GAČR

CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

CONTENT

DEAR FRIENDS OF SCIENCE,

2020 was marked by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. There is probably not a single person who has not been affected one way or another by the disease or the related measures. Although the pandemic came unexpectedly, it did not catch us unprepared. **Existing research capacities have pulled out all the stops to fight the pandemic - a number of scientific laboratories were promptly transformed into testing centres, and a number of researchers wasted no time in focusing on studying the virus.** In particular, thanks to the knowledge that science has accumulated over the last decade, effective vaccines have been developed incredibly quickly. Yet the pandemic is not over yet.

Its impact has been and continues to be enormous worldwide. The Czech Science Foundation, the project applicants and investigators were not left unaffected. The Presidium and I have tried to react as quickly as possible to help all of those involved to better manage the situation. **We have postponed the deadlines, redefined the eligible costs, and we have also shifted to online communication, for example in the Project Proposal evaluation process.**

I am pleased that the pandemic has not crippled life completely. As in previous years, a number of tenders have been initiated, and hundreds of projects have been funded. **For the first time, the JUNIOR STAR tender was initiated** for excellent early-career scientists, allowing them to tackle their own research topics. **The establishment of the Weave initiative**, in which the Czech Science Foundation was involved, was also a significant event. The initiative will network twelve European agencies on Lead Agency (LA) basis by 2025, and facilitate collaboration between scientists.

I was appointed the new President of the Czech Science Foundation. I took over the leadership of the agency following a four-year tenure of RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc., who, nevertheless, remains a member of the Presidium. I would like to thank her once again for everything she has done for the Czech Science Foundation - she has done a great deal of top-quality work, and I am delighted to be able to build on it. There was a significant development of international cooperation during her tenure, which we will continue to expand, and new types of grant calls have been prepared in order to fund excellence in research - the EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR grants. In 2021 **we are launching a new POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP tender** aimed to facilitate the international mobility of researchers who have completed their PhDs recently. We are thus fulfilling one of the key parameters of our long-term strategy - to fund scientists at every stage of their career.

With best wishes for many research accomplishments!

Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc.

NOTE BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The President of the Czech Science Foundation, Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc., passed away suddenly on 2 July 2021. At that time, this report was being edited for print, and therefore we have kept the introductory word of the President in its original form. Prof. Jaroslav Koča was active as a member of the Presidium the last five years, and later as the President in all aspects of the development of the Czech Science Foundation. Professor Koča was not only a renowned scientist and expert in the international scientific environment, but also a great person and a pleasure to work with. We honour and salute his memory.

Prof. Ing. Stanislava Hronová, CSc., dr. h. c.

1. SUMMARY

In 2020, the Czech Science Foundation successfully funded basic research in the Czech Republic. The year 2020 was mainly marked by the expansion of international cooperation, but there was also a change in the position of the President of the Czech Science Foundation - RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc., was succeeded by Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc. At the same time, the year 2020 was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which the Czech Science Foundation managed to deal with quickly and successfully. The JUNIOR STAR tender was also published for the first time.

The **budget** for the Czech Science Foundation for 2020 was approved in the amount of CZK **4.36 billion**, of which only CZK 110 million, representing 2.5% of the total amount, was allocated to finance the operations of the agency. In 2020, CZK 4.25 billion, i.e. 97.5% of the total budget was allocated for project financing, of which CZK 2.86 billion (67.4%) went to existing projects, and CZK 1.39 billion (32.6%) to those launched during 2020.

In 2019, 642 new projects were selected for funding, starting in 2020. In 2020, a total of **3,110 Project Proposals** were submitted to all tenders of the Czech Science Foundation, i.e. 476 (18.1%) more than the year before. On the basis of a multi-stage evaluation process involving international experts, a **total of 469 projects were funded** in the categories of standard projects, EXPRO, the new JUNIOR STAR, and a number of international calls. Some of the international calls had not yet been reviewed by the partner abroad as of March 2021 - and they are not listed in the number of grants awarded.

In 2020, for the first time, joint international calls were published involving the NCN of Poland, the ARRS of Slovenia and the SNSF of Switzerland (all in the form of Lead Agency) - **the number of international partner organizations of the Czech Science Foundation thus increased by 50%**. That generated an increased interest of scientists in international projects - a total of 477 Project Proposals were submitted within these calls. Compared to the previous year, in which the Czech Science Foundation received 297 Project Proposals, this is a quantum leap.

One result of the Czech Science Foundation's efforts is the **establishment, in cooperation with other agencies and Science Europe, of the Weave initiative, which will network 12 European agencies** among one another by 2025. The Czech Science Foundation will thus sign agreements with six other agencies in 2021–2025 (it is cooperating with others already). With one of them, the FNR of Luxembourg, cooperation was already agreed in early 2021.

The high quality of the projects funded, and the diligently designed selection process is evidenced by the success rate of the proposals. Out of a total of 661 Project Proposals evaluated after completion during 2020, **121 (18.3%) received the highest grade**, i.e. Outstanding, and only 41 (6.2%) were graded Incomplete.

For the Czech Science Foundation, the issues of gender equality and work-life balance were also topical in 2020. Thus, the Foundation was actively involved in the preparation of the **Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030**, updated the **Guide through Motherhood and Parenthood** in tender documents, and implemented the recommendations of the NCC Gender and Science in the tender documents.

In September, five the Czech Science Foundation project investigators from various areas of basic research were traditionally awarded the Czech Science Foundation **President's Award**. Due to the limitations associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, it was only possible to watch the award ceremony online.

2. ABOUT THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Czech Science Foundation is a governmental agency funding basic research across all scientific disciplines in a targeted form, with a use of public funds only. **Since 1993, year after year, it has provided financial funds for scientific projects for both seasoned scientists and teams as well as young, early-career scientists**, within the framework of government-approved groups of grant projects, based on the results of public tenders in research and development. The Foundation also funds international scientific projects.

The activities of the Czech Science Foundation are regulated by Act No. 130/2002 on Funding for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts, as amended (the "R&D Act"). The Czech Science Foundation independently manages the targeted aid and institutional funds allocated directly from the state budget.

THE MISSION OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FUNDATION IS TO:

- **Fund scientific projects** aimed at basic research of high international standards, through public tenders and calls for proposals in research and development
- Promote and further develop international scientific cooperation in basic research
- Contribute to the attractive conditions for the career of **young and early-career scientists**
- Ensure that state funds are used as **efficiently as possible** for the benefit of Czech science
- **Inform** the professional and broader public about its activities and intentions

KEY FACTS

- In December 2020, the former member of the Board, Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc., **succeeded** RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc., as President. Alice Valkárová continues as a member of the Presidium
- The Czech Science Foundation **has changed its organizational structure**

The governing bodies of the Czech Science Foundation consist of the President, the Presidium, the Scientific Advisory Board and the Supervisory Board. The organizational and administrative activities of the Czech Science Foundation are performed by the Office of the Czech Science Foundation.

PRESIDENT OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The President of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter the "President") represents the Czech Science Foundation externally and acts on its behalf in all its affairs. The main activities of the President include the management of the Presidium, which is the executive body of the Czech Science Foundation.

The President regularly participates in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation and most of the meetings of the Supervisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation. He or she also participates in the meetings of the Parliamentary Committee for Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Physical Education of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic defending the draft budget and the final National Accounts of the budget chapter of the Czech Science Foundation.

THE PRESIDIUM OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Czech Science Foundation Presidium (hereinafter the "Presidium") is the **executive body** of the Czech Science Foundation, whose role and position are defined in the provisions of Section 36 (5) of the R&D Act.

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDIUM

is, in particular, to:

- Approve the publication of public tenders
- Decide on the provision of targeted aid to grant projects
- Submit the draft Charter of the Czech Science Foundation and its amendments to the Government for approval
- Submit the draft budget of the Czech Science Foundation
- Coordinate the activities of the discipline committees - advisory bodies of the Czech Science Foundation, which review and evaluate Project Proposals
- Evaluate the Project Proposals, review the progress of projects, and grade the outcomes of completed projects

The Presidium is made up of five members including the President. The term in office of the members of the Presidium is four years with a possible re-appointment for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The members of the Presidium are appointed and removed by the Government upon the nominations of the Council for Research, Development and Innovation (hereinafter "CRDI").

In December 2020, Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc., a member of the Presidium at that time, succeeded RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc., as President after the expiration of her term in office. Dr. Valkárová continues to serve her second term as a member of the Presidium.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUM AT 2020 YEAR-END

Prof. RNDr. **Jaroslav Koča**, DrSc. (1st term President, 2nd term member) - Medical and Biological Sciences
Prof. Ing. **Stanislava Hronová**, CSc., dr. h. c. (Vice-President, 2nd term) - Social Sciences and Humanities
Prof. Ing. **Rostislav Drochytka**, CSc., MBA, dr. h. c. (1st term) - Technical Sciences
RNDr. **Alice Valkárová**, DrSc. (2nd term) - Physical Sciences
doc. RNDr. **Petr Baldrian**, Ph.D. (1st term) - Agricultural and Biological-Environmental Sciences.

A total of 12 Presidium meetings were held in 2020.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter the "SAB") is a **conceptual body of the Czech Science Foundation**. In its activities, it is governed by the provisions of Section 36 (3) and (6) of the R&D Act. The scope of activities of the SAB is defined by its Chart approved by the Presidium.

THE ROLE OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

is, in particular, to:

- Propose the establishment and focus of Discipline Committees to the Presidium
- Propose groups of grant projects and their focus
- Evaluate the contribution of the Czech Science Foundation to the development and quality of basic research in the country
- Discuss and propose solutions to problems related to the activities of the Czech Science Foundation
- Perform other tasks assigned by the Czech Science Foundation Presidiu
- Give its opinion on other issues received from the President, the Czech Science Foundation Presidium, the Czech Science Foundation Supervisory Board, or the CRDI
- Comment on the content each panel's focus
- Comment on the international cooperation of the Czech Science Foundation and help its development

The SAB is composed of twelve members, appointed and dismissed by the Government from among experts nominated by the CRDI. The term in office of the members of the Scientific Advisory Board is four years with a possible re-appointment for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD AT 2020 YEAR-END

Prof. Ing. **Jaroslav Doležel**, DrSc. (President)

Prof. Ing. **František Štěpánek**, Ph.D. (Vice-President)

Prof. RNDr. **Pavel Exner**, DrSc.

Prof. Ing. **Martin Hartl**, Ph.D.

Prof. Ing. **Štěpán Jurajda**, Ph.D.

doc. Dr. Phil. **Rudolf Kučera**, Ph.D.

Prof. **Bengt J. F. Nordén**, Dr. mult, honFRSC

Prof. RNDr. **Michal Otyepka**, Ph.D.

Prof. **Jana Roithová**, Ph.D.

Prof. **Avner Shaked**, Ph.D.

Prof. MUDr. **Aleksi Šedo**, DrSc.

Prof. MUDr. **Jiří Zeman**, DrSc.

Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz resigned from the SAB effective 30 September 2019 due to health reasons. Prof. PhDr. Petr Sommer resigned for health reasons, too, effective 4 June 2020. No replacements were appointed by the Government for Prof. Schwarz and Prof. Sommer, and the SAB was made up of eleven and ten members, respectively, following those resignations. On 30 November 2020, two new members were appointed by the Government, Assoc. Dr. Phil. Rudolf Kucera, Ph. D., and Prof. RNDr. Michal Otyepka, Ph.D., and the Scientific Advisory Board is now working at full strength involving twelve members.

The SAB met three times in 2020, on 26 June, 9 October and 2 December. The planned March meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the agenda was rescheduled for the June meeting.

THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Supervisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter the "SB") is the oversight body of the Czech Science Foundation. In its activities, it is regulated by the provisions of Section 36 (7) of the R&D Act.

THE ROLE OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

is, in particular, to:

- Review the legitimacy and lawfulness of the distribution of the Czech Science Foundation's financial resources
- Supervise the management of the assets of the state which the Czech Science Foundation is in charge of managing
- Handle complaints about the process of evaluating Project Proposals
- Submit binding opinions to the Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation in important situations

The SB is made up of ten members appointed by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic upon the nominations of entities engaged in research and development. The term in office of the members of the SB is four years with a possible re-appointment for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD AT 2020 YEAR-END

Prof. Ing. **Stanislav Labík**, CSc. (President)

Prof. PhDr. **Jana Geršlová**, CSc. (Vice-President)

JUDr. Ing. **Zdeněk Dufek**, Ph.D.

Prof. Ing. **František Hrdlička**, CSc.

Prof. Mgr. **Libor Jan**, Ph.D.

