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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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2023



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REPORT 2023

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SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



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

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1 / 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 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. The quality of the submitted project applications is critical for allocating the research and development support. Another mission of the Agency lies in stimulating the 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 through 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 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 the 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, and 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 fulfilling 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 with several objectives of point 5 of the Manifesto of the Government and the related tasks.

The 2023 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 an “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 4 objectives were set at the sub-program level:

- 1) to support projects of international scientific and technical 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,

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 the 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 the 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 project’s intents, objectives, and substance. The Agency intends to 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 continues 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 joined the cooperation in the GRANteD research project with Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH by signing a memorandum of understanding. The cooperation resulted in the concept of the GC 2020 analysis from the aspect of applying the gender equality principles in the Call. The cooperation will continue with a focus on proposing possible measures for keeping compliance with non-discriminatory measures in the process of evaluating the submitted applications for project funding.

2 / Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

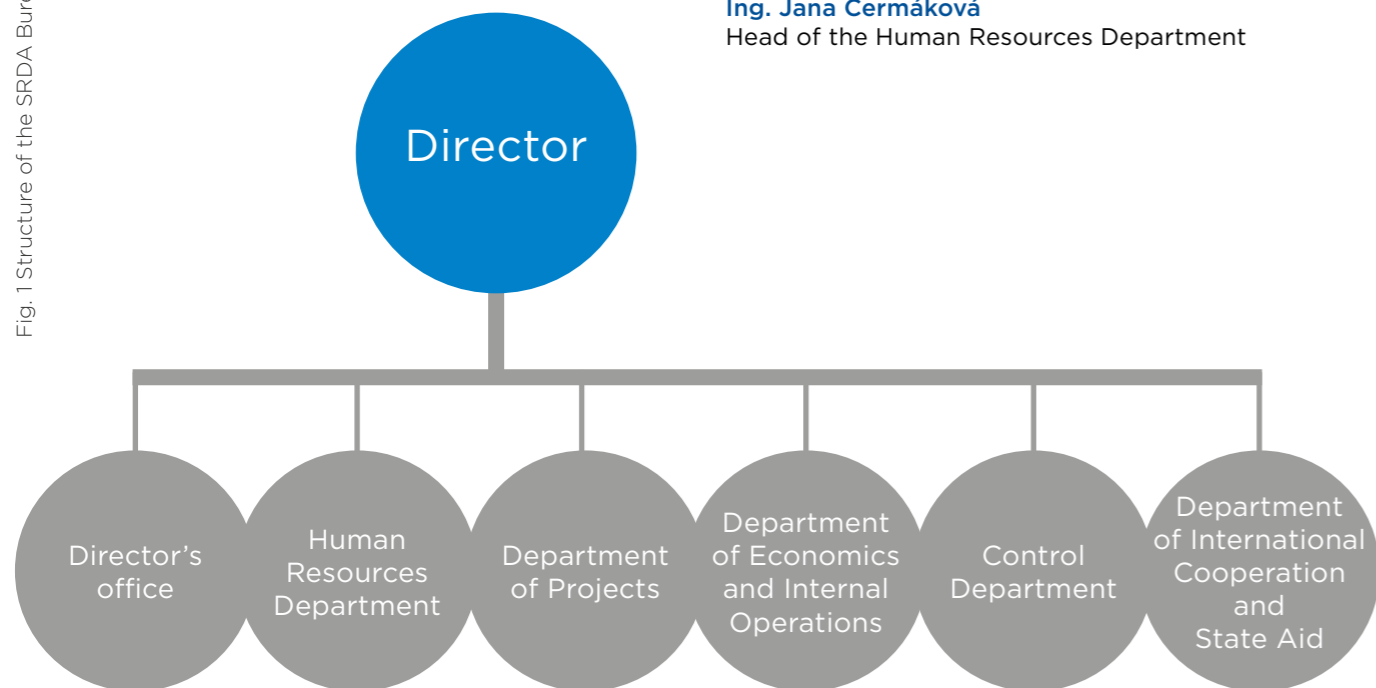
2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2023

Director
JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo

- Management Members**
- Ing. Alena Bokrošová**
Head of the Director's office
 - RNDr. Silvia Plesníková**
Head of Department of Projects
 - Mgr. Petra Kozáková 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 nationwide 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.

Composition of the Bureau as of 31.12.2023

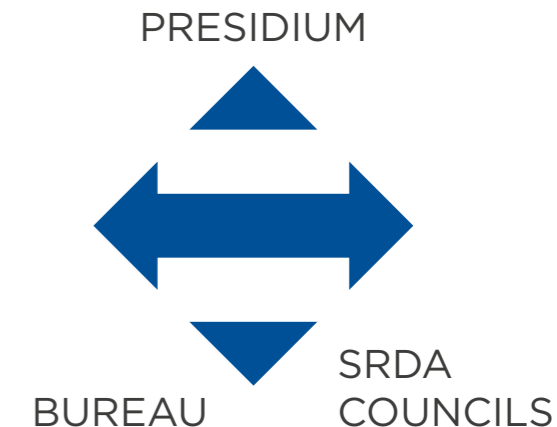
Chairman
Dr. Ing. Robert Mistrík
Bitmoderna, s . r . o., Bratislava

Vice-Chairman
Dr. h. c. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD., host. prof.
Prvá zväračská a. s., Bratislava

Members
RNDr. Imrich Barák, DrSc.
Institute of Molecular Biology SAS, v. v. i, Bratislava

prof. M. Phil. Jozef Batora, PhD.
Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Department of Political Science

Fig. 2 Structure of the SRDA



Ing. Štefan Boháček, PhD.
Paper and Pulp Research Institute, a. s., Bratislava

doc. MUDr. Ing. RNDr. Peter Celec, DrSc., MPH
Institute of Molecular Biomedicine, Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor
Klub 500, Bratislava

PhDr. Zdenka Mansfeldová, CSc.
Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences v. v. i., Prague

prof. RNDr. Peter Moczo, DrSc.
Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava

Mgr. Robert Ševčík, PhD.
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

Secretary
Ing. Alena Bokrošová

At its meetings in 2023, 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 2023 General Call (GC) as well as bilateral calls
- Approval of PP MSCA PF 2023 Call;
- Re-nomination of the members of the Councils with their mandate in termination and addition of the new Slovak and foreign members of the Councils;
- Approval of members to the newly established Council for periodic evaluation of research, development, artistic and other creative activities;
- Ensuring the full project funding under the 2018 GC, 2019 GC, 2020 GC, 2021 GC, and 2022 GC Calls;
- the possibility to involve the SRDA in VEGA/KEGA grant schemes;
- Communication with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic regarding the possible involvement of SRDA in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF);
- Amendment to Act 172/2005 Coll.;
- The 2022 SRDA Annual Activity Report and 2022 SRDA Annual Management Report;
- Budgeting for the next program period,
- Preparing a code list of science & technology branches;
- Current budget drawdown during the year;

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 solutions 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 2023, these Councils of the Slovak Research and Development Agency worked as follows:

Council for Natural Sciences

Chairman of the Council
prof. RNDr. Michal Zeman, DrSc.
*Comenius University in Bratislava,
Faculty of Natural Sciences*

Council for Technical Sciences

Chairman of the Council
Dr. h. c., doc. Ing. Juraj Wagner, PhD.
*Association of Industrial Research and Development
Organizations, Bratislava*

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chairman of the Council
prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc.
SAS Biomedical Center, v. in. i.

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Vladimír Tančín, DrSc.
*Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (from
31.3.2023)*

Council for Social Sciences

Chairwoman of the Council
prof. Ing. Marta Orviská, PhD.
*Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Faculty of
Economics fakulta (until 01.03.2023)*

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Dvořák, PhD.
*University of Žilina, Faculty of Security
Engineering (from 31.3.2023)*

Council for Humanities

Chairman of the Council
prof. Ing. Peter Markovič, PhD.
*University of Economics in Bratislava,
Faculty of Business Management*

Council for International Scientific and Technical Cooperation (MVTs)

Chairwoman of the Council
Ing. Zuzana Ciesarová, CSc.
National Agricultural and Food Center Lužianky

Council for SRDA Program to Manage the Coronavirus Pandemic and its Effects

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

Council of the Program for Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Cooperation in Research & Development

The chairwoman of the Council
Mgr. Tatiana Zachar Podolinská, PhD.
*Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology
of the Slovak Republic*

3 / The SRDA activities in 2023

3.1 Activities in 2023

Based on the Agency's Main Tasks Plan and within the mentioned financial resources, these Calls were open, and/or launched in 2023:

- General Call GC 2023 for submitting applications for research & development projects in individual groups of fields of science and technology;
- International bilateral call for supporting scientific-technical cooperation SK-AT 2023, SK-BG 2023. SK-CN 2023, SK-PL 2023, SK-SRB 2023;
- bilateral research call SK-IL-RD 2023

The Agency's activities during 2023 included also the following additional tasks:

