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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Slovak Research  
and Development  
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 2020



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. The topicality of this statement was highlighted by the just evaluated year, in which we all tried to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Life has shown us that this cannot be achieved without science. The Agency responded to the current situation by announcing a call to manage the pandemic, which was implemented in an accelerated regime, and from the funds originally allocated to the Agency for 2020. In 2020, we invested EUR 4 million in the call to manage the pandemic COVID-19. A similar amount is scheduled for 2021.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, we also sought certain changes that should improve the activities of the Agency, make them more flexible and more transparent. The result of these efforts should be the creation of better conditions for the support of science, research and innovation in Slovakia. These conditions comprise mainly creation of a functional and efficient system as well as in the decent financing of its individual components. Efforts to create and optimize the existing system, as well as to improve financial support for research and development in Slovakia, are also declared in the Government's Manifesto, the implementation of which in the field of science may have been slow under the influence of a pandemic.

In the view of these intentions, year of 2020 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 2020, we benefited from the improvement of the 2019 project evaluation processes, and therefore the new projects started their funding within the given schedule. In 2020, complaints

about the SRDA Councils' decisions continued to decrease in number, however, in the case of a few individuals, the aggressiveness of their complaints and their uncriticality in evaluating their own projects, the subject of the complaint, increased. In addition, all previous SRDA's commitments were financed within the set deadlines.

Due to the pandemic situation, we adjusted a number of project deadlines, such as redistribution of funds within projects, especially in connection with the reduction of travel expenses. All these measures aimed at ensuring that, even in this situation, the Agency did not cause a reduction in the intensity and quality of scientific research activities. In this context, the flexibility, professionalism and helpfulness of the staff of the Agency's Bureau must also be highly valued.

When approving the state budget for 2020, the Agency was allocated funds that were sufficient for the Agency to provide funds for the planned projects, whether those even contracted, but also for a new general call and calls of bilateral or multilateral cooperation. In addition, comparing the budget to the previous period, the budget approved at the end of 2020 was increased. Given the current situation in 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to provide the increased funding to the research specifically focused on coping with the pandemic and its social, economic and other pandemic - related impacts, as well as on preventing the similar crises in future, as I already mentioned above. Despite this positive statement about the increase in the Agency's funding, we must say that funding for the Agency's operation and especially for supporting the research and development, is close to a 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

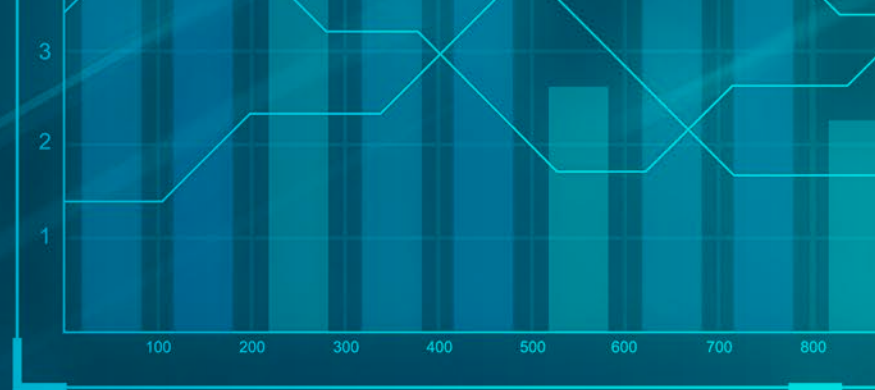
Agency. In order to improve the drawing of funds from the HORIZON Europe program, the Agency prepared a draft of a broadly-based program, which was submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Government of the Slovak Republic, similarly to the previous governments, approved the program in terms of its content, but without allocating any funds for its implementation.

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. This requires increasing the Agency's funding, adjusting the legislative environment within which it operates, as well as continuing to improve the Agency's internal processes. We believe that this year we will move in all three areas.

I would like to say my thanks to all the collaborators in the Slovak Research and Development Agency for their cooperation and I look forward to the next one. At the same time, I wish you all many, successful projects of high-quality beneficial for the whole society, implemented in an environment of desire and cooperation.







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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

<b>Name</b>	Slovak Research and Development Agency
<b>Registered office Address</b>	Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava Mýtna 23, P. O.BOX 839 04 839 04 Bratislava
<b>Contact e-mail</b>	+421 2 57 20 45 01 agentura@apvv.sk
<b>www</b>	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
- to participate in the promotion of research and development outcomes within the Slovak Republic, and to popularise the importance of research and



# 02 / BODIES OF THE SLOVAK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- 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 targeted support of research and innovation considering the current needs in our society, the Agency's programs aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects, and strengthening Slovakia's participation in the European R&D cooperation, especially in relation to the new EU framework program for research and innovation, Horizon Europe.

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 supporting the participation of R&D 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.

## 2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2020

### Director

JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo

### Management Members:

**Ing. Alena Bokrošová**

Head of the Director's office

**RNDr. Silvia Plesníková**

Head of Department of Projects

**Mgr. Tímea Števková, PhD.**

Head of Department of International Cooperation and State Aid

**Ing. Viera Dojčárová**

Head of the Department of Economics and Internal Operations

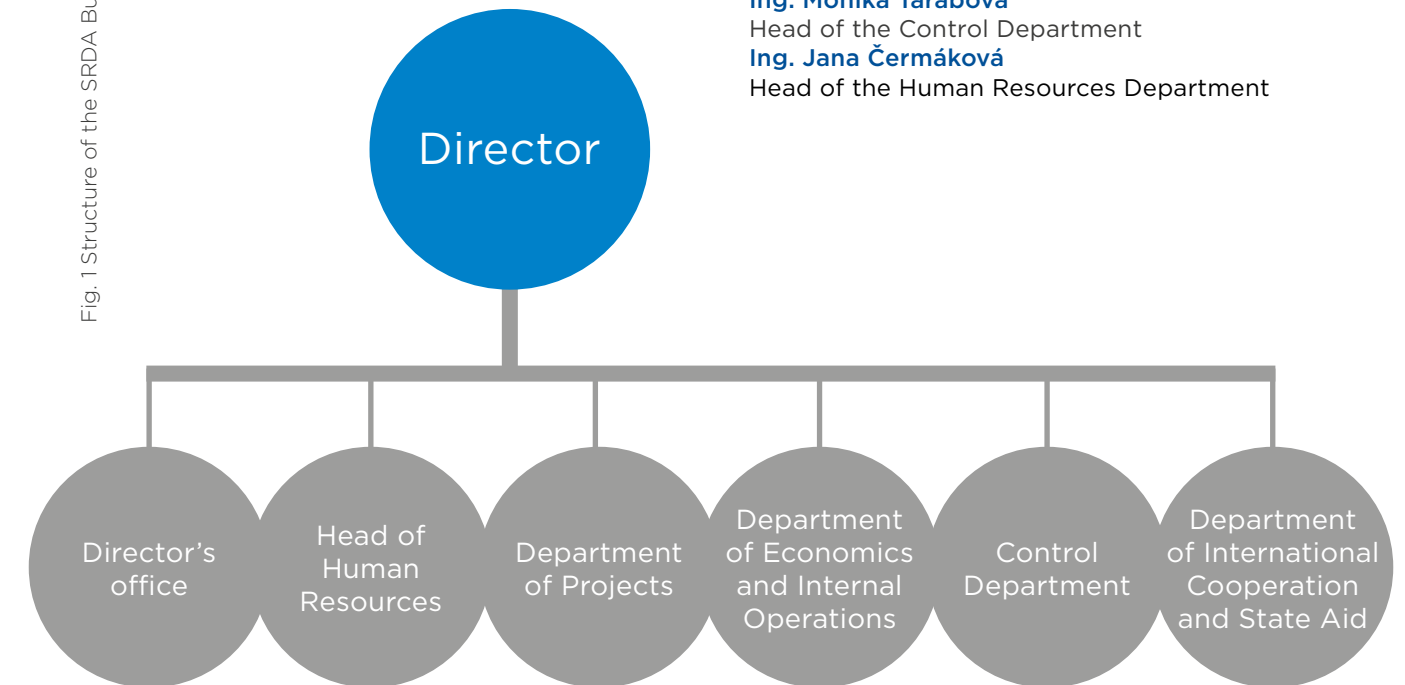
**Ing. Monika Tarabová**

Head of the Control Department

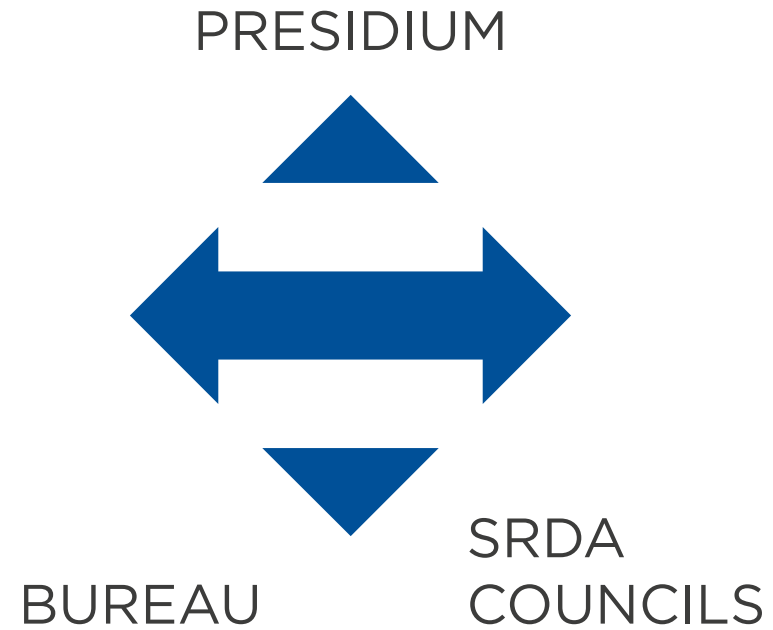
**Ing. Jana Čermáková**

Head of the Human Resources Department

Fig. 1 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

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

### 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.  
*Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk  
University, Brno*

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

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*

### Secretary

Ing. Jozef Kadnár, PhD.

