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SRDA ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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2024



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REPORT 2024

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SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH
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	Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava
Address	Mýtna 23, P. O.BOX 839 04 839 04 Bratislava
Contact	+421 2 57 20 45 01
e-mail	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, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.

Sector
The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth 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 provides funding for the implementation of:
(a) research and development projects in individual groups of scientific and technological disciplines pursuant to § 6(3),
(b) projects within the Agency’s programmes,
(c) projects under bilateral or multilateral agreements on international scientific and technological cooperation; projects conducted as part of the Slovak Republic’s participation in international research and development programmes; and projects within EU Community programmes and initiatives in the field of research and development, including costs related to their preparation.

The recipients of funding are:

- organizations from the public, state, and private higher education sectors
- organizations from the public research and development sector
- organizations from the business research and development sector
- organizations from the non-profit research and development sector
- natural persons engaged in research and development in accordance with the Trade Licensing Act

From a medium-term perspective, the Agency is engaged in fulfilling tasks arising from Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on the Organisation of State Support for Research and Development, as amended, and from the Statute of the Agency. The Agency plays a key role as an instrument for implementing the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic, as it is directly linked to several objectives outlined in point 5 of the Manifesto and related commitments.

For the year 2024, binding indicators were allocated to the Slovak Research and Development Agency under Programme 06K – National Programme for the Development of Science and Technology, and its sub-programme “06K11 – Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency” (hereinafter referred to as “06K11”).

The aim of the sub-programme is to ensure “an effective system of support for research and development through project funding, and to increase the success rate of Slovak entities in international scientific and technical cooperation.”

Given the wide scope and importance of the Agency, the following four objectives have been defined at the sub-programme level:

1. to support projects of international scientific and technical cooperation carried out within international programmes/ organisations/ or agreements co-financed by the Agency’s funds,
2. to support projects co-financed from non-budgetary resources (e.g. private or foreign sources),
3. to support projects with applied outputs intended for practical use,

4. to support basic research projects whose results will be published in internationally indexed peer-reviewed journals (Current Contents).

Main tasks of the Agency according to its Statute are in particular:

- to support excellent basic research, applied research and development across all fields of science and technology, including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research;
- to ensure the development and implementation of new forms of support for research in the Slovak Republic, with a view to strengthening cooperation between basic and applied research and development, and enhancing their practical application;
- in cooperation with with the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic , to ensure the development and implementation of new programmes and forms of support for international cooperation in research and development;
- to support the participation of R&D organisations from the Slovak Republic in European research and development programmes and initiatives;
- to contribute to the dissemination of research and development results within the Slovak Republic and to promote the importance of research and development for addressing societal needs;
- to cooperate with the MŠVVaM SR in the development and implementation of the National Science and Technology Policy.

To ensure strong support for research and innovation, it is essential for the Agency to continue regularly launching so-called general calls. These calls support projects in individual fields of science and technology (without thematic restrictions), with the applicant defining the project’s purpose, objectives, and content.

The Agency will continue to focus on supporting activities resulting from intergovernmental bilateral or multilateral agreements on international scientific and technical cooperation, in particular by facilitating researcher mobility and promoting the participation of R&D recipients in international projects, programmes, and initiatives.

The Agency will also continue to improve its project evaluation and funding system with the aim of enhancing the objectivity and transparency of the evaluation process.

2 / Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

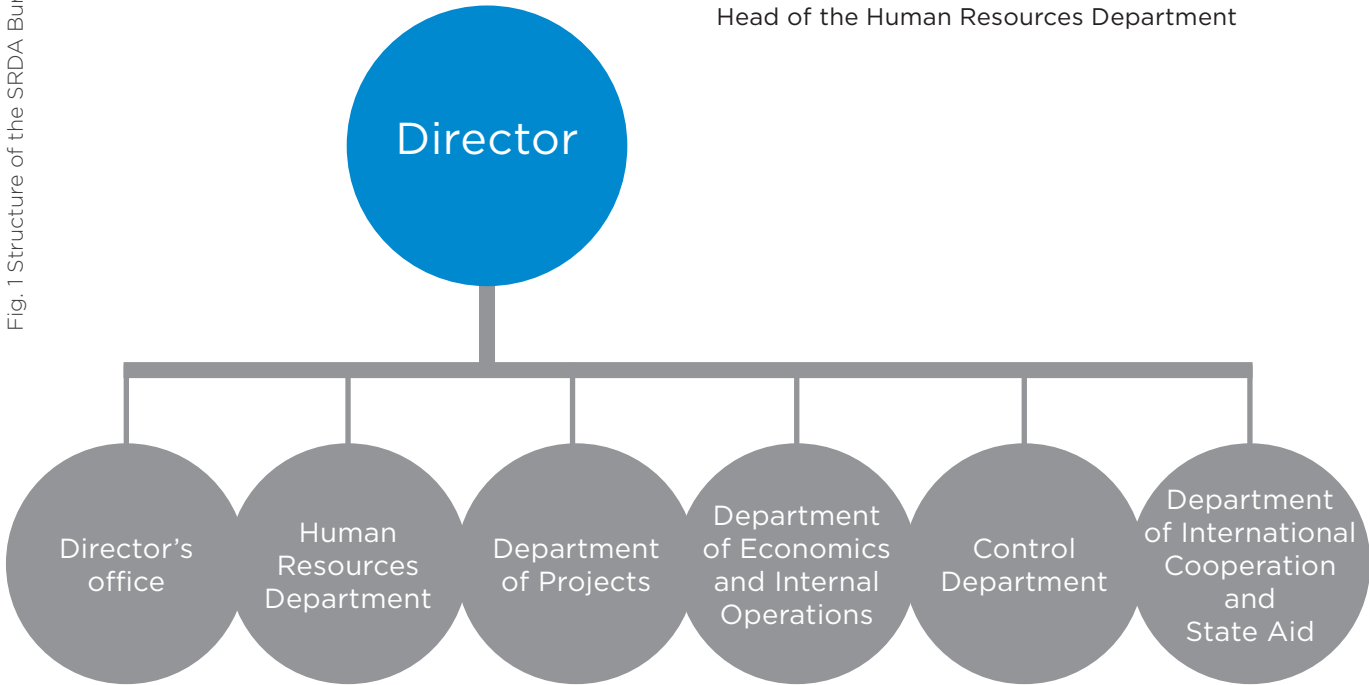
2.1 SRDA Bureau

As of 31 December 2024

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. Martina Tobiašová
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.

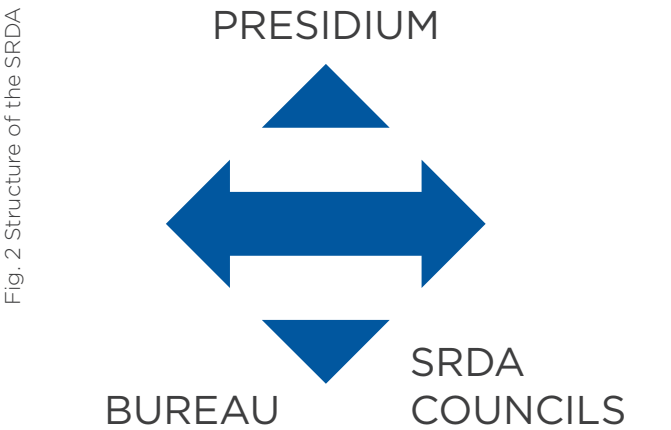
The main activities of the Agency's Chairman include the management of the Presidium as the Agency's expert body, and the representation of the Agency nationally and abroad in the areas directly related to the Agency's activities, as well as in other areas related to the research and development in Slovakia.

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 31.12.2024

- Chairman**
Dr. Ing. Robert Mistrík
Bitmoderna, s . r . o., Bratislava
- Vice-Chairman**
Dr. h. c. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD., visiting prof.
Prvá zväračská a. s., Bratislava
- Members**
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, Department of Political Science
- 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

Fig. 2 Structure of the SRDA



- Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor
Klub 500, Bratislava
- PhDr. Eva Kowalská, DrSc.
The Institute of History at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i, Bratislava
- PhDr. Zdenka Mansfeldová, CSc.
Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, v. v. i., Praha
- prof. RNDr. Peter Moczo, DrSc.
Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava
- doc. Ing. Michal Puškár, PhD.
Research and Innovation Authority, Bratislava
- prof. Ing. Ján Šefčík, PhD.
Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, Great Britain
- Mgr. Robert Ševčík, PhD.
Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
- Secretary**
Ing. Alena Bokrošová

At its meetings in 2024, the Presidium discussed strategic tasks arising from the Statute of the Agency.

The most discussed and negotiated topics included:

- The plan of SRDA's main tasks
- Approval of the 2024 General Call for Proposals, as well as bilateral calls
 - Approval of the 2024 General Call to support young researchers Re-nomination of outgoing members of the Scientific Councils and appointment of new national and international members
 - Ensuring full funding of projects from calls GC 2019, GC 2020, GC 2021, GC 2022, and GC 2023
 - Drafting the new Agency programme “Support for Research Infrastructure”
 - Approval of the new Rules of Procedure of the SRDA Presidium and the Rules of Procedure of the SRDA Councils
 - Approval of expert criteria for the members of international expert panels
 - Approval of the procedure for handling requests submitted to the SRDA pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement between the MŠVVaM SR and the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic
 - Approval of the preliminary plan for the financing of research, development, and innovation for 2025-2027
 - The 2023 Annual Activity Report and the 2023 Annual Financial Report
 - Preparation of the budget for the upcoming programming period
 - Current year budget drawdown

2.3 SRDA Councils

The Council of the Agency is a professional body established for a specific field to assess and approve applications for research and development projects and development projects funded by the Agency, and to supervise the implementation of projects supported by the Agency.

The Council of the Agency may establish international expert panels for the professional evaluation of applications. An international expert panel shall consist of at least five members, who are distinguished experts in the relevant field of the respective panel. The chair and

other members of the international expert panels are appointed and dismissed by the Director of the Agency upon approval by the Agency's Presidium, based on a proposal from the Council of the Agency. The Director of the Agency appoints the chair of the international expert panel from among the members of the Council of the Agency.

In 2024, the following Councils of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) were active:

Council for Natural Sciences

Chair of the Council:
RNDr. Boris Klempa, DrSc.
Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Natural Sciences 1:
RNDr. Boris Klempa, DrSc.
Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Natural Sciences 2:
prof. RNDr. Jozef Širáň, DrSc.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Civil Engineering

Council for Technical Sciences

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

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Technical Sciences 1
prof. Ing. Viera Stopjaková, PhD.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Department of Electronics and Photonics

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Technical Sciences 2
prof. Ing. Miroslav Fikar, DrSc.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Technical Sciences 3
prof. Ing. Milan Polakovič, PhD.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Technical Sciences 4
prof. RNDr. Igor Medveď, PhD.
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Civil Engineering

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Technical Sciences 5
prof. Dr. Ing. Juraj Gerlici
University of Žilina, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Council for Medical Sciences

Chair of the Council
prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc.
Biomedical Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Medical Sciences
prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc.
Biomedical Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chair of the Council
doc. Dr. Ing. Bohdan Konôpka
National Forestry Centre

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Agricultural Sciences
doc. Dr. Ing. Bohdan Konôpka
National Forestry Centre

Council for Social Sciences

Chair of the Council
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Dvořák, PhD.
University of Žilina, Faculty of Security Engineering

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Social Sciences 1
prof. dr. Michal Onderčo
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Social Sciences 2
doc. PhDr. Michal Hajdúk, PhD.
Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Arts

Council for Humanities

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

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Humanities
prof. PhDr. Rastislav Nemec, PhD.
University of Trnava, Faculty of Education

Council for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation (MVTŠ)

Chair of the Council
Ing. Zuzana Ciesarová, CSc.
National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky

Council of the APGC Programme for Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impacts

Chair of the Council
doc. MVDr. Norbert Žilka, DrSc.
Institute of Neuroimmunology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava (until 31 May 2024)

Council of the Programme for Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Research and Development Cooperation

Chair of the Council
Mgr. Tatiana Zachar Podolinská, PhD.
Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

3 / The SRDA activities in 2024

3.1 Activities in 2024

Based on the Agency’s Main Tasks Plan and within the set financial framework, the following public calls were opened or launched in 2024:

- General Call GC 2024 for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual groups of science and technology disciplines;
- General Call GC MVP 2024 for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual groups of science and technology disciplines, aimed at supporting young researchers;
- International bilateral calls to support scientific and technical cooperation: SK-TW 2024, SK-HU 2024, and SK-FR 2024;
- Bilateral research call SK-TW RD 2024;
- Multilateral call to support scientific and technical cooperation DS-FR 2024.

