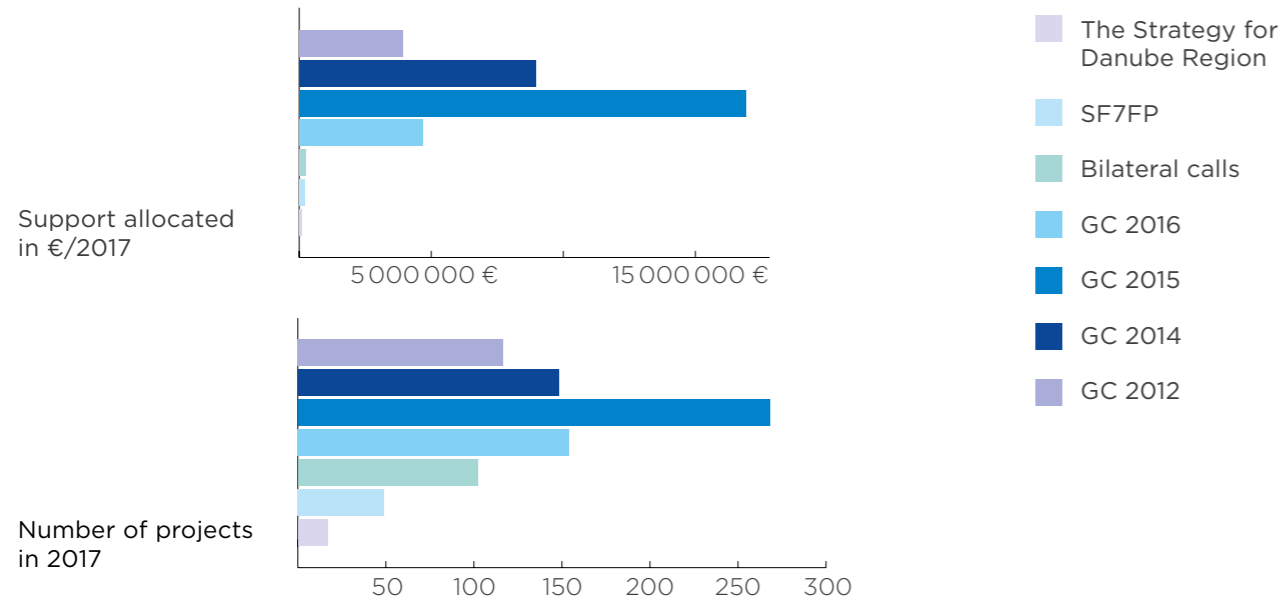
The Agency's activities during 2017 included also the following additional tasks:

- monitoring outputs of projects after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project impact on social and economic practice
- financing of the ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose financing, and therefore the solution, started already in previous years and continued in 2017
- opening the new calls and assessing the applications for financial support submitted under these calls
- financing the projects supported under the open public call for FP7 projects for supplementary financing (SF7FP)

Tab. 1 Project funds allocated in 2017

Call	Number of projects in 2017	Support allocated in €/2017
GC 2012	123	3 908 098
GC 2014	148	8 971 875
GC 2015	268	16 899 549
GC 2016	154	4 680 422
Bilateral calls	102	255 056
SF7FP	49	195 945
The Strategy for Danube Region	17	81 834
Total	861	34 992 779

Fig. 3 Amount of financial support and the total number of projects funded under the individual types of grant schemes for 2017



3. 1. 1. Launch of the General Call GC 2017



This activity of the Agency was related to the assessment of the applications submitted under the GC 2017 launched in 2017, with the funding for the selected successful projects started in 2018. Maximum duration of the projects is 48 months.

Characteristic of GC 2017

The GC 2017 did not limit the material intent of the projects anyhow. The intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project were determined by the Applicant. The applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons – entrepreneurs without any restrictions on their research and development sector.

Basic information concerning the GC 2017

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 03. 10. 2017 – 04. 12. 2017

Basic information about the applications registered

- total number of the applications received / 671
- of which basic research project applications / 381
- of which applied research project applications / 281
- of which development project applications / 9
- the amount of funds required / 151,727 €
- financial contribution of the applicants / 10,070 €
- total amount of funds / 161,797 €

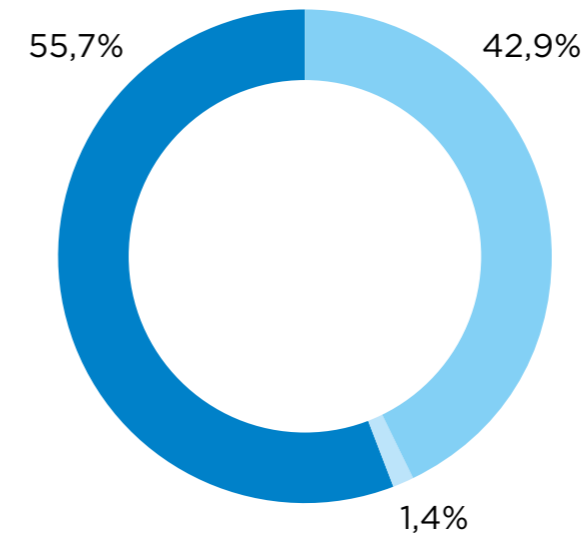


Fig. 4 Percentage of the registered applications by character of research

Basic Research	84 603 €
Applied Research	65 061 €
Development	2 063 €

Tab. 2 Number of applications registered and applicants' financial requirements by research (in ths €)

Research	Number of projects submitted	Requirements from SRDA (in ths. of €)	Average financial req. / application ^t
Basic Research	381	84 603	222,1
Applied Research	281	65 061	231,5
Development	9	2 063	229,2
Total	671	151 727	

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	125
Technical Sciences	226
Medical Sciences	65
Agricultural Sciences	79
Social Sciences	116
Humanities	60
Total	671

Tab. 3 Number of registered applications by field of science

Fig. 5 Financial requirements of the registered applications by field of science and character of the research