Prof. Ing. **Petr Konvalinka**, CSc.

Prof. Ing. **Jan Roda**, CSc.

Prof. Ing. **Vladimír Smejkal** CSc., LL.M.

Prof. RNDr. **Omar Šerý**, Ph.D.

Prof. PhDr. **Hana Vykopalová**, CSc.

In 2020, the SB heard a total of 23 complaints related to the evaluation of Project Proposals.

The members of the SB attended the meetings of the individual panels and discipline committees, where they checked the progress of the meetings.

OFFICE OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The office of the Czech Science Foundation (hereinafter the "Office"), under the Charter of the Czech Science Foundation, **performs the professional, financial, supervisory, organizational and administrative tasks** resulting from the activities carried out by the Czech Science Foundation. The organizational structure of the Office was changed in 2020 - see Figure 1.

THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

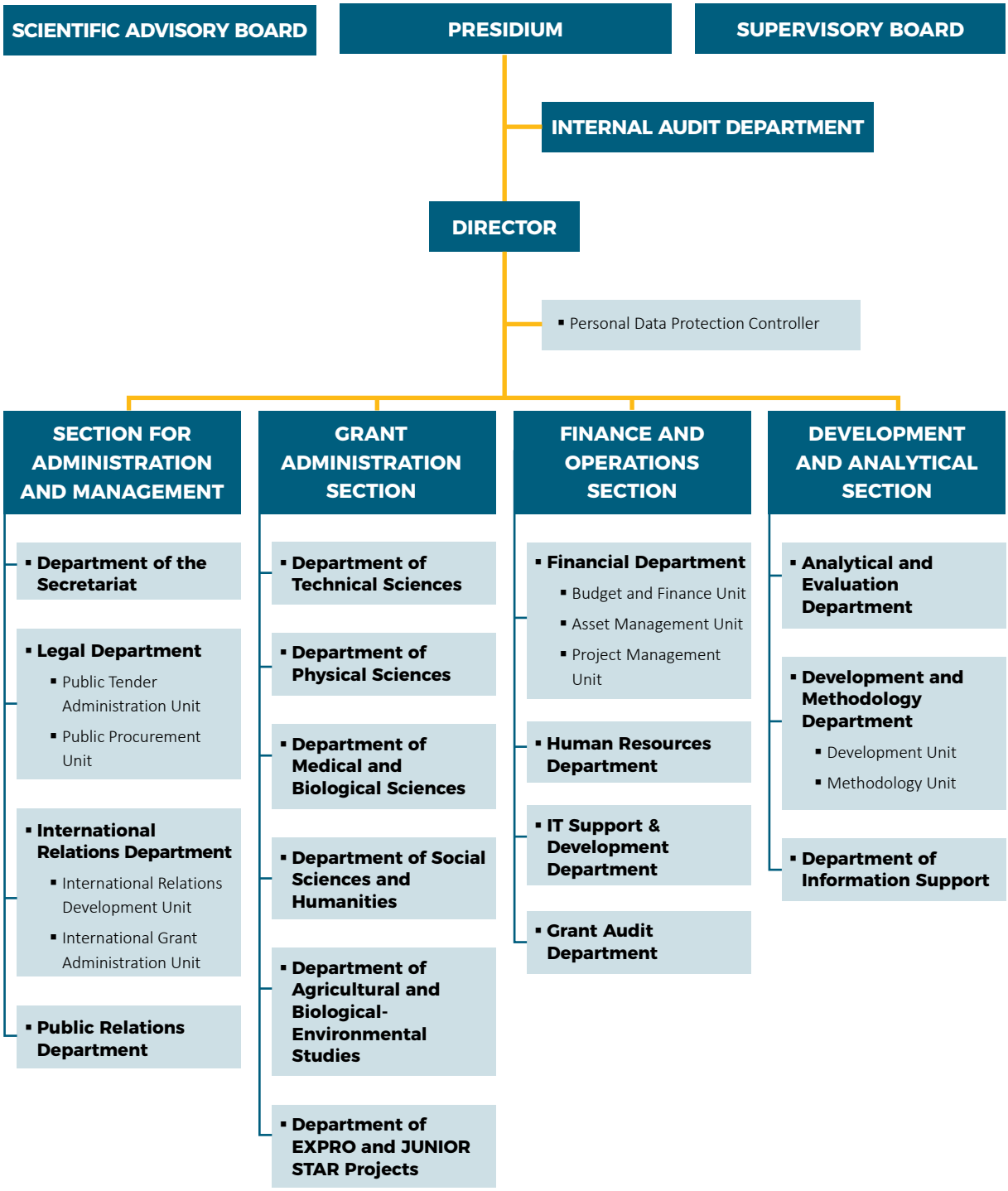
is, in particular, to:

- Prepare documents for meetings
- Draw up the draft budget of the Czech Science Foundation
- Manage the approved budget as instructed by the President
- Collect grant Project Proposals
- Create and manage the project and reviewer database
- Organize the cooperation of the Czech Science Foundation with partner organizations
- Inform the public about the activities of the Czech Science Foundation

The Office is headed by the Director, who is appointed and removed by the President. In 2020, the Office was headed by Ing. Lada Knetlová as its Director.

Figure: 1:

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S OFFICE



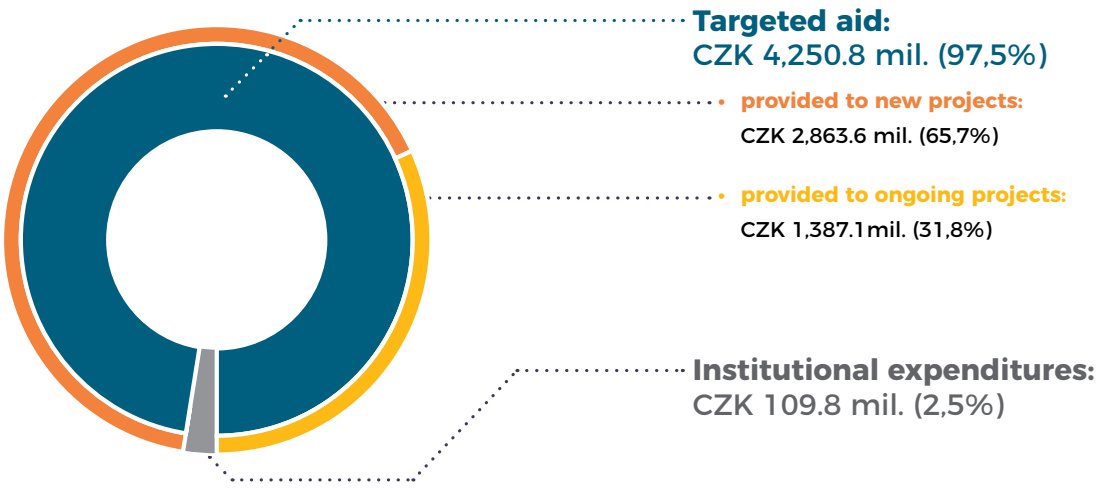
KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Czech Science Foundation was assigned a **budget of CZK 4.36 billion** for 2020
- Only **2.5% of the costs were incurred as operating expenses** - the Czech Science Foundation has the lowest relative costs compared to similar international agencies
- Approximately **one third of the** targeted aid was earmarked **for new projects**
- The highest amount went into funding **Standard Projects - CZK 3 billion**

For 2020, the total budget of the Czech Science Foundation was approved in the amount of CZK 4.360,5 billion. The expenditures of the Czech Science Foundation are categorised into institutional expenditures (overhead) to run its operations and activities, and the targeted aid for the researchers and investigators to run their projects. All source data used in this chapter represent the Czech Science Foundation's own calculations, last updated as of 19 February 2021.

Chart 1:

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S FUNDS



INSTITUTIONAL EXPENDITURES

Institutional funds are earmarked for the activities of the Czech Science Foundation, including the administration of public tenders, evaluation of Project Proposals, reviews of ongoing projects, and other related activities. Institutional expenditures approved for 2020 amounted to **CZK 109.8 million**. The use of institutional funds is very effective in comparison to partner institutions abroad, i.e. similar agencies.

Table 1:

Comparison of institutional costs to those incurred by similar institutions abroad (in CZK billion)

	DFG Germany	FWF Austria	NCN Poland	FNR Luxembourg	SNSF Switzerland	FAPESP São Paulo	MOST Taiwan	GACR
Budget	89.7	6.8	7.6	1.5	23.5	15	32	4.4
Amount of operating costs	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.5	2	5.5	0.1
Share of operating costs (out of total costs)	2.3%	4.5%	3.0%	8.6%	15.0%	13.3%	17.0%	2.5%

Only partner organizations which make this information available on their websites are listed. Data for 2019, MOST (Taiwan) for 2020.

TARGETED AID

In 2020, the Czech Science Foundation was allocated funds for targeted aid under the Act on the State Budget totalling CZK **4.250,8 billion**. Out of that amount, a total of CZK 2.8636 billion was necessary to fund the ongoing grant projects, i.e. 67.4% of the total amount of the Czech Science Foundation's targeted aid. To launch new grant projects, the total targeted aid amounted to CZK 1.387,1 billion, i.e. 32.6% of the total targeted aid provided by the Czech Science Foundation.

Table 2:

Approved Targeted Aid Provided by the Czech Science Foundation by Project Group in 2020

	Approved targeted aid (in CZK million)	Share of targeted aid (as a % of total)	Number of projects funded in the year (total)
Standard Projects	3,033.4	71.36	1,606
EXPRO Projects	545.4	12.83	58
International Bilateral Projects	89	2.10	79
International Lead Agency Projects	73	1.71	22
Junior Grants	500	11.76	261
Support for ERC Grants	10	0.24	0
Total	**4,250.8**	**100**	**2,026**

KEY FACTS

- In 2020, tenders were announced to fund **Standard Projects**, the **JUNIOR STAR** projects, **EXPRO** and **International Projects**
- **642 new projects** selected for funding in 2020
- **469 Project Proposals** selected for funding in 2021
- The submission deadlines were **postponed by almost a month** due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Czech Science Foundation publishes several types of public tenders and calls every year. In 2020, as in the previous year, the tenders were for **Standard Projects, EXPRO, and International Projects.** As an upgrade over 2019, the **JUNIOR STAR grant for excellent young scientists was a newly published tender**. In addition to these tenders, **international Lead Agency tenders** were also published. Scientists were invited to respond to them by submitting Project Proposals in all areas of basic research. The LA tenders and calls were launched on 22 February 2020. In view of the constraints associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Czech Science Foundation listened to the voice of the scientific community, and re-launched the LA tenders and calls on 21 March 2020 - moving the tender deadlines move back by almost one month, until 4 May 2020. For the international calls, the deadlines varied based on the particular arrangement with the international partner. The anticipated launch date for the projects recommended for funding through these tenders was 1 January 2021.