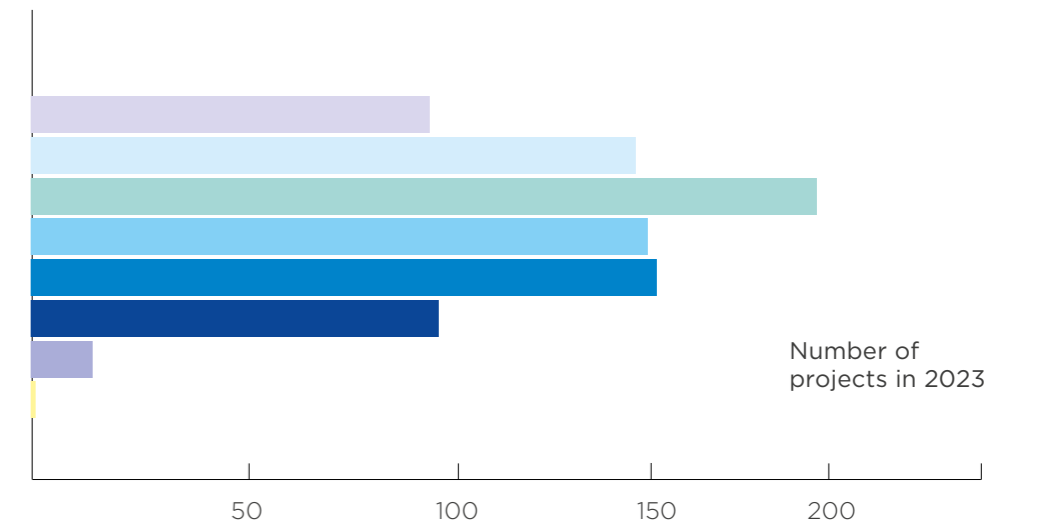
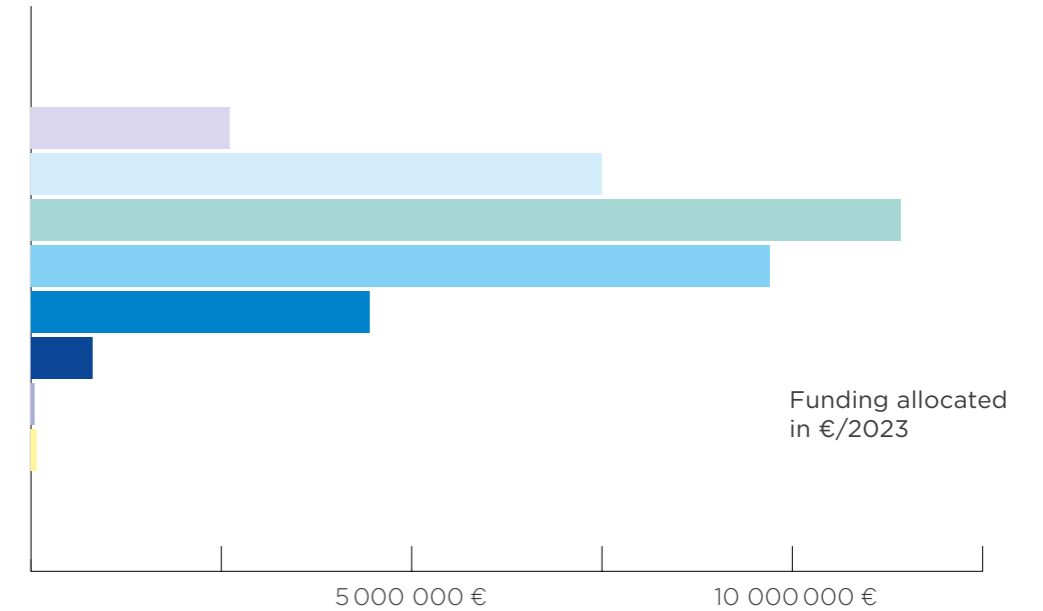
- monitoring projects outputs after their completion in order to obtain relevant data on the project benefits (impacts) on social and economic practice;
- funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. projects with funding, and therefore the solution, started already in previous years and continued in 2023;
- launching the new calls and assessing the applications for financial support submitted under these calls in 2023;

Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2023

Call	Number of projects in 2023	Funds allocated in €/2023
GC 2018	97	2 570 577
GC 2019	147	7 378 846
GC 2020	191	11 241 853
GC 2021	150	9 548 179
GC 2022	152	4 374 438
Bilateral Calls	99	800 088
DS-FR 2022	15	42 534
PP MSCA PF 2022	1	74 611
Total	851	36 031 126



Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Financed Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2023



3. 1. 1. Announcement of General Call GC 2023



This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of the applications submitted under General Call GC 2023 launched in 2023, with the funding for the selected successful projects starting in 2024. The maximum project period is 48 months.

Characteristics of GC 2023

General Call GC 2023 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 2023

- Deadline for submitting the applications: 25.09.2023 - 27.11.2023

Basic information about the applications registered:

- total number of applications received / **661**
- of which basic research project applications / **462**
- of which applied research project applications / **191**
- of which development project applications / **8**
- amount of required funds / **€127,264**
- financial contribution of applicants / **€5,929**
- total amount of funds / **€133,193**

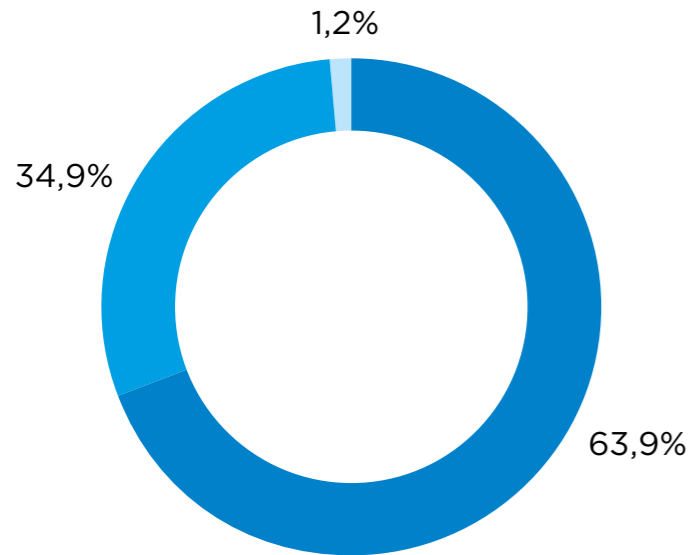


Fig. 4 Registered Applications by Character of Their Research in %

Basic Research	€88,248
Applied Research	€37,543
Development	€1,473

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

Research	Number of applications submitted	Requirements from SRDA (in ths. of €)
Basic Research	462	88 248
Applied Research	191	37 543
Development	8	1 473
Total	661	127 264

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	150
Technical Sciences	178
Medical Sciences	77
Agricultural Sciences	66
Social Sciences	138
Humanities	52
Total	661

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications/ Field of Science

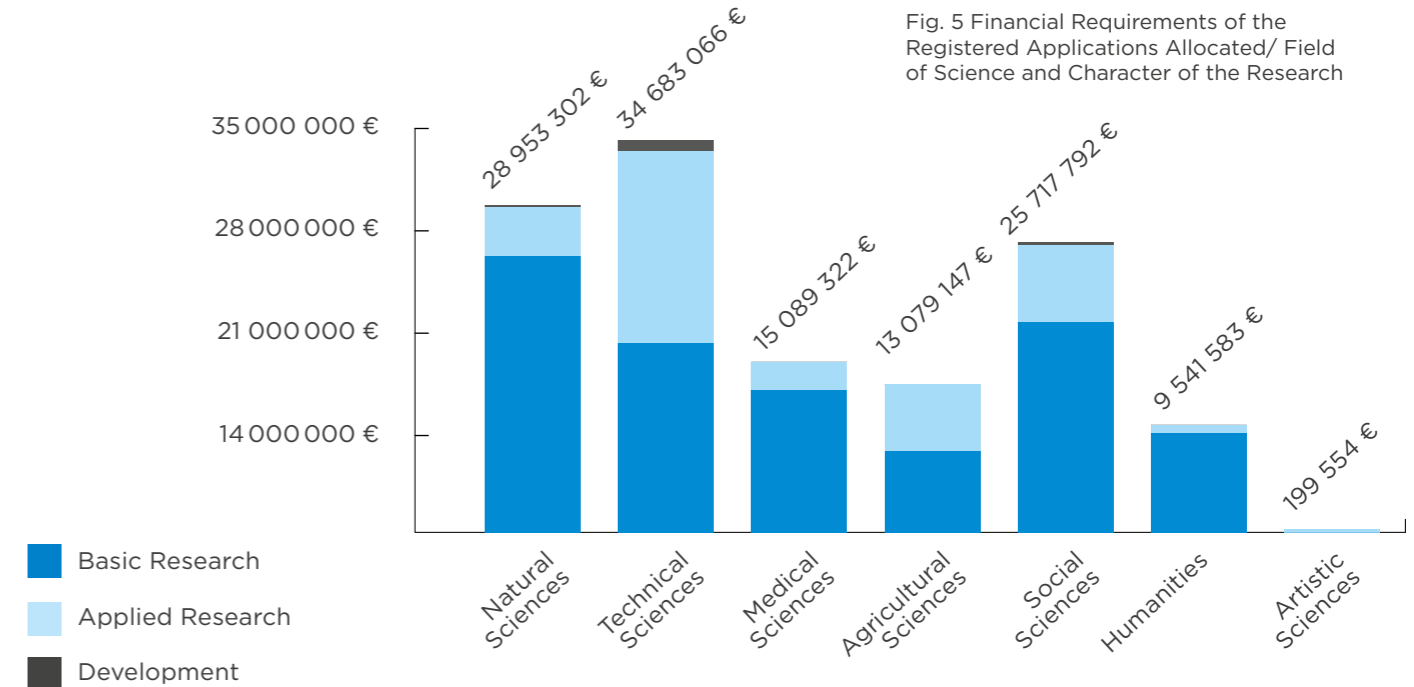


Fig. 5 Financial Requirements of the Registered Applications Allocated/ Field of Science and Character of the Research

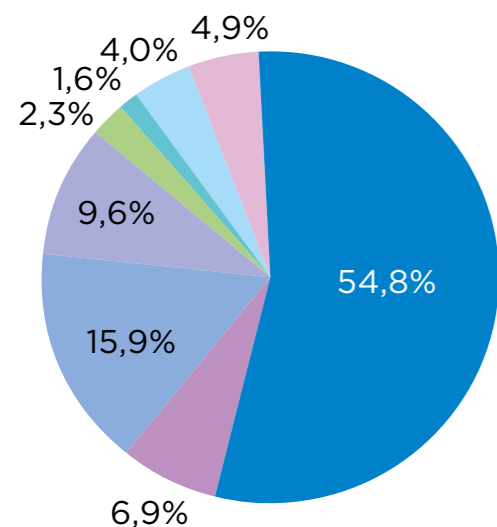


Fig. 6 Funding Requirements by Region
Number of GC 2023 applications by applicant's region

