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Slovak Research and Development Agency Annual Report 2018

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Development Agency
Annual Report 2018

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SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



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

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Slovak Research and Development Agency Annual Report 2018



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

The Chairman's Preface

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.

In the spirit of these intentions, 2018 can also be characterized as one of the more successful in the Agency's operation. Unlike in previous years, the Agency did not struggle with a lack of funding to cover the costs of general calls. Some problems with project assessment had occurred, which, however, did not delay the provision of funding, with the exception of SAS institutes, but it was not caused by the SRDA, but due to the problems related to the transformation of the SAS into a public research institution. Although the content of the SRDA programs had already been approved in February 2016, it was not funded even last year. The SRDA made a call to support the participation of Slovak researchers in the Horizon 2020 programs with total funds of € 400,000 from her own resources in cooperation with the Science and Technology Section of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR.

When approving the state budget for 2019, the Agency was allocated funds that are sufficient for the Agency to finance the planned, whether those contracted, but also this year evaluated general calls and calls of bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

Despite the positive words about the increase in the funding of the Agency, it must be clearly stated that the funding for her operation, but especially for supporting the research and, development, is close to the threshold of a meaningful minimum. In order to comply with wording of the law, but especially to improve R&D support in Slovakia, the Agency's Presidency has made efforts to raise funds to launch the Agency's programs, which, in addition to the general calls, are the second major pillar of her activities.

The programs were approved by early 2016, but so far there are no funds to cover them. The Agency has also made efforts to reflect the strategic intentions of RIS3 in her 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 drawdown of the Structural Funds and the vision for research, development and innovation formulated in the RIS3 Strategy. The newly forming national sciences policy, which is clearly absent in Slovakia and thus leaving a negative impact on our Agency will also influence position of the Agency. Critical, however, will not be visions, but their application in practice, because only a real and long-term change can reverse the unflattering position of Slovak science in the European and international context.

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 her extended capacity to support projects from domestic sources by increasing the budget for the general calls and specific programs of the Agency. Particularly important is the promotion of international scientific and technical cooperation and the use of European Union cohesion instruments for the development of science and technology.

We are approaching the end of the Horizon 2020 programming period and the launch of Horizon Europe, and we need to be prepared. In this respect, the Agency could play a positive role in supporting the participation of Slovak researchers in emerging consortia. In this area, we still see a lot of room for coordinating the procedures with the Research and Technology Agency. Promoting excellent research and development must be a fundamental requirement for all Agency support schemes. One of the main tasks to achieve this goal is to improve the assessment of applications submitted, especially at the level of reviewers, as well as to monitor project solutions, outputs and impacts. In spite of the aforementioned lack of funding and the ongoing efforts to improve the Agency's activities, The Agency has the only comprehensive and objective system for evaluating and monitoring the research and development projects in the Slovak Republic. In order to further improvement of the Agency's work in this area, in 2017 a new system of assigning the reviewers to projects of 2017 General Call and bilateral calls was started, which proved much more effective in 2018 and even in 2019. Given the processes in the European Research Area, it is necessary to put the Agency at a qualitatively higher level and open the door for the Agency to gradually develop from a „Small Player“ position into a pillar of Slovak science, which could be an equal partner for partner agencies in EU and the world.

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10	EVALUATION OF THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2018



01 / ON THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “Agency “ or “SRDA”) 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	+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 Support for Research and Development and Amendment to Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on Organization of the Activities of the Government and of the Organization of the Central State Administration 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 research and development sector, business and non-profit research and development sector, and natural persons of research and development in terms of the Trade Licensing 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 disciplines (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 intent of National Science and Technology Policy – 172/2005 Coll. § 12 Article 2 b)

- Support based on the open general 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 the 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 Organisation of State Aid 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 2018 binding indicators for the Slovak Research and Development Agency were defined under the O6K 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 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 applied 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 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 promotion of research and development results within the Slovak Republic,

and to popularise the importance of research and development for the needs of the society;

- to cooperate with the MŠVVaŠ SR on the preparing and implementing the National Science and Technology Policy.

Strong support for research and innovation essentially requires the Agency to continue her 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 support for mutual 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 of practice is comprised by the Agency’s programs aimed at building-up and stabilizing human resources in all the research and development sectors, at 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 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 evaluation and funding of the projects in order to increase the objectivity and transparency of the evaluation process.



02 / BODIES OF THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2018

Director

Mgr. Pavol Balžanka

Authorised Representative

JUDr. Ing. Anna Ďurfiná, PhD. et PhD.

Management Members

Ing. Jozef Kadnár, PhD. – Head of Department of Projects

Ing. Viera Dojčárová – Head of the Department of Economics and Internal Operations

Ing. Emília Kubicová – Head of Department of Human Resources

Ing. Želmíra Čapová – Head of Control Department

Ing. Alena Bokrošová – Head of The Director's office

Fig. 1 SRDA Bodies

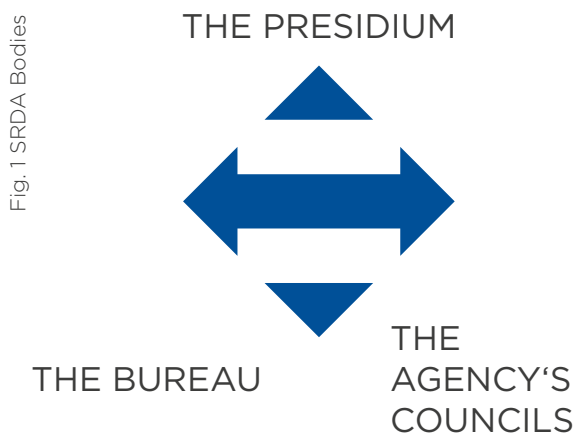
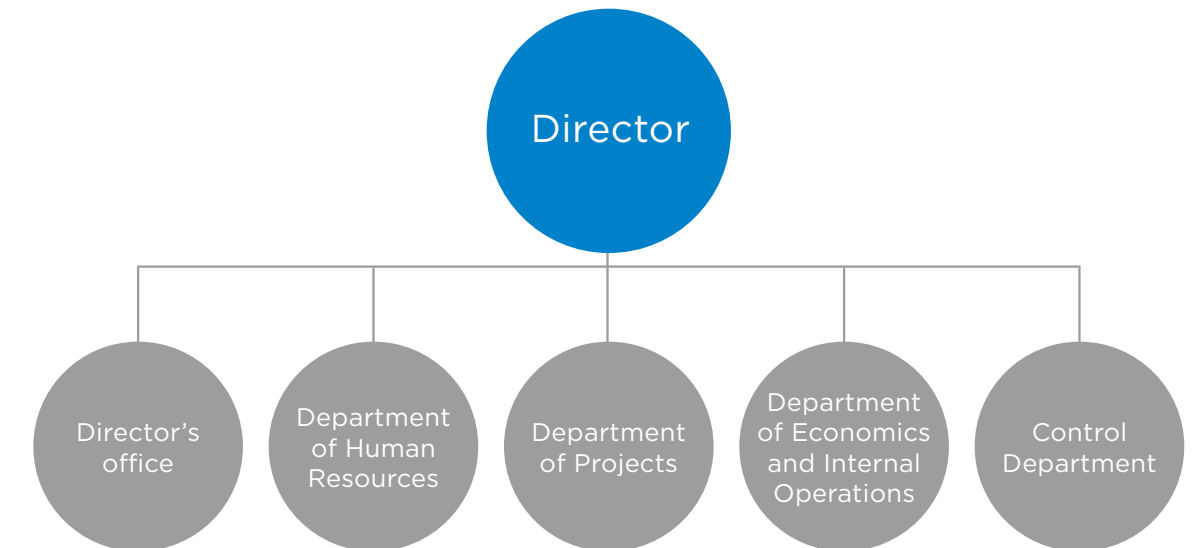


Fig. 2 Structure of the SRDA Bureau



2.2 SRDA Presidium

The Agency Presidium is a top expert body of the SRDA. When fulfilling her tasks, it follows the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. establishing the Agency. The Presidium members are appointed and withdrawn by the Government upon the proposal of 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

Members

Ing. Marek Franko, PhD.
EVPÚ, a. s., Nová Dubnica

JUDr. Svetlana Gavorová
Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, Bratislava

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor
Klub 500, Bratislava

Bc. PhDr. Marek Hajduk, PhD.
*Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava*

Mgr. Milan Chrenko
Ministry of Environment SR, Bratislava

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

prof. Ing. Miloslav Milichovský, DrSc.
*University of Pardubice, Faculty of Chemical
Technology*

Mgr. Dana Peškovičová, PhD.
National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky

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

Prof. RNDr. Pavol Sovák, CSc.
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

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

Secretary

JUDr. Ing. Anna Ďurfina, PhD. Et PhD.

