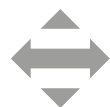


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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Slovak Research
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Agency

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SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



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

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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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

The Chairman's Preface

In every developed society, research and development comprise pillars of its development and their role is indispensable in the country's economic growth as well as in increasing the wellbeing of the citizens. That is why the states pay the R&D proper attention and create conditions for their progress. Such conditions are primarily to create a functional and efficient system as well as a dignified financing of the individual components. Efforts to create and optimize the existing system as well as to improve the financial support for research & development in Slovakia are also declared in the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak republic.

In the view of these intentions, year of 2019 can also be characterized as one of the most successful in the Agency's history. Unlike the previous years, the Agency did not cope with insufficient funding to cover the costs of general calls. In 2019, problems concerned the project assessment process were eliminated, and therefore the new projects started their funding within the given schedule. In 2019, complaints about the SRDA Council's decisions decreased in number, but concerning few individuals, aggressiveness of their complaints joined with over-criticism concerned evaluation of their projects – the subject of the complaint, increased. In addition, all previous SRDA's commitments were financed within the set deadlines. Although the content focus of the SRDA's programs was approved in February 2016, even in 2019 there was no funding provided. SRDA, using its own resources having saved, implemented a call for supplementary funding for activities of young researchers participating in the activities of research projects carried out at that time with a total subsidy of € 400,000.

When approving the state budget for 2020, the Agency was allocated funds that were sufficient for the Agency to provide funds for the planned calls, whether those even contracted or the general calls and calls of bilateral or multilateral cooperation evaluated also this year.

In addition, comparing the budget to the previous period, the budget approved at the end of 2019 was increased. This preconditioned the increase in funding the General Call 2019 in 2020. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation in 2020, we decided not to use the increased funds for supplementary funding of the GC 2019, but rather to provide funds to research specifically focused on coping with the pandemic and its social economic and other related impacts, as well as with preventing the similar crises in future. Despite the positive statement about the increase in the Agency's funding, we must state that funding for its operation, but especially for supporting the research and development, is close to its meaningful threshold.

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 the funds to launch the Agency's programs, which, in addition to the general calls, comprise the second major pillar of the Agency's 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 its programs, but with no concrete outcome so far. In the coming period, it will be important for the Agency to integrate 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 specified in the RIS3 Strategy. The national sciences policy, which is being prepared now as it is apparently absent in Slovakia and thus having 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, strong National Agency is irreplaceable. The medium-term perspective of the Slovak Research and Development Agency lies in its

extended capacity to support projects from national sources by increasing the budget for the general calls and specific programs of the Agency. Promotion of international scientific and technical cooperation and the use of European Union cohesion instruments for the development of science and technology are also of particular importance.

Horizon 2020 programming period and the launch of Horizon Europe are approaching their ends, and we need to be prepared for. In this respect, the Agency could play a positive role in enhancing Slovak researchers to participate in emerging consortia. In this area, apparently there is still 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 process of the applications submitted, especially when concerning the reviewers, as well as the monitoring of 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. Given the processes in the European Research Area, it is necessary to rise the Agency up to a qualitatively higher level and open the door for the Agency gradually to 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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01 / On the Slovak Research and Development Agency

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “the 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	Agentúra na podporu výskumu a vývoja
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 lies in promoting 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 R&D persons in terms of the Trade Licensing Act.

Support for research and development is performed through research and development projects selected by the Agency bodies under the open calls launched by the Agency. Both national legal and natural persons can submit their research and development projects. Quality of the submitted project applications is critical for allocating the research and development support. Another mission of the Agency lies in stimulating participation of R&D entities in the Slovak Republic in international and European programmes and initiatives as well as supporting them for 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 submitting 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 general calls open under 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 The Agency is concerned directly by several objectives of point 5 of the Manifesto of the Government and the related tasks.

The 2019 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 outcomes in the form of projects aimed at transferring the research and development outcomes 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 Agency’s Statute – based tasks are, in particular:

- to support excellent basic research, 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 research in the Slovak Republic with regard to increasing 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 supporting international R&D cooperation;
- to support participation of R&D organisations from the Slovak Republic in the European research and development programmes and initiatives;

02 / Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

- to participate in the promotion of research and development outcomes 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 developing and implementing the National Science and Technology Policy.

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

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 continues 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 supporting the participation of R&D entities in international projects, programs and initiatives.

The Agency continues to focus on improving the evaluation and funding of the projects in order to increase the objectivity and transparency of the evaluation process.

2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2019

Director

Ing. Monika Tarabová

Management Members

JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo – Head of Control Department, entrusted with representation of the Director

Ing. Jozef Kadnár, PhD. – Head of Department of Projects, entrusted with the management of the Department of International Cooperation and State Aid

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

Ing. Jana Čermáková – Head of the Department of Human Resources

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

Fig. 1 Structure of the SRDA Bureau

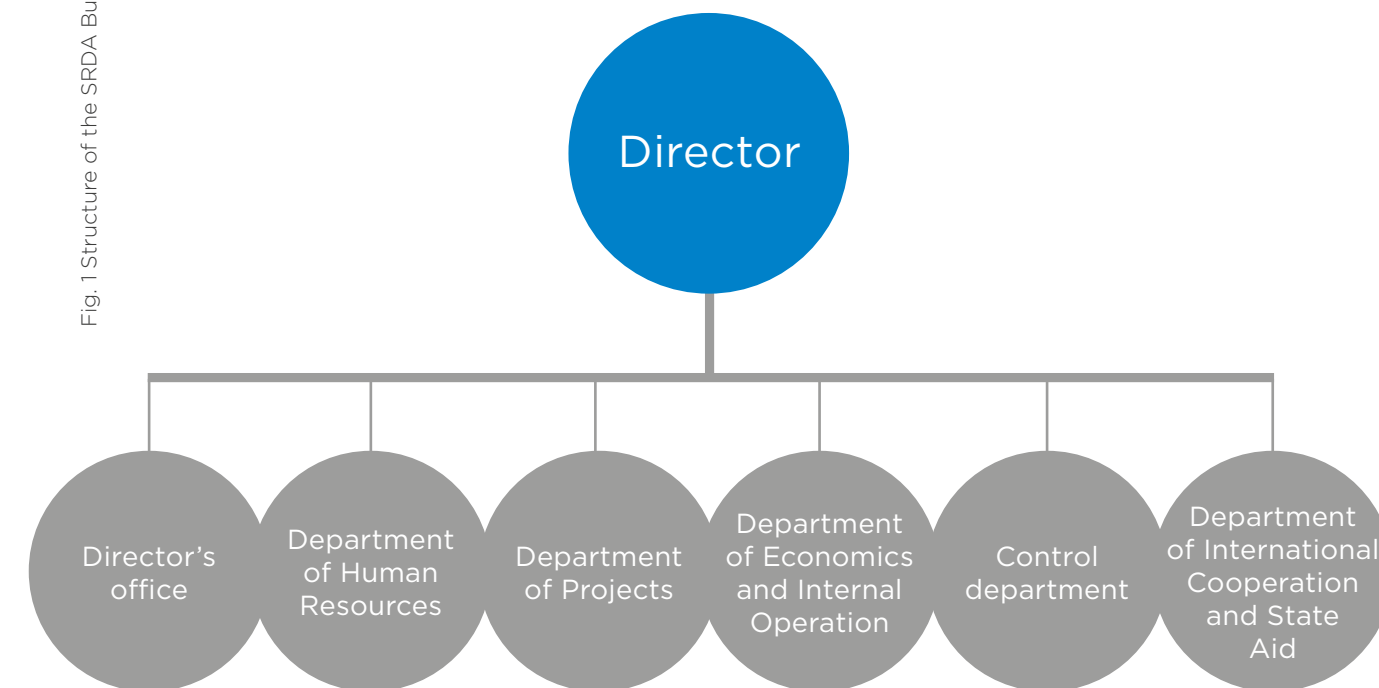
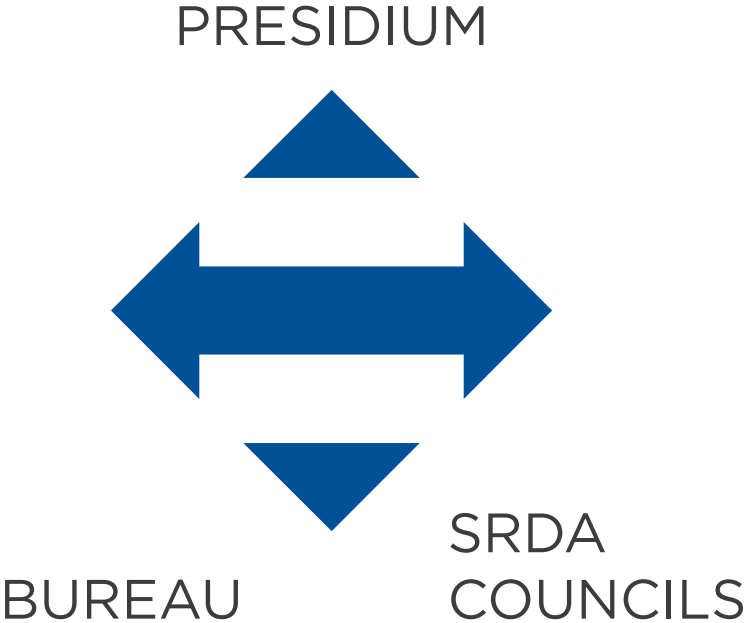