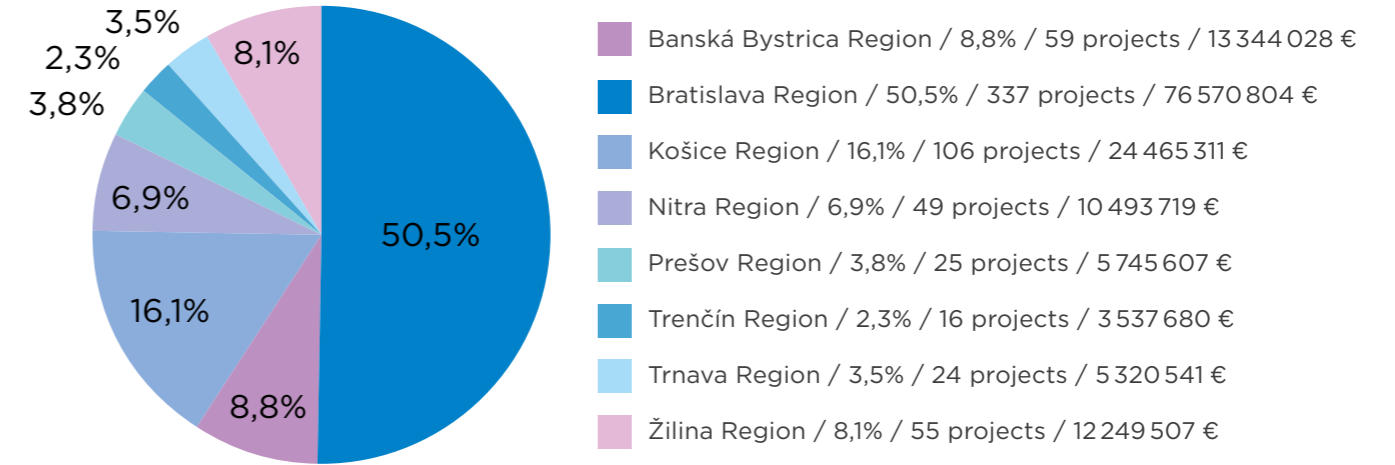
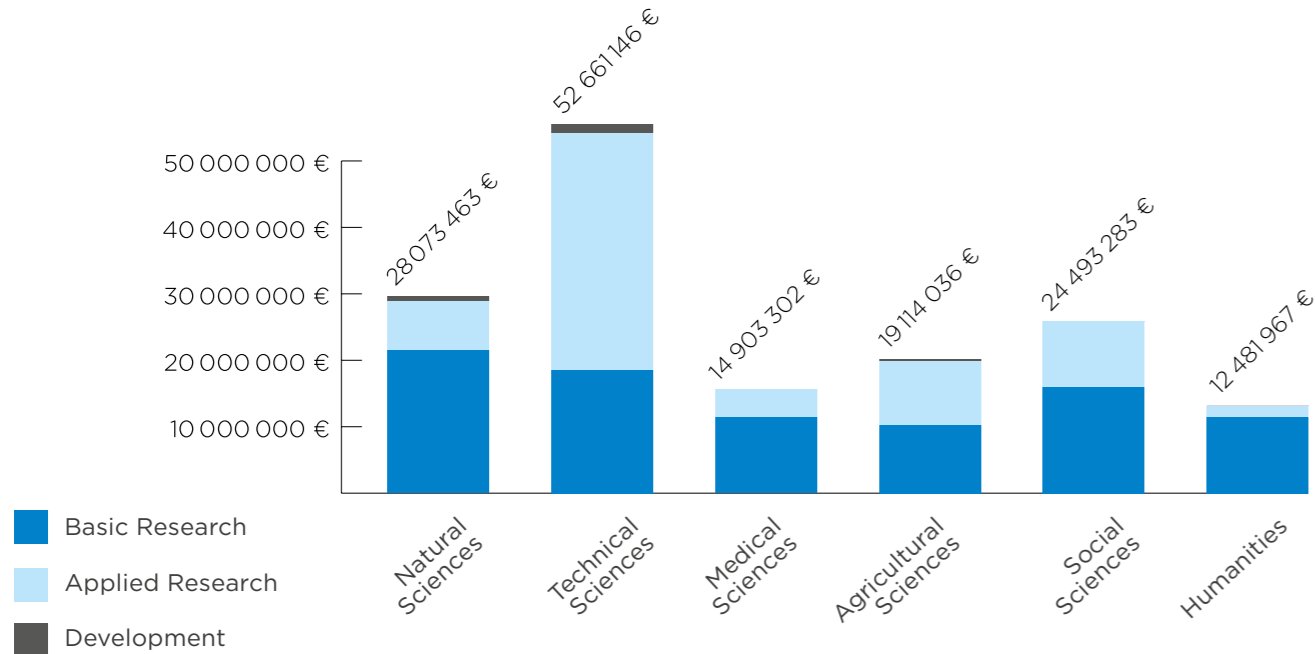


Fig. 6 Funding requirements by region

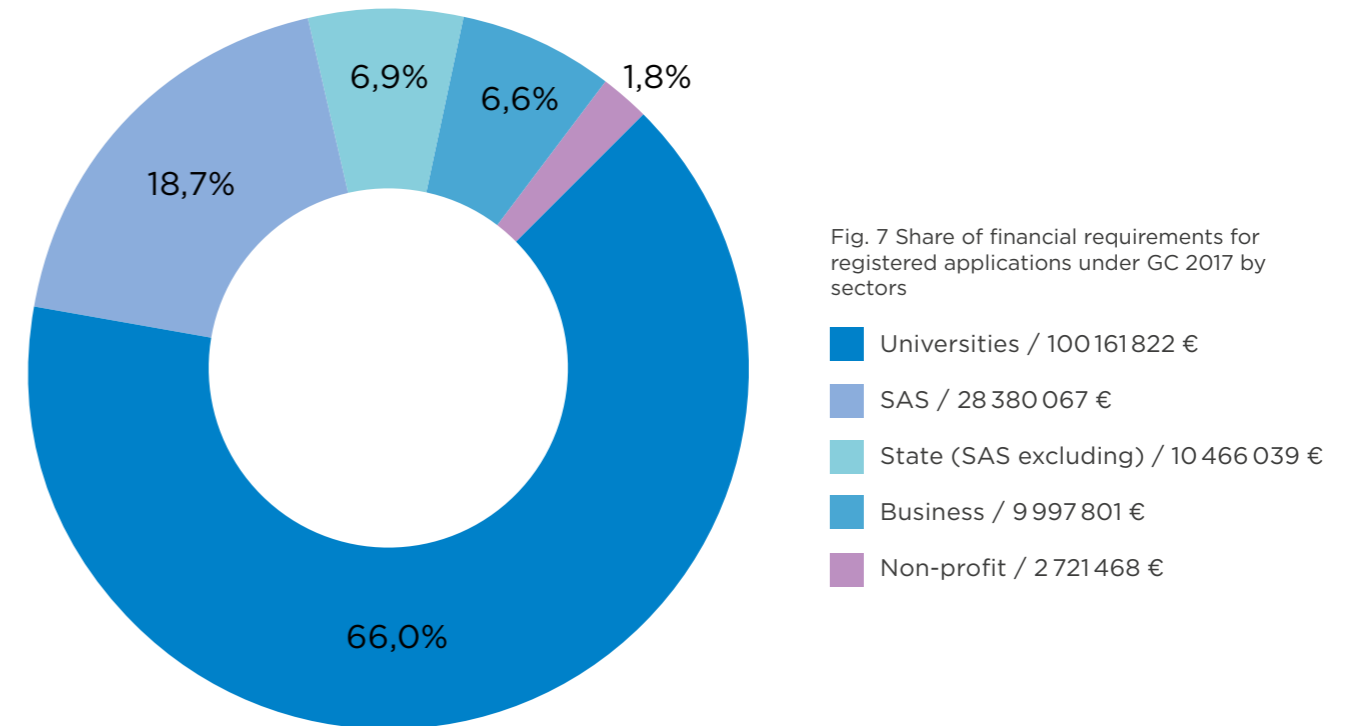


Fig. 7 Share of financial requirements for registered applications under GC 2017 by sectors

3. 1. 2. International Cooperation

New Calls for Bilateral Cooperation in 2017

In 2017, the Agency launched 4 calls for international science and technology cooperation - with the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Republic of Austria, and Taiwan. Projects under bilateral calls are the projects of international cooperation aimed at establishing the new or intensifying the existing scientific and technical cooperation, and using mainly these instruments:

- preparation of joint international projects,
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs,
- active participation on conferences,
- organisation of joint scientific events
- mutual use of instrument and laboratory techniques,
- collecting research materials,
- involvement of, Ph.D. students, and/or young R & D personnel (aged under 35).

Projects under the bilateral calls launched in 2017 will be solved for two years (2018-2019). Funding will be provided according to the approved budget of the MŠVVaŠ SR through the Agency during the

project duration. The cost in the Slovak Republic will be covered in accordance with the approved budget for bilateral international scientific and technical cooperation for the years 2018 and 2019.

3.2 General Call GC 2016



This activity of the Agency related to the assessment of the applications submitted under the GC 2016 General Call launched in 2016, while funding for the selected successful projects started in 2017 with maximum duration of the projects until 2021.

Characteristic of GC 2016

The GC 2016 did not limit the substance of the projects anyhow. The intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project are determined by the Applicant. The applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons - entrepreneurs without any restriction on their R & D sector.

Tab. 4 Number of the submitted and supported bilateral projects in 2017

Call	Number of Projects Submitted	Number of Projects Supported for Funding	The Amount Allocated to the Call in €
Slovakia - China 2017	41	13	104 000
Slovakia - Austria 2017	24	16	66 000
Slovakia - France 2017	26	15	86 000
Slovakia - Taiwan 2017	10	4	86 000
Total	101	48	342 000

Basic information concerning the GC 2016

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 12. 9. 2016 - 15. 11. 2016

Basic information about the applications registered:

- total number of the applications received / **615**
- of which basic research project applications / **379**
- of which applied research project applications / **227**
- of which development project applications / **9**
- the amount of funds requested / **137,481 €**
- financial contribution of the applicants / **8,231 €**
- total amount of funds / **145,712 €**

Basic information concerning the assessment process:

- deadline for application assessment / **May 2017**
- total number of applications / **615**
- number of applications rejected (technical and formal control) / **1**
- number of applications withdrawn by Applicant / **12**
- number of applications under professional assessment/ **614**
- number of applications with funding provided / **154**
- of which basic research projects applications / **96**
- of which applied research projects applications / **56**
- of which development project applications / **2**
- average success rate of applications submitted in % / **25.04%**
- funding approved in total / **32,972 €**
- funding provided in 2017/ **4,680 €**

Under the GC 2016, 615 applications for research and development project funding were received and registered in total. After a technical and formal control, 1 application was rejected. 614 applications were submitted to an expert assessment, based on which 154 applications were funded. The start of the project solution was 1 July 2017. The latest project completion date is 30 June 2021.