Banská Bystrica Region	6,9%	45 projects	8 814 122 €
Bratislava Region	54,8%	362 projects	69 697 632 €
Košice Region	15,9%	105 projects	20 217 832 €
Nitra Region	9,6%	62 projects	12 165 358 €
Prešov Region	2,3%	15 projects	2 878 168 €
Trenčín Region	1,6%	11 projects	2 052 556 €
Trnava Region	4,0%	28 projects	5 142 515 €
Žilina Region	4,9%	33 projects	6 295 583 €

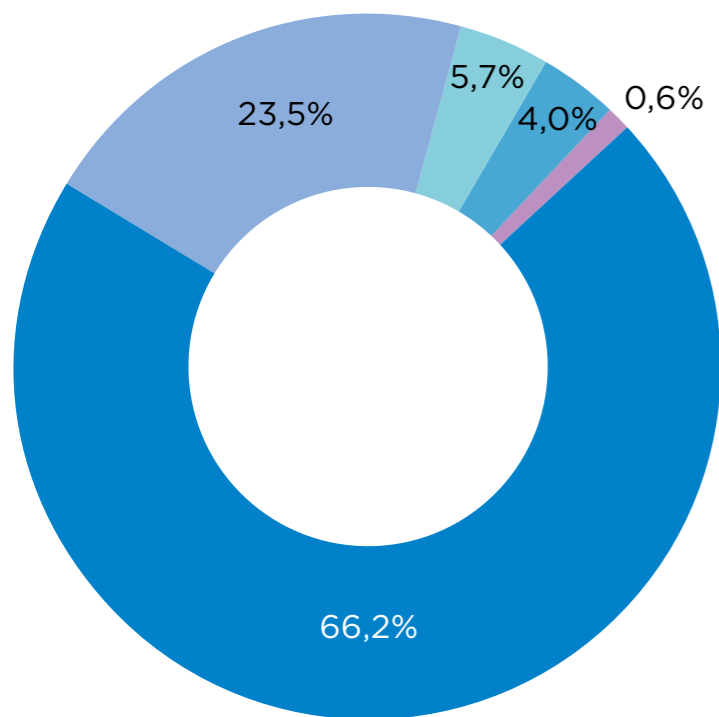


Fig. 7 Financial Requirements for the Applications Submitted under GC 2023 by Sector

Universities	84 212 729 €	440 projects
SAS	29 948 702 €	154 projects
State (SAS excluding)	7 250 741 €	37 projects
Business	5 052 045 €	26 projects
Non-profit	799 549 €	4 projects

3. 1. 2. International Cooperation

In 2023, the Agency announced 6 calls within the international scientific and technical cooperation.

Bilateral call projects are international cooperation projects aimed at establishing new or intensifying the existing scientific and technical 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 instruments and laboratory techniques;
- collecting research materials,
- involvement of Ph.D. students, and/or young R & D personnel (aged under 35).

Bilateral research call projects are joint research & development projects promoting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and a partner country. In their character, the projects may be of basic research, applied research or development projects. Research bilateral call SK-IL RD 2023 had priorities identified in the light of the priorities of the Government's approved Strategy for Research and Development "Knowledge to Prosperity - Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation Slovak Republic": and focused on:

- Information systems and ICT - in healthcare, cyber security
- Communication systems - smart cars, space research, navigation systems

New challenges for bilateral cooperation in 2023

In 2023, the Agency launched a bilateral call with the Republic of Poland with an allocation of funds for the entire period of the supported projects amounting to €81,600. The total amount of funds granted by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of € 4,800 per for the entire duration of the project and a maximum of € 2,400 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be implemented in the years 2024-2025 with the start of the project on 01.01.2024.

69 applications were submitted.

In 2023, the Agency also launched a bilateral call with the Republic of Serbia with an allocation of 96,900 € for the entire period of the supported projects. The total amount of funds granted by the Agency for the solution of one project was limited to 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 implemented in the years 2024-2025 with the start of the project on 01.04.2024. 61 applications were submitted in the call for proposals.

In 2023, the Agency also launched one bilateral research call with the State of Israel with an allocation of € 480,000 for the entire period of the supported projects. The total amount of the SRDA funding for a single project was limited to a maximum of € 80,000 for the entire duration of the project. The projects will be carried out in the years 2024-2025 with the start of the project on 01.02.2024. 3 applications were submitted in the call for proposals.

In the same year, the Agency launched a bilateral call with the People's Republic of China with an allocation of € 180,000 for the entire period of the supported projects. The total amount of funds granted by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of € 15,000 for the entire duration of the project and a maximum of € 7,500 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be carried out in the years 2024-2026 with the start of the project on 01.07.2024. 38 applications were submitted in the call for proposals.

In the year in question, the Agency also launched a bilateral call with the Republic of Austria with an allocation of € 112,000 for the entire period of the supported projects. The total amount of funding granted by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of € 8,000 for the entire duration of the project and a maximum of € 4,000 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be carried out between 2024 and 2026 with the start of the project on 01.07.2024. 26 applications were submitted in the call.

In 2023, the Agency also launched a bilateral call with the Republic of Bulgaria with an allocation of €72,000 for the entire period of the supported projects.

The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of €7,200 for the entire duration of the project and a maximum of €3,600 per calendar year of the project. The projects will be carried out between 2024 and 2026 with the start of the project on 01.08.2024. 20 applications were submitted in the call for proposals.

3.2 General Call GC 2022

This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of applications submitted under the general call for proposals labelled GC 2021 launched in 2021, with the funding of the selected successful projects starting in 2023, with a maximum duration of the projects up to 2026.

Characteristics of GC 2022

GC 2022 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 2022

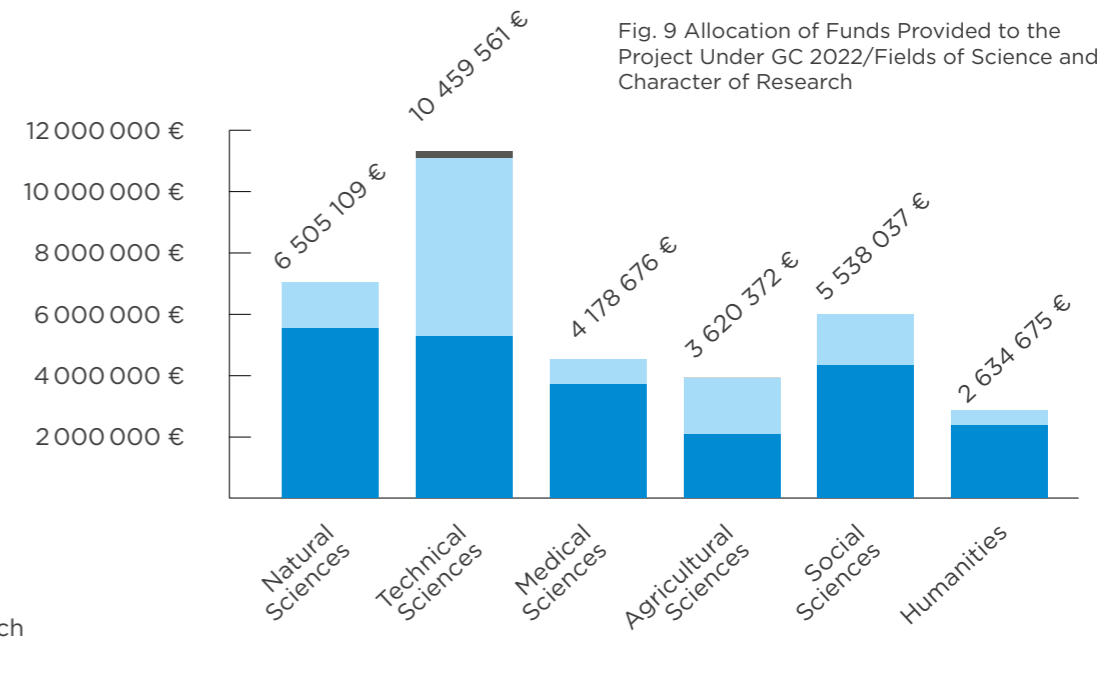
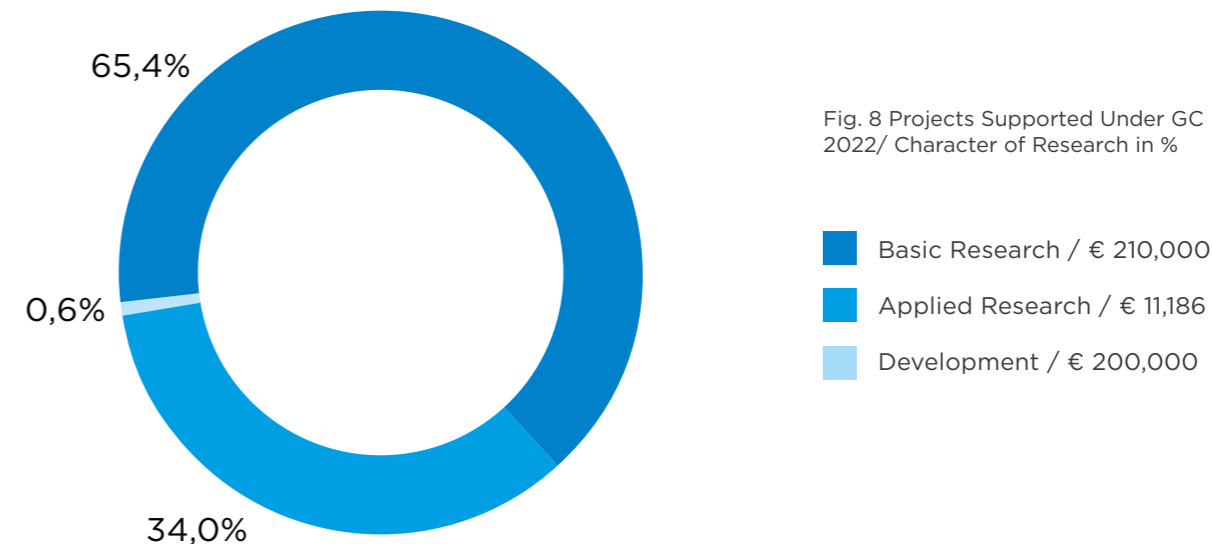
- Deadline for submitting the applications: 26.09.2022 - 28.11.2022