Fig. 2 Structure of the SRDA Bureau



2.2 SRDA Presidium

The Agency Presidium is a top expert body of the SRDA. Act No. 172/2005 Coll. establishing the Agency governs fulfilling the Presidium’s tasks. The Presidium members are appointed and withdrawn by the Government upon the proposal of the Minister of Education. The term of the Presidium members is four years, with two consecutive terms in maximum. The Presidium of the Agency consists of 13 members, 11 members of which are significant nation- wide respected experts in science and technology, 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 Main Tasks Plan, prepared by the Agency’s Director, on the basis of the Agency’s concept of activity for the relevant period, and is 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, MSc.
Ministry of Environment SR, Bratislava
- doc. Mgr. Martin Lysák, Ph.D., DSc. (from 12.9.2019)
Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University, Brno
- 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. (until 26.3.2019)
The Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences CR Brno
- Secretary**
JUDr. Ing. Anna Ďurfina, PhD. et PhD. (until 11.11.2019)
Ing. Jozef Kadnár, PhD. (from 12.11.2019)
- In 2019, the Presidium’s meetings 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 2019 General Call (GC) as well as calls on international cooperation,
 - Approval of the Open Call “MVP 2019“
 - 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, 2016 GC, 2017 GC and 2018 GC Calls,
 - streamlining the evaluation process;
 - financial remuneration of project reviewers;
 - 2018 SRDA Annual Activity Report and 2018 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

Agency Council is an expert body of the Agency set up for a particular 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 the Council's competence. At least one foreign expert is a member of the Council.
In 2019, 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
Chairman of the Council / RNDr. Ján Sedlák, DrSc.
Biomedical Research Centre of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Experimental Oncology

Council for Agricultural Sciences
Chairman of the Council / prof. MVDr. Štefan Faix, DrSc.
Centre of Biology of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Animal Physiology of Slovak Academy of Sciences

Council for Social Sciences
Chairperson of the Council / doc. PhDr. Gabriela Lubelcová, PhD.
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. Gregor Rozinaj, PhD.
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 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 business cooperation with research organisations for 2016-2019” (RDP)
Chairman of the Council / host. prof. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD.
Prvá zväračská, 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 2019

3.1 Activities in 2019

Based on the Agency’s Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2019:

- General Call GC 2019 for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology;
- Open Call MVP 2019 is dedicated to support young researchers;
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK FR 2019;
- DS-FR 2019 – a multilateral call for supporting scientific and technical cooperation in the Danube region and the French Republic;
- Research bilateral call for supporting cooperation between Slovak and foreign organizations SK BY RD 2019.

The Agency’s activities during 2019 included also the following additional tasks:

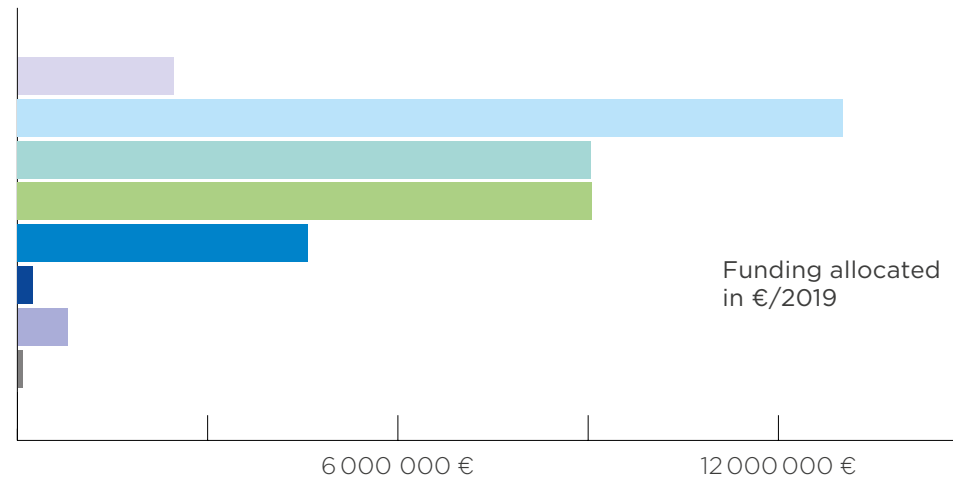
- monitoring projects outputs after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project benefits (impacts) on social and economic practice;
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. projects with funding, and therefore the solution, started already in previous years and continued in 2019;
- launching 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 2019 is shown in Tab. 1.

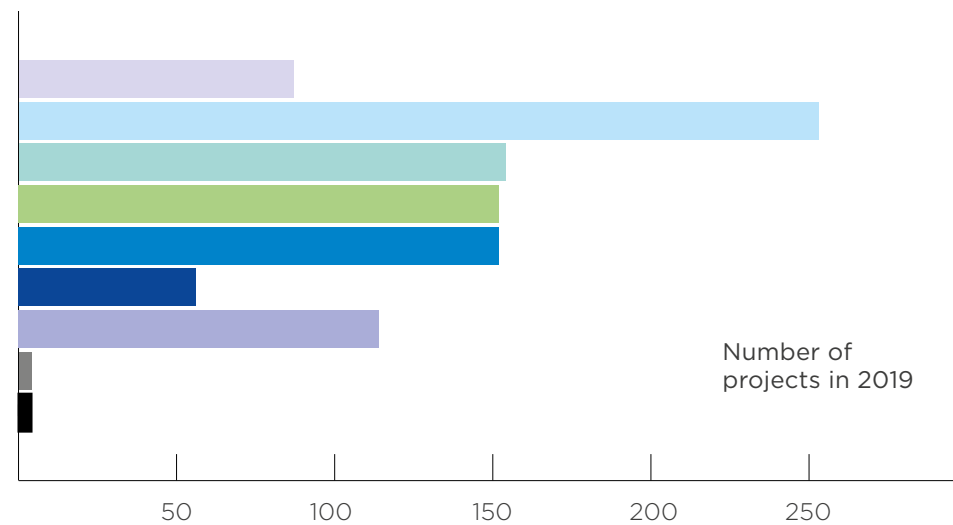
Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2019

Call	Number of projects in 2019	Funds allocated in €/2019
GC 2014	87	2 457 802
GC 2015	253	13 021 675
GC 2016	154	9 045 605
GC 2017	152	9 059 011
GC 2018	152	4 579 903
MVP 2019	56	241 621
Bilateral calls	114	788 291
SF7FP	4	77 221
Horizon H2020	4	9 000
Total	976	39 280 129

Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Financed Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2019



- GC 2014
- GC 2015
- GC 2016
- GC 2017
- GC 2018
- MVP 2019
- Bilateral calls
- SF7FP
- Horizon H2020



3. 1. 1. Announcement of General Call GC 2019



This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2019 launched in 2019, with the funding for the selected successful projects starts in 2020. Maximum project period is 48 months.

Characteristic of GC 2019

General Call GC 2019 did not limit the material intent of the projects anyhow. The Applicant determined the intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project. Legal entities and natural persons - entrepreneurs without any restrictions on their research and development sector, could submit their applications.

Basic information concerning the GC 2019

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 12. 9. 2019 – 12. 11. 2019

Basic information about the applications registered

- total number of the applications received / 606
- of which basic research project applications / 389
- of which applied research project applications / 208
- of which development project applications / 9
- the amount of funds required / 140,297€
- financial contribution of the applicants / 7,988€
- total amount of funds / 148,285 €