TENDERS AND CALLS LAUNCHED IN 2020

- **642** Project Proposals selected for financing
- **2,634** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **34** Project Proposals were not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **4** Project Proposals (i.e. 0.2%) were disqualified because they did not meet the requirements
- **1** Project Proposal was disqualified by the international partner on formal grounds
- **6** applicants/organizations withdrew from the public tenders

TENDERS AND CALLS LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **469** Project Proposals selected for financing
- **3 111** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **19** Of the Project Proposals were not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **5** Project Proposals (i.e. 0.2%) were disqualified because they did not meet the requirements
- **9** Applicants/organizations withdrew from the public tenders

The evaluation of the individual tenders and calls is presented in the following chapter, along with more information on projects launched in 2020, i.e. submitted in 2019.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED

Table 3:

Total number of projects funded by project group in 2020

	Number of projects funded in 2020
Standard Projects	1,606
EXPRO Projects	58
International Bilateral Projects	79
International Lead Agency Projects	22
Junior Grants	261
Total	**2,026**

5.1 STANDARD PROJECTS

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Project duration 2–3 years
- Targeted at all researchers and teams
- Published annually since 1993
- The most frequently applied grant tender scheme

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2020

- **475** Project Proposals received funding, of which **457** were selected in December 2019 and **18** in February 2020
- **1,889** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **17** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **2** Project Proposals disqualified from the public tender
- **3** Project Proposals withdrawn by applicants/organizations from the public tender

Chart 2:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and Standard Projects awarded by discipline

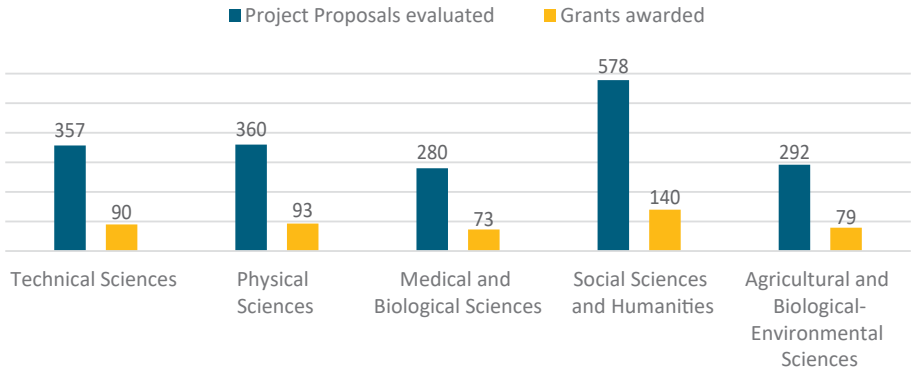
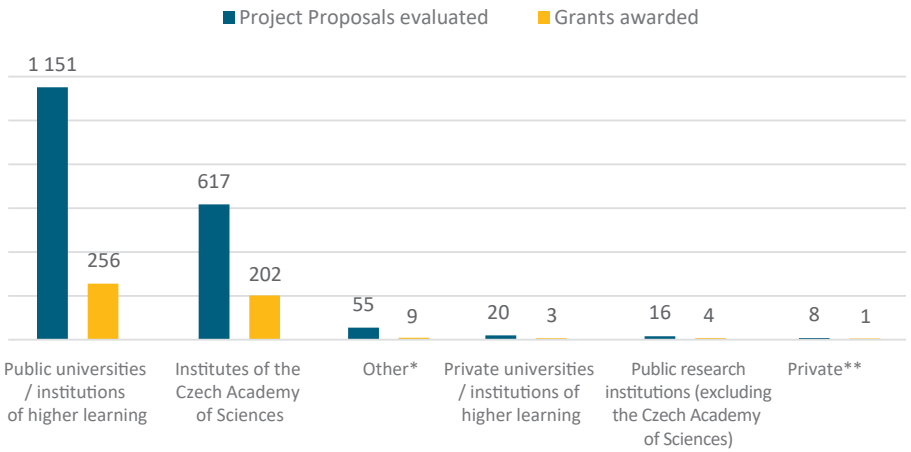


Chart 3:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and Standard Projects awarded by organization



* This category includes, e.g., hospitals, libraries, museums, partially subsidised organizations, associations, galleries, etc.

** This category includes natural persons, limited liability corporations, joint-stock companies, charitable societies, etc.

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **354** Project Proposals received funding, of which **294** were selected in December 2020 and **60** in March 2021
- **2,155** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **6** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **4** Project Proposals disqualified from the public tender
- **3** Project Proposals withdrawn by applicants/organizations from the public tender

Chart 4:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and Standard Projects awarded by discipline

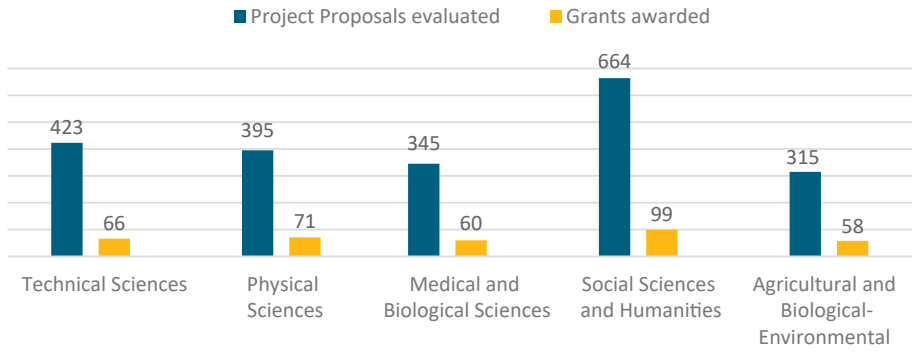
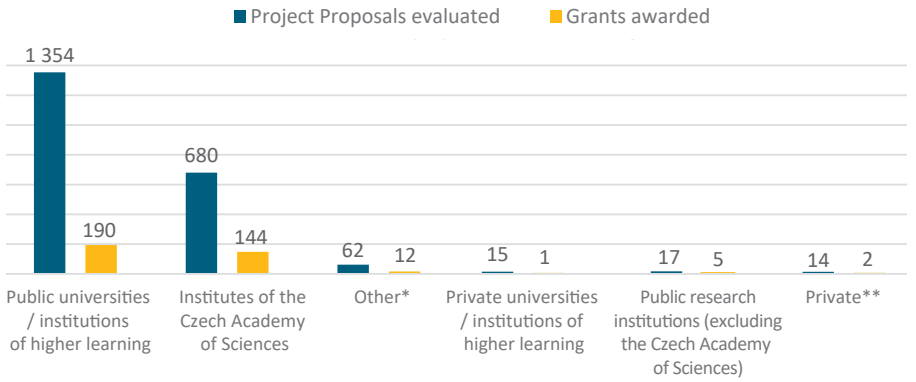


Chart 5:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and Standard Projects awarded by organization



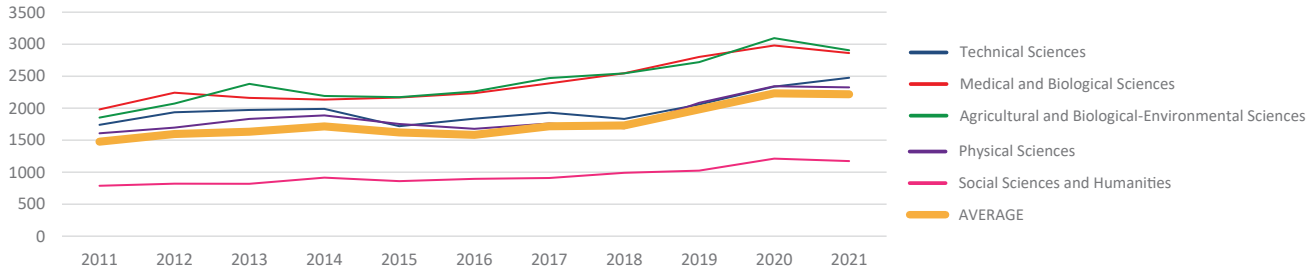
* This category includes, e.g., hospitals, libraries, museums, partially subsidised organizations, associations, galleries, etc.

** This category includes natural persons, limited liability corporations, joint-stock companies, charitable societies, etc.

AVERAGE COSTS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF A PROJECT

Chart 6:

average costs in CZK thousands for the first year of a standard project funded in 2011–2021



5.2 JUNIOR STAR

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Highly selective grants for scientists in their early careers who get the opportunity to explore their own research topics
- For researchers who completed their Ph.D. degrees no more than 8 years ago, and who have already gained significant international experience
- The first call was published in 2020
- 5-year project duration
- Up to CZK 25 mil for the entire duration of the project
- Projects are evaluated by international experts only

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **30** Project Proposals received funding
- **355** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **2** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **1** Project Proposal disqualified from the public tender

Chart 7:

Numbers of JUNIOR STAR proposals evaluated and grants awarded by discipline

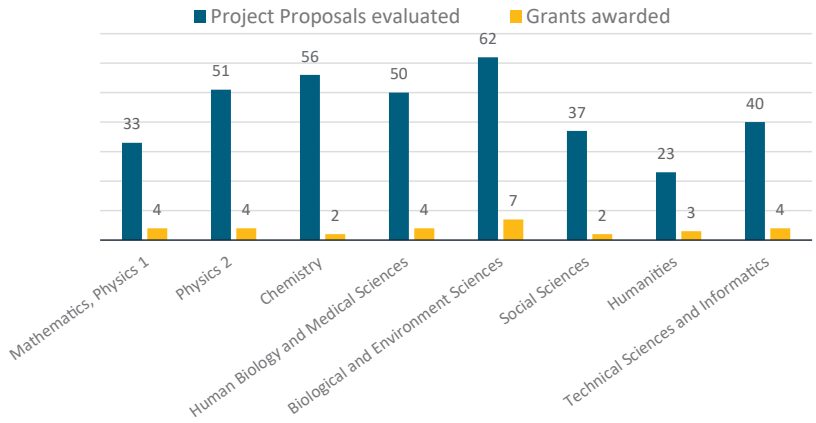
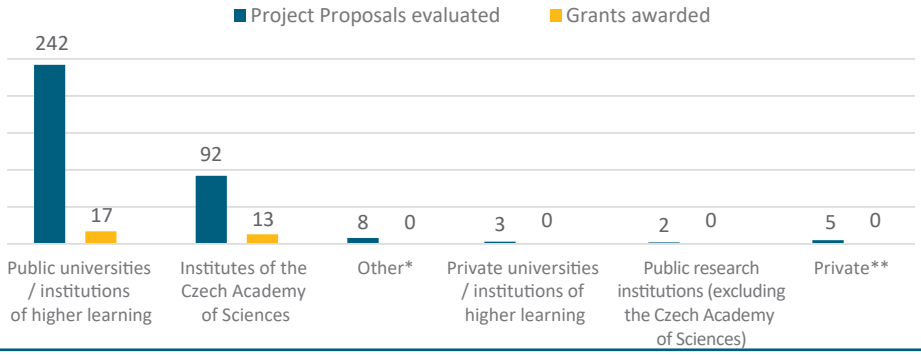


Chart 8:

Numbers of JUNIOR STAR proposals evaluated and grants awarded by organization



* This category includes, e.g., hospitals, libraries, museums, partially subsidised organizations, associations, galleries, etc.

** This category includes natural persons, limited liability corporations, joint-stock companies, charitable societies, etc.

5.3 EXPRO: EXCELLENCE GRANT PROJECTS IN BASIC RESEARCH

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- The aim of the grant is to bring about a breakthrough in the field - these are called high risk/high gain projects;
- Highly selective, and designed for excellence in science
- The first call was published in 2018
- 5-year project duration
- Up to CZK 50 mil for the entire duration of the project
- Projects are evaluated by international experts only

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2020

- **22** Project Proposals received funding
- **134** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **1** Project Proposal not accepted because it failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **1** Project Proposal withdrawn by applicant/organization from the public tender

Chart 9:

Numbers of EXPRO proposals evaluated and grants awarded by discipline

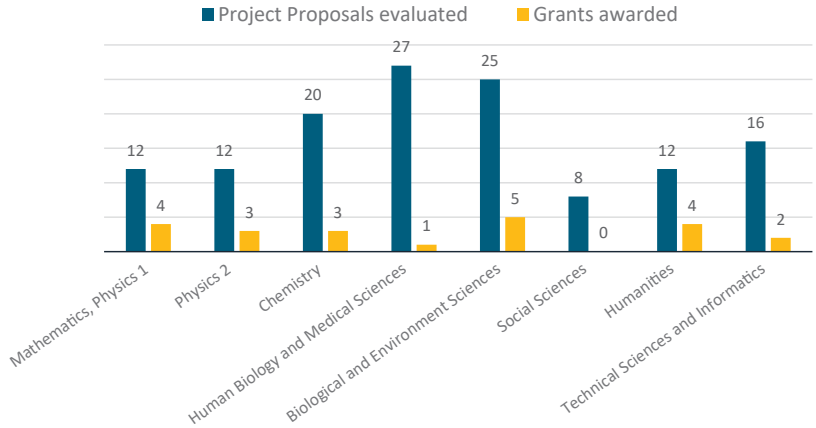
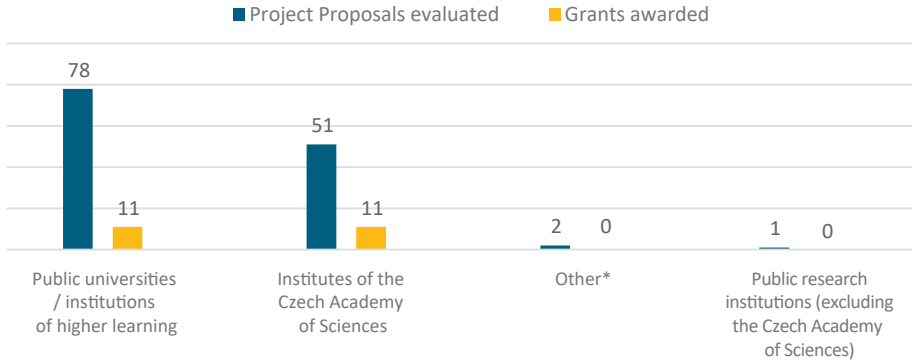


Chart 10:

Numbers of EXPRO proposals evaluated and grants awarded by organization



* This category includes, e.g., hospitals, libraries, museums, partially subsidised organizations, associations, galleries, etc.