In 2018 at her 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 2018 General Call (GC) as well as calls on international cooperation
- Approval of the "Horizon 2020" Program Call;
- Approval of closing open call SF7FP (2012)
- Re-nomination of the members of the Councils with their mandate in termination and addition of the members
- Ensuring the full project funding under the 2014 GC, 2015 GC and 2016 GC Calls
- 2017 SRDA Annual Activity Report and 2017 SRDA Annual Management Report
- Budgeting for the next program period
- Current budget drawdown during the year
- The Chairman's activities related to increasing the SRDA budget



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 her competence. At least one foreign expert is a member of the Council. In 2018, 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. (until 15. 3. 2018)
Institute of Virology of SAS, Bratislava

Chairman of the Council
RNDr. Ján Sedlák, DrSc. (from 16. 3. 2018)
*Biomedical Research Centre SAS, Institute
of Experimental Oncology*

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chairman of the Council
prof. RNDr. Ján Kraic, PhD. (until 15. 3. 2018)
*The University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava,
Trnava*

Chairman of the Council
prof. MVDr. Štefan Faix, DrSc. (from 16. 3. 2018)
*Centre of Biology, SAS, Institute of Animal
Physiology SAS*

Council for Social Sciences

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Tomáš Klieštík, PhD. (until 15. 3. 2018)
*University of Žilina, Faculty of Operation and
Economics of Transport and Communications, Žilina*

Chairperson of the Council
doc. PhDr. Gabriela Lubelcová, PhD. (from 16. 3. 2018)
Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, Bratislava

Council for Humanities

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

Council for International Scientific - Technical Cooperation (ISTC)

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Pavol Ochotnický, PhD. (until 9. 4. 2018)
*University of Economics in Bratislava, Faculty
of National Economy, Bratislava*

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Gregor Rozinaj, PhD. (from 17. 4. 2018)
*Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava,
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics*

Council for program “Support for Building Personnel Infrastructure in All R & D Sectors in Slovakia for the Period 2016-2019 “ (LP)

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

Council for program “Support for Research and Development in enterprises and support for busi- ness cooperation with research organisations for the period 2016-2019” (RDP)

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

Council for program “Assistance with Research and Development Project Preparation of the 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 2018

3.1 Activities in 2018

Based on the Agency's Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2018:

- Call for Supplementary funding of FP7 projects (SF7FP), which was closed on 30 March 2018 by the SRDA Presidency Resolution of 27 February 2018 ;
- General Call GC 2018 for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology;
- International bilateral calls for support of scientific technical cooperation SK KR 2018, SK PL 2018, SK PT 2018 and SK SRB 2018;
- Research bilateral calls for cooperation between Slovak and foreign organizations SK- CN- RD 2018 and SK- IL- RD 2018;
- General call for proposals under the program "Support for the development of research and development projects of the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2020 - Horizon 2020", titled Horizon 2020.

The Agency's activities during 2018 included also the following additional tasks:

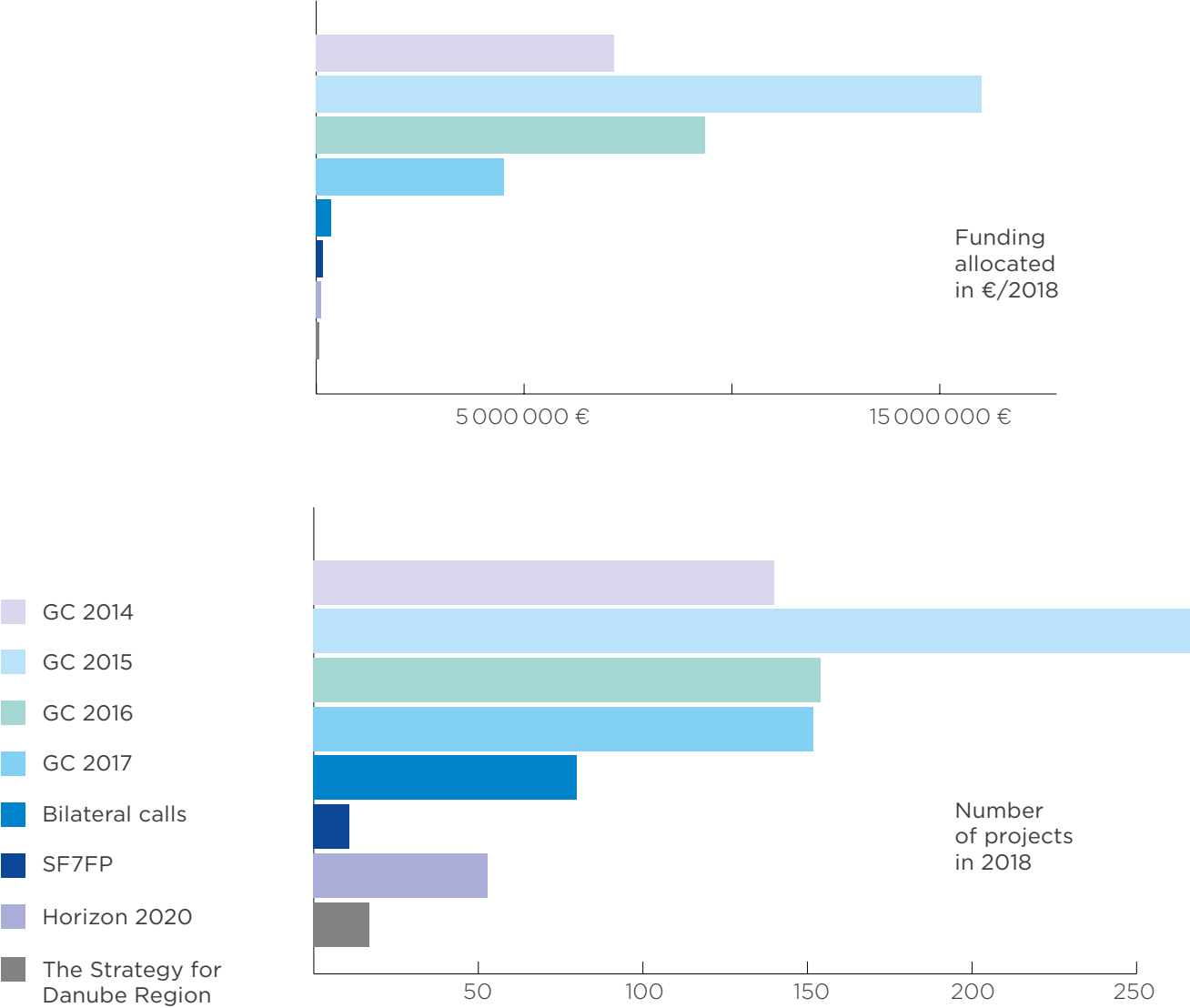
- monitoring outputs of projects after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project impact on social and economic practice;
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding, and therefore the solution, started already in previous years and continued in 2018;
- opening the new calls and assessing the applications for financial support submitted under these calls;
- funding the projects supported under the open general call for submitting applications for supplementary funding of FP7 projects.

Range of activities of the Agency in 2018 is shown in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1 Project Funds Allocated in 2018

Call	Number of projects in 2018	Funds allocated in €/2018
GC 2014	140	7 158 281
GC 2015	267	16 004 865
GC 2016	154	9 354 140
GC 2017	152	4 518 586
Bilateral calls	80	357 637
SF7FP	11	165 575
Horizon 2020	53	112 000
The Strategy for Danube Region	17	81 414
Total	874	37 752 498

Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Funded Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2018



3. 1. 1 Announcement of General Call GC 2018



This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2018 launched in 2018, with the funding for the selected successful projects started in 2019. Maximum project period is 48 months.

Characteristic of GC 2018
General Call GC 2018 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 2018**
- Deadline for submitting the applications: 13. 9. 2018 – 13. 11. 2018
- Basic information about the applications registered**
- total number of the applications received / **539**
 - of which basic research project applications / **339**
 - of which applied research project applications / **194**
 - of which development project applications / **6**
 - the amount of funds required / **122,779 €**
 - financial contribution of the applicants / **8,162 €**
 - total amount of funds / **130,941 €**

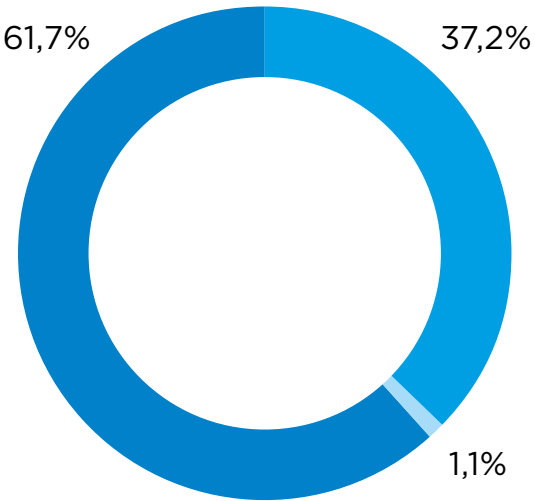


Fig. 4 Percentage of the Registered Applications by Character of Research in %

Basic Research	75 728 tis. €
Applied Research	45 739 tis. €
Development	1 312 tis. €

Tab. 2 Number of Applications Registered and Applicants' Financial Requirements by Research

Research	Number of applications submitted	Requirements from SRDA (in ths. of €)
Basic Research	339	75 728
Applied Research	194	45 739
Development	6	1 312
Total	539	122 779

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	102
Technical Sciences	198
Medical Sciences	61
Agricultural Sciences	64
Social Sciences	77
Humanities	37
Total	539

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications by Field of Science