Basic information about the applications registered:

- total number of the applications received / 612
- of which basic project applications / 398
- of which applications for applied research projects / 206
- of which development project applications / 8
- the amount of funds requested / €140,452
- financial contribution of applicants / €5,956
- total amount of funds / €146,408

Tab. 4 Number of Applications Supported, by Character of Research

Character of Research	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Approved in ths. €
Basic Research	102	21 550 915
Applied Research	49	11 185 922
Development	1	199 593
Total	152	32 936 430



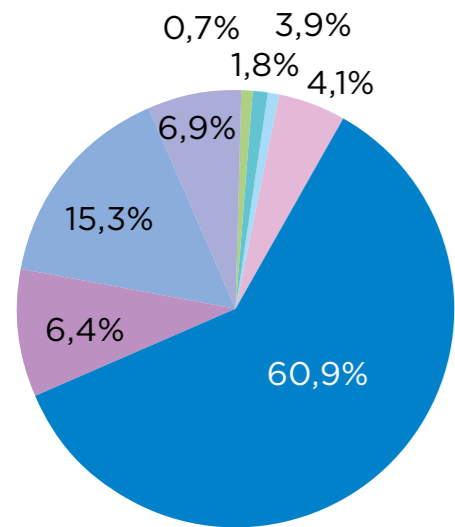


Fig. 10 Allocation of Funds under GC2022/ Region

Banská Bystrica Region	/ 6,4%	/ 9 projects	/ 2 099 176 €
Bratislava Region	/ 60,9%	/ 94 projects	/ 20 059 583 €
Košice Region	/ 15,3%	/ 23 projects	/ 5 052 537 €
Nitra Region	/ 6,9%	/ 10 projects	/ 2 266 900 €
Prešov Region	/ 0,7%	/ 1 project	/ 230 000 €
Trenčín Region	/ 1,8%	/ 3 projects	/ 583 178 €
Trnava Region	/ 3,9%	/ 6 projects	/ 1 282 236 €
Žilina Region	/ 4,1%	/ 6 projects	/ 1 362 820 €

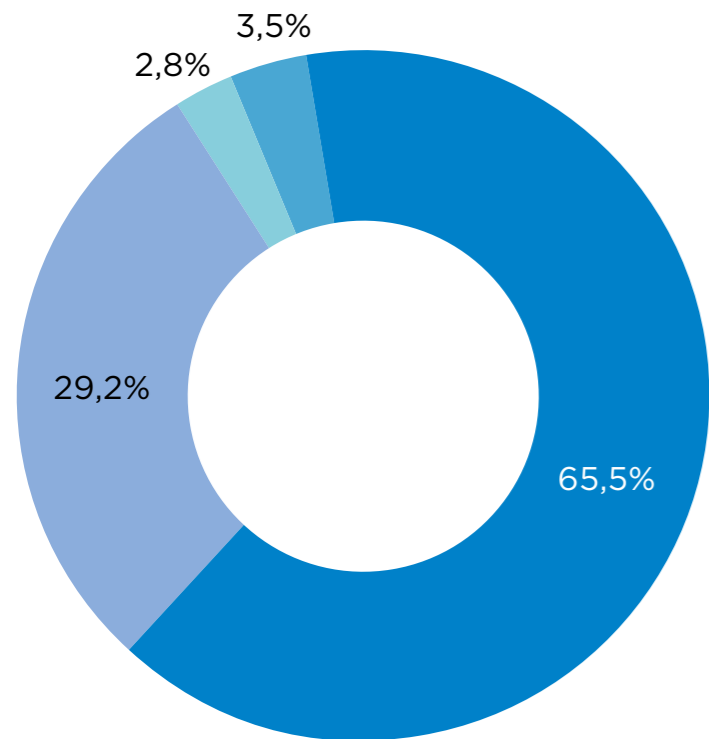


Fig. 11 Funds Provided under GC 2022/ Sector in %

Universities	/ 21 244 203 €
SAS	/ 9 605 766 €
State (SAS excluding)	/ 941 540 €
Business	/ 1 144 921 €
Non-profit	/ 0 €

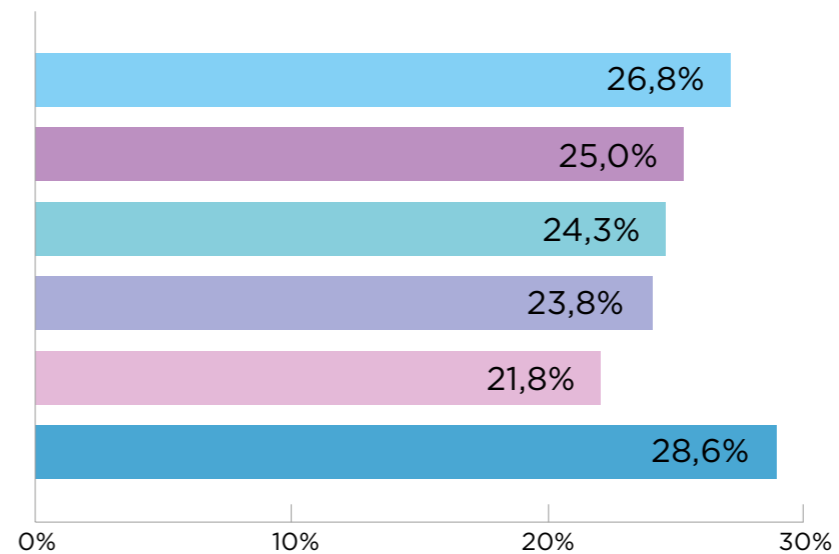


Fig. 12 Success Rate of the Applications Submitted under GC 2022/ Field of Science

Natural Sciences
Technical Sciences
Medical Sciences
Agricultural Sciences
Social Sciences
Humanities

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

Basic Research
Applied Research
Development

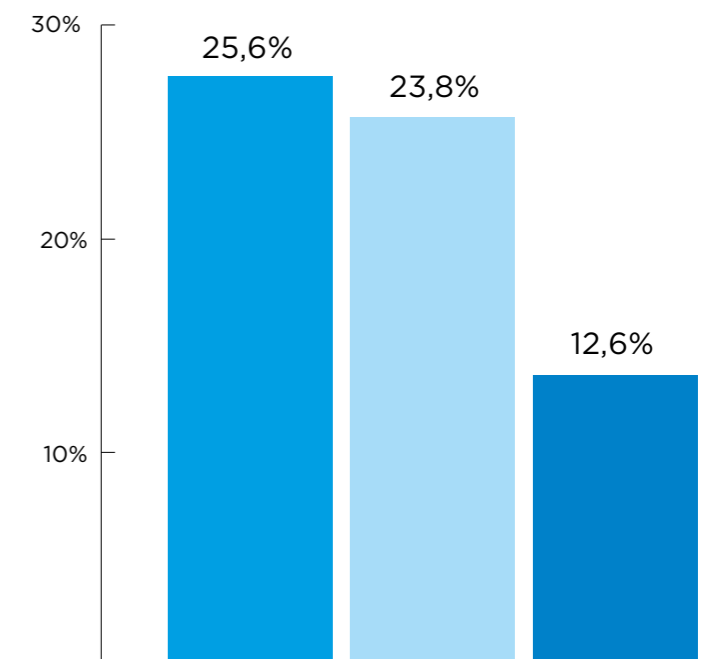
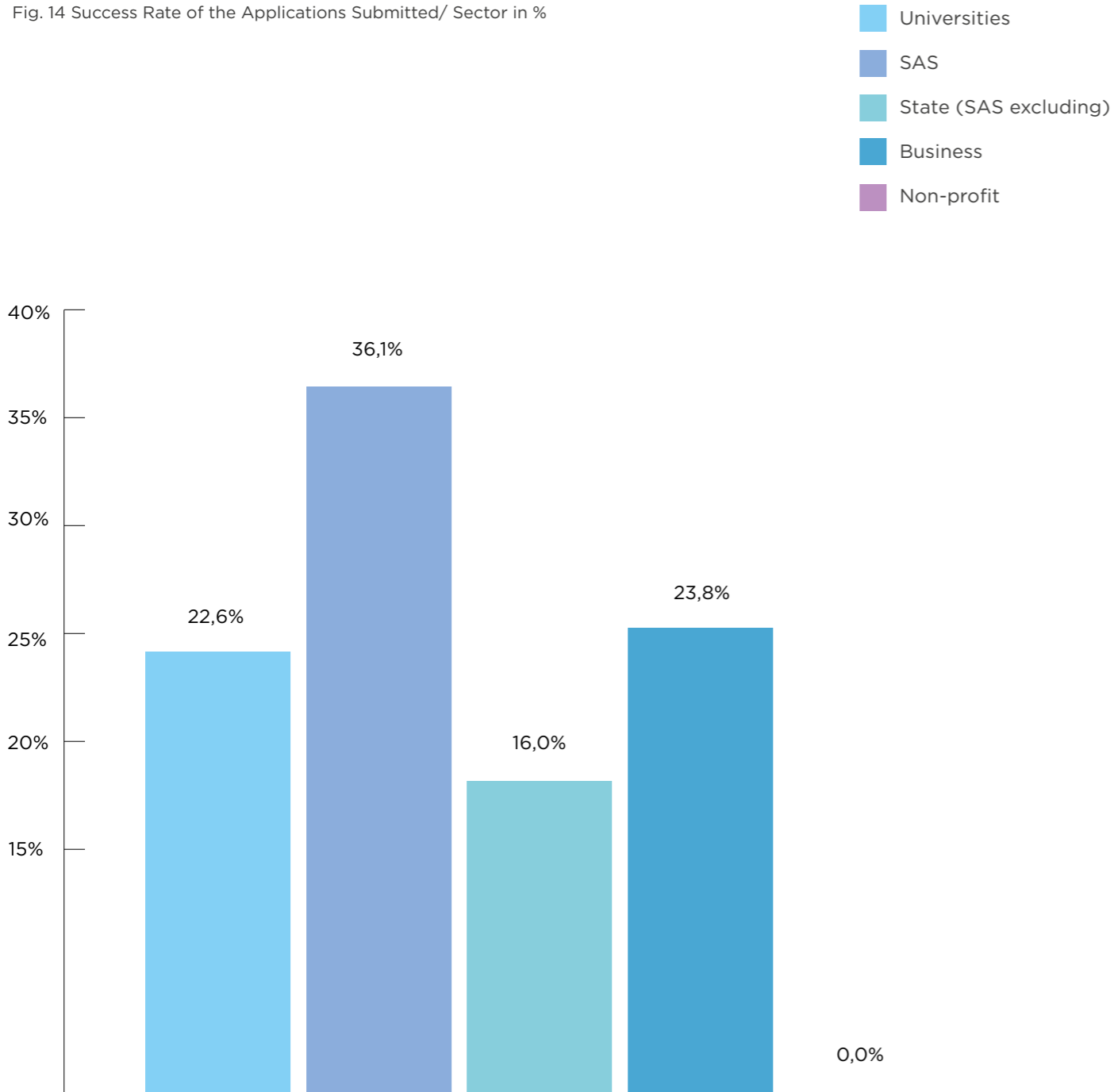