As part of its activities, the Agency also carried out the following tasks throughout 2024:

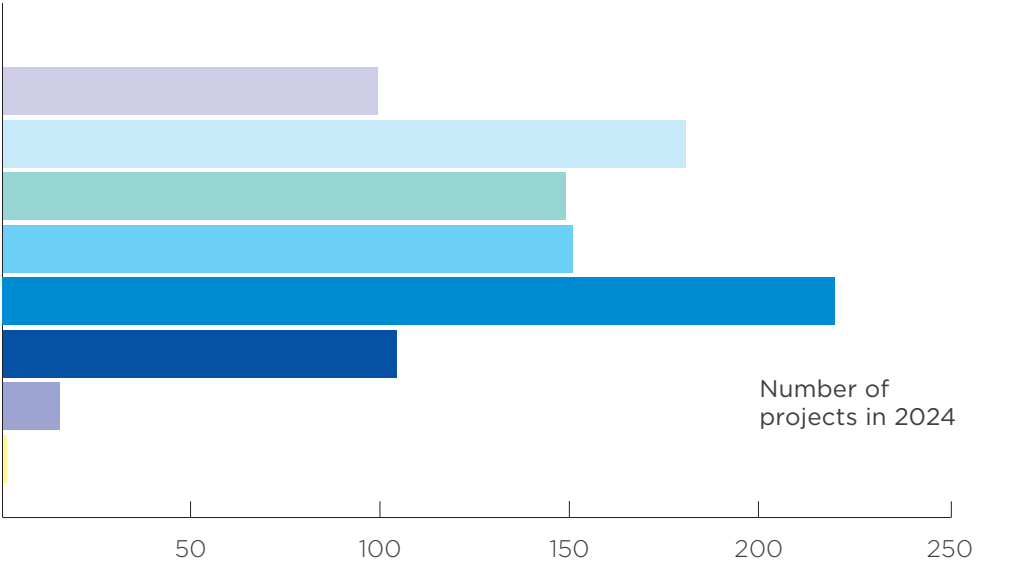
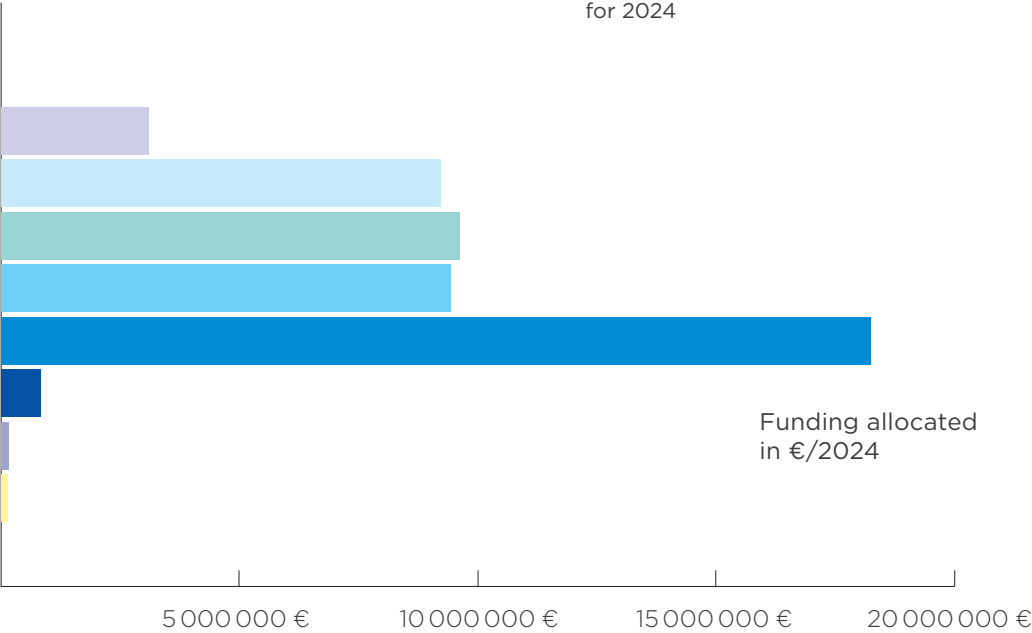
- Monitoring the outputs of projects after their completion in order to collect relevant data on the societal and economic benefits (impacts) of the project results;
- Funding of ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding and implementation had already started in previous years and continued in 2024;
- Launching new calls, evaluating the submitted applications for financial support, and providing funding where applicable in 2024.

Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2024

Call	Number of projects in 2024	Funds allocated in €/2024
GC 2019	100	2 980 626
GC 2020	182	8 861 749
GC 2021	150	9 238 470
GC 2022	152	9 066 707
GC 2023	222	17 530 287
Bilateral Calls	105	799 385
DS-FR 2022	15	79 595
PP MSCA PF 2022	1	49 738
Total	927	48 606 557



Fig. 3 Amount of Funding and the Total Number of Projects Financed Under the Individual Types of Grant Schemes for 2024



3. 1. 1. Announcement of General Call 2024



The Agency announced the General Call GC 2024, which was launched in 2024, with the application submission and evaluation period extending into 2025. Funding for selected successful projects will start in 2025. The maximum project duration is 48 months.

Characteristics of GC 2024

The General Call GC 2024 was not thematically restricted. The specific focus, objectives, and content of the research and development project were determined by the applicant. Legal entities and natural persons – entrepreneurs – could submit applications regardless of their affiliation with any specific R&D sector.

Basic information about GC 2024

- Submission period: 23/10/2024 – 07/02/2025

Basic information about the registered applications:

- Total number of submitted applications / 655
- of which, basic research projects / 461
- of which, applied research projects / 186
- of which, development projects / 8
- Total requested funding / €179,911,000
- Applicants’ financial contributions / €4,951,000
- Total financial volume / €184,862,000

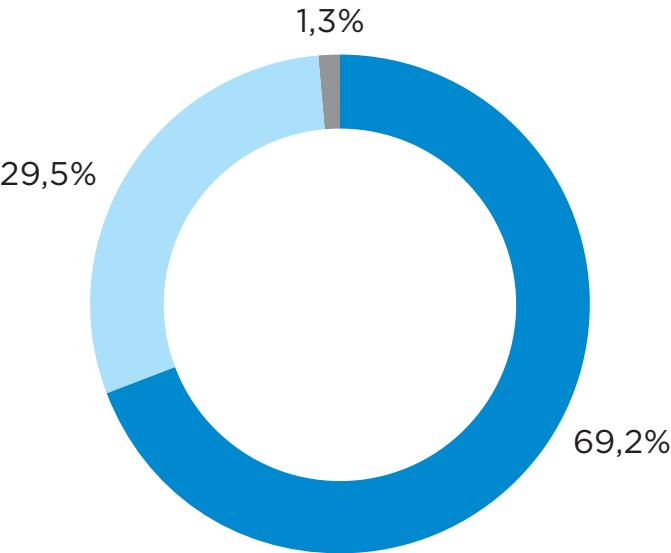


Fig. 4 Registered Applications by Research Type in % in thousand €

Basic Research	124 266 €
Applied Research	53 027 €
Development	2 332 €

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

Research Type	Number of Applications Registered	Requested SRDA Funding (in € thousands)
Basic Research	460	124 266
Applied Research	186	53 027
Development	8	2 332
Total	654	179 625

Field of Science	Applications Registered
Natural Sciences	149
Technical Sciences	167
Medical Sciences	69
Agricultural Sciences	73
Social Sciences	138
Humanities	57
Artistic Sciences	1
Total	654

Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications/ Field of Science

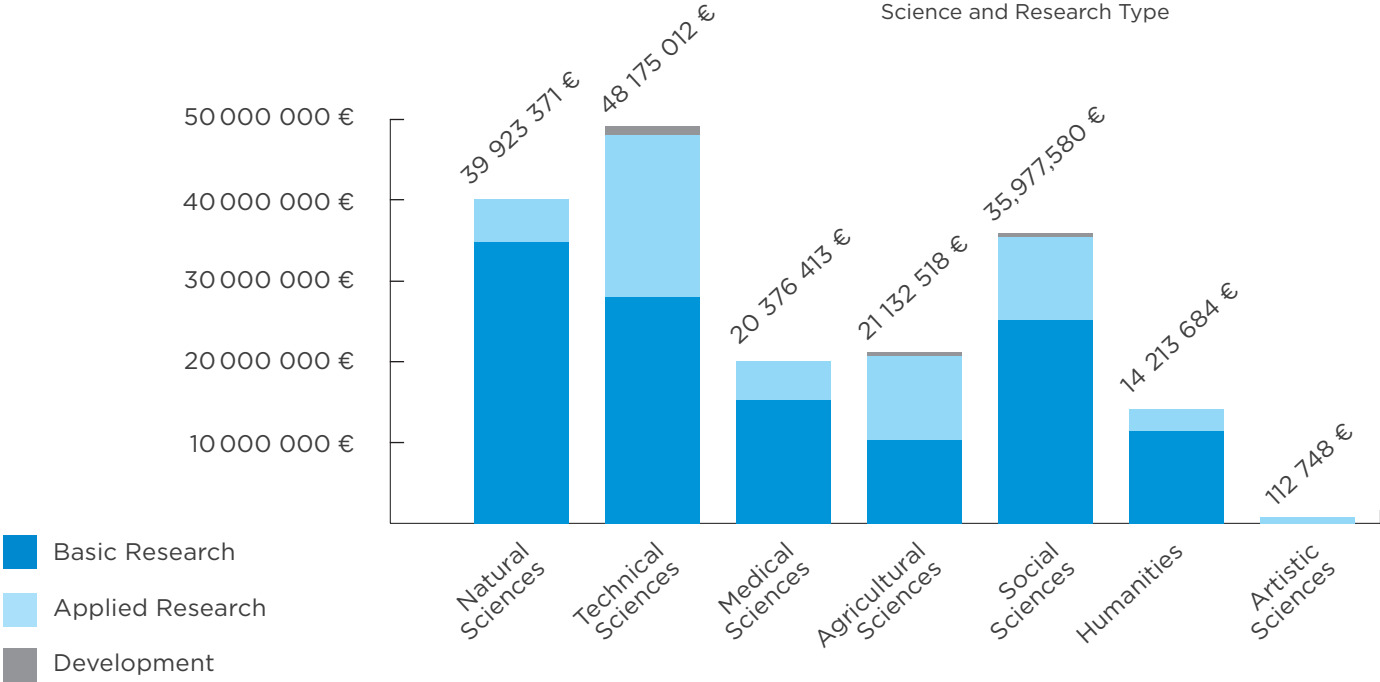
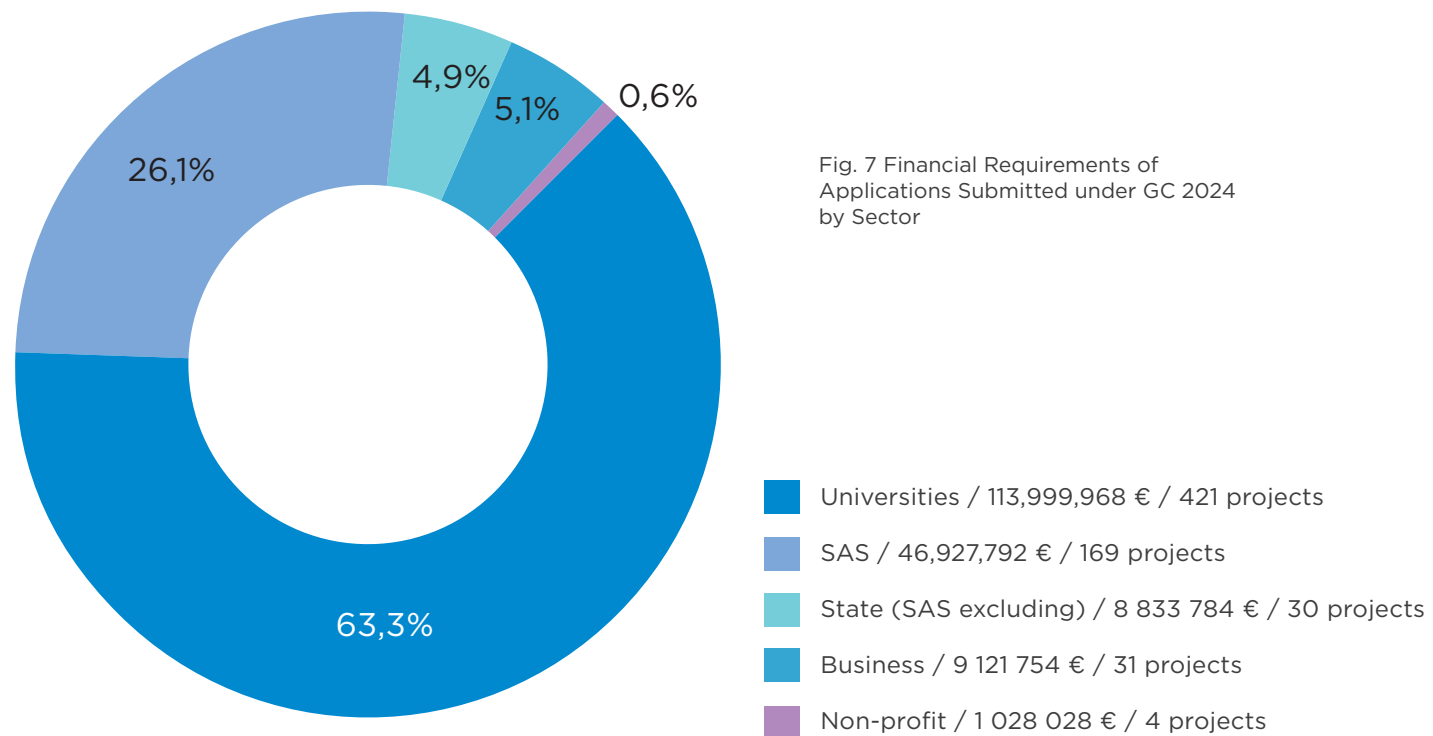
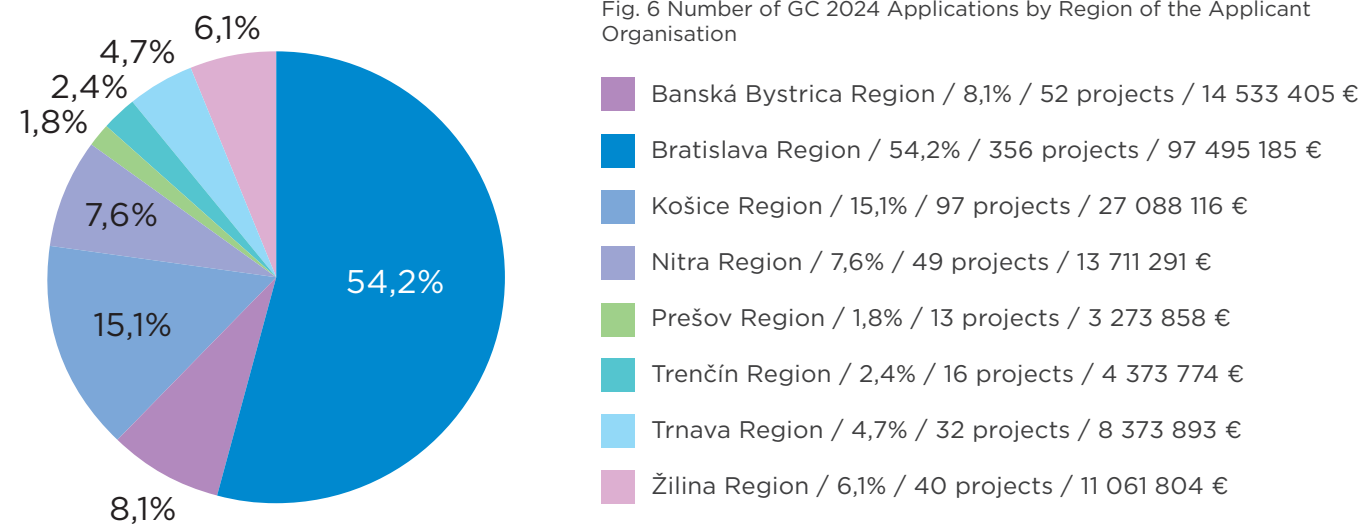