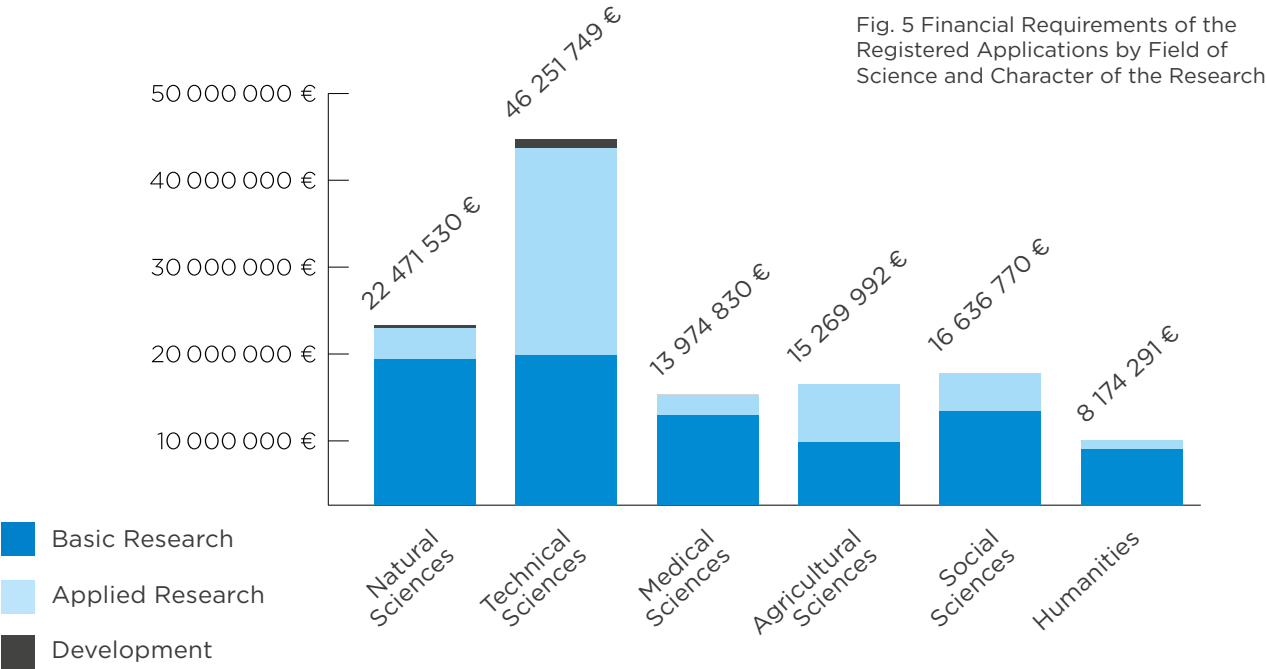
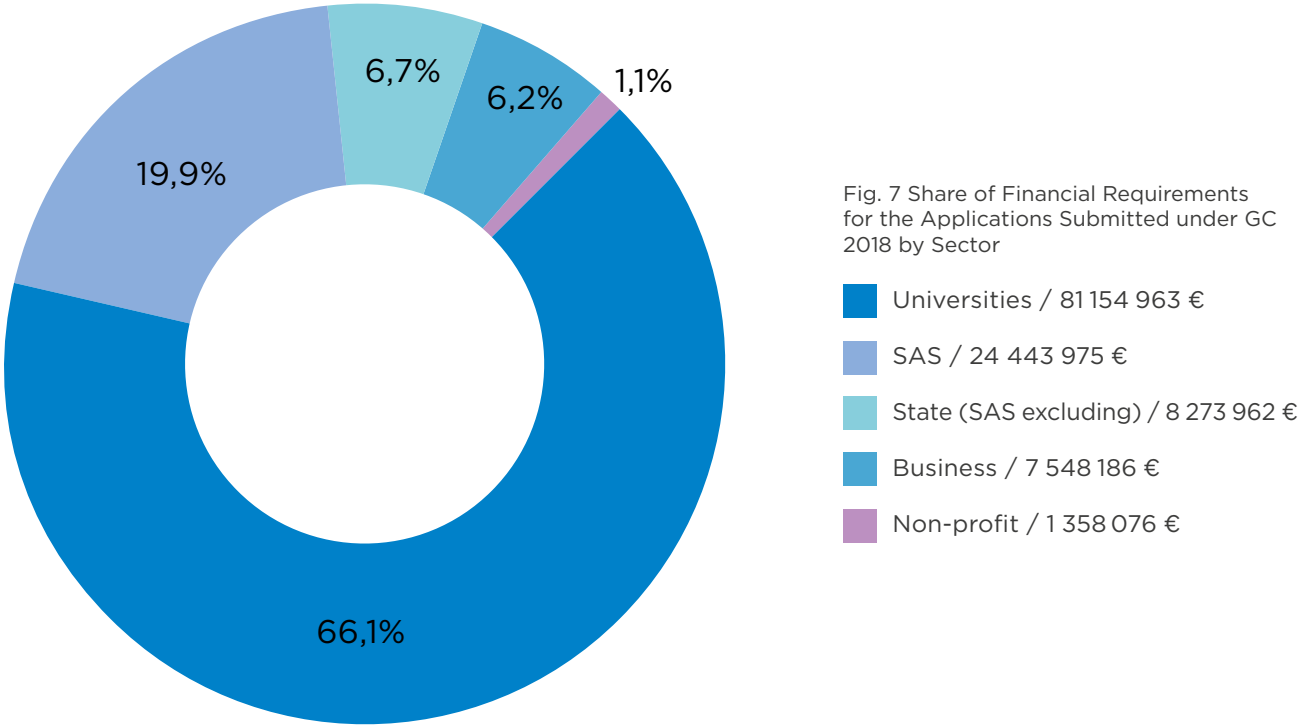
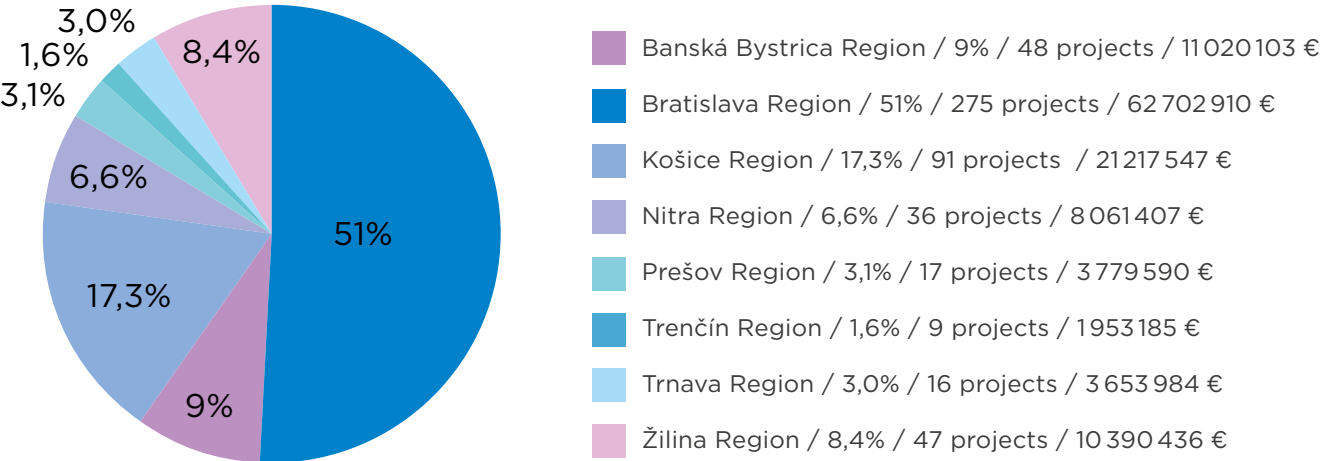


Fig. 6 Funding Requirements by Region



3. 1. 2 International Cooperation

In 2018, the Agency launched 4 bilateral calls and a new type of bilateral research cooperation as part of international scientific and technical cooperation.

New calls for bilateral research cooperation in 2018

In 2018, for the first time the Agency launched bilateral research calls, namely with the People’s Republic of China and the State of Israel. General calls have set priorities determined with regard to the priorities of the government-approved R&D strategy “Through knowledge towards prosperity - Research and Innovation. Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic“. The projects could have the character of basic research, applied research or development, in which the applicant itself indicated the discipline of science and technology. Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without limiting their affiliation to any R&D sector, could submit applications.

General call SK-CN-RD 2018 is the result of two successful bilateral calls with the People’s Republic of China launched in 2015 and 2017. The allocated amount of funding for the entire project period supported by the Call was € 720,000. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for one project was limited to a maximum of € 240,000 for the entire project period. The SRDA Presidium has set the priorities of the Call as follows: material research, nanotechnology, laser technology and ICT. Projects will be solved in 2018-2021. In the Call, 18 applications were submitted, of which 3 projects are financed.

Under General Call SK IL RD 2018, a sum of € 480,000 was allocated for the entire period of supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency to solve one project was limited to a maximum of € 160,000 for the project period. Priorities of the Call were information systems and ICT - in healthcare, cyber security and communication systems - smart cars, space research, navigation systems. Projects will be solved in 2018-2020. In the Call, 12 applications were submitted, of which 3 projects are funded.

New calls for bilateral cooperation in 2018

Projects under bilateral calls are the projects of international cooperation aimed at establishing the new or intensifying the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following tools

- preparation of joint international projects;
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
- active participation in 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). In 2018, the Agency launched bilateral calls with the Republic of Korea, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Serbia.

Under the General Call with the Republic of Korea, the start of the project solution was set for September 2018, with the completion of the project in 2019.

Projects of bilateral calls with the Portuguese Republic, and the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Serbia will be solved in 2019-2020.