Tab. 5 Number of supported applications by research

Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	96	20 192
Applied Research	56	12 288
Development	2	492
Total	154	32 972

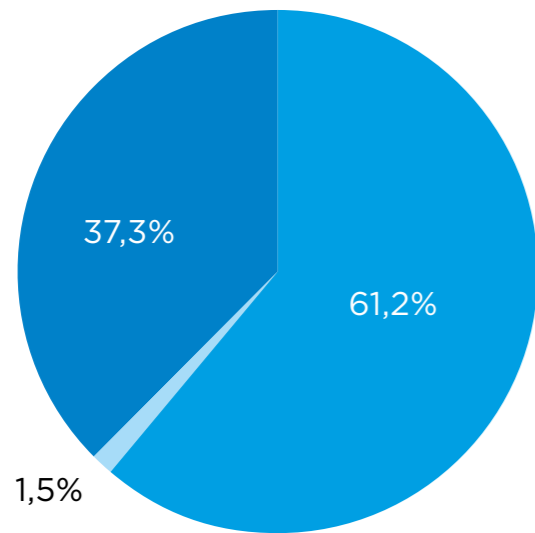


Fig. 8 Percentage of the projects supported under GC 2016 by character of research

- Basic Research
- Applied Research
- Development

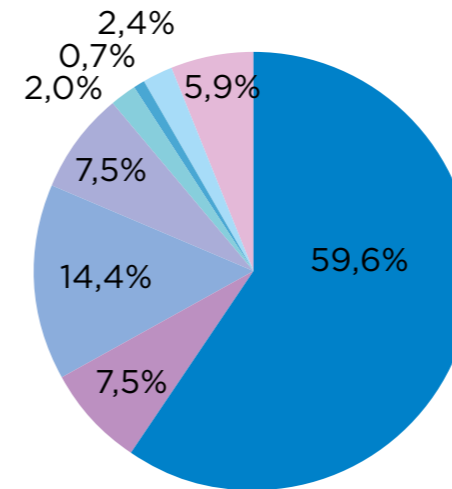


Fig. 10 Financial support for GC 2016 projects by region

- Banská Bystrica Region / 7,5% / 12 projects / 2 483 993 €
- Bratislava Region / 59,6% / 92 projects / 19 652 286 €
- Košice Region / 14,4% / 23 projects / 4 735 240 €
- Nitra Region / 7,5% / 11 projects / 2 470 301 €
- Prešov Region / 2,0% / 3 projects / 664 158 €
- Trenčín Region / 0,7% / 1 project / 250 000 €
- Trnava Region / 2,4% / 4 projects / 782 659 €
- Žilina Region / 5,9% / 8 projects / 1 933 720 €

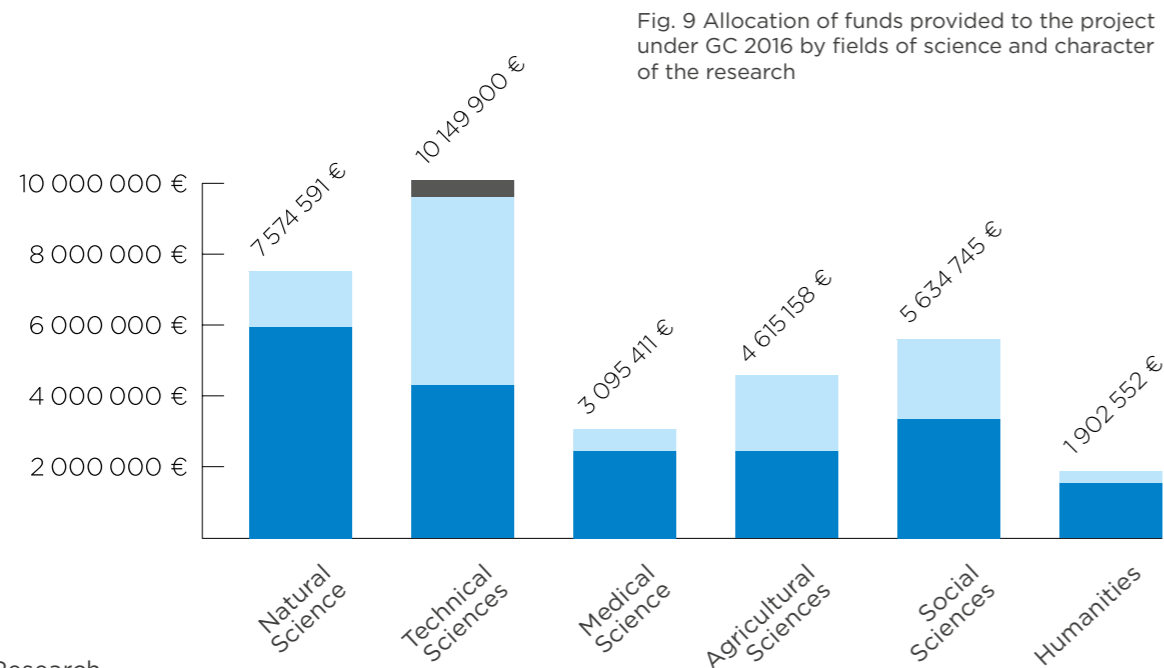


Fig. 9 Allocation of funds provided to the project under GC 2016 by fields of science and character of the research

- Basic Research
- Applied Research
- Development

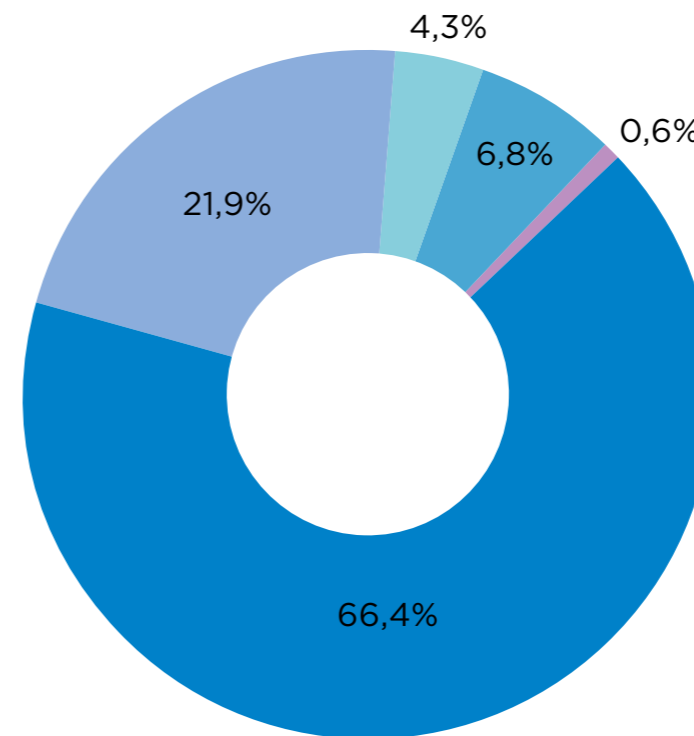


Fig. 11 Share of funds provided to the projects supported under GC 2016 by sectors

- Universities / 21 904 696 €
- SAS / 7 224 345 €
- State (SAS excluding) / 1 404 132 €
- Business / 2 247 833 €
- Non-profit / 191 351 €

