

Czech Science Foundation in 2026

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GACR AT PRESENT

8

tenders

500+

panel members

2,046

ongoing projects

3,062

evaluated project proposals in 2025

+10%

compared to 2024

4.7 bil. CZK

GACR budget in 2025

11%

of the state budget for research, development and innovation in 2025

14%

project proposals funded

38

evaluation panels

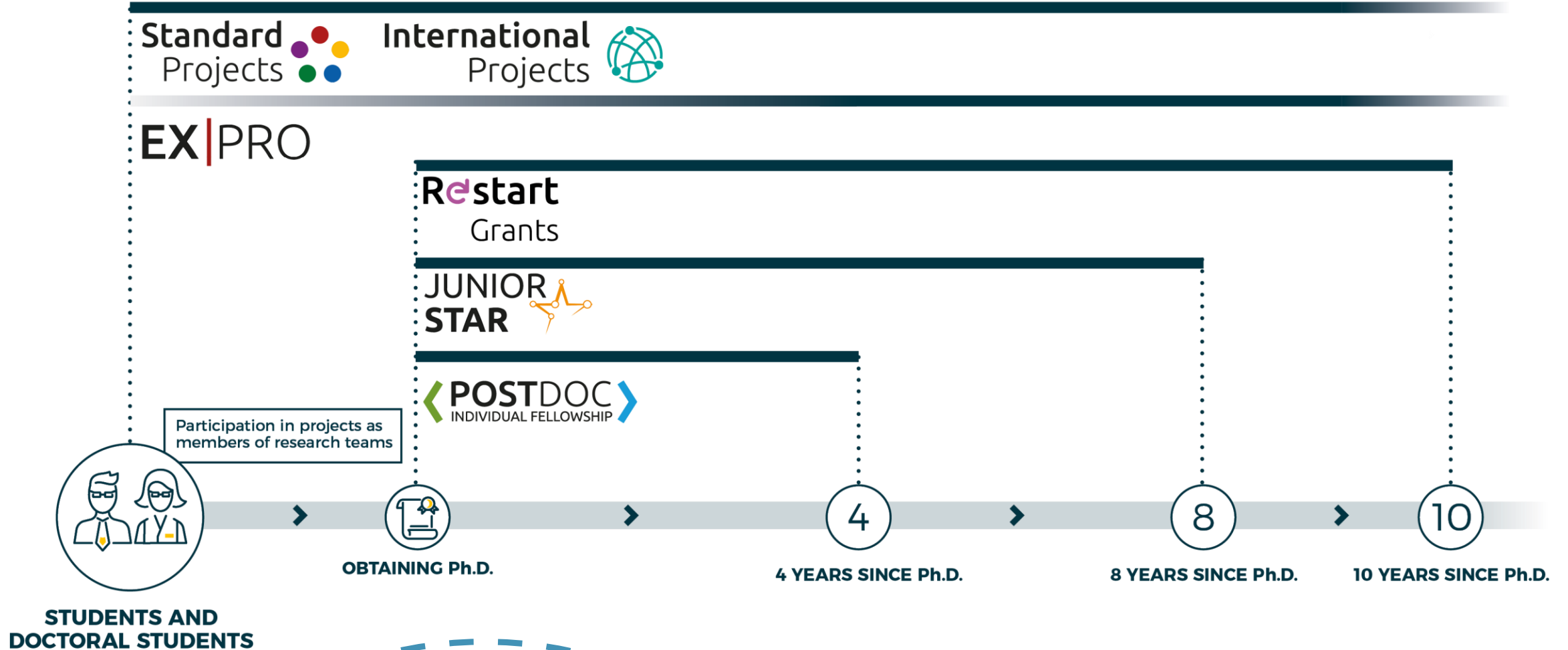
+ 8

discipline committees from abroad



GACR SUPPORTS SCIENTISTS

THROUGHOUT EVERY STAGE OF THEIR CAREERS

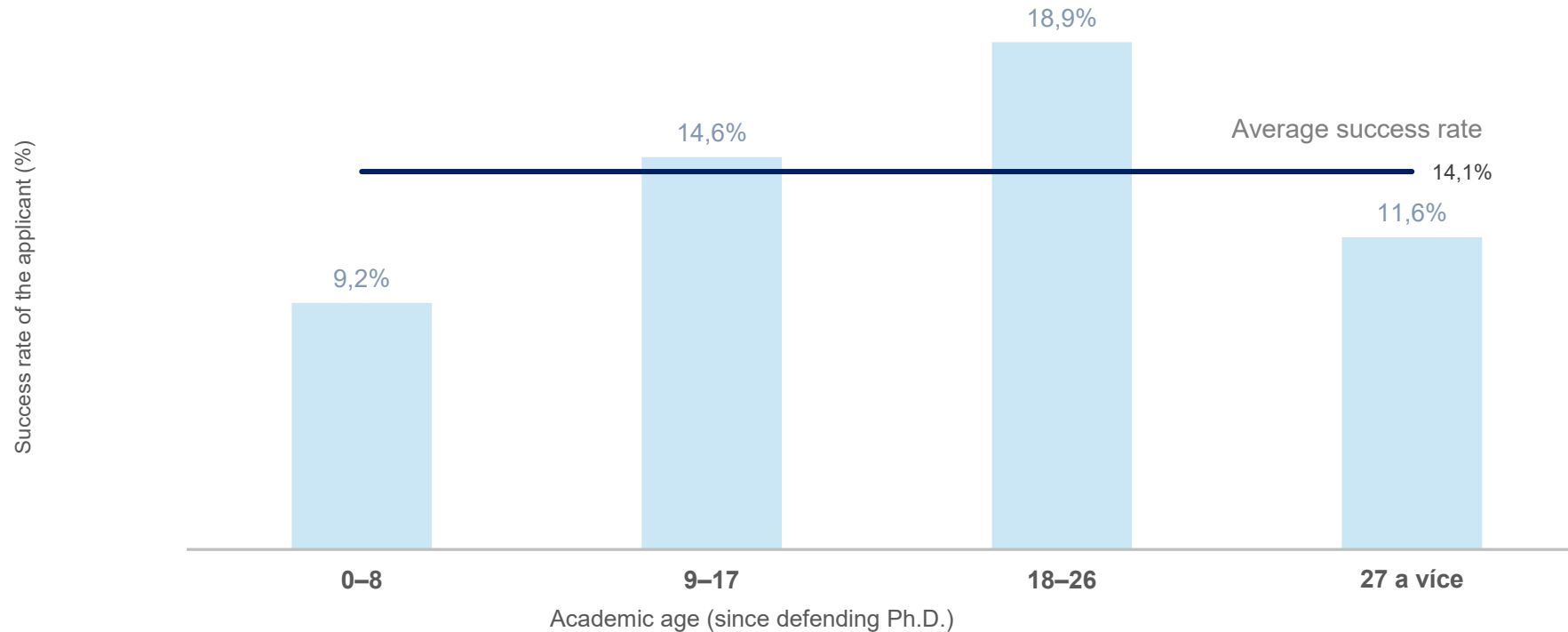


Standard Projects

1993
first call

usually 3 years
project duration

most frequent
grant scheme



51 standard projects funded in 2026 for researchers at the postdoctoral academic level

Tenders and calls announced

-  **Germany** - German Research Foundation (DFG)
-  **Switzerland** - Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
-  **Austria** - Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
-  **Luxembourg** - National Research Fund (FNR)
-  **Slovenia** - Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)
-  **Poland** - National Science Centre (NCN)
-  **Croatia** - Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)

-  **Taiwan** - National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)*
-  **South Korea** - National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)*

*bilateral cooperation – projects are evaluated by both agencies simultaneously

Number of projects recommended in calls where GACR is the Lead Agency

Partner agency	Project proposals evaluated	Projects recommended
ARIS (Slovenia)	16	0
DFG (Germany)	35	9
FNR (Luxembourg)	3	0
FWF (Austria)	16	7
HRZZ (Croatia)	12	2
NCN (Poland)	56	4
SNSF (Switzerland)	7	2
Trilateral projects	6	1
	151	25