At its meetings in 2020, 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 2020 General Call (GC) as well as bilateral call SK-AT 2020; approval of PP-COVID 2020 Call
- Re-nomination of the members of the Councils with their mandate in termination and addition of the new members of the Councils
- Ensuring the full project funding under the 2015 GC, 2016 GC, 2017 GC, 2018 GC and 2019 GC Calls
- streamlining the evaluation process
- financial remuneration of project reviewers
- 2019 SRDA Annual Activity Report and 2019 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

# 03 / THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2020

## 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 2020, 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.  
*Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice*

### Council for Technical Sciences

Chairman of the Council  
Dr. h. c., doc. Ing. Juraj Wagner, PhD.  
*The Association of Research and Development Industrial Organizations, 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 the SRDA program to cope with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects.

Chairman of the Board  
doc. MVDr. Norbert Žilka, DrSc.  
*Institute of Neuroimmunology SAS, Bratislava*

## 3.1 Activities in 2020

**Based on the Agency’s Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2020**

- General Call GC 2020 for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK AT 2020
- General Call open for submitting applications under the program “Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020 – 2021”, designated “PP-COVID 2020”

**The Agency’s activities during 2020 included also the following additional tasks:**

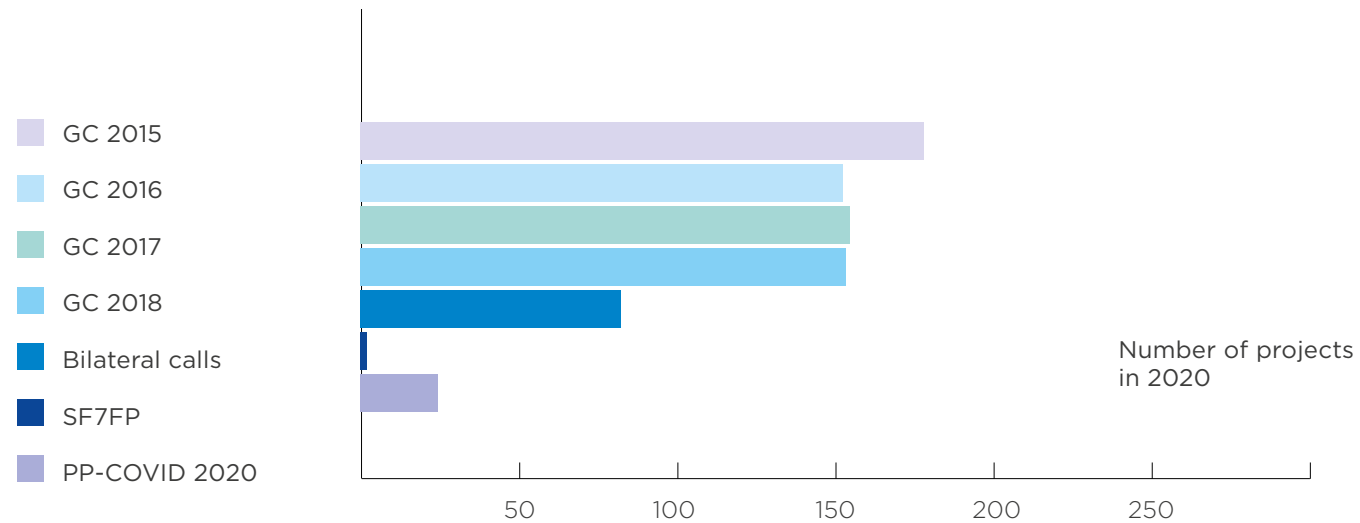
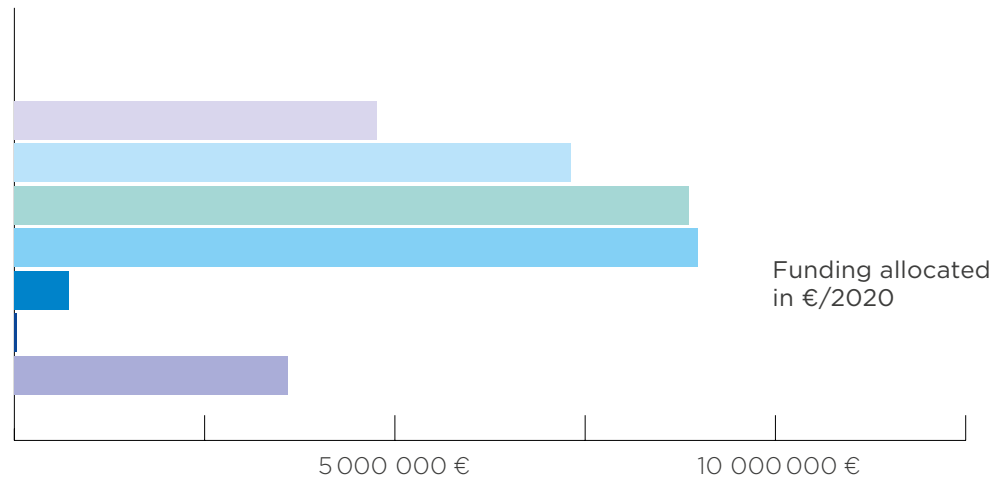
- monitoring projects outputs after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project benefits (impacts) on social and economic practice
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. projects with funding, and therefore the solution, started already in previous years and continued in 2020
- 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 2020 is shown in Tab. 1.*

Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2020

Call	Number of projects in 2020	Funds allocated in €/2020
GC 2015	175	4 880 072
GC 2016	150	7 466 049
GC 2017	152	9 013 738
GC 2018	151	9 281 646
GC 2019	149	4 433 300
Bilateral calls	66	651 292
SF7FP	2	34 002
PP-COVID 2020	24	3 640 325
Danube strategy 2019 DS-FR	15	77 428
<b>Total</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>39 477 852</b>

Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Financed Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2020



### 3. 1. 1. Announcement of General Call GC 2020



This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2020 launched in 2020, with the funding for the selected successful projects starts in 2021. Maximum project period is 48 months.

#### Characteristic of GC 2020

General Call GC 2020 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 2020

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 22. 09. 2020 - 23. 11. 2020

#### Basic information about the applications registered:

- total number of the applications received / **622**
- of which basic research project applications / **394**
- of which applied research project applications / **219**
- of which development project applications / **9**
- the amount of funds required / **143,445 ths €**
- financial contribution of the applicants / **9,261 ths €**
- total amount of funds / **152,706 ths €**

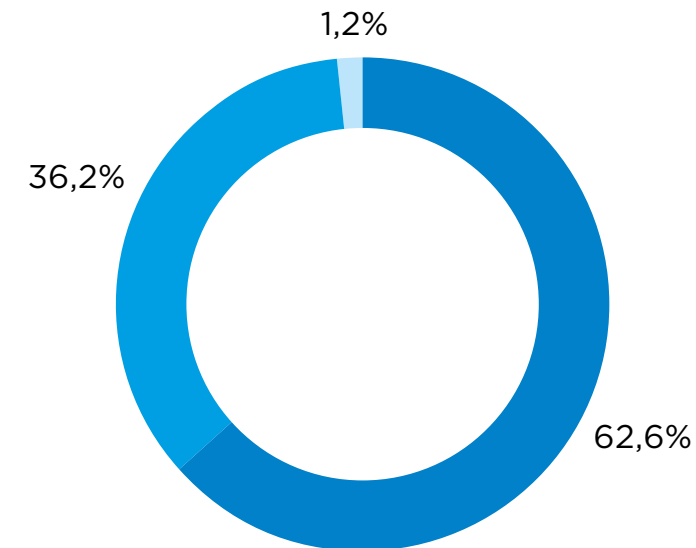


Fig. 4 Registered Applications by Character of Their Research in %

Basic Research	89 743 ths €
Applied Research	51 932 ths €
Development	1 770 ths €