Tab. 4 Number of the Submitted and Funded Bilateral Projects in 2018

Call	Number of Projects subbmited	Number of Projects Funded	The Amount Allocated to the Call in €
Slovakia – Portugal 2018	41	12	66 000
Slovakia – Poland 2018	91	17	66 400
Slovakia – Serbia 2018	67	17	80 000
Slovakia – Korea 2018	13	10	80 000
Slovakia – China RD 2018	18	3	720 000
Slovakia – Israel RD 2018	12	3	480 000
Total	242	62	1 492 400

3.2 General Call GC 2017



This activity of the Agency related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2017 in 2017, while funding for the selected successful projects started in 2018 with maximum project period until 2022.

Characteristic of GC 2017

GC 2017 General Call 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.

Basic information concerning the GC 2017

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 3. 10. 2017 – 4. 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 requested / 151,727 €
- financial contribution of the applicants / 10,070 €
- total amount of funds / 181,797 €

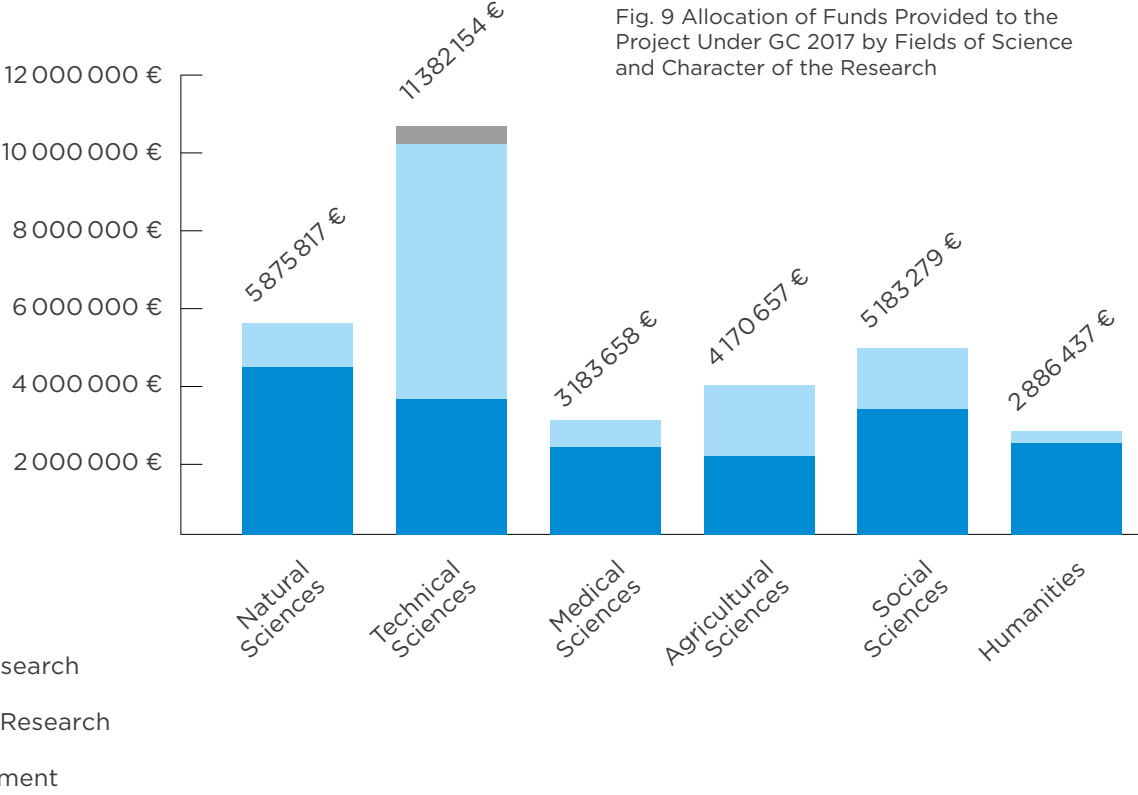
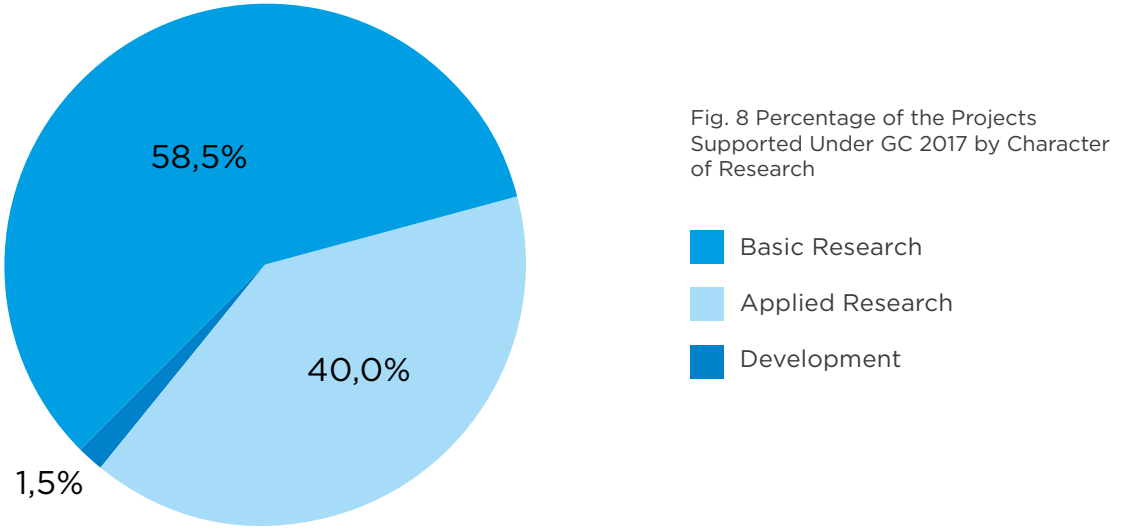
Basic information concerning the assessment process

- deadline for application assessment / July 2018
- total number of applications / 685
- number of applications rejected (technical and formal control) / 5
- number of applications withdrawn by Applicant / 14
- number of applications under expert assessment / 614
- number of applications with funding provided / 666
- of which basic research projects applications / 152
- of which applied research projects applications / 58
- of which development project applications / 2
- average success rate of applications submitted in % / 22,65 %
- funding approved in total / 32,682 €
- funding provided in 2018 / 4,519 €

Under the General Call GC 2017, a total of 671 applications for funding for research and development projects were submitted. After a technical and formal control, 5 application was rejected. 666 applications were submitted to an expert assessment, based on which 152 applications were funded. The project solution started from August 1, 2018. The latest project completion date is July 31, 2022.

Tab. 5 Number of Supported Applications by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	92	19 104
Applied Research	58	13 082
Development	2	496
Total	152	32 682



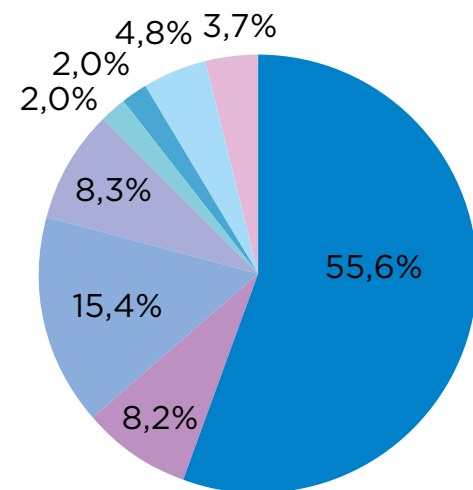


Fig. 10 Funding Support for GC 2017 Projects by Region

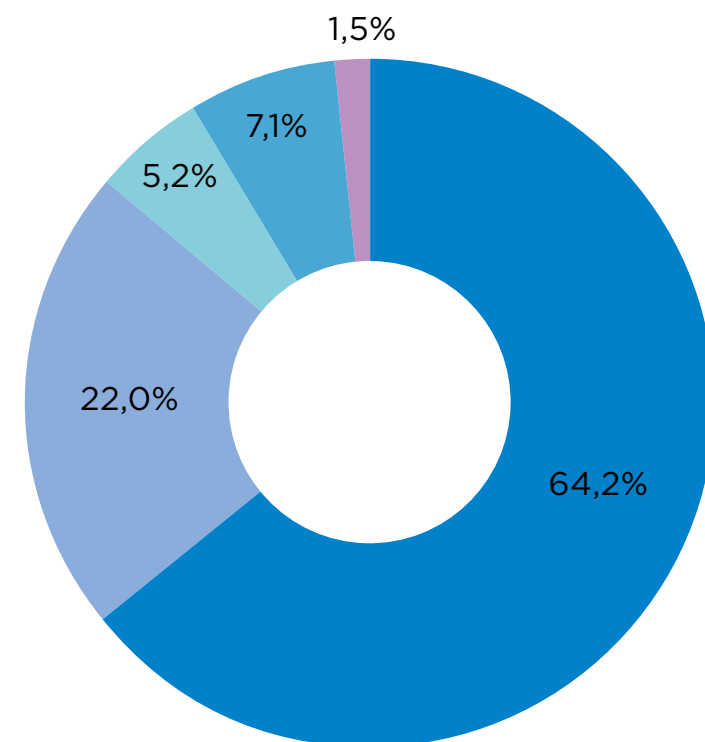
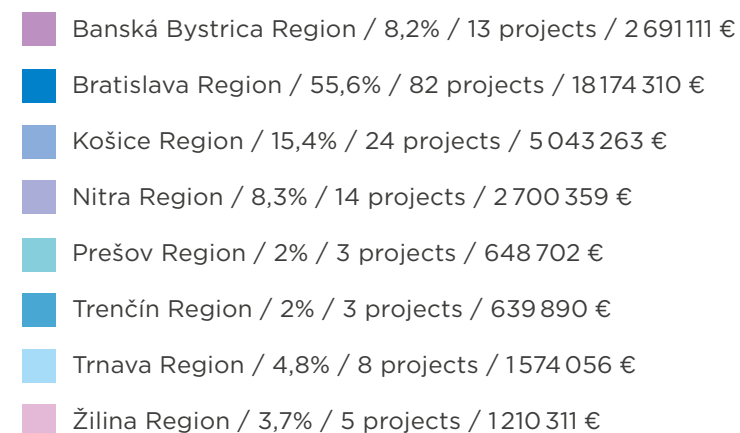


