



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Czech Science Foundation  
2022

[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)

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## DEAR COLLEAGUES,



I cannot begin my look back at the year 2021 other than by remembering Professor Jaroslav Koča, President of the Czech Science Foundation, who passed away suddenly last July.

Professor Jaroslav Koča was an internationally recognized expert in the field of organic chemistry, in which he published over 200 scientific papers and supervised several dozen Ph.D. students and postdocs. During his lifetime he held several positions in science management - he contributed significantly to the development of CEITEC, the Central European Institute of Technology.

Professor Koča and I served in the Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation for several years, and our visions were similar in many ways - we both cared about supporting young scientists, developing international cooperation, but we also cared about the development of the scientific environment as a whole. These areas will continue to be a priority for GACR in the future.

In spite of this sad event, GACR managed to achieve its mission of supporting basic research in 2021. New calls aimed at the mobility of early-career scientists were published - the POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP, and the second run of the JUNIOR STAR competition was also prepared for early-career scientists. Traditionally, international calls and a tender for Standard Projects were launched, having been the basis of Czech Science Foundation funding for almost thirty years.

As in the previous year, life was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, GACR extended all measures taken in 2020 as well as the submission deadline for project proposals. Following the pandemic experience, in collaboration with the Council for Science, Research and Innovation, we prepared a completely new type of grants - the Oriented Basic Research call. Unlike the other tenders, this one will only be launched if there is public need, and will focus on a specific topic.

A major achievement in 2021 was the establishment of a collaboration with the National Science Foundation, the largest U.S. agency, which disburses approximately USD 8.5 billion annually. Through this cooperation, Czech scientists can submit joint proposals with scientists working in the United States. Cooperation has also been established with the Luxembourg National Research Fund. We are working hard to establish further cooperation schemes, in particular within the European Weave initiative.

It is already clear that 2022 will bring new and unexpected challenges. I strongly believe that the Czech Science Foundation will be able to manage them as well as all those that have emerged so far.

With my best wishes.

**Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D.**

In 2021, the Czech Science Foundation (GACR) continued to accomplish its mission, which is to support basic research in the Czech Republic in all fields of science.

Due to the sudden passing away of the President, Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc in 2021, there was a change in the leadership of GACR - this role was assumed in November by Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D., who had been a member of the Presidium. Prof. MUDr. Mgr. Milan Jirsa, CSc. became a member of the Presidium in charge of the field of medical and biological sciences.

GACR managed a **budget of CZK 4.4 billion** in 2021, of which CZK 120 million was allocated for the operation of the institutional expenses and for the evaluation process of thousands of project proposals. In 2021, CZK 4.3 billion, i.e. 97.3% of the total budget of the GACR, was earmarked for project funding, of which CZK 3.3 billion was allocated for funding existing projects and CZK 1 billion for newly launched projects that year.

In addition to the tenders for Standard Projects, JUNIOR STAR and International Projects, a new POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP tender targeting the international mobility of scientists within 4 years of obtaining their Ph.D.s was launched in 2021.

Funding for **492 new projects** started in 2021 and a decision was made to fund **607 projects from 2022 onwards**. A total of **3,228 projects were evaluated** in a multi-stage evaluation process involving both international and Czech experts. Some of the international calls had not yet received a complete evaluation by the partner abroad as of June 2022 - thus they are not included in the number of grants awarded.

In 2021, international cooperation continued expanding - new calls for proposals were published jointly with the **National Science Foundation (NSF) of the U.S.** and, as part of the Weave initiative, also jointly with the **Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)**. In total, GACR is funding joint scientific projects in cooperation with **11 institutions from all over the world**.

The high standard of the projects funded and the appropriately designed selection process are reflected in their results. Out of a total of 612 projects evaluated after being completed in 2021, only 35 (5.7%) were graded as incomplete, i.e. 577 (94.3%) projects were graded as completed or even excellent.

The year 2021 was another year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, to which GACR responded with targeted measures to help scientists better manage the situation.

In September, five investigators of projects funded by GACR in various areas of basic research were awarded the traditional **GACR President's Award**.

GACR 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 GACR 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"). GACR 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 July 2021, the President of GACR Prof. RNDr. **Jaroslav Koča**, DrSc. **passed away** unexpectedly
- In November 2021, member of the Presidium Assoc. Prof. RNDr. **Petr Baldrian**, Ph.D., **was appointed the President** of GACR
- Prof. MUDr. Mgr. Milan Jirsa, CSc., **newly appointed** member of the GACR Presidium, was put in charge of the fields of medical and biological sciences

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 GACR are performed by the Office of GACR.

## PRESIDENT OF GACR

The President of GACR (hereinafter the "President") represents GACR 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 GACR.

The President regularly participates in the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board of GACR and most of the meetings of the Supervisory Board of GACR. 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 GACR.

## GACR PRESIDIUUM

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

### THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDIUUM

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 GACR
- coordinate the activities of the discipline committees - advisory bodies of GACR, 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 Research, Development, and Innovation Council (hereinafter "R&D Council").

After the unexpected departure of GACR President Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc. in July 2021, the government selected Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D., in his second term in office in the Presidium since January, to head GACR as its new President. In November 2021, Prof. MUDr. Mgr. Milan Jirsa, CSc., was appointed new member of the GACR Presidium and put in charge of medical and biological sciences.

#### MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUM AT 2021 YEAR-END

Assoc. Prof. RNDr. **Petr Baldrian**, Ph.D. (2<sup>nd</sup> term) - Agricultural and Biological-Environmental Sciences  
Prof. Ing. **Stanislava Hronová**, CSc., dr. h. c. (Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> term) - Social Sciences and Humanities  
Prof. MUDr. Mgr. **Milan Jirsa**, CSc. (1<sup>st</sup> term) - Medical and Biological Sciences  
Prof. Ing. **Rostislav Drochytka**, CSc., MBA, dr. h. c. (1<sup>st</sup> term) - Technical Sciences  
RNDr. **Alice Valkárová**, DrSc. (2<sup>nd</sup> term) - Physical Sciences

A total of 13 Presidium meetings were held in 2021.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF GACR

The Scientific Advisory Board of GACR (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 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 GACR to the development and quality of basic research in the Czech Republic
- discuss and propose solutions to problems related to the activities of GACR
- perform other tasks assigned by GACR Presidium
- give its opinion on other issues received from the President, the GACR Presidium, GACR Supervisory Board, or the R&D Council
- comment on the content each panel's focus
- comment on the international cooperation of GACR and help its development

The SAB is composed of twelve members, appointed and dismissed by the Government from among experts nominated by the R&D Council. 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 2021 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.

The SAB met four times in 2021, on 2 March, 1 July, 21 September, and 7 December. The meetings took place both online and in hybrid form.

## SUPERVISORY BOARD OF GACR

The Supervisory Board of GACR (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 GACR'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. At the end of 2021, the SB had nine members.

## MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD AT 2021 YEAR-END

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

Prof. Ing. **Jan Roda, CSc.** (Vice-President)

Prof. MUDr. **Pavel Boštík**, Ph.D.

JUDr. Ing. **Zdeněk Dufek**, Ph.D.

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

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

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

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

Prof. PhDr. **Hana Vykopalová**, CSc.

In 2021, 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 GACR

The Office of GACR (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 GACR. The activities of the Office follow organizational rules.

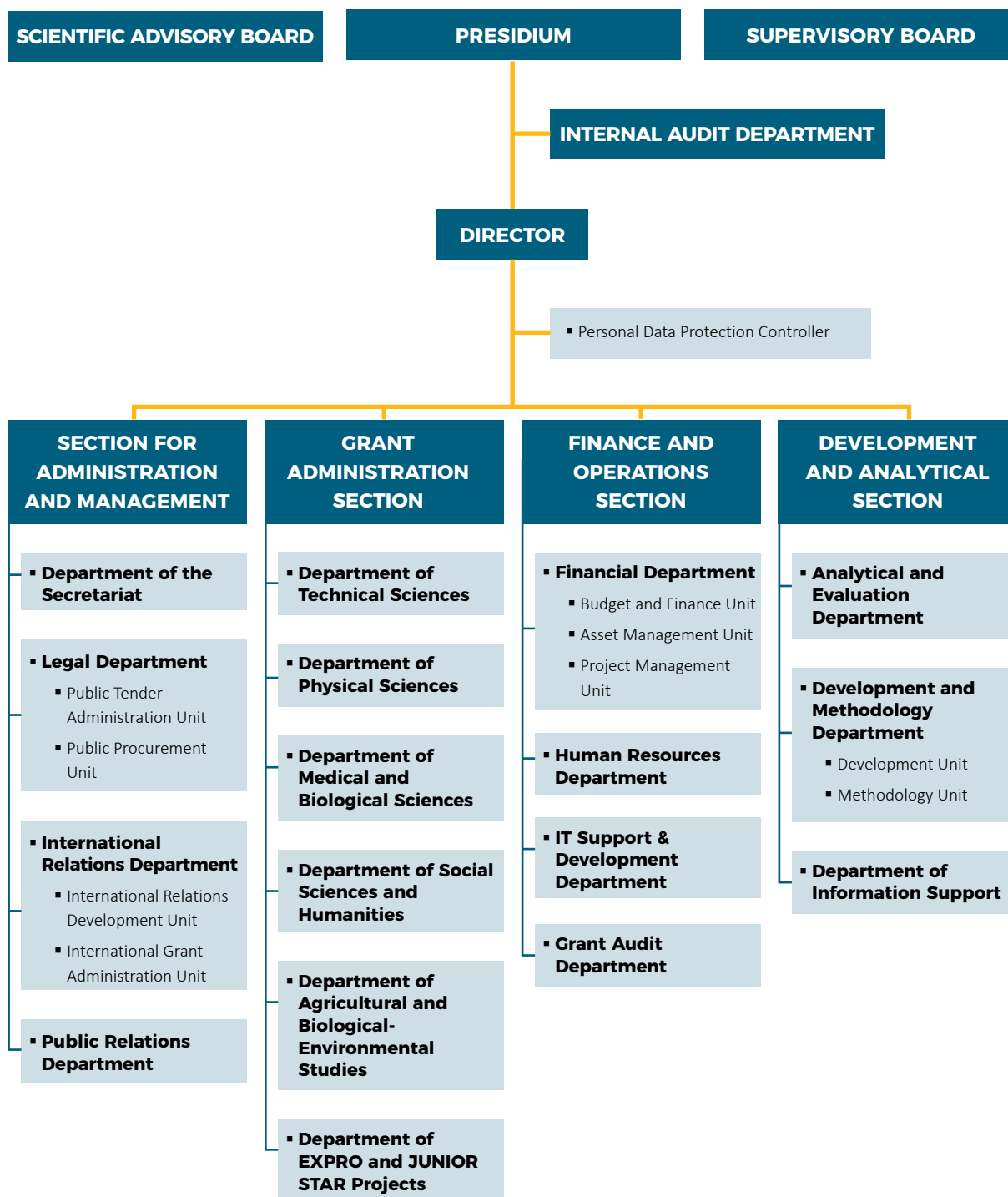
### THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE

is, in particular, to:

- prepare documents for meetings
- draw up the draft budget of GACR
- 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 GACR with partner organizations
- inform the public about the activities of GACR

The Office is headed by the Director, who is appointed and removed by the President. In 2021, the Office was headed by Ing. Lada Knetlová as its Director.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GACR'S OFFICE

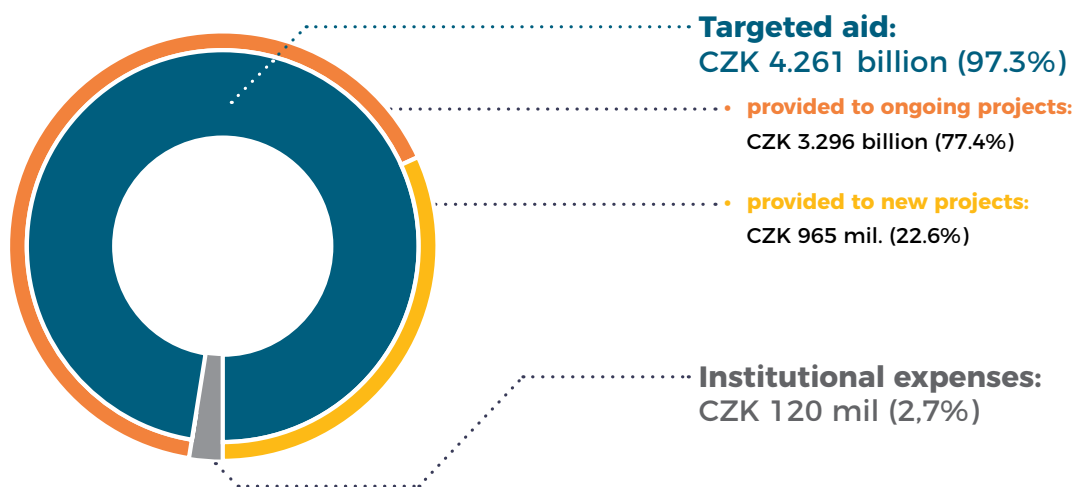


## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Czech Science Foundation was assigned a **budget of CZK 4.38 billion** for 2021
- Only **2.7% of the costs were incurred as institutional expenses**
- Approximately **one fourth of the** targeted aid was earmarked **for new projects**
- The highest amount went into funding **Standard Projects - CZK 3 billion**

For 2021, the total budget of the Czech Science Foundation was approved in the amount of CZK 4.3805 billion. The expenses of GACR are categorised into institutional expenses 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 GACR's own calculations, last updated as of 22 June 2022.

## DISTRIBUTION OF GACR'S FUNDS



## INSTITUTIONAL EXPENSES

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 expenses approved for 2021 amounted to **CZK 119.78 million (2.7% of total GACR funds)**. The use of institutional funds is very effective in comparison to partner institutions abroad, i.e. similar agencies.

## TARGETED AID

In 2021, the Czech Science Foundation was allocated funds for targeted aid under the Act on the State Budget totalling CZK **4.260,7 billion**. Out of that amount, a total of CZK 3.296 billion was necessary to fund the ongoing grant projects, i.e. 77.4% of the total amount of GACR's targeted aid. To launch new grant projects, the total targeted aid amounted to CZK 964.726 million, i.e. 22.6% of the total targeted aid provided by GACR.

### Approved Targeted Aid Provided by the Czech Science Foundation by Project Group in 2021

|                                    | Approved targeted aid (in CZK thousands) | Share of targeted aid (as a % of total) | Number of projects funded in the year (total) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Standard Projects                  | 3,003,360                                | 70.5                                    | 1,412   |
| International Bilateral Projects   | 89,059                                   | 2.1                                     | 92  |
| EXPRO Projects                     | 625,361                                  | 14.7                                    | 73  |
| International Lead Agency Projects | 62,983                                   | 1.5                                     | 80  |
| Junior Grants                      | 364,002                                  | 8.5                                     | 195   |
| JUNIOR STAR                        | 115,998                                  | 2.7                                     | 30  |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>4,260,763</b>                         | <b>100</b>                              | <b>1,882</b>                                  |

## KEY FACTS

- In 2021, tenders were announced to fund **Standard Projects**, the **JUNIOR STAR** projects, **POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP** and **International Projects**
- In tenders published in 2021, **607 project proposals** to be launched in 2022 were selected for funding, out of a total of 3,228 project proposals received
- In 2021, **492 new projects** were selected for funding
- The submission deadlines were **postponed by two weeks** due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Czech Science Foundation publishes several types of public tenders and calls every year. In 2021, the tenders were for **Standard Projects, JUNIOR STAR, and International Projects**. New calls to support the mobility of early-career scientists were published: POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP (INCOMING and OUTGOING). In accordance with the approved schedule, no EXPRO call was published in 2021. In addition to these calls and tenders, existing and new international calls were also issued. Scientists were invited to respond to all calls and tenders by submitting project proposals in all areas of basic research.

The calls and tenders were published on 22 February 2021. Due to the constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, GACR heeded the feedback from the scientific community and re-launched the LA calls and tenders on 10 March 2021 - extending the deadline by two weeks until 22 April 2021. For the international calls, the deadlines varied as agreed with the international partner agencies. The anticipated launch date for the projects recommended for funding based on these tenders, with the exception of the international ones, was 1 January 2022.

The following sections present the evaluation of the individual tenders and calls launched in both 2021 and 2020, as the projects funded under the 2020 tenders and calls were launched in 2021.

### Total number of projects funded by project group

|                               | Number of projects funded in 2021 | Number of projects funded in 2022 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Standard Projects             | 354                               | 501                               |
| International Projects        | 92                                | 63*                               |
| EXPRO Projects                | 16                                | -                                 |
| JUNIOR STAR                   | 30                                | 16                                |
| POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP | -                                 | 27                                |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>492</b>                        | <b>607*</b>                       |

\*State as of 22 June 2022, evaluation of some international calls has not yet been completed.

## TENDERS AND CALLS LAUNCHED IN 2021

- **3,116** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **20** 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
- **492** Project Proposals selected for financing

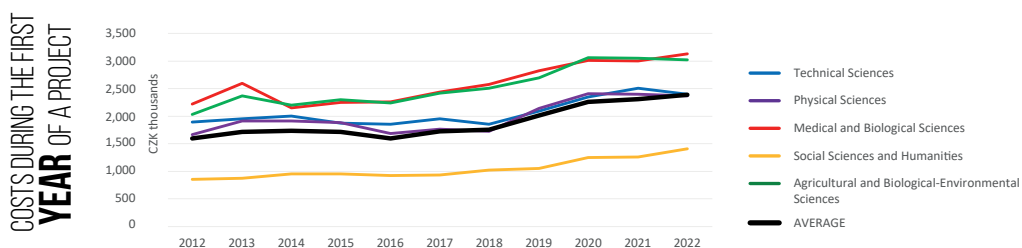
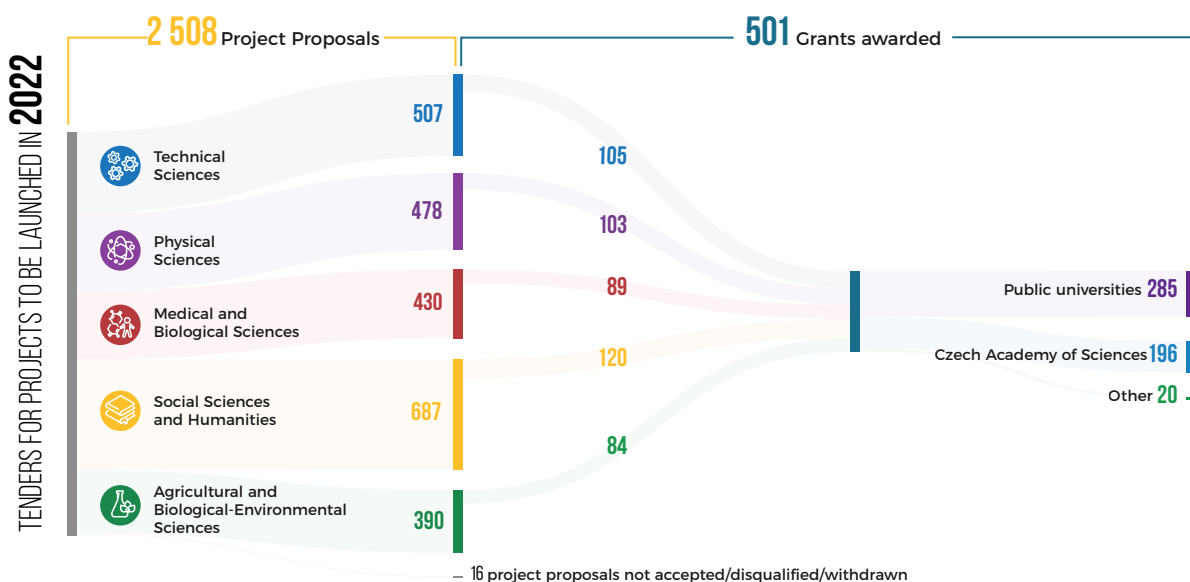
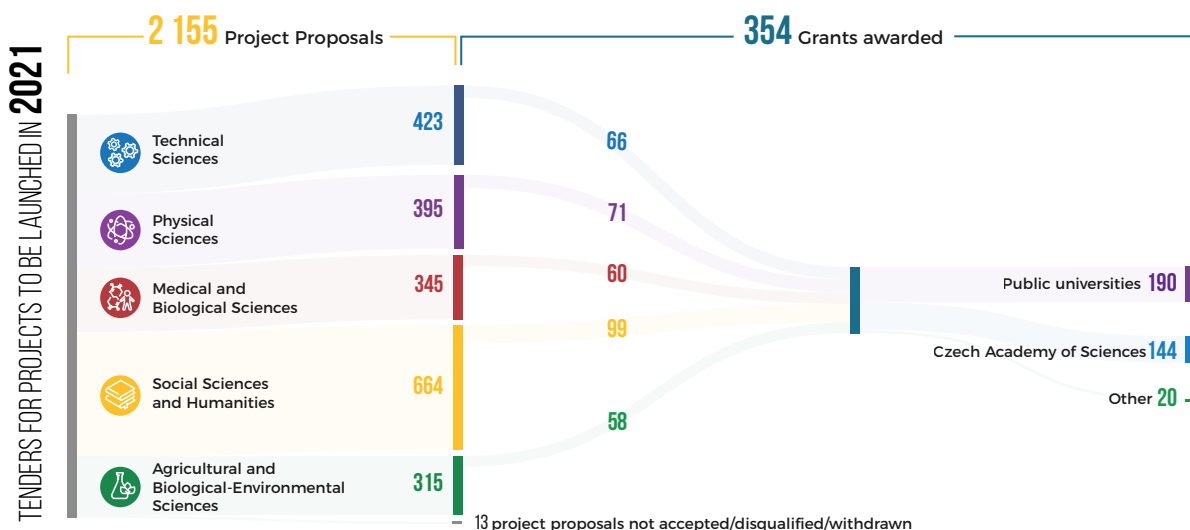
## TENDERS AND CALLS LAUNCHED IN 2022