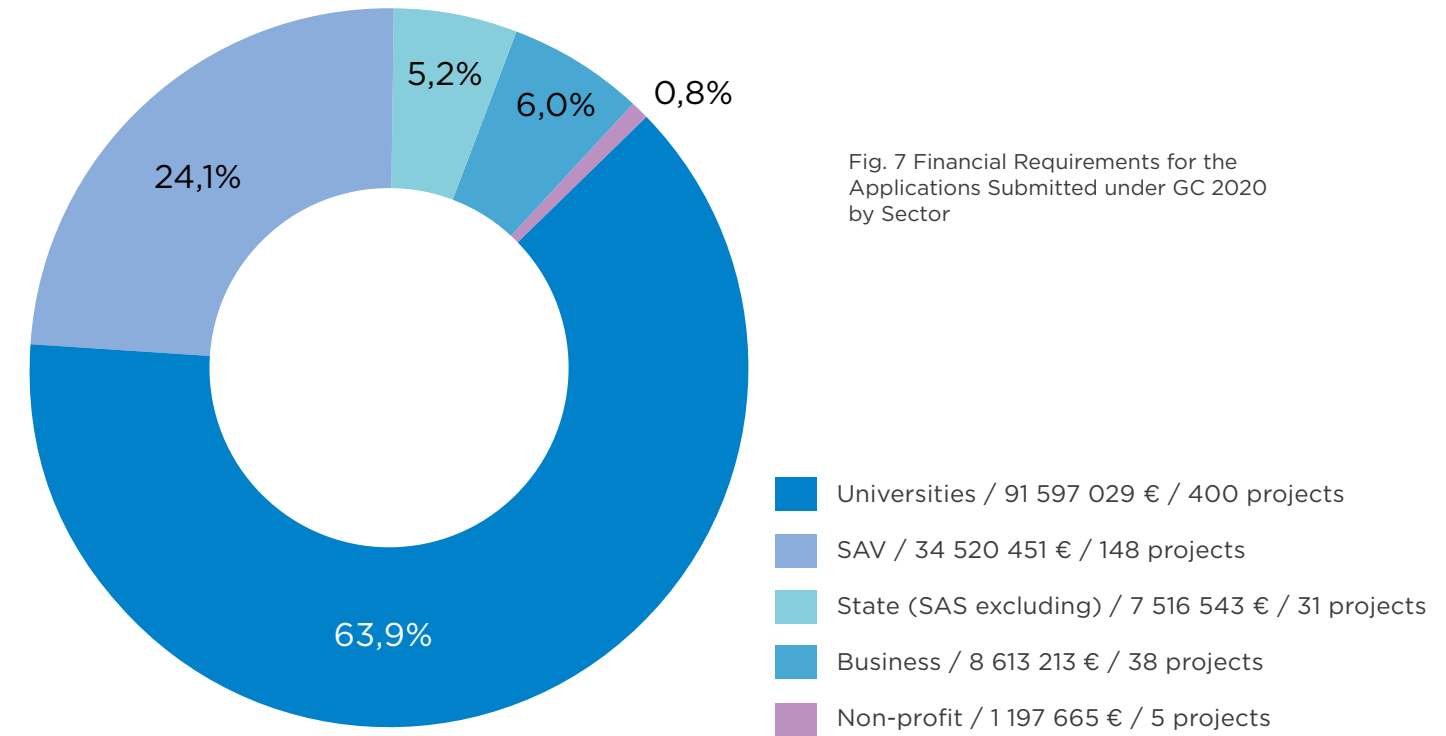
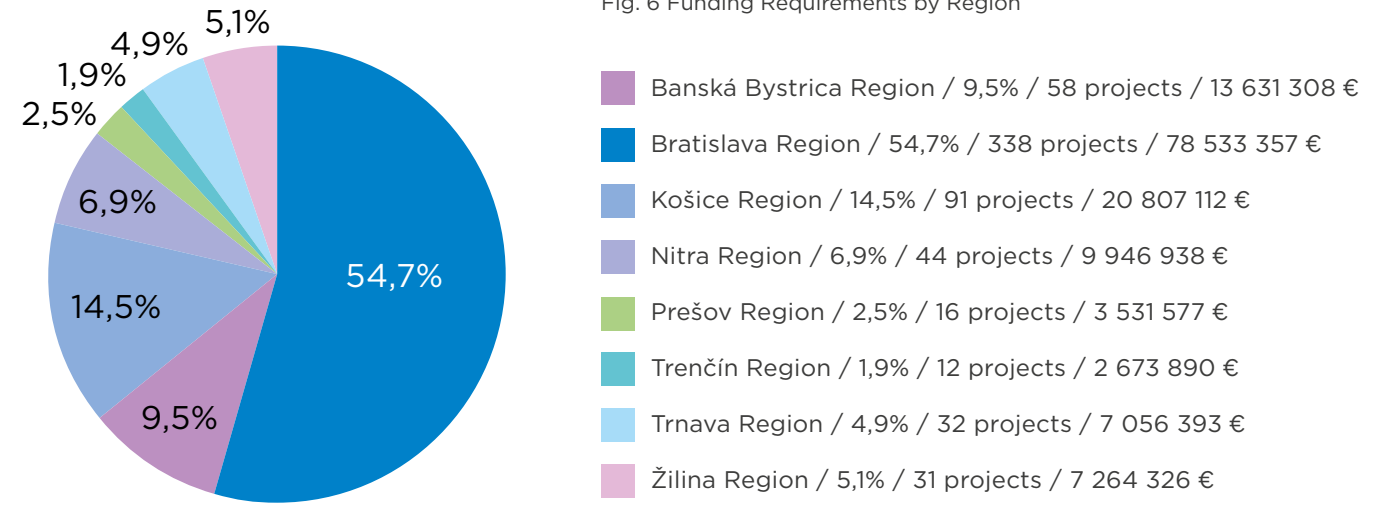
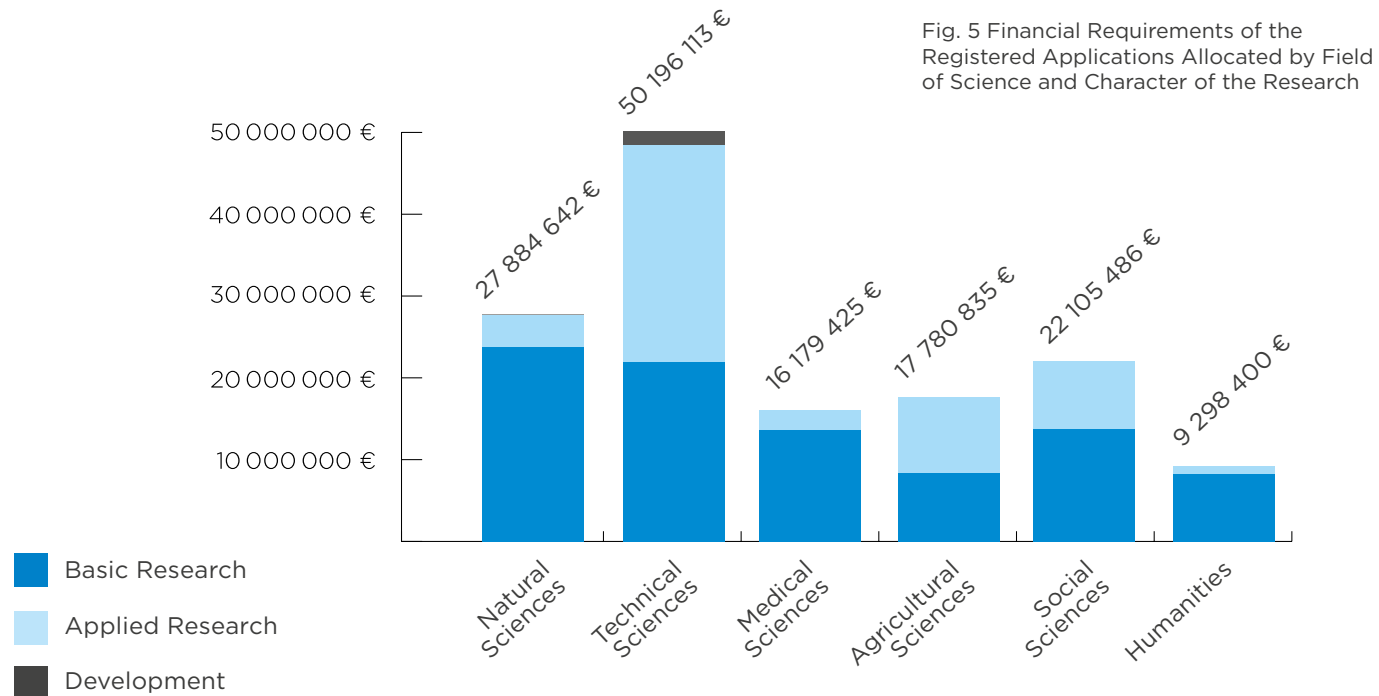


Tab. 2 Number of Applications Registered and Applicants' Financial Requirements/Research

Research	Number of applications submitted	Requirements from SRDA (in ths. of €)
Basic Research	394	89 743
Applied Research	219	51 932
Development	9	1 770
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>143 445</b>

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	125
Technical Sciences	213
Medical Sciences	67
Agricultural Sciences	74
Social Sciences	100
Humanities	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications/Field of Science



### 3. 1. 2. International Cooperation

In 2020, due to the pandemic situation related to COVID-19, the Agency announced only 1 bilateral call of international scientific and technical cooperation. At the same time, based on the consent of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic and after mutual agreement with the individual partner countries, the Agency extended the project period beyond the individual calls, by a maximum of 1 year. The extended projects were in the framework of bilateral calls with the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Serbia, the French Republic, in the framework of bilateral research cooperation with the State of Israel and in the framework of multilateral cooperation with countries from the Danube region (Republic of Austria, Czech Republic and Republic of Serbia), and the French Republic.