Fig. 11 Share of Funds Provided to the Projects Supported Under GC 2017 by Sector

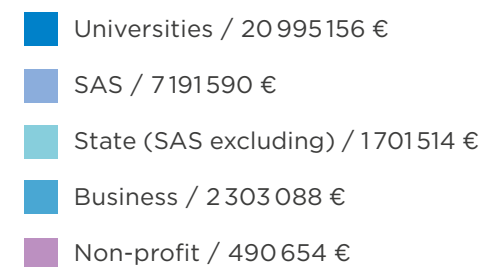


Fig. 12 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Field of Science

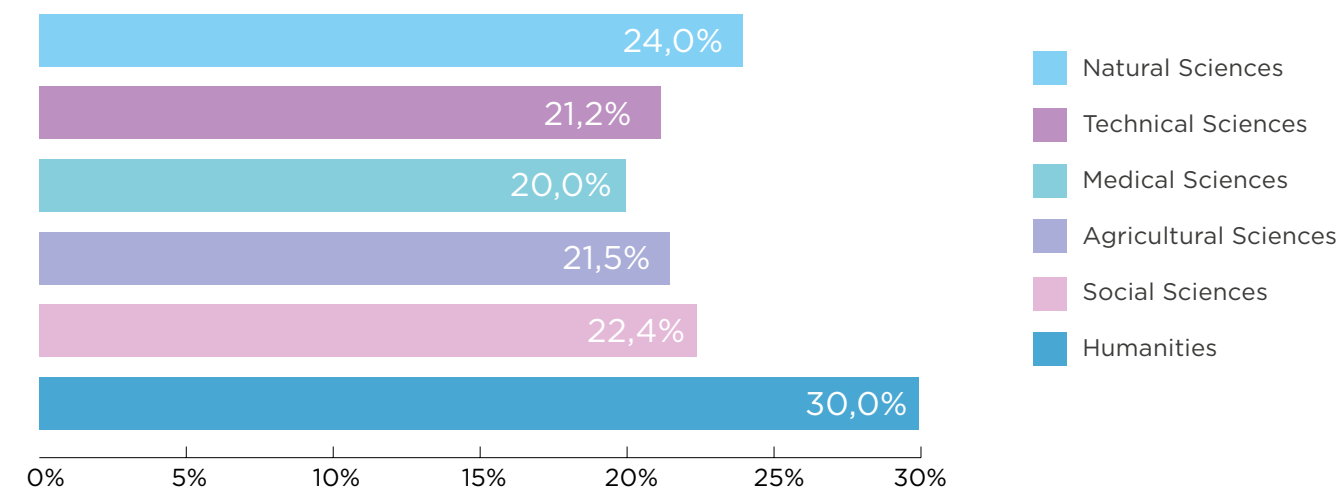


Fig. 13 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Character of Research

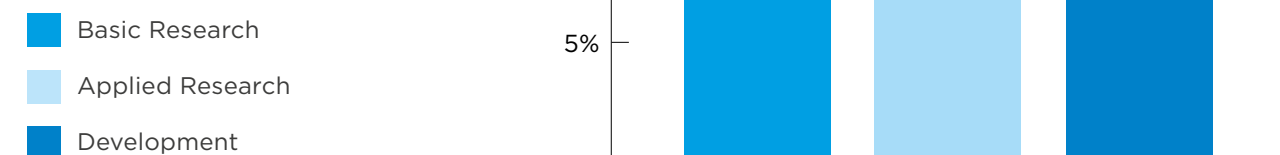
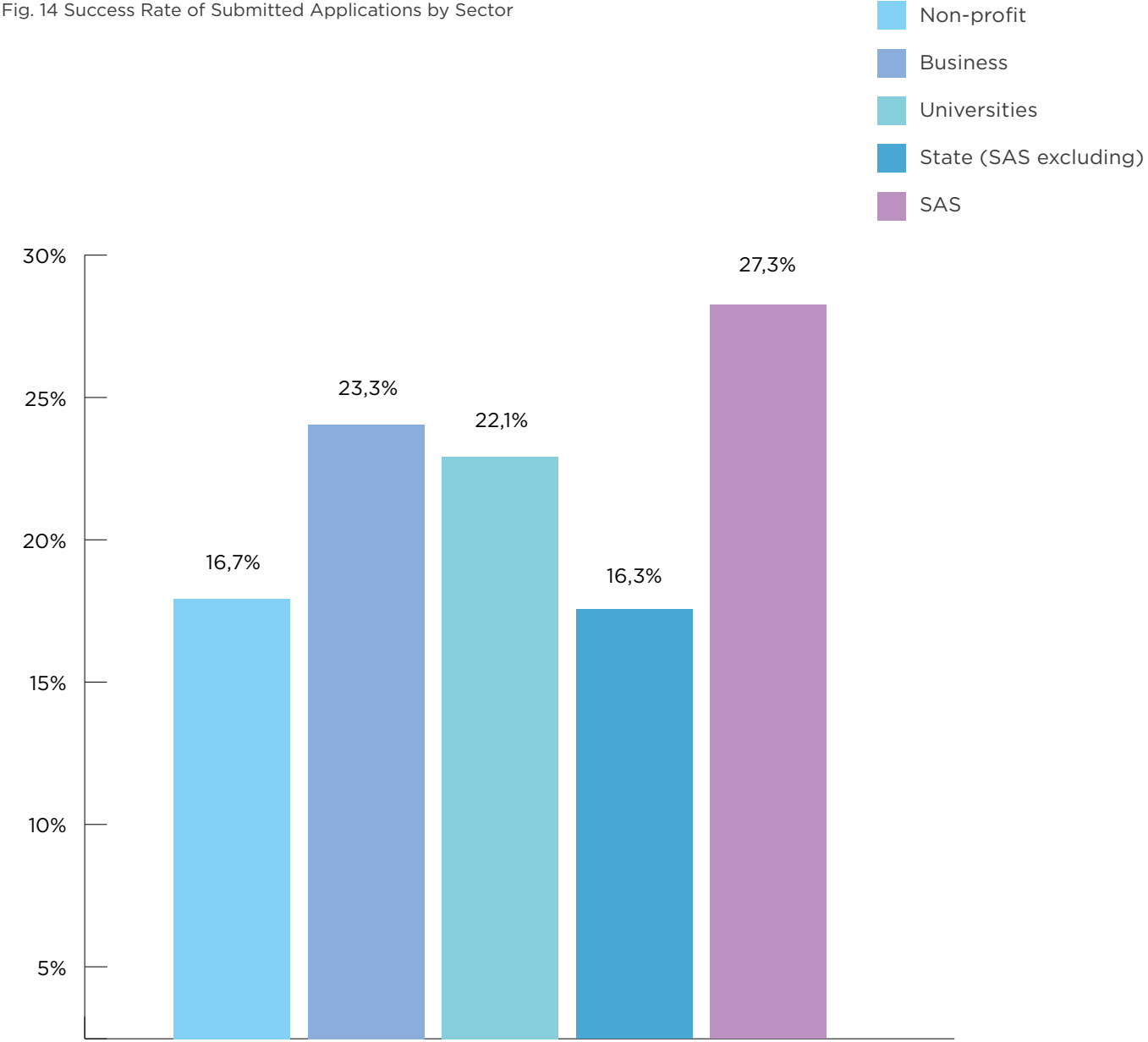


Fig. 14 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Sector



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 2018. 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 and bilateral calls in the next year, based on the evaluation of annual project reports by the SRDA Councils and their approval to continue the solution. The annual report comprises an expert section presenting the expert findings 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.

During 2018, the Agency financed ongoing projects under the general calls as in Tab. 6. During April and May 2018, the projects recommended by the SRDA Councils to continue their solution, were provided funding for the given year according to the approved project budget. During June 2018, the funding was provided to the projects that were suspended and called upon by the SRDA Councils to supplement their annual reports and then were subsequently re-approved to continue their solution. One project was stopped by the SRDA council, it was not recommended for further funding, and then the SRDA terminated the Funding Agreement.

Information on the Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects

Evaluated in 2016 and with Funding Continued in 2018
In 2018, the Agency continued to fund bilateral and multilateral projects submitted in 2016. The projects were submitted within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation between organizations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Serbia and within the Danube Region, in which the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and Republic of Serbia participated.

