

2025

Annual Activity Report of the Slovak Research and Development Agency 2025



SLOVAK RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Annual Activity Report of the Slovak Research and Development Agency for 2025

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01

On the Slovak Research and Development Agency

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as *the Agency* or *SRDA*) is a national grant agency and the only dominant grant agency providing the state budget–based support to 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 14 810 05 Bratislava
Phone	+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 was established for the purpose of supporting research and development by providing financial resources for the implementation of projects as follows:

- Bottom-up support – public calls for the submission of projects in individual groups of scientific and technical disciplines (without thematic restrictions), with the applicant defining the objectives, goals and substantive content of the R&D; project – Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12(2)(a)
- Targeted form of support based on agency programmes approved by the government (top-down),

which reflect the requirements for achieving selected objectives and goals in accordance with the long-term objectives of the state science and technology policy – Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12(2)(b)

- Support based on publicly announced calls within the framework of international agreements and international programmes and initiatives, including the costs of their preparation – Act No. 172/2005 Coll., Section 12(2)(c)

The recipients of funding are:

- organisations from the public, state, and private higher education sectors
- organisations from the public research and development sector
- organisations from the business research and development sector
- organisations 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 2025, the Slovak Research and Development Agency was assigned binding indicators within Programme **06K – National Programme for the Development of Science and Technology** and Subprogramme **‘06K11 – Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency’** (hereinafter referred to as ‘06K11’).

The aim of the subprogramme is: *‘An effective system of support for research and development in the form of providing financial resources for project implementation and increasing the success rate of Slovak entities in international scientific and technological cooperation.’*

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

- to support projects of international scientific and technical cooperation carried out within international programmes/organisations/or agreements co-financed by the Agency's funds
- to support projects co-financed from non-budgetary resources (e.g. private and foreign sources)
- to support projects with applied outputs intended for practical use
- to support basic research projects whose results will be published in internationally Current Contents journals

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 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 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic 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.

02

Bodies of the Slovak Research and Development Agency

2.1 SRDA Office

As of 31 December 2025:

Director

JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo

Management Members

Ing. Alena Bokrošová
Head of the Director's Office

RNDr. Silvia Plesníková
Head of Department of Projects

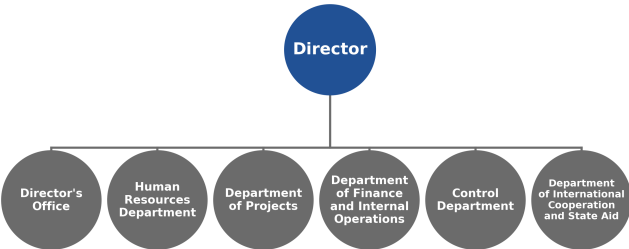
Mgr. Petra Kozáková, PhD.
Head of Department of International Cooperation and State Aid

Ing. Viera Dojčárová
Head of the Department of Finance and Internal Operations

Ing. Jana Čermáková
Head of the Human Resources Department

Ing. Martina Tobiašová
Head of the Control Department

Fig. 1 Structure of the SRDA Office



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 Presidium in 2025

Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman

Dr. h. c. Ing. Peter Fodrek, PhD., visiting prof.
THE FIRST WELDING COMPANY Inc., Bratislava

Members

RNDr. Imrich Barák, DrSc.
Institute of Molecular Biology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 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

Ing. Mgr. Tibor Gregor
Klub 500, Bratislava

PhDr. Eva Kowalská, DrSc.
The Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

PhDr. Zdenka Mansfeldová, CSc.
Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Praha

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

prof. Ing. Michal Puškár, DrSc.
Research and Innovation Authority, Bratislava

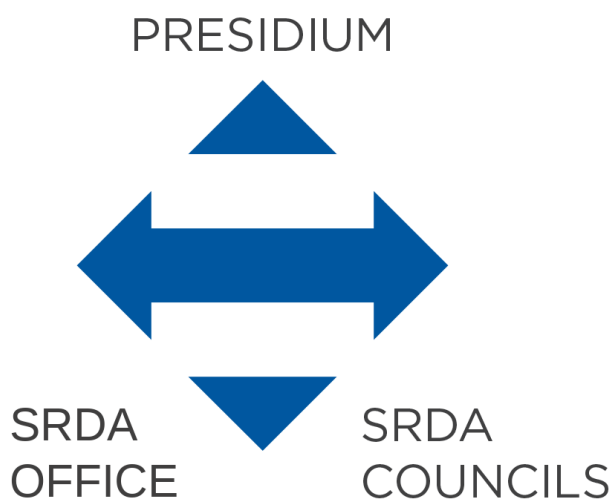
prof. Ing. Ján Šefčík, PhD.
Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, United Kingdom

Mgr. Robert Ševčík, PhD.
*Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth
of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava*

Secretary

Ing. Alena Bokrošová

Fig. 2 SRDA Bodies



At its meetings in 2025, the Presidium discussed strategic tasks arising from the Statute of the Agency.

The most discussed and negotiated topics included:

- SRDA Main Tasks Plan
- Approval of the General Call GC 2025 as well as Bilateral Calls
- Modification of the Evaluation Process for General Calls
- Renomination of Members of Discipline Councils Whose Terms Were Expiring and Appointment of New Foreign and Domestic Members of Discipline Councils
- Approval of Members of International Expert Panels
- Ensuring Full Funding of Projects under Calls GC 2020, GC 2021, GC 2022, GC 2023 and GC 2024
- Adoption of the New Programme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency "Support for

Research Infrastructure”

- Extension of the Programme “Strengthening the Participation of the Slovak Republic in European Research and Development Cooperation”
- Establishment of the SRDA Ethics Committee as an Advisory Body to the SRDA Director
- SRDA's Accession to the European WEAVE Initiative
- Approval of Cooperation with the Austrian Agency Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF)
- Approval of SRDA's Cooperation in the Evaluation of EUREKA Applications Processed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic
- Approval of the Procedure for Addressing Requests Submitted to SRDA Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic and the Government Office of the Slovak Republic
- Approval of the Preliminary Plan for Financing Research, Development and Innovation for the Years 2025–2027
- Annual Activity Report and Annual Financial Report for 2024
- Preparation of the Budget for the Next Programming Period
- Current Budget Expenditure During the Year

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 Agency Council shall have at least seven members who are distinguished experts in the Agency's field of activity. At least one member of the Council shall be a foreign expert.

The Agency Council may establish international expert panels for the professional evaluation of applications. An international expert panel shall have at least five members who are distinguished experts in the field of activity of the respective international expert panel. The Chair and other members of the international expert panels shall be appointed and dismissed by the Director of the Agency upon approval by the Agency Presidium, on the proposal of the Agency Council, while the Chair of the international expert panel shall be appointed from among the members of the Agency Council.

In 2025, the following Councils of the SRDA were active:

Council for Natural Sciences

Chair of the Council:

RNDr. Boris Klempa, DrSc.

Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Natural Sciences 1:

RNDr. Boris Klempa, DrSc.

Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

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 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 4:

prof. RNDr. Igor Medved', PhD.

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Civil Engineering

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering (from April 2025)

Council for Medical Sciences

Chair of the Council:

prof. RNDr. Silvia Pastoreková, DrSc.

Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

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 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 5:

prof. Dr. Ing. Juraj Gerlici

University of Žilina, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Medical Sciences:

doc. PharmDr. Anna Paul Hrabovská, PhD.

Slovak Medical University in Bratislava, Faculty of Medicine

Council for Agricultural Sciences

Chair of the Council:

doc. Dr. Ing. Bohdan Konôpka

National Forestry Centre

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Agricultural Sciences 2:

doc. Ing. Marek Živčák, PhD.

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Agricultural Sciences 1:

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 2:

doc. PhDr. Michal Hajdúk, PhD.

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Arts

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Social Sciences 1:

prof. Dr. Michal Onderčo

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Chair of the International Expert Panel – Social Sciences 3:

prof. Ing. Jaroslav Belás, PhD.

University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów

ul. Sucharskiego 2, 35-225 Rzeszów, Poland

Council for Humanities

Chair of the Council:

Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Peter Markovič, PhD., DBA.

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 (ISTC)

Chair of the Council:

Ing. Zuzana Ciesarová, CSc.

National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky

Council for the Programme 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, Bratislava

03

The SRDA Activities in 2025

3.1 Activities in 2025

In accordance with the Agency's Main Tasks Plan and within the specified financial framework, the following public calls were opened and/or announced in 2025:

- General Call **GC 2025** for the submission of applications for research and development projects in individual groups of scientific and technological disciplines
- international bilateral calls for S&T; cooperation: **SK-BG 2025, SK-MNE 2025, SK-PL 2025, SK-SRB 2025** and **SK-UA 2025**

As part of its activities, the Agency carried out the following additional tasks in 2025:

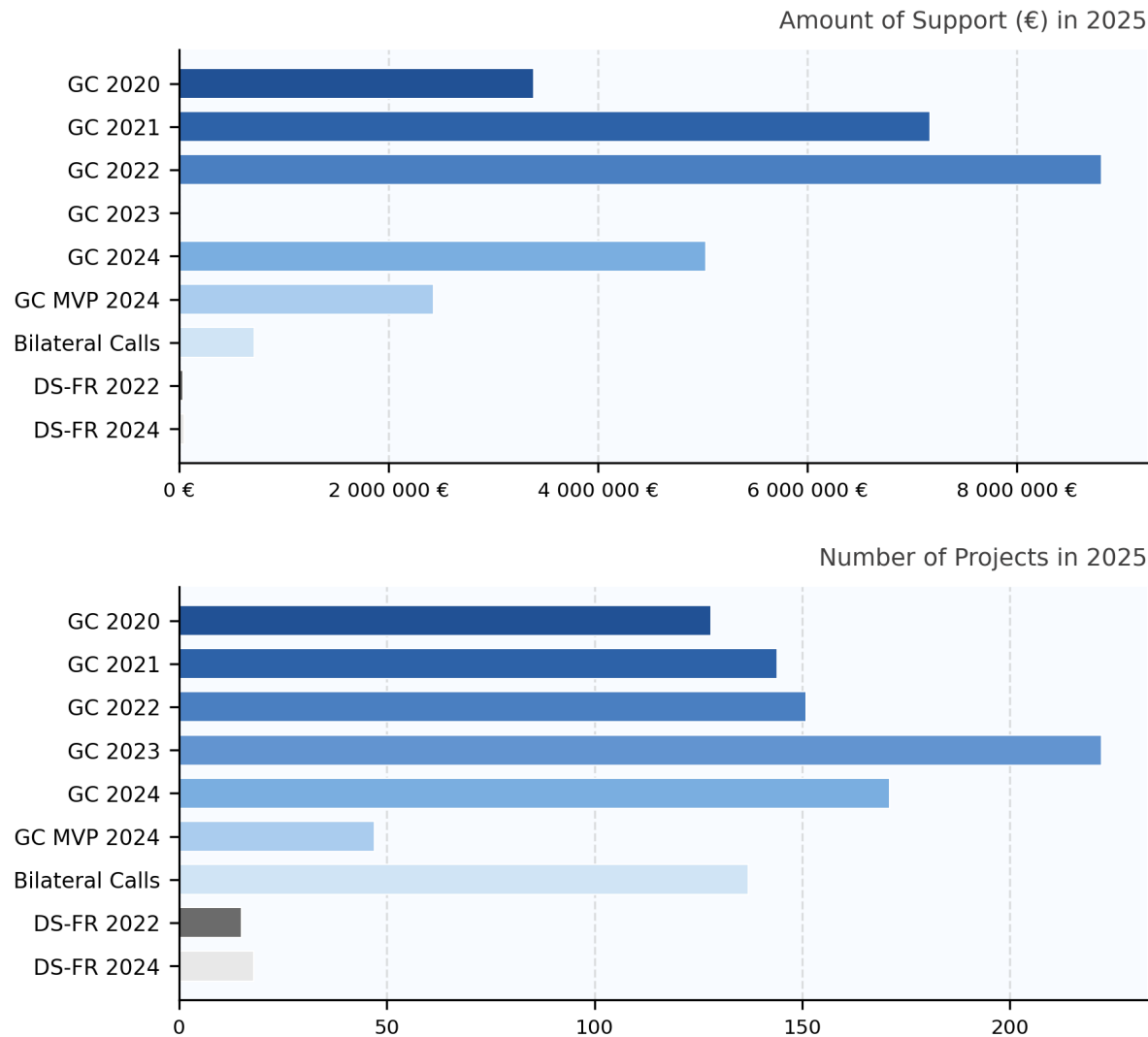
- monitoring of project outputs after the completion of their implementation in order to obtain relevant data on the social and economic benefits (impacts) of project results
- funding of ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding and implementation commenced in previous years and continued in 2025
- launching of new calls, evaluation of submitted funding applications, and their possible financing in 2025

Tab. 1 Project Funding in 2025

Call	No. of Funded Projects 2025	Amount of Support (€)
GC 2020	128	3 386 409
GC 2021	144	7 173 249
GC 2022	151	8 806 098
GC 2023	222	0 *
GC 2024	171	5 028 165
GC MVP 2024	47	2 428 401
Bilateral Calls	137	719 603
DS-FR 2022	15	38 174
DS-FR 2024	18	49 572
Total	1 033	27 629 671

* GC 2023 – pre-financing provided in 2024.