#### New calls for bilateral research cooperation in 2020

Bilateral call projects are international cooperation projects aimed at establishing 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 2020, the Agency announced a bilateral call with the Republic of Austria with an amount of funds allocated to the supported projects for the entire project period in the amount of 70,000 €. The total amount

of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 5,000 for the entire project period, and a maximum of 2,500 € for the calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2021 - 2022 with the beginning of the solution from 01.04.2021. Under the Call, 24 applications were submitted.



### 3. 1. 3. Announcement of the PP-COVID 2020 Call

In 2020, the Agency launched a general call for submitting applications under the “Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020-2021”. The main purpose of the PP-COVID 2020 Call was to support research and development aimed at, and/or related to COVID-19, and at the related possible support of facilities for testing the products related to this disease. At the same time, the aim of the Call was to stimulate research and development aimed at tackling with the COVID-19 pandemic and to minimize its impact on society, whether now or after the end of the pandemic, by supporting R&D or transferring R&D results from R&D organizations to the social and economic practice.

The applications could conclude basic research, applied research or development, with the field of science and research indicated by the Applicant. Applications could be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without any restriction of their affiliation to the research and development sector. The PP-COVID 2020 General Call had an allocated amount of funds dedicated for the entire period of solving the supported projects in the amount of 8,000,000 €. Additionally, this amount was increased amounting to 211,355 €, which together amounted to 8,211,355 €. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of 400,000 € for the entire project period. In this Call, the Agency also provided capital funds for the acquisition of tangible and intangible assets, which could not exceed 65% of the total costs provided by the Agency to solve the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2020 - 2021, with the beginning of the solution on 16. 09. 2020. In the Call, there were 116 applications submitted with 24 projects funded.

Tab. 4 Number of Registered Applications and Financial Requirements of Applicants, by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Registered Applications	Financial Requirements in ths €
Basic Research	62	17 176
Applied Research	46	14 485
Development	8	2 974
Total	116	34 635

Tab. 5 Number of Applications Supported, by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths €
Basic Research	13	4 498
Applied Research	9	2 977
Development	2	736
Total	24	8 211





### 3.2 General Call GC 2019



This activity of the Agency related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2019 in 2019, while funding for the selected successful projects started in 2019 with maximum project period until 2024.

#### Characteristic of GC 2019

GC 2019 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 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 requested / 140,297 ths €
- financial contribution of the applicants / 7,988 ths €
- total amount of funds / 148,285 ths €

#### Basic information concerning the assessment process:

- deadline for application assessment / may 2020
- total number of applications / 614
- number of applications rejected (technical and formal control) / 14
- number of applications withdrawn by the Applicant / 8
- number of applications under expert assessment / 592
- number of applications with funding provided / 149
- of which basic research projects applications / 100
- of which applied research projects applications / 46
- of which development project applications / 3
- average success rate of applications submitted in % / 24,6 %
- funding approved in total / 32,708 ths €
- funding provided in 2020 / 4,433 ths €

Under the General Call GC 2019, a total of 606 applications for funding for research and development projects were submitted. After a technical and formal control, 14 applications were rejected. 592 applications were submitted to an expert assessment, based on which 149 applications were funded. The project solution started from July 1, 2020. The latest project completion date is June 30, 2024.

Tab. 6 Number of Applications Supported, by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	100	21 226
Applied research	46	10 757
Development	3	725
Total	149	32 708

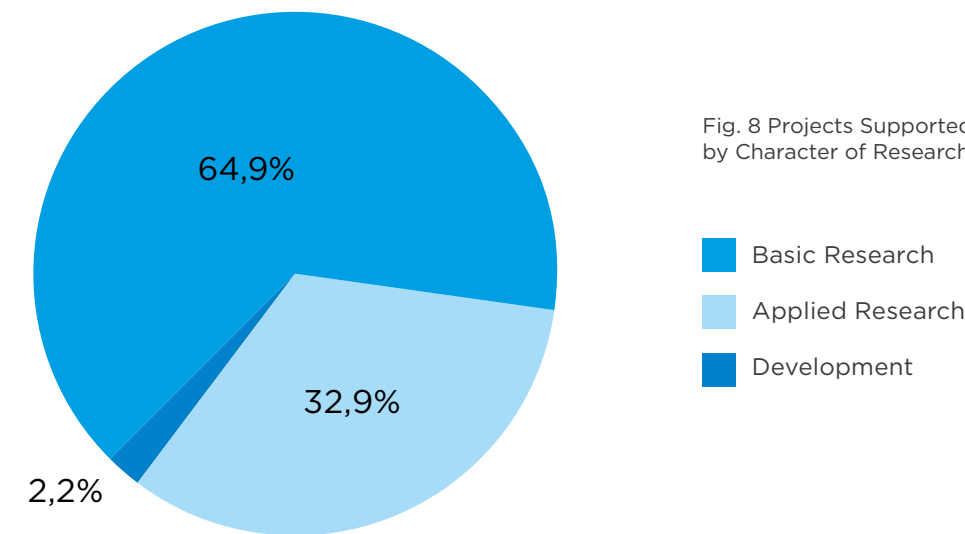


Fig. 8 Projects Supported Under GC 2019 by Character of Research in %

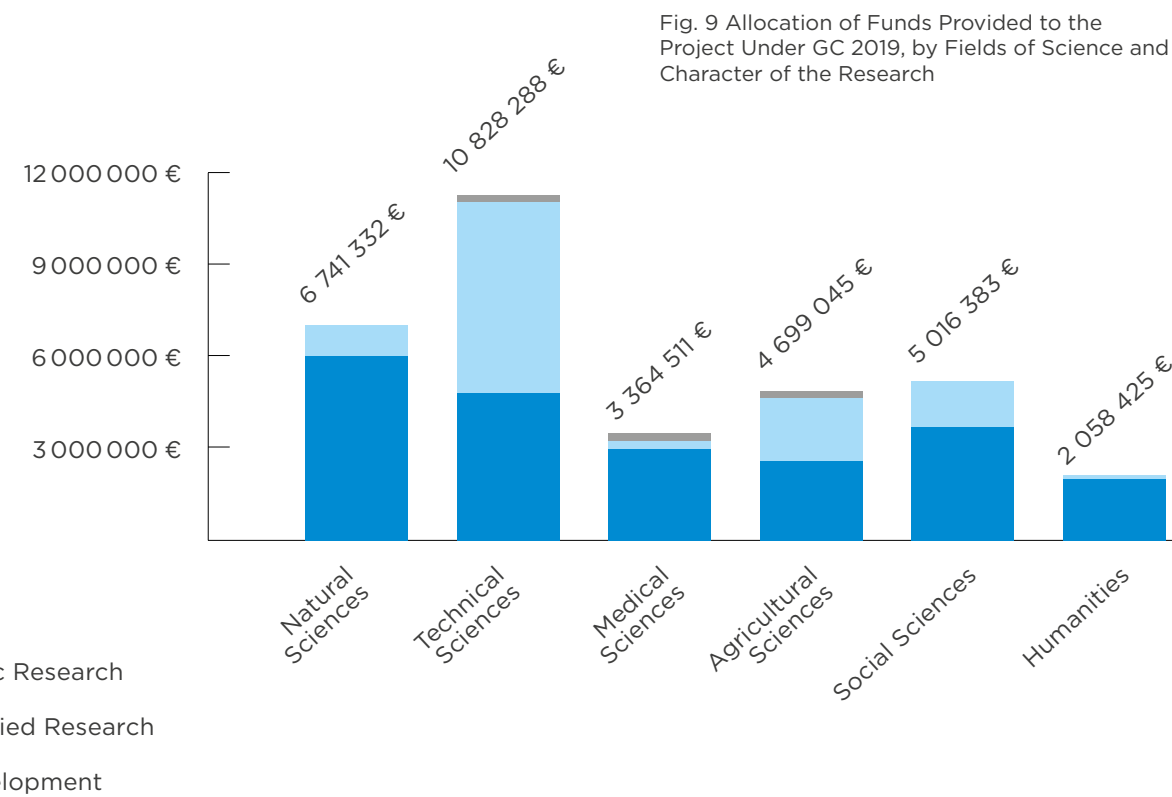


Fig. 9 Allocation of Funds Provided to the Project Under GC 2019, by Fields of Science and Character of the Research

