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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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2021



SRDA ANNUAL
REPORT 2021

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SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



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

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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	Slovak Research and Development Agency
Registered office Address	Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava Mýtna 23, P. O.BOX 839 04 839 04 Bratislava
Contact e-mail	+421 2 57 20 45 01 agentura@apvv.sk
www	www.apvv.sk

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

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

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

The SRDA bodies
Director of the SRDA
The SRDA Presidium
The SRDA Council

1.2 SRDA Mission

The Agency’s main mission 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 2021 binding indicators for the Slovak Research and Development Agency were defined under the 06K K National Science and Technology Development Program and the sub-program “06K11 – Research and Development Tasks supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency” (hereinafter referred to as “06K11”).

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 Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (“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 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. An important tool for targeted support of research and innovation with regard to the current needs in The society are the Agency’s programs aimed at managing the coronavirus pandemic and its effects and strengthening the participation of the Slovak Republic in the European cooperation in research and development, especially in relation to the new EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation “Horizon Europe”. The Agency intends to continue paying the 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.

The SRDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, which involved its cooperation in the GRANted research project. The result of the cooperation will be an analysis and subsequently a proposal of measures to comply with non-discriminatory measures in the evaluation of submitted applications for the provision of funds for project solutions.

02 / Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

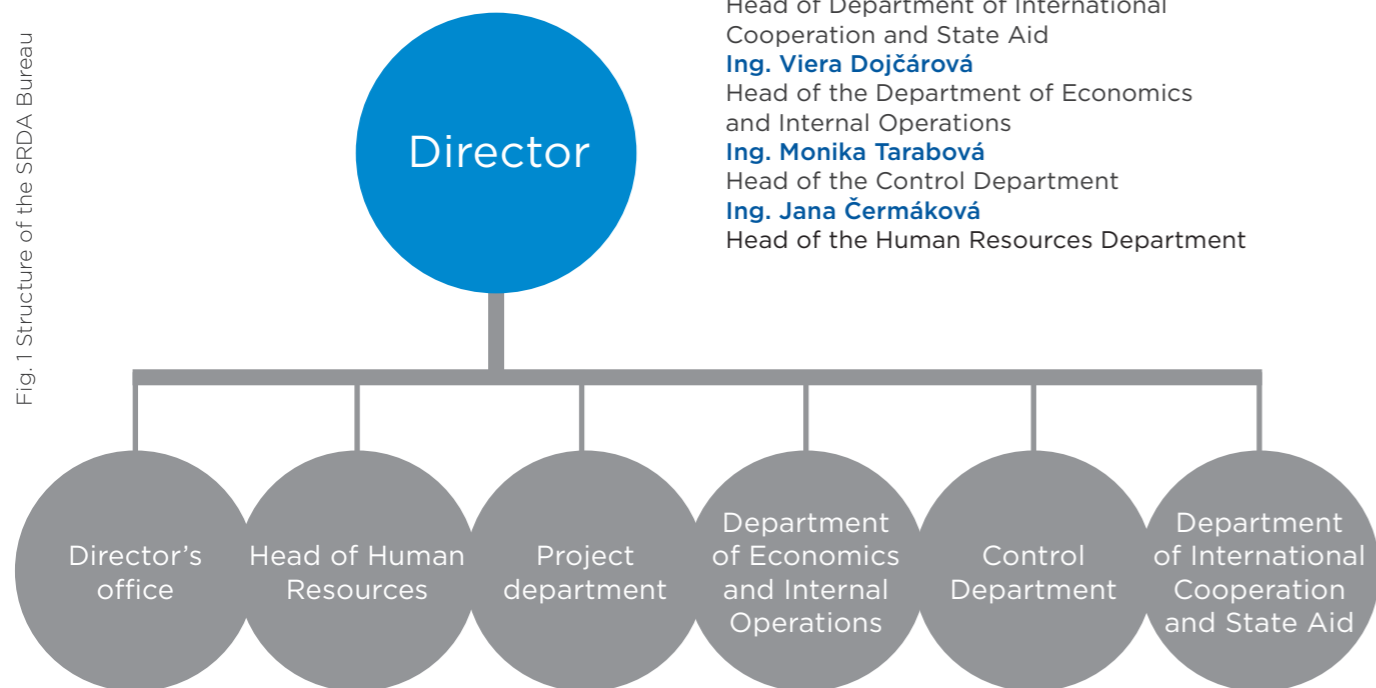
2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31. December 2021

Director

JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo

Fig. 1 Structure of the SRDA Bureau



Management Members:

Ing. Alena Bokrošová

Head of the Director's office

RNDr. Silvia Plesníková

Head of Department of Projects

Mgr. Lucia Orviská

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

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.

Presidium members as to 29 November 2021

Chairman

prof. RNDr. Jozef Masarik, DrSc.

Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, University of Comenius in Bratislava

Vice-Chairman

Mgr. Dana Peškovičová, PhD.

National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky

Members

Ing. Marek Franko, PhD.

EVPÚ, a. s., Nová Dubnica

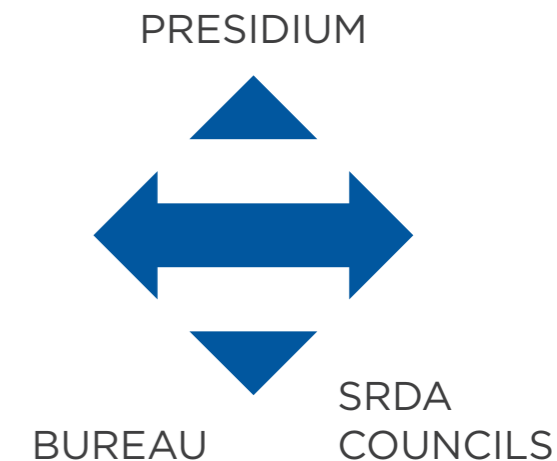
JUDr. Svetlana Gavorová

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, Bratislava

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor

Klub 500, Bratislava

Fig. 2 Structure of the SRDA



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

Mgr. Milan Chrenko, MSc.
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

doc. Mgr. Martin Lysák, Ph.D., DSc.
Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University, Brno

PhDr. Slavomír Michálek, DrSc.
Historical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

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

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.

Presidium members as to 31 December 2021

RNDr. Imrich Barák, DrSc.

Institute of Molecular Biology SAS, v. v. i., Bratislava

prof. M. Phil. Jozef Bátora, PhD.

Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava,

Dpt. of Political Science

Ing. Štefan Boháček, PhD.

The Pulp and Paper Research Institute

prof. Ing. Marián Brestič, CSc.

The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

doc. MUDr. Ing. RNDr. Peter Celec, DrSc., MPH

Institute of Molecular Biomedicine, Faculty of

medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava

Dr. h. c. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD., host. prof.

THE FIRST WELDING COMPANY Inc., Bratislava

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor

Klub 500, Bratislava

prof. Mgr. Martin Lysák, PhD., DSc.

Masaryk University, Central European Institute of

Technology, Brno

PhDr. Zdenka Mansfeldová, CSc.

Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of

Sciences v. v. i., Praha

PhDr. Slavomír Michálek, DrSc.

Historical Institute of SAS, Bratislava

Dr. Ing. Robert Mistrík

Bitmoderna, s. r. o., Bratislava

prof. RNDr. Peter Moczo, DrSc.

Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics,

Comenius University in Bratislava

Mgr. Robert Ševčík, PhD.

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of

the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

At its meetings in 2021, 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 2021 General Call (GC) as well as bilateral calls;
- Approval of the Horizon 2021 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 2016 GC, 2017 GC, 2018 GC, 2019 GC and 2020 SRDA;
- Improvement of the evaluation process;
- The possibility of involving SRDA in VEGA / KEGA grant schemes;
- Proposals for new programs under Component 9 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan;
- Amendment to Act 172/2005 Coll.;
- 2020 SRDA Annual Activity Report and 2020 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 2021, 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

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, Slovak Academy

of Sciences, Institute of Experimental Oncology

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chairman of the Council

prof. MVDr. Štefan Faix, DrSc.

Centre of Biology, Slovak Academy of Sciences,

Institute of Animal Physiology, 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, Slovak Academy

of Sciences, Bratislava

Council of the program for strengthening the participation of the Slovak Republic in European cooperation in research and development

Chairman of the Board

Mgr. Tatiana Zachar Podolinská, PhD.

Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology,

Slovak Academy of Sciences

03 / The SRDA Activities in 2021

3.1 Activities in 2021

Based on the Agency's Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2021:

- General Call GC 2021 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-TW 2021
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK-CN 2021
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK-UA 2021
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK-SRB 2021
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific technical cooperation SK-PL 2021
- Bilateral research call to support cooperation between Slovak and foreign organizations SK-RU RD 2021
- Bilateral research call to support cooperation between Slovak and foreign organizations SK-CZ RD 2021

- General call for applications under the program "Strengthening the participation of the Slovak Republic in European cooperation in research and development" - Horizon 2021.

The Agency's activities during 2021 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 2021;
- launching the new calls and assessing the applications for financial support submitted under these calls in 2021;
- funding the projects supported under the open general call for submitting applications for supplementary funding of FP7 projects.

Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2021

Call	Number of projects in 2021	Funds allocated in €/2021
GC 2016	105	2 486 140
GC 2017	148	7 328 358
GC 2018	151	9 012 344
GC 2019	149	8 967 144
GC 2020	191	5 974 430
Bilateral calls	76	497 287
SF7FP	2	32113
PP H-EUROPE 2021	45	205 350
PP-COVID 2020	24	4571030
Danube Strategy 2019 DS - FR	15	77 392
Total	906	39 151 588

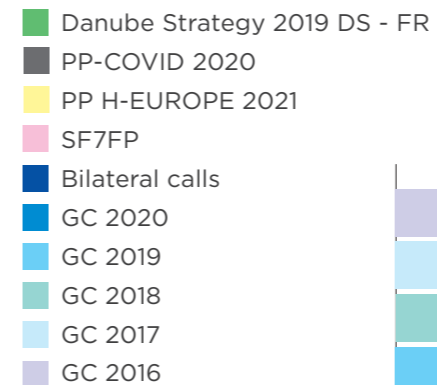
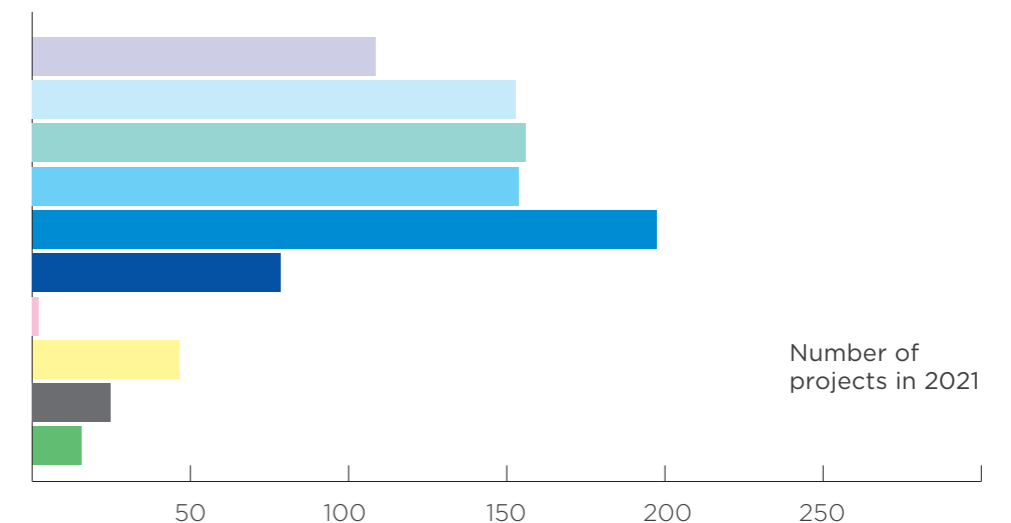
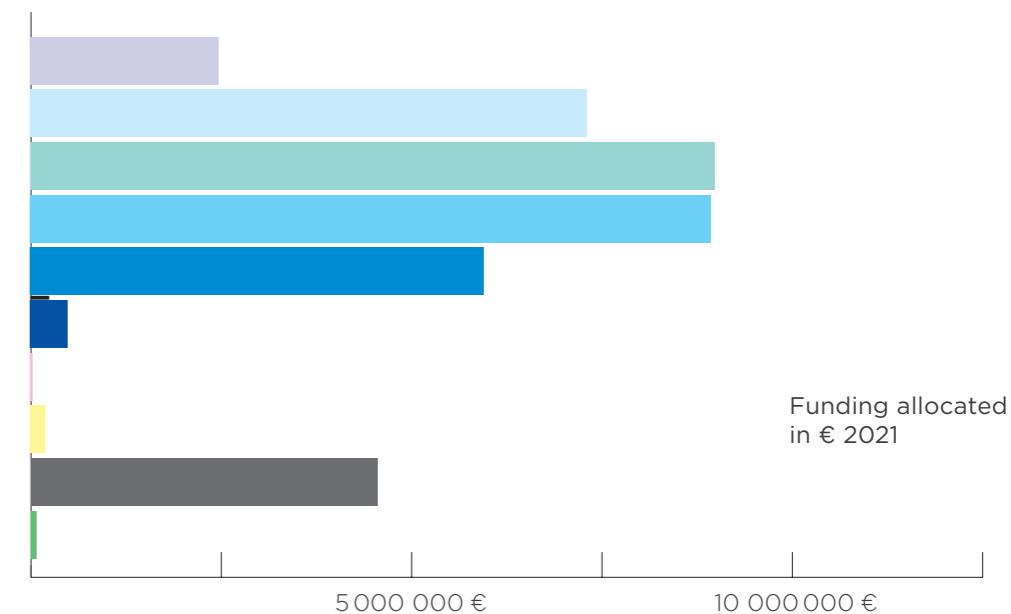


Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Financed Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2021



3. 1. 1. Announcement of General Call GC 2021



This activity of the Agency related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2021 launched in 2021, with the funding for the selected successful projects starts in 2022. Maximum project period is 48 months.

Characteristic of GC 2021

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 2021

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 10.09.2021 - 11.11.2021

Basic information about the applications registered:

- total number of the applications received / **518**
- of which basic research project applications / **333**
- of which applied research project applications / **172**
- of which development project applications / **13**
- the amount of funds required / **119,987 €**
- financial contribution of the applicants / **6,428 €**
- total amount of funds / **126,415 €**

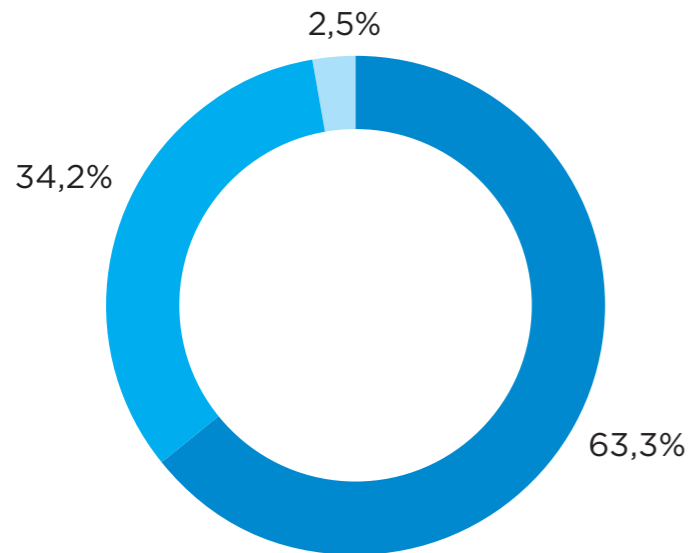


Fig. 4 Registered Applications by Character of Their Research in %

Basic Research	75 942 tis. €
Applied Research	41 081 tis. €
Development	2 964 tis. €

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

Research	Number of Applications Registered	Funds Required from SRDA (in ths. of €)
Basic Research	333	75 942
Applied Research	172	41 081
Development	13	2 964
Total	518	119 987

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	113
Technical Sciences	183
Medical Sciences	59
Agricultural sciences	64
Social Sciences	71
Humanities	28
Total	518

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications / Field of Science



Fig. 5 Financial Requirements of the Registered Applications Allocated by Field of Science and Character of the Research