Fig. 5 Financial Requirements of Registered Applications by Field of Science and Research Type



3. 1. 2. Announcement of the GC MVP 2024 Call

This activity of the Agency was related to the international expert panel evaluation of applications submitted under the general call GC MVP 2024, launched in 2024. Funding for the selected successful projects will start in 2025. The maximum duration of the projects is 47 months.

Characteristics of GC MVP 2024

The GC MVP 2024 call imposed no limitations on the thematic focus of the projects. The applicant defined the specific focus, objectives, and content of the research and development. Applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons – entrepreneurs, regardless of their affiliation with a specific research and development sector. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for one project is capped at €250,000 for the entire project duration.

Basic Information about GC MVP 2024

- Application submission period: 18.03.2024 – 31.07.2024

Overview of registered applications:

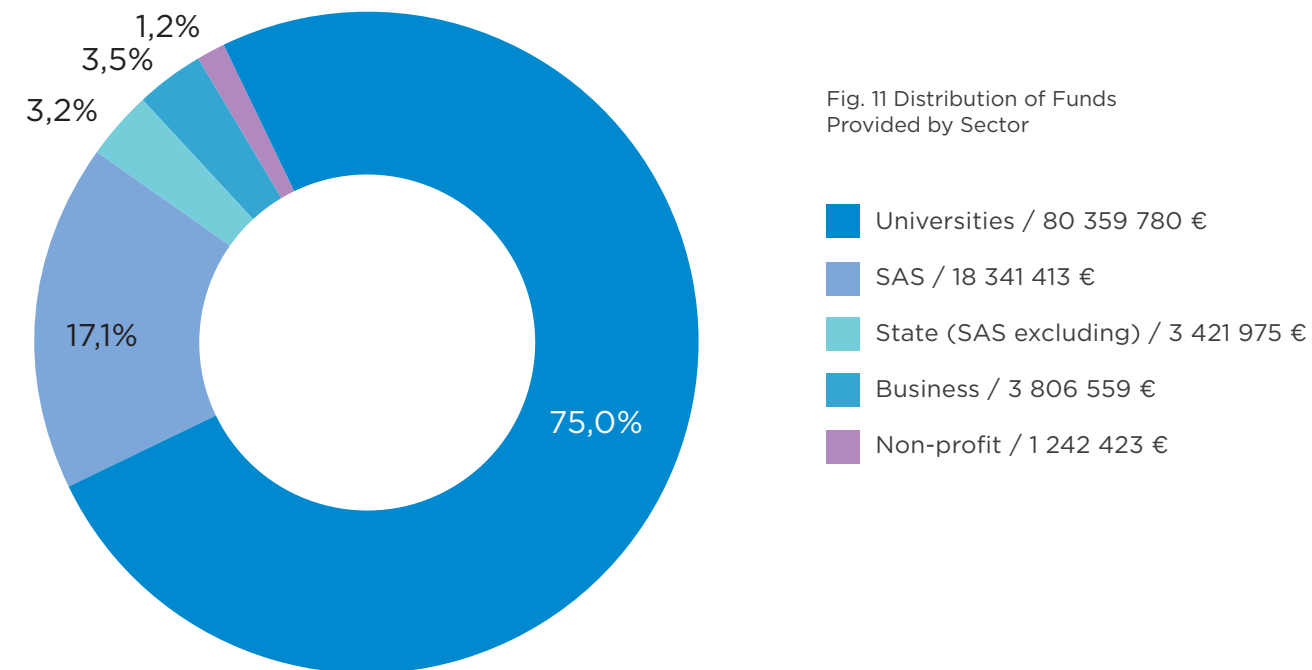
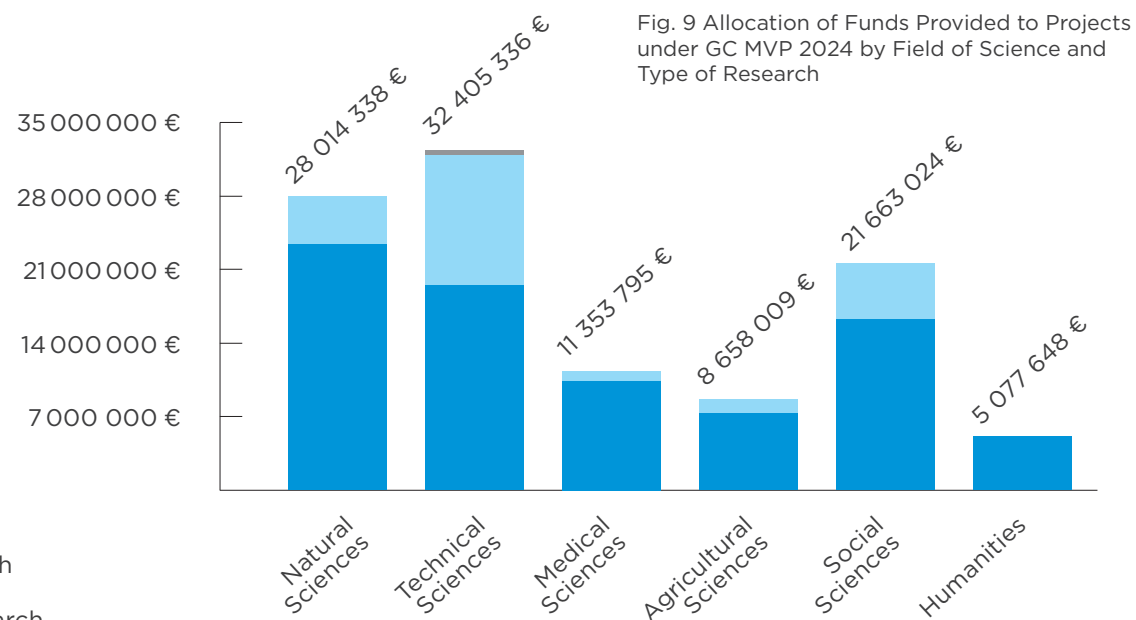
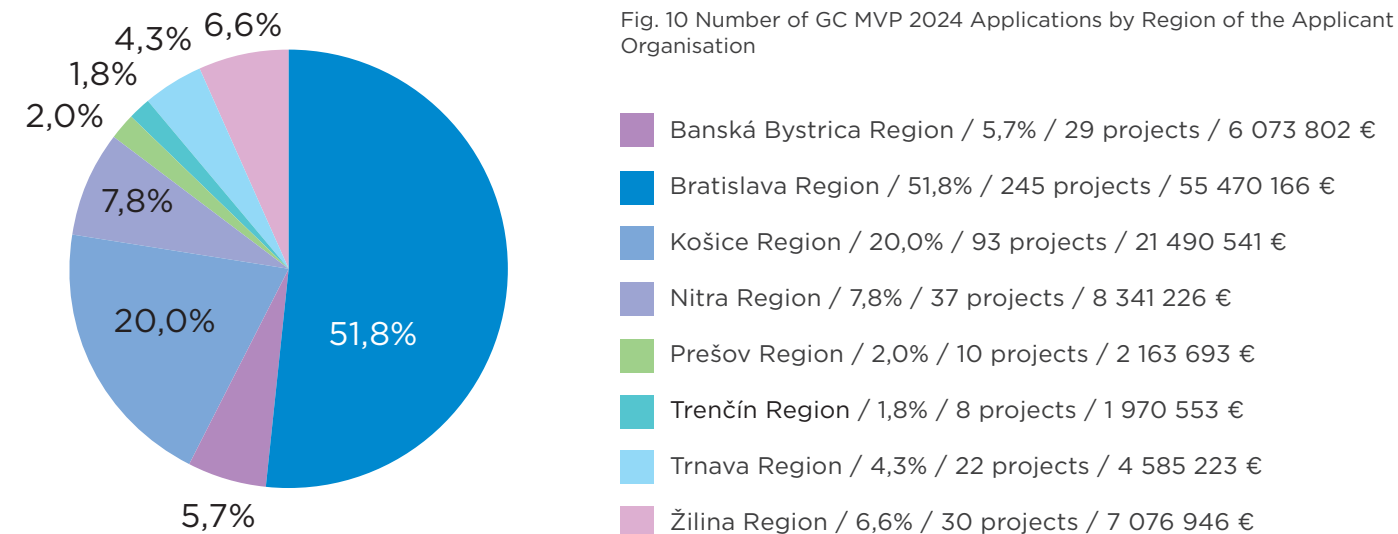
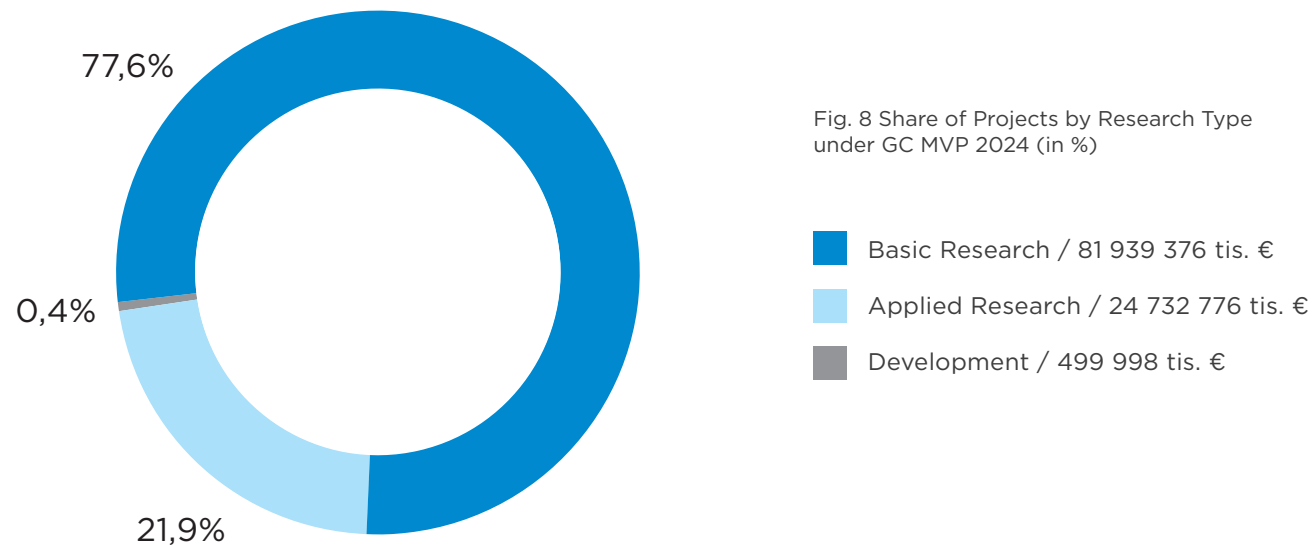
- Total number of applications received / **474**
- of which, basic research project applications / **368**
- of which, applied research project applications / **104**
- of which, development project applications / **2**
- Requested funding / **€107,172 thousand**
- Applicants' financial contribution / **€1,613 thousand**
- Total project funding volume / **€108,785 thousand**