EXCELLENCE TENDERS

EX|PRO AND

JUNIOR STAR

extraordinary funding
up to CZK 50 million or CZK 25 million

5 years
project duration

international panels
evaluate the projects

JUNIOR STAR

max. 8 years
after completing
a Ph.D.

previous international
experience required

scientific
independence

EX|PRO

motivation to apply
for an ERC grant

selective funding for
excellent ideas

announcement of tender
every even-numbered
year

POSTDOC
INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP

mobility facilitation

max. 4 years after Ph.D.
completion

POSTDOC
INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP
OUTGOING

gaining experience
abroad

any institution
in the world

2 years abroad + 1 year
in the Czech Republic

POSTDOC
INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP
INCOMING

return of Czech scientists
from abroad

scientists from abroad
to the Czech Republic

project location only
in the Czech Republic

Restart
Grants

up to 10 years after
Ph.D. completion

50-100%
full-time equiv.

2-4 years
project duration

min. 1 year
career break

max. 2 years
after career break

PROJECT EVALUATION PRINCIPLES

**Scientific quality,
innovation
and potential
impact**

**Ability of the applicant
and team to
successfully achieve
the project objectives**



Other aspects of the project
(gender, open science,
communication)

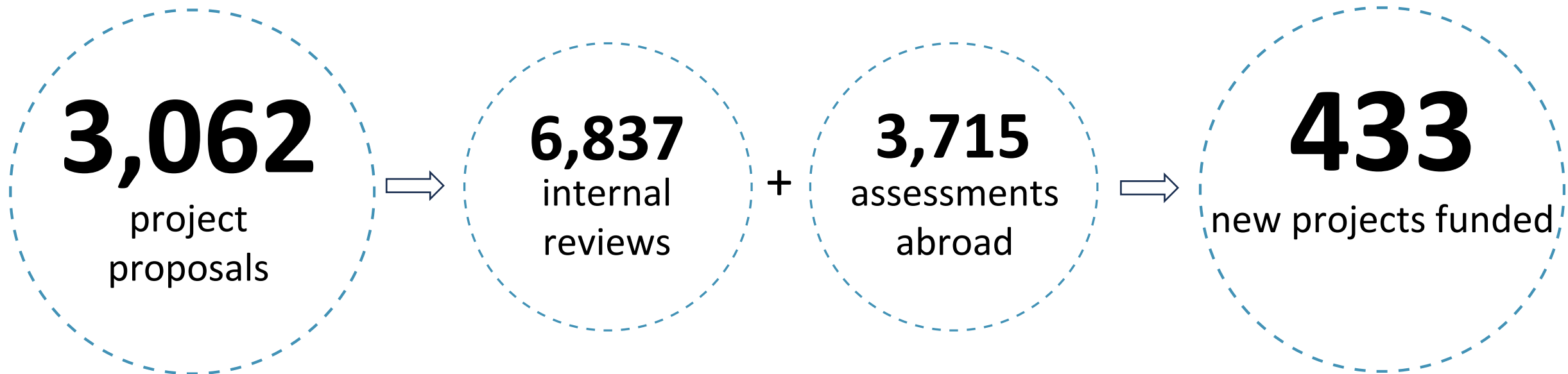







Balancing risks, costs,
and benefits



Limitations of the
scientometric approach to
evaluation

EVALUATIONS IN 2025



	Project proposals	Funded	
 Standard Projects	2,408	336	14.0%
 JUNIOR STAR	224	18	8.0%
 POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP	123	30	24.4%
 International Projects	179	30	16.8%
 Restart Grants	128	19	14.8%

TENDER/CALL EVALUATION RESULTS PROVIDED BY:

Czech institutions

MUNI



UNIVERZITA
PARDUBICE



PEDAGOGICKÁ
FAKULTA
Univerzita Karlova



VYSOKÉ UČENÍ
TECHNICKÉ
V BRNĚ



ÚSTAV TERMOMECHANIKY AV ČR, v.v.i.