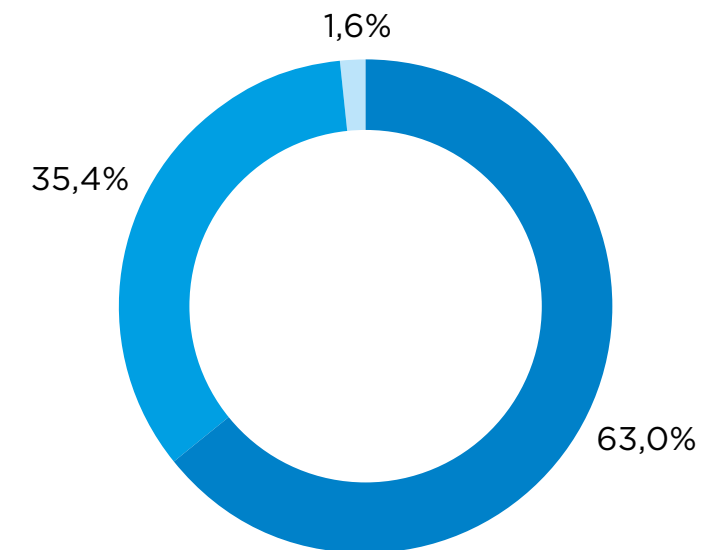


Fig. 4 Registered Applications by Character of Their Research in %

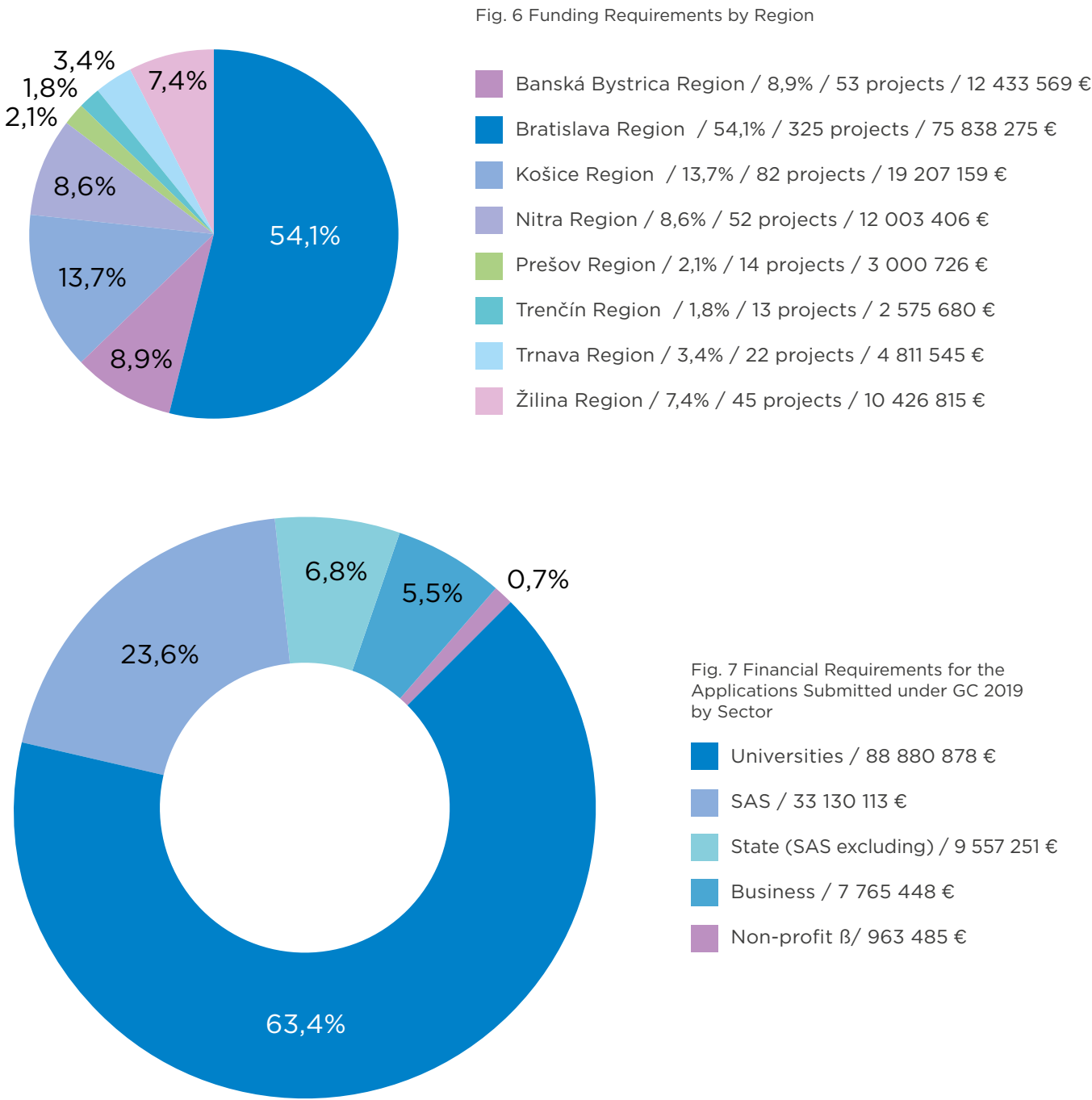
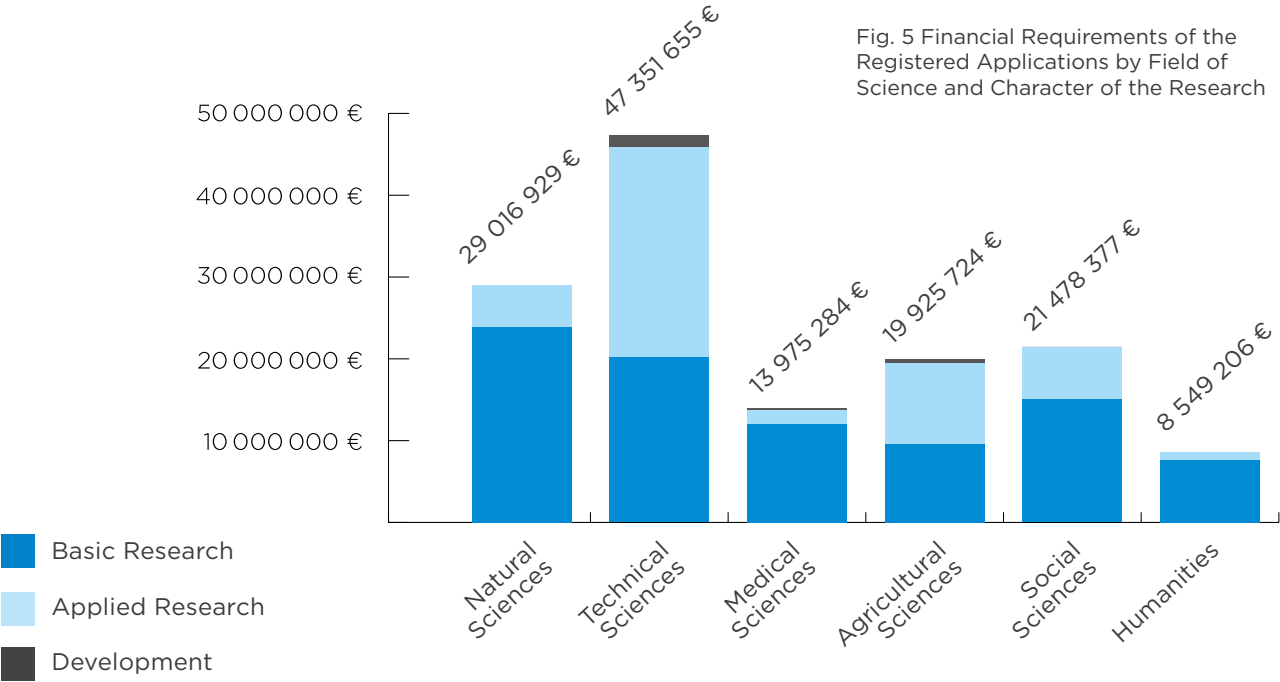
Basic Research	88 462 €
Applied Research	49 611 €
Development	2 224 €

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	389	88 462
Applied Research	208	49 611
Development	9	2 224
Total	606	140 297

Field of Science	Registered applications
Natural Sciences	127
Technical Sciences	200
Medical Sciences	58
Agricultural sciences	84
Social Sciences	98
Humanities	39
Total	606

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications by Field of Science



3. 1. 2. International Cooperation

In 2019, the Agency launched 1 bilateral call, 1 bilateral research call and 1 multilateral call within the international scientific and technical cooperation.

New calls for bilateral research cooperation in 2019

In 2019, the Agency launched a bilateral research call with the Republic of Belarus. The Call's priorities were 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 be of basic research, applied research or development, in which the applicant 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 their applications.

Under General Call SK-BY-RD 2019, a sum of € 360,000 was allocated for the entire solution period of the supported projects. This amount of funds additionally increased in € 68,512, which together amounted to € 428,512. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency to solve one project was limited to a maximum of € 120,000 for the project period. The SRDA Presidium set the following priorities of the Call: agricultural machinery and technology; medicine, medical technology and medicines; chemical engineering, nanotechnology and biotechnology and new materials. Projects will be solved in 2019-2022. Under the Call, 20 applications were submitted, 4 projects with funding provided.

New bilateral calls in 2019

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 2019, the Agency launched bilateral call with the French Republic with an allocated amount of funds for the entire period of solving the supported projects totalling to € 86,000. The total amount of the Agency – provided funds dedicated for the solution of one project was maximised to amount of € 5,300 for the entire project period. The projects will be solved in the years 2020 - 2021 with beginning of their solution 1.2.2020. In total, 15 applications were submitted in the Call.

New multilateral calls in 2019

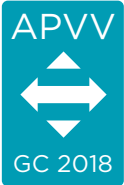
Multilateral call projects are projects of international cooperation aimed at establishing new or intensifying the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following tools:

- Contributing to scientific development in the above-mentioned countries by funding the mobility of researchers through joint research projects.
- Contributing to the development of research capacity in the region.
- Supporting the development of cross-border research cooperation.
- Providing an opportunity for young researchers from the above countries to collaborate internationally and to develop their scientific careers.
- Enabling a joint participation in European research projects.

In 2019, the Agency launched a multilateral call which, in addition to the countries of the Danube region (the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Serbia), the French Republic joined for the first time. The allocated amount of funds for the entire period of solving the supported projects was € 150,000. The total amount of the Agency-provided funds for solving one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 10,000 for the entire project period in case 3 countries are involved in the project; if 4 countries are participating, the maximum amount was € 12,500 for the entire project period, and the maximum of € 15,000 for the entire project period in the case of 5 participating countries. Projects will be solved in 2020-2021 with the beginning of solution on March 1st, 2020. Under the Call, 51 applications were submitted.



3.2 General Call GC 2018



This activity of the Agency related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2018 in 2018, while funding for the selected successful projects started in 2019 with maximum project period until 2023.

Characteristic of GC 2018

GC 2018 General Call did not limit the substance of the projects anyhow. The Applicant determines the intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project. Legal entities and natural persons - entrepreneurs without any restriction on their R & D sector, could submit the applications.

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 requested / 122,779 €
- financial contribution of the applicants / 8,162 €
- total amount of funds / 130,941 €

Basic information concerning the assessment process:

- deadline for application assessment / May 2019
- total number of applications / 552
- number of applications rejected (technical and formal control) / 12
- number of applications withdrawn by the Applicant / 13
- number of applications under expert assessment / 257
- number of applications with funding provided / 152
- of which basic research projects applications / 101
- of which applied research projects applications / 50
- of which development project applications / 1
- average success rate of applications submitted in % / 28.2%
- funding approved in total / 32,842 €
- funding provided in 2019 / 4,580 €

Under the General Call GC 2018, a total of 539 applications for funding for research and development projects were submitted. After a technical and formal control, 12 applications were rejected. 527 applications were submitted to an expert assessment, based on which 152 applications were funded. The project solution started from July 1, 2019. The latest project completion date is June 30, 2023.