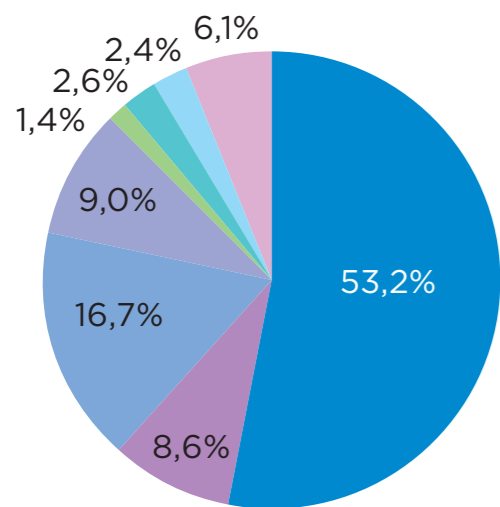


Fig. 6 Funding Requirements by Region

Banská Bystrica Region	/ 8,6%	/ 44 projects	/ 10 324 474 €
Bratislava Region	/ 53,2%	/ 274 projects	/ 63 819 639 €
Košice Region	/ 16,7%	/ 88 projects	/ 20 007 843 €
Nitra Region	/ 9,0%	/ 47 projects	/ 10 793 539 €
Prešov Region	/ 1,4%	/ 7 projects	/ 1 687 897 €
Trenčín Region	/ 2,6%	/ 14 projects	/ 3 131 644 €
Trnava Region	/ 2,4%	/ 13 projects	/ 2 948 781 €
Žilina Region	/ 6,1%	/ 31 projects	/ 7 273 563 €

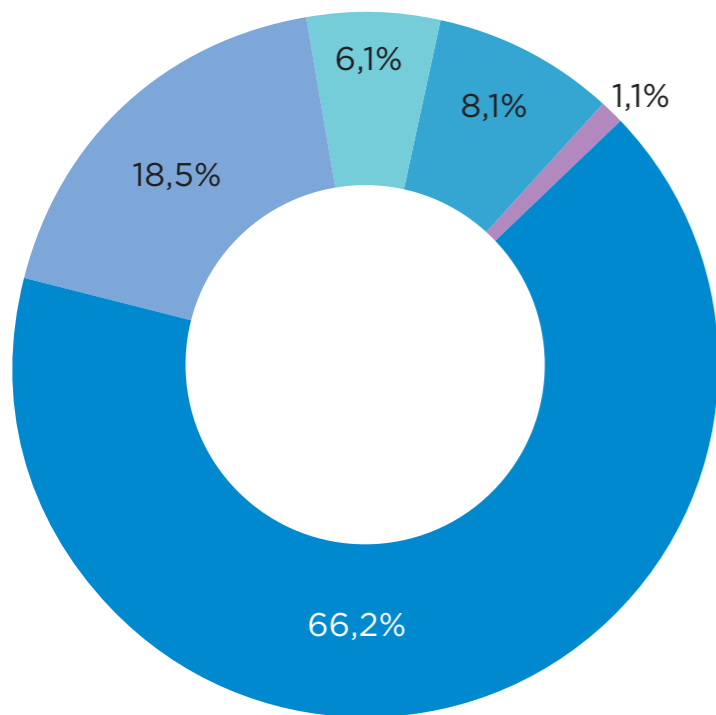


Fig. 7 Financial Requirements for the Applications Submitted under GC 2021 by Sector

Universities	/ 79 402 864 €	/ 343 projects
SAS	/ 22 147 995 €	/ 95 projects
State (SAS excluding)	/ 7 300 188 €	/ 30 projects
Business	/ 9 760 117 €	/ 41 projects
Non-profit	/ 1 376 216 €	/ 6 projects

3. 1. 2. International Cooperation

In 2021, the Agency launched 7 calls for 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 of under SK-PT 2018 Call, by a maximum of 1 year by the end of 2022.

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).

New calls for bilateral research cooperation in 2021

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral call with the Republic of China, Taiwan with an allocated amount of funds of € 110,000 intended for the entire period of solving the supported projects. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited by a maximum amount of € 10,000 for the entire project period and a maximum of € 5,000 for the calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2022 - 2023 with the beginning of the solution 01.01.2022. 7 applications were submitted in the Call.

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral call with the People's Republic of China with an allocated amount of funds intended for the entire period of solving supported projects of € 150,000. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 12,000 for the entire project period and a maximum of € 6,000 for the calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2022 - 2023 with the beginning of the solution 01.02.2022. 48 applications were submitted in the Call.

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral call with Ukraine with an allocated amount of funds intended for the entire period of solving the supported projects of € 69,000. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 6,900 for the entire project period and a maximum of € 3,450 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2022 - 2023 with the beginning of the solution 01.02.2022. 76 applications were submitted in the Call.

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral call with the Republic of Serbia with an allocated amount of funds for the entire period of solving the supported projects in the amount of € 80,000. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited by a maximum amount of € 4,700 for the entire project period and a maximum of € 2,350 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2022 - 2023 with the beginning of the solution 01.03.2022. 58 applications were submitted in the Call.

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral call with the Republic of Poland with an allocated amount of funds intended for the entire period of solving the supported projects in the amount of € 66,400. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 4,000 for the entire duration of the solution and a maximum of € 2,000 for the calendar year of the project. The projects will be solved in the years 2022 - 2023 with the beginning of the solution 01.01.2022. 87 applications were submitted in the call.

New Calls for Bilateral Research Cooperation in 2021

In 2021, the Agency announced a bilateral research call with the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic. Priorities of the SK-RU RD 2021 General Call were determined with regard to the priorities of the government-approved strategy for research and development "Knowledge for Prosperity - Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic". The projects could have the character of basic research, applied research or development with the field of science and technology indicated by the applicant. Applications could be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without restrictions on affiliation to the research and development sector.

The SK-RU RD 2021 General Call had an allocated amount of funds intended for the entire period of the solution of supported projects in the amount of 630,000 €. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 210,000 for the entire project period. The priorities of the Call were set by the SRDA Presidency as follows:

1. Space, planetary and atmospheric research
2. Diseases of civilization and a healthy lifestyle
3. New materials and materials science.

Solution of the projects is scheduled for 2022-2024. There are 24 applications submitted under the Call. Priorities of the SK-CZ RD 2021 General Call were determined with regard to the common interest of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic expressed in the Work Plan for the Support of Slovakia - Czech Joint Projects For the Years 2022 - 2025. The projects could have the character of basic research, applied research or development with the field of science and technology indicated by the applicant. Applications could be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without restrictions on affiliation to the research and development sector.

The SK-CZ RD 2021 General Call had an allocated amount of funds intended for the entire period of the solution of supported projects in the amount of 840,000 €. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to a maximum amount of € 120,000 for the entire project period. The priorities of the Call were set as follows:

1. Information and communication technologies
2. Biomedicine and medical biotechnology
3. Materials research and nanotechnology. The projects will be solved in the years 2022-2025. 131 applications were submitted in the Call.

3. 1. 3. Announcement of the Horizon 2021 Call

In 2021 the Agency announced a general call for applications under the program “Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Cooperation in Research and Development”. The main purpose of the Horizon 2021 Call was to stimulate the participation of Slovak research and development organizations in the European Union’s research and innovation program for the years 2021 to 2027 - Horizon Europe. The aim was to support an increase in the participation of Slovak research and development organizations in coordinating or participating in project solutions in the European Union’s Horizon Europe program. The support under this Call took the form of a reimbursement of eligible costs incurred in 2021 for the preparation of a project proposal in the Horizon Europe program under the calls announced in the following sections:

- Pillar 1 - Excellent science
- Pillar 2 - Global challenges and competitiveness of European industry
- Pillar 3 - Innovative Europe
- Expanding participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Support for project preparation was intended for all sectors of research and development in accordance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, including research companies (micro, small and medium, large) and the non-profit sector.

The minimum amount of funding allocated for project support throughout the duration of the Horizon 2021 call was EUR 600,000. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency to reimburse eligible costs paid in 2021 for the preparation of a project proposal in the Horizon-Europe program varied depending on the type of project (€ 4,000-8,000). 53 applications were submitted in the Call with 48 applications financed (of which 45 applications in 2021 and 3 in 2022).

Tab. 4
Number of Registered Applications and Financial Requirements of Applicants, by parts of Horizon Europe – PP H-Europe 2021 Call

Research	Number of funded projects	Approved financial support in thous. €
Pillar 1: Excellent science	15	64 910
Pillar 2: Global Challenges and the competitiveness of European industry	19	77 597
Pillar 3: Innovative Europe	11	63 146
Expanding participation and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)	8	43 903
Total	53	249 557

Tab. 5
Number of Applications Supported, by parts of Horizon Europe – PP H-Europe 2021 Call

Character of Research	Number of funded projects	Approved financial support in thous. €
Pillar 1: Excellent science	15	64 910
Pillar 2: Global Challenges and the competitiveness of European industry	15	72 207
Pillar 3: Innovative Europe	11	63 146
Expanding participation and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)	7	34 985
Total	48	235 249

3.2 General Call GC 2020



This activity of the Agency related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2020 in 2020, while funding for the selected successful projects started in 2021 with maximum project period until 2025.