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **16** Project Proposals received funding:
- **123** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **1** Project Proposal not accepted because it failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **1** Project Proposal withdrawn by applicant/organization from the public tender

Chart 11:

Numbers of EXPRO proposals evaluated and grants awarded by discipline

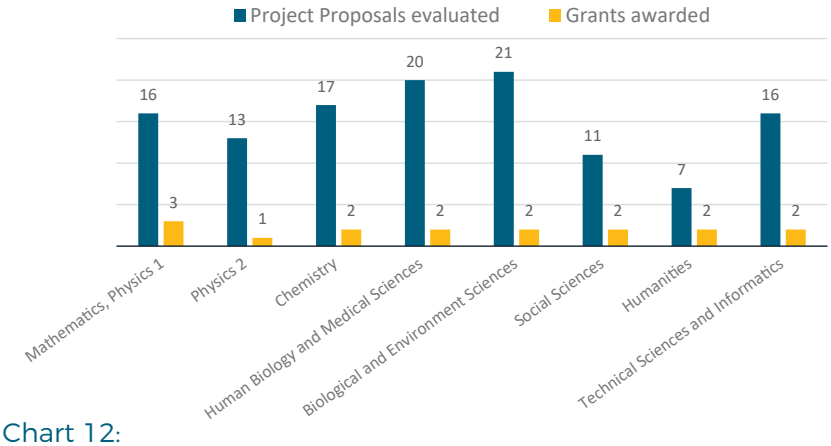
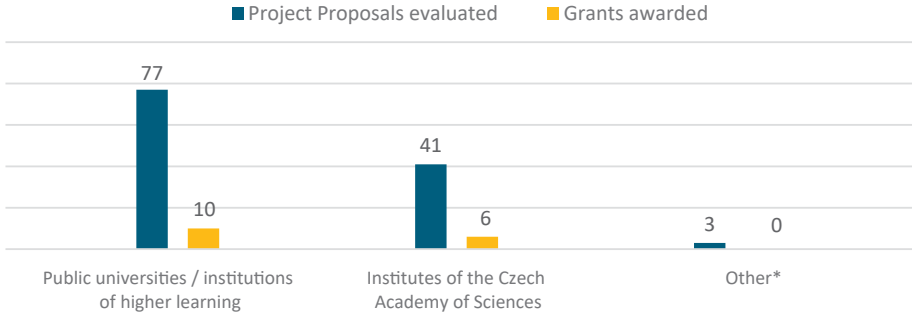


Chart 12:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and EXPRO grants awarded by organization

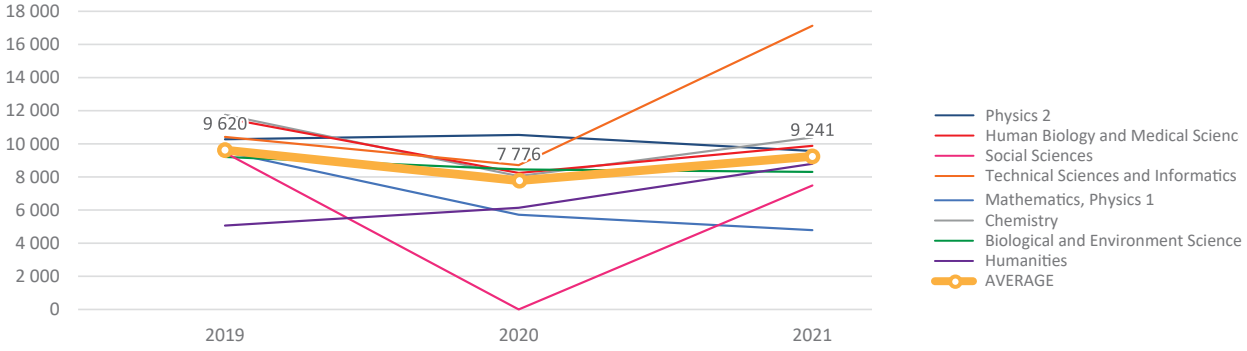


* This category includes, e.g., hospitals, libraries, museums, partially subsidised organizations, associations, galleries, etc.

AVERAGE COSTS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF A PROJECT

Chart 13:

Average costs in CZK thousands for the first year of an EXPRO project



5.4 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS (BILATERAL)

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Project duration 2–3 years
- For bilateral international projects, the evaluation is carried out independently by both partner agencies - the condition for granting the funds is an approval by both national providers
- Each national provider funds activities related to the part of the project carried out in its country

PARTNERSHIP

2005 **GERMANY**
DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

SOUTH KOREA
NRF National Research Foundation of Korea

2008 **TAIWAN**
MOST Ministry of Science and Technology

2018 **BRAZIL**
FAPESP São Paulo Research Foundation

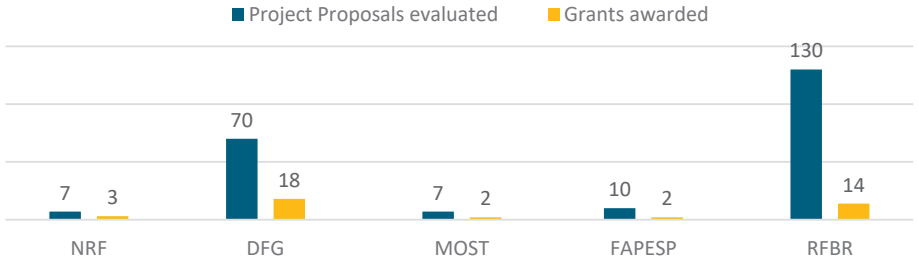
RUSSIA
RFBR Russian Foundation for Basic Research

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2020

- **39** Project Proposals received funding
- **231** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **4** Project Proposal not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender (DFG, NRF, 2x RFBR)
- **2** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender (DFG, RFBR)
- **1** Project Proposal withdrawn by applicant/organization from the public tender (MOST)

Chart 14:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and projects funded within International (Bilateral) Projects by partner institution

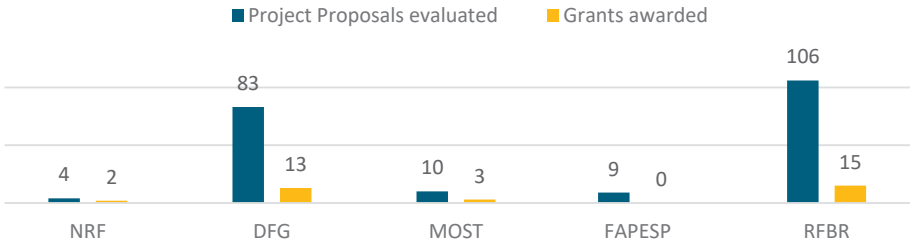


TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **33** Project Proposals received funding
- **222** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **8** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender (5x NRF, 3x RFBR)
- **2** Project Proposals withdrawn by applicants/organizations from the public tender (DFG, FAPESP)

Chart 15:

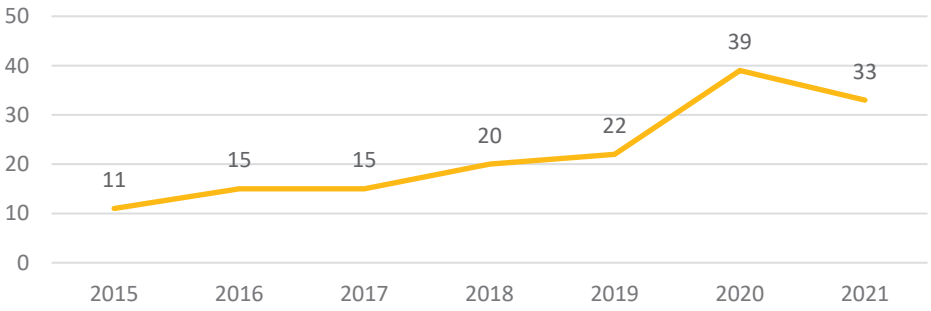
Numbers of proposals evaluated and projects funded within International (Bilateral) Projects by partner institution



NUMBER OF AWARDED INTERNATIONAL (BILATERAL) PROJECTS

Chart 16:

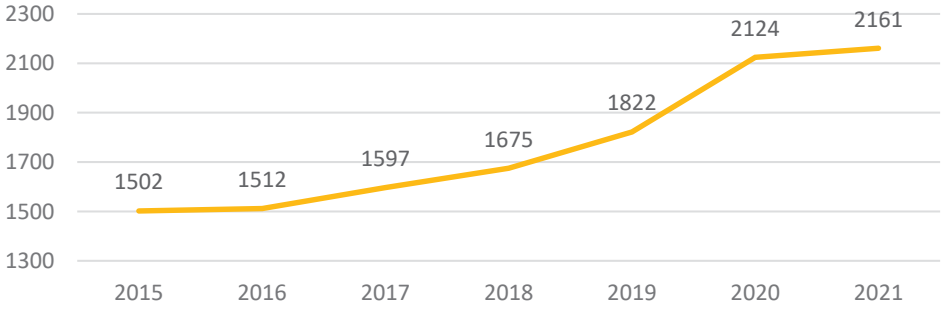
Number of International (Bilateral) Projects funded by project launch



AVERAGE COSTS FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF A PROJECT

Chart 17:

Average costs in CZK thousands for the first year of an International (Bilateral) project



5.5 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS (LA GRANTS)

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Project duration 2–3 years
- The topic of the project is chosen by the Czech applicant in cooperation with the one abroad - they both submit one Project Proposal only, which is then evaluated by the partner agency in the position of the Lead Agency (LA)
- The LA informs the partner agency of the outcome of the evaluation, and submits a proposal for funding the project
- Each national provider funds activities related to the part of the project carried out in its country
- In addition to bilateral, also trilateral projects are possible

PARTNERSHIP

2013

AUSTRIA
FWF Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung

2019

POLAND
NCN National Science Centre

SLOVENIA
ARRS Slovenian Research Agency

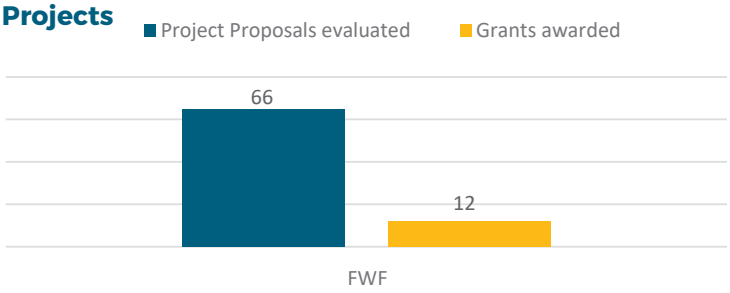
SWITZERLAND
SNSF Swiss National Science Foundation

TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2020

In 2020, the only projects launched were on the basis of a joint call together with **FWF** (Austria). Further calls to be launched in 2021 were published in 2020.

Chart 18:

Numbers of proposals evaluated and projects funded within International (LA) Projects

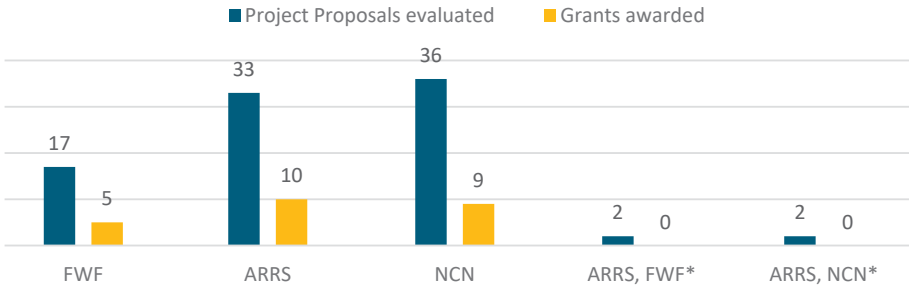


TENDERS FOR PROJECTS TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **24** (the Czech Science Foundation as the Lead Agency) and **12+** (evaluation as of March 2021 still not completed by partner organizations) Project Proposals have been awarded funding
- **256** Project Proposals were delivered to the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **2** Project Proposals not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **3** Project Proposals withdrawn by applicants/organizations from the public tender

Chart 19:

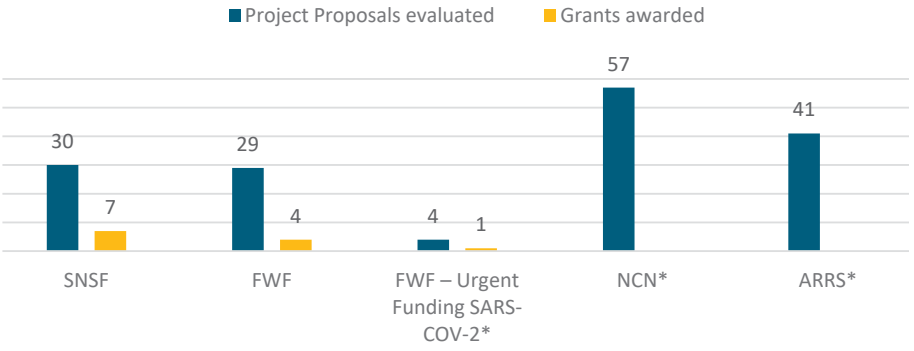
Numbers of LA grants Project Proposals evaluated and awarded - GACR as the Lead Agency



* Trilateral projects

Chart 20:

Numbers of LA grants Project Proposals evaluated and awarded – GACR as the partner organization



* In the calls marked as of March 2021, the evaluation on the partner agency side has not been completed. The number of projects supported is therefore not yet known.