Fig. 12 Success rate of submitted applications by field of science

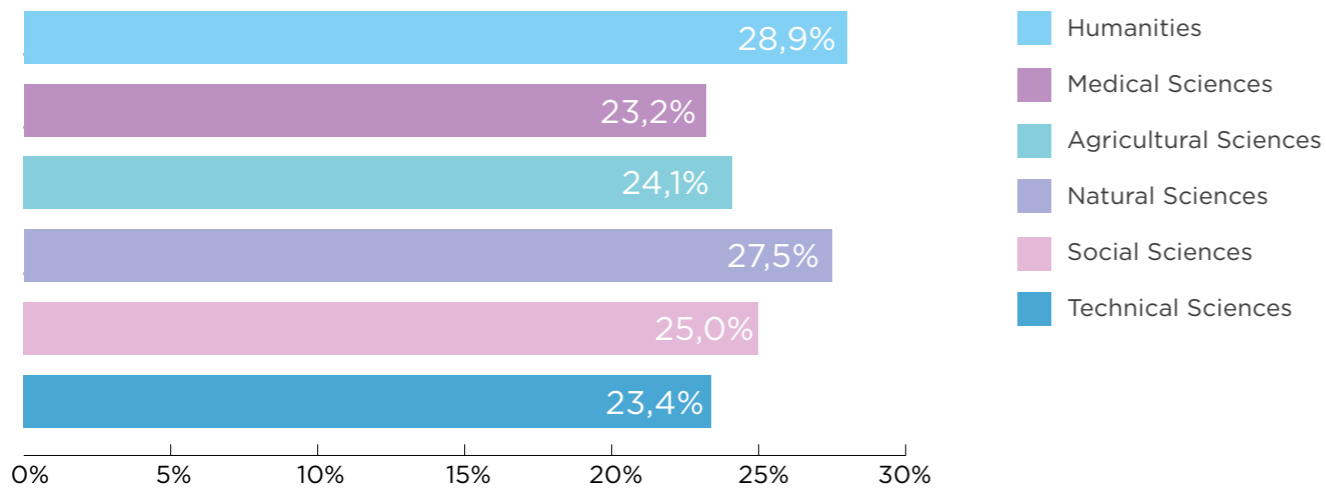


Fig. 13 Success rate of submitted applications by character of research

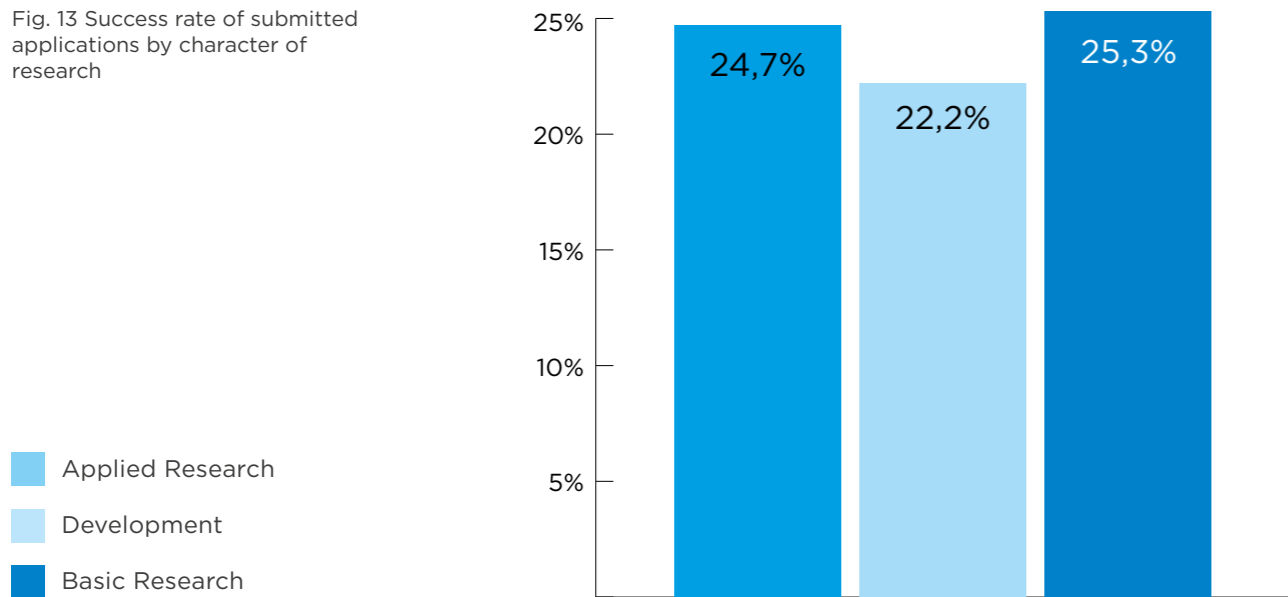
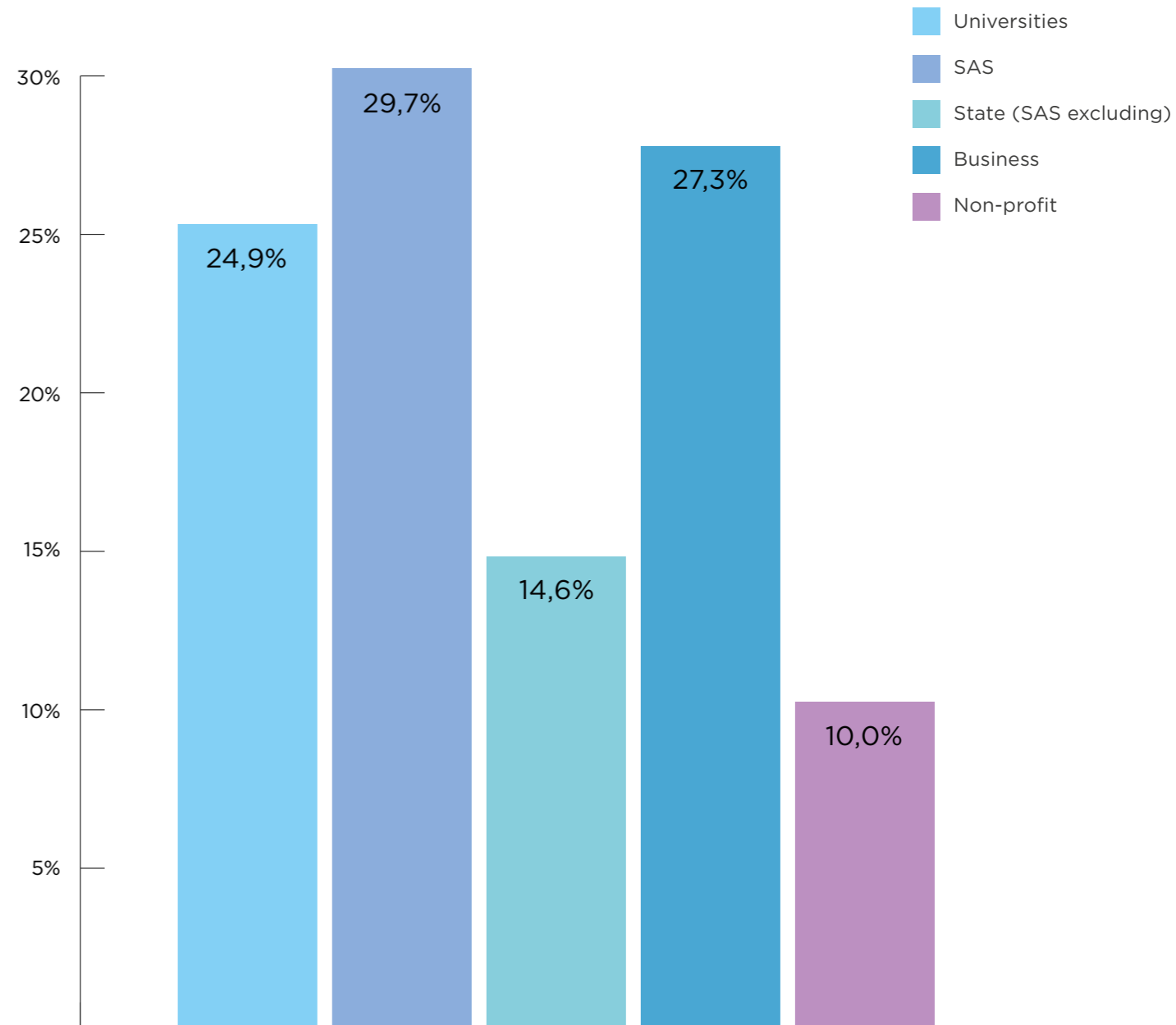