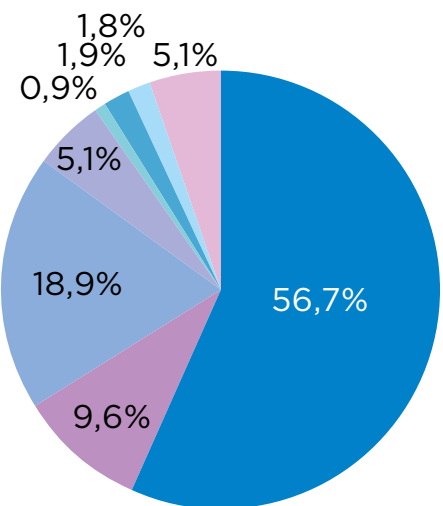


Fig. 10 Allocation of Funds for GC 2019 Projects by Region

Banská Bystrica Region	9,6%	14 projects	3 142 429 €
Bratislava Region	56,7%	86 projects	18 542 081 €
Košice Region	18,9%	27 projects	6 176 585 €
Nitra Region	5,1%	7 projects	1 665 059 €
Prešov Region	0,9%	2 projects	289 596 €
Trenčín Region	1,9%	3 projects	640 320 €
Trnava Region	1,8%	3 projects	590 000 €
Žilina Region	5,1%	7 projects	1 661 914 €

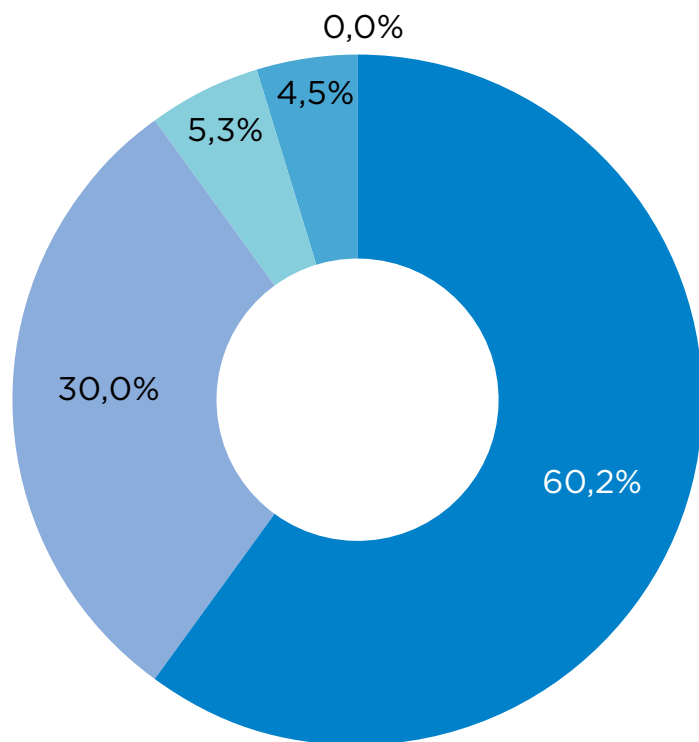


Fig. 11 Funds Provided to the Projects Supported Under GC 2019, by Sector in %

Universities	19 689 037 €
SAV	9 802 062 €
State (SAS excluding)	1 747 667 €
Business	1 469 218 €
Non-profit	0,0 €