- **3,228** Project Proposals received by the Czech Science Foundation by the tender deadline
- **14** of the Project Proposals were not accepted because they failed to meet the terms of the public tender
- **11** Project Proposals (i.e. 0.3%) were disqualified because they did not meet the requirements
- **9** Applicants/Organizations withdrew from the public tenders
- **607** Project Proposals selected for financing

# 5.1 Standard Projects

## BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

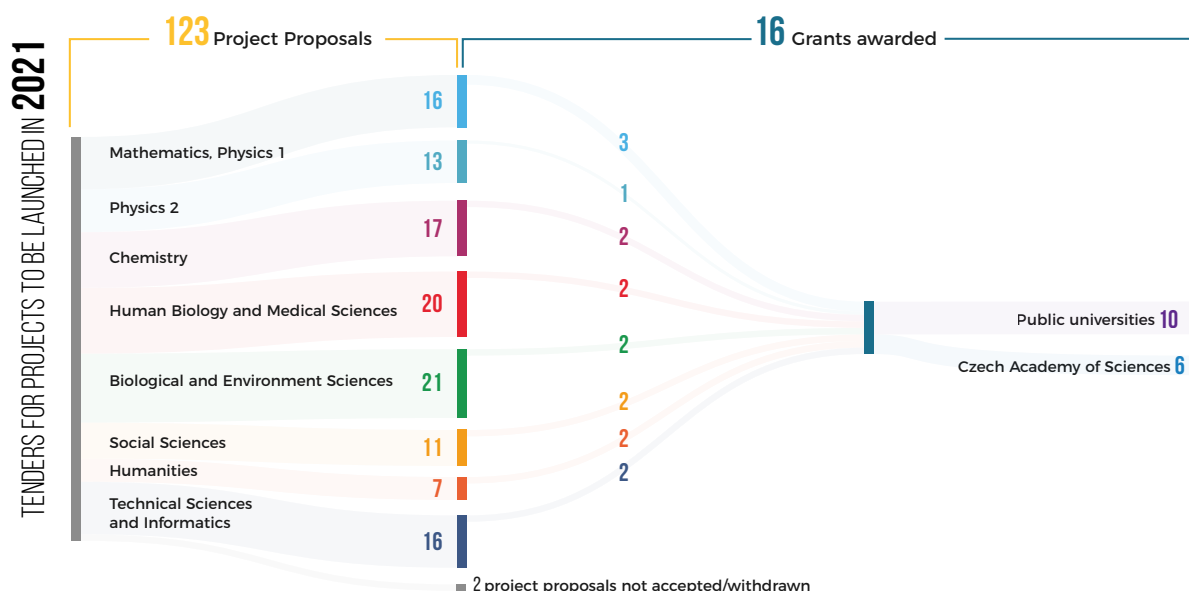
- Project duration 2-3 years
- Targeted at all researchers and teams
- Published annually since 1993
- The most frequently applied grant tender scheme



# 5.2 EX|PRO

## 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
- No public tender was launched in 2021 in accordance with the timetable, the next public tender will be launched in 2022



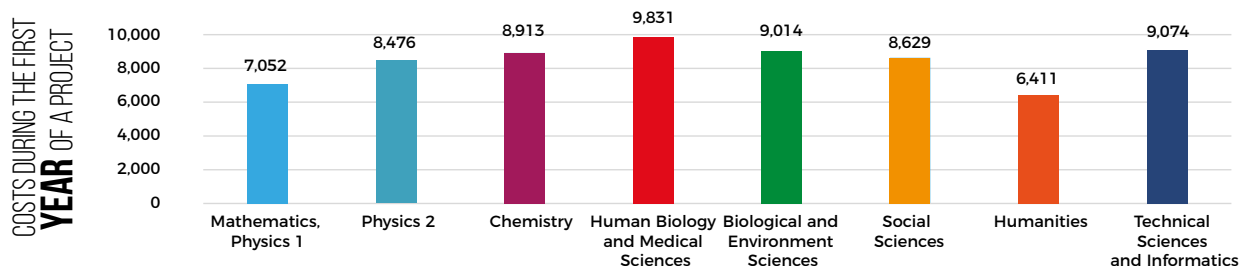
## AVERAGE EXPENSES FOR 1 YEAR OF WORK ON PROJECTS

### CZK 8.332 million

Average expenses for 1 year of work on the project.

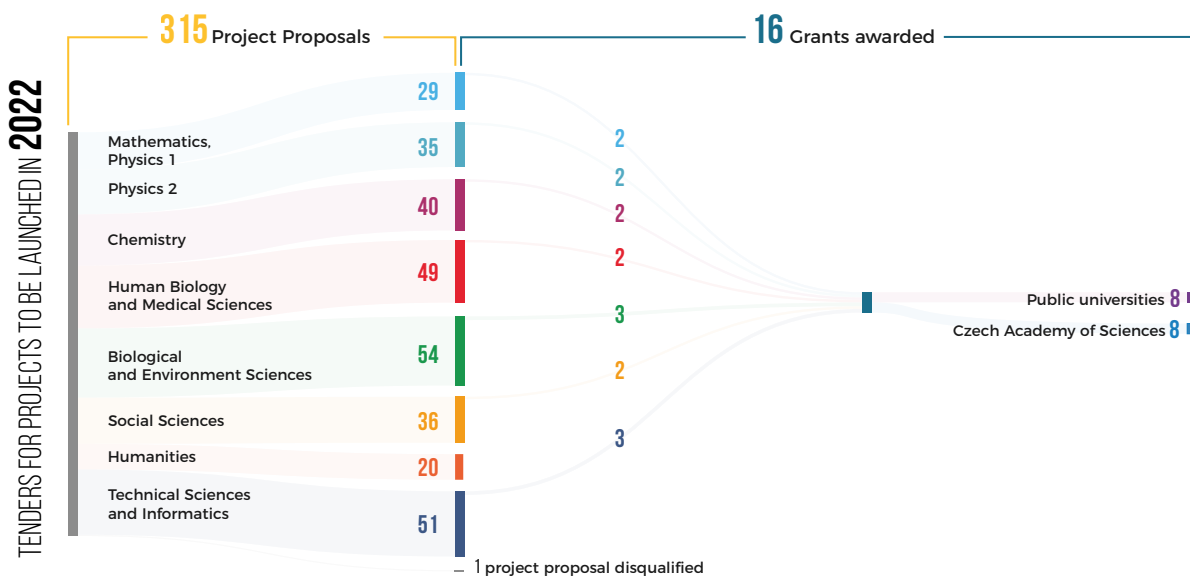
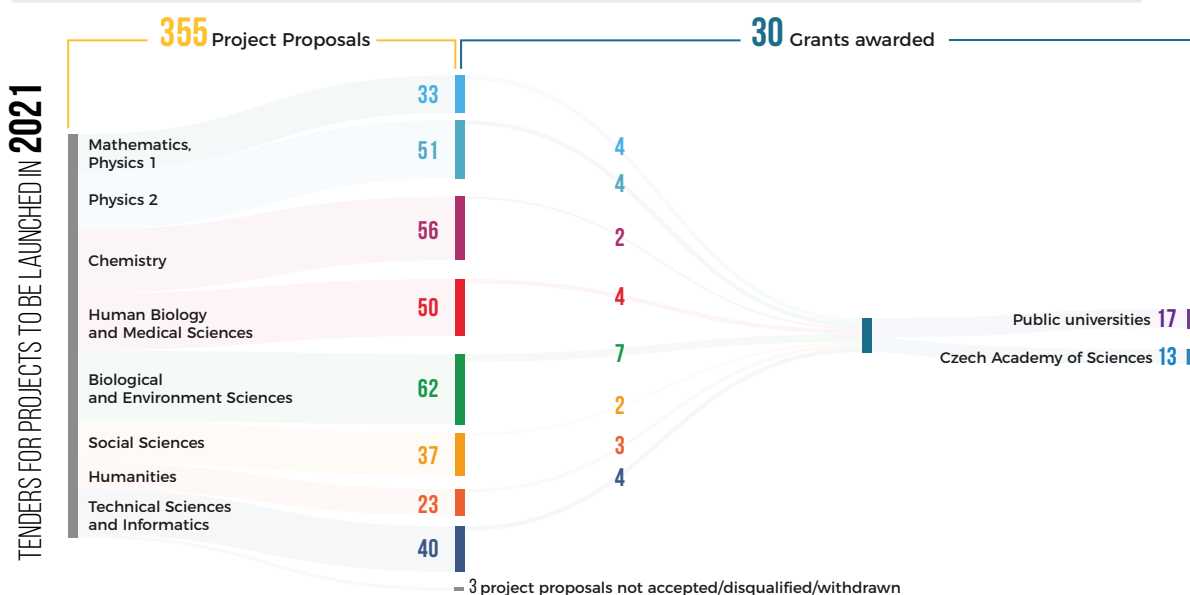
### CZK 41.662 million

Average amount expenses for the entire duration of work on the project.