Tab. 6 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2014	140	2015
GC 2015	267	2016
GC 2016	154	2017

Tab. 7 Funding Provided in 2018 for the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2014	140	7 158 281	0	7 158 281
GC 2015	267	16 004 865	0	16 004 865
GC 2016	154	9 354 140	0	9 354 140
Total	561	35 517 286	0	35 517 286

The total amount of funding provided for 16 projects under SK-SRB 2016 in 2018 was 37,031, and for the 17 projects of the DS Call 2016 it was € 81,414.

Evaluated in 2017 and funding started in 2018

In 2018, the Agency started funding of the bilateral projects submitted in 2017. Projects were submitted in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the French Republic, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Austria and Taiwan. The total amount of funding provided in 2018 was € 138,437, € 39,482 for 15 projects under Call SK-FR 2017, € 50,960 for 13 projects under Call SK-CN 2017, € 31,995 for 16 projects under Call SK-AT 2017 and € 16,000 for 4 projects under Call SK-TW 2017.

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.

The rules under the Call and based on the terms and conditions of the Agreement enable the Agency

Tab. 8 SRDA- Funded Projects under SF7FP in 2018 by Sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State- Funded Organisations	7	102 691
Universities	3	56 365
Other	1	6 519
Total	11	165 575

to provide supplementary funding successful researchers of the R & D projects under Call FP7 up to 25% of the total eligible costs provided based on the European Commission’s decision, including the final contribution paid after the FP7project is completed.

Under the Call SF7FP in 2018, the Agency has supplementary funded 11 projects totalling € 165,575.

3.5 Reimbursement of costs under the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2020 – Horizon 2020

The main purpose of the Horizon 2020 Call was to stimulate the participation of Slovak R&D organizations in the European Union's Research and Innovation Program 2014-2020 - Horizon 2020.

The aim was to support the increase in the participation of Slovak R&D organizations in their coordination or participation in the European Union Horizon 2020 projects. Support for the preparation of the project was determined to all research and development sectors in accordance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll. including research enterprises (micro, small and medium, large) and the non-profit sector. The amount

of support per applicant was € 3,000 if the applicant was the coordinator, and € 2,000 if the applicant was a member of the Horizon 2020 project consortium. As part of the Call Horizon 2020 in 2018, the Agency funded 53 projects totalling € 112,000.

3.6 Projects Completed and Evaluated in 2018

In 2018, the Agency carried out a final evaluation of 251 projects in total, which had completed their solution by 31 December 2017. The SRDA Councils evaluated the project outcomes according to the pre-determined criteria and closed the projects solved.

Projects under the General call

The Agency's Councils evaluated a total of 174 projects within the scope of their focus, as follows:

The Council for Natural Sciences evaluated 46 projects under GC 2012, 23 of which were excellent and 23 were of good quality. In addition, the Council evaluated 2 projects under GC 2014, where 1 project was excellent and 1 project was of good quality. At the same time, the Council evaluated another project under GC 2015, which was of good quality.

The Council for Technical Sciences evaluated 47 projects under GC 2012, of which 25 projects were excellent and 22 projects were of good quality. The Council

Tab. 9 Support of APVV projects H2020 in 2018 by sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State – Funded Organisations	12	24 000
State - budget organizations	1	2 000
Universities	30	61 000
Other	10	25 000
Total	53	112 000

also evaluated projects under 2014 GC, of which 2 projects were rated at an excellent level and 1 project reached a good level. *The Council for Medical Sciences* evaluated 19 projects under GC 2012, of which 8 projects were excellent, 10 were of good quality and 1 was insufficient. At the same time, the Council evaluated also 1 project under GC 2014, which was of insufficient quality.

The Council for Agricultural Sciences evaluated 20 projects under GC 2012, 14 of which were excellent and 6 were of good quality.
The Council for Social Sciences evaluated 23 projects under GC 2012, 13 of which were excellent and 10 were of good quality.
The Council for Humanities evaluated 12 projects under GC 2012, 9 of which were excellent and 3 were of good quality.

Projects of Bilateral Cooperation
The Council of the Agency for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 13 projects of the bilateral call SK-BG 2013, of which 12 projects were at an excellent level and 1 project reached a good level; 15 projects under bilateral call SK-FR 2015, of which 13 reached excellent level and 2 projects reached a good level; 12 projects under bilateral call SK-PT 2015, of which 7 were ranked at an excellent level, 4 projects reached a good level and 1 project was at an insufficient level; 16 projects of bilateral cooperation under SK-PL 2015, of which 12 projects were at an excellent level and 4 projects achieved a good level; 16 projects of bilateral cooperation under SK-AT 2015, of which 9 projects achieved an excellent level, 6 projects were at a good level and 1 the project was at an insufficient level and 13 projects under Call of bilateral cooperation SK-CN 2015, 4 of which were at an excellent level and 9 were at a good level.

Tab. 10 Projects Monitored After Their Completion

Call	Funding of the Call Finished in (year)	Number of the Projects Monitored
GC 2010	2014	165
GC 2011	2015	166
GC 2012	2016	42
SF7FP	Open call	43

Tab. 11 Outputs of the Projects after Closing Their Funding as Reported by the Researchers for 2017, as of 31 March 2018

Call	Number of Projects with International CC Publications	Number of New SCI Citations	Number of Projects with Applied Output	Number of Applied Outputs
GC 2010	69	3 081	15	33
GC 2011	91	2 919	17	60
GC 2012	21	150	11	22
SF7FP	14	329	4	7
Total	195	6 479	47	122

Projects under SF7FP
The Council for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 8 projects, all of which were at an excellent level.

3.7 Monitoring of the Completed Projects

According to the wording of the Agreement, researcher of the project under the General Call and Call SF7FP, after completing the project, is obliged for the next three years to inform the Agency on the social and economic benefits of the project findings in a monitoring report.

The main categories of project benefits and outputs are

- Category 1**
Publications and citations
- Category 2**
Patents, inventions and utility models
- Category 3**
Applied results with defined economic indicators
- Category 4**
Outputs to education and popularization of science
- Category 5**
Other outcomes
- Category 6**
Added value of the research and development project



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 the 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 2018, 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) SA.42450 and based on the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) as by Addendum 1 to SA.49175. The scheme expires on December 31, 2020.

On 03.07.2015, the European Commission registered the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (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 Slovak Research and Development Agency (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 2018, 36 entities were provided an aid under the State Aid Scheme. The total amount of the aid provided amounted to € 2,500,198.

Within 36 entities 9 entities represented a micro enterprise, 5 entities were small enterprises, 15 entities a medium-sized enterprise and 7 entities a large enterprise. The regional distribution of total state aid, at regional level, was as follows:

Within the regions, the aid was provided to 17 entities in the Bratislava Region, 1 entity in the Košice Region, 4 entities in the Nitra region, 2 entities in the Prešov Region, 1 entity in the Banská Bystrica Region, 6 entities in the Trenčín Region, 1 entity in the Trnava region and 4 entities in the Žilina region.

Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of the Total State Aid Provided

Region	Amount in €
Banská Bystrica Region	10 067
Bratislava Region	1 401 649
Trenčín Region	366 796
Žilina Region	229 618
Nitra Region	216 753
Košice Region	49 469
Trnava Region	67 102
Prešov Region	158 744
Total	2 500 198

Fig. 15 Regional Distribution of Total Aid Provided by the Region



4.2 Evaluation of the SRDA-Provided de Minimis Aid

In 2018, the Agency provided a Ad hoc de Minimis Aid to 9 subject amounting to € 25,000. These were applications supported under the Horizon 2020 program. Within the regions, Ad hoc de Minimis Aid was provided to 5 entities in the Bratislava Region, 2 entities in the Trnava Region, 1 entity in the Žilina Region and 1 entity in the Prešov Region.

4.3 Another Actions in the SRDA – Provided State Aid

In the next period, the Agency will continue providing the State aid to new projects under the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme), as by Addendum 1 (State Aid Scheme SA.49175), wording of which is valid until 31 December 2020.

Any aid provided to solution of the projects not covered by the approved State Aid Scheme will be governed by the Ad hoc de Minimis Aid rules.



05 / SRDA BUDGET

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to € 41,369,078 was approved for 2018 in the form of a binding indicators breakdown by the MŠVVaŠ SR to finance the Agency's operation and the project funding, i.e. to support research and development. Under the 06K11 sub-program, a budget of € 1,405,347 was approved as to 1 January 2018 for the Agency's operation and € 39,963,731 for project funding (to support research and development), the breakdown is shown in Tab. 13.

During 2018, the MŠVVaŠ SR additionally adjusted the Agency's budget by the six 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 the current expenditure on capital expenditure, and to reimburse the current expenditure at the MŠVVaŠ SR.