Tab. 4 Number of Supported Applications by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	101	20 940
Applied Research	50	11 652
Development	1	250
Total	152	32 842

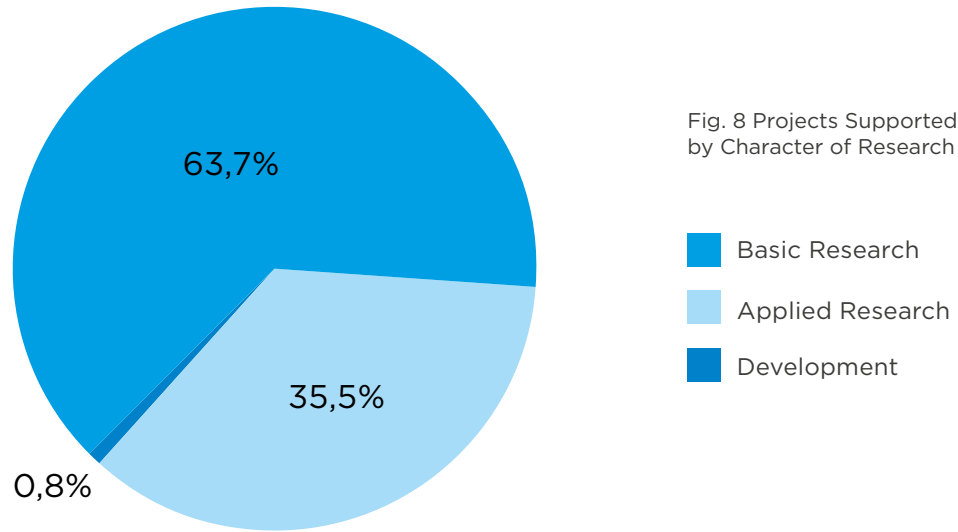


Fig. 8 Projects Supported Under GC 2018 by Character of Research in %

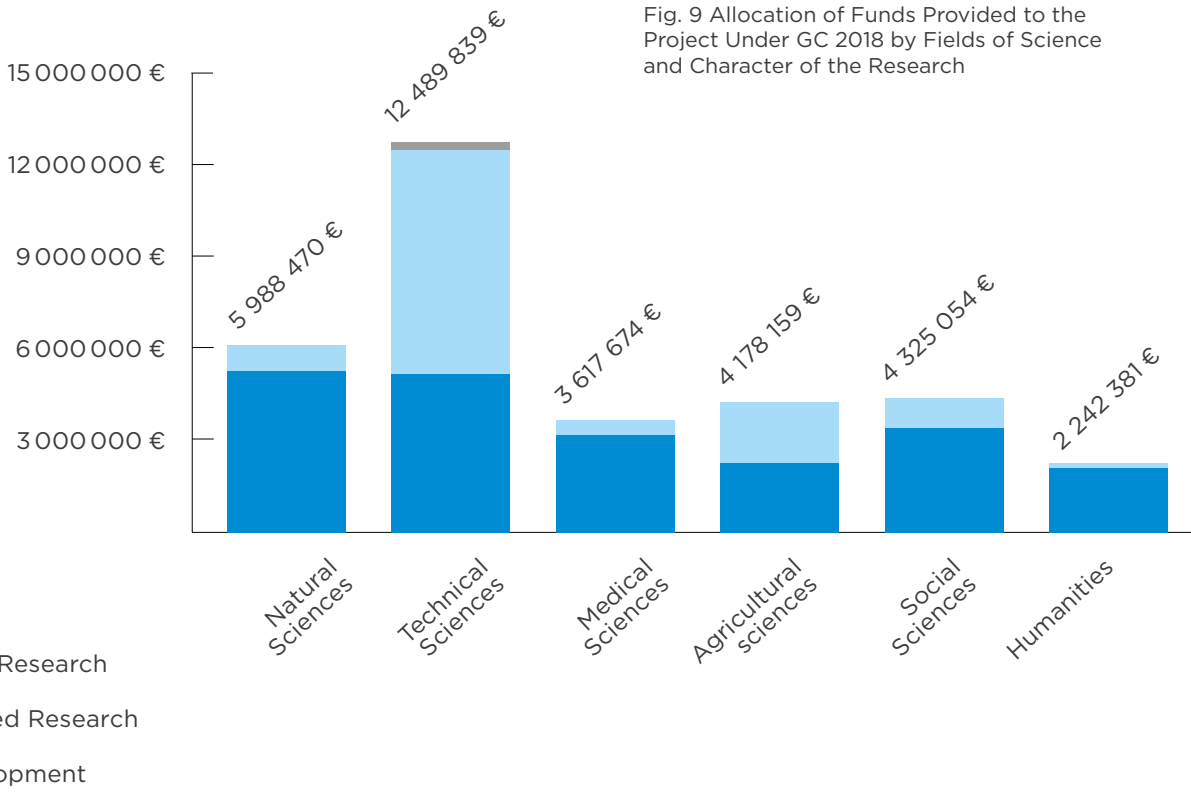


Fig. 9 Allocation of Funds Provided to the Project Under GC 2018 by Fields of Science and Character of the Research

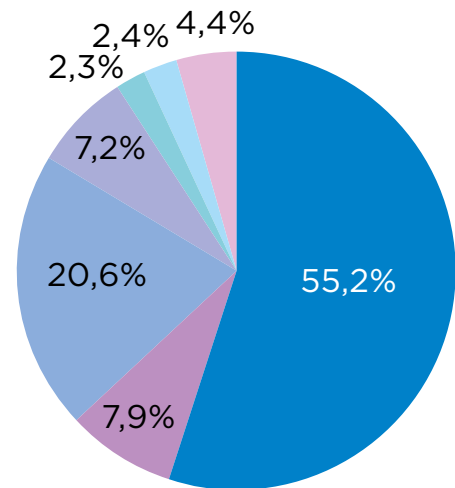


Fig. 10 Allocation of Funds for GC 2018 Projects by Region

Banská Bystrica Region	/ 7,9%	/ 12 projects	/ 2 606 224 €
Bratislava Region	/ 55,2%	/ 85 projects	/ 18 118 177 €
Košice Region	/ 20,6%	/ 30 projects	/ 6 752 467 €
Nitra Region	/ 7,2%	/ 11 projects	/ 2 368 859 €
Prešov Region	/ 2,3%	/ 4 projects	/ 765 659 €
Trenčín Region	/ 0%	/ 0 projects	/ 0 €
Trnava Region	/ 2,4%	/ 4 projects	/ 772 742 €
Žilina Region	/ 4,4%	/ 6 projects	/ 1 457 449 €

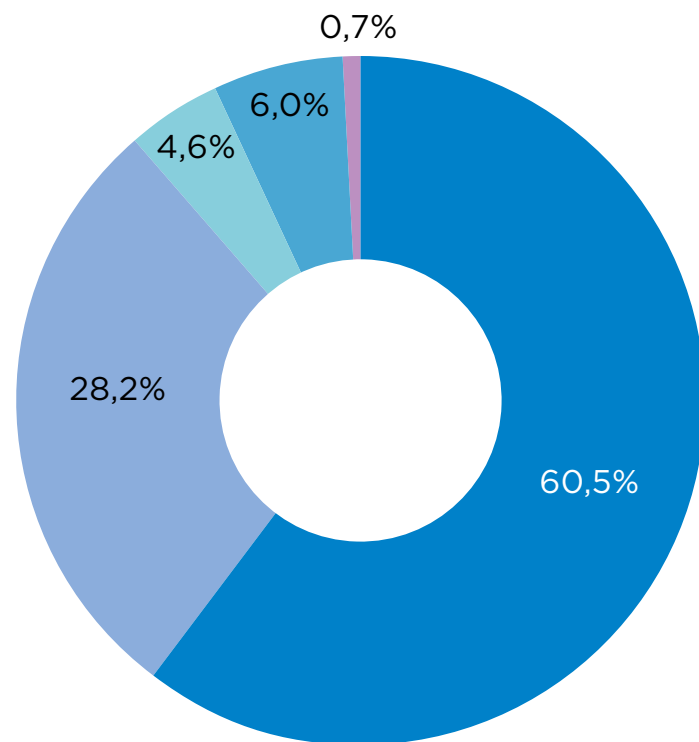


Fig. 11 Funds Provided to the Projects Supported Under GC 2018 by Sector in %

Universities	/ 19 878 957 €
SAS	/ 9 256 047 €
State (SAS excluding)	/ 1 498 984 €
Business	/ 1 959 787 €
Non-profit	/ 247 802 €