Fig. 3 Amount of Financial Support and Total Number of Funded Projects by Grant Scheme Type in 2025



3.1.1 Announcement of the General Call GC 2025

The Agency announced the General Call designated **GC 2025**, which was launched in 2025, with the application submission and evaluation process extending into 2026.

Characteristics of GC 2025

The General Call GC 2025 imposed no restrictions regarding the thematic focus of projects. The specific focus, objectives, and substantive content of the research and development activities were determined by the applicants

Funding for the selected successful projects will commence in 2026. The maximum project duration is 48 months.

themselves. Applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons—entrepreneurs without any restrictions concerning their affiliation to a particular R&D; sector.

Basic Information on GC 2025:

- Application submission period: **3 November 2025 – 11 February 2026**

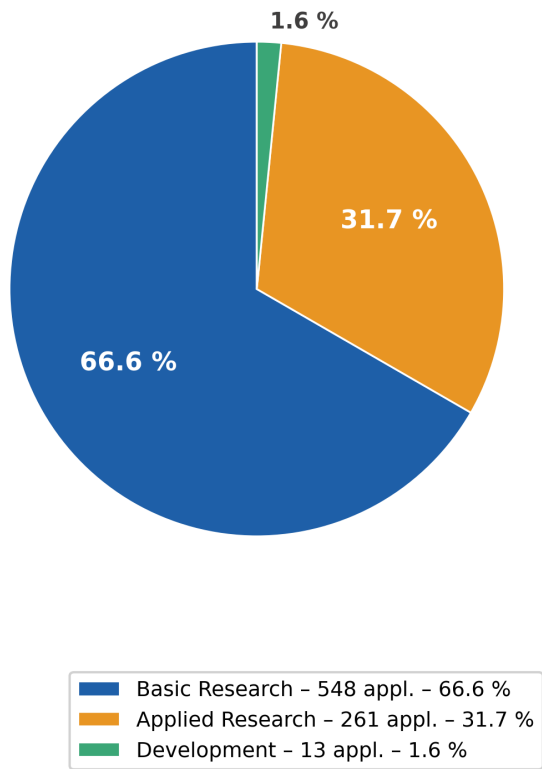
Basic Information on Registered Applications:

- Total number of applications received: **822**
- of which applications for basic research projects: **548**
- of which applications for applied research projects: **261**
- of which applications for development projects: **13**
- amount of financial resources requested: **228 000 000 €**
- applicants' financial contribution: **7 182 000 €**
- total volume of financial resources: **235 182 000 €**

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

Type of Research	No. of Applications	Requirements from SRDA (€)
Basic Research	548	149 221 000
Applied Research	261	75 115 000
Development	13	3 664 000
Total	822	228 000 000

Fig. 4 Percentage Share of Registered Applications by Type of Research



Tab. 3 Number of Registered Applications by Scientific Discipline

Scientific Discipline	Submitted Applications
Natural Sciences	161
Technical Sciences	255
Medical Sciences	90
Agricultural Sciences	93
Social Sciences	162
Humanities	58
Artistic Sciences	3
Total	822

Fig. 5 Distribution of the Funding Requested by Registered Applications by Scientific Discipline and Type of Research

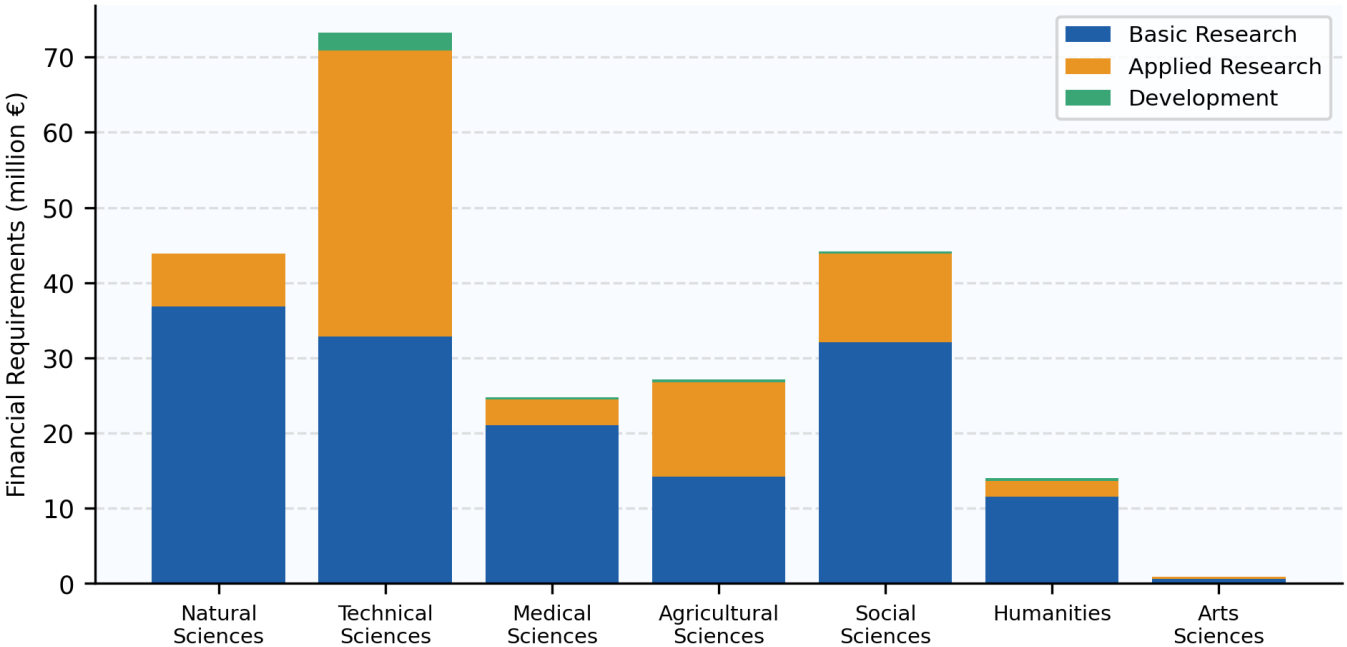


Fig. 6 Number of GC 2025 Applications by Region of the Applicant Organisation

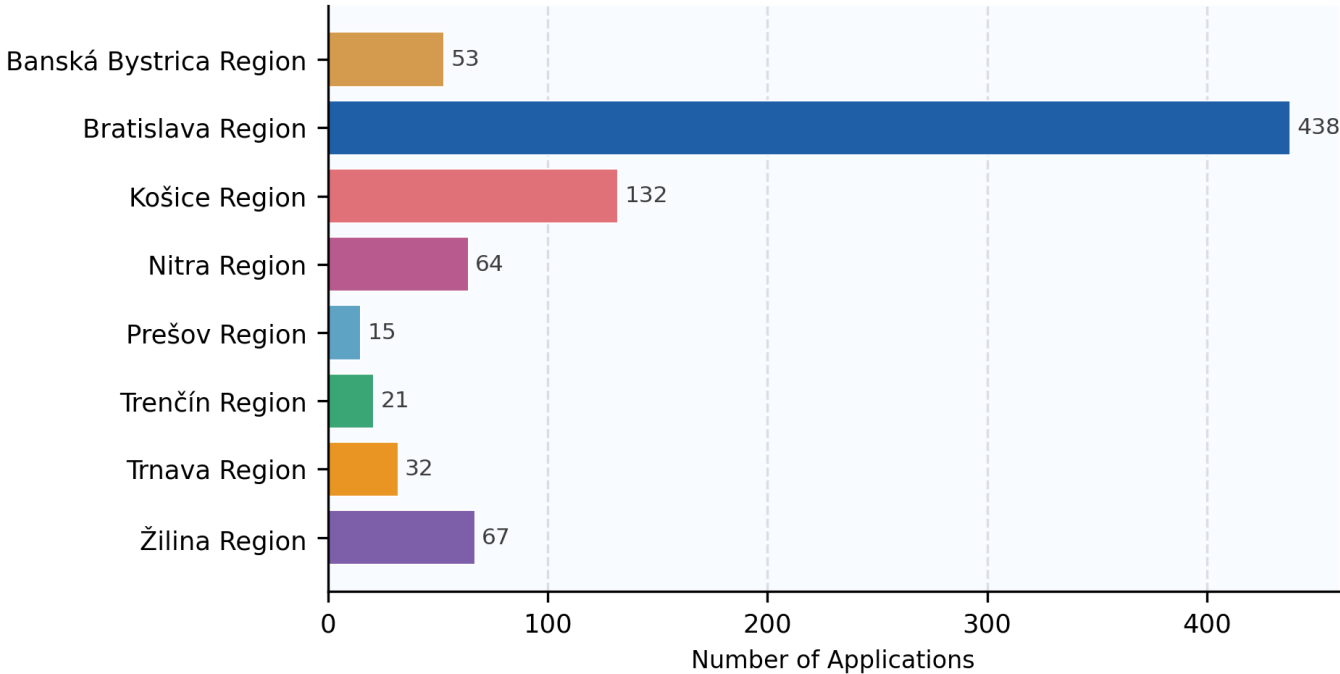
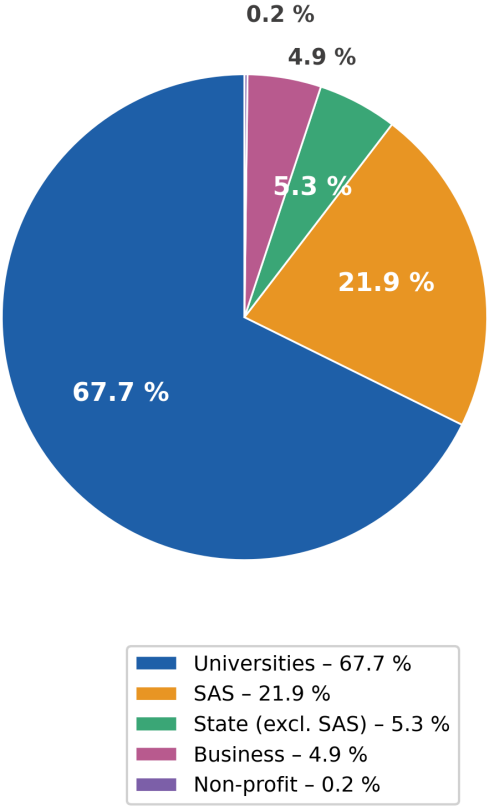


Fig. 7 Share of Funding Requested by Applications Submitted under Call GC 2025 by Sector



3.1.2 International Cooperation

In 2025, 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)

Research bilateral call projects are joint research and development projects supporting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and a partner country. Projects may take the form of basic research, applied research, or development activities. In 2025, the bilateral research call SK-CZ RD 2025 was planned; however, due to changes in the political situation in the Czech Republic,

the call was suspended. The call was intended to focus on the following priorities:

- Information and Communication Technologies
- Biomedicine and Medical Biotechnology
- Materials Research and Nanotechnology

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

- to contribute to scientific development in the aforementioned countries by financing the mobility of researchers within joint research projects
- to contribute to the development of research capacity in the given region
- to support the development of cross-border research cooperation
- to provide young researchers from the aforementioned countries with opportunities to collaborate in an international environment and develop their scientific careers
- to enable joint participation in European research projects.