Fig. 14 Success Rate of the Applications Submitted/ Sector in %



Basic information on the assessment process

- Closing date for the evaluation of applications / **May 2023**
- total number of applications / **612**
- Number of applications rejected (technical and formal check) / **8**
- Number of applications withdrawn by the applicant / **0**
- Number of applications under expert assessment / **604**
- Number of applications receiving financial support / **152**
- of which applications for basic research projects / **102**
- of which applications for applied research projects / **49**
- of which applications for development projects / **1**
- average success rate of applications submitted / **24.84 %**
- total financial support approved / **€33,000**
- financial support granted in 2023 / **€4,374,000**

Under GC 2022, a total of 612 applications for funding for R&D projects were submitted. After technical and formal checks 8 applications were rejected. 604 applications went forward to expert assessment, which resulted in 152 applications being funded. SRDA allocated EUR 33 million under the GC 2022.

The start date for the projects was 1 July 2023. The latest project completion date is 30.06.2027.

Tab. 5 Funding of the Ongoing Projects in General Calls

Call	Number of Projects	Funding started in
GC 2018	97	2019
GC 2019	147	2020
GC 2020	191	2021
GC 2021	150	2022
GC 2022	152	2023

Tab. 6 Funding Provided in 2023 for the Ongoing Projects in General Calls

Call	Number of Projects	Current exp.	Capital exp.	Total
GC 2018	97	2 570 577	0	2 570 577
GC 2019	147	7 378 846	0	7 378 846
GC 2020	191	11 241 853	0	11 241 853
GC 2021	150	9 548 179	0	9 548 179
GC 2022	152	4 374 438	0	4 374 438
Total		35 113 893	0	35 113 893

3.3 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

A very important but also costly task was the funding of the ongoing projects, i.e. the projects whose funding and solution had started already in the previous years and continued in 2023. 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 for 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 2023, 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 April, May and June 2023, 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 bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects

Submitted in 2020 and continued funding in 2023

In 2023, the Agency continued to fund bilateral projects under the SK-AT 2020 Call. The projects were submitted in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Austria. The amount of funding provided in 2023 was €33,376 for 14 projects of the SK-AT 2020 Call.

Submitted in 2021 and continued funding in 2023

In 2023, the Agency continued to fund bilateral projects under Calls SK-CN 2021, SK-PL 2021, SK-SRB 2021, SK-UA 2021, and SK-TW 2021 and bilateral research projects

under SK-CZ-RD 2021 Call. The projects were submitted in the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation with the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Serbia, Ukraine and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The total amount of funding provided in 2023 for 13 bilateral research projects in SK-CZ-RD 2021 Call was €513,427. The amount of funding provided in 2023 for bilateral projects was €236,120, namely €77,542 for 13 projects under SK-CN 2021 Call, €20,000 for 4 projects under SK-TW 2021 Call, €68,000 for 10 projects under SK-UA 2021 Call, €38,578 for 17 projects under SK-SRB 2021 Call, and €32,000 for 16 projects under SK-PL 2021 Call.

Submitted in 2022 and funded in 2023

In 2022, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-FR 2022. Projects were submitted in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the French Republic... In the same year, the Agency launched the multilateral call DS-FR 2022. Projects were submitted in the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Serbia and the French Republic.

The total amount of funding provided for the 12 bilateral projects under SK-FR 2022 Call was €17,165. The amount of funding granted in 2023 for the 15 multilateral projects under DS-FR 2022 Call was €42,534.

In 2022, the Agency launched the PP MSCA PF 2022 Call, the main purpose of which is to support the Sklodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships projects that have been awarded a Seal-of-Excellence rating by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe, Marie Sklodowska - Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowships grant call. The amount of funding awarded in 2023 for 1 project of the Call was €74,611.



3.4 Projects Completed in 2023

In 2023, the Agency finally evaluated 124 projects with their project period expiring by December 31, 2021. The Agency's Councils evaluated the project outcomes considering the pre-defined criteria and then they closed the projects.

Projects under the General call

In 2023, the Agency's Councils evaluated the GC 2017 projects with extended project period due to the Covid19 pandemic situation, part of the GC 2018 projects and also the GC 2019 project, i.e. 119 projects in total. Not all final project reports under the GC2018 Call were evaluated, in this case the project period of projects under this Call was allowed to be extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

In the final evaluation there were 82 projects under GC

2017 Call, of which 34 projects were at an excellent level, 47 projects were at a good level and one project was at an insufficient level. In the GC 2018, 35 projects were evaluated, 6 projects were at an excellent level, 28 projects were at a good level and one project was at an insufficient level. Two projects were evaluated from the GC 2019 Call, which were at a good level.

Projects of Bilateral Cooperation

In 2023, the Council of the Agency for International Scientific and Technical Cooperation evaluated project under SK-PT 2018 (11), SK-FR 2019 (10), DS-FR 2019 (14), and SK-BY-RD 2019 (4) Call, i.e. 37 project in total.

Tab. 7 Monitored projects after completion

Call	Year of closure of funding the call	Number of projects monitored
GC 2014	2019	90
GC 2015	2020	253
GC 2016	2021	154
GC 2017	2022	45
GC 2018	2023	3

Tab. 8 Benefits and outputs of the projects completed

Call	Number of projects with interzonal. CC publications	Number of new SCI citations	Number of projects with applied output	Number of application outputs
GC 2014	15	2 279	4	13
GC 2015	76	5 830	18	45
GC 2016	58	2 543	17	35
GC 2017	12	199	7	13
GC 2018	0	0	1	2
Total	161	10 851	47	108

3.5 Monitoring of the Projects Completed in the previous years

As per the wording of the Agreement, for a period of three months from the end of the project the researcher of General Call and SF7FP project is obliged to inform the Agency on the social and economic benefits of the project findings in the form of a Monitoring Report. Projects under the SK-IL-RD-2018 Call submitted a monitoring report for the period from 1.10.2021 to 31.12.2022 in the first quarter of 2023. Projects under the SK-CN-RD-2018 Call submitted a second monitoring report for the period from 1.10.2021 to 31.12.2022 also in the first quarter of 2023.

The four supported projects under the SK-BY-RD-2019 Call, whose project implementation period expired on 31.7.2022, will submit the first monitoring report for the period from 1.8.2022 to 31.12.2023 by 31.3.2024.

In the framework of the Call PP-COVID 2020 with the end of the project implementation period until 31.12.2021, they submitted the first monitoring report for the period from 1.1.2022 to 31.12.2022 by the deadline 31.3.2023.

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**

4 / 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 2023, 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) 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 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 expired 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 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 2023, aid was granted to 25 entities under State Aid Scheme. The total amount of aid granted amounted to € 1 769 136. Funding was granted to individual entities for a number of projects under three state aid schemes, namely SA.109803, SA.49175 and SA.58654 (several public calls).

State aid was granted to 35 recipients through 34 projects for 25 entities of which 3 entities did not have co-financing from non-state sources.

Of the 25 entities, 8 entities were micro-enterprises, 6 entities were small enterprises, 8 entities were medium-sized enterprises and 3 entities were large enterprises. Under the individual schemes entities were repeated in the size category.

The regional distribution of the total state aid granted by regions was as follows:

Within the regions, state aid was granted to 12 entities in the Bratislava region, 3 entities in the Košice region, 2 entities in the Nitra region, 1 entity in the Trnava region, 1 entity in the 1 entity in the Banská Bystrica Region, 2 entities in the Trenčín Region and 4 entities in the Žilina Region.