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

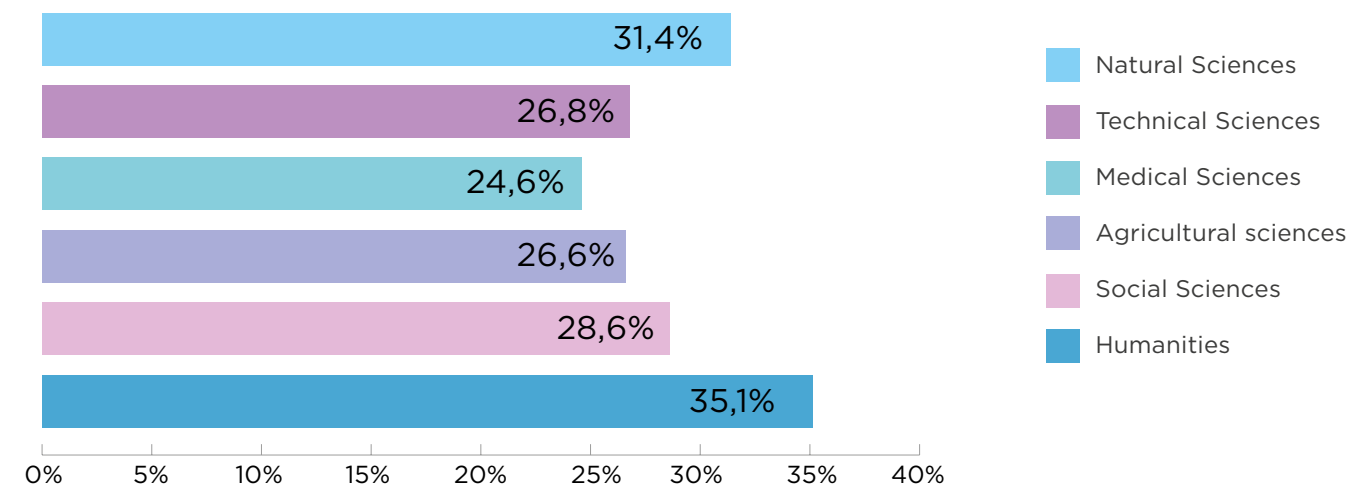


Fig. 13 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Character of Research in %

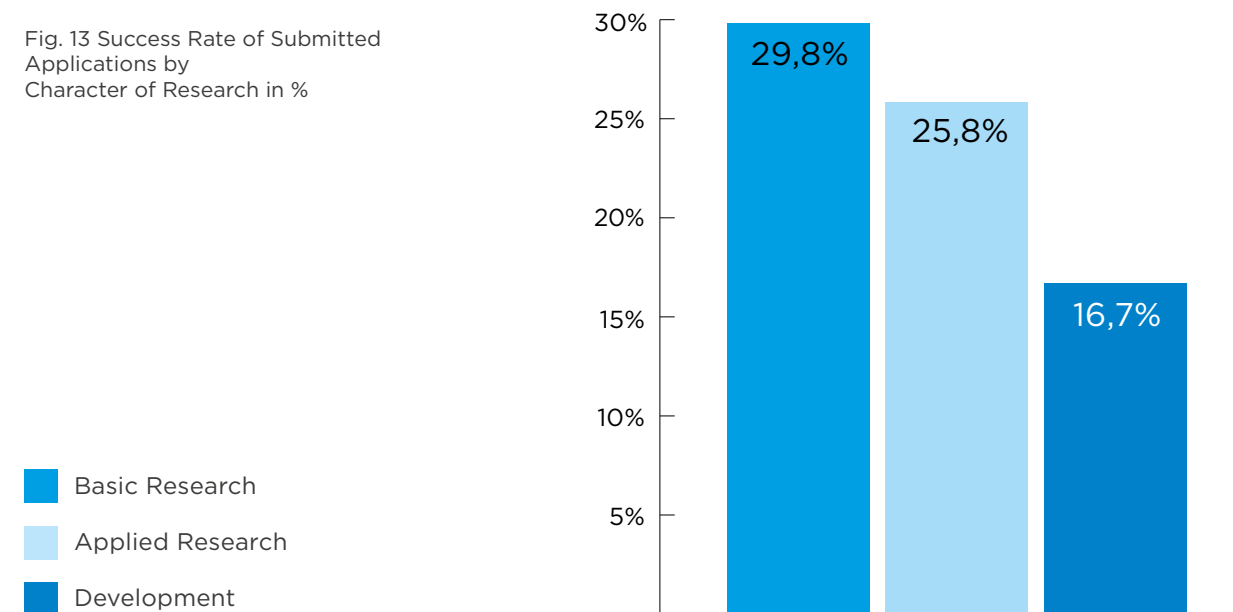
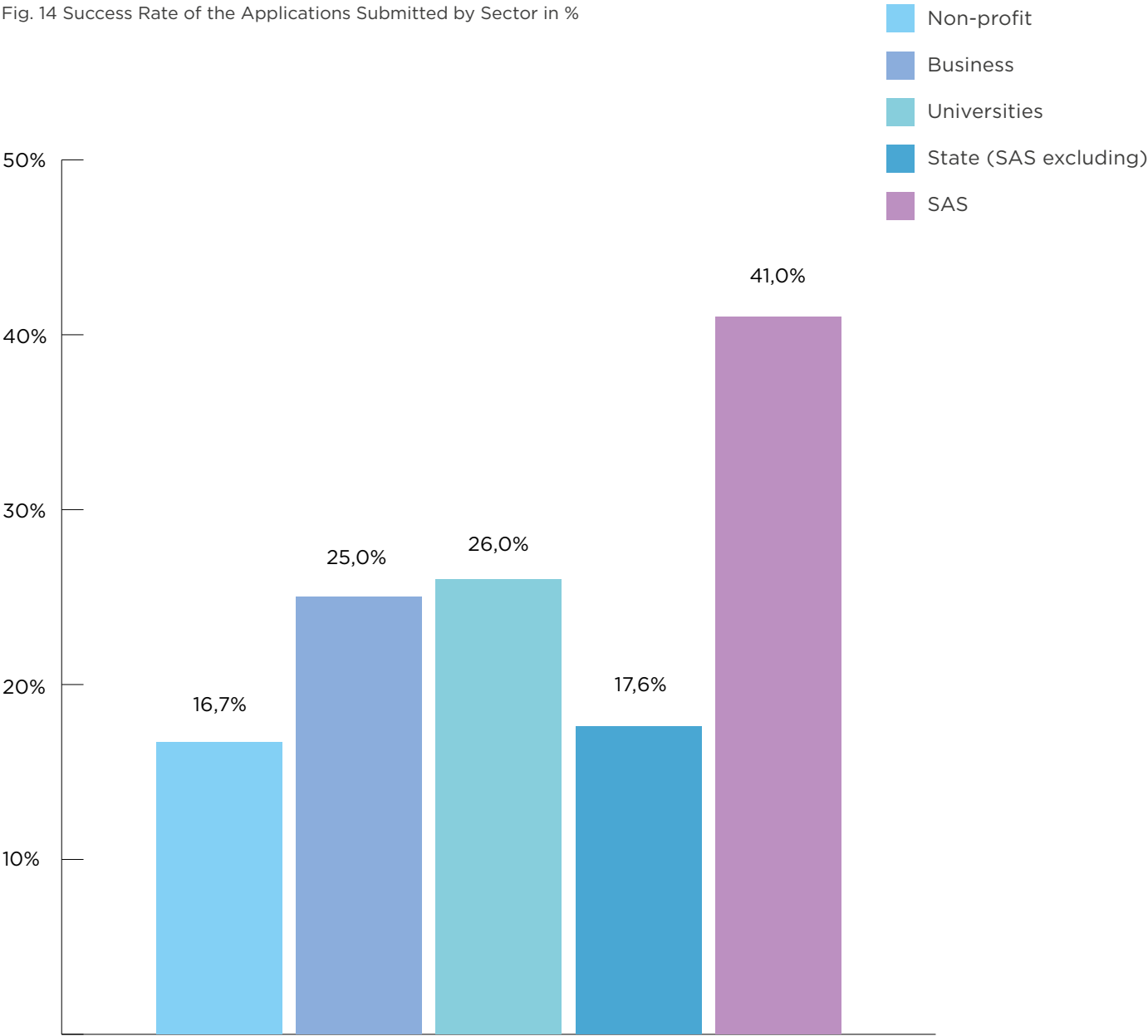


Fig. 14 Success Rate of the Applications Submitted by Sector in %



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 2019. 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 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 project year, based on the of annual project reports evaluated by the SRDA Councils and upon their approval to continue them. The annual report comprises an expert section presenting the expert findings in accordance with the project schedule, and a financial part with an overview of the drawings of the funds provided for the given financial year.

During the months of March and April 2019, the projects, recommended by the SRDA Councils for continuing their solution, were provided funds for the given year according to the approved project budget. During May and June 2019, the funding was provided to the projects that were suspended and called upon by the SRDA Councils to amend their annual reports and then were subsequently re-approved to continue their solution.

Information on the Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects Evaluated in 2017 with Funding Continued in 2019

In 2019, the Agency continued to fund 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 2019 € 138,482, namely € 39,482 for 15 projects under Call SK-FR 2017, € 51,050 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.

Tab. 5 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2014	87	2015
GC 2015	253	2016
GC 2016	154	2017
GC 2017	152	2018

Tab. 6 Funding Provided in 2019 for the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2014	87	2 457 802	0	2 457 802
GC 2015	253	13 021 675	0	13 021 675
GC 2016	154	9 045 605	0	9 045 605
GC 2017	152	9 059 011	0	9 059 011
Total	646	33 584 093	0	33 584 093

Evaluated in 2018 with funding continued in 2019

In 2019, the Agency continued to fund bilateral research projects (SK-CN-RD 2018 and SK-IL-RD 2018) and bilateral mobility projects (SK-KR 2018) submitted in 2018. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the State of Israel.

The total amount of funds provided in 2019 was € 479,778, with € 187,651 for 3 projects under the SK-CN-RD 2018 call, € 252,427 for 3 projects under the SK-IL-RD 2018 call and € 39,700 for 10 projects under the SK-KR 2018 call.

