

Effective wording of

the Charter of the Czech Science Foundation adopted by Government Resolution No. 770 of 07 August 2002, as amended by Government Resolution No. 305 of 16 March 2009, Government Resolution No. 1234 of 29 September 2009, Government Resolution No. 990 of 18 December 2013, Government Resolution No. 449 of 18 May 2016, Government Resolution No. 267 of 23 April 2018.

Article 1

The Czech Science Foundation is a structural unit of the state (Czech Republic) and an administrator of the chapter of the state budget according to Section 36 subsection 1 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on the Amendment to Some Related Acts (Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation) (hereinafter referred to as „Act“ only). The Czech Science Foundation is an independent unit of account and as such it manages the specific, targeted and institutional funds granted by the Act on the State Budget of the Czech Republic independently. The registered office of the Czech Science Foundation is Prague.

Article 2

Tasks and Activity of the Czech Science Foundation

(1) The Czech Science Foundation provides:

- a) preparation and implementation of groups of grant projects and other activities in the field of the basic research, including public tenders for research, experimental development and innovations to support the grant projects (hereinafter referred to as “Project” only);
- b) evaluation and selection of project proposals;
- c) provision of targeted support for the projects based on individual support agreements or decisions to provide a support;
- d) monitoring of performance of support agreements or decisions to provide a support and drawing of such targeted support;
- e) evaluation and monitoring of the process of solving and achieving the project aims and check of results reached thereby;
- f) drawing up of a draft expenditure plan of the Czech Science Foundation and reports of its activity;
- g) meetings and dealings with the competent bodies of the Czech Republic and/or European Union to discuss an issue of assessment of the provided support’s compatibility with the common market;
- h) cooperation with similar foreign agencies; in English the “Czech Science Foundation” name is used for this purpose.

(2) The Czech Science Foundation provides a targeted support to the projects in which aims and methods of solution in the basic research are determined by a beneficiary (Section 3 subsection 2a) of the Act) in compliance with the National Policy for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic after completing a public tender procedure in research, experimental development and innovation according to the Act for the project. The

targeted support is drawn from the expenditure bill of the Czech Science Foundation in a form of a subsidy to legal entities or natural persons or through increasing the expenditure of the structural units of the Czech Republic or territorial self-government units (Section 4 subsection 1 of the Act).

Article 3

Organizational Structure of the Czech Science Foundation

(1) Bodies of the Czech Science Foundation are President, Presidium, Scientific Advisory Board and Supervisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation.

(2) Expert advisory bodies of the Czech Science Foundation are constituted by Discipline Committees of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Discipline Committees" only) that assess and evaluate the project proposals with applications for a grant.

(3) The Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Presidium" only) may create evaluation panels (hereinafter referred to as "Panels" only) as expert authorities of the relevant Discipline Committees to enhance preparation of the assessment and evaluation of the project proposals.

Article 4

President of the Czech Science Foundation

(1) The President of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "President" only) is appointed out of the members of the Presidium and dismissed from the office by the Government of the Czech Republic on the recommendation by the Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Council (hereinafter referred to as "Council" only). The President holds his/her office in a form of employment and is employed by the Czech Science Foundation.

(2) The President represents the Czech Science Foundation and acts on behalf of the Czech Science Foundation in any relevant matters.

(3) The President establishes advisory bodies of the Czech Science Foundation, including international ones, if necessary.

(4) The President appoints a vice-president of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Vice-president" only) out of the members of the Presidium. The Vice-president represents and acts on behalf of the Czech Science Foundation within the scope determined by the President. During the President absence the Vice-president represents the President in full scope of his/her rights and obligations.

(5) Remuneration of the President is governed by the applicable legal regulations regulating the remuneration of employees in the state administration bodies, in particular by Government Regulation No. 564/2006 Coll. on the Remuneration of Public Service and Public Administration Employees, as amended.

Article 5

Presidium

(1) The Presidium is an executive body of the Czech Science Foundation; it has five members including the President. Individual members of the Presidium represent five disciplines of research as specified in Article 7 paragraph 3.

(2) Members of the Presidium are appointed and dismissed by the Government of the Czech Republic on the recommendation of the Council. Term of office for the Presidium members is four years and the particular member may be appointed for two consecutive terms maximum. The members of the Presidium hold their office on the basis of employment and they are employed by the Czech Science Foundation. The office of the Presidium member is incompatible with an activity in the Discipline Committees and Panels and neither with an office of the statutory body of a natural person who is engaged in research, development and innovation, including the statutory body of any university and neither with a Dean's office of a university faculty.

(3) Remuneration of the Presidium members is governed by the applicable legal regulations regulating the remuneration of employees in the state administration bodies, in particular by Government Regulation No. 564/2006 Coll. on the Remuneration of Public Service and Public Administration Employees, as amended.