Fig. 14 Success rate of submitted applications by sector



3.3 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

A very important but also a costly task was funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. the projects whose funding and solution had started already in the previous years and continued in 2017. The funding of the ongoing projects was carried out under the conditions stated in Act No. 172/2005 Coll. The Agency may always allocate funding for the project solution divided to the current and capital expenditure to a maximum period of one financial year. The Agency provided funds for the ongoing projects under the general call in the next year on the basis of contract addenda in two deadlines. The provision of the first part of the funds is conditional upon the submission of an annual interim report prepared in accordance with the methodological guidelines for preparing the interim report. Provision of the second part of the funds is subject to the approval of the interim annual report by the Agency's expert council. The annual report comprises an expert section presenting the

professional results in accordance with the project timetable, and a financial part with a detailed overview of the drawings of the funds provided for the given financial year. Funds for the projects under bilateral grant schemes are allocated in one sum in the given financial year after the interim annual reports are assessed by the expert body. Solution of the ongoing projects was assessed by the Agency's expert bodies in their Ongoing Project Assessment Reports in which they recommended the Agency's Director to continue funding of the projects.

In March 2017, the first part of the funding dedicated for 2017 was allocated amounting to 50% of the annual project budget upon delivering the annual reports to the Agency. The second part of the funds for 2017 was provided after completing the assessment of the annual reports by the competent expert bodies of the Agency in the second and third quarters of 2017. The project funding was transferred to the recipient's account as specified in the SRDA Project Funding Agreement.

Tab. 6 In 2017, the Agency funded the ongoing projects within the general calls

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2012	123	2013
GC 2014	148	2015
GC 2015	268	2016

Tab. 7 Total support provided to the ongoing projects in 2017

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2012	123	3 908 098	0	3 908 098
GC 2014	148	8 971 875	0	8 971 875
GC 2015	268	16 899 549	0	16 899 549
Total	539	29 779 522	0	29 779 522

Information on Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects

In 2017, the Agency started funding of bilateral and multilateral projects submitted in 2016. The projects were submitted within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Serbia and within the Danube region, involving the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Serbia. The total amount of funds provided for 17 projects under SK - SRB 2016 Call in 2017 amounted to 38,831 €, and for 17 projects under DS-2016 Call amounted to 81,834 €.

Assessed in 2013 and Funding Continuing in 2017

A public call for applications for joint research and development projects promoting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria was launched and assessed by the Agency in 2013, but due to the lack of confirmation on the funding ensured for cooperation by the partner party, the funding of 13 bilateral projects started only

in 2016 and continued in 2017. Total amount of the funds provided for SK - BG 2013 Call in 2017 amounted to 33,687 €.

Assessed in 2015 and Funding Continuing in 2017

In 2017, the Agency continued to fund bilateral projects submitted within the calls for international scientific and technical cooperation launched in 2015 with the Republic of Austria, the Portuguese Republic, the French Republic, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Poland.

Tab. 8 The SRDA - provided funding to bilateral projects assessed in 2015 and their funding continued in 2017

Bilateral Scientific and Technical Cooperation Call	Number of Projects	Funding in € (Current Exp.)
Slovakia - Austria 2015	16	31 463
Slovakia - Portugal 2015	12	31 634
Slovakia - France 2015	15	36 389
Slovakia - China 2015	13	51 800
Slovakia - Poland 2015	16	31 252
Total	72	182 538

3.4 Supplementary funding of the Seventh Framework programme (SF7FP)



Open Call for supplementary funding for FP7 project proposals of the European Community (EC) for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities, including the Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) Program - SF7FP.

The main objective of this Call is to support the active participation of Slovak top researchers and R & D teams in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities by supplementary funding of the costs on implementing the FP7 research projects supported by the European Commission. The eligible applicants are public universities and state universities, organisations of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, research and development organisations established by the central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak republic, and non-profit organisations of research and development.

Updated call policy and contractual terms allow the Agency to provide funds for project supplementary financing for successful R & D researchers within FP7 amounting to 25% of the total eligible costs provided based on decision of the European Commission, including the final contribution paid after completing the FP7 project.

Under the SF7FP Call, in 2017 the Agency supported 17 projects in total, amounting to € 195,945.

Tab. 9 The SRDA funded projects under SF7FP in 2017 by sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State-Funded Organisations	9	55 038
Universities	7	124 977
Other	1	15 930
Total	17	195 945

3.5 Projects Completed and Assessed in 2017

In 2017, the Agency carried out a final assessment of 38 projects whose duration ended by 31 December 2016. These were provided a specific grant funding by the SRDA, and their investigators submitted their final reports by 31 January 2017. The Agency's Council for Scientific and Technical Cooperation assessed the project outcomes according to the pre-defined criteria and closed the projects.

Projects of Bilateral Cooperation

The Agency's Council for Scientific and Technical Cooperation assessed 13 projects of the bilateral call SK - HU 2013, of which 6 were ranked at an excellent level and 7 projects reached a good level, and 15 projects of the SK - SRB 2013 Bilateral Call, 3 of which reached an excellent level and 12 projects reached a good level, and 6 projects of the SK - UA 2013 Bilateral Call, of which 4 ended at an excellent level, and 2 projects reached a good level.

SF7FP Projects

On 7 March 2017, the Agency's Council for Scientific and Technical Cooperation assessed 4 projects of which all 4 achieved an excellent level.



3.6 Post – Completion Project Monitoring

Based on the contract, project investigator of project under General Call, SF7FP and selected programs, is required to inform the Agency on the social and economic benefits of the project outcomes in his monitoring report after completion of the project, and over the next three years. The report is submitted by filling out the “Outputs and Benefits of the Project” form.

Main categories of project benefits and outputs are as follows:

- Category 1**
Publications and quotations
- Category 2**
Patents, inventions and utility models
- Category 3**
Applied outcomes with defined economic indicators
- Category 4**
Outputs to Education and Popularization of Science
- Category 5**
Other outcomes
- Category 6**
Added value of research and development project

Tab. 10 In 2017, the Agency ensured monitoring of outputs of the completed projects. Most projects were monitored under GC 2010 and GC 2011

Call	Funding of the Call Finished in (year)	Number of Projects Monitored
GC 2010	2014	174
GC 2011	2015	166
SUSPP 2009	2013	5
EuroCORES 2010	2014	1
SF7FP	Open call	54

Tab. 11 Outputs of the projects after closing their funding as reported by the investigators for 2016, as of 31 March 2017

Call	Number of Projects with International CC Publications	Number of New SCI Citations	Number of Projects with Application Output	Number of Application Outputs
GC 2010	74	3 104	31	64
GC 2011	110	2 426	30	65
SUSPP 2009	1	19	2	7
EuroCORES 2010	0	2	0	0
SF7FP	26	315	7	11
Total	211	5 866	70	147

04 / STATE AID AND DE MINIMIS AID

Providing financial support from public sources to the entities that carry out an economic activity, irrespective of their legal status and the way of its financing, is considered as State aid. These entities are allowed then to promote the most efficient process of research exploitation, interlinking research with market, and the resulting economic and social development of the country.

It contributes to increasing the competitiveness of enterprises, increasing their production and quality of their products and services, creating new jobs, etc. In 2017, the Agency provided State aid to research and development projects under the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) No 702/2007 and based on the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) SA.42450. In order to solve the mobility project, the state aid was provided in the form of Ad hoc de Minimis Aid.



On 16 June 2008, the European Commission approved the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) N 702/2007, which was valid until 31 December 2013. This Scheme applied to all types of enterprises. Supplement No. 1 to Scheme N 702/2007 of 20 January 2014 enabled the Agency to request an extension of the Scheme validity. The Scheme entered into force and effectiveness as of the day of its publication on the Provider's Web Site with validity until 30 June 2014. On 03.07.2015, the European Commission registered the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Agency for the Support of Research and Development (State Aid Scheme) under SA.42450. On 25 September 2017, the European Commission registered, under the current legislation, updated Research and Development Support Scheme by the Agency for the Support of Research and Development (State Aid Scheme), as amended by Addendum 1 (State Aid Scheme SA.49175). The Scheme expires on December 31, 2020.