Characteristics of GC 2020

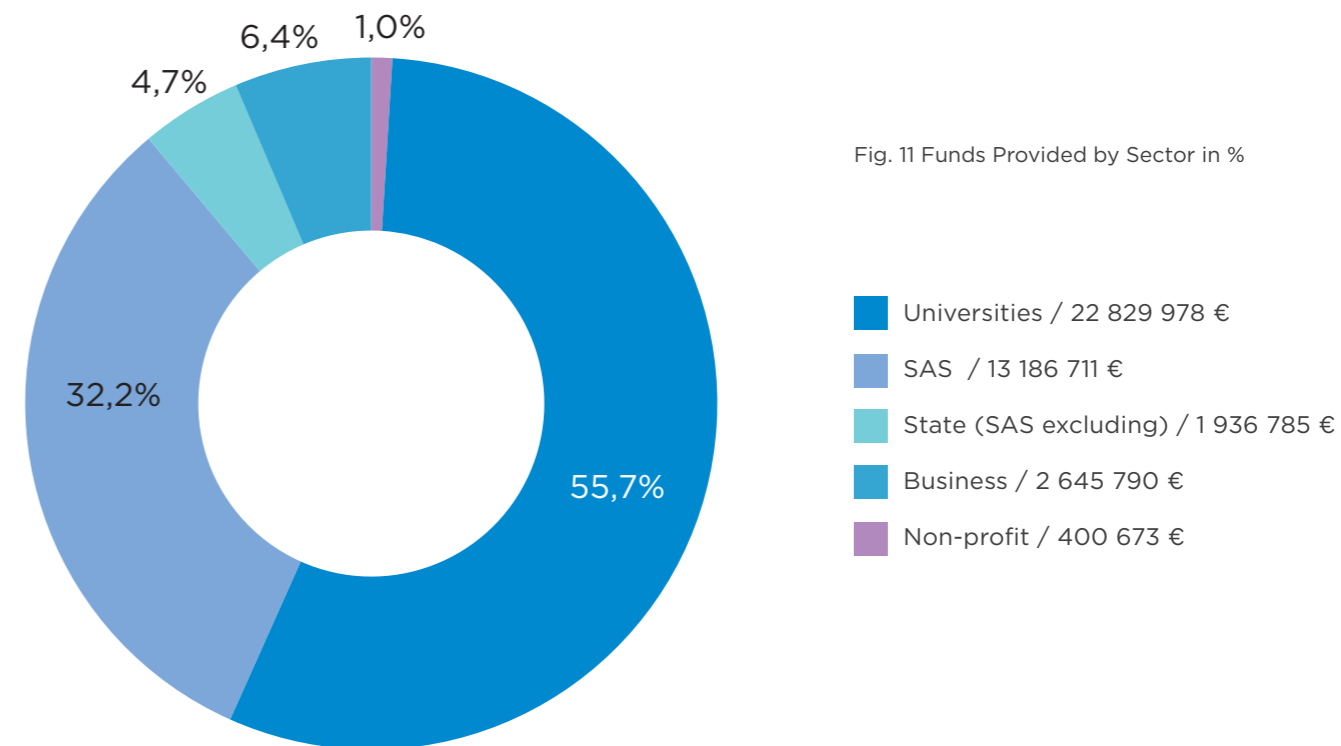
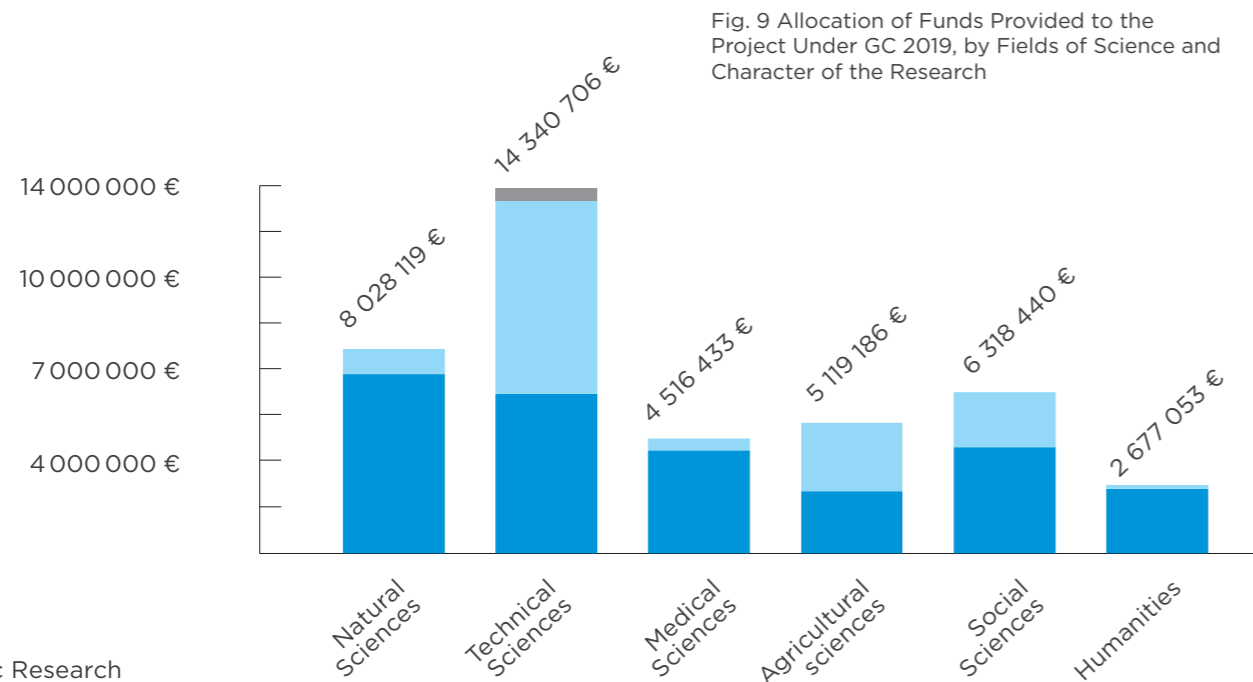
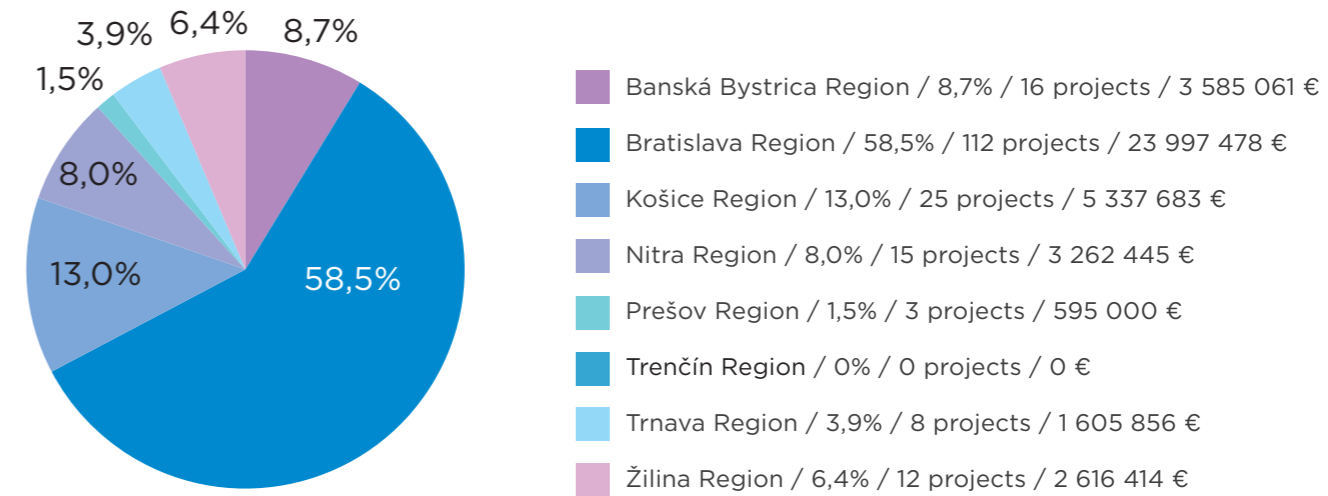
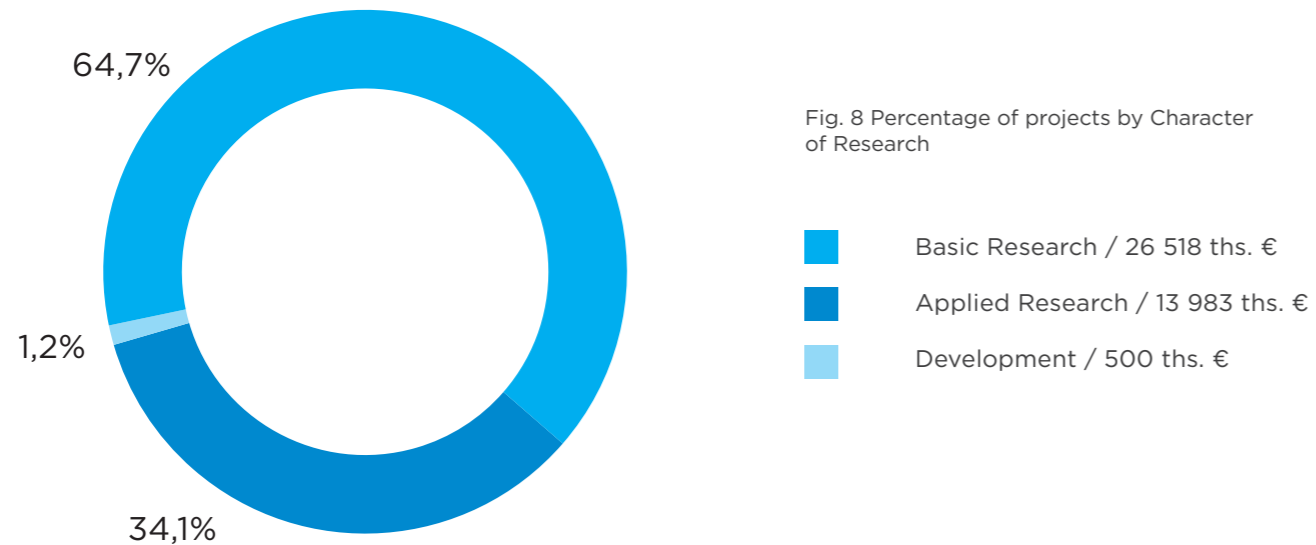
GC 2020 General Call did not limit the substance of the projects anyhow. The Applicant determines the intents, objectives and substance of the research and development project. Legal entities and natural persons - entrepreneurs without any restriction on their R & D sector, could submit the applications.