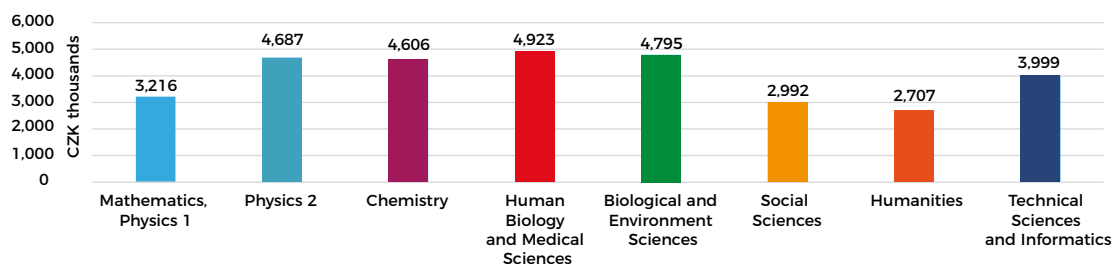


## BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- 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
- Up to CZK 25 mil for the entire duration of the project



**COSTS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF A PROJECT**

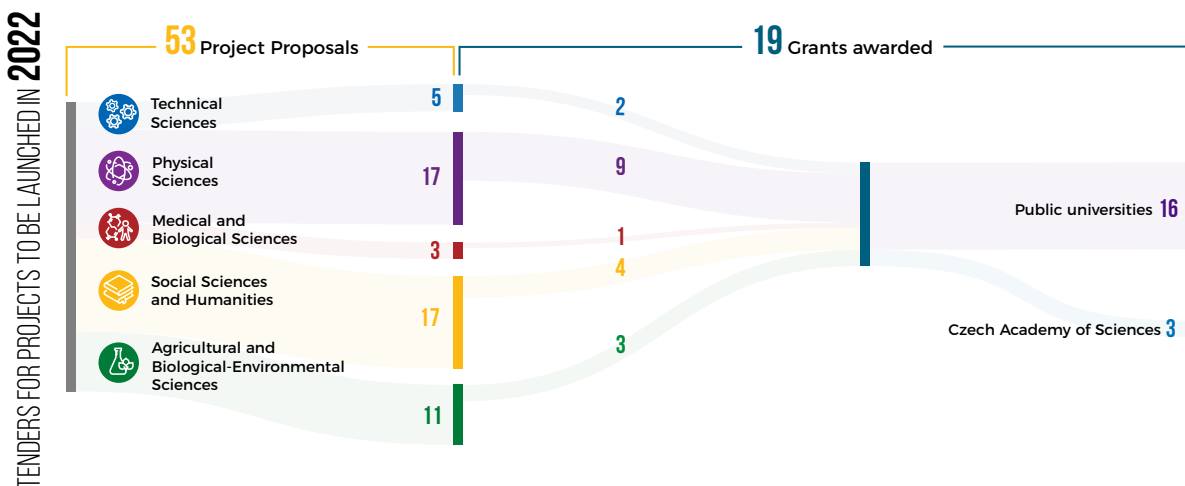


# 5.4 < POSTDOC > INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP

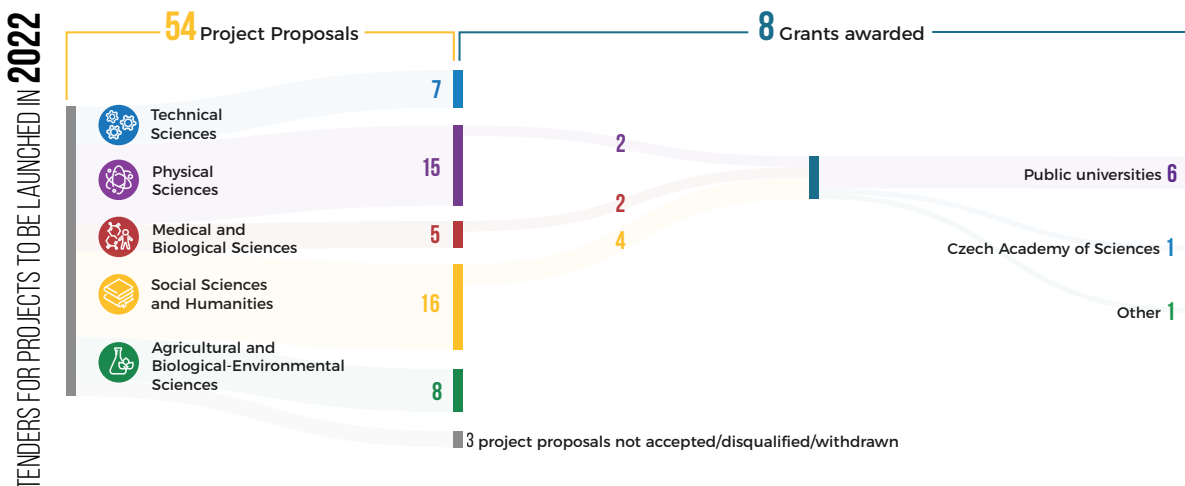
## BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Division into outgoing grants POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP OUTGOING - PIF OUT (researchers will spend two years at the foreign site and then one year at the Czech site) and POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP INCOMING - PIF IN (researchers working abroad spend three years at the Czech site)
- For researchers within 4 years of obtaining their Ph.D.
- First call in 2021
- 3-year project duration

## < POSTDOC > INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP OUTGOING



## POSTDOC > INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP INCOMING














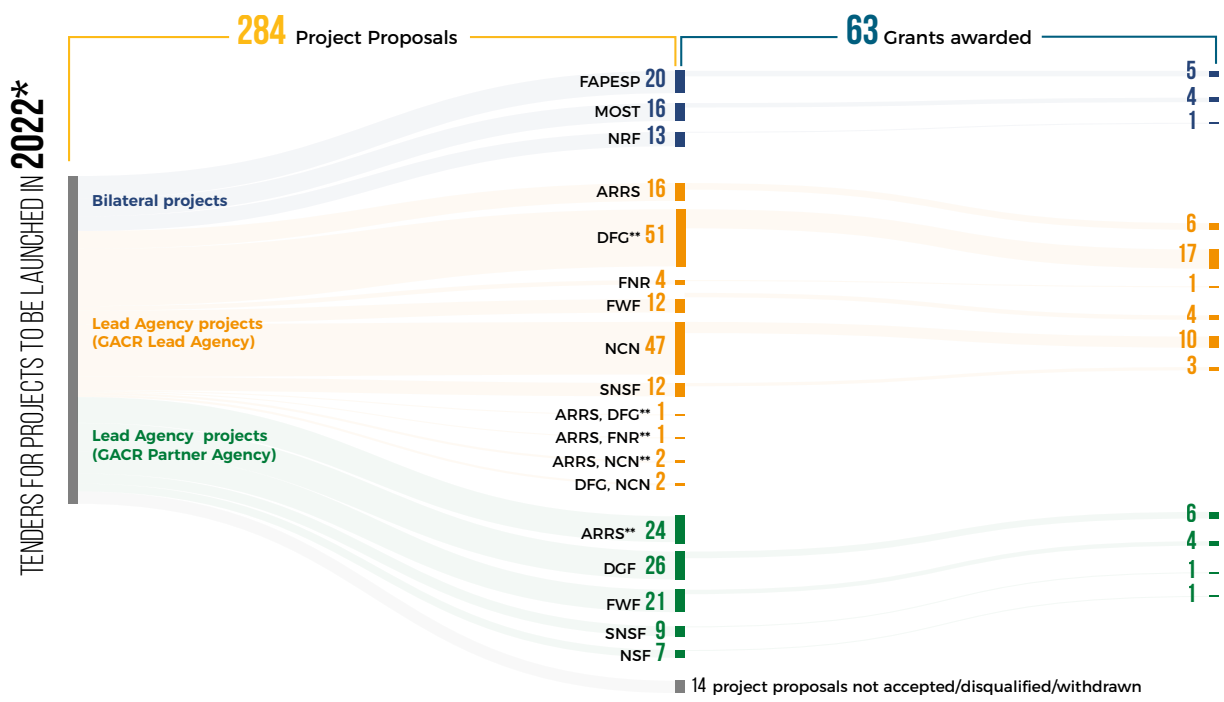
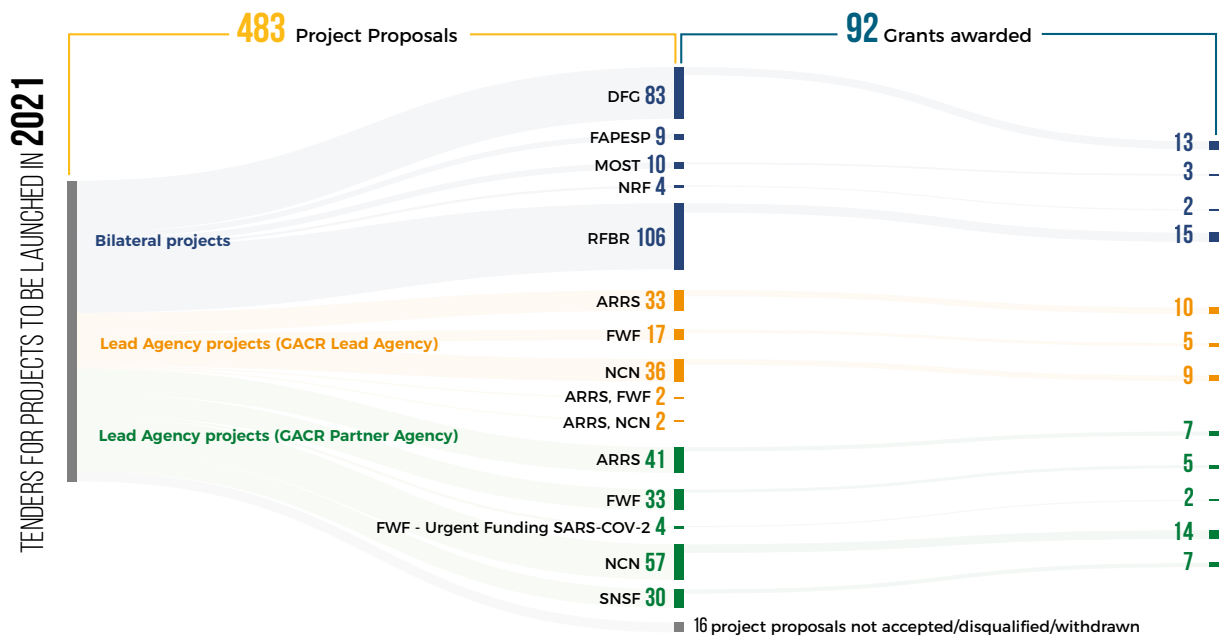
## 5.5 International Projects

### BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- GACR administers two types of international projects - bilateral projects (evaluated by GACR and the partner institution concurrently) and Lead Agency - LA projects (evaluated by one institution only)
- Project duration is 2-3 years
- LA projects can be trilateral within the European Weave initiative
- The topic of the project is chosen by the Czech applicant in cooperation with the foreign applicant
- Each national provider funds the activities related to the part of the project carried out in its country

### PARTNERSHIPS

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 2005 |    | <b>GERMANY</b> - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft ( <b>DFG</b> )  |
|      |    | <b>SOUTH KOREA</b> - National Research Foundation of Korea ( <b>NRF</b> )                                |
| 2008 |   | <b>TAIWAN</b> - Ministry of Science and Technology ( <b>MOST</b> , formerly National Science Foundation) |
| 2013 |  | <b>AUSTRIA</b> - Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung ( <b>FWF</b> )                     |
| 2018 |  | <b>BRAZIL</b> - São Paulo Research Foundation ( <b>FAPESP</b> )  |
|      |  | <b>RUSSIA</b> - Russian Foundation for Basic Research ( <b>RFBR</b> )                                    |
| 2019 |  | <b>POLAND</b> - National Science Centre ( <b>NCN</b> )   |
|      |  | <b>SLOVENIA</b> - Slovenian Research Agency ( <b>ARRS</b> )  |
|      |  | <b>SWITZERLAND</b> - Swiss National Science Foundation ( <b>SNSF</b> )                                   |
| 2021 |  | <b>LUXEMBOURG</b> - National Research Fund ( <b>FNR</b> )  |
|      |  | <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b> - National Science Foundation ( <b>NSF</b> )                             |



\* For year-round calls, projects start throughout the year. The figures are current as of 22 June 2022.

\*\* As of 22 June 2022, the evaluation has not yet been completed for all project proposals.

For some calls, the evaluation on the partner agency side has not been completed as of June 2022. GACR expects a higher number of proposals received and projects funded. This is mainly due to the year-round open calls of partner organisations, for which projects start throughout the year.

## 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 2021, a **total of 612 grant projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation were evaluated**, while another 190 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 2021 are shown in the table below.

### Project evaluations by Discipline Committee in 2021

|  | Excellent  | Accomplished | Accomplished with reservation | Failed    | Evaluation postponed |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Technical Sciences                                 | 19         | 73           | 5                             | 4         | 34                   |
| Physical Sciences                                  | 26         | 87           | 8                             | 2         | 16                   |
| Medical and Biological Sciences                    | 15         | 63           | 5                             | 2         | 46                   |
| Social Sciences and Humanities                     | 27         | 124          | 35                            | 24        | 64                   |
| Agricultural and Biological-Environmental Sciences | 25         | 59           | 6                             | 3         | 30                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>112</b> | <b>406</b>   | <b>59</b>                     | <b>35</b> | <b>190</b>           |

## 6. HOW PROJECT PROPOSALS ARE EVALUATED

### KEY FACTS

- All projects which received funding had been evaluated by at least **two international reviewers**
- An average of **3.1 reviews per Project Proposal** in the second phase of project review were carried out **by international experts** in 2021
- JUNIOR STAR and EXPRO prestigious projects are evaluated by **international experts only**
- The evaluation system takes inspiration from the ERC evaluation system

In 2021, the Czech Science Foundation evaluated more than 3.1 thousand Project Proposals in the various types of tenders. More than half of them were recommended for the second round. **More than 5.8 thousand evaluations from international reviewers** were carried out for these proposals, **i.e. an average of 3.1 evaluations per proposal**. In 2021, two or more international evaluations were obtained for all of the proposals advancing to the second evaluation round.

### HOW DO WE AVOID CONFLICTS OF INTEREST?



Monitored automatically by the GRIS project management system



No panelists participate in project discussions where they have a conflict of interest



GACR Code of Ethics applying to evaluators



Limiting the term of office of panellists to a maximum of 4 years

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. The review process is inspired by that of the European Research Council.

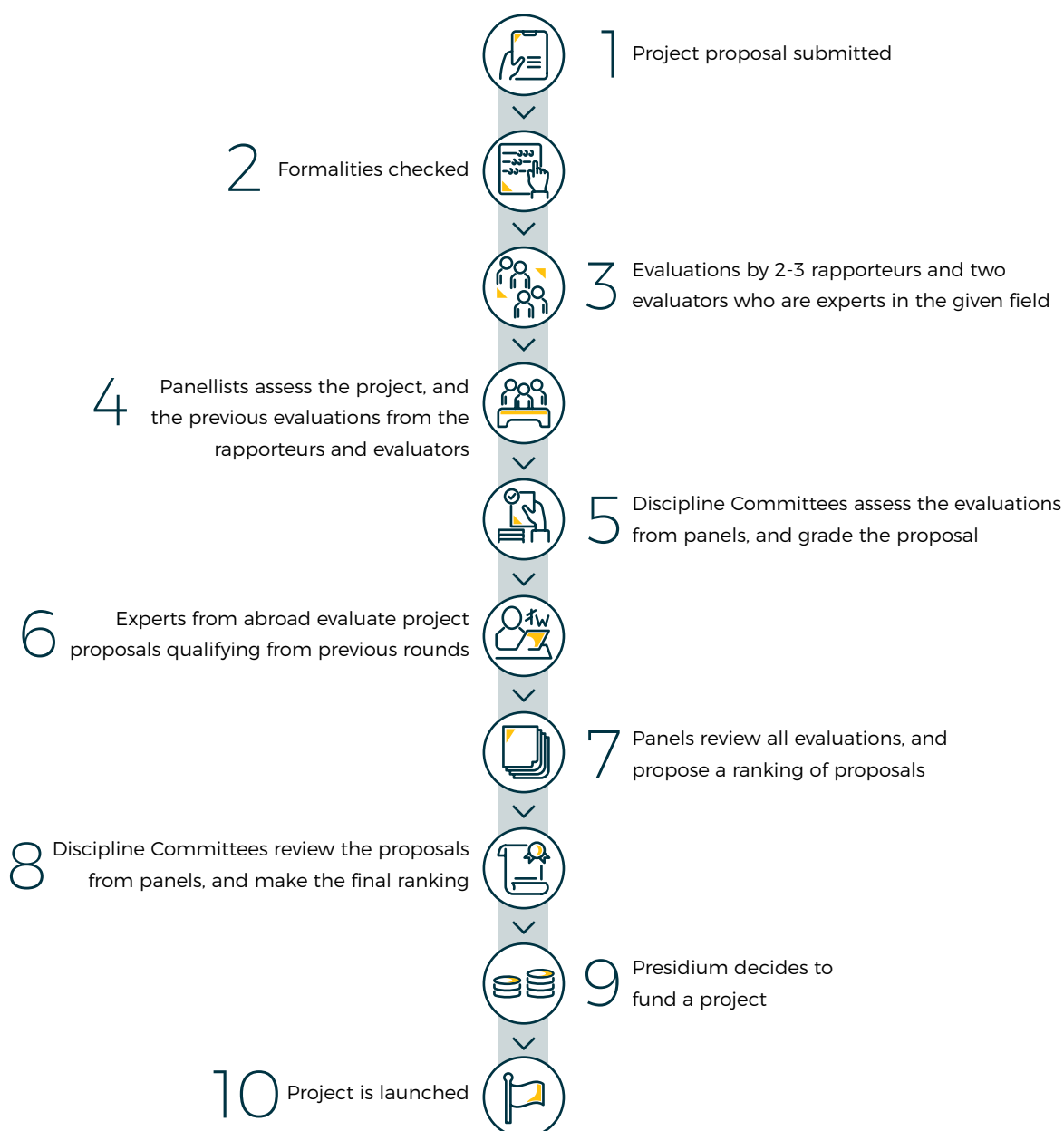
The review process is described in more detail at our website: <https://gacr.cz/en/evaluation-process-of-project-proposals/>

# 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

### Project proposal evaluation process



The process is also described in more detail at:

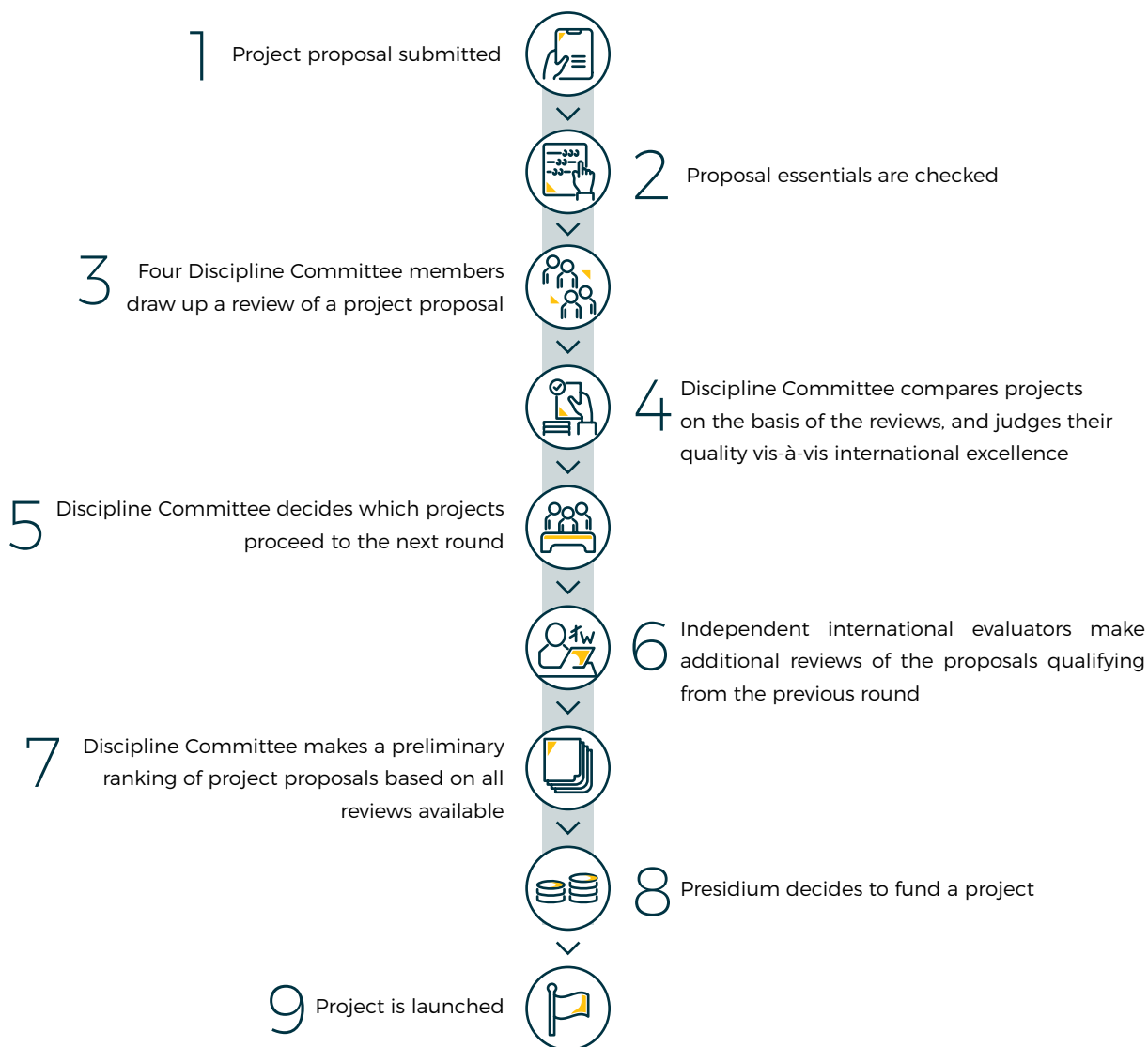
<https://gacr.cz/en/evaluation-process-of-project-proposals/>

## 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 EXPRO 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

### 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 Czech-American partnership in basic research
- GACR increased the number of institutions involved through the **Weave** Initiative

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. In 2021, cooperation on bilateral projects included scientists from Taiwan, South Korea and Brazil.

## Developing international cooperation

### LEGEND:

#### Lead Agency cooperation

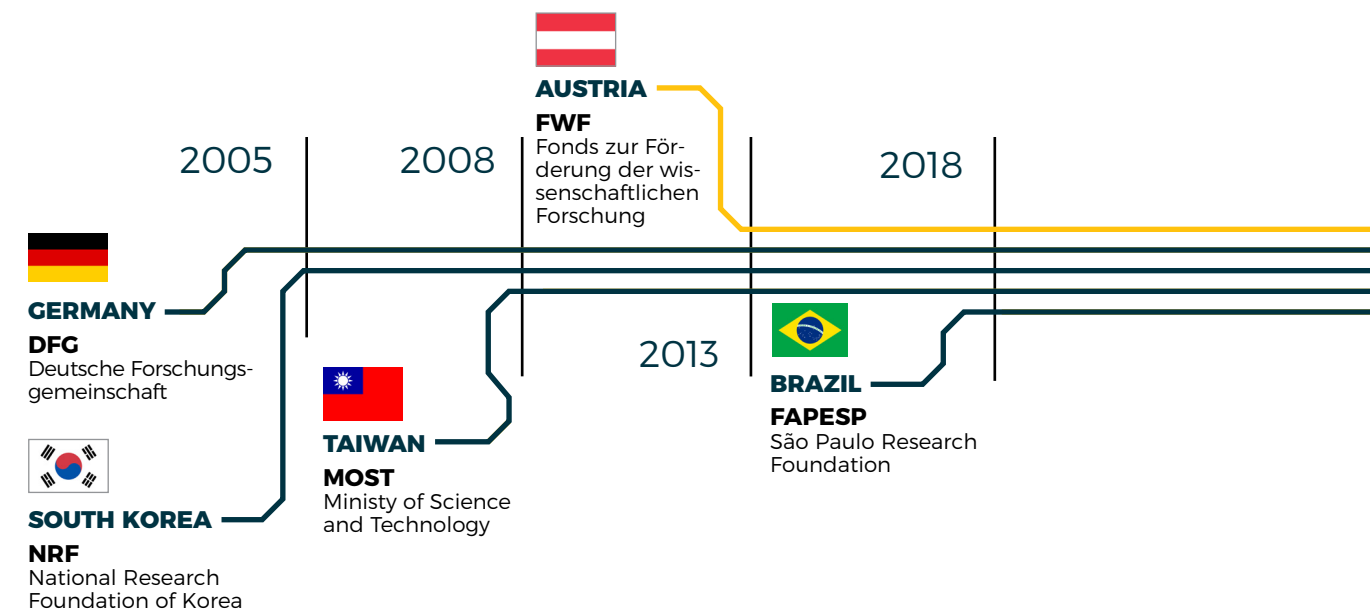
Funding is based on an evaluation and recommendation by one agency only (the Lead Agency).

#### Planned Lead Agency cooperation within Weave

The expansion will take place by 2025.

#### Bilateral Cooperation

Funding is based on the evaluations by both agencies, which agree on projects to be funded.





### 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
- **More than 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 R&D&I Fund Providers to Facilitate Working Conditions in Research](#) (Gender and Science Center of the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, 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 Czech Science Foundation also accommodated scientists of both genders by adopting and modifying measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## REPRESENTATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE GOVERNING BODIES AND PROJECTS OF GACR

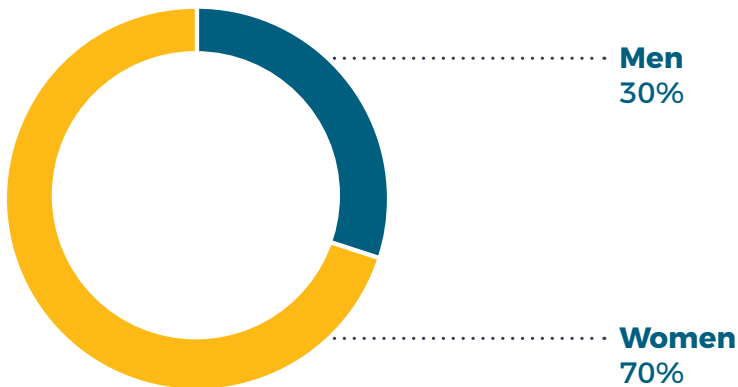
### The proportion of women and men in the governing bodies of GACR

|                           | Total | Number of women | Number of men | Representation of women |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Presidium                 | 5     | 2               | 3             | 40%                     |
| Scientific advisory board | 12    | 1               | 11            | 8%                      |
| Supervisory board         | 9     | 1               | 8             | 11%                     |

## OFFICE OF GACR

At the end of 2021, a total of **61 employees** were working in the Office of GACR, 43 of them women and 18 men.

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



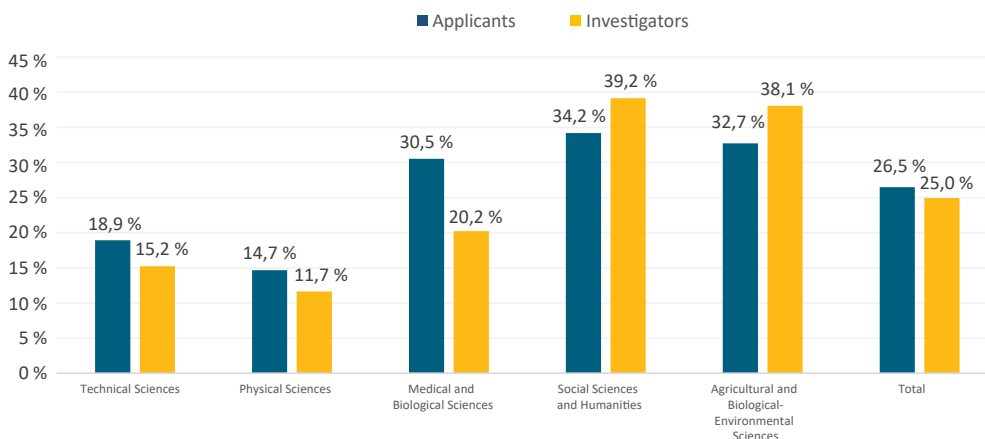
## CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

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

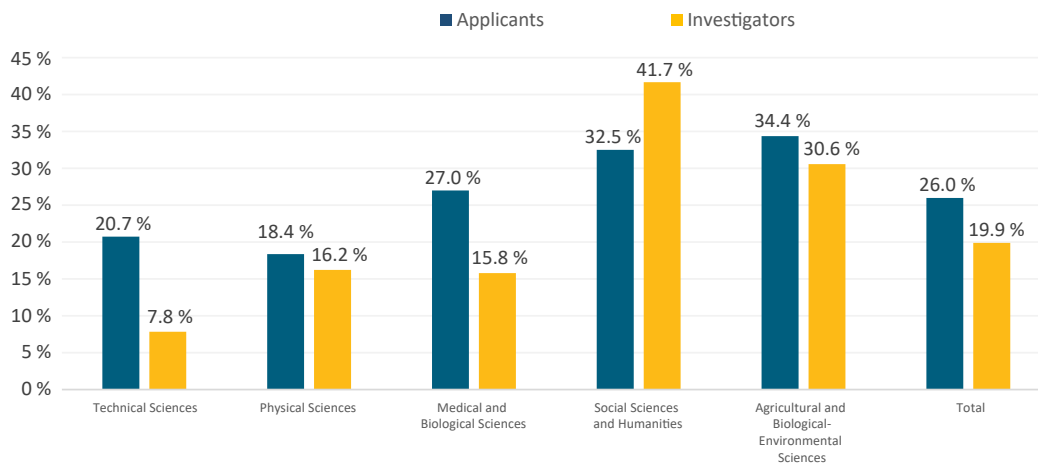
### STANDARD PROJECTS

A total of 2,492 Project Proposals were evaluated in Standard Project tender with an expected launch date in 2022. It was possible **to determine whether the proposal was submitted by a male or a female with 2,488 of the proposals**. A total of 659 Project Proposals (i.e. 26.5%) were submitted by women as applicants, of which 125 received funding (i.e. 25.0%). There were 241 women in the role of co-applicants (i.e. 26.0%) and 37 women in the role of co-investigators (i.e. 19.9%).