Tab. 4 New Bilateral Calls in 2025

Call	Partner Country	Allocation (€)
SK-BG 2025	Republic of Bulgaria	72 000
SK-MNE 2025	Montenegro (for the first time)	80 000
SK-PL 2025	Republic of Poland	81 000
SK-SRB 2025	Republic of Serbia	96 000
SK-UA 2025	Ukraine	150 000

New Bilateral Cooperation Calls in 2025

In 2025, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-BG 2025 with the Republic of Bulgaria, with an allocated amount of €72,000 designated for the entire duration of the supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of €7,200 for the entire project duration. Projects will be implemented in the period 2026–2028, with a start date of 1 August 2026. A total of 35 applications were submitted under the call.

A new feature in 2025 was the first-ever call launched within the framework of bilateral cooperation with Montenegro, designated SK-MNE 2025, with an allocated amount of €80,000 for the entire duration of the supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of €8,000 for the entire project duration and a maximum of €4,000 per calendar year of the project. Projects will be implemented in the period 2026–2027, with a start date of 1 January 2026. A total of 25 applications were submitted under the call.

In 2025, the Agency also launched the bilateral call SK-PL 2025 with the Republic of Poland, with an allocated amount of €81,000 designated for the entire duration of the supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to

a maximum of €4,800 for the entire project duration and a maximum of €2,400 per calendar year of the project. Projects will be implemented in the period 2026–2027, with a start date of 1 January 2026. A total of 119 applications were submitted under the call.

In 2025, the Agency also launched the bilateral call SK-SRB 2025 with the Republic of Serbia, with an allocated amount of €96,000 designated for the entire duration of the supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of €4,700 for the entire project duration and a maximum of €2,350 per calendar year of the project. Projects will be implemented in the period 2026–2027, with a start date of 16 March 2026. A total of 77 applications were submitted under the call.

In 2025, the Agency also launched the bilateral call SK-UA 2025 with Ukraine, with an allocated amount of €150,000 designated for the entire duration of the supported projects. The total amount of funding provided by the Agency for a single project was limited to a maximum of €10,000 for the entire project duration. Projects will be implemented in the period 2026–2028, with a start date of 1 July 2026. A total of 89 applications were submitted under the call.

3.2 General Call GC 2024

This activity of the Agency was related to the evaluation of applications submitted under the General Call **GC 2024**, which was launched in 2024. Funding for the selected successful projects started in 2025, with a maximum duration of the projects until 2029.

Characteristics of GC 2024

The General Call GC 2024 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 2024:

- Application submission period: **23 October 2024 – 7 February 2025**

Basic Information on Registered Applications:

- Total number of applications received: **655**
- of which applications for basic research projects: **461**
- of which applications for applied research projects: **186**
- of which applications for development projects: **8**
- amount of financial resources requested: **179 911 000 €**
- applicants' financial contribution: **4 951 000 €**
- total volume of financial resources: **184 862 000 €**

Basic Information on the Evaluation Process:

- deadline for completion of application evaluation: **July 2025**
- total number of applications: **670**
- number of eliminated applications (technical and formal check): **25**
- number of applications withdrawn by applicants: **15**
- number of applications subject to expert evaluation: **630**
- number of applications awarded financial support: **171**
- of which applications for basic research projects: **122**
- of which applications for applied research projects: **47**
- of which applications for development projects: **2**
- average success rate of submitted applications: **25.52%**
- total approved financial support: **45 290 000 €**
- financial support provided in 2025: **5 028 000 €**

A total of 655 applications for R&D; project funding were submitted under GC 2024. After technical and formal review, 25 applications were eliminated. 630 applications proceeded to expert evaluation, which resulted in a recommendation to fund 171 projects. The SRDA allocated **€45 000 000**, with an additional €290 000 designated for science and research outreach within GC 2024.

Tab. 5 Number of Funded Applications by Type of Research

Type of Research	No. of Projects	Approved Financial Support (€)
Basic Research	122	31 369 476
Applied Research	47	13 342 007
Development	2	578 513
Total	171	45 289 996

Fig. 8 Share of Funding Provided by Type of Research / Percentage Share of Projects by Type of Research

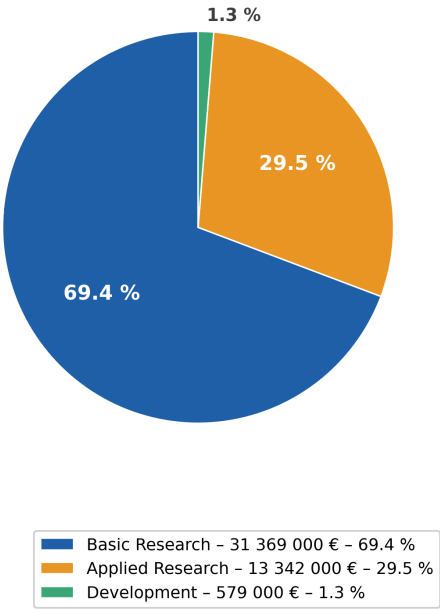


Fig. 9 Distribution of Funding Provided to Projects under Call GC 2024 by Scientific Discipline and Type of Research

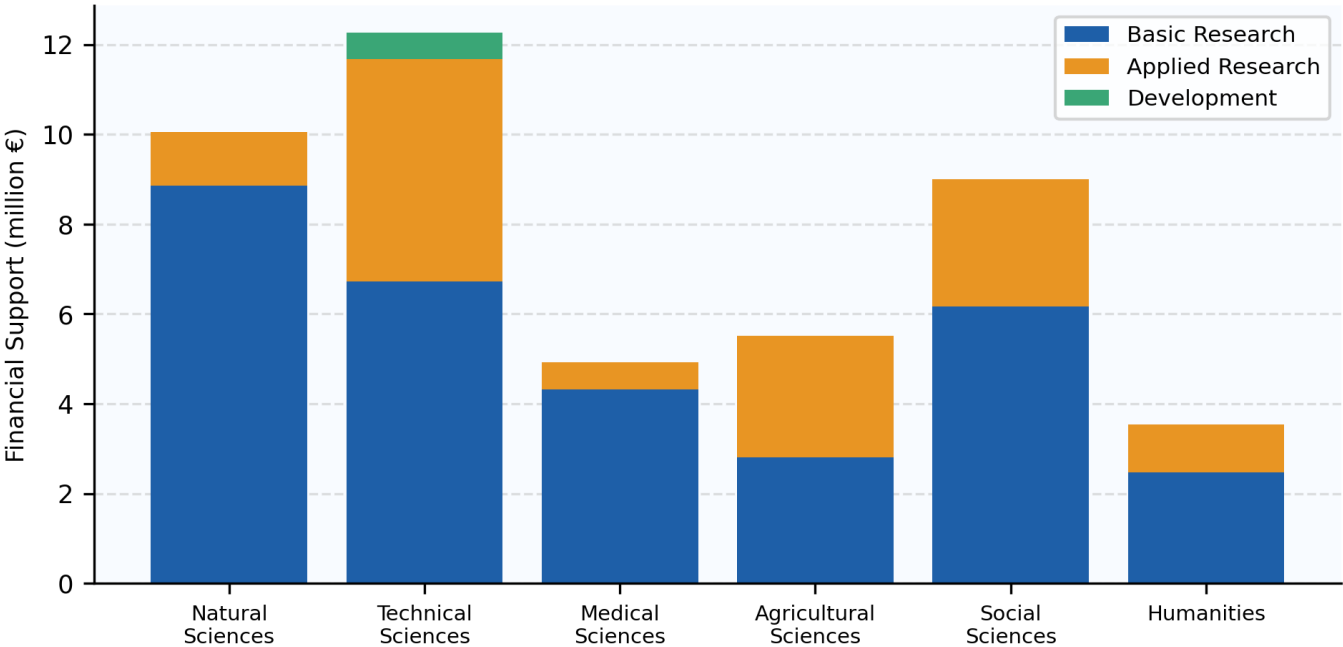


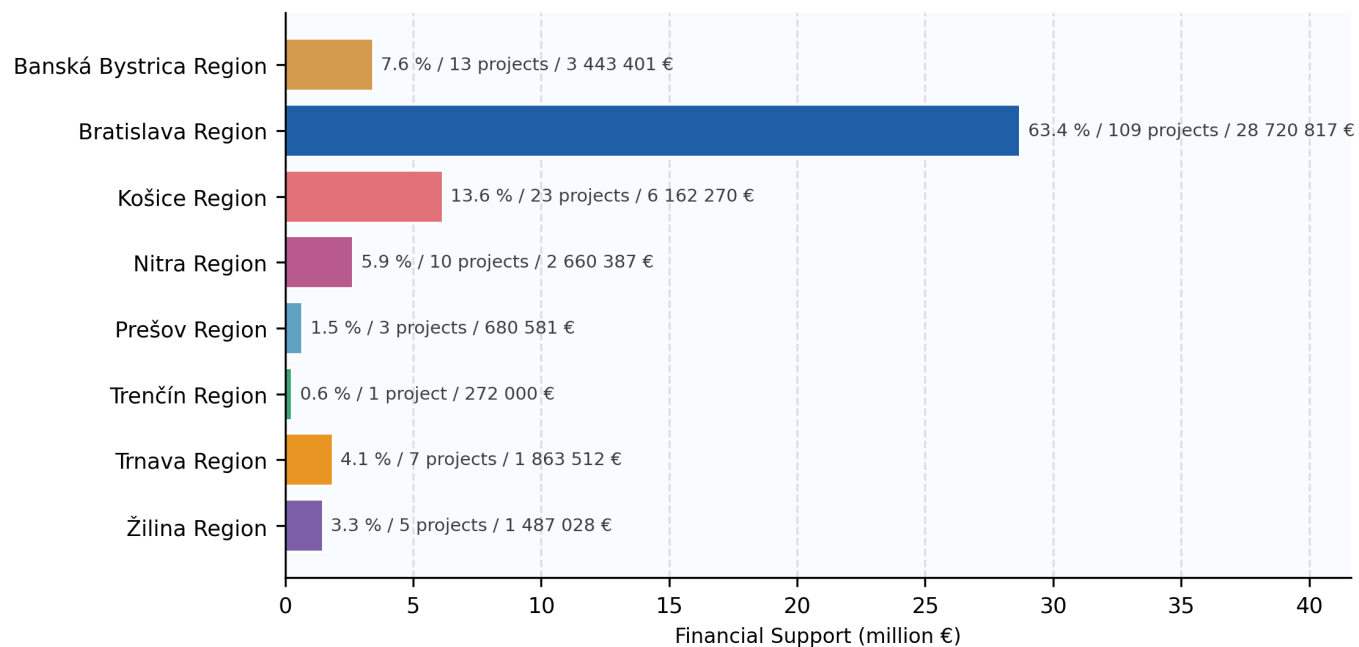
Fig. 10 Distribution of Funding Support by Region under Call GC 2024