(4) The Presidium mainly:

- a) approves calls for proposals to public tenders in the field of research, experimental development and innovation and decides on possible cancellation of a public tender;
- b) prepares a tender document to facilitate invitation of a public tender in research, experimental development and innovation;
- c) appoints a committee for receiving the project proposals and decides on acceptance or rejection of a project proposal for the public tender in research, development and innovation;
- d) decides on entering into targeted support agreements or on issue of the decision to provide a targeted support;
- e) coordinates activities of the Discipline Committees, appoints and dismisses chairmen, vice-chairmen and members thereof, monitors meeting of the project aims and evaluates the results achieved;
- f) submits the draft budget of the Czech Science Foundation;
- g) submits the draft Charter of the Czech Science Foundation or amendments thereto to the Czech Government for approval;
- h) approves the organizational guidelines of the Office, the Rules of Procedure of the Presidium and the Charter, and the Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committees and Panels;
- i) establishes Panels, appoints and dismisses their chairmen, vice-chairmen and members thereof;
- j) sets down remunerations for members of the Discipline Committees and Panels;
- k) fulfils other duties imposed by special legal regulations on the administrator of the chapter of the state budget who decides on granting a support and who provides such support;
- l) submits information of activity of the Czech Science Foundation, including information of individual tenders in research, development and innovation to the Supervisory Board twice a year in accordance with Article 6 paragraph 6e) hereof.

Article 5a

Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation

(1) The Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Scientific Advisory Board" only) is a conceptual body of the Czech Science Foundation.

(2) The Scientific Advisory Board consists of twelve members elected out of a number of experts and appointed by the Government of the Czech Republic based on the recommendation of the Council. Term of office for the Scientific Advisory Board members is four years and the particular member may be appointed for two consecutive terms maximum. The office of the Scientific Advisory Board member is a public office and no employment towards the Czech Republic is constituted thereby. The office of the Scientific Advisory Board member is incompatible with an activity in the Discipline Committees and Panels.

(3) The Scientific Advisory Board members are paid remuneration of an amount set by the Government, and reimbursement of travel expenses in an amount and under conditions provided by the Labour Code.

(4) The Scientific Advisory Board:

- a) suggests creation and specialization of the Discipline Committees, groups of projects and their aiming;
- b) evaluates overall scientific level of the Czech Science Foundation and suggests necessary actions.

Article 6

Supervisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation

(1) The Supervisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Supervisory Board" only) is a controlling body of the Czech Science Foundation.

(2) The Supervisory Board consists of ten members elected out of a number of experts and appointed by the Chamber of Deputies on the recommendation by natural persons engaged in research and development. Membership in the Supervisory Board is irreplaceable and incompatible with an office in other bodies of the Czech Science Foundation.

(3) Term of office for the Supervisory Board members is four years and the particular member may be appointed for two consecutive terms maximum.

(4) The Supervisory Board may be dismissed by the Chamber of Deputies, if an annual report of its activity is not approved for several times repeatedly.

(5) The Supervisory Board members may receive remuneration for their activity in the office. Amount of such remuneration is determined by the Chamber of Deputies on the basis of the Report of Supervisory Board Activity.

(6) Supervisory Board:

- a) controls distribution and allocation of the funds provided by the Czech Science Foundation and financial management of the state property which the Czech Science Foundation is authorized to manage;
- b) deals with complaints about a provider's procedure of evaluation of the grant project and submits its opinion to the Presidium; those opinions that are issued under the powers of the Supervisory Board are binding for the Presidium;

- c) presents annual reports of activity to the Chamber of Deputies;
- d) approves the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Board;
- e) at least once per six months the Supervisory Board presents information of the Czech Science Foundation activity, including data of individual tenders in research, development and innovation, to the relevant commission of the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 7

Discipline Committees and Panels

(1) Discipline Committees assure assessment and evaluation of the project proposals within the basic research. Members of the Discipline Committees are appointed and dismissed by the Presidium according to the principles defined by special legal regulation. Membership in the Discipline Committee is an office in the public interest.

(2) Composition of the Discipline Committees, manner of activity, member impartiality conditions, method of data treatment in respect of data contained in individual project proposals are regulated by the Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committees and the evaluating Panels of the Czech Science Foundation.

(3) The Discipline Committees are constituted as necessary for the disciplines from various branches of science, such as technical sciences, physical sciences, medical and biological sciences, social sciences and humanities, agricultural and biological and environmental sciences.

(4) Members of the particular Discipline Committee elect a candidate for a chairman and vice-chairman of the Discipline Committee through voting by secret ballot.

(5) The Discipline Committees mainly:

- a) assess and evaluate the project proposals within the basic research impartially, unbiasedly and without prejudice according to the declared rules and criteria of the public tender in research, experimental development and innovation on the recommendation of the Panels;
- b) draw up a report of results of evaluation for each project proposal;
- c) suggest creation or cancellation of the Panels to the Presidium;
- d) present the Presidium with their opinion on the organization and evaluation procedures.

(6) The Panels mostly draw up internal opinions on the project proposals, arrange elaboration of expert opinions on the project proposal by external opponents and prepare source documents and recommendations for the Discipline Committee discussions. They also prepare recommendations for the Discipline Committee discussions concerning the procedures of solution and results of accepted projects.

(7) A member of the Discipline Committee as well as a member of the Panel is entitled to receive reimbursement for any expenses related to his/her office and, moreover, remuneration can be paid to him/her for holding the office according to special legal regulation. Remuneration for the Discipline Committee members and the Panel members is determined by the Presidium.

(8) The Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committees and evaluating Panels and a list of their members is published within a period and in a way specified by special legal regulation.

Article 8

This Charter comes into effect on 23 April 2018