### Representation of women in the role of project applicant and investigator for standard projects with an expected launch date in 2022 by Discipline Committees



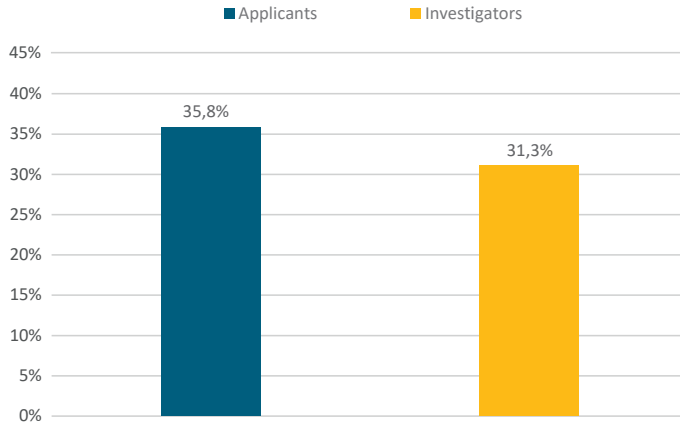
## Representation of women in the role of project co-applicant or co-investigator for standard projects with an expected launch date in 2021 by Discipline Committees



## JUNIOR STAR

A total of 314 Project Proposals were evaluated in the JUNIOR STAR tender with an expected launch date in 2022. A total of 313 Project Proposals could be identified as submitted by a male or a female. **A total of 112 Project Proposals (35.8%) were submitted by women**, of which 5 projects (31.3%) received funding.

## Representation of women in the role of JUNIOR STAR with an expected launch date in 2022



## KEY FACTS

- The new brochure "**GACR Under The Lens**" introduces the GACR's activities on twenty pages
- A series of articles **introducing JUNIOR STAR** projects has been launched
- In 2021, **educational videos** were produced to show project applicants how to work with GRIS
- The hotline answered approximately **10,000 enquiries**

In 2021, GACR continued to develop activities designed to inform the public about its activities and projects funded. More than 30 publicity articles on projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation and their outputs were published, some in cooperation with the Lidové noviny newspaper. Anyone interested was also able to get acquainted with almost two dozen new highly selective JUNIOR STAR projects.

GACR also published a new brochure titled "GACR Under The Lens", a 20-page document which appealingly explains the various types of grant calls, international cooperation, evaluation process, questions of responsible research and other relevant topics.

The website [www.gacr.cz](http://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**. Newsletters are mailed out approximately once every 3 months.

Selected projects and activities of GACR were also featured in public and commercial media. In 2021, the Foundation became a partner of the **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 GACR'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.

## 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 in the refectory of the House of the Professed of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University.

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 hundreds of 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 100 000 Czech crowns**. The award ceremony took place on 30 September, 2021, traditionally in the refectory of the House of the Professed at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University. The award ceremony was also streamed online. 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 only).



## TECHNICAL SCIENCES

### **Influence of Algal Organic Matter of Floccs Formed during Coagulation/ Flocculation in Water Treatment**

doc. RNDr. Martin Pivokonský, Ph.D., Institute of Hydrodynamics, CAS

The project investigated the effect of organic matter produced by cyanobacteria on water treatment at different mixing intensities. It produced a major finding – when the mixing intensity is changed, the change in the size of the floccs that remove the water contaminants is not linear, but occurs in quantum leaps. These conditions ultimately determine how effective the entire water treatment process will be. The project has thus contributed to deepening the theoretical knowledge of water treatment by coagulation and flocculation, which can be leveraged to improve existing water treatment technologies and thus provide potable water.



## PHYSICAL SCIENCES

### **Chiral Bambusurils**

Prof. Ing. Vladimír Šindelář, Ph.D., Faculty of Science, Masaryk University

The project dealt with what is called bambusurils – organic substances whose molecule resembles part of the bamboo stalk, inspiring the laureate who discovered them to give them this name. He has taken a closer look at chiral bambusurils, whose molecule is not identical to its mirror image. He discovered that they are only able to preferentially bind one of a pair of chiral anions to each other, whereby pairs of anions can be split to obtain only those that exhibit the desired properties. This makes it possible to use bambusurils primarily in the preparation of pharmaceutical drugs.



## MEDICAL & BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### **In Vitro Reconstitution of the Mitochondrial Transport Complex**

RNDr. Zdeněk Lánský, Ph.D., BIOCEV

Thanks to this project, a mechanism has been discovered that allows molecular motors to find a viable path in the crowded interior of a cell. It has led to the discovery of how molecular motors transport mitochondria in nerve cells over long distances and how this mechanism increases the reliability of transport. The clarification of the molecular mechanism provides insights relevant to further research on the regulation of mitochondrial transport.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

### **The Relationship between the Characteristics of Instructional Communication and the Students' Learning Outcomes**

Prof. Mgr. Klára Šedová, Ph.D., Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University

The project has shown, also through a dedicated app, that verbal engagement of students during school instruction enhances learning. Students who communicate during class achieve better results than those who follow the teacher's instructions quietly. The project has produced findings that can be used by schools to enhance their students' learning, and has also revealed that communication during class can make up for the disadvantages of students from less stimulating family backgrounds.



## AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### **The Dark Side of Plastid Biology: Evolution and Function of Leucoplasts in Algae**

Prof. Mgr. Marek Eliáš, Ph.D., Faculty of Science, University of Ostrava

The project has made a major contribution to a better understanding of the evolution and function of plastids – cellular organelles present in plant and algal cells. It mapped the metabolic functions of the plastid of a unicellular flagellate organism, the colourless euglenid. Professor Eliáš also discovered a new lineage of non-photosynthesizing algal flagellates with an extremely large plastid genome, and uncovered a hidden plastid in an amoebic organism of the Leukarachinon genus.

## KEY FACTS

- Standard, international and POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP projects were evaluated by **39 expert panels** organized into five Discipline Committees
- In 2021, approximately **one half of the panel members** were replaced - new members were nominated by research institutions
- EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR projects are reviewed solely by **evaluators abroad** in eight Discipline Committees recommended by Science Connect agency

The evaluation of Standard, International and POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP projects 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 JUNIOR STAR and EXPRO Projects is similar, but with several modifications: the system does not include evaluation panels, but rather eight Discipline Committees which review the project proposal. In the first phase, four evaluations of each Project Proposal are written, with each Proposal being evaluated only by experts abroad. The evaluation process is described in more detail in the relevant chapter.

## 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 R&D Council, a member of GACR Presidium, and a representative of GACR Scientific Advisory Board.

In the year 2021, there were multiple replacements of the panel members following the Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committees and Evaluation Panels of GACR. A total of **182 members** were **newly appointed**. The new experts started their first term in office on 1 April 2021. At the end of 2021, there were a **total of 414 experts** serving on 39 panels.

### The members of the panels are selected with regard to the following criteria:

- high professional standard, assessed primarily on the basis of publications and other achievements
- willingness and ability to be able to evaluate a broader section of the field within the panel
- the ability to evaluate solely on the basis of professional considerations
- disciplinary balance of the panel
- gender balance of the panel
- regional balance of the panel
- representation of panellists from various institutions

## CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF EVALUATION PANELS



### TECHNICAL SCIENCES

#### P101 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

**doc. Ing. Petr Svoboda, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

**doc. Ing. Jan Vimmr, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- University of West Bohemia, Faculty of Applied Sciences

#### P102 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

**Prof. Ing. Jan Franc, DrSc. (chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

**Prof. Ing. Radimír Vrba, CSc. (vice-chair)**

- Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication

#### P103 CYBERNETICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION PROCESSING

**Ing. Jiří Mekyska, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication

**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

**Prof. Ing. Zbyněk Keršner, CSc. (chair)**

- Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering

**Prof. Ing. Radim Čajka, CSc. (vice-chair)**

- VSB - Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering

#### P106 TECHNICAL CHEMISTRY

**Prof. Ing. Kamila Kočí, Ph.D. (chair)**

- VSB - Technical University of Ostrava, Institute of Environmental Technologies

**Dr. Ing. Jan Macák (vice-chair)**

- University of Pardubice, Faculty of Chemical Technology

#### 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

**doc. RNDr. Ing. Martin Kalbáč, Ph.D. (chair)**

- J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry

**Prof. Ing. Martin Weiter, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Chemistry



## PHYSICAL SCIENCES

### P202 MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Prof. RNDr. Daniel Král, Ph.D., DSc. (chair)**

– Masaryk University, Faculty of Informatics

**doc. Mgr. Vítězslav Kala, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

### P203 NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

**Mgr. Juraj Fedor, Ph.D. (chair)**

– J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry

**doc. RNDr. Miloslav Zejda, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Masaryk University, Faculty of Science

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

**doc. RNDr. Radek Plašil, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

**Prof. Ing. Čestmír Drašar (vice-chair)**

– University of Pardubice, Faculty of Chemical Technology

### P205 BIOPHYSICS, MACROMOLECULAR PHYSICS AND OPTICS

**doc. RNDr. Jakub Pšenčík, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

**doc. RNDr. Robert Vácha, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Masaryk University, Central European Institute of Technology