Tab. 4 Number of Registered Applications and Applicants' Financial Requirements by Research Type

Research Type	Number of Applications Registered	Requested SRDA Funding (in € thousands)
Basic Research	368	81 939 376
Applied Research	104	24 732 776
Development	2	499 998
Total	474	107 172 150

Tab. 5 Number of Applications by Field of Science

Field of Science	Number of Applications
Natural Sciences	126
Technical Sciences	136
Medical Sciences	48
Agricultural Sciences	36
Social Sciences	101
Humanities	27
Total	474



Basic Research
Applied Research
Development

3. 1. 3. International Cooperation

In 2024, the Agency announced five calls within the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation.

Bilateral call projects are international cooperation projects aimed at establishing new or strengthening existing scientific and technical collaboration, primarily through the following activities:

- preparation of joint international projects,
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs,
- active participation in conferences,
- organisation of joint scientific events,
- mutual use of instrumentation and laboratory equipment,
- collection of research materials,
- involvement of PhD students and/or young researchers (aged under 35).

Bilateral research call projects are joint research and development projects supporting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and a partner country. These projects may involve basic research, applied research, or development.

The SK-TW RD 2024 bilateral research call focused on the following priority areas:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Forest ecology
- Biophysics
- Microelectronics
- Sinology
- Cultural Studies

Multilateral call projects aim to establish new or strengthen existing scientific and technical cooperation between the countries of the Danube Region and France, primarily through the following instruments:

- to contribute to scientific development in the above-mentioned countries by supporting the mobility of researchers in the framework of joint research projects

- to contribute to the development of research capacity in the region
- to support the development of cross-border research cooperation
- to provide opportunities for young researchers from the above countries to collaborate in an international environment and to develop their scientific careers
- to enable joint participation in European research projects

New Calls for Bilateral Cooperation in 2024

In 2024, the Agency launched a bilateral call with the Republic of China (Taiwan), labelled SK-TW 2024, with a total allocation of €56,000 for the entire implementation period of the supported projects. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for one project was limited to €14,000 for the whole duration of the project and to €7,000 per calendar year. The projects will be implemented between 2025 and 2027, starting on 01.07.2025. A total of 9 applications were submitted under this call.

Also in 2024, the Agency launched a bilateral research call with the Republic of China (Taiwan), labelled SK-TW RD 2024, with a total allocation of €360,000 for the full implementation period of the supported projects. The total funding available for a single project was limited to a maximum of €120,000 for the entire duration of the project.

The projects will be implemented between 2025 and 2028, starting on 01.07.2025. 9 applications were submitted under this call.

In 2024, the Agency also launched a bilateral call with the Republic of Hungary, with a total allocation of €70,500 for the entire implementation period of the supported projects. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency for one project was limited to €4,700 for the whole duration and €2,350 per calendar year. The projects will be carried out from 2025 to 2027, starting on 01.07.2025. A total of 37 applications were submitted under this call.

In 2024, the Agency also announced a bilateral call with the French Republic, with a total allocation of €86,000 for the full implementation period of the supported projects. The total SRDA funding for one project was limited to a maximum of €5,300 for the entire duration of the project.

The projects will be implemented from 2025 to 2027, starting on 01.07.2025. A total of 19 applications were submitted under this call.

In the same year, the Agency also launched a multilateral call under the Programme for Funding Projects of Multilateral Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Danube Region, with the possibility of involving additional participants.

This call supported joint projects carried out by organisations from the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and the French Republic.

The total amount of funding allocated for the entire duration of the supported projects was €200,000. The maximum amount of funding provided by the Agency for one project was limited to €10,000 for the entire project duration and €5,000 per calendar year if three countries were involved; €12,500 for the entire project duration and €6,250 per calendar year if four countries participated; €15,000 for the entire project duration and €7,500 per calendar year if five countries participated; €17,500 for the entire project duration and €8,750 per calendar year if six or more countries were involved. The projects will be implemented between 2025 and 2027, with the start date set for 1 July 2025. A total of 60 applications were submitted under this call.



3.2 General Call GC 2023

This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of applications submitted under the General Call GC 2023, which was launched in 2023. Funding for the selected successful projects started in 2024, with a maximum duration of the projects until 2028.

Characteristics of GC 2023

The General Call GC 2023 did not impose any restrictions on the thematic focus of the projects. The applicants themselves defined the focus, objectives and substantive content of the research and development. Applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons – entrepreneurs – regardless of their affiliation to any specific research and development sector.

Basic information on GC 2023

- Submission period: 25/09/2023 – 27/11/2023

Overview of registered applications:

- Total number of applications submitted / **661**
- Of which basic research projects / **462**
- Of which applied research projects / **191**
- Of which development projects / **8**
- Amount of requested funding / **€127,264**
- Applicants' financial contribution / **€5,929**
- Total financial volume / **€133,193**

Basic information about the evaluation process:

- deadline for completion of application evaluation / **May 2024**
- Total number of applications / **661**
- Number of applications rejected (technical and formal check) / **26**

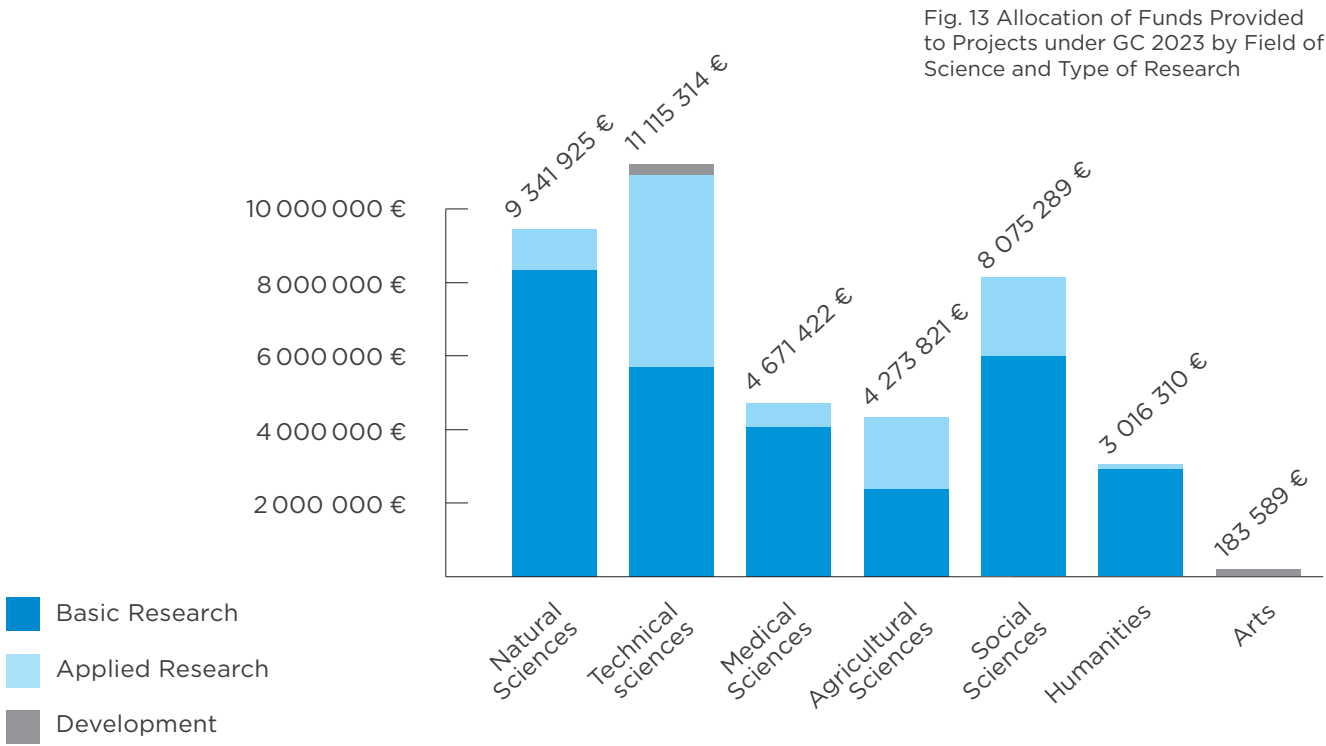
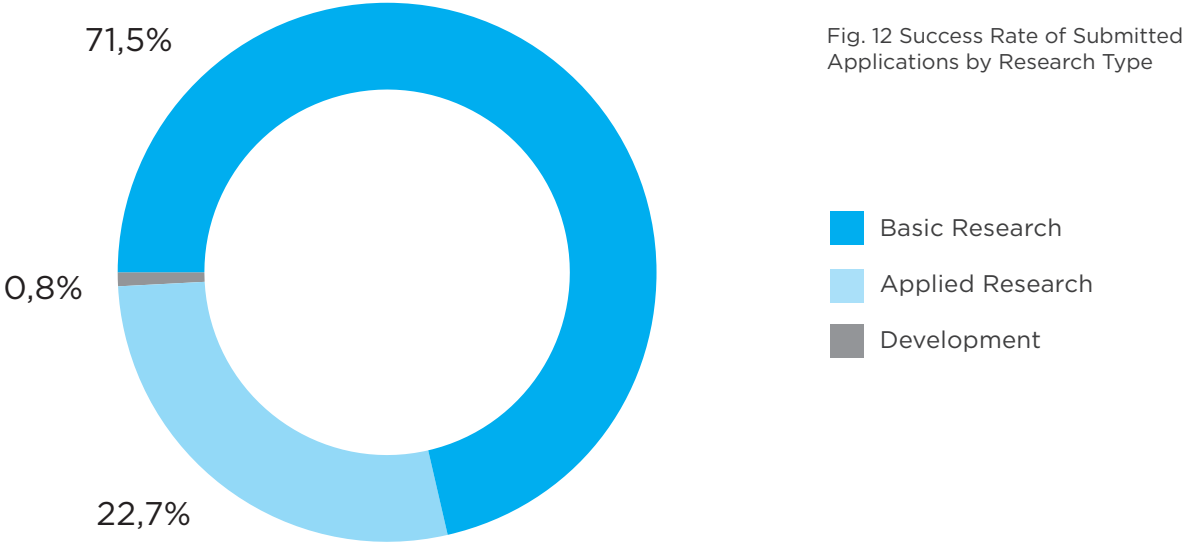
- Number of applications withdrawn by applicants / **7**
- Number of applications in expert evaluation / **635**
- Number of applications awarded financial support / **222**
- of which basic research project applications / **159**
- of which applied research project applications / **61**
- of which development project applications / **2**
- Average success rate of submitted applications / **33.59%**
- Total approved financial support / **€40,678,000**
- Financial support provided in 2024 / **€5,646,000**

Under the public call for proposals GC 2023, a total of 661 applications for research and development project funding were submitted. After the technical and formal review, 26 applications were rejected. 635 applications proceeded to expert evaluation, based on which funding was proposed for 224 projects. In two cases, the project contracts were not signed by the applicant organisations, and therefore 222 applications were ultimately funded. The Slovak Research and Development Agency allocated €41 million under the public call GC 2023.

The projects started on 01/07/2024 and 01/09/2024. The latest possible completion date for the projects is 30/06/2028.