Fig. 11 Share of Funding Provided by Sector under Call GC 2024

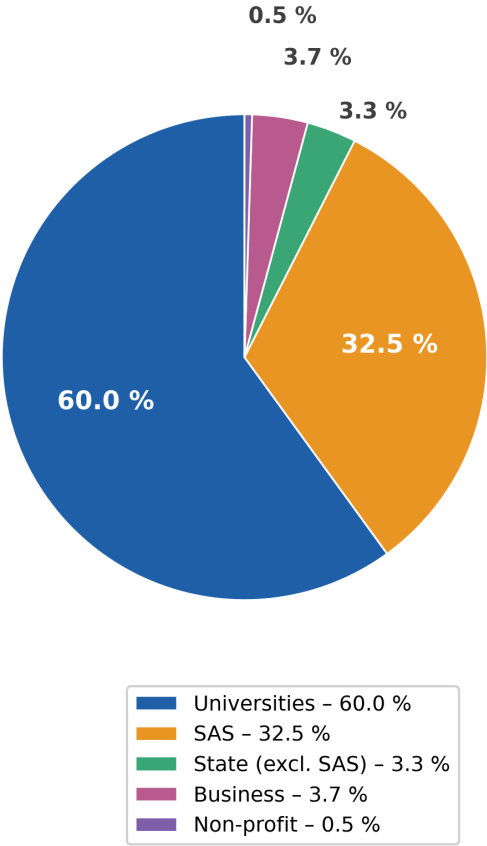


Fig. 12 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Groups of Scientific Disciplines under Call GC 2024

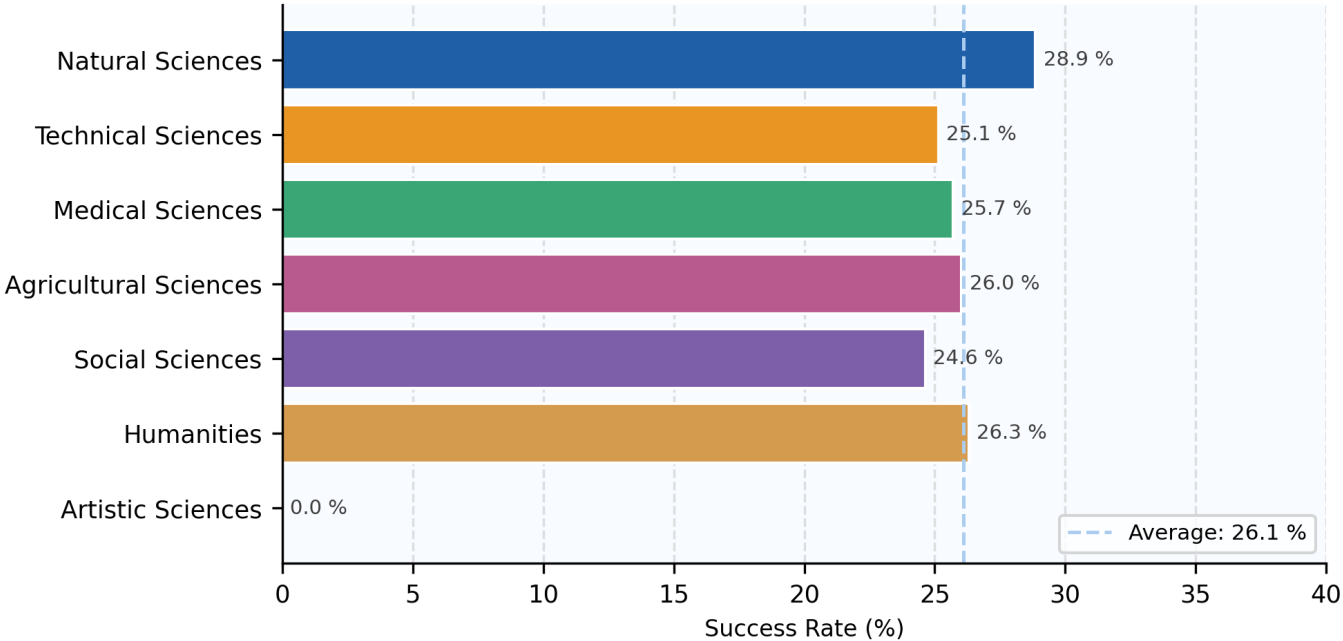


Fig. 13 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Type of Research / Number of GC 2024 Applications by Type of Research

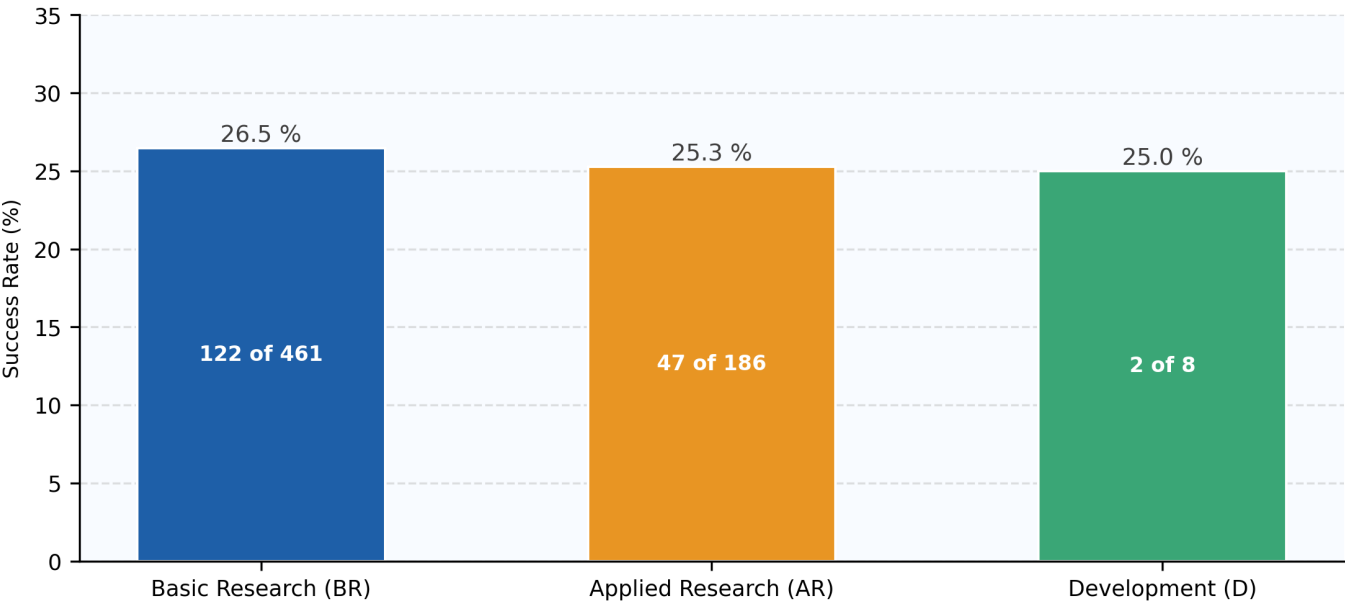
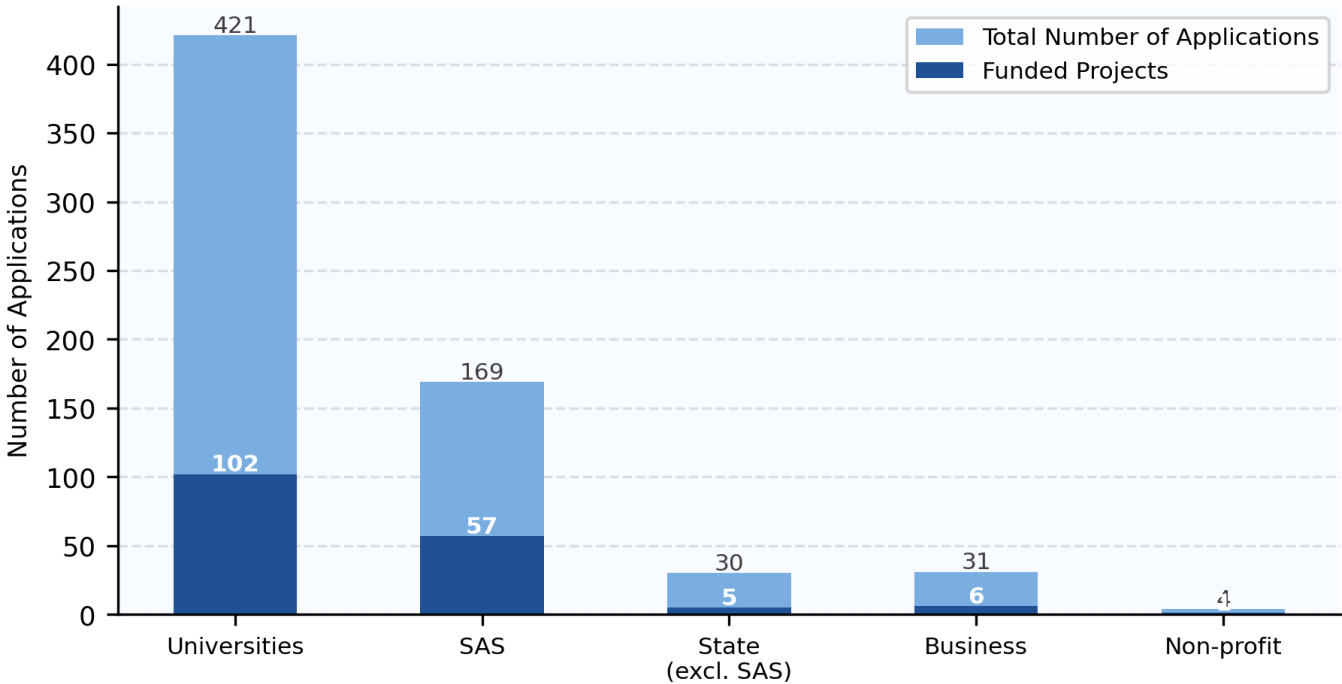


Fig. 14 Number of Applications under Call GC 2024 by Sector



3.3 GC MVP 2024

Characteristics of GC MVP 2024

The **GC MVP 2024** General Call was aimed at supporting young researchers. The primary objective of the Agency under this call was to increase support for research and development projects carried out by young researchers through a competitive selection process among all applicants. The call imposed no restrictions regarding the thematic focus of projects. The specific focus, objectives, and substantive content of the research and development activities were determined by the applicants themselves. Applications could be submitted by legal entities and natural persons—entrepreneurs without any restrictions concerning their affiliation to a particular R&D; sector.

Basic Information on GC MVP 2024:

- Application submission period: **18 March 2024 – 31 July 2024**

Basic Information on Registered Applications:

- Total number of applications received: **472**
- of which applications for basic research projects: **366**
- of which applications for applied research projects: **104**
- of which applications for development projects: **2**
- amount of financial resources requested: **107 172 000 €**
- applicants' financial contribution: **1 613 000 €**
- total volume of financial resources: **108 785 000 €**

Basic Information on the Evaluation Process:

- deadline for completion of application evaluation: **February 2025**
- total number of applications: **490**
- number of eliminated applications (technical and formal check): **30**
- number of applications withdrawn by applicants: **18**
- number of applications subject to expert evaluation: **442**
- number of applications awarded financial support: **47**
- of which applications for basic research projects: **42**
- of which applications for applied research projects: **5**
- of which applications for development projects: **0**
- average success rate of submitted applications: **9.59%**
- total approved financial support: **9 667 000 €**
- financial support provided in 2024: **2 428 000 €**

A total of 490 applications for R&D; project funding were submitted under GC MVP 2024. After technical and formal review, 30 applications were eliminated. 442 applications proceeded to expert evaluation, which resulted in a recommendation to fund 47 projects. The SRDA allocated **€10 million** within GC MVP 2024.

The project implementation period commenced on 1 March 2025. The latest possible project completion date is 31 December 2028.