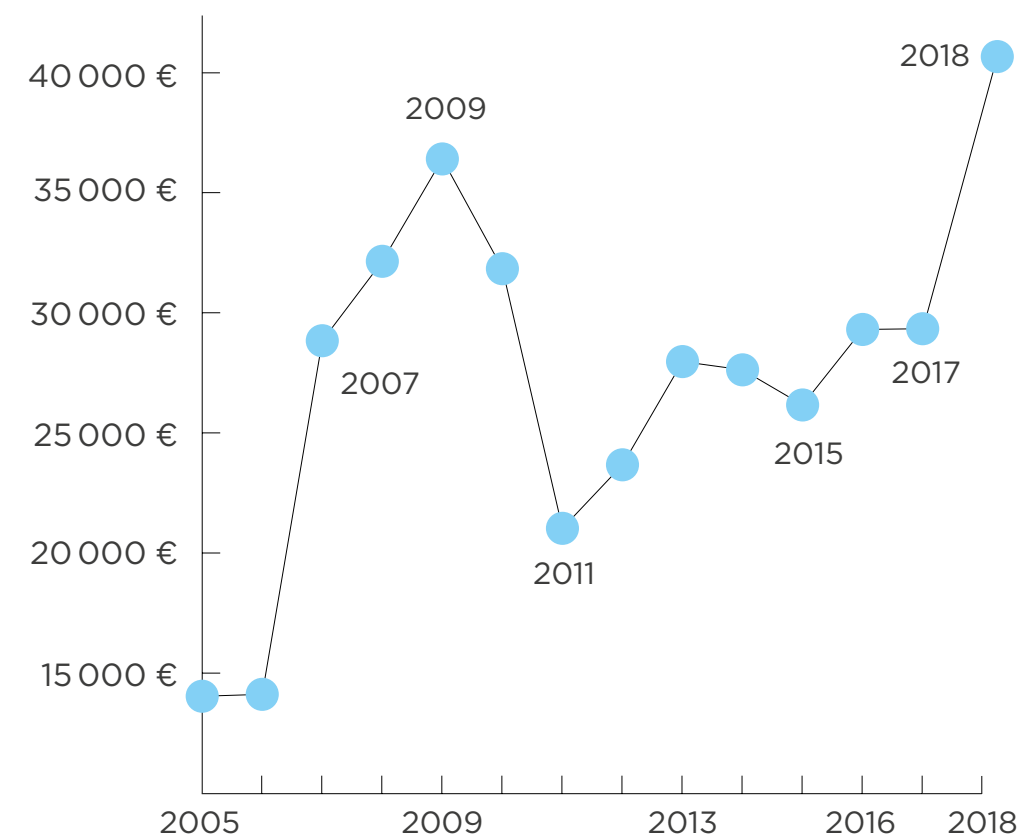


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's Budget during 2005 - 2018 in th.€

Tab. 13 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2018 in €

Program 06 K 11	Budget Originally Approved	Budget as of 31 December 2018	Drawdown as of 31 December 2018
Operation of the Agency	1 405 347	1 381 376	1 381 376
Current	1 405 347	1 358 072	1 358 072
Capital	0	23 304	23 304
Support for Research and Development	39 963 731	38 752 344	38 116 468
Current	39 963 731	38 752 344	38 116 468
Capital	0	0	0
SRDA Budget in Total	41 369 078	40 133 720	39 497 844

Tab. 14 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2018 in €

Call / Program	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
General Call – GC 2014	7 158 281	0	7 158 281
General Call – GC 2015	16 004 865	0	16 004 865
General Call – GC 2016	9 354 140	0	9 354 140
General Call – GC 2017	4 518 586	0	4 518 586
Bilateral Projects	357 637	0	357 637
The Strategy for Danube Region	81 414	0	81 414
Supplementary Funding of Projects Supported Under FP7-EU-SF7FP	165 575	0	165 575
Horizon 2020	112 000		112 000
SRDA Budget in Total	37 752 498	0	37 752 498

Tab. 13 shows also the Agency’s total adjusted budget for operation and R&D support as well as the budget drawdown as of 31 December 2018.

As clear from the structure of the recipients of the R&D support, the most grants were provided to public universities, followed by the SAS and state organisations.

Tab. 15 Structure of Funding Provided for the Supported Projects in 2018 by Sector in €

Type of Organisation	Total Cost
State Organisations and SAS	12 730 639
Public Universities	21 207 775
Non - profit organisations	764 363
Business entities	3 046 721
Civic associations, foundations	3 000
Total	37 752 498

06 / HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1 SRDA Bureau

Development of the number of the SRDA staff depends on the funds allocated for wages, and on the provision of processes at all organizational units.

The average registered number of the SRDA employees as of December 31, 2018 was 28.

The average recalculated number of employees for 2018 was 27.7.

The registered number of employees as of 31 December 2018 was 34.

During the year 2018, the Agency’s staffing capacities were comprised by her core members and 115 top representatives of science and technology of the Slovak Republic, who worked in the professional bodies of SRDA.

Personnel capacities are provided with a view to implementing processes in the area of the SRDA projects and programs in accordance with Government Resolution 69/2016 (LP; SCF; Horizon 2020). For this reason, it was necessary to implement internal procedural and personal changes related to the increase in the requirements for organizational and administrative activities, as well as to ensure the stabilization of the SRDA employees in order to achieve a higher quality level of implementation of the SRDA processes in supporting the science and research.

The average age of the SRDA employees in 2018 was 37 years.

The SRDA employees are remunerated in accordance with Act No. 553/2003 Coll. on the Remuneration of Certain Employees During Performance of Work of Public Interest.

Tab. 16 Number of Employees by Organizational Structure

Organisational units	Number of employees as of 1. 1. 2018	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2018
Director’s office	6	10
Dpt. of Projects, Economics and Internal Operations	18	10
Department of Projects	0	14
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	0	5
Department of Human Resources	1	2
Control Department	0	3
Total	25	34

Tab. 17 Qualification Structure of the SRDA Employees as of December 31, 2018

Level of Education	Number of Employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	7	4
Higher Education 1st Level	0	0
Higher Education 2nd Level	23	15
Higher Education 3rd Level	4	3
Total	34	22

6.2 SRDA Social Policy

SRDA has concluded employers’ contracts with three supplementary pension companies DDS ING Tatry Sympatia, DDS AXA, and DDS Tatra banka. As of 31 December 2018, 59% of the staff was involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme.

6.3 Education and Trainings of the Employees

The Agency enables her employees, in order to increase and deepen their professional qualifications, to attend trainings, courses, and specialised seminars organised by vocational training institutions. The Agency’s staff trainings were carried out to the extent corresponding to the Agency’s financial situation.

Specialized seminars, trainings and courses focused mainly on legislative changes of generally binding legal regulations and regulations governing the respective areas of the SRDA’s activities in the area of budget rules of public administration, electronic mailbox, personal data protection, financial control, asset management, accounting, labour law, application of the amendment to Act on remuneration during performance of work of public interest, changes in social and health insurance, and deepening the IT skills.

In order to improve the communication of employees in foreign languages, the SRDA organized language courses in 2018.

07 / AUDIT ACTIVITIES

7.1 External Audit Activities

The SRDA employees performed financial on -site controls in 2018 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 2018 Control Plan – On-Site Financial Control, in 2018 five on-site financial controls were carried out, followed by two on-site financial controls. Their overview is in Tab. 18.

Overview of On-Site Financial Controls in 2018

Number of controls planned	5
Number of controls carried out	7
Number of controls completed to 31.12.	7
Shortcomings found - number of controls	2

In 2018, on-site financial controls included correctness of drawdowns in the total amount of € 703,024.00. The on-site financial controls found violation of financial discipline amounting to € 5,572.37. In total, 13 measures were taken to address the identified shortcomings and the causes of their occurrence.

Violations of financial discipline were due to the reason of

1. unauthorised drawdown of public funds 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. applying higher costs / expenses comparing to the actual expenses / costs
4. applying expenses / costs for a purpose other than the project solution
5. applying expenses / costs outside the settlement period

Tab. 18 On-Site Financial Controls Carried Out by the SRDA staff in 2018

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Slovak Association of European Law (SRDA project-14-0852)	105 425
Institute of Polymers SAS (project SRDA-14-0858)	128 837
Pan-European University (project SRDA-14-0893)	103 716
Institute of History of SAS (project SRDA-15-0349)	81 858
Comenius University in Bratislava - Science Park (project SRDA -16-0264)	29 997
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (project SRDA -0594-12)	247 891
Centre of Biosciences SAS, Institute of Molecular Physiology and Genetics (project SK-FR-2015-0007)	5 300

7.2 Internal Audit Activities

In 2018, the SRDA Director’s Office and Control Department carried out thirteen internal controls focusing on

1. Checking the compliance with the directive “Guidelines for business trip and travel refunds“
2. Checking the compliance with the rules: Rules of Procedure of the SRDA Commission for receiving applications for funding for a general call-based project, Rules of Procedure of the SRDA Commission to review the decision to reject applications for their non-compliance with technical conditions, Rules of Procedure of the SRDA Commission to review decisions to refuse funding to applicants on the basis of a general call
3. Control according to the requirements of the Director - internal audit of work processes at the Department of Economics and Internal Operations
4. Checking the compliance with the Directive “Representing employees during their absence at the workplace“
5. Control according to the requirements of the Director- Check of the English version of the SRDA website
6. Checking the compliance with “Guidelines for Accounting and Financial Statements in SRDA“
7. Checking the compliance with “Manual of Uniform Visual Style“, so-called “Design Manual“
8. Checking the compliance with the Registry Administration Rules in accordance with the instructions and use of the User Manual
9. Checking the compliance with the “Property Declaration of a Senior Employee Directive“
10. Checking the compliance with the “Personnel and Payroll Agenda Directive” of the Slovak Research and Development Agency
11. Checking the compliance with directive on “Accounting Documents Handling in SRDA”

12. Checking the compliance with the “General Internal Procedure for Providing Special Purpose Financial Support for the Slovak Research and Development Agency Grant Schemes”
13. Checking the compliance with the “Guidelines for the SRDA Public Procurement Procedures”

On the basis of the control findings, measures were taken to remedy the shortcomings identified.