Tab. 6 Number of applications supported by Research Type

Research Type	Number of funded projects	Approved financial support (in thousands €)
Basic Research	159	29 069 467
Applied research	61	11 288 546
Development	2	319 657
Total	222	40 677 670



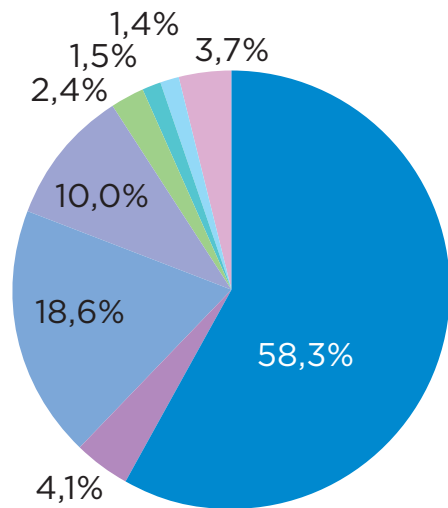


Fig. 14 Distribution of Financial Support by Region – GC 2023

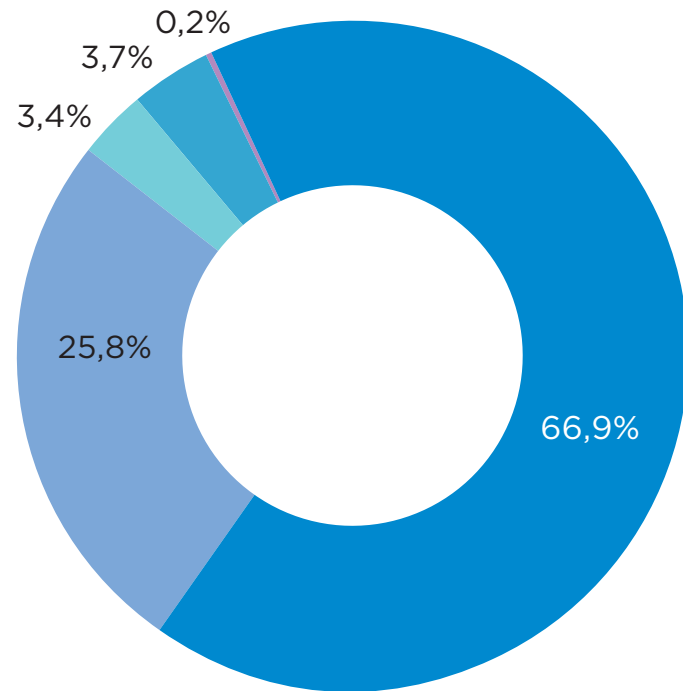
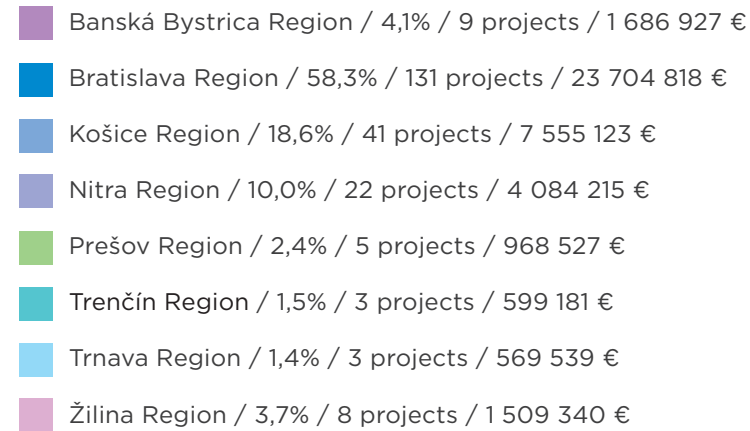


Fig. 15 Share of Financial Support Provided by Sector – GC 2023

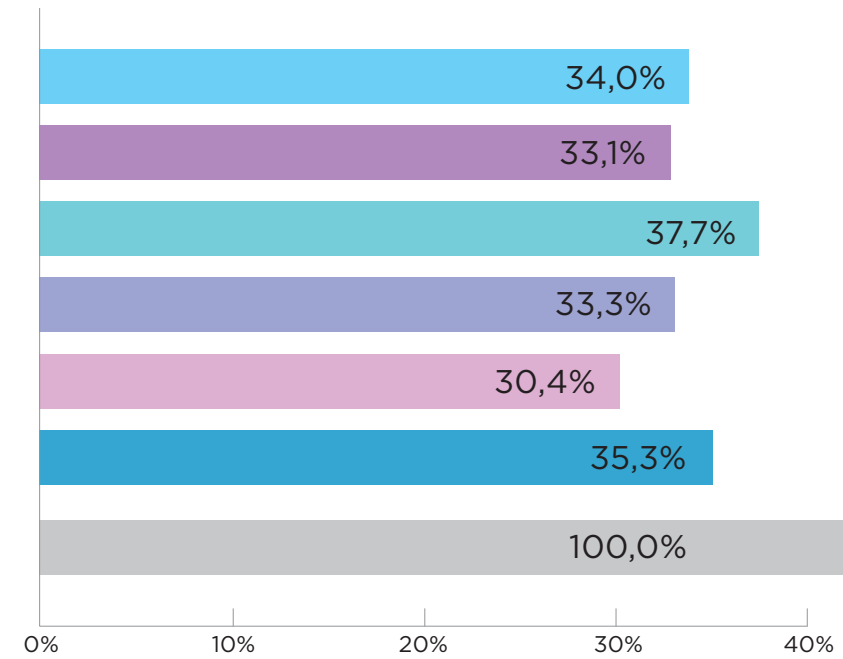


Fig. 16 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Scientific Discipline – GC 2023



Fig. 17 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Research Type – GC 2023 in %

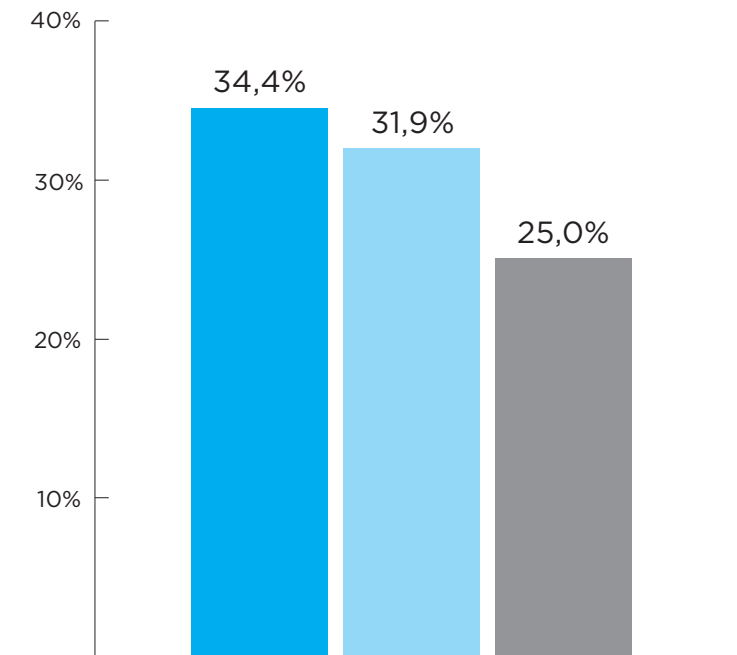
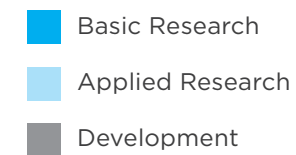
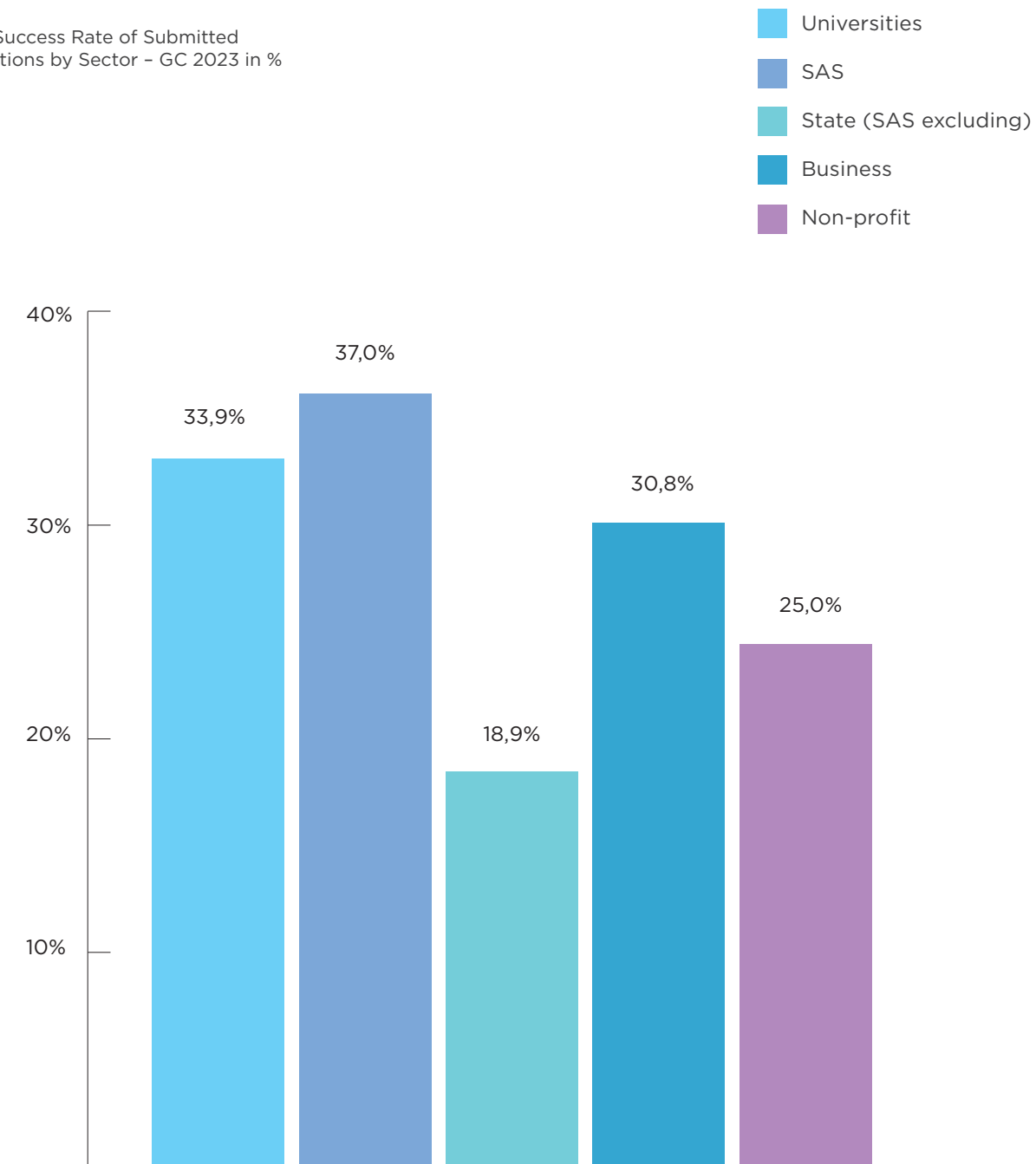


Fig. 18 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Sector - GC 2023 in %



3.3 Funding of the Ongoing Projects

Funding of ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding and implementation had started in previous years and continued in 2023, represented a crucial but financially demanding task. It was carried out in accordance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll.

The Agency may provide funding for a maximum of one fiscal year. Projects supported under general and bilateral calls received continued funding based on evaluation of annual reports by the respective SRDA Councils and upon their approval to continue. Each annual report includes an expert section presenting the results in accordance with the project’s timeline, and a financial section outlining the use of funds allocated for the respective year. In the 2023 call for proposals, there was a change based on the contractual conditions and in this call, funding was also provided in 2024 for 2025.

Under the 2023 call, a contractual change allowed allocation of funding in 2024 to cover the year 2025.

Between February and May 2024, projects approved by SRDA councils for continuation were allocated funding based on their approved budgets.

Between May and August 2024, funding was provided to projects that had previously been suspended by the councils and whose principal investigators were asked to revise and supplement their annual reports. Upon completion, the councils approved their continuation.

Tab. 7 Funding of ongoing projects

Call	Number of projects	Start of funding
GC 2019	100	2020
GC 2020	182	2021
GC 2021	150	2022
GC 2022	152	2023
GC 2023	222	2024

Tab. 8 Financial support provided in 2024 for ongoing projects (€)

Call	Number of projects	Current expenditure	Capital expenditure	Total
GC 2019	100	2 980 626	0	2 980 626
GC 2020	182	8 861 749	0	8 861 749
GC 2021	150	9 238 470	0	9 238 470
GC 2022	152	9 066 707	0	9 066 707
GC 2023	222	17 530 287	0	17 530 287
Total		47 677 839		47 677 839

Information on Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects

Submitted in 2021 and continued funding in 2024

In 2024, the Agency continued funding of joint bilateral R&D projects supporting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic under the SK-CZ-RD 2021 call. The total amount of funding provided in 2024 for 13 bilateral research projects under this call was €510,327.