5.6 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF ERC GRANT APPLICANTS (FELLOWSHIP TO VISIT ERC GRANTEE)

The European Research Council (ERC) noted in early 2016 that certain European Union (EU) member states are substantially under-represented in its tenders and that one of the consequences of such under-representation is that the scientific and research potential of scientists from those states is not fully realized. The ERC published a document in January 2016 titled Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee, in which the Council invited national agencies to develop fellowship programmes to help future ERC grants applicants cover the costs of their visits to the locations of ongoing ERC projects abroad. Fellowships abroad should give top Czech scientists the opportunity to get a perspective of the competitive environment of international research. **As a result, applicants will be more likely to win the prestigious ERC grant.**

The "Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee" is intended for the investigators in GACR junior grants in all scientific fields (Technical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Medical and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, Agricultural and Biological-Environmental Sciences) who were graded as "accomplished" or "excellent" in their last evaluations before submitting an application for the Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee. The project is carried out at an institution abroad where the applicant selects the Principal Investigator of an ERC grant ("Mentor") which is ongoing at that time. Once the Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee is completed, the **Beneficiary is required to develop and submit an application for one of ERC grants** (ERC Starting Grants, ERC Consolidator Grants and ERC Advanced Grants) with the host organisation in the Czech Republic.

5.7 EVALUATION OF COMPLETED GRANT PROJECTS

In 2020, a **total of 661 grant projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation were evaluated**, while another 422 evaluations were postponed until the following year. The Evaluation Panels and, subsequently, the Discipline Committees assessed the outcomes of the grant projects using the predefined criteria, and proposed the final grades to the Presidium. The evaluations for 2020 are shown in the table below.

Table 4:

Project evaluations by Discipline Committee in 2020

	Excellent	Accomplished	Accomplished with reservation	Failed	Evaluation postponed
Technical Sciences	21	92	2	2	65
Physical Sciences	36	104	6	2	46
Medical and Biological Sciences	22	69	8	4	52
Social Sciences and Humanities	15	118	31	28	184
Agricultural and Biological--Environmental Sciences	27	66	3	5	75
Total	**121**	**449**	**50**	**41**	**422**

6. HOW PROJECT PROPOSALS ARE EVALUATED

KEY FACTS

- All projects which received funding had been evaluated by at least **one international reviewer**
- An average of **3.1 reviews per Project Proposal** were carried out **by international experts** in 2020
- JUNIOR STAR and EXPRO prestigious projects are evaluated by **international experts only** - the evaluation system takes inspiration from the ERC evaluation system

In 2020, the Czech Science Foundation evaluated more than 3 thousand Project Proposals in the various types of tenders. More than half of them were recommended for the second round. **More than 4.8 thousand evaluations from international reviewers** were carried out for these proposals, **i.e. an average of 3.1 evaluations per proposal.** In 2020, two or more international evaluations were obtained for 99.6% of the proposals advancing to the second evaluation round.

The Czech Science Foundation evaluates Project Proposals in **two ways depending on the type of the tender**. The evaluation period is eight months, and the project evaluation process is multi-stage. **Experts from abroad** are involved in all types of evaluation.

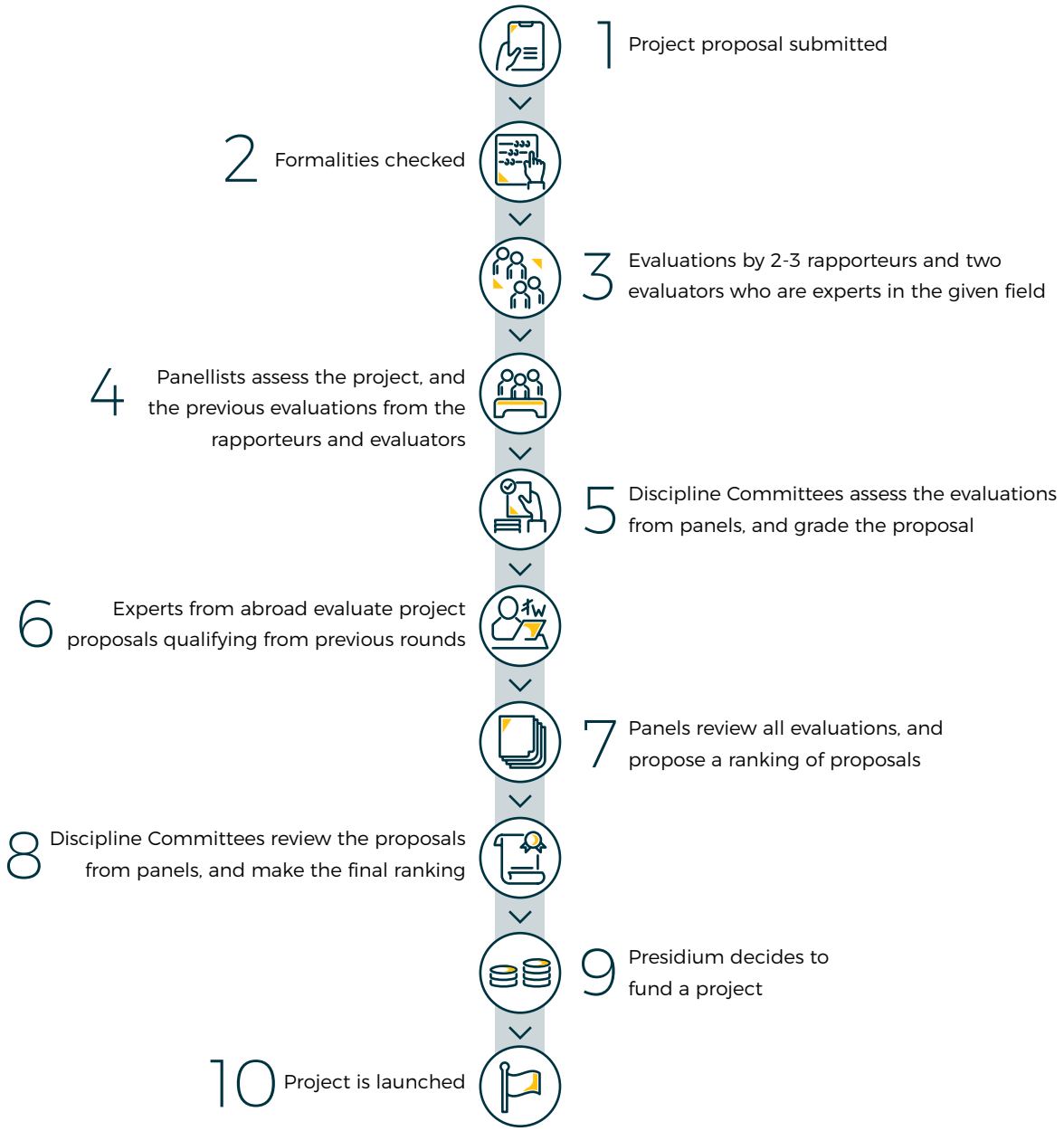
6.1 HOW STANDARD AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS ARE EVALUATED

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Three-phase evaluation system (Evaluation Panels, Discipline Committees, Presidium)
- At least two independent reviews of each Project Proposal, and two further project evaluations
- At least one international review for projects advancing to the second phase of evaluation
- The Discipline Committees make a ranking of the Project Proposals from the individual panels
- The ranking is the basis for the Presidium's decision

Figure 2:

Project proposal evaluation process



The process is also described in more detail at:
https://gacr.cz/en/evaluation-process-of-project-proposals/

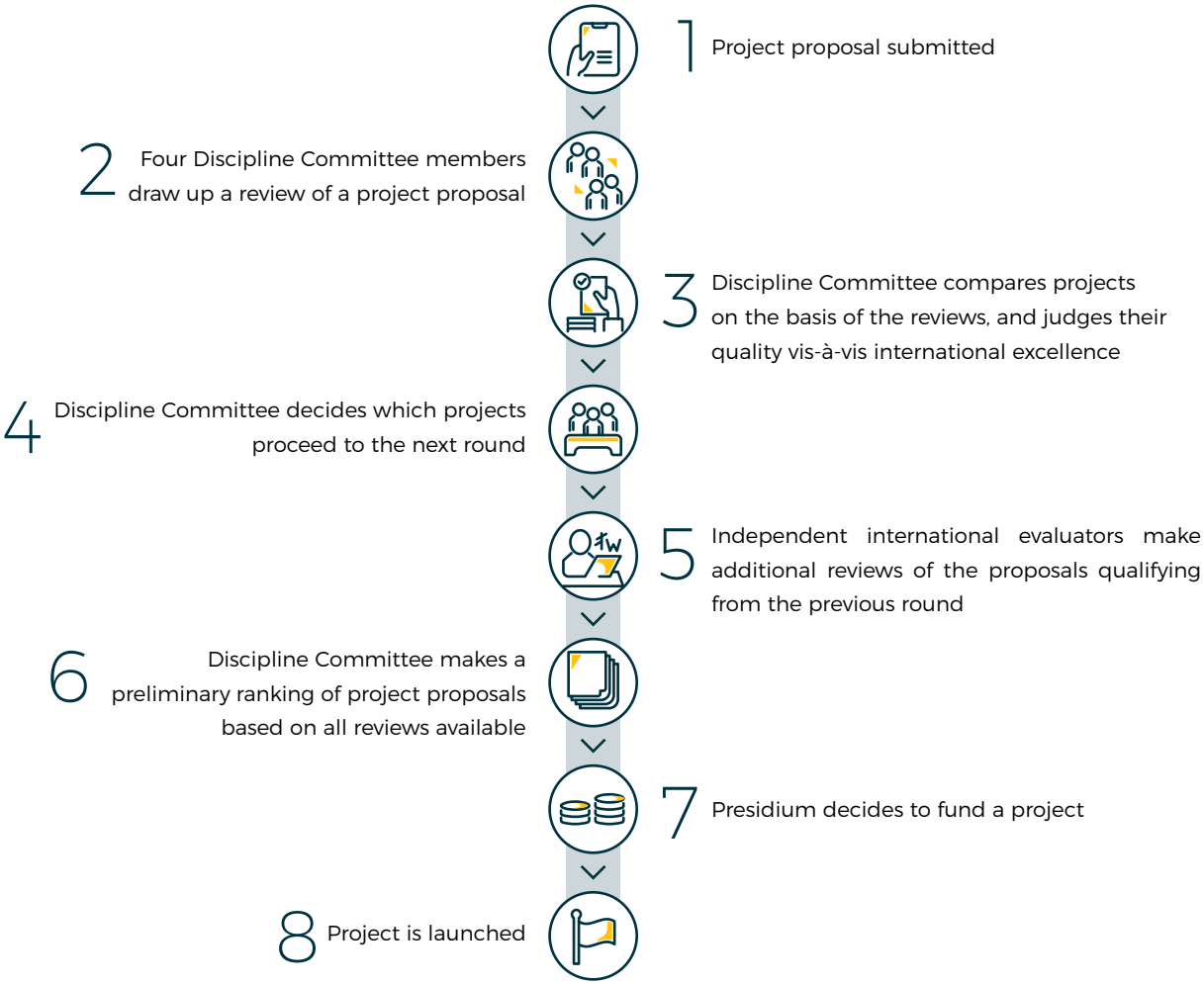
6.2 HOW THE EXPRO AND JUNIOR STAR PROJECT PROPOSALS ARE EVALUATED

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Two-stage evaluation system
- Eight Discipline Committees recommend projects for funding to the Presidium
- Four independent reviews of each Project Proposal
- If possible, two external reviews of the projects advancing to the second stage of the evaluation
- An external reviewer or member of the OK-EX Discipline Committee must not have a history of working at any institution in the Czech Republic in the last five years
- International experts are recommended by the Science Connect independent agency
- The evaluation process is inspired by the ERC evaluation process