### 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 Chemistry and Technology Prague, Faculty of Chemical Technology

**Prof. PharmDr. Petr Zimčík, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P208 CHEMICAL PHYSICS AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

**doc. RNDr. Pavel Matějčík, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Science

**doc. Mgr. Michal Straka, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P209 ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, HYDROLOGY, PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPHYSICS

**doc. Ing. Michal Dohnal, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering

**doc. RNDr. Hana Čížková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

### P210 GEOCHEMISTRY, GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY

**Prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Ettler, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Science

**doc. RNDr. Jiří Kvaček, CSc. (vice-chair)**

– National Museum



## MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### P301 MOLECULAR AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, GENETICS, GENOMICS AND BIOINFORMATIC

**Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Obšil, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Science

**Mgr. Leoš Valášek, Dr. rer. nat., DSc. (vice-chair)**

– Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P302 MICROBIOLOGY, PARASITOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

**doc. Mgr. Lukáš Kubala, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Institute of Biophysics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**doc. MUDr. Helena Žemličková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové

### P303 CELL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

**doc. RNDr. Marcela Buchtová, Ph.D. (chair)**

– Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**doc. Ing. Martin Pšenička, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters

### P304 TUMOR BIOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL ONCOLOGY, MORPHOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES AND PATHOLOGY

**Prof. Ing. Miroslav Strnad, DSc., (chair)**

– Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**Prof. MUDr. Mgr. Zbyněk Tonar, Ph.D., (vice-chair)**

– Charles University, Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň

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

**doc. MVDr. Aleš Hampl, CSc. (chair)**

– Masaryk University, Faculty of Medicine

**PharmDr. Šárka Kubinová, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

– Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P306 PHARMACOLOGY, TOXICOLOGY, MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, MEDICAL BIOPHYSICS

**Prof. Ing. Kamil Kuča, Ph.D. (chair)**

– University of Hradec Králové, Faculty of Sciences

**Prof. RNDr. Pavel Anzenbacher, DrSc. (vice-chair)**

– Palacký University Olomouc, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry



## SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

### P401 PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**Dr. phil. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**doc. Mgr. Michaela Fišerová, M.A., Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Metropolitan University Prague

### 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

**doc. Ing. Tomáš Formánek, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Prague University of Economics and Business, Faculty of Informatics and Statistics

### P403 BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

**Ing. Martin Srholec, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**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 Jiráček, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences

**PhDr. Hana Hašková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P405 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PRE-MODERN HISTORY (UNTIL 1780)

**Mgr. Gabriela Blažková, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

**doc. Dr. phil. Mgr. Pavel Himl (vice-chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Humanities

### P406 LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE

**doc. PhDr. Petr Dytrt, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts

**Mgr. Magda Ševčíková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

### P407 PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATION

**doc. PhDr. RNDr. Hana Voňková, Ph.D. et Ph.D. (chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Education

**Mgr. Jiří Lukavský, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Psychology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P408 JURISPRUDENCE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

**doc. Mgr. Ing. Radka Druláková, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Prague University of Economics and Business, Faculty of International Relations

**JUDr. Jan Malíř, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P409 ART SCIENCES

**PhDr. Alena Volrábová, Ph.D. (chair)**

- National Gallery Prague

**doc. PhDr. Martin Flašar, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts

### P410 MODERN HISTORY (SINCE 1780) AND ETHNOLOGY

**doc. PhDr. Andrea Pokludová, Ph.D. (chair)**

- University of Ostrava, Faculty of Arts

**doc. PhDr. Martin Jemelka, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences



## AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### P501 PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND GENETICS, PLANT MEDICINE

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**Prof. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**doc. Ing. Petr Smýkal, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Palacký University Olomouc, Faculty of Science

### P502 ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY AND GENETICS, VETERINARY MEDICINE

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**Prof. MVDr. Ivo Pavlík, CSc. (chair)**

- Mendel University in Brno, Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies

**Ing. Jiří Plachý, CSc. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P503 FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ECOTOXICOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY

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**Prof. RNDr. Luděk Bláha, Ph.D. (chair)**

- Masaryk University, Faculty of Science

**RNDr. Tomáš Řezanka, CSc., DSc. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P504 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, FORESTRY AND SOIL BIOLOGY, ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY

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**doc. Ing. Jiří Bárta, Ph.D. (chair)**

- University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Science

**RNDr. Tereza Zádorová, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources

### P505 ANIMAL AND PLANT ECOLOGY

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**Prof. Ing. Pavel Kozák, Ph.D. (chair)**

- University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters

**Ing. Jan Pergl, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences

### P506 BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

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**Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Scholz, CSc. (chair)**

- Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**Prof. Ing. Petr Ráb, DrSc., dr. h. c. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

## 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 2021, a total of 39 Chairs and 39 Vice-Chairs served on the panels.

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#### DC1 TECHNICAL SCIENCES

**doc. RNDr. Ing. Martin Kalbáč, Ph.D. (chair)**

- J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry

**Prof. RNDr. Vladimír Šíma, CSc. (vice-chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

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#### DC2 PHYSICAL SCIENCES

**Prof. RNDr. Daniel Král, Ph.D., DSc. (chair)**

- Masaryk University, Faculty of Informatics

**doc. RNDr. Hana Čížková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

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#### DC3 MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**Prof. Ing. Miroslav Strnad, DSc. (chair)**

- Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**doc. MVDr. Aleš Hampl, CSc. (vice-chair)**

- Masaryk University, Faculty of Medicine

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#### DC4 SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

**Prof. Ing. Martin Macháček, Ph.D. et Ph.D. (chair)**

- VSB - Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics

**Mgr. Gabriela Blažková, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Institute of Archeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

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#### DC5 AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Scholz, CSc. (chair)**

- Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Parasitology

**RNDr. Tereza Zádorová, Ph.D. (vice-chair)**

- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources

## EXPRO AND JUNIOR STAR (OK EX) DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

The Discipline Committees for the review of projects in the EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR grant project groups are established as international under the Charter of the Czech Science Foundation. Each Discipline Committee is made up of 10-15 renowned foreign experts chosen to approximately cover the given scientific field. The term of office for EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR Discipline Committee members is 5 years.

### CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES EXPRO AND JUNIOR STAR

#### OK EX1 - MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS 1

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**Prof. Peter Kloeden (chair)**

- J.W. Goethe University, Germany

**Prof. Donald Dingwell (vice-chair)**

- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany

#### DC EX2 - PHYSICS 2

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**Prof. Jeff De Hosson (chair)**

- University of Groningen, Netherlands

**Dr. Olivier Krebs (vice-chair)**

- Paris Saclay University, France

#### DC EX3 - CHEMISTRY

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**Prof. Wolfgang Linert (chair)**

- Vienna University of Technology, Austria

**Dr. John Tsibouklis (vice-chair)**

- University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

#### DC EX4 - HUMAN BIOLOGY AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

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**Prof. William Cushley (chair)**

- University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

**prof. Dr. Soares, Cláudio Manuel Simões Loureiro Nunes (vice-chair)**

- Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

#### DC EX5 - BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENT SCIENCES

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**Prof. Olivier Honnay (chair)**

- KU Leuven, Belgium

**Prof. Tim Daniell (vice-chair)**

- University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

#### DC EX6 - SOCIAL SCIENCES

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**Prof. Claire Denise Wallace (chair)**

- University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

**Prof. Juncal Cuñado (vice-chair)**

- Universidad de Navarra, Spain

#### DC EX7 - HUMANITIES

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**Prof. Robin Skeates (chair)**

- Durham University, United Kingdom

**Prof. Matti Sintonen (vice-chair)**

- University of Helsinki, Finland

#### DC EX8 - TECHNICAL SCIENCES AND INFORMATICS

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**Prof. Wolfgang Kröger (chair)**

- ETH Zürich, Switzerland

**Prof. Fabio Gori (vice-chair)**

- University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

## KEY FACTS

- In response to COVID-19, GACR **postponed deadlines for the tenders in progress** - allowing Project Proposals to be submitted up to two weeks later
- A **number of rules** for ongoing projects were **amended** (inclusion of additional eligible costs, postponement of deadlines, etc.)

The year 2021 was affected in all areas of life by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the related measures to combat it. Scientists and project progress were also affected. For this reason, the Presidium decided to **keep in effect** the measures implemented to help scientists better handle the situation in previous years.

## EXAMPLES OF THE MEASURES

- Permission **to extend the project timeline.**
- **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 and JUNIOR STAR project teams,
- 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 before the project proposal deadline, the Office decided to cancel and re-open all tenders for projects to be launched in 2022. This move effectively postponed the deadline for the submission of project proposals from 8 April 2021 to 22 April 2021. Despite all the complications associated with the reduction in the time available for the evaluation of project proposals, as well as the necessity for panels and discipline committees to meet online, it was still possible to announce the results of the tenders on the original date. As a result, new projects could be launched as early as 1 January 2022.



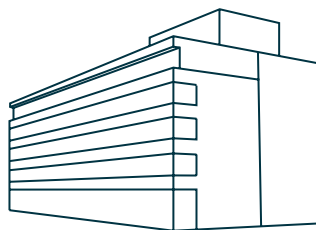
## WHERE TO FIND US?

### Czech Science Foundation

Hadovka Office Park

Evropská 2589/33b

Prague 6 160 00



## WHERE TO FIND OUT THE LATEST INFORMATION?

[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)

[facebook.com/  
GrantovaAgenturaCR](https://facebook.com/GrantovaAgenturaCR)



## NEED ADVICE?

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

+420 227 088 841

[info@gacr.cz](mailto:info@gacr.cz)



## 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

Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)