Submitted in 2022 and continued funding in 2024

In 2022, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-FR 2022. Projects were submitted within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with the French Republic. The total amount of funding provided for the 12 bilateral projects under the SK-FR 2022 call in 2024 was €29,730.

In the same year, the Agency launched the multilateral call DS-FR 2022. Projects were submitted under 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 amount of funding provided in 2024 for 15 multilateral projects under the DS-FR 2022 call was €79,595.

Also in 2022, the Agency announced the call PP MSCA PF 2022, aimed at supporting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowships projects awarded the “Seal of Excellence” by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme. The amount of funding provided in 2024 for one such project was €49,738.

Submitted in 2023 and funded in 2024

In 2024, the Agency continued to fund joint bilateral projects and research bilateral projects.

In 2023, the Agency announced the joint research bilateral call SK-IL-RD 2023 to support R&D projects promoting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the State of Israel. The total amount of funding provided for two bilateral research projects under this call was €82,080.

In 2023, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-PL 2023. The projects were submitted within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation with Poland. The total funding provided for 21 bilateral projects under this call amounted to €50,386.

The SK-SRB 2023 bilateral call was also announced in 2023, supporting international scientific and technical cooperation with Serbia. A total of 20 bilateral projects were supported under this call with a total funding of €46,488.

In 2023, the bilateral call SK-CN 2023 was launched to support cooperation with the People’s Republic of China within the framework of the international scientific and technological cooperation. The total amount of funding provided for 13 bilateral projects under this call was €36,792.

Another bilateral call announced in 2023 was SK-AT 2023, supporting international scientific and technical cooperation with Austria. In the SK-AT 2023 call fourteen bilateral projects received funding amounting to €26,850.

The last bilateral call announced by the Agency in 2023 was SK-BG 2023, promoting cooperation with Bulgaria in the framework of international S&T cooperation. Ten bilateral projects were supported under this call, with a total funding of €16,732.

3.4 Projects Completed in 2024

In 2024, the Agency conducted final evaluations of 134 projects that had reached the end of their implementation period by 30 June 2024. The subject-specific councils evaluated the results according to pre-defined criteria and officially closed the completed projects.

General Call Projects

In 2024, the councils evaluated projects from the GC 2019 call. A total of 125 projects were assessed with 60 projects were evaluated as being of excellent quality; 65 projects were rated as of good quality; and no project received an insufficient rating under this call.

Bilateral Cooperation Projects

In 2024, the councils carried out final evaluations of projects whose implementation period ended by 31

December 2023 or during 2024. The councils assessed the project outcomes based on pre-established criteria and officially closed the projects.

The Council of the Programme for Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Research and Development Cooperation evaluated the project PP-MSCA-22-0001 in 2024, classifying it as of excellent quality.

The Council for International Scientific and Technological Co-operation (ICES) evaluated the projects from the following calls: SK-CN 2021, SK-TW 2021, SK-UA 2021, SK-SRB 2021, SK-PL 2021.

In the call SK-CN 2021, 3 projects have been evaluated as excellent, and 10 projects as good. Under the SK-AT 2020 call, 6 projects were rated as excellent, and 8 as good, amounting to 14 projects in total.

Within the SK-PL 2021 call, 16 projects were supported, of which 2 were evaluated as excellent and 13 as good. One project was evaluated in 2023 due to its early termination on 31.03.2023. Under the SK-SRB 2021 call, 17 projects were supported; 5 were rated excellent and 12 good. In the SK-TW 2021 call, only 4 projects were supported – 1 received an excellent rating, and 3 were rated good. The MTVS Council also evaluated the SK-UA 2021 projects in the same year, with 10 projects supported in total. Of these, 7 were rated good, 2 excellent, and 1 was assessed as insufficient.

At the same time, the monitoring of general call projects was ongoing. Monitoring reports for the year 2023 were submitted until 30 March 2024. The monitoring covered calls GC 2015, GC 2016, GC 2017, GC 2018, and two projects from GC 2019.

The main categories of project benefits and outputs are

- Category 1 Publications and Citations
- Category 2 Patents, Inventions, and Utility Models
- Category 3 Applied Results with defined economic indicators
- Category 4 Outputs for Education and Science Popularization
- Category 5 Other Results
- Category 6 Added Value of the Research and Development Project

3.5 Monitoring of Projects Completed in Previous Years

According to the project contract, projects recipients under the general calls are obliged to inform the Agency, for three years following the end of project implementation, about the social and economic benefits of the project outcomes via monitoring reports.

Three projects from the SK-IL-RD-2018 call submitted their second monitoring reports for the period from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023 in the first quarter of 2024. Three projects from the SK-CN-RD-2018 call also submitted their second monitoring reports for the same period, likewise in the first quarter of 2024.

Four supported projects from the SK-BY-RD-2019 call, whose implementation period ended on 31.07.2022, submitted their first monitoring reports covering the period from 01.08.2022 to 31.12.2023 by the deadline of 31.03.2024.

Under the PP-COVID 2020 call, where the implementation period ended by 31.12.2021, the second monitoring reports for the period from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023 were submitted by 31.03.2024.

Tab. 9 Monitored Projects after Completion

Call	Year of Funding Closure	Number of Projects Monitored
GC 2015	2020	178
GC 2016	2021	150
GC 2017	2022	152
GC 2018	2023	47
GC 2019	2024	2

Tab. 10 Outcomes and Outputs of Completed Projects

Call	Number of Projects with International CC Publications	Number of New SCI Citations	Number of Projects with Application Output	Number of Application Outputs
GC 2015	43	4 612	13	37
GC 2016	37	2 591	7	12
GC 2017	50	2 252	14	30
GC 2018	71	2 015	36	140
GC 2019	79	1 697	40	98
Total	280	13 167	110	317

4 / State Aid

The provision of financial support from public sources to entities engaged in economic activity, regardless of their legal status or the manner in which they are financed, is considered State aid. This support allows them to promote the most effective process of research valorisation, link research to the market, and contribute to the resulting economic and social development of the country. It helps enhance the competitiveness of businesses, increase production and quality of products and services, create new jobs, and more.

In 2024, the Agency provided State aid for research and development projects in accordance with the State Aid Scheme for Research and Development Support by the Slovak Research and Development Agency, as amended by Addendum No. 4 (SA.109803), and also in line with the State Aid Scheme as amended by Addendum No. 3, registered under number SA.104223 and published in Commercial Bulletin No. 150/2022 of 4 August 2022, and further amended by Addendum No. 4 of September 2023. Additionally, support was provided under the State Aid Scheme as amended by Addenda No. 1, No. 2 (SA.58654), and No. 3 (SA.104223). On 25 September 2017, the European Commission registered the updated State Aid Scheme for Research and Development Support by the Slovak Research and Development Agency, as amended by Addendum No. 1 (State Aid Scheme SA.49175), in accordance with applicable legislation. This scheme expired on 31 December 2020.

On 27 August 2020, the State Aid Scheme, as amended by Addenda No. 1 and 2 (SA.58654), was published in the Commercial Bulletin, and thus entered into force and effect. Aid under this scheme is provided in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution from the state budget, based on a written agreement.

The scheme applies exclusively to research and development projects falling under Article 25 of EU Commission Regulation No. 651/2014, which declares certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The validity of the above-mentioned State Aid Scheme expired on 31 December 2023.

On 4 August 2022, the Scheme for the Support of Research and Development by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme), as amended by Addendum No. 3 (State Aid Scheme SA.104223), was published in the Commercial Bulletin, thereby entering into force and effect. Support under this scheme is provided from the state budget in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution (NFC), based on a written agreement. The scheme applies exclusively to the provision of aid for research and development projects in accordance with Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The validity of this State Aid Scheme was set until 31 December 2023.

On 6 October 2023, the updated Scheme for the Support of Research and Development by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme), as amended by Addendum No. 4 (State Aid Scheme SA.109803), was published in the Commercial Bulletin and thereby entered into force and effect. Support under this scheme is also provided from the state budget in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution, based on a written agreement. The scheme continues to apply only to research and development projects as defined in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, as amended. The validity of this State Aid Scheme is set until 31 December 2026.

4.1 Evaluation of State Aid Provided by SRDA

In 2024, aid was granted to 25 entities under state aid schemes. The total amount of aid provided was €1,470,016. Financial support was allocated to individual entities for multiple projects under four state aid schemes, namely SA.104223, SA.49175, SA.58654, and SA.109803 (several public calls).

Tab. 11 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.
SA.109803	0,16 mil.	0,05 mil.	0,13 mil.	0,02 mil.	0 mil.	0 mil.	0,01 mil.	0 mil.

Region	Amount in €
Bratislava	1 043 149
Trnava	51 943
Trenčín	132 432
Nitra	83 060
Žilina	33 498
Banská Bystrica	60 740
Prešov	9 825
Košice	55 369
Total	1 470 016

Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of Total State Aid

4.2 Further Steps in the Provision of State Aid by SRDA

Of the 23 entities, 8 were micro-enterprises, 3 were small enterprises, 9 were medium-sized enterprises, and 3 were large enterprises. Within the individual schemes, some size categories were repeated.

The regional distribution of total state aid granted at the level of Slovak regions was as follows: State aid was granted to 12 entities in the Bratislava Region, 1 entity in the Trnava Region, 2 entities in the Košice Region, 2 entities in the Nitra Region, 1 entity in the Banská Bystrica Region, 2 entities in the Trenčín Region, 2 entities in the Žilina Region, and 1 entity in the Prešov Region.

In the coming period, the Agency will continue to provide state aid for new projects under the State Aid Scheme for Research and Development Support by the Slovak Research and Development Agency, as amended by Addendum No. 4 to SA.109803, valid until 31 December 2026.

For projects not covered by the approved State Aid Scheme, aid will be provided in accordance with the rules for ad hoc de minimis aid.

- Bratislava Region / 71,0% / 1 043 149 €
- Trnava Region / 3,5% / 51 943 €
- Trenčín Region / 9,0% / 132 432 €
- Nitra Region / 5,6% / 83 060 €
- Žilina Region / 2,3% / 33 498 €
- Banská Bystrica Region / 4,1% / 60 740 €
- Prešov Region / 0,7% / 9 825 €
- Košice Region / 3,8% / 55 369 €

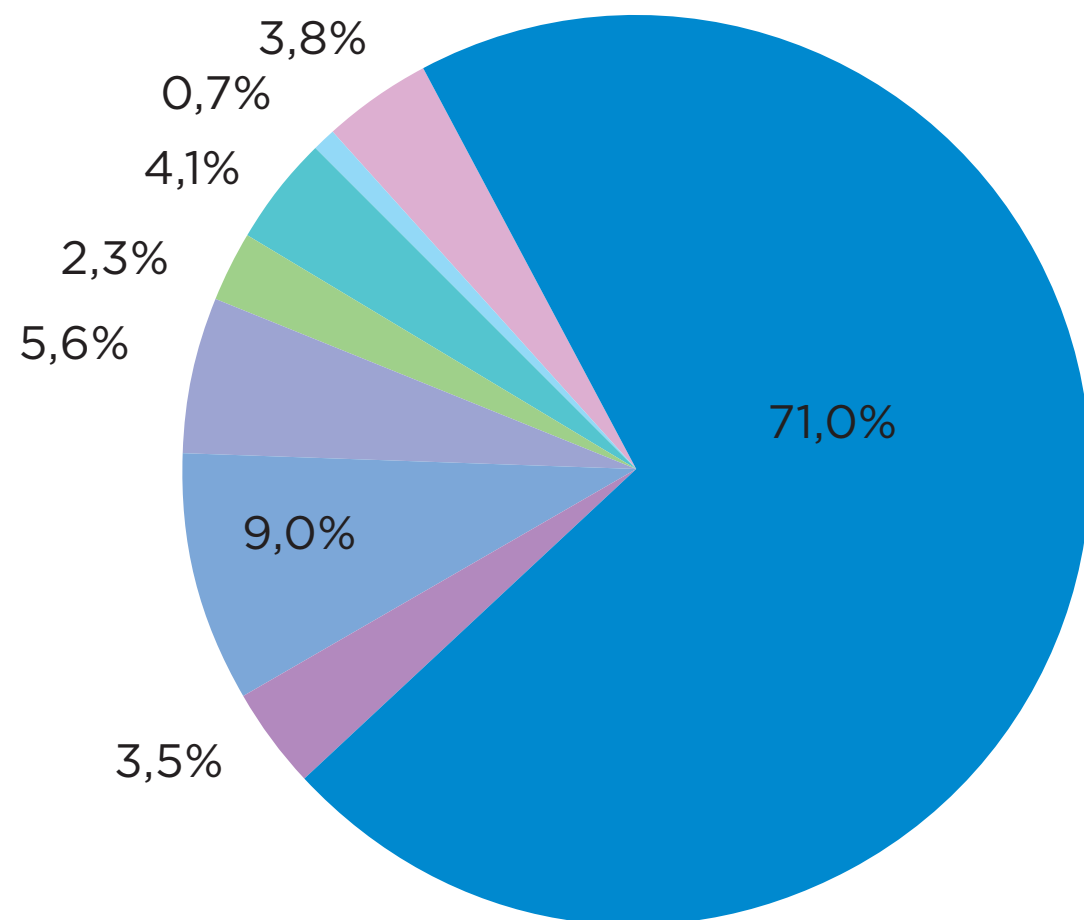


Fig. 19 Regional distribution of the total aid provided at the regional level

5 / SRDA BUDGET

To fulfil the tasks mandated by Act No. 72/2005 Coll., the MŠVVaM SR approved a total budget of €41,772,524 for 2024 through binding expenditure indicators. This budget covers both the Agency's operational expenses and project-based funding, i.e., support for research and development (R&D). Under sub-programme 06K11, the budget approved as of 01 January 2024 allocated €1,808,793 for the Agency's operations and €39,963,731 for project-based R&D funding. Over the course of the year, the Agency's budget was revised through eight budgetary adjustments by the

MŠVVaM SR. These were aimed at ensuring the financing of research and development projects and maintaining the Agency's operations in line with its functions, due to reclassification of current expenditures as capital expenditures, reclassification of current expenditures for salaries and social contributions, release of tied current expenditures from 2023 to 2024, and an increase in current expenditures for R&D projects under the National Strategy. A breakdown of the approved budget, the revised budget, and the budget utilisation as of 31 December 2024 is presented in Table 13.