4.1 Evaluation of the SRDA- Provided State Aid

In 2017, 29 entities were provided an aid under the State Aid Scheme and Ad hoc de Minimis Aid. The total amount of the aid provided amounted to € 2,800,285 within 43 projects supported, while 42 projects (97.67%) amounting to € 2,798,285 were the State aid- supported, and 1 project (2.33%) comprised the Ad hoc de Minimis Aid amounting to 2,000 €. Of 29 entities, 37.93% represented a small enterprise (11 entities), 41.38% a medium-sized enterprise (12 entities) and 20.69% a large enterprise (6 entities). The regional distribution of total state aid, including the Ad hoc de Minimis Aid at regional level, was as follows:

Tab. 12 Regional distribution of total state aid provided

Region	Amount in €
Bratislava Region	1 647 265
Trenčín Region	399 968
Žilina Region	299 483
Nitra Region	183 730
Košice Region	142 132
Trnava Region	87 721
Prešov Region	39 986
Total	2 800 285

Within the regions, the aid was provided to 14 entities in the Bratislava Region (26 projects), 2 entities in the Košice Region (2 projects), 3 entities in the Nitra region (3 projects), 1 in the Prešov Region (1 project), 4 entities in Trenčín (5 projects), 1 entity in the Trnava region (1 project) and 4 entities in the Žilina region (5 projects).

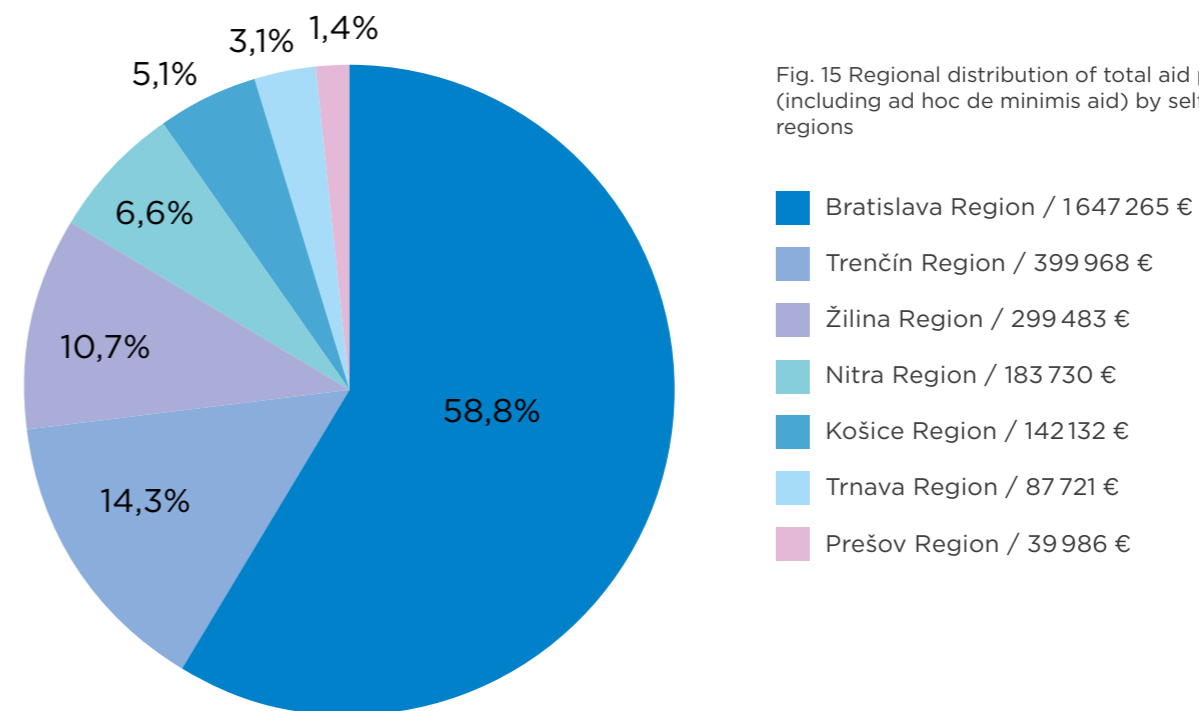


Fig. 15 Regional distribution of total aid provided (including ad hoc de minimis aid) by self-governing regions

4.2 Another Actions in the SRDA - Provided State Aid

In the next period, the Agency will continue providing the State aid under the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme), as amended by Addendum 1 (State Aid Scheme SA.49175), wording of which is valid until 31 December 2020. Any aid provided to bilateral cooperation projects not covered by the approved State Aid Scheme will be governed by the Ad hoc de Minimis Aid rules.

05 / SRDA BUDGET

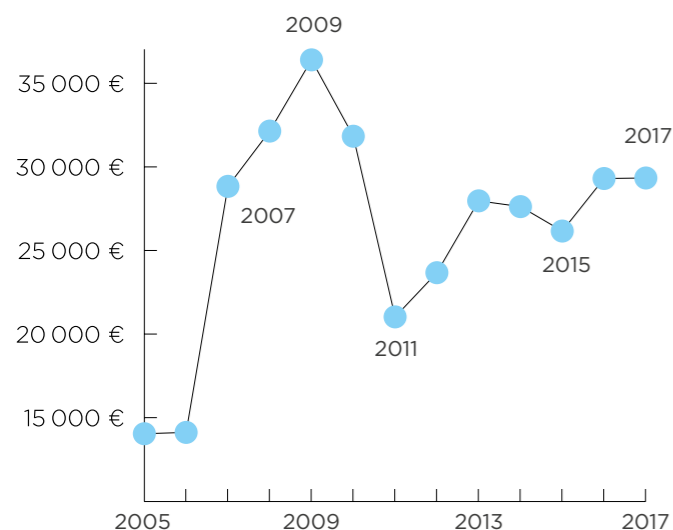


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's budget for the period 2005 - 2017 in ths. €

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to € 29,336,568 was approved for 2017 to finance the Agency's operation and for the project funding, i.e. to support research and development, and in the form of a binding indicators breakdown by the MŠVVaŠ SR. Under the 06K11 subprogram, a budget of € 1,372,837 was approved to 1 January 2017 for the Agency's operation and € 27,963,731 for project funding (to support research and development), the breakdown is shown in Tab. 13. During 2017, the MŠVVaŠ SR additionally adjusted the Agency budget by the Seven budgetary measures. Their purpose was to ensure the funding of research and development projects as well as the operation of the Agency in the scope of the performed activities, in order to valorise wages and salaries, to increase the current project expenditure, to reclassify current wage costs, and to reimburse current expenditures at the MŠVVŠ SR.

Tab. 13 Budgetary appropriations and their utilisation in 2017 in €

06 K 11 Program	Budget Originally Approved	Budget as of 31 December 2017	Drawdown as of 31 December 2017
Operation of the Agency	1 372 837	1 403 609	1 403 609
Current	1 372 837	1 403 609	1 403 609
Capital	0	0	0
Support for Research and Development	27 963 731	35 154 128	35 069 981
Current	27 963 731	35 154 128	35 069 981
Capital	0	0	0
SRDA Budget in Total	29 336 568	36 557 737	36 473 590

Tab. 14 Overview of the projects supported by individual calls / programs, and amount of financial support provided in 2017 in €

Name of Call / Program	Current Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Total
General Call - GC 2012	3 908 098	0	3 908 098
General Call - GC 2014	8 971 875	0	8 971 875
General Call - GC 2015	16 899 549	0	16 899 549
General Call - GC 2016	4 680 422	0	4 680 422
Bilateral Projects	255 056	0	255 056
The Strategy for Danube Region	81 834	0	81 834
Supplementary Funding of Projects Supported	195 945	0	195 945
SRDA budget in total	34 992 779	0	34 992 779

Tab. 15 Grants for projects supported in 2017 by sector in €

Type of Organisation	Total Cost
State Organisations and SAS	12 341 397
Public Universities	19 178 874
Non-profit organisations	672 223
Business entities	2 800 285
Total	34 992 779

Tab. 13 also shows the Agency's total adjusted budget for operation and research and development support as well as the budget drawdown as of 31 December 2017.