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

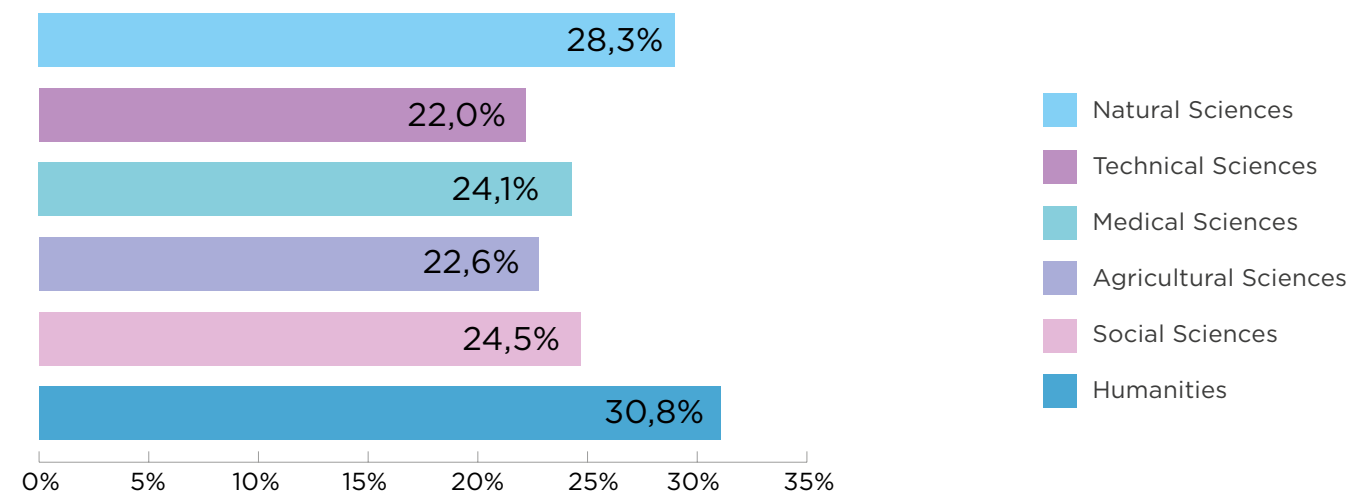


Fig. 13 Success Rate of Submitted Applications, by Character of Research in %

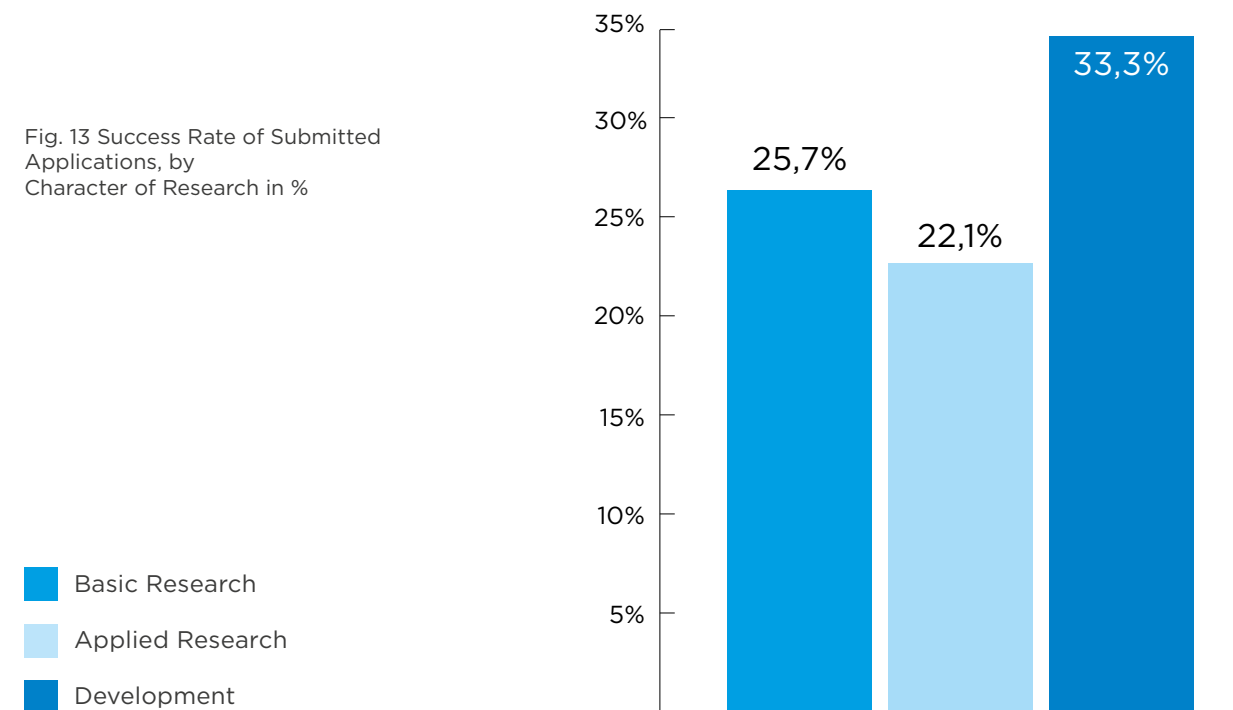
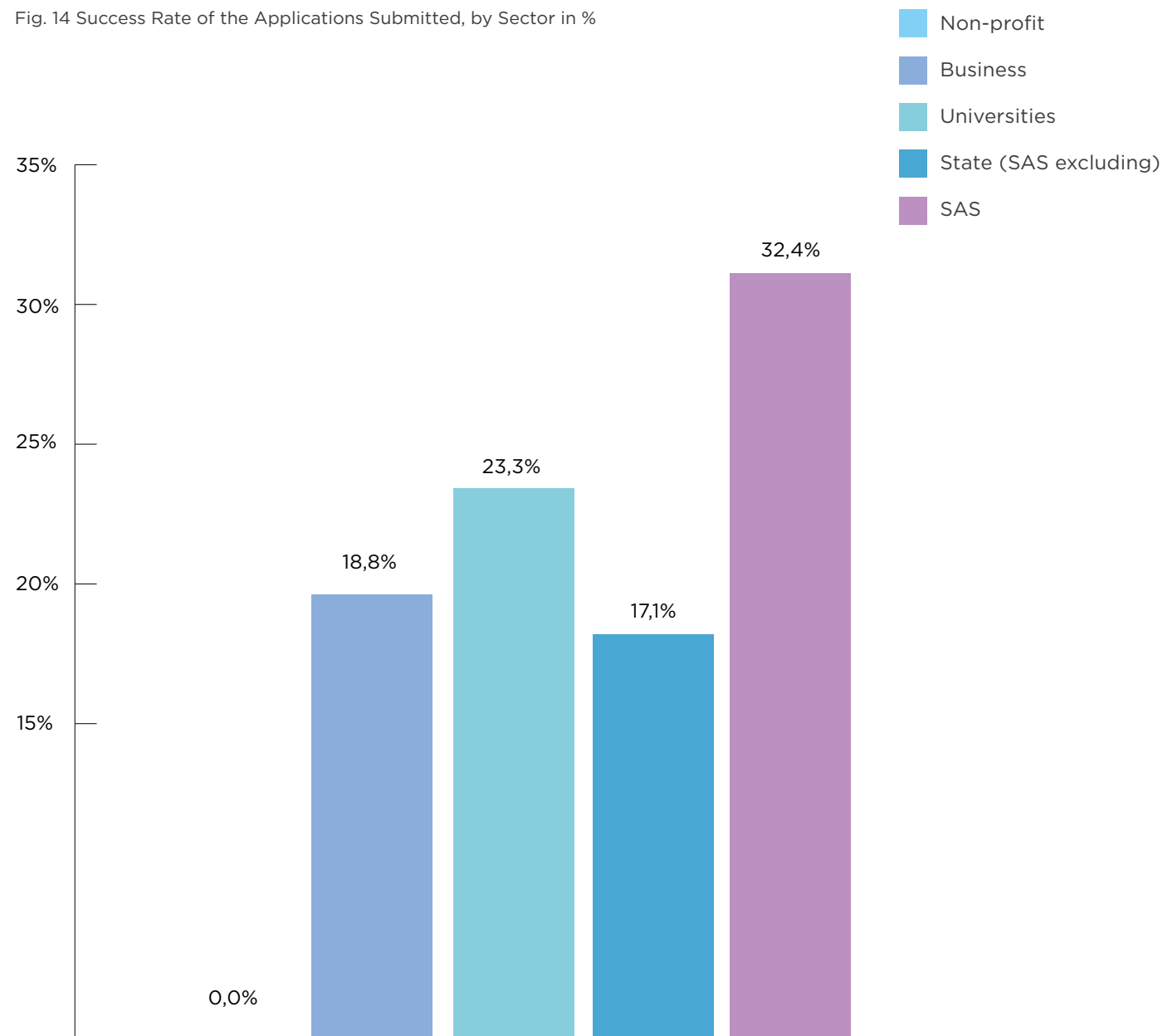


Fig. 14 Success Rate of the Applications Submitted, by Sector in %



### 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.

Tab. 7 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2015	175	2016
GC 2016	150	2017
GC 2017	152	2018
GC 2018	151	2019

Tab. 8 Funding Provided in 2020 for the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2015	175	4 828 436	0	4 828 436
GC 2016	150	7 406 050	0	7 406 050
GC 2017	152	8 983 738	0	8 983 738
GC 2018	151	9 102 655	0	9 102 655
<b>Total</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>30 320 879</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30 320 879</b>

In the period from March to May 2020, 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 2020, 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. Funding was increased in 11 projects, i.e. for the ongoing projects that were able to adapt quickly and expand their research to COVID-19-related issues. The aim of this increase was to stimulate research and development aimed at coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to launch research in this area, either now or after the end of the pandemic, by supporting research in social and economic practice.

#### Information on the Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects Evaluated in 2018 with Funding Continued in 2020



In 2020, the Agency continued to fund bilateral research projects (SK-CN-RD 2018, SK-IL-RD 2018 and SK-BY RD 2019) and bilateral projects (SK-PL 2018, SK-PT 2018 and SK-SRB 2018) submitted in 2018. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Serbia, the People's Republic of China, the State of Israel, and the Republic of Belarus.

The total amount of funds provided in 2020 was 624,792 €, with 188,581 € for 3 projects under the SK-IL RD 2018 Call, 173,192 € for 4 projects under the SK-BY RD 2019 Call, 31,941 € for 17 projects under the SK-PL 2018 Call, 32,154 € for 12 projects under the SK-PT 2018 Call, and 39,359 € for 17 projects under the SK-SRB 2018 Call.

#### Evaluated in 2019 with funding started in 2020

In 2020, the Agency started with funding of the bilateral (SK-FR 2019) and multilateral (DS-FR 2019) projects submitted in 2019. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the French Republic and the countries of the Danube region (the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Serbia), with the French Republic also involved for the first time. The total amount of funds provided in 2020 amounted to 103,928 €, namely 26,500 € for 10 projects under the SK-FR 2019 Call, and 77, 428 € for 15 projects under the DS-FR 2019 Call.

Tab. 9 The SRDA- Funded Projects under SF7FP in 2020, by Sector

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State-Funded Organisations	1	11 255
Universities	1	22 747
Total	2	34 002

### 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.

Tab. 10 Projects monitored after their completion

Call	Funding of the Call Finished in (year)	Number of the Projects Monitored
GC 2012	2017	168
GC 2014	2019	57
GC 2015	2020	15
SF7FP	Call finished	27

Tab. 11 Benefits and 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 2012	56	2 058	26	80
GC 2014	68	1 343	34	116
GC 2015	143	2 467	70	226
SF7FP	5	142	1	3
Total	272	6 010	131	425

### 3.5 Projects completed in 2020

In 2020, the Agency finally evaluated 58 projects with their project period expired by December 31, 2020. The Agency's Councils evaluated the project outcomes considering the pre-defined criteria, and then closed the projects.

#### Projects under the General call

In 2020, the Agency's Councils did not evaluate the final reports of the GC 2015 Call, it was possible to extend the solution of the projects under this Call, due to the Covid - 19 pandemic situation.

#### Projects of Bilateral Cooperation

The Council of the Agency for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 6 projects under bilateral call SK-AT 2017, with 6 excellent projects and 10 projects reached a good level; 13 projects of bilateral call SK-CN 2017, 3 of which reached an excellent level and 10 projects reached a good level; 15 projects of bilateral call SK-FR 2017, 2 projects of which reached an excellent level and 13 a good level; 4 projects of bilateral cooperation SK-TW 2017, all projects of which reached an excellent level, and 10 projects of bilateral cooperation SK-KR 2018, 5 of which reached an excellent level and 5 reached a good level.

### 3.6 Monitoring of the Projects Completed in the previous years

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

## 04 / STATE 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 2020, 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.

On July 3, 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.

On August 27, 2020, On 27.08. In 2020, the Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) was published in the Official Journal, as amended by Addendum No. 1 and No. 2 (State aid scheme SA.58654), entering thus into force and effect. The aid under this scheme is implemented by providing the state budget funds in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution on the basis of a contract concluded in writing. The Scheme applies to the provision

of aid only for research and development projects under Article 25 of EU Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. The wording of the said State aid scheme is valid until December 31, 2023.

### 4.1 Evaluation of the SRDA-Provided State Aid

In 2020, 25 entities were provided aid under the State Aid Scheme. The total amount of the aid provided amounted to 2,032,606 €.