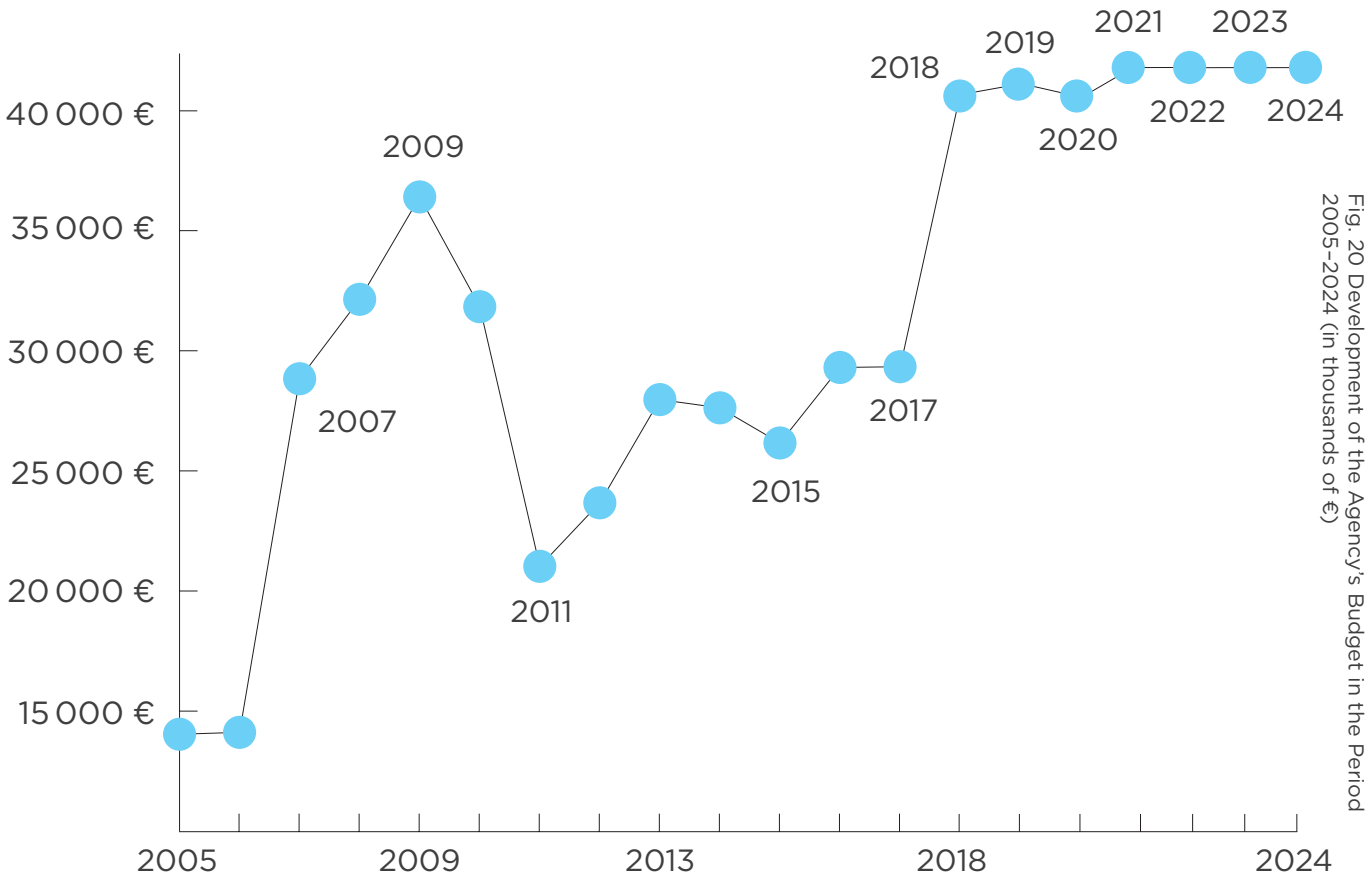


Fig. 20 Development of the Agency's Budget in the Period 2005-2024 (in thousands of €)

Tab. 13 Budgeted funds and their drawdowns in 2024 in €

Program 06K11	Approved as of January 1, 2024	Budget as of December 31, 2024	Drawdown as of December 31, 2024
Operation of the Agency	1 808 793	2 052 711	2 052 711
Current	1 808 793	2 052 711	2 052 711
Capital	0	0	0
Support for Research and Development	39 963 731	50 639 750	49 427 882
Current	39 963 731	50 616 454	49 404 586
Capital	0	23 296	23 296
SRDA Budget in Total	41 772 524	52 692 461	51 480 593

Tab. 14 Overview of the Projects Supported by Individual Calls / Programs, and Amount of Financial Support Provided in 2024 in €

Call / Program	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
General Call - GC2019	2 980 626	0	2 980 626
General Call - GC2020	8 861 749	0	8 861 749
General Call - GC2021	9 238 470	0	9 238 470
General Call - GC2022	9 066 707	0	9 066 707
General Call - GC2023	17 530 287	0	17 530 287
Bilateral projects	799 385	0	799 385
Danube Strategy 2022 DS-FR	79 595	0	79 595
PP MSCA PF 2022	49 738	0	49 738
Total	48 606 557	0	48 606 557

Tab. 15 Structure of funding provided for supported projects in 2024 by management form/sector

Type of Organisation	Current Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	Total
State organizations	1 951 316	0	1 951 316
Public universities	30 796 109	0	30 796 109
Public research institutions	13 368 229	0	13 368 229
Non-profit organizations, civic associations, foundations	180 251	0	180 251
Legal entities (limited liability companies, joint-stock companies)	2 252 833	0	2 252 833
Private university colleges	57 819	0	57 819
Total	48 606 557	0	48 606 557

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

6 / Human Resources

6.1 SRDA Bureau

The development of SRDA staffing levels depends on the amount of funding allocated for salaries and the need to ensure processes across all organisational units. As of 31 December 2024, the average recorded number of employees was 39. The average full-time equivalent (FTE) number of employees for 2024 was 37.4. The total headcount as of 31 December 2024 was 40.

In 2024, the Agency’s personnel consisted of core staff and 145 leading representatives of the Slovak scientific and technological community, who participated in the work of SRDA’s expert bodies.

Staffing resources are provided to ensure the implementation of activities related to general calls for proposals, bilateral cooperation projects, and projects under the programme Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Research and Development Cooperation, in accordance with Government Resolution No. 707/2020 and the related programme.

The average age of SRDA employees in 2024 was 41 years.

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

Tab. 16 Number of Employees by Organizational Structure

Organizational units	Number of employees as of 1. 1. 2024	Number of employees as of 31. 12. 2024
Director’s office	9	9
Control Department	4	3
Department of Human Resources	2	2
Department of Projects	12	12
Department of Economics and Internal Operations	5	8
Department of International Cooperation and State Aid	5	6
Total	37	40

Tab. 17 Structure of the SRDA Employees by their Qualification as of December 31, 2024

Level of Education	Number of Employees	Of which women
Secondary Education	6	4
Higher Education - 1st Level	1	1
Higher Education - 2nd Level	26	18
Higher Education - 3rd Level	4	3
Total	37	26

6.2 SRDA Social PolicyV

The SRDA has concluded employer agreements with the following supplementary pension companies: NN Tatry Sympatia, UNIQA, STABILITA, and DDS Tatra Banka.

As of 31 December 2024, 87.5% of SRDA employees were enrolled in the supplementary pension savings scheme. In 2024, SRDA employees were also entitled to use the Multisport Programme services.

6.3 Employee Education and Training

To support the professional development of its staff, SRDA enables employees to participate in training sessions, courses, and expert seminars organised by specialised educational institutions. Employees also had access to video recordings of professional webinars made available on the “Profivzdelavanie” platform.

Employee training was carried out in accordance with the Agency’s financial capabilities. The seminars, training sessions, and courses were primarily focused on legislative changes to generally binding legal regulations relevant to SRDA’s activities, and the use of online information and communication technologies in public administration (e-Government). A group of professional trainings also addressed legislative changes in the areas of social and health insurance, HR, payroll, and taxation, operation of motor vehicles, and accounting within budgetary organisations.

In connection with SRDA’s transition to the Central Economic System (CES), effective from 01.01.2025, employee training was delivered throughout 2024 across individual CES modules. These included in-person modular training sessions, in-person consultation courses, and online educational, consultation, and methodological workshops.

To improve staff communication in foreign languages, SRDA organised online language courses for employees in 2024.

7 / Audit Activities

7.1 External Audit Activities

In 2024, the SRDA carried out on-site financial inspections in accordance with Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and on amendments and supplements to certain acts.

The on-site inspections were performed in compliance with the applicable legislation, with the aim of verifying adherence to the principles of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and purposefulness in the management of public funds, as well as compliance with the binding conditions for the use of public resources during the implementation of projects supported by the Agency. In line with the approved Financial Audit Plan for 2024 – On-Site Financial Controls, which was amended during the year by Addenda No. 1, a total of 24 on-site financial inspections were scheduled and subsequently conducted in the reporting year 2024.

An overview of the on-site financial inspections is provided in Table 18.