Tab. 6 Number of Funded Applications by Type of Research

Type of Research	No. of Projects	Approved Financial Support (€)
Basic Research	42	8 892 009
Applied Research	5	1 074 640
Development	0	0
Total	47	9 966 649

Fig. 15 Share of Funding Provided by Type of Research / Percentage Share of Projects by Type of Research

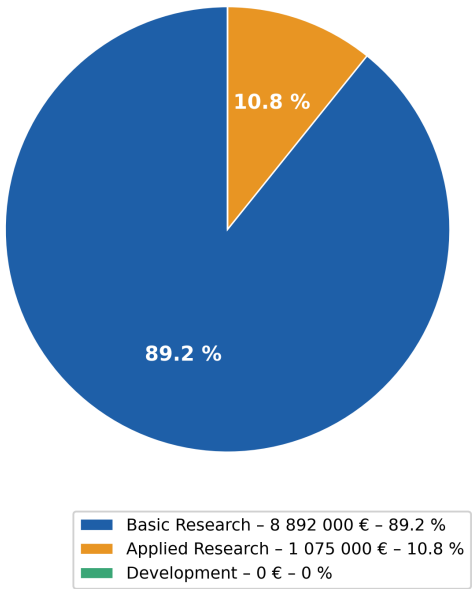


Fig. 16 Distribution of Funding Provided to Projects under Call GC MVP 2024 by Scientific Discipline and Type of Research

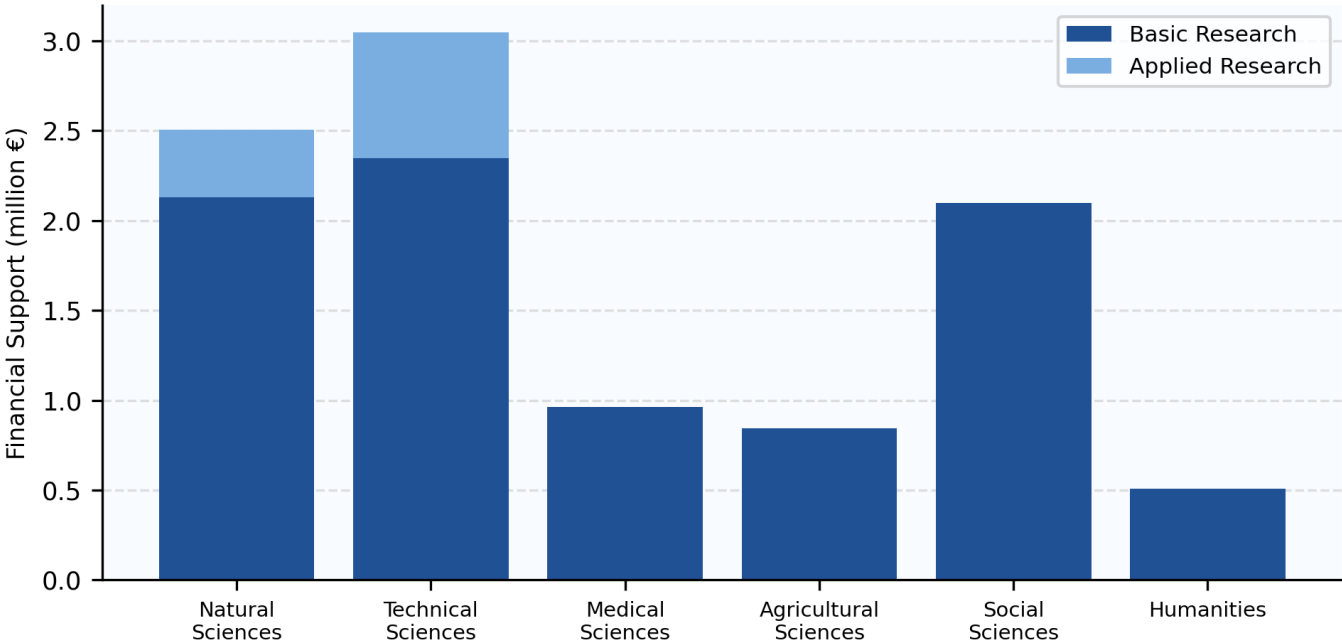


Fig. 17 Distribution of Funding Support by Region under Call GC MVP 2024

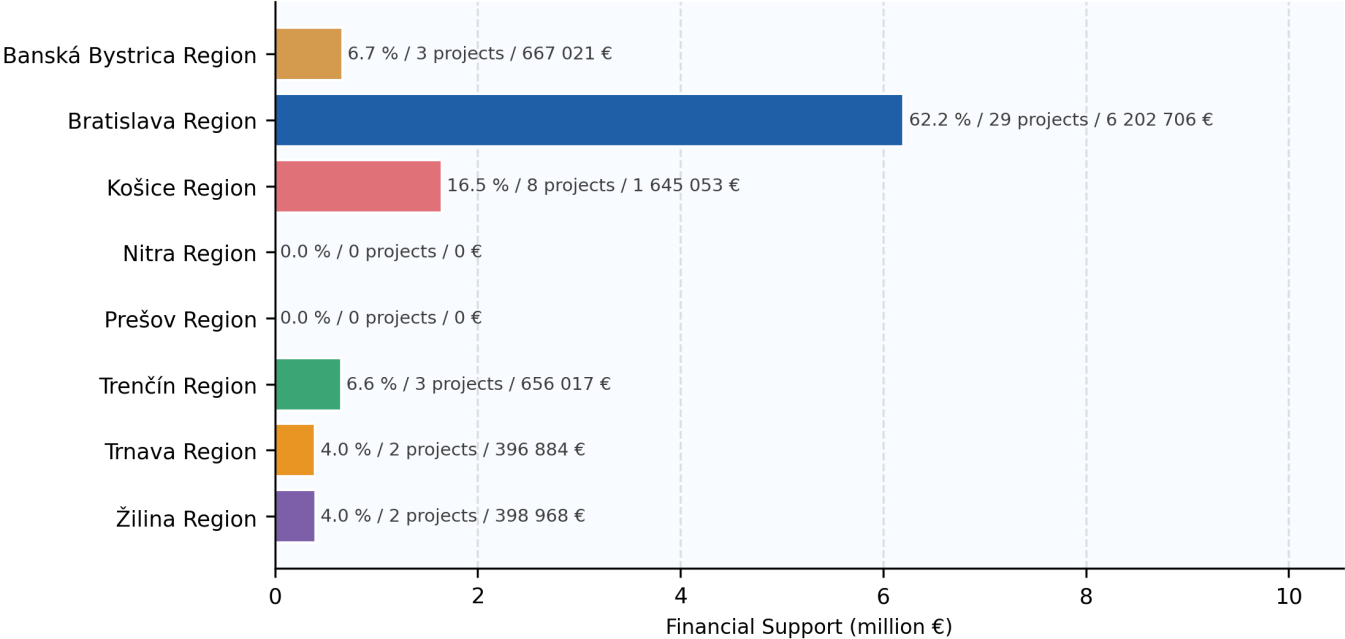


Fig. 18 Share of Funding Provided by Sector under Call GC MVP 2024

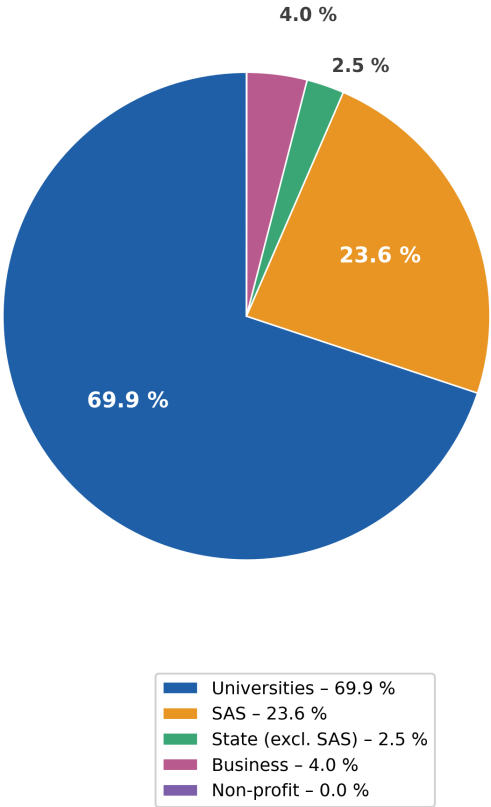


Fig. 19 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Groups of Scientific Disciplines under Call GC MVP 2024

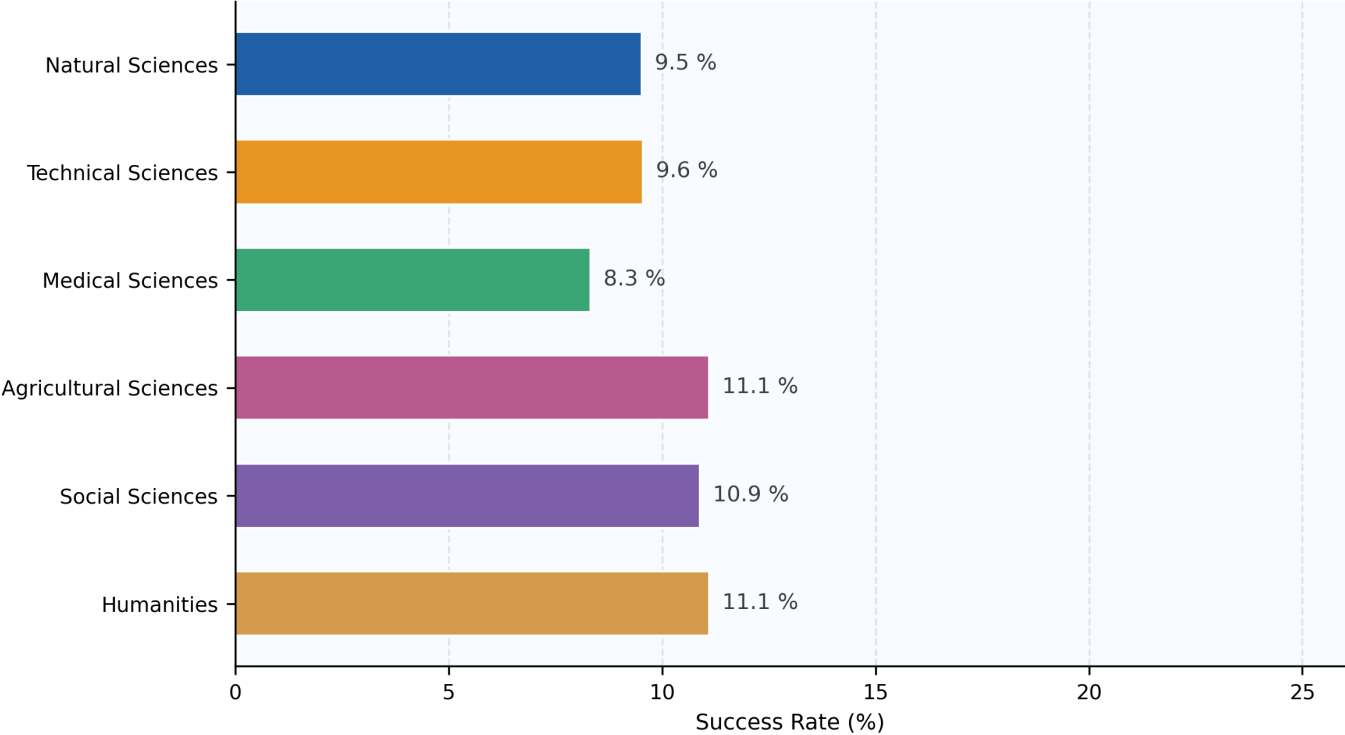


Fig. 20 Success Rate of Submitted Applications by Type of Research / Number of GC MVP 2024 Applications by Type of Research