Figure 3:

Evaluation process for the EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR Project Proposals



The process is also described in more detail at:
https://gacr.cz/en/evaluation-process-of-the-expro-project-proposals/

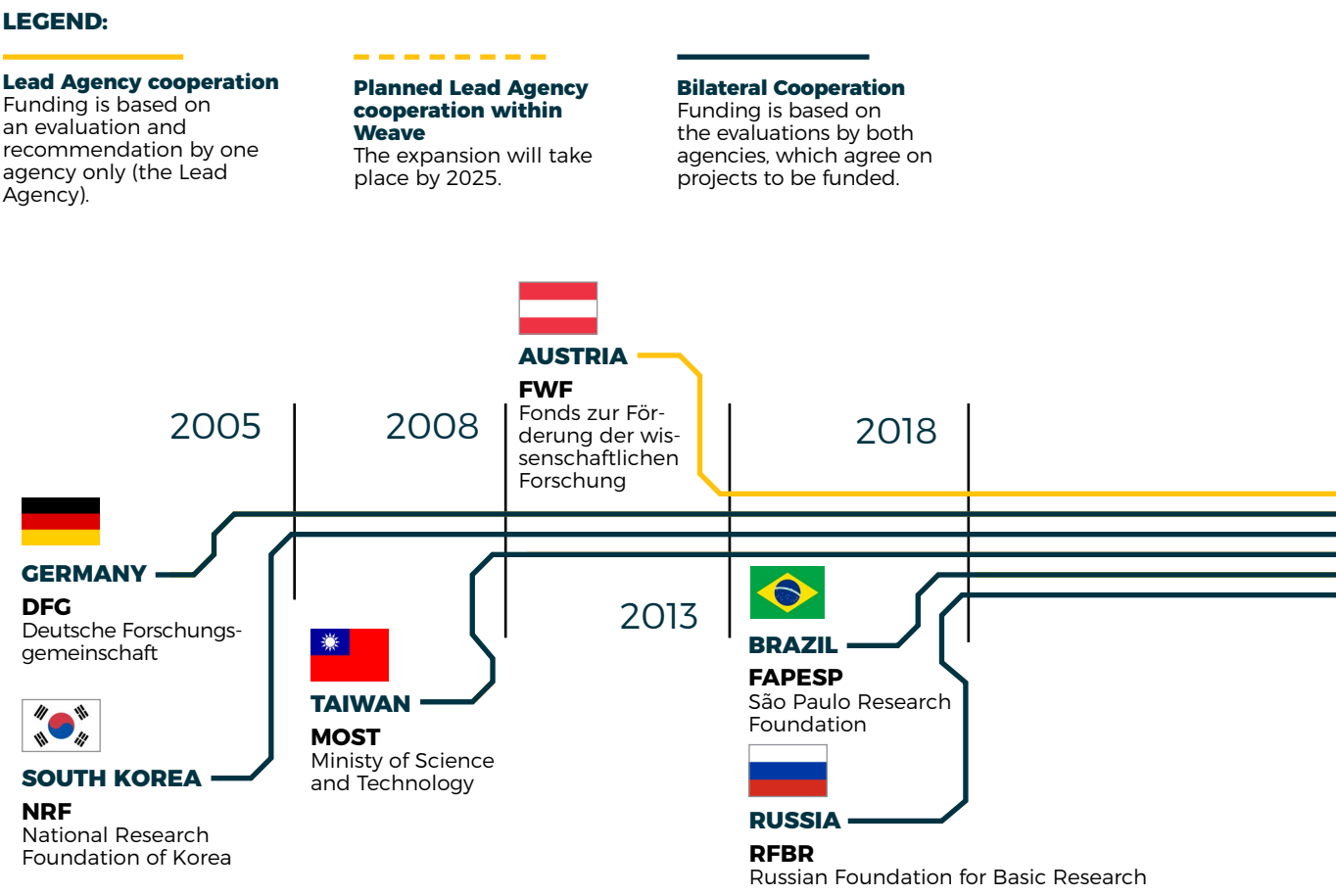
KEY FACTS

- The Czech Science Foundation has established a number of **international partnerships** in recent years
- The **Weave** initiative was launched, planning to network 12 European agencies on the LA principle

Expanding and deepening the opportunities for international cooperation between and among scientists working in the field of basic research at Czech institutions is one of the **priorities of the Czech Science Foundation.**

Since 2005, a **traditional form of bilateral cooperation** to fund joint grant projects **has been implemented** with partner organizations from Germany and Taiwan, and since 2008 from South Korea. Cooperation Memoranda were signed with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - Germany, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of China (MOST) - Taiwan, and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) - Republic of Korea. In 2018, additional memoranda were signed with the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) - Russia, and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) - Brazil, State of São Paulo.

Figure 4:
Developing international cooperation

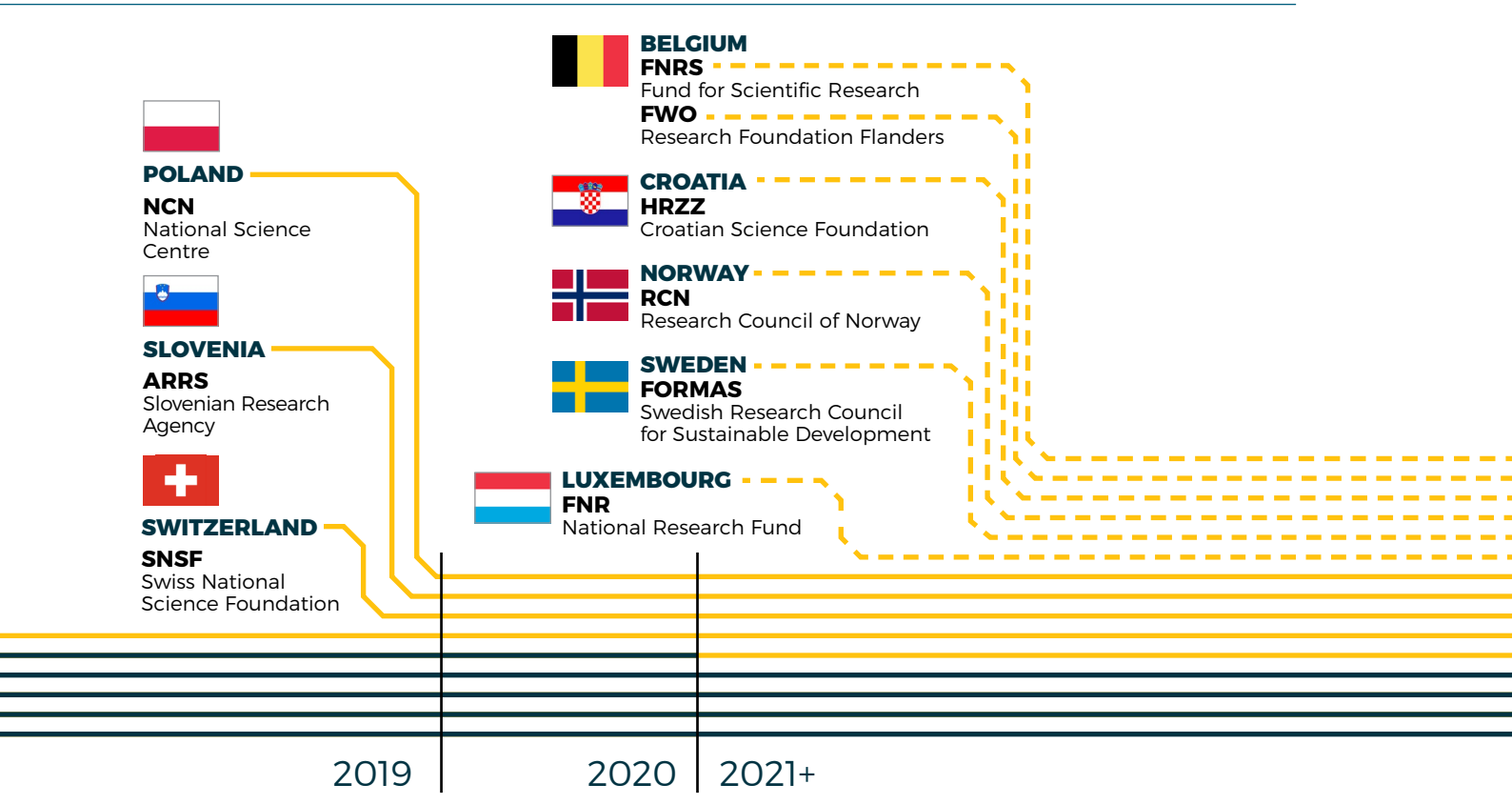


The Czech Science Foundation focuses on **developing cooperation on the Lead Agency principle** in line with trends in international cooperation between and among agencies. This form of cooperation was first established successfully with the Austrian partner agency Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF). In the autumn of 2019, the Czech Science Foundation signed a new Cooperation Memorandum on the LA principle with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

In 2019, LA cooperation was established within the framework of the "**Central European Science Partnership**" - CEUS. Besides the Czech Science Foundation, the founding members were Austria (FWF), Slovenia (ARRS - Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost), and Poland (NCN - Narodowe Centrum Nauki). One of the main objectives of CEUS was to offer scientists the opportunity to apply for not only bilateral, but also trilateral LA grants.

In December 2020, the CEUS initiative was transformed into **Weave** under the Science Europe umbrella. The aim of this initiative is to put together 12 European agencies on the LA principle. Six of them are already collaborating with the Czech Science Foundation and the other five (two Belgian ones, and one from Croatia, Norway, and Sweden each) aim to establish cooperation by no later than 2025. For more information on the Weave initiative and funding opportunities for projects involving multiple teams, please visit weave-research.net.

Through the partnership with FWF of Austria and SNSF of Switzerland, the Czech Science Foundation also participated in the **two topical calls published in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020**.



KEY FACTS

- The Czech Science Foundation took part in the preparation for the **Implementation of the Strategy for the Equality of Women and Men 2021–2030**
- A revised **Guide to Maternity and Parenthood** is available to scientists in the tender documents
- A **quarter of the Standard Project proposals were submitted by women** last year

The Czech Science Foundation continuously improves the conditions for equal careers of women and men, and for balancing scientific work with parenthood. The Foundation's representatives took part in inter-ministerial meetings for the future implementation of the government document titled Strategy for the Equality of Women and Men 2021–2030. The tender documents of all grant project groups have been updated to reflect the recommendations in the methodology document **Recommendations for VaVaI Fund Providers to Facilitate Working Conditions in Research** (Gender and Science Center of the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Science Academy, published in 2020) - in Czech language only. Gender Coordinators revised the **Guide to Maternity and Parenthood in the Czech Science Foundation tender documents** - in Czech language only. The Agency also accommodated scientists of both genders by adopting and modifying measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AT THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

As of December 10, 2020, **Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc. succeeded RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc.**, the former President of the Czech Science Foundation. During the year there were changes in the Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation, when at the beginning of June 2020 another member resigned and in November 2020 two new members were elected, see table below.

Table 5:

The proportion of women and men in the governing bodies of the GA CR

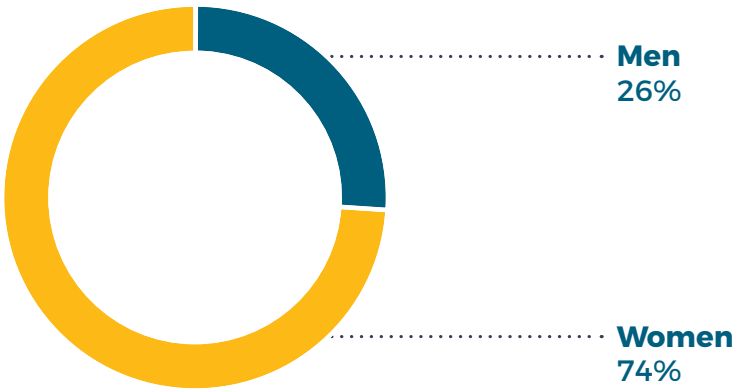
	Total	Number of women	Number of men	Representation of women
Presidium	5	2	3	40%
Scientific advisory board	12	1	11	8,3%
Supervisory board	10	2	8	20%

OFFICE OF THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION

At the end of 2020, a total of **62 employees** were working in the Foundation's Office, 46 of them women and 16 men.

Chart 21:

The proportion of men and women employed at the Office of GACR



CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

We provide information below on the representation of women and men among the applicants for Standard, JUNIOR STAR, and EXPRO projects. Only those projects where it was possible to identify the gender of the applicant/ investigator are listed.