As resulting from the overview of structure of research and development funding recipients, the most grants were provided to public universities (and university colleges), followed by the SAS and state organisations.

06 / HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1 SRDA Bureau

The average registered number of the SRDA employees (SRDA Bureau) as of December 31, 2017 was 38, the physical status of the SRDA employees as at 31 December 2017 was 25.

It is necessary to point out that the Agency is not comprised only by staff members, but also by 148 top representatives of science and technology of the Slovak Republic who represent the professional bodies of the SRDA. As of January 1, 2017, the Agency had 48 employees, and by December 31, 2017, the Agency had 25 employees. The Agency showed a deficit in wages at early 2017, so it had to reduce the number of employees. In the months of May - June 2017, the SRDA conducted personal audit to increase work efficiency and savings in financial envelope. As of 1 July 2017 and 1 September 2017, organisational changes were made to the Agency resulting to changes in the organisational structure and optimisation of the workload of the staff so as to ensure the SRDA tasks. Number of the SRDA employees by individual organisational units within the organisational structure as of 1 January 2017 is shown in Tab. 16 and in Tab. 17 as of 31 December 2017. The qualification structure of employees as of 31 December 2017 is shown in Tab. 18.

Tab. 16 Number of the SRDA employees by organisational structure as of 1 January 2017

Organisational units	Number of employees
Director's office	4
Grant Department	30
Department of Economics and Internal Operation	12
Department of Human Resources	2
Total	48

Tab. 17 Number of the SRDA employees by organisational structure as of 31 December 2017

Organisational Units	Number of Employees
Director's office	6
Department of Projects, Economics and Internal Operation	18
Department of Human Resources	1
Total	25

Tab. 18 Qualification structure of the SRDA employees in 2017 - as of 31 December 2017

Level of Education	Number of Employees
Secondary Education	5
Higher Education 1 st Level	0
Higher Education 2 nd Level	16
Higher Education 3 rd Level	4

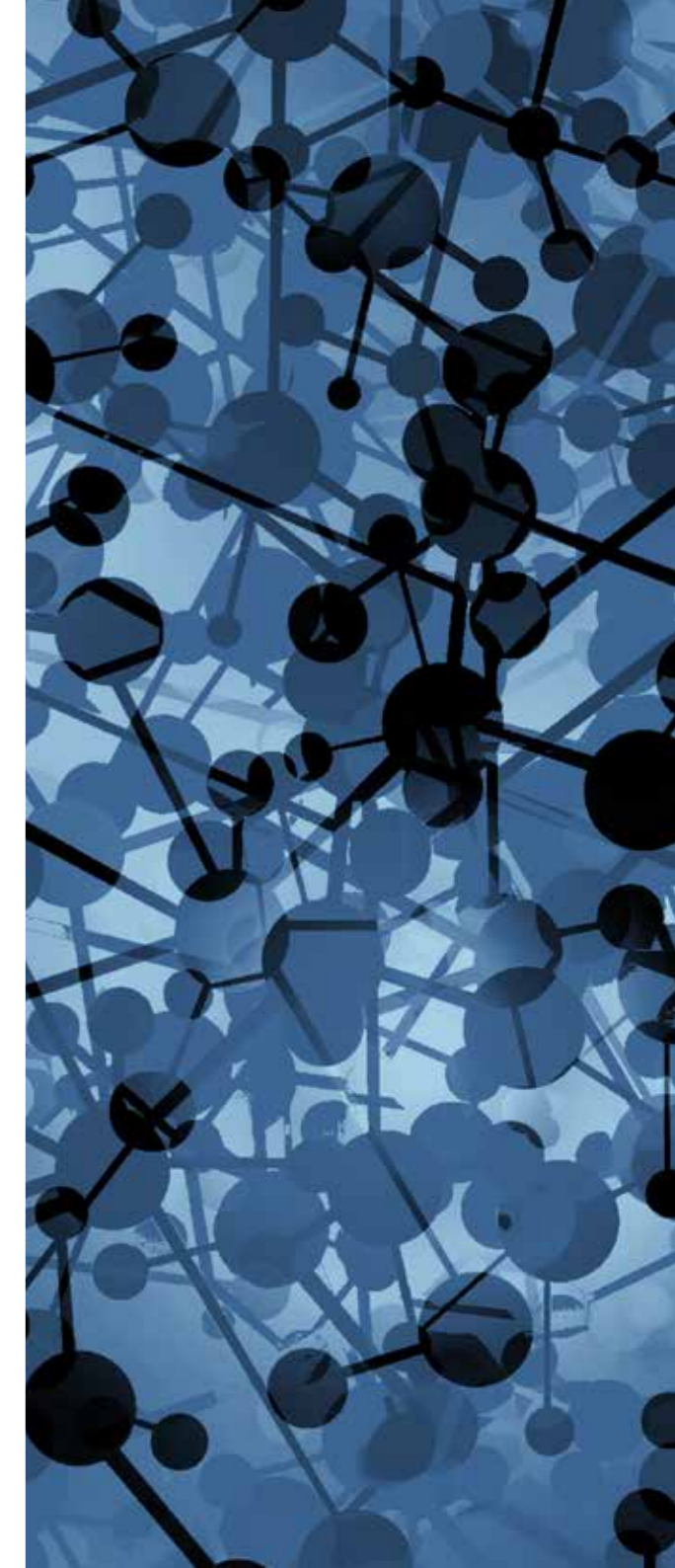
6.2 SRDA Social Policy

SRDA has concluded employers' contracts with three supplementary pension companies, DDS ING Tatra Sympatia, DDS AXA, and DDS Tatra banka. As of 31 December 2017, 18 employees were involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme. In 2017, employer's contribution to the supplementary pension saving scheme for an employee amounted to 4% of gross wage.

In 2017, employees received a meal allowance amounting to € 2.46 and a social fund contribution of € 0.58. Catering to employees was provided in the form of meal vouchers.

6.3 Education and Trainings of the Employees

The Agency enabled its employees, in order to increase and deepen their professional qualifications, to attend trainings, courses, and professional seminars organised by vocational training institutions. The Agency's staff training was carried out to the extent corresponding to the Agency's financial situation. In 2017, employees attended professional seminars on amendments to laws, for example in the areas of the budget rules in the public sector, electronic mailbox, personal data protection, financial control, settlement of fuel bills, asset management, accounting and reporting in public administration, wage accounting, labour law and changes in social and health insurance, and others. Vocational training in OSH, fire protection and mandatory retraining of Agency's drivers was provided by the Agency on an external basis. The courses and professional seminars were focused mainly on legislative changes of generally binding legal norms and regulations governing the respective fields of the SRDA activities.



07 / CONTROL ACTIVITIES

7.1 External Control Activities

The SRDA employees performed financial on-site controls in 2017 in accordance with Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts.

The purpose of the on-site financial controls was to verify compliance with the principle of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and expediency in managing the public finances and adherence to the conditions for their use during the project solving. Under the 2017 Control Plan - On-Site Financial Controls, 10 financial controls were planned and subsequently carried out in 2017. Their overview is shown in Tab. 19.

Overview of On-Site Financial Controls in 2017

Number of Controls Planned	10
Number of Controls Carried Out	10
Number of Controls Completed to 31. 12.	10
Shortcomings Found/ Number of Controls	8

In 2017, on-site financial controls included correctness of spending in the total amount of € 1,507,270.00. Within the on-site financial controls, violation of financial discipline was found amounting to € 10,615.88. Altogether, 25 measures were taken to address the identified shortcomings and the causes of their occurrence.