Tab. 9 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	0,21 mil.	0 mil.	0,05 mil.	0 mil.	0,04 mil.	0 mil.	0 mil.	0,03 mil.
SA.58654	0,83 mil.	0,07 mil.	0,10 mil.	0,04 mil.	0,11 mil.	0,06 mil.	0 mil.	0,05 mil.
SA.104223	0,13 mil.	0 mil.	0 mil.	0,02 mil.	0 mil.	0 mil.	0 mil.	0,02 mil.

Region	Amount v €
Bratislava	1 172 989
Trnava	72884
Trenčín	147 033
Nitra	62 979
Žilina	151 542
Banská Bystrica	63 720
Prešov	0
Košice	97 989
Total	1 769 136

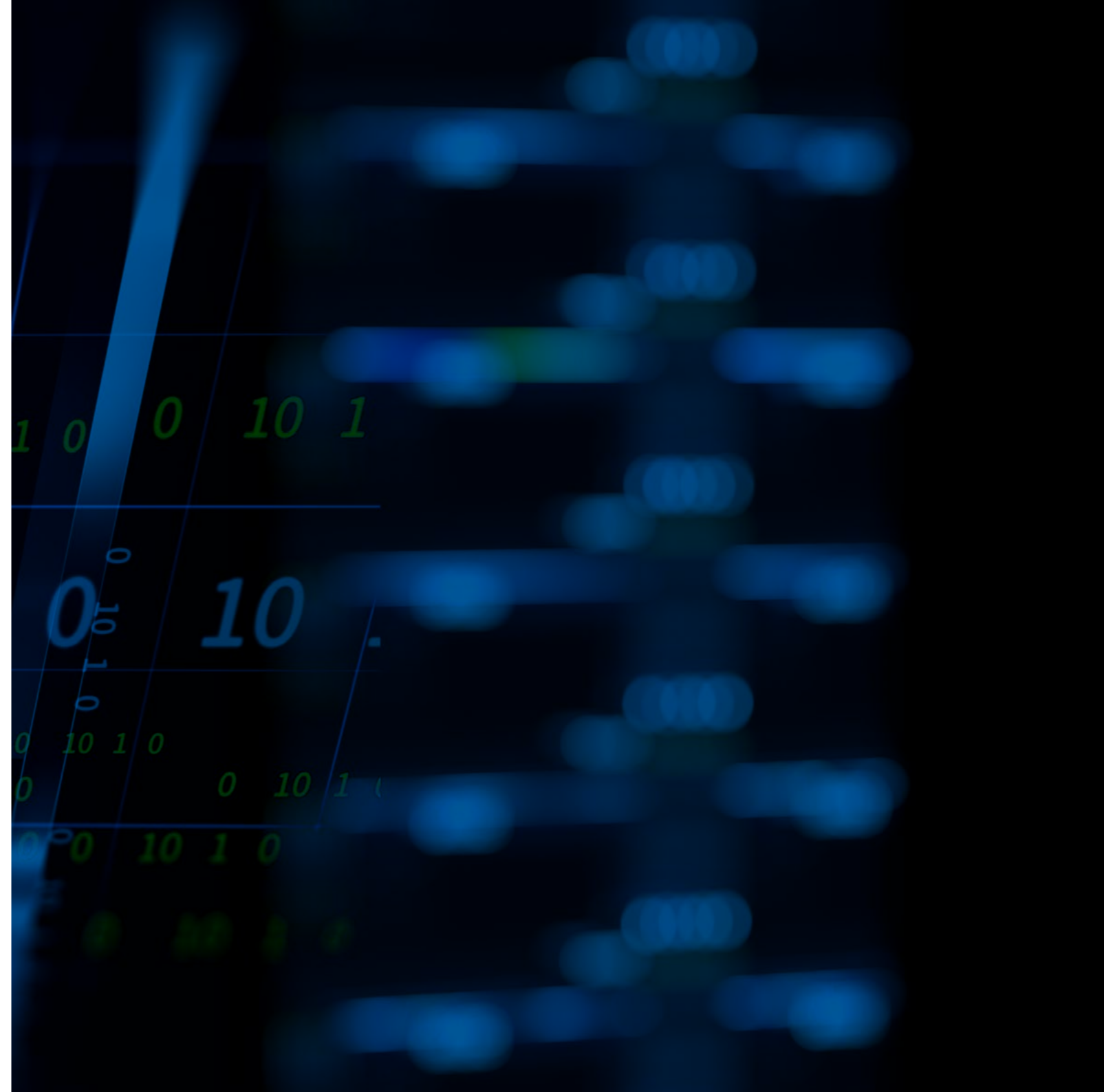
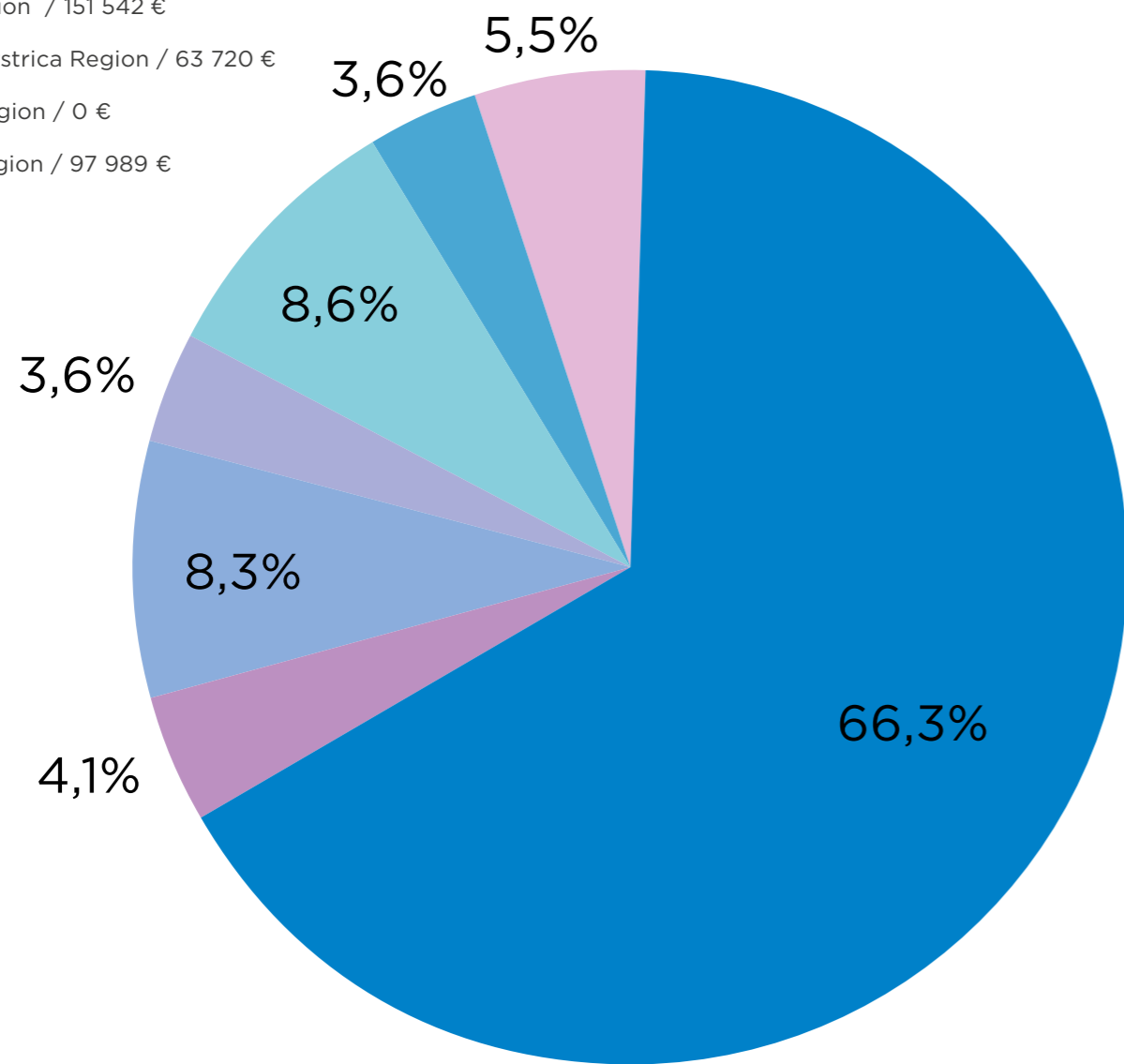
Tab. 10 Regional Distribution of Total State Aid

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 4 to SA. 109803, the wording of which is valid until December 31, 2026. The Ad hoc de Minimis Aid rules govern any aid provided for the projects not covered by the approved State Aid Scheme.

- Bratislava Region / 1 172 989 €
- Trnava Region / 72 884 €
- Trenčín Region / 147 033 €
- Nitra Region / 62 979 €
- Žilina Region / 151 542 €
- Banská Bystrica Region / 63 720 €
- Prešov Region / 0 €
- Košice Region / 97 989 €

Fig. 15 Regional distribution of the total aid provided at the regional level



5 / SRDA BUDGET

In order to carry out the activities as specified by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., budget amounting totally to € 41,691,246 was approved for 2023 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 € 1,727,515 was approved as to January 1, 2023 for the Agency's operation and € 39,963,731 for project funding (to support research and development).

During the year, the budget for the Agency was provided by the Ministry of Education and Science SR was additionally adjusted by 6 budget measures. Their purpose was to ensure the funding of research and development projects as well as the operation of the Agency within the scope of performed activities, due to an increase in revenues, valorization of wages and salaries, increase of current expenses for rewards in accordance with the Collective Agreement of a higher level, return of current expenses from the projects, reclassification of current expenses to capital expenses and binding of current expenses from 2023 to 2023. Breakdown of the approved budget, the amended budget and the budget implementation as at 31.12.2023 is shown in Table 11.