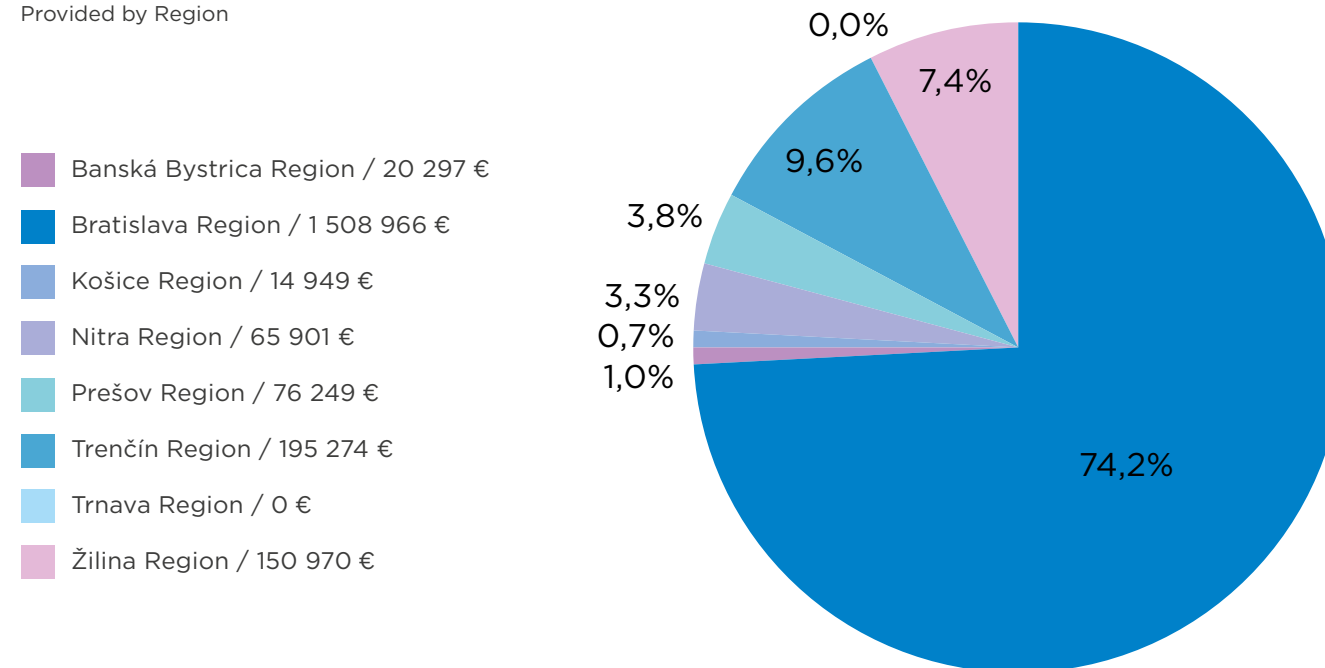
Financial resources were provided to individual entities for funding several projects on the basis of two state aid schemes, namely SA.42450 and SA.49175 (several public calls).

Within 25 entities, 8 entities represented a micro enterprise, 6 entities were small enterprises, 9 entities a medium-sized enterprise and 3 entities large enterprise. One entity changed in the size classification, at therefore it was included in two size categories.

#### Regional distribution of total state aid, by regions, was as follows:

Within the regions, the aid was provided to 12 entities in the Bratislava Region, 1 entity in the Košice Region, 2 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.

Fig. 15 Regional Distribution of Total Aid Provided by Region



### 4.2 Further Actions in the SRDA - Provided State Aid

In the next period, the Agency will continue to provide 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 No. 1 and No. 2 (State Aid Scheme SA.58654), wording of which is valid until December 31, 2023.

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

Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of the Total State Aid Provided

Region	Amount in €
Bratislava Region	1 508 966
Trenčín Region	195 274
Žilina Region	150 970
Nitra Region	65 901
Košice Region	14 949
Banská Bystrica Region	19 937
Prešov Region	76 249
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 032 606</b>



# 05 / SRDA BUDGET

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to 41,819,554 € was approved for 2020 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 1,749,623 € was approved as to January 1, 2020 for the Agency's operation and 40,069,931 € for project funding (to support research and development), the breakdown is shown in Tab. 13.

During 2020, the MŠVVaŠ SR additionally adjusted the Agency's budget by the 7 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, due to an increase in revenue, an increase in current expenditure to cure the COVID-19 pandemic - related expenditure, the reclassification of current expenditure to capital expenditure, and the commitment of capital expenditure by 2021.

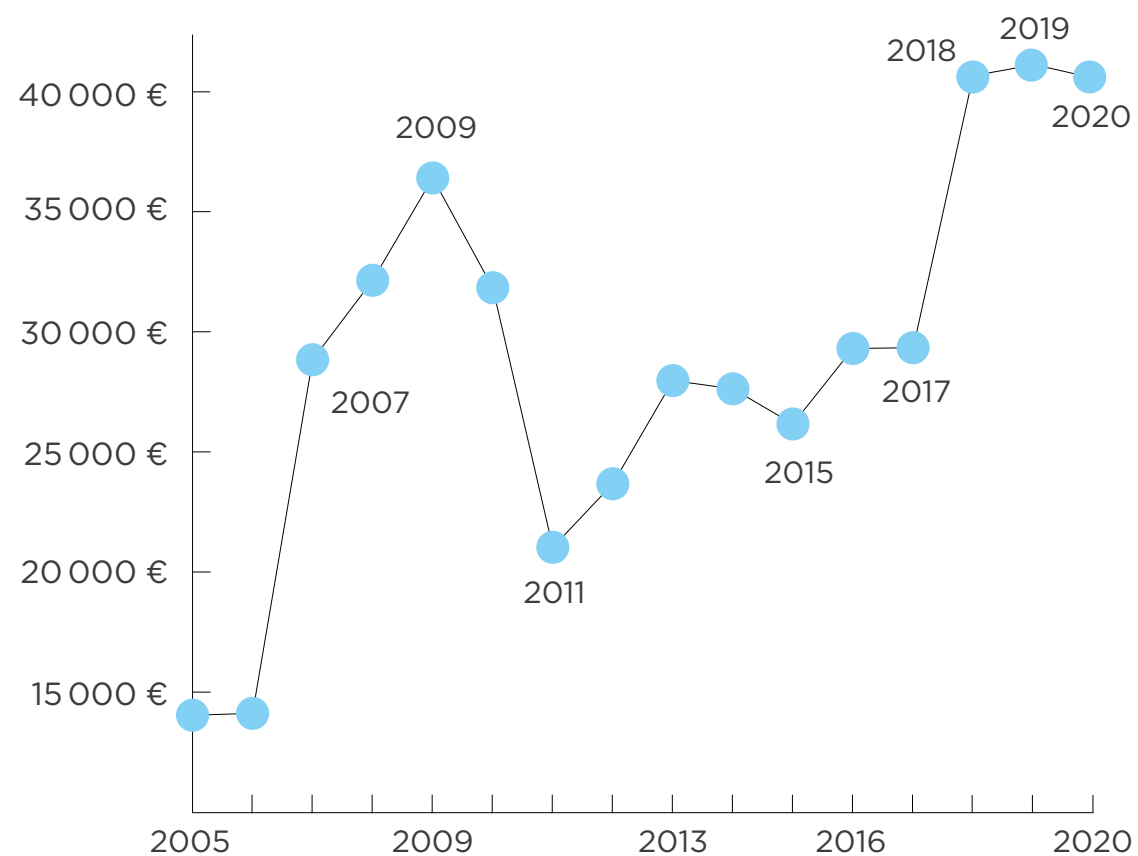


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's Budget during 2005 - 2020 in thousands of euros

Tab. 13 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2020 in €

Program O6K11	Budget Originally Approved	Budget as of December 31, 2020	Drawdown as of December 31, 2020
Operation of the Agency	1 749 623	1 654 785	1 654 785
<b>Current</b>	1 749 623	1 654 785	1 654 785
<b>Capital</b>	0	0	0
Support for Research and Development	40 069 931	40 023 639	39 715 581
<b>Current</b>	40 069 931	38 311 747	38 003 689
<b>Capital</b>	0	1 711 892	1 711 892
<b>SRDA Budget in Total</b>	<b>41 819 554</b>	<b>41 678 424</b>	<b>41 370 366</b>

Tab. 14 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2020 in €

Call / Program	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
General Call - GC 2015	4 880 072	0	4 880 072
General Call - GC 2016	7 466 049	0	7 466 049
General Call - GC 2017	9 013 738	0	9 013 738
General Call - GC 2018	9 281 646	0	9 281 646
General Call - GC 2019	4 433 300	0	4 433 300
Bilateral Projects	651 292	0	651 292
PP - COVID 2020	1 928 433	1 711 892	3 640 325
Supplementary Funding of Projects Supported Under FP7-EU-SF7FP	34 002	0	34 002
Danube Strategy 2019 DS-FR	77 428	0	77 428
<b>SRDA Budget in Total</b>	<b>37 765 960</b>	<b>1 711 892</b>	<b>39 477 852</b>

Tab. 15 Structure of Funding Provided for the Projects Supported in 2020/Sector in €

Type of Organisation	Total Cost
State Organisations and SAS	11 864 020
Public Universities	24 558 285
Non-profit organisations	518 933
Business entities	2 434 856
Civic associations, foundations	101 758
<b>Total</b>	<b>39 477 852</b>

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, 2020.