Evaluated in 2018 with funding started in 2019

In 2019, the Agency started with funding of the bilateral projects submitted in 2018. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic and the Republic of Serbia. The total amount of funds provided in 2019 was € 105,347, with € 33,825 for 17 projects under the SK-PL 2018 call, € 32,163 for 12 projects under the SK-PT 2018 call and € 39,359 for 17 projects under the SK-SRB 2018 call.

Tab. 7 The SRDA- Funded Projects under SF7FP in 2019 by Sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State-Funded Organisations	2	45 722
Universities	2	31 499
Total	4	77 221

3.4 Supplementary funding of the Seventh Framework programme (SF7FP)



Open Call for supplementary funding for FP7 project applications 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 to provide supplementary funding to 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.

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 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 a coordinator, and € 2,000 if the applicant was a member of the evaluated Horizon 2020 project consortium.

3.6 Open Call for Supporting the Young Researchers (MVP 2019)

The MVP 2019 pilot call was aimed at supporting the young researchers' involvement in research and development projects, and at the same time to enhance them in publishing findings of their research and development. The main goal of the MVP 2019 call was to make a carrier of young researcher careers more attractive.

Tab. 8 The SRDA- Funded Projects under H2020 in 2019 by Sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
Other	4	9000
Total	4	9000

Tab. 9 The SRDA Funds Provided under MVP2019

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State Sector - SAV	19	80 022,92
State Sector - mimo SAV	2	9 988,10
Universities	33	144 374,23
Business	2	7 235,68
Total	56	241 620,93

Support under this Call was allocated by reimbursing the eligible costs incurred in 2019 per young researcher, with a minimum of € 1,000 and a maximum of € 5,000. In accordance with § 7 of Act no. 172/2005 Coll., this support was intended for all R&D sectors. There were 69 applications submitted within the pilot MVP 2019 call. 13 applications did not meet either the general or the expert criteria set out in the wording of the call. In 2019, the Agency supported 56 applications in the total amount of € 241,620.93.

3.7 Projects completed and evaluated in 2019

In 2019, the Agency finally evaluated 194 projects with their solution period expired by 30 June 2019. The Agency’s Councils evaluated the project outcomes considering the criteria defined in advance, and closed the projects.

Projects under the General call

The Agency’s Councils evaluated 155 projects in total considering the scope of their focus, as follows:
The Council for Natural Sciences evaluated 33 projects under GC 2014, 20 of which were excellent and 13 were of good quality. In addition, the Council evaluated 2 projects under GC 2015, both of good quality.

The Council for Technical Sciences evaluated 43 projects under GC 2014, with 27 excellent projects and 16 projects of good quality. The Council also evaluated 9 projects under GC 2015, where 3 projects were rated at an excellent level and 6 projects reached a good level.

The Council for Medical Sciences evaluated 14 projects under GC 2014 with 5 excellent projects, 8 of good quality and 1 was insufficient.

The Council for Agricultural Sciences evaluated 19 projects under GC 2014, 9 of them were excellent and 10 were of good quality. At the same time, the Council evaluated also 2 project under GC 2015, both rated at excellent level
The Council for Social Sciences evaluated 22 projects under GC 2014, with 7 excellent projects, 14 were of good quality and 1 was insufficient.
The Council for Humanities evaluated 10 projects under GC 2014, with 5 of excellent and 5 of good quality. One project under GC 2015 was rated at excellent level.

Projects of Bilateral Cooperation

The Council of the Agency for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 17 projects under the multilateral call DS 2016, with 4 excellent projects, 12 projects reached a good level and one project was insufficient; 17 projects under bilateral call SK-SRB 2016 with 7 excellent projects and 10 projects reached a good level.

Projects under SF7FP

The Council for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 5 projects, 3 of them reached excellent level and 2 project were ranked as good.

3.8 Monitoring of the Completed Projects

As by the wording of the Agreement, researcher of General Call and SF7FP project is obliged, for a period of three months from the end of the project, to inform the Agency on the social and economic benefits of the project findings in the form of a Monitoring Report.

These are the main project outputs categories:

- Category 1**
Publications & Citations
- Category 2**
Patents, Inventions and Utility Models
- Category 3**
Applied outputs with defined economic indicators
- Category 4**
“Education & Popularization of Science” Outputs
- Category 5**
Other outputs
- Category 6**
Research & Development Project Added value

Tab. 10 Post-Completion Project Monitoring

Call	Funding of the Call Finished in (year)	Number of the Projects Monitored
GC 2011	2015	150
GC 2012	2017	160
GC 2014	2019	6
GC 2015	2020	1
SF7FP	Call finished	42

Tab. 11 Outputs of the Projects Completed

Call	Number of Projects with International CC Publications	Number of New SCI Citations	Number of Projects with Applied Output	Number of Applied Outputs
GC 2011	47	2 880	17	47
GC 2012	74	1 636	29	79
GC 2014	1	4	2	2
GC 2015	0	11	1	1
SF7FP	13	304	7	11
Total	135	4 835	56	140

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 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 2019, 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. In 2019, the Agency also provided ad hoc de Minimis Aid under the H2020 and MVP 2019 calls.

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 2019, 24 entities were provided aid under the State Aid Scheme. The total amount of the aid provided amounted to € 1,913,938.

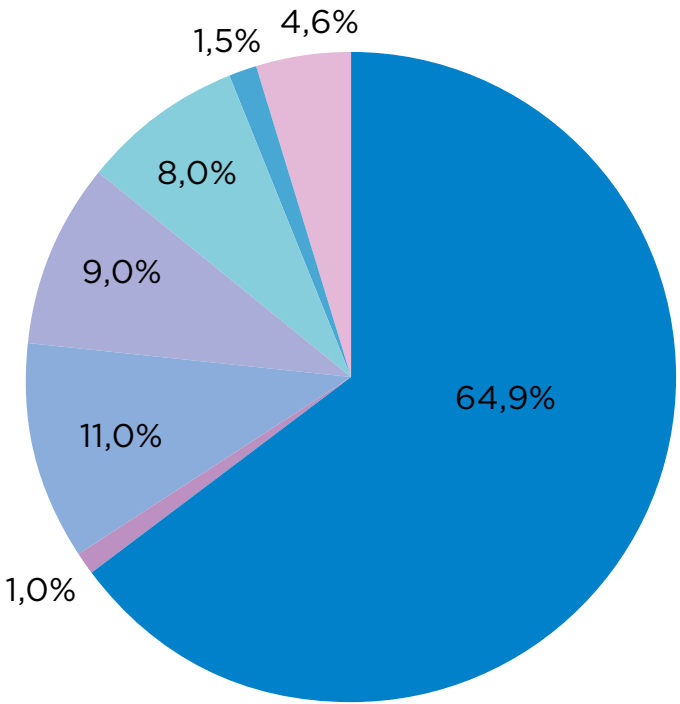
Within 24 entities, 6 entities represented a micro enterprise, 5 entities were small enterprises, 10 entities a medium-sized enterprise and 3 entities large enterprise. Regional distribution of total state aid, by regions, was as follows:

Within the regions, the aid was provided to 10 entities in the Bratislava Region, 1 entity in the Košice Region, 3 entities in the Nitra region, 2 entities in the Prešov Region, 1 entity in the Banská Bystrica Region, 3 entities in the Trenčín Region and 4 entities in the Žilina region.

Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of the Total State Aid Provided

Region	Amount in €
Bratislava Region	1 241 846
Trenčín Region	211 129
Žilina Region	173 090
Nitra Region	152 605
Košice Region	28 235
Banská Bystrica Region	19 937
Prešov Region	87 096
Total	1 913 938

Fig. 15 Regional Distribution of Total Aid Provided by Region



4.2 Evaluation of de Minimis Aid

In 2019, the Agency provided Ad hoc de Minimis Aid to 6 subjects amounting to € 16,236. These were the applications supported under the Horizon 2020 program and MVP 2019. Within the regions, Ad hoc de Minimis Aid was provided to 1 entity in the Bratislava Region, 2 entities in the Košice Region and 3 entities in the Žilina 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 December 31, 2020.

The Ad hoc de Minimis Aid rules will govern any aid provided to solution of the projects not covered by the approved State Aid Scheme.

05 / SRDA Budget

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to € 41,555,851 was approved for 2019 in the form of a binding indicators breakdown by the MŠVVaŠ SR to finance the Agency's operation and to finance the projects, i.e. to support research and development.

Under the O6K11 sub-program, a budget of € 1,445,920 was approved as to January 1, 2019 for the Agency's operation and € 40,109,931 for project funding (to support research and development), the breakdown is shown in Tab. 14.

During 2019, the MŠVVaŠ SR additionally adjusted the Agency's budget by the 4 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 reclassify the current expenditure on capital expenditure, and to reimburse the current expenditure at the MŠVVaŠ SR.