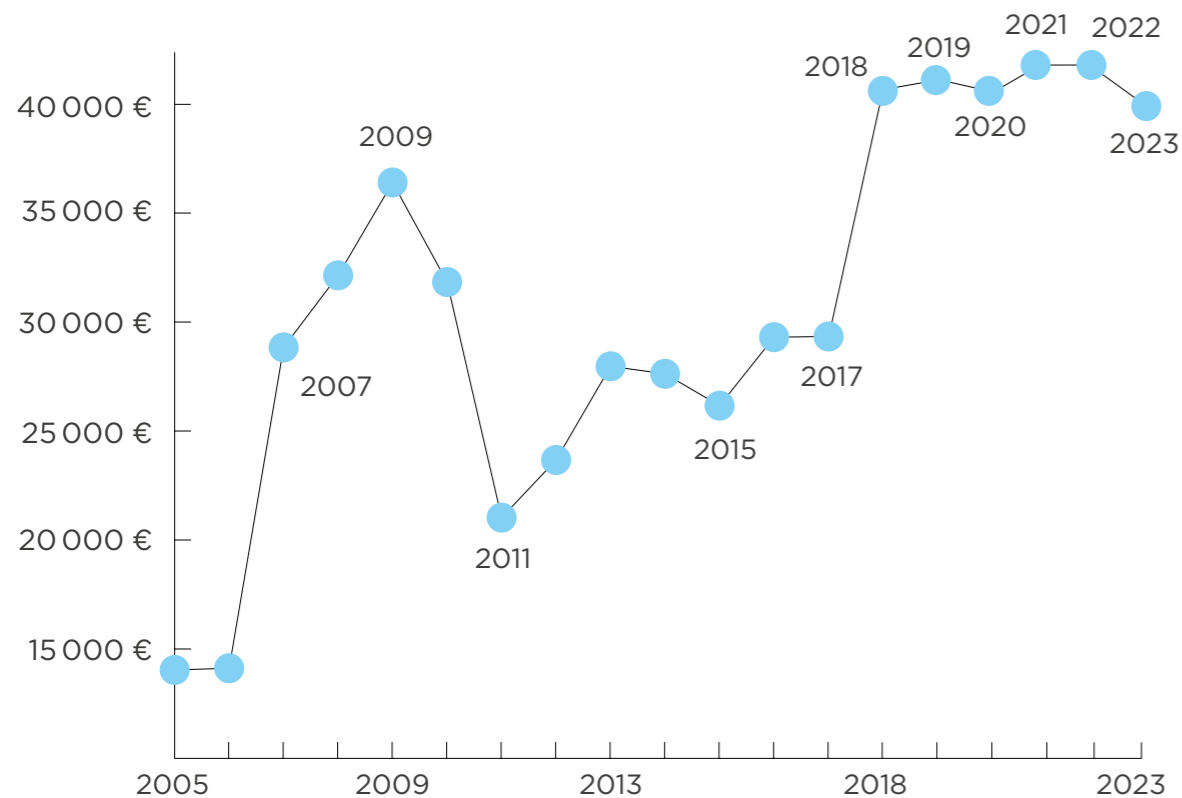


Fig. 16 Development of the Agency's Budget during 2005 - 2023 in ths.€

Tab. 11 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2023 in €

Program 06K11	Approved as of January 1, 2023	Budget as of December 31, 2023	Drawdown as of December 31, 2023
Operation of the Agency	1 727 515	1 770 598	1 770 598
Current	1 727 515	1 768 197	1 768 197
Capital	0	2 401	2 401
Support for Research and Development	39 963 731	36 863 805	36 625 219
Current	39 963 731	36 851 925	36 613 339
Capital	0	11 880	11 880
SRDA Budget in Total	41 691 246	38 634 403	38 395 817

Tab. 12 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2023 in €

Call / Program	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
General Call - GC 2018	2 570 577	0	2 570 577
General Call - GC 2019	7 378 846	0	7 378 846
General Call - GC 2020	11 241 853	0	11 241 853
General Call - GC 2021	9 548 179	0	9 548 179
General Call - GC 2022	4 374 438	0	4 374 438
Bilateral Projects	800 088	0	800 088
Danube Strategy 2022 DS-FR	42 534	0	42 534
PP MSCA PF 2022	74 611	0	74 611
SRDA Budget in Total	36 031 126	0	36 031 126

Tab. 13 Structure of funding provided for supported projects in 2023 by management form/sector

Type of Organisation	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
State Organisations and SAS	1 701 836	0	1 701 836
Public Universities	21 721 393	0	21 721 393
Verejné výskumné inštitúcie	10 450 586	0	10 450 586
Non - profit organisations, OZ, Civic associations, foundations	122 595	0	122 595
Business entities (s. r. o., a. s.)	1 981 758	0	1 981 758
Privat Universities	52 958	0	52 958
Total	36 031 126	0	36 031 126

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

6 / 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 number of the registered SRDA staff as of December 31, 2023 was 35.

The average recalculated number of employees for 2023 was 33.9.

The registered number of employees as of December 31, 2023 was 35.

During the year 2023, the Agency's staffing capacities were comprised by its core members and 171 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 field of projects under the General Calls, projects of bilateral cooperation, projects within the "Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Cooperation in Research & Development" in accordance with the resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 707/2020 and of the program.

The average age of the SRDA employees in 2023 was 42.7 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. 14 Number of Employees by Organizational Structure

Organizational units	Number of employees as of 1. 1. 2023	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2023
Director's office	9	9
Control Department	4	4
Department of Human Resources	2	2
Department of Projects	11	11
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	4	4
Department of International Cooperation and State Aid	5	5
Total	35	35

Tab. 15 Structure of the SRDA Employees by their Qualification as of December 31, 2023

Level of Education	Number of employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	5	3
Higher Education - 1st Level	1	1
Higher Education - 2nd Level	25	17
Higher Education - 3rd Level	4	3
Total	35	24

6.2 SRDA Social Policy

SRDA has concluded employers' contracts with three supplementary pension companies: NN Tatry Sympatia, UNIQA, STABILITA, and DDS Tatra Banka. As of December 31, 2023, 80.00% of the staff was involved in the supplementary pension savings scheme. Services under the Multisport Program were available for the SRDA staff in 2023.

6.3 Education and Trainings of the Employees

In order to increase and deepen the 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.

Professional seminars, trainings and courses were mainly focused on legislative changes to generally binding legal norms and regulations governing the relevant areas of the APVV activities, on the use of information and communication technologies online in public administration e-Government and on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the Law on Free Access to Information.

A group of professional trainings focused on legislative changes in social and health insurance, changes in personnel, payroll, tax and remuneration of employees in the performance of public work.

In order to improve the quality of employees' communication in foreign languages, the SRDA organised language courses in 2023 online in view of the coronavirus pandemic situation.

7 / Audit Activities

7.1 External Audit Activities

In 2023, the SRDA conducted on-site financial controls in accordance with Act no. 357/2015 Coll. on financial control and audit and on amendments to certain laws.

On-the-spot financial controls were carried out in accordance with the legislation in force in order to verify compliance with economy, efficiency, effectiveness and expediency in the management of public finances as well as compliance with the binding conditions in force for the use of public funds during the implementation of the projects supported by the Agency.

In compliance with the 2023 Audit Plan - the On-site Financial Controls (continuously amended by Amendment 1 during 2023), 22 financial on-the-spot controls were scheduled and conducted in the monitored period of 2023.

An overview of the on-site financial controls is given in Tab. 16.

Overview of On-the-Spot Controls in 2023

Number of controls planned	22
Number of controls carried out	22
Number of controls completed to 31.12.	22

During on-the-spot financial controls, 17 controls revealed breaches of financial discipline within the meaning of Section 31(1) of Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of public administration and on amendment and supplementation of certain acts, as amended.

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.