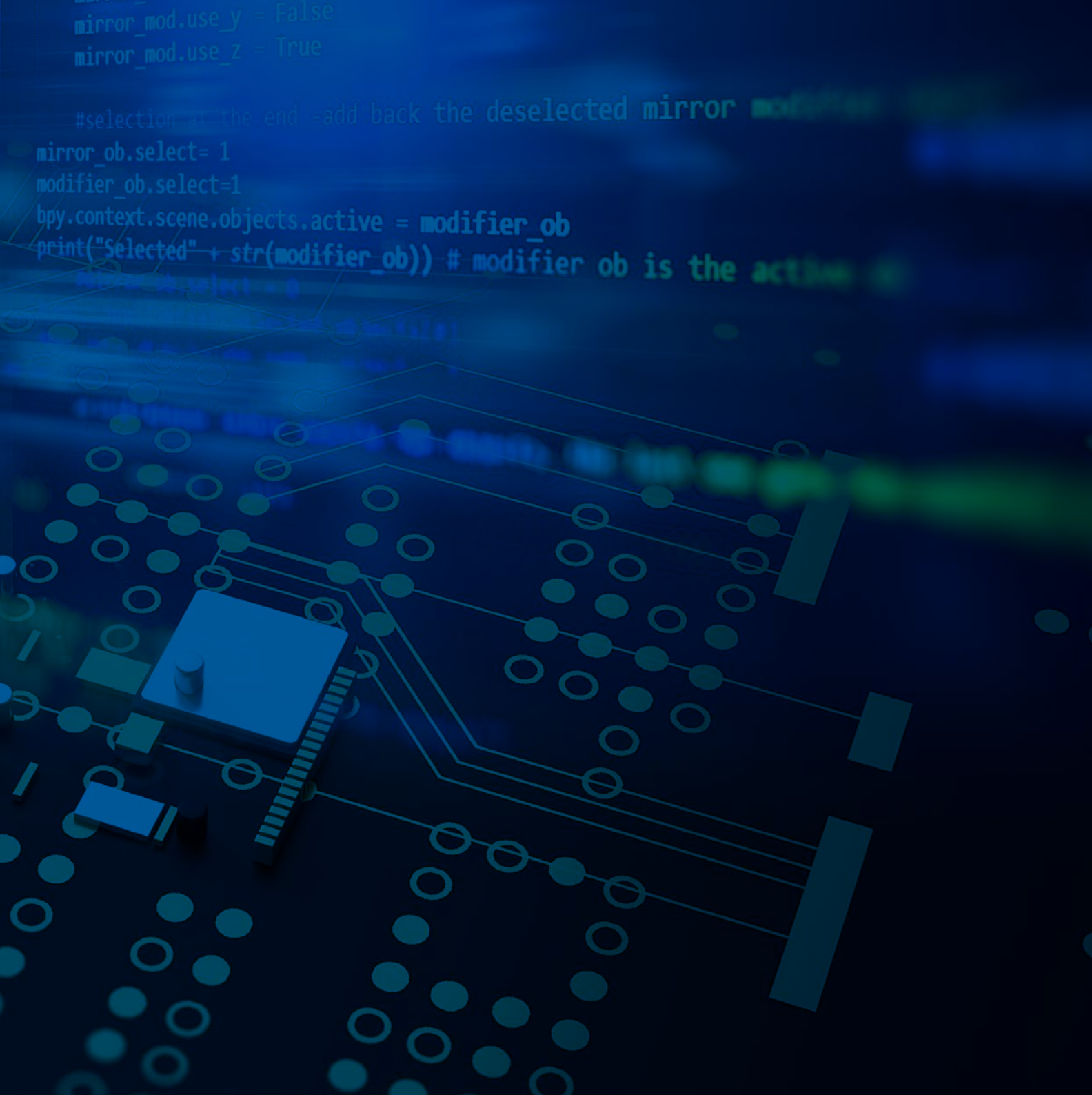
Overview of On-Site Financial Inspections in 2024:	
Number of inspections planned	24
Number of inspections conducted	24
Number of inspections completed by 31.12.	24

In the course of on-site financial inspections, violations of financial discipline were identified in 11 cases, in accordance with § 31(1) of Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended.

- Violations of financial discipline mainly consisted of:**
- 1. Unauthorized use of public funds in breach of applicable legislation, established rules, or the terms and conditions under which the funds were provided.
 - 2. Use of public funds in excess of the authorized limits, resulting in higher expenditures than permitted (e.g. expenses or costs not directly related to the project's research activities).
 - 3. Claiming expenses/costs in excess of actual expenditures, such as when no tax or accounting documents were submitted, or when the submitted expenses were lower than those declared.
 - 4. Claiming expenses/costs outside the eligible accounting period.

Tab. 18 On-site financial inspections carried out by SRDA staff in 2024

Name of the Obligated Entity	Total Amount of Funds in € audited by the SRDA
Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences (APVV-17-0149)	200 000
Institute of Construction and Architecture of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (APVV-18-0014)	246 429
University of Žilina (APVV-18-0522)	242 944
University of Trnava (APVV-19-0050)	149 635
Centre of Plant Biology and Biodiversity of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (APVV-19-0134)	191 173
Technical University in Zvolen (APVV-19-0183)	232 415
Institute of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (APVV-20-0116)	115 727
University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (APVV-20-0263)	118 190
NanoDesign Ltd. (APVV-20-0266)	196 937
Forum Institute for Minority Research (APVV-20-0336)	89 643
Geographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (APVV-20-0432)	123 667
Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Medicine (APVV-20-0472)	188 530
Paneuropean University, n.o. (APVV-20-0567)	125 501
University of Žilina (APVV-20-0626)	140 817
ABmerit Ltd. (APVV-20-0628)	236 343
Institute of Informatics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (APVV-21-0373)	102 429
Technical University of Košice (APVV-21-0396)	41 604
Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Arts (APVV-21-0404)	107 071
CSM Industry Ltd. (APVV-21-0406)	126 920
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Faculty of Science (DS-FR-19-0008)	14 576
Centre for Advanced Materials Utilization of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (SK-CZ-RD-21-0043)	56 763
Centre of Experimental Medicine of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Public Research Institution (SK-CZ-RD-21-0102)	61 980
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SK-PL-21-0051)	4 000
University od Žilina (SK-UA-21-0037)	13 800



7.2 Internal Audit Activities

In accordance with the approved 2024 Audit Plan, the SRDA Control Department performed eleven internal controls focusing on:

1. Internal regulations issued as of 31.12.2024, with a focus on the need for their amendment, possible repeal, or the creation of new internal regulations.
2. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Directive on the Use of Official Mobile Phones and Mobile Internet at SRDA.
3. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Methodological Guideline on the Procedure for Concluding Agreements on Work Performed Outside Employment.
4. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the SRDA Signing Regulations.
5. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Directive on the Occupational Health and Safety Management System at SRDA, with a focus on the inspection of first aid kits in the SRDA administrative building.
6. Compliance with the internal regulation on the Rules of Procedure of the Agency's Committees.
7. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the SRDA Key Management Rules.
8. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Decision on the Establishment of the SRDA Disposal and Liquidation Committee and the Appointment of Its Members.
9. Compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the Guideline on Recording One Day of Leave in the SRDA Electronic Attendance System.
10. Compliance with the internal regulation on the General Internal Procedure for Providing Targeted Financial Support for SRDA Grant Schemes.
11. Internal regulations issued as of 31.12.2024, with a focus on the need for their amendment, possible repeal, or the creation of new internal regulations.

Based on the audit findings, recommendations were issued to address the identified deficiencies. Some of the audit team's recommendations were resolved during the course of the audit.

7.3 Control Activities Conducted by External Control Bodies

In 2024, SRDA underwent one inspection by external control authorities: The General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic, Benešova 696/10, Brno, conducted an audit of public health insurance premium payments and compliance with other obligations of the premium payer for the period from 01.10.2019 to 31.05.2024.

7.4 Complaint Handling

In 2024, the SRDA recorded one complaint, which was dismissed in accordance with § 6(1)(a) of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints, and one submission marked as a complaint, which was dismissed based on the provisions of § 4(3) in conjunction with § 4(1)(d) of Act No. 9/2010 Coll. on Complaints.

8 / Annual APVV Conference

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) organized its annual conference in Bratislava on October 9, 2024, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic. At the event, the Agency presented the results of its activities and achievements over the past year.

The State Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Ján Hrinko, opened the annual conference with an introductory speech. The Chair of the Agency, Mr. Robert Mistrík, and the Director of the Agency, Mr. Stanislav Mydlo, reviewed SRDA's activities over recent years and expressed their views on the future direction the Agency should take.

As part of the conference, a panel discussion was held featuring Mr. Robert Mistrík (Chair of the Agency), Mr. Peter Fodrek (Vice-Chair), Ms. Silvia Pastoreková (Chair of the Council for Medical Sciences), Mr. Juraj Wagner (Chair of the Council for Technical Sciences), Mr. Zdeněk Dvořák (Chair of the Council for Social Sciences), and Mr. Stanislav Mydlo (Director of the Agency).





9 / Goals and Overview of Their Fulfilment

Monitoring of Supported Projects After Project Completion

For projects whose implementation period has expired, monitoring of outputs regarding the social and economic benefits (impacts) of the project results was conducted over the three years following their completion. All activities related to the administration and evaluation of project outputs were carried out within the framework of general calls announced in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and GC 2019, as well as calls SK-IL-RD-2018, SK-CN-RD-2018, SK-BY-RD 2019, and PP-COVID 2020.

Annual and Final Evaluation of Projects and Funding of Ongoing Projects

In 2024, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls, GC 2019, GC 2020, GC 2021, and GC 2022. In 2024, the agency supported 105 projects of international scientific and technical cooperation and 1 project under the PP MSCA PF 2022 program.

During ongoing evaluations, expert bodies assessed the fulfilment of partial project objectives, adherence to the established schedule, and the planned outputs of the projects for the given period. In the final evaluation, they also assessed the overall level of project implementation. For all concluding projects of the general calls, final project completion cards are published on the APVV website, which include the most significant results and outputs of the project.

Funding of New Projects

In 2024, funding was provided for calls announced in 2023: the general call GC 2023 and bilateral cooperation projects with the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Serbia, and research bilateral cooperation projects with the State of Israel.

New Calls Launched and Initial Assessment of Submitted Projects

In 2024, the Agency launched the General Call GC 2024. The expected date for publishing the results is August 2025.

In 2024, the Agency announced mobility bilateral calls within the framework of international scientific and technical cooperation for collaboration with the Republic of China (Taiwan), the French Republic, and Hungary, as well as a research bilateral call with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and multilateral cooperation projects under the Danube Strategy – France 2024.

Specific Tasks Focused on Running the Agency In fulfilling its specific tasks in 2024, the Agency prepared the following documents:

- 2024 SRDA Main Tasks Plan
- 2023 Annual SRDA Activity Report
- 2023 Annual SRDA Financial Report
- 2023 State Aid Report
- 2023 Annual SRDA Financial Statements

10 / Evaluation of the SRDA activities in 2024

In 2024, the Agency’s activities were aligned with the objectives of the 06K National Science and Technology Development Program, sub-program 06K11 Research and Development Tasks, supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA), aiming to fulfil the basic objectives defined by the sub-program and achieve the established measurable indicators. The sub-program’s purpose is to build an effective system for supporting research and development by providing funding for project implementation and enhancing the competitiveness of Slovak entities within international scientific and technical cooperation.

The preparation of the concept and the definition of the Agency’s main activities and tasks considered the responsibilities arising from resolutions of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the intents and objectives of the national science and technology policy. The Agency fulfilled its mission pursuant to Act No. 172/2005 Coll., § 12, by supporting projects within grant schemes of general calls and calls for international cooperation (bilateral and multilateral projects) as well as under the SRDA programs.

The following public calls were opened and/or announced in 2024:

- General Call for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual fields of science and technology – GC 2024;
- Public call for submitting applications for research and development projects in individual fields of science and technology aimed at supporting young researchers – GC MVP 2024;
- Calls to support bilateral cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements with Taiwan, Hungary, and France, with funding starting in 2025;

- Call to support scientific bilateral cooperation based on an intergovernmental agreement with Taiwan, with funding starting in 2025.
- call for proposals to support multilateral cooperation on joint projects fostering collaboration between organizations in the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and the French Republic, with funding starting in 2025 under the designation “DS-FR 2024.”

The SRDA Presidium made a change in the evaluation method for the 2024 GC MVP public call compared to previous years. Applications were pilot-evaluated by international expert panels. Likewise, applications in the GC 2024 call will also be evaluated by international expert panels. In announcing public calls in 2024, the Agency proceeded in accordance with the Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing, and Evaluation of Support for Research, Development, and Innovation, which was issued by the Research and Innovation Authority in September 2023. Following this binding methodology, the SRDA Presidium particularly adjusted the substantive intents of projects, the evaluation criteria of public calls, and the project evaluation procedure itself.

The Agency’s activities included the fulfilment of the following basic tasks:

- monitored project outputs after their completion to obtain relevant data on the impacts of project implementation on social and economic practice;
- financed ongoing projects, i.e., projects whose funding and thus implementation began in previous years and continued in 2024;
- announced new calls and evaluated submitted applications for financial support under these calls;
- financed projects whose implementation started in 2024.

The Agency introduced several measures related to project funding and management with the aim to:

- increase the objectivity and transparency of the evaluation process;
- ensure an effective R&D support system by providing project funding and increase the success of Slovak entities in international scientific and technical cooperation;
- improve the services provided by the SRDA to recipients as well as to individual project researchers, predominantly through electronic communication with applicants and project researchers via the Central Government Portal (ÚPVS).

The Agency publicly presents itself and communicates primarily through 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	SK-BY-RD	Slovakia – Belarus research bilateral call
7.RP	Seventh Framework Programme	SK-CZ-RD	Slovakia – Czech research bilateral call Republic
SRDA (APVV)	The Slovak Research and Development Agency	PP-COVID 2020	Support for research and development focused on managing the coronavirus pandemic and its impacts for the period 2020–2021
BOZP	Occupational safety and health	PP MSCA PF	support for Postdoctoral Fellowships Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions projects
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals	NFP	Non-repayable financial contribution
SF7FP	Open general call for supplementary funding applications for FP7 projects	NUTS	Abbreviation for the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics used in Slovakia for the needs of the Statistical Office and Eurostat
DS-FR	The Strategy for Danube Region – France		
EC	European Community		
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community		
MŠVRaM SR	Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth 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		
GC-MVP	General Call Aimed at Supporting Young Researchers		
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		

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