STANDARD PROJECTS

A total of 2,142 Project Proposals were evaluated in Standard Project tenders with an expected launch date in 2021. It was possible **to determine whether the proposal was submitted by a male or a female with 2,129 of the proposals.** A total of 544 Project Proposals (i.e. 25.6 %) were submitted by women as applicants, of which 73 received funding (i.e. 20.7 %). There were 178 women in the role of co-applicants (i.e. 23.8%) and 31 women in the role of co-investigators (i.e. 22.3%).

Chart 22:

Representation of women in the role of project applicant or investigator for standard projects with an expected launch date in 2021 by Discipline Committees

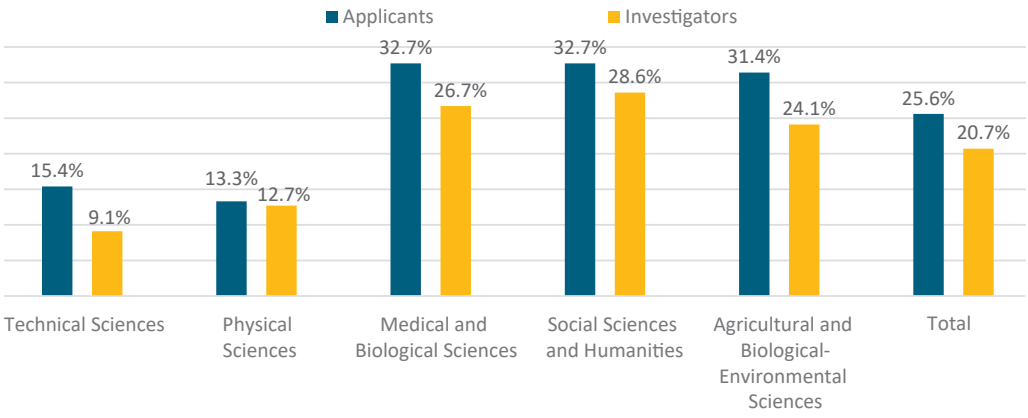
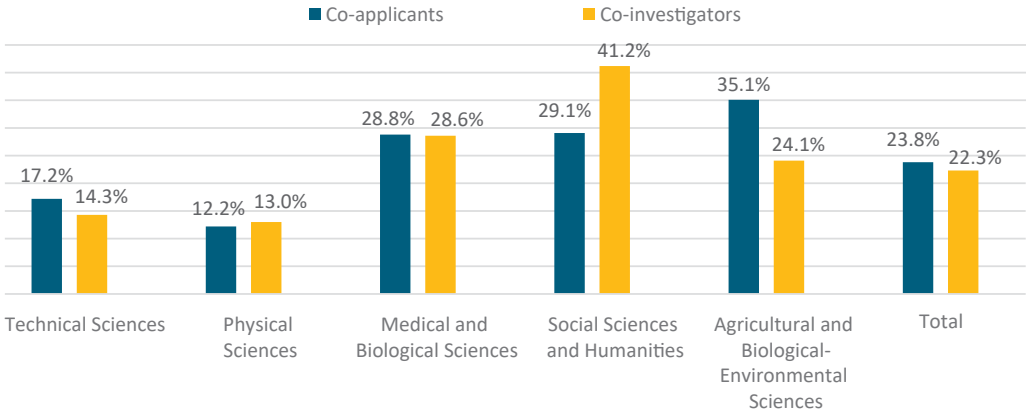


Chart 23:

Representation of women in the role of project applicant or investigator for standard projects with an expected launch date in 2021 by Discipline Committees

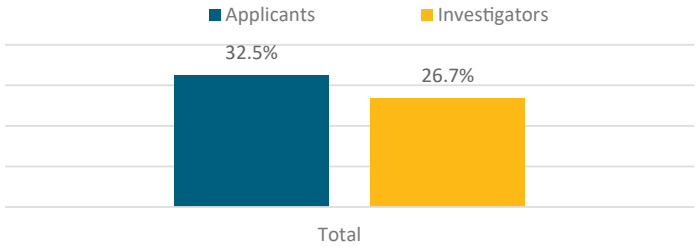


JUNIOR STAR

A total of 352 Project Proposals were evaluated in the JUNIOR STAR category with an expected launch date in 2021. A total of **345 Project Proposals could be identified as submitted by a male or a female.** A total of 112 Project Proposals (32.5 %) were submitted by women, of which 8 projects (26,7 %) received funding.

Chart 24:

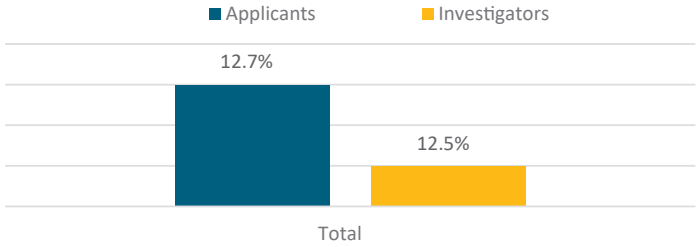
Representation of women in the role of project co-applicant or co-investigator for JUNIOR STAR projects with an expected launch date in 2021 by Discipline Committees EXPRO



A total of 121 Project Proposals were evaluated in the EXPRO tender with an expected launch date in 2021. A total **of 118 Project Proposals could be identified as submitted by a male or a female.** A total of 15 Project Proposals were submitted by women (i.e. 12,7 %), of which 2 projects received funding (i.e. 12.5 %). There were 4 female co-applicants out of a total of 38 Project Proposals, and one female co-investigator.

Chart 25:

Representation of women in the role of project applicant or investigator for EXPRO projects with an expected launch date in 2021 by Discipline Committees



KEY FACTS

- The Czech Science Foundation has **enhanced strategic communication** and PR
- You can now **subscribe to the news updates and a newsletter** on the Czech Science Foundation's website
- The hotline answered approximately **10,000 enquiries**

In 2020, the Czech Science Foundation **enhanced its PR activities thanks to the newly established External Relations Department**, which set up a communication strategy and an editorial plan. For external and internal communication, the Foundation started to use an innovative unified visual style. On-line and off-line promotional materials and merchandise print materials are gradually being developed to present the activities of the Czech Science Foundation to the professional and general public.

The website www.gacr.cz continues to be used for presenting successful basic research projects and informing about important events. This is where it is also possible to **subscribe to newsletters**. In 2020, the website was redesigned to meet accessibility standards for people with disabilities, The Czech Science Foundation has intensified its communication on Facebook, and has networked with other scientific institutions. Newsletters are mailed out approximately once every 3 months.

Selected projects and activities of the Czech Science Foundation were also featured in public and commercial media. In 2020, the Foundation became a partner of the 23rd annual **Werner von Siemens Prize**. This prize is awarded every year to students, educators and scientists - including a separate category for the most significant outcome of basic research.

The Czech Science Foundation operates a **helpdesk service** for scientists and administrative staff. Anyone can contact the helpdesk by sending an e-mail to <info@gacr.cz>, calling +420 227 088 841, or filling in a web form. Answers to the most frequently asked questions are published in the FAQ section of the Czech Science Foundation's website. In the past year, the operators of these communication channels received approximately 10,000 enquiries. The video tutorials for the GRIS application are also used to help applicants create and submit proposals for Standard Projects.

To promote basic research, the Czech Science Foundation continued to cooperate with 4JAN Public Relations, s.r.o.

KEY FACTS

- **Five project investigators** from various areas of basic research received the award along with a **cash prize of CZK 100,000**
- The traditional award ceremony took place in September. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the award ceremony was **streamed online**

The President's Awards are presented annually for **extraordinary outcomes accomplished in grant projects**. Last year's winners were selected on the basis of recommendations from experts who had participated in the evaluation of the projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation. Dozens of outstanding projects from five areas of basic research were shortlisted. The final decision on the winning projects was made by the Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation.

Each award recipient received a cash prize **of 100 thousand Czech crowns**. The award ceremony took place on 23 September, 2020, traditionally in the refectory of the House of the Professed at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University. Due to Covid-related restrictions, the award ceremony was also streamed online for the first time. The recording is available for viewing on the YouTube channel of the Czech Science Foundation along with video messages of the awarded recipients (in Czech language only).

TECHNICAL SCIENCES

Multiscale Nonequilibrium Dynamics

RNDr. Michal Pavelka, Ph.D.

(Faculty of Mathematics & Physics, Charles University, Prague)

The project's objective was to find a unifying geometric description of the development of physical systems on various levels of detail. The investigators identified procedures to reduce levels of detail, while still obtaining irreversible behaviours associated with an increase in entropy. The findings are being applied in research related to e.g. new, ultrafast-charging batteries, the possibilities of antivirus nanoparticles, and machine learning.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The Origins of Life on Earth and in the Universe

Judit E. Šponerová, Ph.D.

(Institute of Biophysics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno)

The project made a fundamental contribution to how we understand the origins of the first molecules of genetic information on Earth. The project demonstrated that asteroid and meteorite impacts may have affected the creation of the first small RNA molecules. The project was also instrumental in generating possible scenarios of the origination of the first functional genetic molecules, composed of simple substances present on early-stage Earth, such as formamide, hydrogen cyanide, or formaldehyde.

MEDICAL & BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Detailed Analysis of the Functions and Regulatory Potential, and the Subcomplexes, of the Subunits of Eucaryotic Translation Initiation Factor 3 in Humans

Dr. rer. nat. Leoš Shivaya Valášek, DSc.

(Institute of Microbiology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

The project explored the regulation of protein synthesis (aka translation), which is a process of the translation of genetic information – stored in the form of DNA in genes – into proteins. The investigators established how the eukaryotic initiation factor (eIF3) in humans ensures the assembly of ribosomal complexes in charge of detecting the exact start of the synthesis of individual proteins. This project's findings are important mostly for the research of translation deregulation, which facilitates the progression of certain types of malignant tumours, and a number of other diseases.

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

The Bohuslav Martinů Complete Edition (BMCE) – Phase 2

Mgr. Aleš Březina, Ph.D.

(Bohuslav Martinu Institute, benevolent association, Prague)

The major contribution from the project is the critical publication of nine volumes of the works of Bohuslav Martinů – a Czech music composer of worldwide acclaim. The project served to assemble and publish a database of the sources which are key to the discovery and examination of his life and works, as well as the history of 20th century music in the historical region of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, the United States, France, and Switzerland. The project also opens up nearly 900 letters from the voluminous correspondence of this leading Czech figure.

AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Missing Links: Genome Evolution in the tribe Camelineae (fam. Brassicaceae)

RNDr. Terezie Mandáková, Ph.D.

(Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University, Brno)

Camelina sativa (aka "gold-of-pleasure", "false flax", "linseed dodder", "Siberian oilseed", or "German sesame") from the Brassicaceae family is an ancient oilseed crop cultivated in Europe as early as several thousand years B.C. This project was instrumental in the identification of the most likely parents in the family, characterisation of the genome structure of the five most closely related species, and the identification of the mechanisms of evolution of the genomes. The new findings provide the information necessary for the future cultivation of this significant crop.

KEY FACTS

- Standard and international projects were evaluated by **40 expert panels**
- The chairs and vice-chairs of the panel form **five Discipline Committees**
- In 2020, approximately **one tenth of the panel members** were replaced - new members were nominated by research institutions

The evaluation of the Project Proposal is a **multi-stage process** - it starts with the drafting of a review and an evaluation by the selected panelists, then it is discussed at the panel meeting and forwarded to the relevant Discipline Committee made up of the chair and vice-chair of the panel. For projects proceeding to the next stage, further **reviews** are prepared **abroad**, to be discussed by the panellists again, leading to a recommendation to the panel. The panel then recommends the Project Proposals for funding to the Presidium. Details of the evaluation process can be found in the relevant chapter.

The evaluation of the JUNIOR STAR anad EXPRO Project Proposals is carried out **differently**. For more information on the members of the JUNIOR STAR and EXPRO Evaluation Panels recommended by Science Connect from the Council of international Scientists, please visit Discipline Committees - The Czech Science Foundation (GACR).

EVALUATION PANELS

The Evaluation Panels are **expert bodies of the Discipline Committees**. The Czech Science Foundation Presidium invites individuals and entities from the Czech scientific community to nominate panel members. The selection of members for each panel is then carried out by working groups made up of a representative of the CRDI, a member of the Czech Science Foundation Presidium, and a representative of the Czech Science Foundation Scientific Advisory Board.

In the year 2020, there were multiple replacements of the panel members following the Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committees and Evaluation Panels of the Czech Science Foundation. A total of **39 members** were **newly appointed**. The new experts started their first term in office on 1 April 2020. At the end of 2020, there were a **total of 427 experts** serving on 40 panels.

CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF EVALUATION PANELS

TECHNICAL SCIENCES

P101 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Dr. Ing. Pavel Polach (chair)
– Research and Testing Institute Plzen, s.r.o.

Ing. Josef Foldyna, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Geonics of the CAS, v. v. i.

P102 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Prof. Ing. Jan Franc, DrSc. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Ing. Pavel Peterka, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Photonics and Electronics of the CAS, v. v. i.

P103 CYBERNETICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION PROCESSING

doc. Mgr. Martin Nečaský, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Prof. RNDr. Olga Štěpánková, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics

P104 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SCIENCE

doc. Ing. Jiří Bydžovský, CSc. (chair)
– Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering

doc. Ing. Jiří Kolísko, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Czech Technical University in Prague, Klokner Institute

P105 STRUCTURAL MECHANICS AND CONSTRUCTION, FLUID MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICS

doc. Ing. Stanislav Pospíšil, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, CAS CR, v. v. i.

Prof. Ing. Zbyněk Keršner, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering

P106 TECHNICAL CHEMISTRY

Prof. Ing. Jiří Čejka, DrSc. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Science

Prof. Ing. Michal Přibyl, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– University of Chemical Technology in Prague, Faculty of Chemical Engineering

P107 METALLIC MATERIALS - PREPARATION AND PROPERTIES

Prof. RNDr. Vladimír Šíma, CSc. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Prof. Ing. Ivan Křupka, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

P108 MATERIALS SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

RNDr. Ing. Martin Kalbáč, Ph.D. (chair)
– J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry, CAS, v. v. i.

Prof. Ing. Ivo Dlouhý, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Physics of Materials, CAS CR, v. v. i.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

P201 MATHEMATICS

Prof. RNDr. Jan Slovák, DrSc. (chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Science

doc. Ing. Petr Girg, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Faculty of Applied Sciences

P202 COMPUTER SCIENCE

doc. Ing. Hana Tomášková, Ph.D. (chair)
– University of Hradec Kralove, Faculty of Informatics and Management

Prof. Ing. Pavel Tvrdík, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Information Technology

P203 NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

RNDr. Jana Bielčíková, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Nuclear Physics, CAS CR, v. v. i.

RNDr. Bruno Jungwiert, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Astronomical Institute of CAS, v. v. i., Ondřejov

P204 CONDENSED MATTER AND MATERIAL PHYSICS, PLASMA PHYSICS AND LOW TEMPERATURE PHYSICS

Ing. Dominik Legut, Ph.D. (chair)
– University of Technology Ostrava, IT4Innovations-National Supercomputing Centre

Ing. Jan Grym, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Photonics and Electronics of the CAS, v. v. i.

P205 BIOPHYSICS, MACROMOLECULAR PHYSICS AND OPTICS

Prof. RNDr. Viktor Brabec, DrSc. (chair)
– Institute of Biophysics, CAS CR, v. v. i.

doc. Mgr. Jan Soubusta, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Science

P206 ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY - CHEMICAL AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF ATOMIC, MOLECULAR AND (BIO) MOLECULAR SYSTEMS

Prof. RNDr. Viktor Kanický, DrSc. (chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Science

Prof. RNDr. Petr Solich, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové

P207 CHEMICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Prof. Ing. Pavel Lhoták, CSc. (chair)
– University of Chemical Technology in Prague, Faculty of Chemical Technology

Prof. PharmDr. Petr Zimčík, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové

P208 CHEMICAL PHYSICS AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

doc. Mgr. Lubomír Rulíšek, CSc., DSc. (chair)
– Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, CAS CR, v. v. i.

doc. RNDr. Pavel Matějíček, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Science

P209 ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, HYDROLOGY, PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPHYSICS

doc. RNDr. Tomáš Halenka, CSc. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

doc. Ing. Michal Dohnal, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering

P210 GEOCHEMISTRY, GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY

Prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Ettler, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Science

Prof. Ing. Ondřej Šráček, Ph.D., M.Sc. (vice-chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Science

MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

P301 MOLECULAR AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, GENETICS, GENOMICS AND BIOINFORMATICS

RNDr. Petr Man, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Microbiology, CAS CR, v. v. i.

doc. RNDr. Jiří Vondrášek, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, CAS CR, v. v. i.

P302 MICROBIOLOGY, PARASITOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Prof. RNDr. Václav Hořejší, CSc. (chair)
– Institute of Molecular Genetics of the CAS, v. v. i.

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Hrabák, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen

P303 CELL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

doc. RNDr. Dušan Cmarko, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine

Mgr. Pavel Doležal, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Science

P304 TUMOR BIOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL ONCOLOGY, MORPHOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES AND PATHOLOGY

Prof. RNDr. Jana Kašpárková, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Biophysics, CAS CR, v. v. i.

Prof. RNDr. Ondřej Slabý, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Masaryk University, CEITEC

P305 MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE, DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPY, TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Prof. MUDr. Manuela Vaněčková, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine

doc. MVDr. Aleš Hampl, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Medicine

P306 PHARMACOLOGY, TOXICOLOGY, MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, MEDICAL BIOPHYSICS

Prof. Ing. Kamil Kuča, Ph.D. (chair)
– University of Hradec Kralove, Faculty of Science

Prof. RNDr. Pavel Anzenbacher, DrSc. (vice-chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Medicine

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

P401 PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES

doc. PhDr. Luboš Bělka, CSc. (chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts

Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Nejeschleba, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Arts

P402 ECONOMIC SCIENCES, MACROECONOMICS, MICROECONOMICS, ECONOMETRICS (EXCEPT FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS), QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN ECONOMICS (EXCEPT OPERATIONAL RESEARCH)

Prof. Ing. Martin Macháček, Ph.D. et Ph.D. (chair)
– VSB Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics

Marek Kapička, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Economics Institute of the CAS, v. v. i.

P403 BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

doc. RNDr. Ing. Miloš Kopa, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Prof. Ing. Karel Janda, M.A., Dr., Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences

P404 SOCIOLOGY, DEMOGRAPHY, SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY AND MEDIA STUDIES

Prof. PhDr. Jan Jirák, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences

PhDr. Hana Hašková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Sociology of the CAS CR, v. v. i.

P405 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PRE-MODERN HISTORY (UNTIL 1780)

PhDr. Lucie Storchová, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Humanities

Mgr. Gabriela Blažková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Archaeology of the CAS, v. v. i.

P406 LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE

Mgr. Václava Kettnerová, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

doc. PhDr. Petr Dytrt, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts

P407 PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATION

doc. RNDr. Jana Straková, Ph.D. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Education

doc. PhDr. Matúš Šucha, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Arts

P408 JURISPRUDENCE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

doc. PhDr. Lukáš Linek, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Sociology of the CAS CR, v. v. i.

Prof. JUDr. Naděžda Rozehnalová, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Law

P409 ART SCIENCES

Mgr. Libor Jůn, Ph.D. (chair)
– National Museum Prague

doc. Mgr. Martina Pachmanová, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague

P410 MODERN HISTORY (SINCE 1780) AND ETHNOLOGY

doc. Dr. Phil. Rudolf Kučera, Ph.D. (chair until November 2020)
– Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, v. v. i.

doc. PhDr. Daniel Drápala, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts

AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

P501 PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND GENETICS, PLANT MEDICINE

Prof. RNDr. Petr Ilík, Ph.D. (chair)
– Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Science

doc. RNDr. Radomíra Vaňková, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Experimental Botany of the CAS, v. v. i.

P502 ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY AND GENETICS, VETERINARY MEDICINE

Ing. Michal Kubelka, CSc. (chair)
– Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the CAS, v. v. i., Libechov

Ing. Jiří Plachý, CSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Molecular Genetics of the CAS, v. v. i.

P503 FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ECOTOXICOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY

Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Cajthaml, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Microbiology, CAS CR, v. v. i.

Ing. Jan Kopečný, DrSc. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the CAS, v. v. i.,

P504 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, FORESTRY AND SOIL BIOLOGY, ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

Mgr. Filip Oulehle, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Global Change Research, CAS, Brno

Ing. Jiří Bárta, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Faculty of Natural Sciences

P505 ANIMAL AND PLANT ECOLOGY

RNDr. Petr Kotlík, Ph.D. (chair)
– Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the CAS, v. v. i., Libechov

doc. Mgr. Otmar Urban, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Global Change Research Institute, CAS, Brno

P506 BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Scholz, CSc. (chair)
– Biological Centre of the CAS CR, v. v. i., Institute of Parasitology

RNDr. Vít Latzel, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Botanical Institute of the CAS CR, v. v. i.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

The Discipline Committees (hereinafter "DCs") are **expert advisory bodies** in charge of evaluating Grant Project Proposals, and their Interim and Final Reports. They are made up of 10 to 20 members, all of whom are experts in their respective scientific fields. Each of the DCs is **made up of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the panel**. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel are appointed by the Presidium for a two-year term, from among individuals nominated by the members of the relevant Panel in a secret ballot.

CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

In 2020, a total of 40 Chairs and 40 Vice-Chairs served on the panels.

DC1 TECHNICAL SCIENCES

Prof. Ing. Jan Franc, DrSc. (chair)
– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

RNDr. Ing. Martin Kalbáč, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry of the CAS, v. v. i.

DC2 PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Prof. RNDr. Jan Slovák, DrSc. (chair)
– Masaryk University, Faculty of Science

RNDr. Bruno Jungwiert, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Astronomy of the CAS CR, v. v. i.

DC3 MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Prof. Ing. Kamil Kuča, Ph.D. (chair)
– University of Hradec Kralove, Faculty of Science

Prof. MUDr. Manuela Vaněčková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine

DC4 SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

doc. Dr. Phil. Rudolf Kučera, Ph.D.
(Chair until November 2020) - Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, v. v. i.

Prof. Ing. Martin Macháček, Ph.D. et Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– VSB Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics

DC5 AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Scholz, CSc. (chair)
– Biological Centre of the CAS CR, v. v. i., Institute of Parasitology

Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Cajthaml, Ph.D. (vice-chair)
– Institute of Microbiology, CAS CR, v. v. i.

KEY FACTS

- In response to Covid-19, the Czech Science Foundation **postponed deadlines for the tenders in progress** - allowing Project Proposals to be submitted almost a month later
- A **number of rules** for ongoing projects were **amended** (inclusion of additional eligible costs, postponement of deadlines, etc.)
- In cooperation with SNSF (Switzerland) and FWF (Austria), calls were published to **fund Covid-19 related projects**

The year 2020 was affected in all areas of life by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the related measures to combat it. For this reason, **a number of measures** were adopted by the Czech Science Foundation Presidium to help scientists better cope with the situation.

EXAMPLES OF THE MEASURES

- Permission **to extend the project timeline** (250 projects made use of this option in 2020).
- **Redefinition of eligible costs** to also include increased travel costs (e.g. for mandatory tests), costs of postponed conferences, cancellation fees, telecommunication costs, etc.
- An option to **change the overall workload** of the team by up to 35% without having to file a request.
- **Reduction in the minimum workload** for a member of the EXPRO project team,
- Permission to **shift** basic cost items worth **up to CZK 100,000 without having to file a request**.

In response to the state of emergency and other related measures during the project submission period, the Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation decided to cancel all tenders with a project launch date in 2021, and publish new tenders **with a later deadline**. Despite all the complications related to the shorter period for the evaluation of the Project Proposals, also with Panel and Discipline Committee meetings being held online, it was still possible to announce the results of the tenders by the original deadline. As a result, it was possible to launch new projects as early as 1 January 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic and related topics have the potential to become the subject of research in many scientific fields. These topics have already appeared in several standard Project Proposals, some of which have been recommended for funding. In addition, the Czech Science Foundation, together with SNSF (Switzerland) and FWF (Austria) published a call focusing exclusively on Covid-19.

CONTACT

WHERE TO FIND US?

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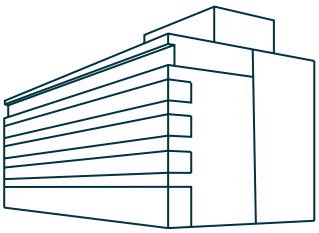

WHERE TO FIND OUT THE LATEST INFORMATION?

www.GACR.cz

facebook.com/GrantovaAgenturaCR

NEED ADVICE?

Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Fri 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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DATA BOX

Data box for routine correspondence with the Czech Science Foundation: a8uadk4
Data box for submission of Project Proposals, project components, and the Final Report: ntq92qs

OFFICE HOURS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE MAILROOM

Mon-Wed 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

www.GACR.cz