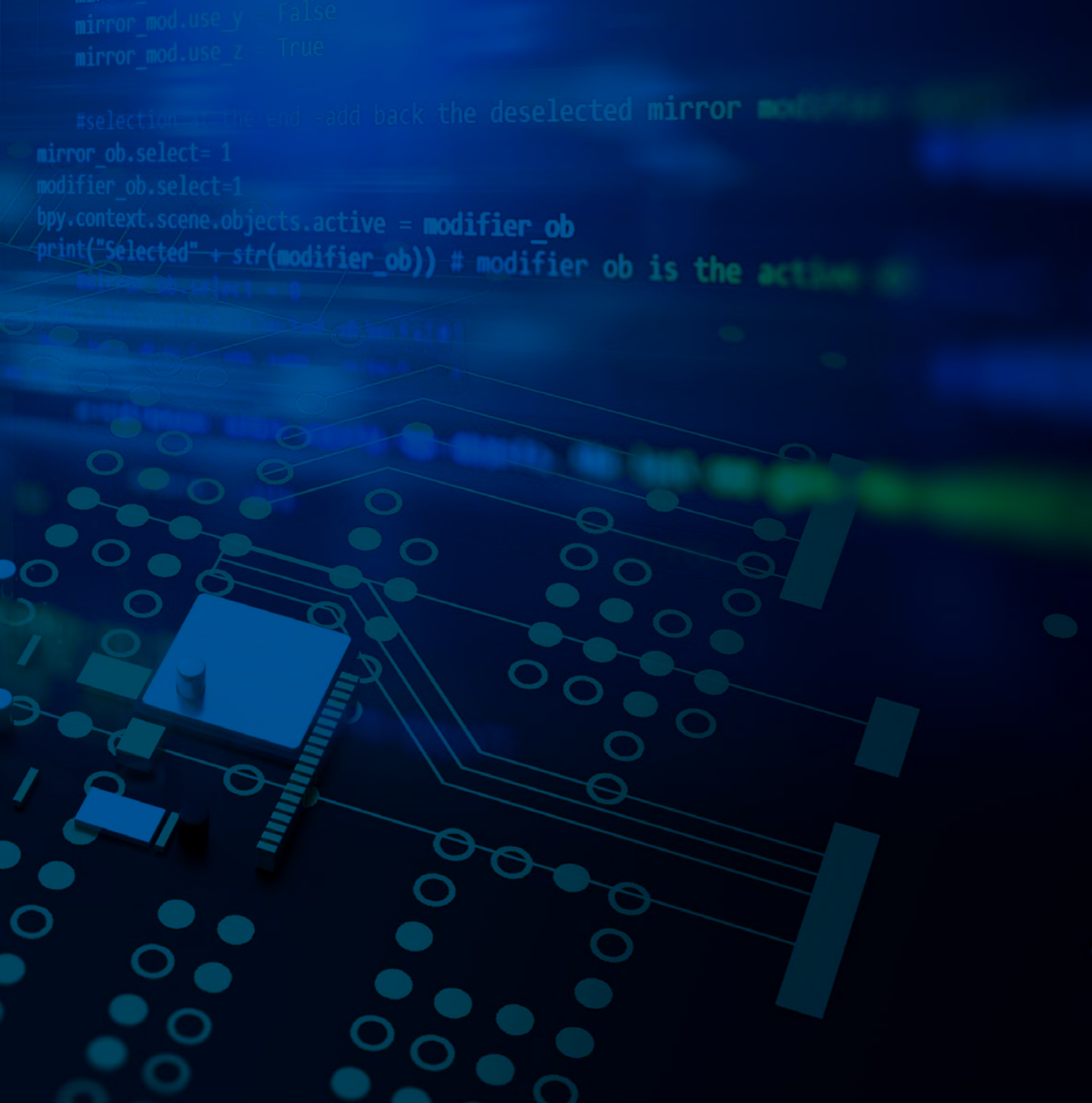
In 2023, on-the-spot financial audits carried out by the SDRA authorised staff verified the correctness of the use of public funds in the total amount of € 3,253,451.00. Infringement of financial discipline within the meaning of Article 31(1) of Act No 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of public administration and on amendments and supplements to certain acts as amended by later regulations was identified during the performance of 17 on-the-spot financial audits in the total amount of € 37,068.34. In all cases, the obliged person took and implemented measures to correct the deficiencies and to eliminate the causes of their occurrence within the time limit set by the authorised person.

The breaches of financial discipline were of the following nature:

1. unjustified use of public funds used in contravention of the legislation in force, the rules laid down and the conditions under which the public funds were granted
2. use of public funds in excess of the authorisation, resulting in an over-expenditure of public funds (e.g. expenditure/costs not directly related to the research activities of the project)
3. expenditure/costs claimed in excess of those actually incurred (e.g. tax and accounting documents not submitted, expenditure/costs submitted in an amount lower than declared)
4. expenditure/costs claimed outside the accounting period

Tab. 16 On-the-spot financial audits carried out by SRDA staff in 2023

Name of the Liable Person	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Biomedical Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. - Institute of Experimental Oncology (APVV-16-0579)	170 000
Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica - Faculty of Arts (APVV-18-0115)	249 660
Institute of Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-18-0211)	140 000
Institute of Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-18-0361)	113 563
Institute of Parasitology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-18-0467)	249 454
Research Institute of Paper and Pulp a.s. (APVV-18-0533)	249 931
University of Prešov (APVV-19-0058)	93 548
Institute of State and Law of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-19-0090)	133 470
University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (APVV-19-0193)	153 644
Institute of Molecular Biology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-19-0298)	152 500
Institute of Electrical Engineering of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-19-0365)	249 036
Centre of Arts Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-19-0522)	129 873
Institute of Neuroimmunology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. (APVV-19-0585)	168 956
Glycanostics, s.r.o. (APVV-20-0476)	195 571
Comenius University in Bratislava (SK-BY-RD-19-0019)	124 812
POWERTEC s.r.o. (APVV-20-0564)	52 114
University of Prešov (APVV-20-0613)	9 964
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (DS-FR-19-0042)	15 000
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (DS-FR-19-0049)	212 955
Comenius University in Bratislava (PP-COVID-20-0026)	168 372
Comenius University in Bratislava (PP-COVID-20-0074)	119 867
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (SK-CN-RD-18-0015)	101 161



7.2 Internal Audit Activities

In accordance with the approved 2023 Audit Plan, the SRDA Control Department performed ten internal controls in the evaluation year, focusing on:

1. internal regulations issued as of 31.12.2022 with a focus on the need for their amendment and/or repeal or the creation of new internal regulations
2. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Directive 'Use, execution, recording, protection, disposal of stamps and definition of responsibilities'
3. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Directive entitled 'Rules on secondment and reimbursement of travel expenses'
4. compliance with the Agency's internal Rules of Procedure for Committees
5. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the SRDA Directive on Accounting and Financial Reporting
6. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive SRDA Concept of the OSH Management System, with a focus on the control of first aid kits in the SRDA administrative building
7. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Freedom of Information Directive
8. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Directive On the Management of Funds For Representation Purposes
9. compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the SRDA Rules of PProcedure
10. compliance with the internal rules on the General Internal Procedure for the General Internal Procedure for the Provision of Dedicated Financial Support for the SRDA Grant Schemes

Based on the audit findings, recommendations were made by the audit team to remedy the deficiencies identified. Some of the recommendations made by the audit team were rectified during the audit itself

7.3 Audits Carried Out by External Audit Bodies

No audits were carried out in the SRDA in 2023 by external control bodies.

7.4 Complaint Handling

The SRDA registered one complaint in 2023, which was in within the meaning of Section 6(1)(a) of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints adjourned and two submissions marked as a complaint, one of which was a complaint under the provision § Section 4(3) in conjunction with Section 4(1)(d) adjourned, and one submission on the basis of the provisions of Section 6 (i) was also adjourned.

8 / 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 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and Calls SK-IL-RD-2018, SK-CN-RD-2018, SK-BY-RD 2019.

Annual and Final Project Evaluation and Ongoing Projects Funding

In 2023, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls GC 2017, GC 2018, GC 2019, GC 2020, and GC 2021.

In 2023, the Agency supported 114 international S&T cooperation projects and 1 project under the MSCA PF 2022 PP programme.

During the ongoing evaluation, professional bodies assessed the fulfilment of partial project goals and compliance with the established schedule, as well as the planned outputs of the projects for the given period. In the final evaluation, they also evaluated the overall level of the 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 2023, the calls that were launched in 2022 were funded: GC 2022 and the bilateral cooperation projects with the French Republic and the multilateral cooperation projects Danube Strategy-France 2022.

New Calls launched and Initial Assessment of the Submitted Projects

In 2023, the Agency launched General Call GC 2023. The expected deadline for publishing the results is May 2024.

In 2023, the Agency launched a mobility bilateral call for cooperation with the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Serbia and a research bilateral call with the State of Israel in the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation.

Specific tasks focused on running the Agency

Performing the specific tasks in 2023 included also the development of the following documents:

- 2023 SRDA Main Tasks Plan;
- 2022 Annual SRDA Activity Report;
- 2022 Annual SRDA Management Report;
- 2022 State Aid Report;
- 2022 Annual SRDA Accounts.

9 / Evaluation of the SRDA activities in 2023

In 2020, the Agency's activities were based on the objectives of the 06K National Science and Technology Development Program, 06K11 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 under the SRDA programmes.

The following general calls were opened, and/or launched in 2023:

- General Call for submitting applications for research & development projects in individual fields of science and technology - GC 2023;
- Call for supporting bilateral cooperation on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement with the French Republic with the funding period from 2023;
- calls for support for bilateral cooperation based on an interstate agreement with Poland, Serbia, China, Bulgaria and Austria, with funding starting in 2023
- a call for support for scientific bilateral cooperation under an interstate agreement with Israel, with funding starting in 2023.

In the GC 2023 Call, the SRDA presidency made a change compared to previous year in relation to the preparation of the project reviews. When evaluating an application, all 3 reviews will now be carried out exclusively by foreign experts.

The Agency's activity included the 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 2023;
- announcing the new calls and evaluating the applications for financial support submitted under these calls;
- funding the projects with their solution started in 2023.

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 the success of Slovak entities in the international scientific and technical cooperation;
- improving the SRDA- provided services to the recipients, as well as to the individual project researchers, with an electronic form prevailing in communication with applicants and project research team members through the Central Government Portal.

The Agency appears publicly and communicates via its website www.apvv.sk

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	PP-COVID 2020	Support for research and development focusing on coping with a pandemic coronavirus and its effects on period 2020 – 2021
7. RP SRDA (APVV)	Seventh Framework Programme The Slovak Research and Development Agency	PP H-EUROPE	Support for Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Cooperation in Research & Development
BOZP	Occupational safety and health	PP MSCA PF	Support for Postdoctoral Fellowships Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals		
SF7FP	Open general call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects		
DS-FR	The Strategy for Danube Region – France		
EC	European Community		
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVVaŠ SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic		
IT	information technologies		
SAS	Slovak Academy of Sciences		
SCI citations	Citations in foreign publications registered in citation indexes		
GC	General Call		
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-UA	Slovakia – Ukraine Bilateral Call		
SK-IL-RD	Slovakia – Israel Bilateral Research Call		
SK-CN-RD	Slovakia – China Bilateral Research Call		
SK-BY-RD	Slovakia – Belarus Bilateral Research Call		
SK-CZ-RD	Slovakia – Czech Republic Bilateral Research Call		
SK-RU-RD	Slovakia – Russian Federation Bilateral Research Call		

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