Basic information concerning the GC 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 requested / **143,445 €**
- financial contribution of the applicants / **9,261 €**
- total amount of funds / **152,706 €**



■ Basic Research
■ Applied Research
■ Development

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

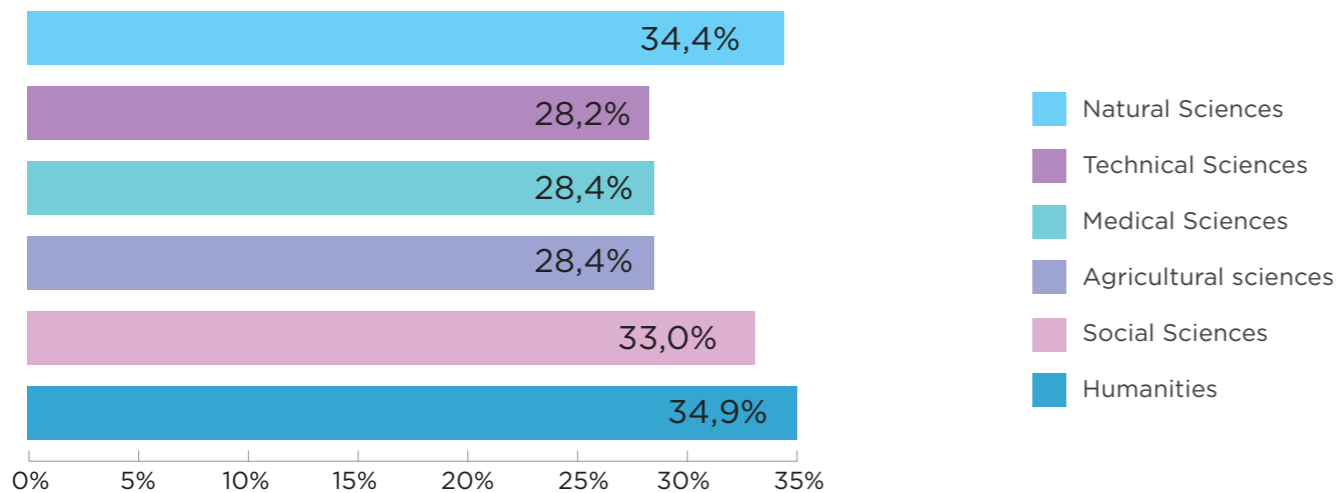


Fig. 13 Success Rate of Submitted Applications, by Character of Research in %

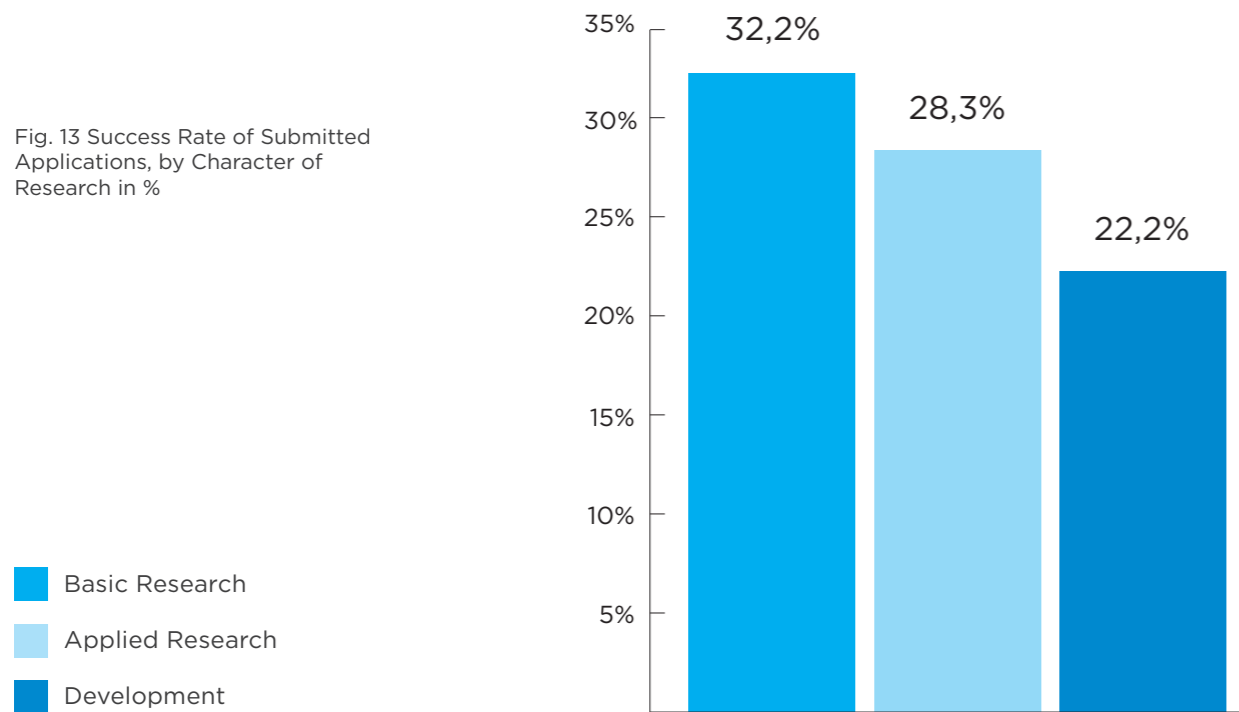
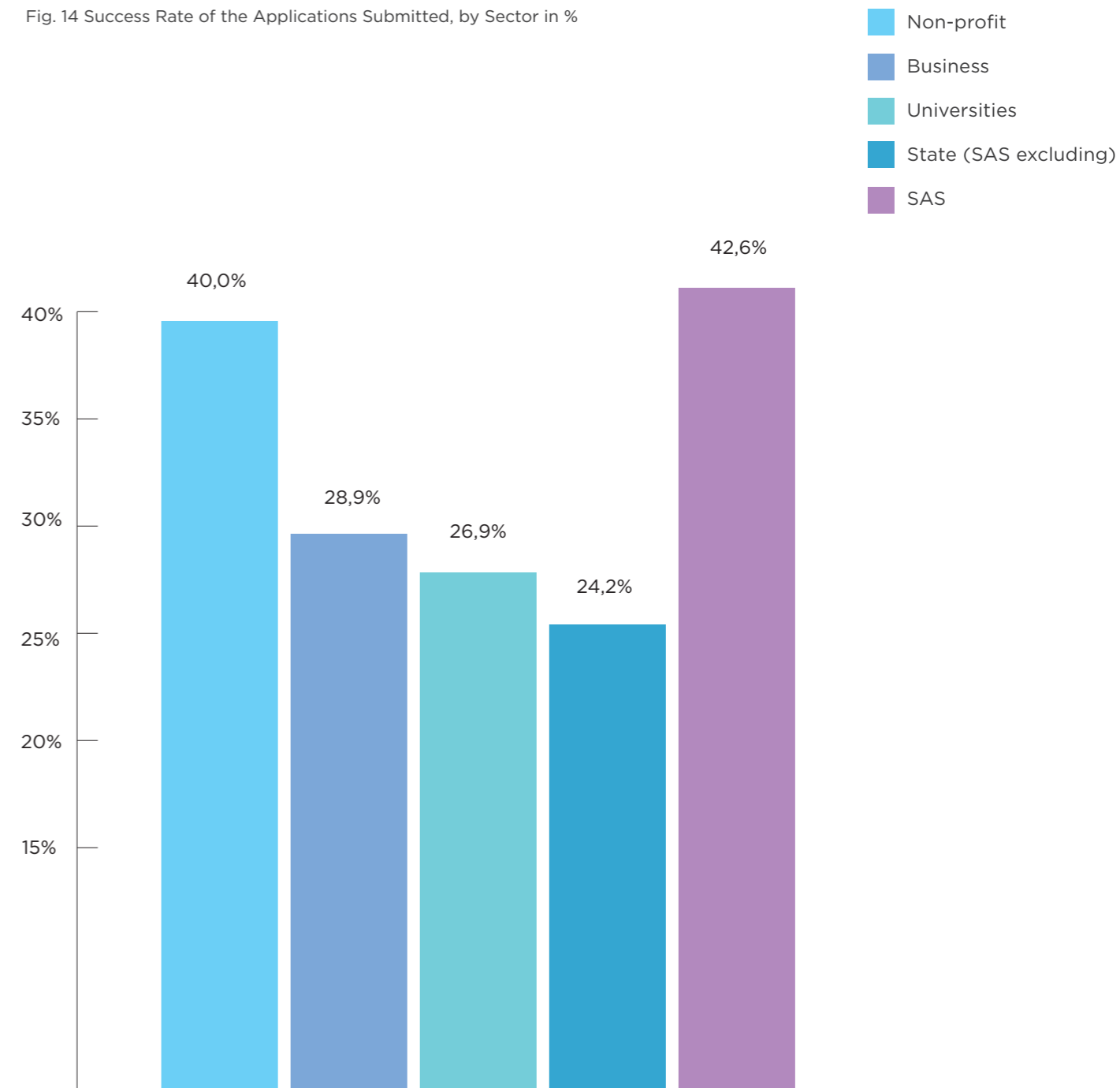