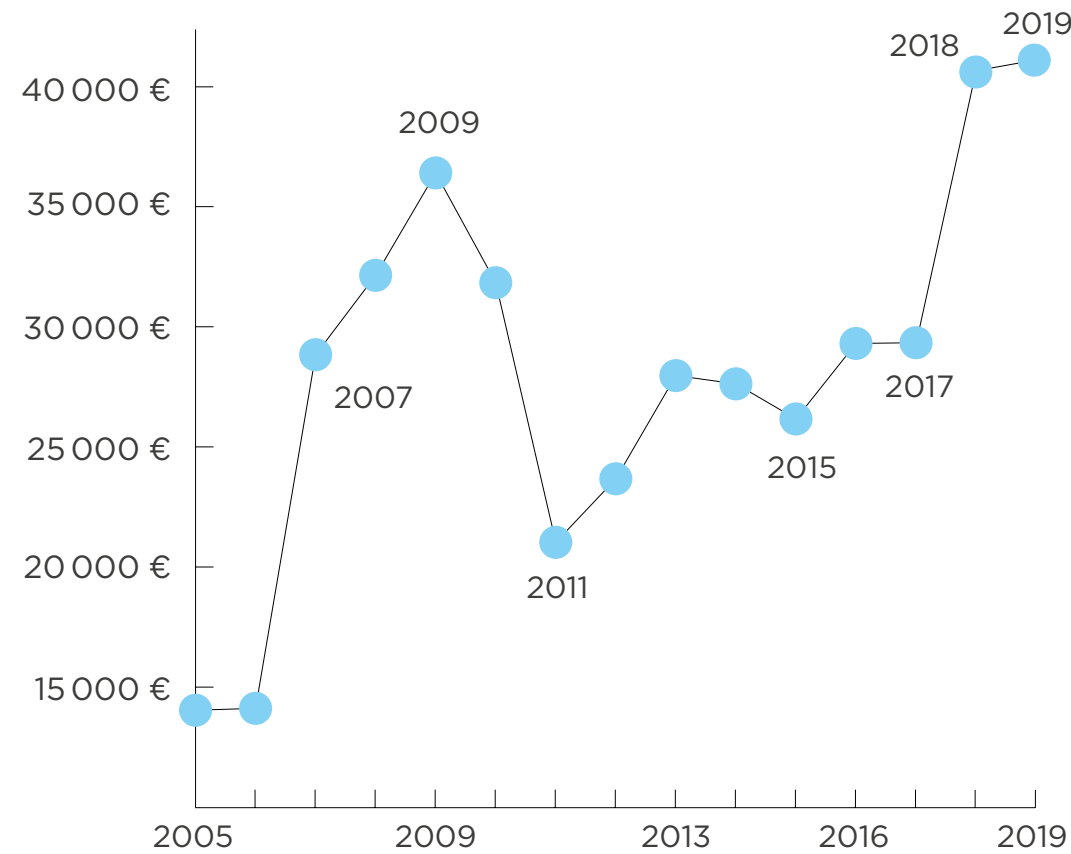


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's Budget during 2005 - 2019 in thousands of Euros

Tab. 13 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2019 in €

O6 K 11 Program	Budget Originally Approved	Budget as of December 31, 2019	Drawdown as of December 31, 2019
Operation of the Agency	1 445 920	1 561 483	1 561 483
Current	1 445 920	1 521 853	1 521 853
Capital	0	39 630	39 630
Support for Research and Development	40 109 931	39 789 932	39 637 078
Current	40 109 931	39 789 932	39 637 078
Capital	0	0	0
SRDA Budget in Total	41 555 851	41 351 415	41 198 561

Tab. 14 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2019 in €

Call / Program	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
General Call - GC 2014	2 457 802	0	2 457 802
General Call - GC 2015	13 021 675	0	13 021 675
General Call - GC 2016	9 045 605	0	9 045 605
General Call - GC 2017	9 059 011	0	9 059 011
General Call - GC 2018	4 579 903		4 579 903
Bilateral Projects	788 291	0	788 291
Young researchers - MVP	241 621	0	241 621
Supplementary Funding of Projects Supported Under FP7-EU-SF7FP	77 221	0	77 221
Horizon 2020	9 000		9 000
SRDA Budget in Total	39 280 129	0	39 280 129

Tab. 13 shows also the Agency's total adjusted budget for operation and R&D support as well as the budget drawdown as of December 31, 2019.

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 Projects Supported in 2019/Sector in €

Type of Organisation	Total Cost
State Organisations and SAS	12 590 588
Public Universities	23 627 214
Non-profit organisations	502 361
Business entities	2 385 412
Civic associations, foundations	174 554
Total	39 280 129

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, 2019 was 34.
The average recalculated number of employees for 2019 was 33.9.
The registered number of employees as of December 31, 2019 was 34.

During the year 2019, the Agency's staffing capacities were comprised by its core members and 117 top representatives of science and technology of the Slovak

Republic, who worked in the SRDA professional bodies. 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 an increase in the requirements for organizational and administrative activity, as well as to ensure the stabilization of the SRDA staff in order to achieve a higher quality level of implementing the SRDA processes in supporting the science and research. The average age of the SRDA employees in 2019 was 38 years.

Remuneration of the SRDA staff is governed by Act No. 553/2003 Coll. on Remuneration of Certain Employees During Performance of Works of Public Interest.

Tab. 16 Number of Employees by Organizational Structure

Organisational units	Number of employees as of 1. 1. 2019	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2019
Director's office	10	9
Control Department	3	4
Department of Human Resources	2	1
Department of Projects	14	11
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	5	5
Department. of international cooperation and state aid	0	4
Total	34	34

Tab. 17 Structure of the SRDA Employees by their Qualification as of December 31, 2019

Level of Education	Number of Employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	7	4
Higher Education - 1 st Level	0	0
Higher Education - 2 nd Level	24	15
Higher Education - 3 rd Level	3	2
Total	34	21

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 December 31, 2019, 70% of the staff was involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme. Services under the Multisport Program are available for the SRDA from November 2019.

6.3 Education and Trainings of the Employees

In order to increase and deepen professional qualifications of the employee, the Agency enables them to attend trainings, courses, and specialised seminars organised by vocational training institutions.

The Agency's staff trainings were available upon the Agency's financial situation.

Specialized seminars, trainings and courses covered mainly legislative changes of generally binding legal regulations and regulations governing the SRDA's activities in areas as budget rules of public administration; electronization in public administration; financial control and audit with regard to the amendment of relevant laws; amendments to procedures in accounting, financial statements, labour law; application of the amendment to Act on remuneration during performance of works of public interest; changes in social and health insurances; and deepening the IT skills. In 2019, SRDA organized language courses aimed at improving the communication of employees in foreign languages.

7.1 External Audit Activities

The SRDA employees performed financial on -site controls in 2019 in accordance with Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts.

The on-site financial controls were aimed at verifying compliance with the principles 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 “2019 Audit Plan – on-site financial control”, there were 24 on-site financial controls planned and carried out in 2019. Tab. 18 shows the overview.

Overview of On-Site Controls in 2019	
Number of controls planned	24
Number of controls carried out	24
Number of controls completed to 31.12.	24
Shortcomings found - number of controls	16

In 2019, on-site financial controls included control of correctness of expenditure drawdowns in the total amount of € 2,625,581.67. The on-site financial controls found violation of financial discipline amounting to € 34,573.10. In total, 55 measures were taken to address the shortcomings identified and the causes of their occurrence.

- Reasons for violating the financial discipline were as follows:
1. unauthorised drawdown 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. applying higher expenses / costs than the

- expenditure / costs actually incurred;
4. applying expenses / costs for purpose other than the project solution;
 5. applying expenses / costs outside the settlement period.

7.2 Internal Audit Activities

- In 2019, the SRDA Control Department carried out nine internal controls focused on:
1. Monitoring compliance with the directive “Receiving, registering, investigating and notifying the investigations or reviews of complaints and petitions at the Slovak Research and Development Agency”;
 2. Control of compliance with the directive “The SRDA Damage Commission”;
 3. Control of compliance with the methodological guideline “Methodology for creating, updating, publishing and getting acquainted with the internal SRDA regulations”;
 4. Control of compliance with “The SRDA Signature Directive”;
 5. Control of compliance with the directive “The SRDA Public Procurement Procedures Directive”
 6. Control of compliance with the “General Internal Procedure for Special Purpose Financial Support Provided to the Slovak Research and Development Agency Grant Schemes”;
 7. Control of compliance with the health and safety plan, control of entering and periodic health & safety trainings;
 8. Control of compliance with the directive “Guidelines for Business Trip and Travel Refunds”;
 9. Control of compliance with directive on “Accounting Documents Handling in SRDA”.

Based on the audit findings, there were no measures to correct the identified deficiencies.

Tab. 18 The SRDA On-Site Financial Controls Carried Out in 20192019

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Technical University of Košice (project “DO7RP-0006-12”)	74 883,67
Pulp and Paper Research Institute, J.S.C. (project “SRDA -16-0409”)	93 000,00
Institute of Economic Research SAS (project “SK-PL-2015-0058”)	4 000,00
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (project “SRDA -0073”)	217 115,00
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (project “SRDA -14-0078”)	215 000,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (project “SRDA -16-0146”)	84 870,00
Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications (VUS), non-profit organization in Banská Bystrica (project “SRDA-15-0718”)	249 128,00
SPINEA Technologies, s.r.o. Prešov (project “SRDA -16-0355”)	128 594,00
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (project “SRDA -16-0158”)	95 575,00
Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (project “SRDA -15-0502”)	194 132,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (project “SRDA -14-0431”)	215 379,00
University of Žilina (project “SRDA -17-0218”)	28 451,00
Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (project “SRDA -15-0439”)	51 648,00
University of Žilina (project “SRDA -15-0405”)	137 026,00
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (project “PP-H2020-18-0002”)	2 000,00
Trnava University (project “SRDA -14-0070”)	164 139,00
ZTS VVÚ KOŠICE, J.S.C.(project “SRDA -14-0894”)	249 747,00
University of Žilina (project “SK-SRB-2016-0024”)	4 700,00
POWERTEC s.r.o. (project “SRDA -16-0626”)	124 386,00
Technical University in Zvolen (project “SRDA -17-0644”)	69 978,00
Welding Research Institute (project “SRDA -17-0591”)	46 836,00
Institute of Informatics SAS (project SK-BG-2013-0030”)	5 160,00
Institute of Zoology SAS (project “SRDA-16-0395”)	83 116,00
Centre of Biosciences SAS – Cancer Research Institute (project “SRDA-16-0178”)	86 718,00

7.3 Audits Carried Out by External Audit Bodies

In 2019, external audit bodies carried out the following audits in the SRDA

General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic, Benešova 10, Brno inspected premium payments for public health insurance and adherence of other obligations of the premium payer from June 1, 2016 to July 31, 2019.