7.3 Audits Carried Out by External Audit Authorities

In 2018, controls were carried out in the SRDA by external audit bodies

Employees of the Internal Audit Unit of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR performed at the Slovak Research and Development Agency from 15 February 2018 to 29 March 2018, on the basis of the authorization of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic No. 2018-3226 / 8216: 1-62AA dated February 13, 2018, an internal audit whose purpose and objective was to verify the setting up of the public procurement process system and its compliance with applicable legislation in the SR and the EU.

Employees of the Inspection Department of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, between 10 July 2018 and 26 September 2018 with interruptions, on the basis of the authorization of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic no. 2018/9468: 1-53AA dated 4 July 2018, made at the R&D Agency an on-site financial control aimed at verifying compliance with principle of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and expediency in managing the public finances.

7.4 Complaint Handling

In 2018, the Director’s Office registered three filings identified as complaints. One filing was postponed according to § 6 par. a) of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints, one was returned on the grounds that the filing was not a complaint under the relevant Act, and one filing was investigated under Section 18 of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. and the complaint was assessed as unfounded.

08 / THE SRDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On September 13, 2018, the Slovak Research and Development Agency organised an annual conference in Bratislava under auspices of Mrs. Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, where she presented results of her activities for the last year.

Mr. Pavol Balžanka, director of the Agency, reported the SRDA activities for the previous year 2017. The Chairman of the Agency, Mr. Jozef Masarik in his contribution evaluated the General Call launched in 2017. Mrs. Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, solemnly opened new General Call GC 2018.





09 / GOALS AND OVERVIEW OF THEIR FULFILMENT

Post-Completion Monitoring of the Projects Supported

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, 2011 and 2012, and Call SF7FP.

Annual and Final Project Evaluation and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2018, the following calls were evaluated and funded: General Calls GC 2014, GC 2015, GC 2016, bilateral cooperation projects, Horizon 2020, and SF7FP. During the interim evaluation, 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 2018, these calls for proposals launched in 2017 were funded: General Call GC 2017 and projects of bilateral cooperation with the French Republic, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Austria and Taiwan.

New Calls launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

The Agency launched General Call GC 2018 in 2018. Expected deadline for publishing the results April/May 2018. In 2018, the Agency launched, within the framework of international scientific and technical

cooperation, mobility bilateral calls for cooperation with Korea, Portugal, Poland and Serbia. Research bilateral calls were also launched with China and Israel. In 2018, the Agency launched a general call for applications under the "Support for Research and Development Projects for the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2020 - Horizon 2020".

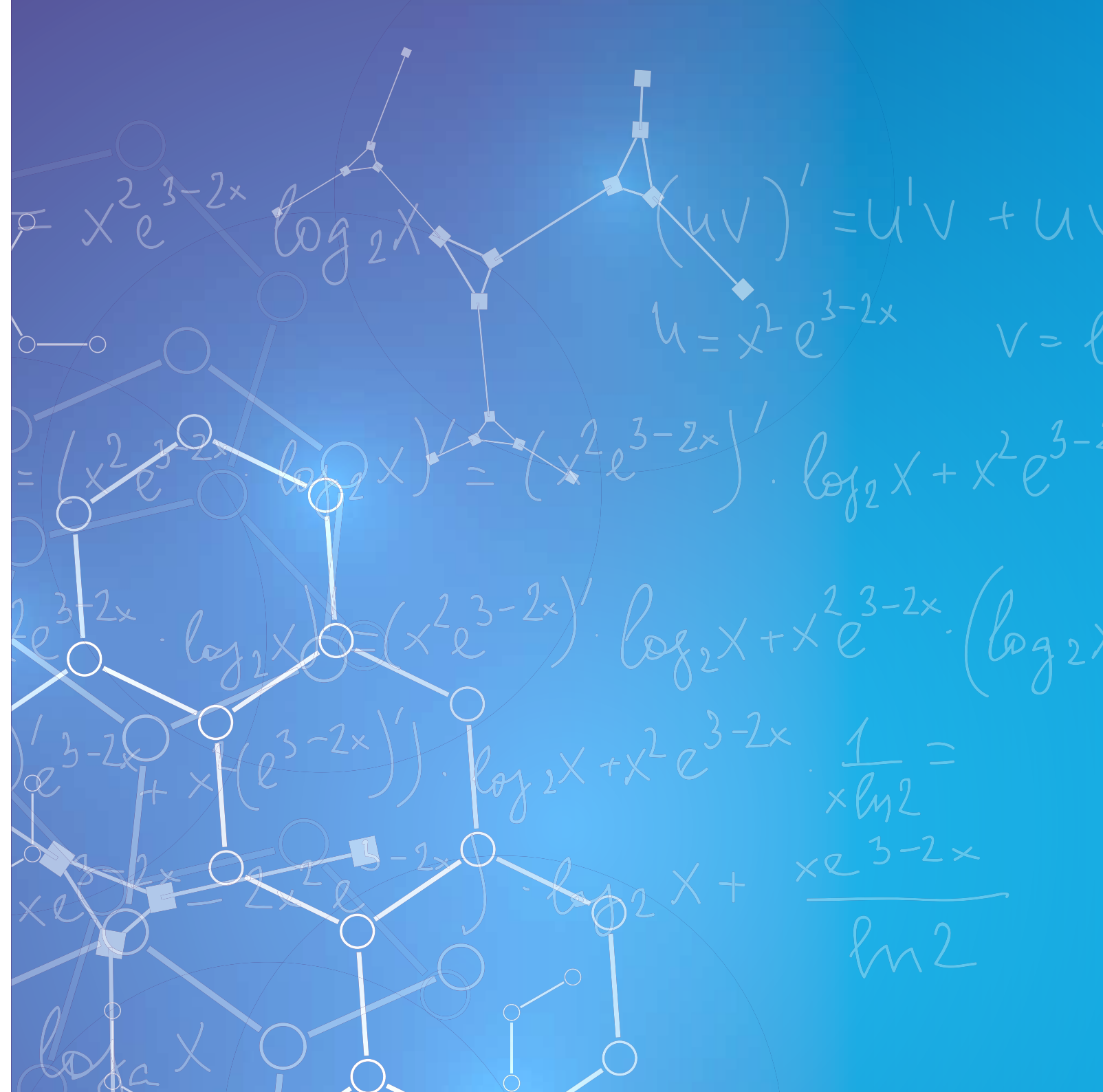
Support for Slovak Entities to Participate in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union

The SRDA continued to support the participation of the Slovak Republic in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union through the General Call for supplementary funding of the projects successful 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.

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

In the course of performing the specific tasks, the following tasks were fulfilled in 2018, preparation of documents as follows:

- 2018 SRDA Main Tasks Plan;
- 2017 Annual SRDA Activity Report;
- 2017 Annual SRDA Management Report;
- 2017 State Aid Report;
- 2017 Annual SRDA Accounts.



10 / EVALUATION OF THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2018

In 2018, 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 basic 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 project 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 her mission under Act No. 172/2005 Coll. § 12 to support projects within grant schemes of general calls and international cooperation calls (bilateral, multilateral, and SF7FP projects).

The following general calls were opened, and/or launched in 2018:

- General Call open for submitting proposals to supplementary project funding under FP7 (SF7FP 2012);
- General Call for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual disciplines of science and technology - GC 2018;
- Calls for supporting bilateral cooperation on the basis of intergovernmental agreements with Korea with funding started in 2018, and with Portugal, Poland and Serbia with funding started in 2019;
- Research bilateral calls with China and Israel;
- General Call for submitting proposals under the "Support for Research and Development Projects for the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2020 - Horizon 2020".

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 2018;
- announcing the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support under these calls;
- funding of the projects with solution started in 2018.

The Agency took a number of measures in project funding 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 project funding, and increasing the success of Slovak entities in the international scientific and technical cooperation;
- improving the services provided by the Agency to the recipients, as well as to the individual researchers of the SRDA projects.

Public presentation and communication of the Agency is primarily kept via its website www.apvv.sk.

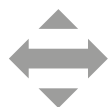
Last year, the Agency again issued her publication titled "Excellence in Science 2018" in both Slovak and English languages. This publication presents the projects of all science and technology disciplines completed at an excellent level. These projects were selected by the Agency's Councils from a number of successful projects funded by the SRDA as part of a General Call launched in 2012.

As for conclusion, it can be concluded that in 2018 the Slovak Research and Development Agency fulfilled her essential role that was to ensure the fulfilment of the main tasks stipulated by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, as well as in the 2018 SRDA's Main Tasks Plan.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

06K11	The National Program for the Development of Science and Technology Subprogram - Research and development tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency	SK FR SK PL SK SRB SK TW SK PT SK CN SK KR	Slovakia - France Bilateral Call Slovakia - Poland Bilateral Call Slovakia - Serbia Bilateral Call Slovakia - Taiwan Bilateral Call Slovakia - Portugal Bilateral Call Slovakia - China Bilateral Call Slovakia - Korea Bilateral Call
7.RP	Seventh Framework Programme	GC	General Call
SRDA (APVV)	The Slovak Research and Development Agency	SK IL RD	Slovakia - Israel Research Bilateral Call
BOZP	Occupational safety and health	SK CN RD	Slovakia - China Research Bilateral Call
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals	PP H2020	Horizon 2020
SF7FP	Open general 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 citations	Citations in foreign publications registered in citation indexes		
SK AT	Slovakia - Austria Bilateral Call		
SK BG	Slovakia - Bulgaria Bilateral Call		

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