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

# 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, 2020 was 34.

*The average recalculated number of employees for 2020 was 33.8.*

*The registered number of employees as of December 31, 2020 was 33.*

During the year 2020, the Agency's staffing capacities were comprised by its core members and 131 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 2020, a public call was announced under the program "Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020-2021", designated PP-COVID 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 implement the SRDA processes in supporting the science and research in higher quality.

Tab. 16 Number of Employees by Organizational Structure

Organisational units	Number of employees as of 1. 1. 2020	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2020
Director's office	9	8
Control Department	4	4
Department of Human Resources	1	1
Department of Projects	11	11
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	5	5
Department of International Cooperation and State Aid	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>

Tab. 17 Structure of the SRDA Employees by their Qualification as of December 31, 2020

Level of Education	Number of Employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	6	4
Higher Education - 1 <sup>st</sup> Level	2	1
Higher Education - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	22	16
Higher Education - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>

The average age of the SRDA employees in 2020 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.

network security, e-mail security, mobile security and a corporate platform that enables text communication and video conferencing. In order to improve the communication of employees in foreign languages, APVV organized language courses in January-March 2020. Due to the pandemic coronavirus situation and money - saving, foreign language training was suspended for the period April-December 2020.

## 6.2 SRDA Social Policy

SRDA has concluded employers' contracts with three supplementary pension companies: NN Tatry Sympatia, AXA , STABILITA, and DDS Tatra banka. As of December 31, 2020, 82% of the staff was involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme. Services under the Multisport Program were available for the SRDA staff from January to March 2020 and from May to November 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic situation, the employees suspended the use of the Multisport Program services from December 2020.

## 6.3 Education and Trainings of the Employees

In order to increase and deepen professional qualifications of the employees, 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; in social and health insurance, changes in the wage area, and deepening the IT skills. The group of expert trainings focused on website development,

# 07 / AUDIT ACTIVITIES

## 7.1 External Audit Activities

**Agency in 2020 in accordance with the law No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and Amending Certain Laws and in accordance with the 2020 Audit Plan performed 13 on-site financial controls.**

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 and during the project solving in accordance with the valid legislation of the Slovak Republic, with the Agreement on Funding by The Slovak Research and Development Agency as well as compliance with the Binding Conditions for the Managing the Funds During the Project Solution.

Due to the continuing extraordinary pandemic situation in Slovakia, the adopted resolutions of the Government of the Slovak Republic in connection with the declaration of a state of emergency in the Slovak Republic and subsequent measures taken in the SRDA, the 2020 Audit Plan was not only amended by its amendments but even 2 on-site controls and one on-site financial control was suspended. The beginning of this control is scheduled in 2021. An overview of the on-site financial controls is given in Tab. 18.

### Overview of On-Site Controls in 2020

Number of controls planned	16
Number of controls carried out	13
Number of controls completed to 31. 12.	13
Shortcomings found - number of controls	8

In 2020, on-site financial controls included control of correctness of expenditure drawdowns in the total amount of 1,651,429.00 €. The on-site financial controls found violation of financial discipline amounting to 39 677.29 €. In total, 26 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 of SR, 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 and after the project completion.

Tab. 18 The SRDA On-Site Financial Controls Carried Out in 2020

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Slovak Technical University in Bratislava (SK-SRB-2016-0002)	1 800,00
Institute of Measurement SAS (APVV-15-0029)	236 707,00
Pan-European University (APVV-16-0588)	158 804,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (APVV-17-0130)	85 450,00
University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (APVV-15-0360)	133 394,00
Biomedical Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Clinical and Translational Research (APVV-15-0228)	228 689,00
GENETON s.r.o. (APVV-18-0319)	34 927,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (APVV-15-0722)	74 803,00
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (APVV-17-0428)	30 140,00
University of Economics in Bratislava (APVV-15-0322)	163 625,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (APVV-15-0704)	220 839,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (APVV-15-0580)	217 350,00
Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava (APVV-17-0217)	64 901,00

## 7.2 Internal Audit Activities

**In 2020, based on the 2020 Audit Plan the SRDA Control Department carried out eight internal controls focused on:**

1. control of compliance with the “Directive on Use, production, registration, protection, disposal of stamps and definition of responsibilities”
2. control of compliance with the Directive “Principles for the management of funds intended for representational purposes”
3. control of compliance with the internal regulation “Rules of Procedure of the Agency’s commissions”
4. control of compliance with the directive “Concept of the OSH management system in SRDA”
5. control of compliance with the “Directive on the use of business mobile telephones and mobile Internet in SRDA”
6. control of compliance with the directive “The SRDA Key Rules”
7. control of compliance with the internal regulation “General internal procedure for providing targeted financial support for the SRDA grant schemes”
8. control of compliance with the methodological guideline “Procedure for concluding agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship”

Based on the audit findings, measures were taken to correct the identified deficiencies.

## 7.3 Audits Carried Out by External Audit Bodies

**In 2020, external audit bodies carried out one audit in the SRDA.**

On October 7, 2020 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 March 23, 2019 to the end of the settlement period, i.e. to November 2019. The audit did not reveal any deficiencies.

## 7.4 Complaint Handling

The Agency in 2020 in accordance with Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints, as amended, registered one complaint and two other submissions. The complaint was postponed according to § 6 par. a) of the above-cited law and two other submissions were settled in 2020, too.

# 08 / THE SRDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 2020, due to the validity of measures to prevent the spread of a pandemic, the Annual SRDA conference was not held. The SRDA published on its website on September 7, 2020 an open letter “Evaluation of SRDA activities”, signed by the SRDA chairman Jozef Masarik, state secretary of MŠVVaŠ SR Ľudovít Paulis and SRDA director Stanislav Mydlo, accompanied by presentations on the SRDA activities in 2019 and General Call 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 2012, 2014, 2015, and Call SF7FP.

### Annual and Final Project Evaluation and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2020, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls GC 2015, GC 2016, GC 2017, GC 2018, GC 2019, projects of bilateral cooperation, 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 2020, funds were allocated to these calls launched in 2019: General Call GC 2019 and bilateral cooperation projects with the French Republic.

### New Calls launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

In 2020, the Agency launched General Call GC 2020. Expected deadline for publishing the findings is May 2021. At the same time, a call was also launched and funded under the program "Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020 - 2021".

In 2020, the Agency announced a bilateral mobility call for cooperation with the Republic of Austria within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation. The expected date of publishing the finding is in the 1st quarter of 2021.

### 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

Performing the specific tasks in 2020 included also development of the following documents:

- 2020 SRDA Main Tasks Plan
- 2019 Annual SRDA Activity Report
- 2019 Annual SRDA Management Report
- 2019 State Aid Report
- 2019 Annual SRDA Accounts

## 10 / EVALUATION OF THE SRDA ACTIVITIES IN 2020

In 2020, 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's mission was governed by Act No. 172/2005 Coll. § 12 on supporting the 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 2020:

- General Call for submitting applications for research & development projects in individual fields of science and technology - GC 2020
- Call for supporting bilateral cooperation on the basis of intergovernmental agreement with the Republic of Austria with the funding from 2021
- public call for applications under the program "Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020 - 2021"

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

- monitoring of the project outputs after completing 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 2020
- announcing the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support submitted under these calls
- funding the projects with their solution started in 2020

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. In 2020, the SRDA switched primarily to an electronic form of communication with applicants and project research team members through the Central Government Portal

The Agency uses its website [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk) to appear publicly and for communication.

## 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-TW	Slovakia - Taiwan Bilateral Call
		SK-PT	Slovakia - Portugal Bilateral Call
		SK-CN	Slovakia - China Bilateral Call
		SK-KR	Slovakia - Korea Bilateral Call
		GC	General Call
		SK-IL-RD	Slovakia - Israel Bilateral Research Call
7.RP	Seventh Framework Programme	SK-CN-RD	Slovakia - China Bilateral Research Call
APVV	The Slovak Research and Development Agency	SK-BY-RD	Slovakia - Belarus Bilateral Research Call
BOZP	Occupational safety and health	PP-COVID 2020	Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020-2021
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals		
SF7FP	Open general call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects o dofinancovania projects 7.RP		
DS-FR 2019	The Strategy for Danube Region - France 2019		
ES	European Community		
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVVaŠ SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic		
IT	information technologies		
SAV	Slovak Academy of Sciences		
SCI citations	Citations in foreign publications registered in citation indexes		
SK-AT	Slovakia - Austria Bilateral Call		
SK-FR	Slovakia - France Bilateral Call		
SK-PL	Slovakia - Poland Bilateral Call		
SK-SRB	Slovakia - Serbia Bilateral Call		

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