Fig. 14 Success Rate of the Applications Submitted, by Sector in %



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

Research	Number of funded projects	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	127	26 517
Applied Research	62	13 983
Development	2	500
Total	191	41 000

Basic information concerning the assessment process:

- deadline for application assessment / **May 2021**
- total number of applications / **629**
- number of applications rejected (technical and formal control) / **5**
- number of applications withdrawn by the Applicant / **7**
- number of applications under expert assessment / **617**
- number of applications with funding provided / **191**
- of which basic research projects applications / **127**
- of which applied research projects applications / **62**
- of which development project applications / **2**
- average success rate of applications submitted % / **30.4 %**
- total funding approved / **41,000**
- funding provided in 2020 / **5,974 €**

Under the GC 2020 General Call, a total of 622 applications for funding for research and development projects were submitted. After a technical and formal control, 5 applications were rejected. 617 applications were submitted to an expert assessment, based on which 191 applications were funded. Based on the decision of the Presidency and in accordance with the consent of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Research and Development Agency increased the maximum funds allocated to the GC 2020 General Call. In accordance with the above, there was an increase in the volume of funds from the total amount of 33 mil. EUR to the amount of 41 mil. EUR, which meant an increase in the number of supported projects under the GC 2020 General Call.

The project solution started from July 1, 2021 and August 1, 2021. The latest project completion date is June 30, 2025.

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 2021. 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.

In the period from March to May 2021, 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 2021, 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 2018 with Funding Continued in 2021

In 2021, the Agency continued to fund bilateral research projects (SK-CN RD 2018, SK-IL RD 2018 a SK-BY RD 2019), standards bilateral projects (SK-PL 2018, SK-PT 2018, SK-SRB 2018, SK-FR 2019) and multilateral projects (DS-FR 2019) submitted in 2018 and 2019. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Serbia, The French Republic, the People's Republic of China, the State of Israel, and the Republic of Belarus.

The total amount of funds provided in 2021 was € 541,248, with € 92,054 for 3 projects under the SK-CN RD 2018 Call, € 105,850 for 2 projects under the SK-IL RD 2018 Call, € 140,279 for 4 projects under the SK-BY RD 2019 Call, € 29,865 for 15 projects under the SK-PL 2018 Call, € 32,299 for 12 projects under the SK-PT 2018 Call, € 37,009 for 16 projects under the SK-SRB 2018 Call, € 26,500 for 10 projects under the SK-FR 2019 Call and € 77,392 for 15 projects under the DS-FR 2019 Call.

Evaluated in 2020 with funding started in 2021

In 2021, the Agency started with funding of the bilateral project SK-AT 2020. The projects were submitted within international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Austria. The total amount of funds provided in 2021 amounted to € 33,431 for 14 projects under the SK-AT 2020 Call.

Information on Projects Submitted Under the PP-COVID 2020 Call

In 2021, the Agency continued to finance projects under the PP-COVID 2020 Call with the purpose to support research and development aimed at/ related to COVID-19 and the related possible support of facilities for testing products related to this disease. The total amount of funds provided in 2021 was € 4,571,030 for 24 projects under the PP-COVID 2020 Call. Within this Call, capital expenditures of € 425,380 were also provided for 8 projects for 2021.

Tab. 7 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2016	105	2017
GC 2017	148	2018
GC 2018	151	2019
GC 2019	149	2020

Tab. 8 Funding Provided in 2021 for the Ongoing Projects

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2016	105	2 486 140	0	2 486 140
GC 2017	148	7 328 358	0	7 328 358
GC 2018	150	9 012 344	0	9 012 344
GC 2019	149	8 967 144	0	8 967 144
Total	552	30 320 879	0	30 320 879

3.4 Supplementary funding of the Seventh Framework programme (SF7FP)



Open General 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 FP7 project is completed.

Tab. 9 The SRDA- Funded Projects under SF7FP in 2021, by Sector

Sektor	Number of Projects	Funds in €
State-Funded Organisations	1	10 924
Universities	1	21 189
Total	2	32 113

Tab. 10 Projects monitored after their completion

Call	Funding of the Call Finished in (year)	Number of the Projects Monitored
GC 2012	2017	130
GC 2014	2019	147
GC 2015	2020	90
GC 2016	2021	4
SF7FP	Call finished	10

3.5 Projects completed in 2021

In 2021, the Agency finally evaluated 121 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 2021, the Agency's Councils did not evaluate the final reports of the GC 2015 Call with extended solution due to the Covid - 19 pandemic situation, part of the projects under GC 2016 and 3 projects under GC 2017. Not all the final reports of the GC 2016 Call were evaluated, due to the Covid - 19 pandemic situation a possibility to extend the solution of the projects of this Call was given.

Projects of Bilateral Cooperation

The Council of the Agency for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation evaluated 2 projects under bilateral call SK-PL 2018, both reaching an excellent level, 1 project under bilateral call SK-SRB 2018, which reached a good level, and one project under bilateral call SK-IL RD 2018, which was assessed at an insufficient 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

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	35	2 447	14	86
GC 2014	52	2594	11	55
GC 2015	35	1017	16	39
GC 2016	1	1	1	4
SF7FP	3	87	1	3
Total	126	6 146	43	187

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 2021, 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 and based on the Research and Development Support Scheme by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme) as by Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 to SA.58654.

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 1 and Addendum 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

In 2021, 27 entities were provided aid under the State Aid Scheme. The total amount of the aid provided amounted to € 2,353,613. Financial resources were provided to individual entities for funding several projects on the basis of three state aid schemes, namely SA. 42450, SA.49175 and SA.58654 (several general calls). Within 27 entities, 11 entities represented a micro enterprise, 8 entities were small enterprises, 6 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.