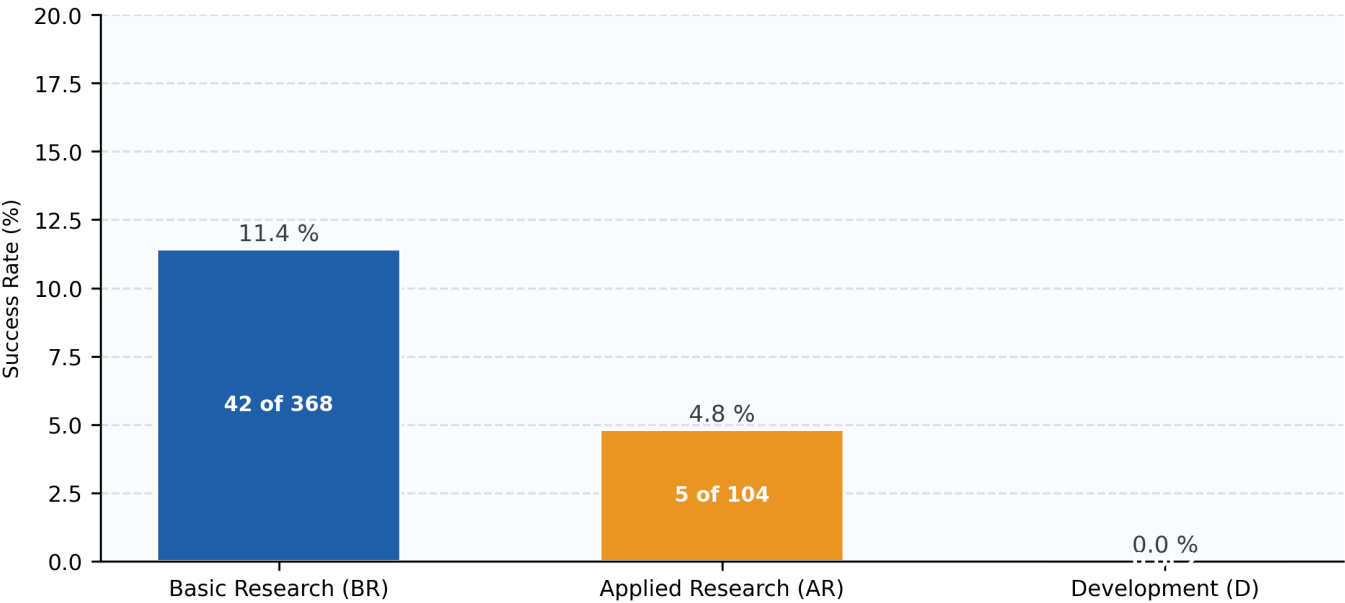
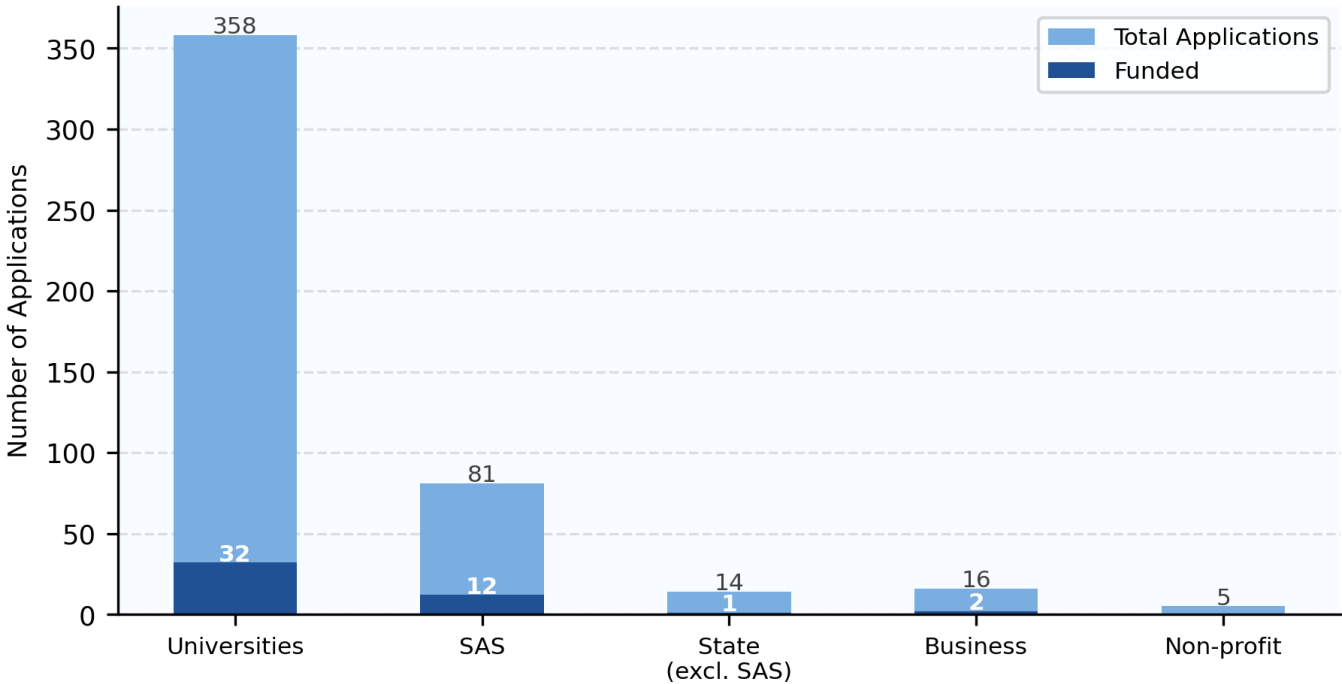


Fig. 21 Number of Applications under Call GC MVP 2024 by Sector



3.4 Funding of Ongoing Projects

Funding of ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding and implementation had started in previous years and continued in 2025, 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.

Between March and May 2025, projects approved by SRDA councils for continuation were allocated funding based on their approved budgets. Between May and August 2025, 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	No. of Projects	Start of Funding
GC 2020	182	2021
GC 2021	150 000	2022
GC 2022	152	2023
GC 2023	222	2024

Tab. 8 Funding Provided in 2025 for Ongoing Projects under General Calls

Call	No.	Current Expenditure (€)	Capital Expenditure (€)	Total (€)
GC 2020	128	3 386 409	0	3 386 409
GC 2021	144	7 173 249	0	7 173 249
GC 2022	151	8 806 098	0	8 806 098
GC 2023	222	0 *	0	0 *
Total	645	19 365 756	0	19 365 756

* GC 2023 – pre-financing provided in 2024.

Information on Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Projects

Submitted in 2021 – continuation of funding in 2025

In 2025, the Agency continued funding joint bilateral research and development projects supporting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic under call SK-CZ RD 2021. The total amount of financial resources provided in 2025 for 13 bilateral research projects under call SK-CZ-RD 2021 was €241,275.

Submitted in 2022 – continuation of funding in 2025

In 2022, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-FR 2022. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with the French Republic. The total amount of financial resources provided for 11 bilateral projects under call SK-FR 2022 in 2025 was €14,165. A total of 12 projects were supported under the call, but one project completed its implementation period early and was not funded in 2025.

In the same year, the Agency launched the multilateral call DS-FR 2022. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; 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 financial resources provided in 2025 for 15 multilateral projects under call DS-FR 2022 was €38,174.

Submitted in 2023 – funded in 2025

In 2025, the Agency continued funding joint bilateral projects and research bilateral projects.

In 2023, the Agency launched a joint research bilateral call to support R&D; projects promoting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the State of Israel, designated SK-IL-RD 2023. The total amount of financial resources provided for 2 bilateral research projects under call SK-IL RD 2023 was €77,868.

In 2023, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-PL 2023. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with Poland. The total amount of financial resources provided for 21 bilateral projects under call SK-PL 2023 was €49,836.

In 2023, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-SRB 2023. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with Serbia. The total amount of financial resources provided for 20 bilateral projects under call SK-SRB 2023 was €46,486.

In 2023, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-CN 2023. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with the People's Republic of China. The total amount of financial resources provided for 13 bilateral projects under call SK-CN 2023 was €92,142.

Another call launched by the Agency in 2023 was the bilateral call SK-AT 2023. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with Austria. The total amount of financial resources provided for 14 bilateral projects under call SK-AT 2023 was €53,110.

The last call launched by the Agency in 2023 was the bilateral call SK-BG 2023. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with Bulgaria. The total amount of financial resources provided for 10 bilateral projects under call SK-BG 2023 was €34,329.

Submitted in 2024 – funded in 2025

In 2024, the Agency launched a joint research bilateral call to support R&D; projects promoting cooperation between organisations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of China (Taiwan), designated SK-TW RD 2024. The total amount of financial resources provided in 2025 for 3 bilateral projects under call SK-TW RD 2024 was €56,491.

In 2024, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-TW 2024. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with the Republic of China (Taiwan). The total amount of financial resources provided for 4 bilateral projects under call SK-TW 2024 was €19,000.

In 2024, the Agency launched the bilateral call SK-FR 2024. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with the French Republic. The total amount of financial resources provided for 14 bilateral projects under call SK-FR 2024 was €14,575.

Another call launched by the Agency in 2024 was the bilateral call SK-HU 2024. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with Hungary. The total amount of financial resources provided for 15 bilateral projects under call SK-HU 2024 was €20,326.

In the same year, the Agency launched the multilateral call DS-FR 2024. Projects were submitted within the framework of international S&T; cooperation with the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Serbia, and the French Republic. The amount of financial resources provided in 2025 for 18 multilateral projects under call DS-FR 2024 was €49,572.

3.5 Projects Completed in 2025

General Call Projects

In 2025, the Agency conducted final evaluations of **143 projects** that had reached the end of their implementation period by 30 October 2025. The subject-specific councils evaluated the results according to pre-defined criteria and officially closed the completed projects.

In 2025, the Councils evaluated 110 projects under call GC 2020. Of these, 55 projects were assessed as excel-

lent and 55 projects were assessed as good. No projects were rated as insufficient under this call. In addition, 32 projects under call GC 2021 were evaluated in 2025, of which 12 projects were assessed as excellent and 20 projects were assessed as good. One project under GC 2022 was also evaluated and was assessed as good.

Bilateral Cooperation Projects

In 2025, the Discipline Councils carried out the final evaluation of a total of **39 projects** whose implementation period ended during 2025, specifically on 30 June 2025. The Discipline Councils evaluated the project results according to pre-established criteria and formally closed the completed projects.

The Council for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ISTC) evaluated projects under the following calls: SK-CZ RD 2021, SK-FR 2022, and DS-FR 2022.

Under the SK-CZ RD 2021 call, 7 projects were evaluated as excellent and 6 projects as good, for a total of 13 projects.

Under the SK-FR 2022 call, 3 projects were evaluated as excellent, 7 projects as good, and 1 project as insufficient, for a total of 11 projects.

Under the DS-FR 2022 call, 7 projects were evaluated as excellent and 8 projects as good, for a total of 15 projects.

3.6 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 under call SK-IL-RD-2018 and three projects under call SK-CN-RD-2018 submitted their third monitoring reports for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 during the first quarter of 2025. Four funded projects under call SK-BY-RD-2019, whose project

implementation period ended on 31 July 2022, submitted their third monitoring reports by 31 March 2025. Under the PP-COVID 2020 call, with project implementation periods ending by 31 December 2021, the third (final) monitoring reports for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 were submitted by 31 March 2025.

At the same time, monitoring of projects funded under the general calls was carried out. In 2025, monitoring reports for the year 2024 were submitted by 30 March 2025 for projects under calls GC 2016, GC 2017, GC 2018, GC 2019, and 9 projects under GC 2020.

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 Popularization of Science
- Category 5 Other Results
- Category 6 Added Value of the Research and Development Project

Tab. 9 Projects Monitored after Completion of Implementation

Call	Year Completed	Projects Monitored
GC 2016	2021	105
GC 2017	2022	148
GC 2018	2023	151
GC 2019	2024	38
GC 2020	2025	9
Total	–	451

Tab. 10 Benefits and Outputs of Completed Projects

Call	CC publications	SCI citations	Applied projects	Applied outputs
GC 2016	31	2 026	8	14
GC 2017	36	3 473	10	25
GC 2018	61	3 136	17	32
GC 2019	77	1 648	30	75
GC 2020	109	2 262	44	131
Total	314	12 545	109	277

04

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 2025, 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 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

Tab. 11 Evaluation of State Aid

Scheme No.	Scheme Name	Aid (million €)	No. of Recipients
SA.58654	Scheme as amended by Addenda No. 1 and 2	0,20	5
SA.104223	Scheme as amended by Addendum No. 3	0,28	6
SA.109803	Scheme as amended by Addendum No. 4	0,98	24
Total		1,46	35*

* Individual entities may appear in more than one scheme.