Tab. 19 On-site financial controls carried out by SRDA in 2017

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € Controls carried out by SRDA
The Institute of Neurobiology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (project APVV047211)	160 000
The Institute of Experimental Physics SAS (project APVV052611)	157 283
Technical University in Zvolen (project SK UA20130023)	5 640
Institute of Forest Ecology SAS (project APVV029712)	199 203
National Forest Centre – Forest Research Institute (project APVV005711)	249 880
National Agricultural and Cen-tre Food (project APVV004412)	204 372
Slovak University of Agricul-ture in Nitra (project APVV030412)	203 124
Polymer Institute SAS (project APVV140566)	94 643
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (pro-ject APVV140244)	93 000
Plant Science and Biodiversity Center of SAS – The Institute of Botany (project APVV013912)	140 125

Violations of financial discipline were due to the reason of:

1. unauthorised use of public funds used in contradiction to the valid legislation, rules and conditions based on which the public funds were provided
2. use of public funds beyond the scope of the authorisation, resulting in an over-use of the public funds,
3. claiming higher costs / expenditures comparing to actual expenditures / costs
4. claiming the expenditures / costs outside the settlement period

7.2 Internal Control Activities

In 2017, the SRDA Office of the Director carried out twelve internal controls focusing on:

1. compliance with the directive “Principles Governing the Management of Funds Specified for Representation Purposes”
2. compliance with directive “Key Code of SRDA”
3. control according to the requirements of the Director “Provision of Legal Services in SRDA 2015 – 2016”
4. compliance with the directive “Personal Data Protection”
5. control according to the requirements of the Director – SRDA Internal Personnel Audit
6. compliance with the SRDA directive “Use of Mobile Phones and Mobile Internet in SRDA”
7. compliance with the directive “Staff Regulations of the Slovak Research and Development Agency”
8. compliance with the directive “Creating, Commenting, Concluding and Registering the Operating Contracts and Addenda”
9. compliance with the directive “Signature Order of the Slovak Research and Development Agency”

10. control according to Director's requirements "Control of the SRDA's Procedures for Processing Appeals Against Decision on Refusing Granting the Funds in 2014 - 2016"
11. compliance with the directive "Control of the Use of Project Funds"
12. compliance with the directive "Accounting Documents Handling in SRDA"

Based on the control findings, the measures were taken to remedy the shortcomings identified.

7.3 Controls Carried Out by External Control Authorities

In 2017, no controls by the external control authorities were carried out in SRDA.

7.4 Complaint Handling

In 2017, the Control Department did not register any filing identified as a complaint.



08 / SRDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On October 3, 2017, the Slovak Research and Development Agency organised an annual conference in Bratislava under auspices of Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak republic, where she presented the results of her activities for the past year.

Pavol Balžanka, director of the Agency, reported the SRDA activities for the previous year 2016. The Chairman of the Agency, Jozef Masarik in his contribution evaluated the General Call launched in 2016. Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, solemnly opened the new General Call GC 2017.



09 / GOALS AND OVERVIEW OF THEIR FULFILMENT

Post-Completion Project Monitoring

For the projects duration of which had expired, monitoring of outputs on social and economic benefits (impacts) of the project outcomes was carried out over the next three years after their completion. All the activities related to the process of administering and evaluating the project outputs were carried out within: the General Calls launched in 2010 and 2011, the SUSPP 2009, EuroCORES 2010, and SF7FP Calls.

Annual and Final Assessment of Projects and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2017, the following calls were assessed and funded: The General Calls GC 2012, GC 2014, GC 2015, bilateral cooperation projects and SF7FP. During the interim assessment, the expert bodies assessed the fulfilment of partial project objectives and the compliance with the given timetable as well as the planned project outputs for the given period. In addition to this, the final assessment considered the overall level of project solution. The final project cards of all the completed projects are published on the SRDA website showing the most significant project findings and outputs.

Funding of New Projects

In 2017, these calls for proposals launched in 2016 were funded: the General Call GC 2016 and bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects with Serbia and the Danube region (Austria, Czech Republic and Serbia).

New Calls Launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

The Agency launched the GC 2017 General Call in 2017. Expected deadline for publishing the results will be in June 2018.

In 2017, the Agency launched a call for international science and technology cooperation with Austria, Taiwan, France and China.

Support for Slovak entities to Participate in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union

The SRDA continued to support the participation of the Slovak Republic in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union through the Open Call for proposals for financing successful projects under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities. The aim of this Call is to support the active participation of the Slovak top researchers and R & D teams in FP7. Supplementary financing is aimed at supporting the participation of the Slovak entities in two types of projects: "Collaborative Projects" and "Networks of Excellence" projects.

Specific tasks of the Agency to ensure the functioning of the Agency

- 2017 Annual SRDA Main Tasks Plan
- 2016 Annual SRDA Activity Report
- 2016 Annual SRDA Management
- 2016 State Aid Report
- 2016 Annual SRDA Accounts



10 / EVALUATION OF THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2017

In 2017, the Agency's activities were based on the objectives of the O6K National Science and Technology Development Program, O6K11 Research and Development Tasks sub-program supported by the Slovak research and Development Agency in order to meet the core objectives defined by the sub-program and to achieve measurable indicators. The intent of the sub-program is to build an effective research and development support system by providing funding for projects solving and increasing the competitiveness of Slovak entities in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation.

Preparing the concept and defining the main activities and tasks of the Agency reflected the tasks resulting from the Decree of the Government of the Slovak republic and from the intents and objectives of the National Science and Technology Policy. The Agency fulfilled its mission under Act No. 172/2005 Coll. § 12 to support for projects within grant schemes of general calls and international cooperation calls (bilateral, multilateral, and SF7FP projects).

The following public calls were opened, and/or launched in 2017:

- Open call for submitting proposals to supplementary financing projects under FP7 (SF7FP 2012)
- General call for applications for research and development projects in individual groups of science and technology - GC 2017
- Calls for support for bilateral cooperation on the basis of intergovernmental agreements with the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Republic of Austria and Taiwan with funding started in 2018

▼

The Agency's activities involved fulfilment of these basic tasks:

- monitoring of the project outputs after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project impacts on social and economic practice
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. the projects with funding and solution started already in the previous years and continued in 2017
- launching the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support under these calls
- funding of the projects with solution started in 2017

Following the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak republic saying that “the Government will make efforts to strengthen the research and development state-budget funding“, and based on the negotiations and approval by Martina Lubyová, the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak republic, there was an increase in the SRDA funds in 2017. This enabled the continuous competitive funding for science and research through the GC 2017 General Call grant scheme, and ensured full financing of the ongoing projects under GC 2014, GC 2015 and GC 2016 General Calls.

The Agency took a number of measures in project financing and management with a view to:

- increase the objectivity and transparency of the assessment process
- ensure an effective research and development support system by providing funding for projects, and increasing the success of Slovak entities in the international scientific and technical cooperation
- improve the services provided by the Agency to the recipients, as well as to the individual investigators of the SRDA projects

The Agency is publicly presented and in communication primarily through its new website www.apvv.sk, with English version updated last year.

Last year, the Agency again published a publication untitled Excellence in science 2017 in both Slovak and English languages. This publication presents the projects of all science and technology disciplines completed at an excellent level under the Agency's evaluation process in 2016. These projects were selected by the Agency's Councils from a number of successful projects funded by the SRDA as part of a General Call launched in 2011.

It can be concluded that the Slovak Research and Development Agency fulfilled its fundamental role in 2017, that was to ensure the fulfilment of the main tasks stipulated by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, as set out in the 2017 SRDA's Main Tasks Plan.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

06K11	of the National Program for the Development of Science and Technology Subprogram – Research and development tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency	SK SRB SK TW SK UA SK CN SUSPP	Bilateral call Slovakia – Serbia Bilateral call Slovakia – Taiwan Bilateral call Slovakia – Ukraine Bilateral call Slovakia – China Support to cooperation of universities and SAS with the business environment
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme	GC	General Call
SRDA	Slovak Research and Development Agency		
BOZP	Occupational safety and health		
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals		
SF7FP	Open public call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects		
DS 2016	The Strategy for Danube Region 2016		
EC	European Community		
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVVaŠ SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic		
ISTC	International Scientific and Technical Cooperation		
RIS 3	Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic		
SAS	Slovak Academy of Sciences		
SCI citation	citations in foreign publications registered in citation indexes		
SK AT	Bilateral call Slovakia – Austria		
SK BG	Bilateral call Slovakia – Bulgaria		
SK FR	Bilateral call Slovakia – France		
SK HU	Bilateral call Slovakia – Hungary		

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