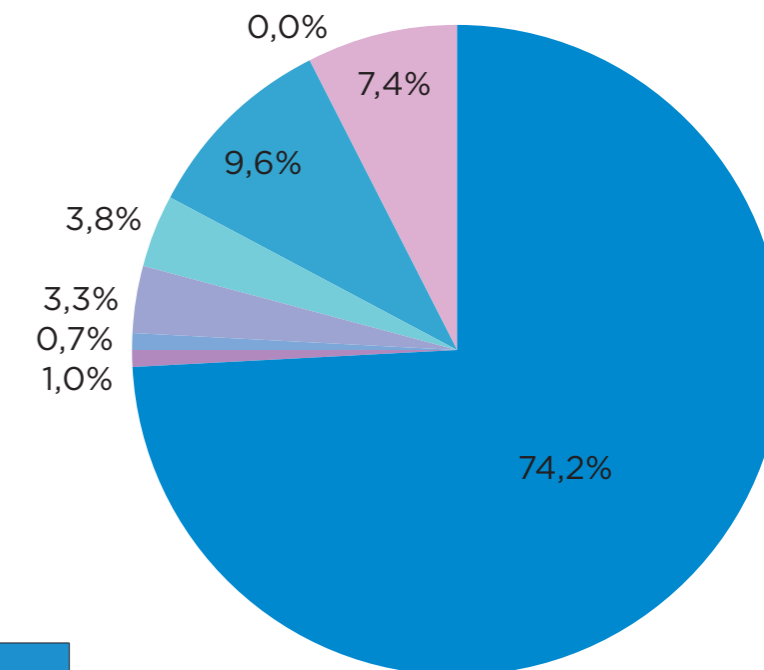
Regional distribution of total state aid, by regions, was as follows:

Within the regions, the aid was provided to 14 entities in the Bratislava Region, 2 entities in the Košice Region, 2 entities in the Nitra region, 1 entity Prešov Region, 1 entity Banská Bystrica Region, 2 entities in the Trenčín Region, 4 entities in the Žilina region and 1 entity in the Trnava 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 1 and 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.

Fig. 15 Regional Distribution of Total Aid Provided by Region



Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of the Total State Aid Provided

Region	Amount in €
Bratislava Region	1 788 952
Trnava Region	46 704
Trenčín Region	101 800
Nitra Region	36 059
Žilina Region	211 176
Banská Bystrica Region	19 012
Prešov Region	51 357
Košice Region	98 553
Total	2 353 613

Tab. 12A Regional Distribution of the Total State Aid Provided

Scheme	Based on NUTS III							
	Bratislava Region	Trnava Region	Trenčín Region	Nitra Region	Žilina Region	Banská Bystrica Region	Prešov Region	Košice Region
SA.49175	46 704	0	101 800	19 000	132 286	19 012	51 357	34 138
SA.42450	98 553	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA.58654	273 423	46 704	0	17 059	78 890	0	0	64 415

05 / SRDA Budget

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to € 41,527,088 was approved for 2021 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 06K11 sub-program, a budget of € 1,563,357 was approved as to January 1, 2021 for the Agency's operation and € 39,963,731 for project funding (to support research and development).

During this year, the MŠVVaŠ SR additionally adjusted the Agency's budget by the 11 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 wage expenditures in accordance with the Collective Agreement of higher degree, reimbursement of current project expenditures, the reclassification of current expenditure to capital expenditure, and the commitment of capital expenditure by 2020. The breakdown of the approved budget, adjusted budget and budget execution as of 31.12.2021 is given in Tab. 13.

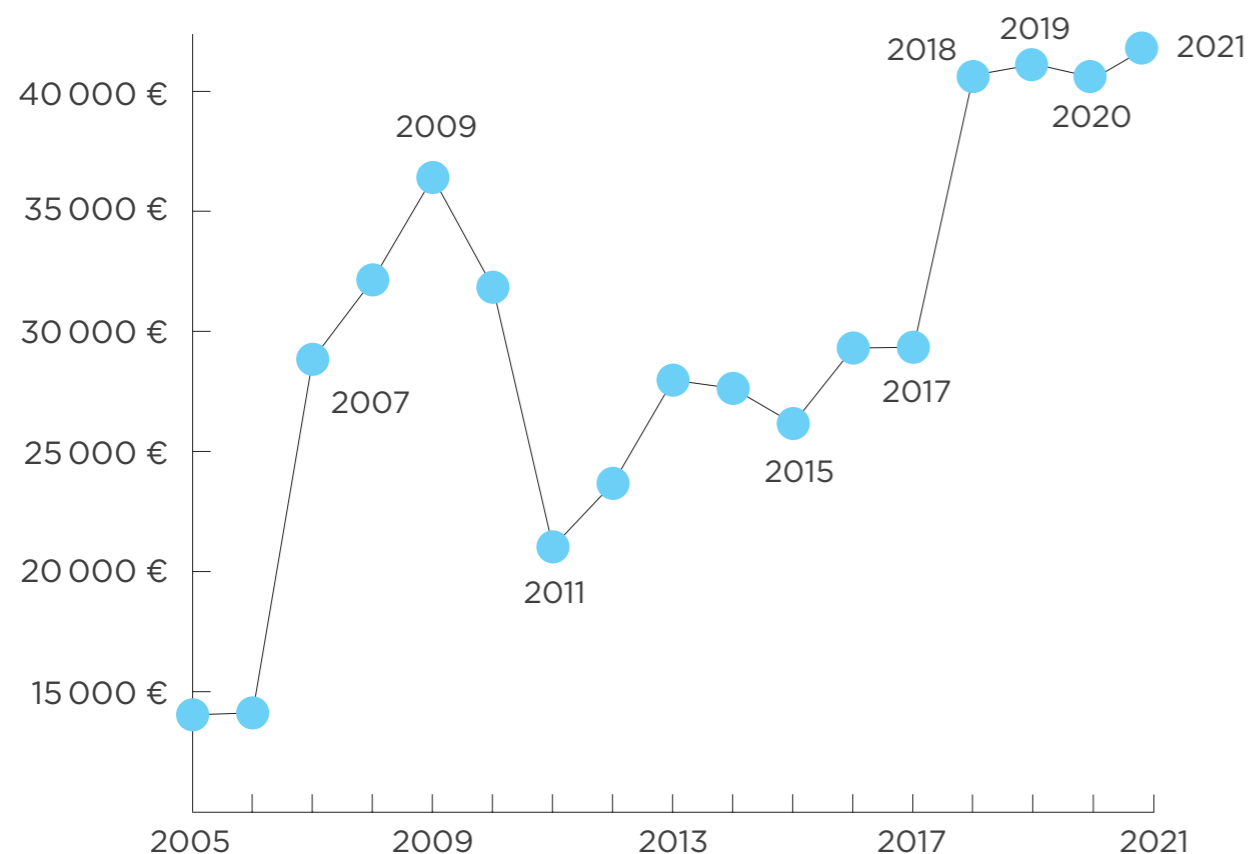


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's Budget during 2005 - 2021 in ths.€

Tab. 13 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2021 in €

Program 06K11	Approved as of 1.1.2021	Adjusted as of 31.12.2021	Drawdown as of 31.12.2021
Operation of SRDA	1 563 357	1 525 986	1 525 986
Current	1 563 357	1 522 490	1 522 490
Capital	0	3 496	3 496
Support for Research and Development	39 963 731	39 797 002	39 593 278
Current	39 963 731	39 371 622	39 167 898
Capital	0	425 380	425 380
SRDA in Total	41 527 088	41 322 988	41 119 264

Tab. 14 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2021

Call / Program	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
General Call - GC 2016	2 486 140	0	2 486 140
General Call - GC 2017	7 328 358	0	7 328 358
General Call - GC 2018	9 012 344	0	9 012 344
General Call - GC 2019	8 967 144	0	8 967 144
General Call - GC 2020	5 974 430	0	5 974 430
Bilateral Projects	497 287	0	497 287
Supplementary Funding of Projects Supported Under FP7-EU-SF7FP	32 113	0	32 113
PP-COVID 2020	4 145 650	425 380	4 571 030
Danube Strategy 2019 - DS-FR	77 392	0	77 392
Horizon 2020	205 350	0	205 350
Total	38 726 208	425 380	39 151 588

Tab. 15 Structure of Funding Provided for the Projects Supported in 2021 / Sector

Type of Organisation	Current expenditures	Capital expenditures	Total
State Organisations and SAS	11 770 982	64 520	11 835 502
Public Universities	23 767 844	304 160	24 072 004
Non - profit organisations, civic associations, foundations	560 609	0	560 609
Legal entities (ltd., joint stock company)	2 576 538	56 700	2 633 238
Private university colleges	50 235	0	50 235
Total	38 726 208	425 380	39 151 588

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, 2021 was 34.