In 2025, State aid was provided under the State Aid Scheme to **35 entities** within **41 projects**. The total amount of aid provided was **€1.46 million**. Individual entities received funding for multiple projects under three State Aid Schemes: SA.104223, SA.58654, and SA.109803.

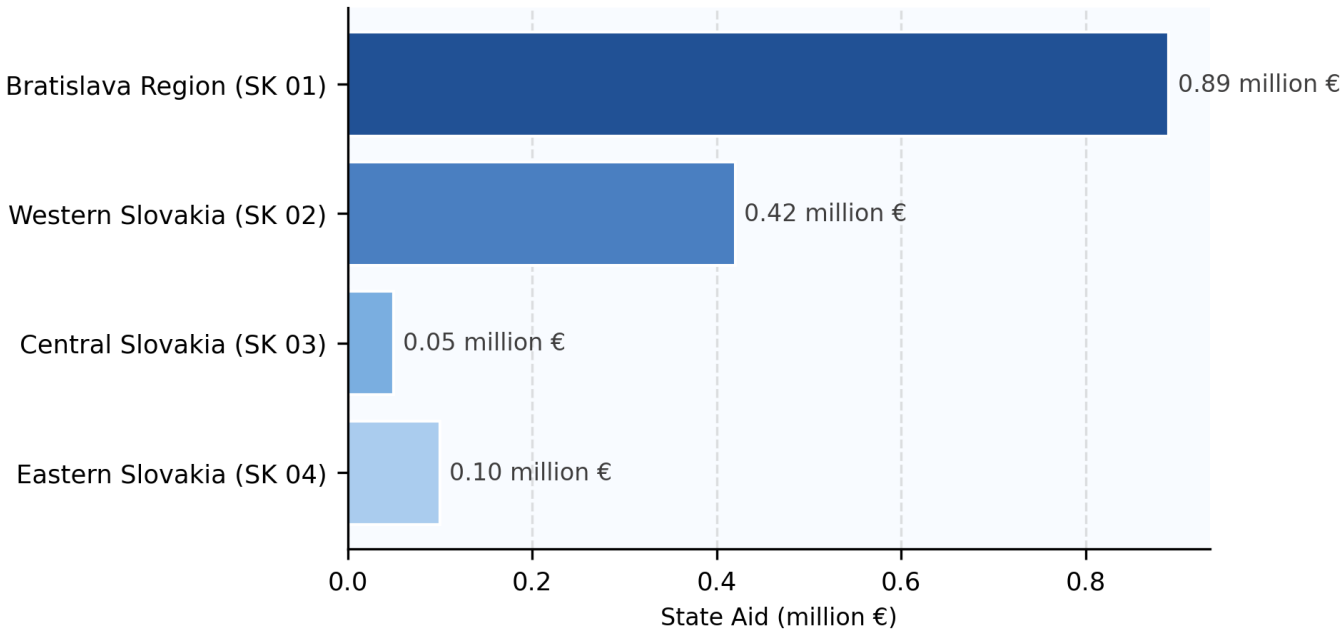
Compared to 2024, when SRDA provided State aid totaling €1.47 million, there was a decrease of €0.01 million in 2025, i.e. by 0.68%. The reason for the decrease in 2025

was a lower share of funded projects from the business sector.

The percentage share of State aid provided under the State Aid Schemes represents 100% of the total State aid provided by SRDA.

The total share of State aid provided to SMEs in 2025 was **90.73%** of the total State aid provided by SRDA.

Fig. 22 Distribution of Total State Aid Provided by SRDA at the NUTS II Level



Tab. 12 Regional Distribution of State Aid

Region	Amount (€)
Bratislava Region	890 420
Trnava Region	324 037
Trenčín Region	0
Nitra Region	96 429
Žilina Region	16 322
Banská Bystrica Region	30 770
Prešov Region	36 433
Košice Region	63 299
Total	1 457 710

SRDA fulfilled its individual objectives and performance indicators on the basis of the approved Main Tasks Plan for 2025, which monitors the following indicators jointly across projects supported by SRDA under schemes SA.58654, SA.104223, and SA.109803:

- Number of basic research projects with results published in international journals indexed in Current Contents
- Number of new SCI citations of scientific publications resulting from basic research projects
- Number of projects with applied outputs implemented in practice
- Number of applied outputs implemented in practice

- Number of projects focused on cooperation between the public sector, public higher education institutions, and the business sector
- Number of projects co-financed from other sources

The effectiveness of state aid provided in 2025 will be evaluated based on the number of planned and achieved outputs (performance indicators) within Subprogramme 06K11 – Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency. SRDA annually monitors the outputs and benefits of project implementation through annual reports, final reports, eventually monitoring reports submitted both during project implementation and after project completion.

Tab. 13 Effectiveness of State Aid

Indicator / Year	P/A	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of international S&T; cooperation projects supported by the Agency	Plan	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Actual	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of projects supported by the Agency co-financed from other sources (e.g. private and foreign)	Plan	50	35	35	35	30	30
	Actual	35	32	30	31	29	41
No. of projects supported by the Agency with applied outputs in practice	Plan	20	20	20	20	20	10
	Actual	29	28	17	21	15	8
No. of applied outputs in practice from projects supported by the Agency	Plan	65	50	50	70	90	50
	Actual	64	99	54	103	51	27
No. of basic research projects supported by the Agency with results published in international CC journals	Plan	1	1	1	0	1	1
	Actual	1	1	0	1	2	1
No. of new SCI citations of scientific publications from basic research projects funded by the Agency	Plan	2	20	20	0	0	0
	Actual	24	19	2	0	0	0
No. of projects supported by the Agency focused on transfer of R&D; results	Plan	40	40	40	40	35	35
	Actual	39	38	34	34	28	36

4.2 Future Developments in the Area of State Aid

In the forthcoming period, the Agency will continue to provide state aid for new projects under the Research and Development Support Scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (State Aid Scheme), as amended by Amendment No. 4 (SA.109803), which remains valid until 31 December 2026. Aid provided for projects that do not fall within the approved state aid scheme will be

granted in accordance with the rules on ad hoc de minimis aid.

The Agency has begun preparing a new State Aid Scheme, as the current State Aid Scheme, as amended by Addendum No. 4 (SA.109803), is valid until 31 December 2026.

05

SRDA Budget

To fulfil the tasks mandated by Act No. 172/2005 Coll., the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic approved a total budget of **€41 632 084** for 2025 through binding expenditure indicators, covering both the Agency's operational expenses and project-based funding, i.e. support for research and development.

Under Subprogramme 06K11, the budget approved as of 1 January 2025 allocated **€1 759 553** for the Agency's operations and **€39 872 531** for project-based R&D; funding.

Over the course of the year, the Agency's budget was revised through ten budgetary adjustments by the Ministry

of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic. Their purpose was to ensure the financing of research and development projects as well as the operation of the Agency within the scope of its activities, due to the reclassification of current expenditures as capital expenditures, the reclassification of current expenditures for salaries and social contributions, the release of earmarked current expenditures from 2023 into 2024, and the increase in current expenditures for GC projects within the National Strategy. A breakdown of the approved budget, the revised budget, and the budget utilisation as of 31 December 2025 is presented in Tab. 14.

Tab. 14 Budgeted Financial Resources and Actual Expenditure in 2025 (€)

Items	Approved 1 Jan 2025 (€)	Revised 31 Dec 2025 (€)	Utilised 31 Dec 2025 (€)	% Util.
SRDA Operations	1 759 553	2 236 605	2 234 594	99.91%
– current	1 759 553	2 236 605	2 234 594	99.91%
– capital	0	0	0	–
R&D; Support	39 872 531	29 486 267	28 766 437	97.56%
– current	39 872 531	29 401 397	28 681 567	97.55%
– capital	0	84 870	84 870	100.00%
SRDA Total	41 632 084	31 722 872	31 001 031	97.73%

Fig. 23 Development of the SRDA Approved Budget under the State Budget Act (million €)**Tab. 15 Overview of Supported Projects by Individual Calls/Programmes and the Amount of Funding Provided in 2025**

Call / Programme	Current Expenditure (€)	Capital Expenditure (€)	Total (€)
General Call – GC 2020	3 386 409	0	3 386 409
General Call – GC 2021	7 173 249	0	7 173 249
General Call – GC 2022	8 806 098	0	8 806 098
General Call – GC 2024	5 028 165	0	5 028 165
General Call – MVP 2024	2 428 401	0	2 428 401
Bilateral Projects	719 603	0	719 603
Danube Strategy 2022 – DS-FR	38 174	0	38 174
Danube Strategy 2024 – DS-FR	49 572	0	49 572
Total	27 629 671	0	27 629 671

Tab. 16 Structure of Funding Provided for Supported Projects in 2025 by Type of Management Form/Sector

Type of Organisation	Current Expenditure (€)	Capital Expenditure (€)	Total (€)
State Organisations – Contributory Organisations	1 036 860	0	1 036 860
Public Higher Education Institutions	17 512 827	0	17 512 827
Public Research Institutions	8 024 309	0	8 024 309
Non-profit Organisations, Civic Associations, Foundations	48 711	0	48 711
Legal Entities (Ltd., joint-stock company)	927 444	0	927 444
Private Higher Education Institutions	79 520	0	79 520
Total	27 629 671	0	27 629 671

As follows from the overview of the structure of beneficiaries of research and development support, the largest share of funding was provided to public higher education

institutions, followed by public research institutions and contributory organisations.

06

Human Resources

6.1 SRDA Office

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 2025, the average recorded number of employees was 42.

The average full-time equivalent (FTE) number of employees for 2025 was 40.2.

The total headcount as of 31 December 2025 was 41.

In 2025, the Agency's personnel consisted of core staff and 153 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 and bilateral cooperation projects.

The average age of SRDA employees in 2025 was **44 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. 17 Number of Employees by Organisational Structure

Organisational Unit	1 Jan 2025	31 Dec 2025
Director's Office	9	9
Control Department	3	3
Human Resources and Payroll Department	2	2
Department of Projects	12	13
Department of Finance and Internal Operations	8	8
Department of International Cooperation and State Aid	6	6
Total	40	41

Tab. 18 Qualification Structure as of 31 December 2025

Education Level	No.	of which women
Secondary education	7	5
Higher education – 1st degree	1	1
Higher education – 2nd degree	29	20
Higher education – 3rd degree	4	3
Total	41	29

6.2 SRDA Social Policy

SRDA has concluded employer agreements with the following supplementary pension companies: NN Tatry Sympatia, UNIQA, STABILITA, and DDS Tatra Banka. As of 31 December 2025, **87.80%** of SRDA employees were

enrolled in the supplementary pension savings scheme.

In 2025, 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 le-

gal regulations relevant to SRDA's activities, and the use of online information and communication technologies in public administration (e-Government).

The group of professional training activities focused on legislative changes in the areas of social and health insurance, human resources, payroll administration, taxation, as well as on asset registration and accounting in a budgetary organisation.

In connection with SRDA's transition to the **Central Economic System** as of 1 January 2025, employee training was conducted in the individual modules of the Central Economic System through online training sessions, consultations, and methodological and process-oriented workshops.

In 2025, SRDA also provided training for employees serving on the first aid team in the area of pre-medical first aid. To improve employees' communication skills in foreign languages, SRDA organised online language courses during 2025.

07

Audit Activities

7.1 External Audit Activities

In 2025, the SRDA carried out on-site financial controls in accordance with Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and on amendments and supplements to certain acts.

On-site financial controls were carried out in accordance with the applicable legislation with the objective of verifying compliance with the principles of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and purposefulness in the management of public finances, as well as compliance with the binding conditions governing the use of public funds during the implementation of projects supported by the Agency.

In accordance with the approved Plan of Control Activities for 2025 – On-site Financial Control, which was amended during 2025 by Amendments No. 1 and No. 2, a total of **24 on-site financial controls** were planned and subsequently carried out during the reporting year 2025. An overview of the completed on-site financial controls is presented in Table 19.