On August 15, 2019, the Prague Social Security Administration inspected the fulfilment of the employer's obligations in sickness insurance, pension insurance and the payment of social security premiums and contributions to the state employment policy for the period from January 1, 2016 to October 14, 2016. On August 15, 2019, the Prague Social Security Administration inspected the fulfilment of the employer's obligations in sickness insurance, pension insurance and the payment of social security premiums and contributions to the state employment policy from March 1, 2018 to October 10, 2018.

On August 15, 2019, the Prague Social Security Administration inspected the fulfilment of the employer's obligations in sickness insurance, pension insurance and the payment of social security premiums and contributions to the state employment policy for the period from January 1, 2019 to March 26, 2019.

7.4 Complaint Handling

In 2019, the Control Department registered one filing identified as complaint, which was postponed according to Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints.

08 / The SRDA Annual Conference

On September 12, 2019, the annual conference of the Slovak Research and Development Agency was held in Bratislava under patronage of Mrs. Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, where she presented results of the SRDA activities in the last year.

After her introductory speech, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Mrs. Olga Nachtmannová, ceremoniously opened a new general call GC2019.

The Deputy Director of the Agency, Mrs. Anna Ďurfina, reported the SRDA activities in 2018 and 2019.

The Chairman of the Agency, Mr. Jozef Masarik in his contribution evaluated the General Call launched in 2018 and the new conditions and changes in the general call GC 2019.





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 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, and Call SF7FP.

Annual and Final Project Evaluation and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2019, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls GC 2014, GC 2015, GC 2016, GC 2017, 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, showing the most significant project findings and outputs, are available on the SRDA website.

Funding of New Projects

In 2019, funds were allocated to these calls launched in 2018: General Call GC 2018 and projects of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic and the Republic of Serbia. At the same time, a bilateral research call with the Republic of Belarus was launched and financed in 2019.

New Calls launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

In 2019, the Agency launched General Call GC 2019. Expected deadline for publishing the findings is May 2020. At the same time, also MVP 2019 Call was launched and financed.

The international scientific and technical cooperation in 2019 included launching the SRDA's mobility bilateral call for cooperation with the French Republic and a multilateral call which, in addition to the Danube region countries (the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Serbia), included the French Republic, too. The expected date for disclosing the results is scheduled to 1st quarter of 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 Call was aimed to support the active participation of the Slovak top researchers and R & D teams in FP7.

Specific tasks focused on running of the Agency

In the course of performing the specific tasks, the following tasks were fulfilled in 2019, preparation of documents as follows:

- 2019 SRDA Main Tasks Plan;
- 2018 Annual SRDA Activity Report;
- 2018 Annual SRDA Management Report;
- 2018 State Aid Report;
- 2018 Annual SRDA Accounts.

10 / Evaluation of the SRDA Activities In 2019

In 2019, 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 defined measurable indicators. The sub-program is intended to build an effective research & development support system by providing funds for project solution and for increasing the competitiveness of Slovak entities in the international scientific and technical cooperation.

Process of 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 2019:

- General Call for submitting applications for research & development projects in individual disciplines of science and technology - GC 2019;
- Call for supporting bilateral cooperation on the basis of intergovernmental agreements with the French Republic;
- Research bilateral calls with the Republic of Belarus;
- a multilateral call in which the French Republic also took part for the first time, in addition to the Danube region countries (the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Serbia);
- an open general call for supporting young researchers - MVP 2019
- General Call for submitting applications under the "Support for Research & Development Projects for the

EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2020 - Horizon 2020".

- General Call open for submitting applications to supplementary project funding under FP7 of the European Community (EC) for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities including the Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) Program - SF7FP

The Agency's activity included fulfilment of these basic tasks:

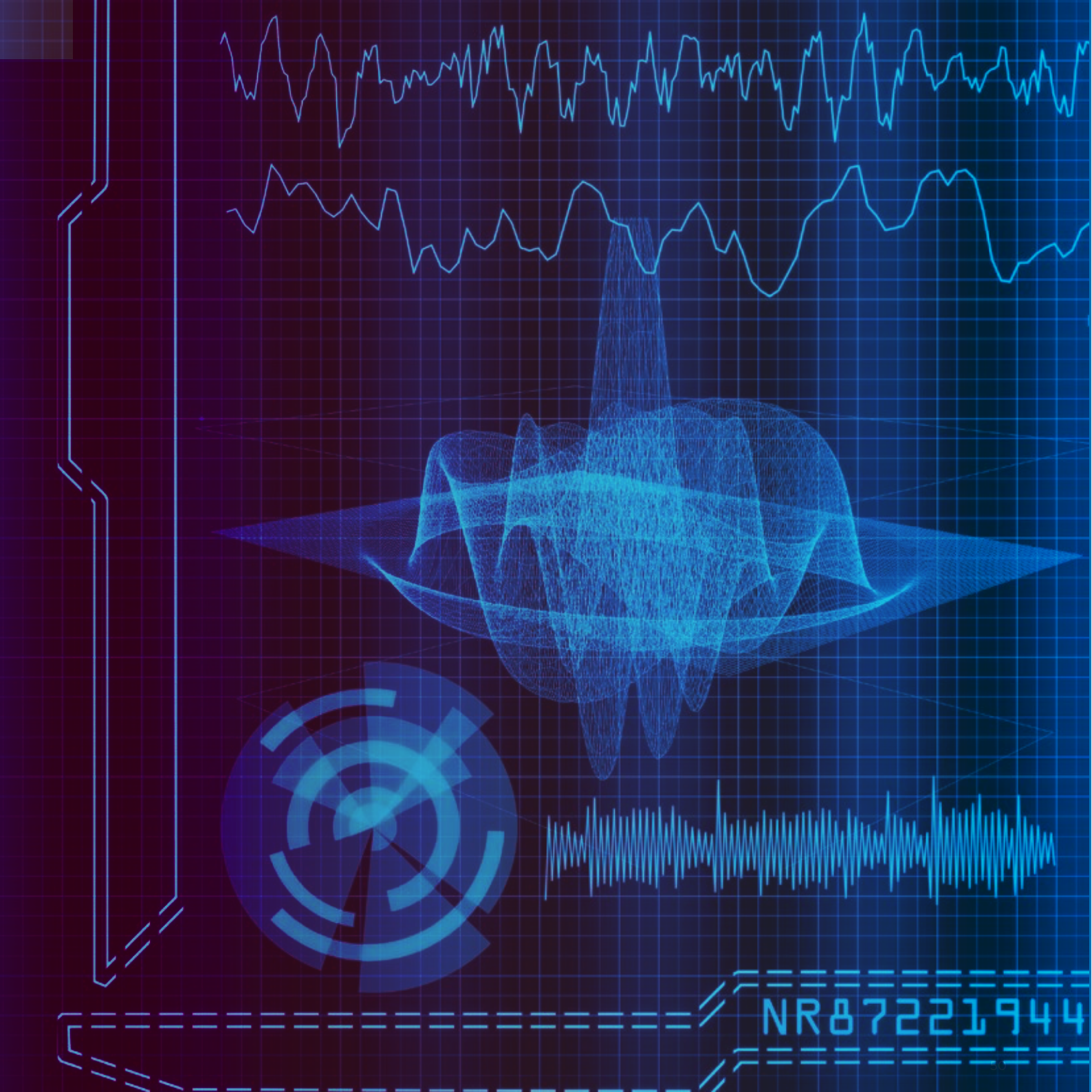
- monitoring of the project outputs after finishing the project in order to obtain relevant data on the project's impacts on social and economic practice;
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. the projects with funding and solution started already in the previous years and continued in 2019;
- announcing the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support submitted under these calls;
- funding the projects with starting their solution in 2019.

The Agency introduced various project funding and management - related measures with a view to:

- increase the objectivity and transparency of the assessment process;
- ensure an effective R&D support system by providing project funding, and increase 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.

The Agency presents itself publicly and communicates mainly through its website www.apvv.sk.

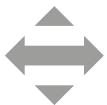
It worth to conclude providing that in 2019 the Slovak Research and Development Agency fulfilled its essential role that was to ensure fulfilment of the main tasks stipulated by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, as well as in the 2019 SRDA's Main Tasks Plan.



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 BG SK FR SK PL SK SRB SK TW SK PT SK CN SK KR GC SK IL RD	Slovakia - Bulgaria Bilateral Call 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 General Call Slovakia - Israel Bilateral Research Call
7.RP SRDA (APVV)	Seventh Framework Programme The Slovak Research and Development Agency	SK CN RD	Slovakia - China Bilateral Research Call
BOZP CC publications	Occupational safety and health Publications in Current Contents Journals	SK-BY-RD	Slovakia - Belarus Bilateral Research Call
SF7FP	Open general call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects	PP H2020	Horizon 2020
DS 2016	The Strategy for Danube Region 2016		
EC EURATOM	European Community European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVVaŠ SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic		
ISTC	International Scientific and Technical Cooperation		
MVP IT RIS 3	MVP information technologies Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic		
SAS SCI citations	Slovak Academy of Sciences Citations in foreign publications registered in citation indexes		
SK AT	Slovakia - Austria Bilateral Call		

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