The average recalculated number of employees for 2021 was 33,2.

The registered number of employees as of December 31, 2021 was 34.

During the year 2021, the Agency's staffing capacities were comprised by its core members and 158 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 general calls, bilateral cooperation projects, projects within the program Strengthening the participation of the Slovak Republic in European cooperation in research and development in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 707/2020 and the program "Support for research and development aimed at coping with the coronavirus pandemic and its effects for the period 2020-2021" in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 317/2020.

The average age of the SRDA employees in 2021 was 40,5 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. 2021	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2021
Director's office	8	8
Control Department	4	4
Department of Human Resources	1	2
Department of Projects	11	12
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	5	5
Department of International Cooperation and State Aid	4	3
Total	33	34

Tab. 17 Structure of the SRDA Employees by their Qualification as of December 31, 2021

Level of Education	Number of Employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	5	3
Higher Education - 1st Level	1	1
Higher Education - 2nd Level	25	18
Higher Education - 3rd Level	3	2
Total	34	24

6.2 SRDA social policy

SRDA has concluded employers' contracts with three supplementary pension companies: NN Tatry Sympatia, UNIQA, STABILITA, and SPC of Tatra Banka. As of December 31, 2021, 88% of the staff was involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme.

From June 2021 the SRDA staff could enjoy the Multisport Program services, which were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic situation from June 2021.

6.3 Education and Trainings of the SRDA Staff

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, for the purchase of IT in public administration, for IT law, for changes in social and health insurance, changes in the area of payroll and in the area of implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan. The group of professional trainings was focused on deepening the IT knowledge of all employees in APVV. The group of expert trainings focused on 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 the SRDA employees in foreign languages, due to the pandemic situation in 2021 the language courses were organized online.

07 / Audit Activities

7.1 External Audit Activities

Agency in 2021 in accordance with the law No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and Amending Certain Laws performed 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 during solving of the project funded.

Based on the 2021 Audit Plan - on-site financial control, which was continuously amended by Appendices 1 to 5 during 2021, in connection with the current situation of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 on-site financial controls were planned for 2021 and subsequently 12 on-site controls were performed. Due to the deteriorating pandemic situation in the Slovak Republic in connection with the proliferation of COVID-19, 5 unrealized on-site financial controls were relocated with the planned start of these controls in 2022. An overview of the on-site financial controls is given in Tab. 18.

Overview of On-Site Controls in 2021:

Number of controls planned	17
Number of controls carried out	12
Number of controls completed to 31. 12.	12
Shortcomings found - number of controls	7

In 2021, on-site financial controls included control of correctness of expenditure drawdowns in the total amount of € 1,337,325.00. The on-site financial controls found violation of financial discipline amounting to € 28,582.70. In total, 9 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

7.2 Internal Audit Activities

In 2021, based on the 2021 Audit Plan the SRDA Control Department carried out nine internal controls focused on:

1. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive “Concept of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System in SRDA”, control of compliance with the OSH Plan;
2. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the “Directive on the creation, comments, conclusion and registration of operating contracts and amendments”;
3. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive “Concept of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System in SRDA”, control of first aid kits;
4. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Circulation of accounting documents in SRDA. The inspection started in 2020 and then ended in 2021.
5. control of compliance with the internal regulation “Rules of Procedure of the Agency ‘s commissions”;

Tab. 18 The SRDA On-Site Financial Controls Carried Out in 2021

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Slovak Technical University in Bratislava (APVV-15-0079)	218 464,00
Institute of Forest Ecology SAS (APVV-17-0116)	167 086,00
University of Prešov, Prešov (APVV-17-0166)	126 287,00
Scientica, s.r.o. (APVV-17-0538)	211 434,00
Biomedical Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (APVV-18-0283)	118 535,00
Comenius University in Bratislava (APVV-18-0333)	50 610,00
Trnava University, Trnava (APVV-18-0443)	90 812,00
The National Agricultural and Food Centre (APVV-19-0471)	40 267,00
MultiplexDX, s.r.o. (PP-COVID-20-0116)	142 050,00
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (SK-IL-RD-18-0004)	159 980,00
The Earth Science Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences SK-KR-18-0008)	7 800,00
The University of Žilina (SK-PL-18-0005)	4 000,00

6. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive “Rules for posting and reimbursement of travel expenses”;
7. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive “Rules of Procedure of the Slovak Research and Development Agency”;
8. control of compliance with the internal regulation “Registry order of the Slovak Research and Development Agency”;
9. control of compliance with the internal regulation “General internal procedure for providing targeted financial support for the SRDA grant schemes”

Based on the audit findings, recommendations were made to correct the identified deficiencies.

7.3 Audits Carried by External Audit Bodies

In 2021, external audit bodies carried out three audits in the SRDA:

1. On February 2, 2021, 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 3, 2019 to October 11, 2019.
2. On March 3, 2021 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, 2020 to October 9, 2020.
3. In the period from 15 June 2021 to 29 October 2021, the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic performed the audit “Allocation of funds for research and development projects” for the period from 2018 to 2020.

7.4 Complaint Handling

The Agency in 2021 registered one complaint that was postponed according to § 6 sect. 1 par. a) of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints and two complaints were identified as applications.

08 / The SRDA Annual Conference

In 2021, due to valid measures to prevent the spread of a pandemic, the Annual SRDA annual conference was not held. The SRDA published on its website on September 2, 2021 an open letter “Evaluation of SRDA activities”, signed by the SRDA Chairman Mr. Jozef Masarik, state secretary of MŠVVaŠ SR Mr. Ľudovít Paulis and SRDA director Mr. Stanislav Mydlo, accompanied by presentations on the SRDA activities in 2020 and 2020 General Call.

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, 2016 and Call SF7FP.

Annual and Final Project Evaluation and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2021, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls GC 2016, GC 2017, GC 2018, GC 2019, projects of bilateral cooperation, PP-COVID 2020 calls, Horizon 2021 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. 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 2021, funds were allocated to these calls launched in 2020: General Call GC 2020 and bilateral cooperation projects with the Republic of Austria.

New Calls launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

In 2021, the Agency launched General Call GC 2021. Expected deadline for publishing the findings is May 2022. At the same time, a call was also launched and funded under the program call under the European Union's research and innovation program for 2021-2027 - Horizon 2021.

In 2021, the Agency announced bilateral calls for cooperation in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of China, Taiwan (results published on 27.10.2021), the Republic of Poland (results published on 15.12.2021), Ukraine (expected date

of publication of results is early 2022), The People's Democratic Republic of China (expected date of publication of results is early 2022), Republic of Serbia (expected date of publication of results is in the first quarter of 2022). In 2021, the Agency also announced bilateral research calls for cooperation with the Russian Federation (expected date of publication of results is early 2022) and with the Czech Republic (expected date of publication of results is in the second quarter of 2022) within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation.

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 2021 included also development of the following documents:

- 2021 SRDA Main Tasks Plan;
- 2020 Annual SRDA Activity Report;
- 2020 Annual SRDA Management Report;
- 2020 State Aid Report;
- 2020 Annual SRDA Accounts.

10 / Evaluation of the SRDA Activities in 2021

In 2021, 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) and under the SRDA programs.

The following general calls were opened, and/or launched in 2021:

- General Call for submitting applications for research & development projects in individual fields of science and technology - GC 2021;
- Call for supporting bilateral cooperation on the basis of intergovernmental agreement with the s The Republic of China, Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Ukraine, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Poland with the funding from 2022;
- Call for supporting bilateral cooperation research on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement with the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic with the funding from 2022;
- General call for applications under the program "Support for " strengthening the participation of the Slovak Republic in the European cooperation in research and development " (Horizon 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 2021;
- announcing the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support submitted under these calls;
- funding the projects with their solution started in 2021.

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, primarily 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 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-BY-RD	Slovakia - Belarus Bilateral Research Call
7.RP SRDA (APVV)	Seventh Framework Programme The Slovak Research and Development Agency	PP-COVID 2020	Support for research and development focusing on coping with a pandemic coronavirus and its effects on period 2020-2021
BOZP CC publications	Occupational safety and health Publications in Current Contents Journals		
SF7FP	Open general call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects		
DS-FR 2019	The Strategy for Danube Region – France 2019		
EC EURATOM	European Community European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVVaŠ SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic		
IT SAS SCI citations	information technologies Slovak Academy of Sciences 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		
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		
SK CN RD	Slovakia - China Bilateral Research Call		

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