Number of planned controls: **24**. Number of completed controls: **24**. Controls completed by 31 December 2025: **24**. Controls identifying breaches of financial discipline: **15**.

Tab. 19 On-site Financial Controls Conducted by SRDA Employees in 2025

Recipient of Public Funds	Amount Audited (€)
Institute of Materials Research, SAS (SK-UA-21-0074)	13 800
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University – Technology Innovation Park (SK-FR-22-0016)	3 500
Institute for Sociology, SAS (APVV-21-0394)	228 884
Welding Research Institute (SK-CN-21-0031)	12 000
Institute of Neuroimmunology, SAS (APVV-20-0447)	249 552
Comenius University Bratislava – Science Park (PP-MSCA-2022-0001)	149 219
SELECTA BIOTECH SE (APVV-21-0220)	249 976
East Slovak Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (APVV-22-0006)	249 120
Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, SAS (APVV-19-0487)	220 000
Institute of Economic Research, SAS (APVV-21-0360)	215 303
Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín (APVV-21-0016)	129 464
Trnava University – Faculty of Theology (APVV-22-0184)	211 403
University of Economics in Bratislava – Faculty of Economics and Finance (APVV-21-0388)	200 000
Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra – Faculty of Arts (APVV-20-0414)	150 000
Comenius University Bratislava – Science Park (APVV-21-0296)	249 575
Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics, SAS (SK-CN-21-0012)	12 000
University of Žilina – Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (APVV-20-0500)	248 187
Comenius University Bratislava – Faculty of Physical Education and Sports (APVV-22-0470)	249 991
Institute of Molecular Biology, SAS (SK-CZ-RD-21-0104)	120 000
National Forest Centre (APVV-20-0118)	249 926
Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, SAS (APVV-22-0389)	175 000
Institute of Slovak Literature, SAS (SK-SRB-21-0048)	4 700
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava – Faculty of Civil Engineering (APVV-22-0564)	249 950
Slovak Institute of Metrology (APVV-21-0170)	248 459

In 2025, authorised SRDA employees verified the proper use of public funds amounting to a total of **€4,090,009.00** through on-site financial controls. Breaches of financial discipline, within the meaning of Section 31(1) of Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on the Budgetary Rules of Public Administration, were identified during 15 on-site financial

controls, involving a total amount of **€22,086.29**. In all cases, the audited entities adopted and implemented corrective measures within the deadline specified by the authorised body.

Violations of financial discipline mainly consisted of:

- unauthorised use of public funds in breach of applicable legislation, established rules, or the terms and conditions under which the funds were provided
- use of public funds in excess of the authorised limits, resulting in higher expenditures than permitted (e.g. expenses or costs not directly related to the

project's research activities)

- claiming expenses/costs in excess of actual expenditures, such as when no tax or accounting documents were submitted, or when the submitted expenses/costs were lower than those declared
- claiming expenses/costs outside the eligible accounting period

7.2 Internal Control Activities

Following the approved Control Activities Plan for 2025 – Internal Control Activities, the Control Department carried out **eleven internal controls** focused on the review of:

- internal regulations issued as of 31 December 2024, with regard to the need for their amendment, and/or repeal, or the preparation of new internal regulations
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Organisation and Management of Official Motor Vehicle Operations within SRDA
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Property Declaration of a Managerial Employee
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Preparation, Review, Conclusion, and Registration of Operational Contracts and Amendments
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Occupational Health and Safety Management System Concept at SRDA, with a focus on the occupational health and safety plan

- compliance with the internal regulation Rules of Procedure of the Agency's Committees
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive SRDA Damage Commission
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Work Rules of the Slovak Research and Development Agency
- compliance with internal procedures in accordance with the directive Rules for Business Travel and Reimbursement of Travel Expenses
- compliance with the internal regulation General Internal Procedure for the Provision of Targeted Financial Support under the Grant Schemes of the Slovak Research and Development Agency
- verification of the compliance of the public procurement procedure for the provision of the service 'Information System for Project Submission and Management' with Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended

Based on the audit findings, the audit team proposed recommendations to remedy the identified deficiencies.

Some of the audit team's recommendations were implemented already during the course of the control itself.

7.3 Control Activities Conducted by External Control Bodies

In 2025, one audit by external supervisory authorities was carried out, and/or completed at SRDA:

From 22 February 2024 to 27 February 2025, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic conducted an on-site financial control, the purpose of which was to verify compliance with the

conditions governing the provision of financial resources for projects funded under the public call for applications within the programme 'Support for Research and Development Aimed at Addressing the Coronavirus Pandemic and Its Impacts for the Period 2020–2021' (PP-COVID 2020), as well as to verify compliance with the conditions for the use and settlement of those funds.

7.4 Complaint Handling

SRDA did not register any complaints in 2025.

08

Annual SRDA Conference

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) organised its annual conference in Bratislava on **30 October 2025**, 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.

A representative of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, **Martin Šponiar**, Director of the Department for the Implementation of State Research and Development Policy, highlighted the Agency's 20 years of operation in his address and presented the Ministry's priorities. In his speech, **Robert Mistrík**, Chairman of the SRDA Presidium, reviewed the activities of the Agency's Presidium during its four-year term, particularly emphasising the significant involvement of foreign experts in the evaluation process. The Director of the Agency, **Stanislav Mydlo**, evaluated the

Agency's activities during its 20-year existence, reviewed the results of the GC 2024 and GC MVP 2024 general calls, and informed participants about the preparation of the GC 2025 general call.

During the subsequent panel discussion, the participating experts reflected on the **Agency's 20 years of operation**, shared their experiences with evaluations conducted by international expert panels, and answered questions from the audience.

Panel participants: **Dr. Ing. Robert Mistrík** – Chairman of the SRDA Presidium, **RNDr. Imrich Barák, DrSc.** – Member of the SRDA Presidium, **RNDr. Boris Klempa, DrSc.** – Chair of the Council for Natural Sciences, **Assoc. prof. Ing. Marek Živčák, PhD.** – Vice-Chair of the Council for Agricultural Sciences, **Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Peter Markovič, PhD., DBA** – Chair of the Council for Humanities, **JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo** – Director of SRDA.

Photo Gallery from the 2025 SRDA Annual Conference







09

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 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and GC 2020, 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 2025, the following calls were evaluated and funded: general calls, GC 2020, GC 2021, GC 2022, and GC 2023.

In 2025, the Agency supported **170 projects** of international scientific and technological cooperation.

During the interim evaluation, the expert bodies assessed the fulfilment of the projects' partial objectives, compliance

with the established project schedule, and the achievement of the planned outputs for the given period. During the final evaluation, they additionally assessed the overall quality of project implementation. For all completed projects under the general calls, final project summary sheets are published on the SRDA website, presenting the most significant results and outputs of each project.

Funding of New Projects

In 2025, funding was provided for calls that had been announced in 2024: the general call for young researchers **GC MVP 2024**, the general call **GC 2024**, and bilateral cooperation projects with the French Republic (SK-FR 2024), the Republic of China (Taiwan) (SK-TW 2024), and

Hungary (SK-HU 2024), as well as projects under the multilateral cooperation programme Danube Strategy – France 2024. In addition, the bilateral research call SK-TW RD 2024 was also funded.

New Calls Announced and Initial Evaluation of Submitted Projects

In 2025, the Agency launched the general call **GC 2025**. The expected date for the publication of results is August 2026.

In 2025, within the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation, the Agency also launched mobility-based bilateral calls for cooperation with Bulgaria, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Specific Tasks of the Agency Aimed at Ensuring Its Operation

As part of the fulfilment of its specific tasks, the Agency carried out the following activities in 2025, including the preparation of the following documents:

- SRDA Main Tasks Plan for 2025
- SRDA Annual Activity Report for 2024
- SRDA Annual Financial Report for 2024
- Report on State Aid Provided in 2024
- SRDA Annual Financial Statements for 2024

10

Evaluation of the Agency's Activities in 2025

The Agency's activities in 2025 were guided by the objectives of Programme **06K – National Programme for the Development of Science and Technology**, Subprogramme 06K11 – Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency, with the aim of fulfilling the fundamental objectives defined by the subprogramme and achieving the established performance indicators. The objective of the subprogramme is to build an effective system for supporting research and development through the provision of financial resources for project implementation and to enhance the competitiveness of Slovak entities within the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation.

When preparing the Agency's strategy and defining its main activities and tasks, consideration was given to the tasks arising from Government Resolutions of the Slovak Republic as well as from the objectives and priorities of the state science and technology policy. In accordance with Section 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll., the Agency fulfilled its mission by supporting projects under the grant schemes of general calls, calls within international cooperation (bilateral and multilateral projects), and SRDA programmes.

In 2025, the following public calls were open and/or launched:

- public call for applications for research and development projects in individual groups of scientific

and technological disciplines – GC 2025

- calls supporting bilateral cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements with Bulgaria, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, and Ukraine, with funding commencing in 2026

Within the framework of the GC 2025 public call, the SRDA Presidium continued the practice of conducting expert evaluations through international expert panels.

In announcing public calls in 2025, the Agency proceeded in accordance with the Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing and Evaluation of Research, Development and Innovation Support, issued by the Research and Innovation Authority in September 2023. In response to this binding methodology, the SRDA Presidium introduced adjustments primarily to the project objectives and scope, the evaluation criteria for public calls, and the project evaluation procedure itself.

As part of its activities, the Agency ensured the fulfilment of the following key tasks:

- monitoring project outputs after project completion in order to obtain relevant data on the impacts of project implementation on society and the economy
- funding ongoing projects, i.e. projects whose funding and implementation had already commenced in previous years and continued in 2025

- launching new calls and evaluating submitted applications for financial support under these calls
- funding projects whose implementation commenced in 2025

The Agency adopted several measures in the area of project financing and management with the aim of:

- increasing the objectivity and transparency of the evaluation process
- ensuring an effective system of research and development support through the provision of funding for project implementation and enhancing the success of Slovak entities within international scientific and technological cooperation
- improving the services provided by the Agency to beneficiaries and project investigators, primarily through electronic communication with applicants and

project investigators via the Central Public Administration Portal

As part of strengthening international cooperation, the Agency officially requested the initiation of the accession process to the European initiative **WEAVE** in the second half of 2025, through which it intends to participate in the launch of new bilateral and multilateral calls. According to information provided by representatives of this European initiative, the accession process is relatively time-consuming and may take several years. Therefore, the Agency will maintain ongoing communication with representatives of the WEAVE initiative in order to be able to launch new joint calls as quickly as possible should accession be approved.

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

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation	Explanation
06K11	Subprogramme of the National Programme for the Development of Science and Technology – Research and Development Tasks Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency
CC publications	Publications in Current Contents Journals
DS-FR	Danubian Region Strategy – France
GC	General Call
GC MVP	General Call Aimed at Supporting Young Researchers
IT	Information Technologies
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics used in Slovakia for the needs of the Statistical Office and Eurostat
PP MSCA PF	Support for Postdoctoral Fellowships Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Projects
SAS	Slovak Academy of Sciences
SCI citations	Citations in Foreign Publications Registered in Citation Indices
SK-AT	Slovakia – Austria Bilateral Call
SK-BY-RD	Slovakia – Belarus Research Bilateral Call
SK-CN	Slovakia – China Bilateral Call
SK-CN-RD	Slovakia – China Research Bilateral Call
SK-CZ-RD	Slovakia – Czech Republic Research Bilateral Call
SK-FR	Slovakia – France Bilateral Call
SK-IL-RD	Slovakia – Israel Research Bilateral Call
SK-PL	Slovakia – Poland Bilateral Call
SK-SRB	Slovakia – Serbia Bilateral Call
SK-TW	Slovakia – Taiwan Bilateral Call
SK-UA	Slovakia – Ukraine Bilateral Call
SRDA	Slovak Research and Development Agency
WEAVE	Weave is an initiative that simplifies funding research collaborations across European borders

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