TECHNICKÁ
UNIVERZITA
V LIBERCI

Partner agencies abroad



GERMANY
DFG



AUSTRIA
FWF



POLAND
NCN



SLOVENIA
ARIS



SWITZERLAND
SNSF



LUXEMBOURG
FNR



CROATIA
HRZZ



**Proof of
Concept** 

Continuation of successful
GACR projects

2026
planned call

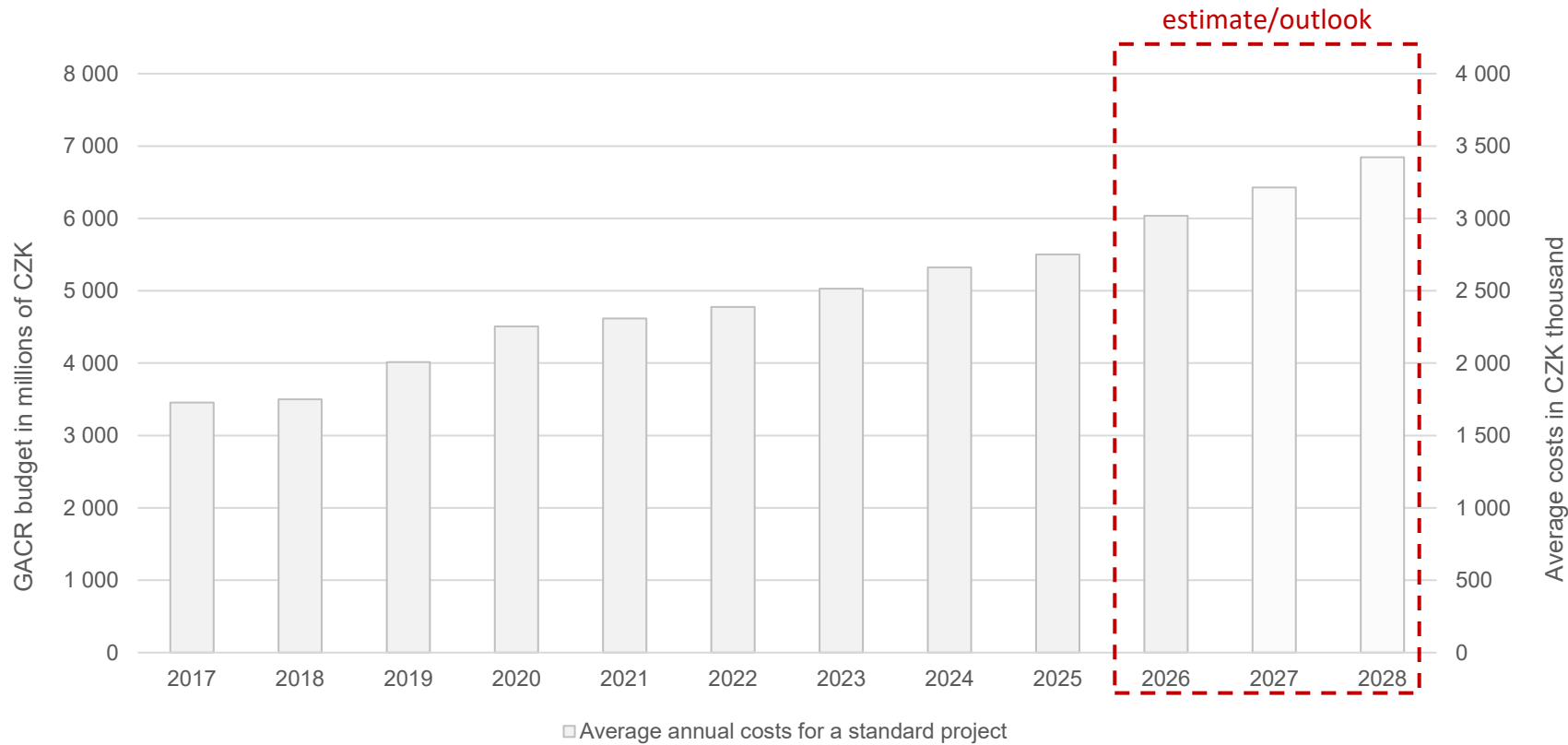
12-18 months
project duration

Identification of commercial
potential

Verification of basic
research results in practice

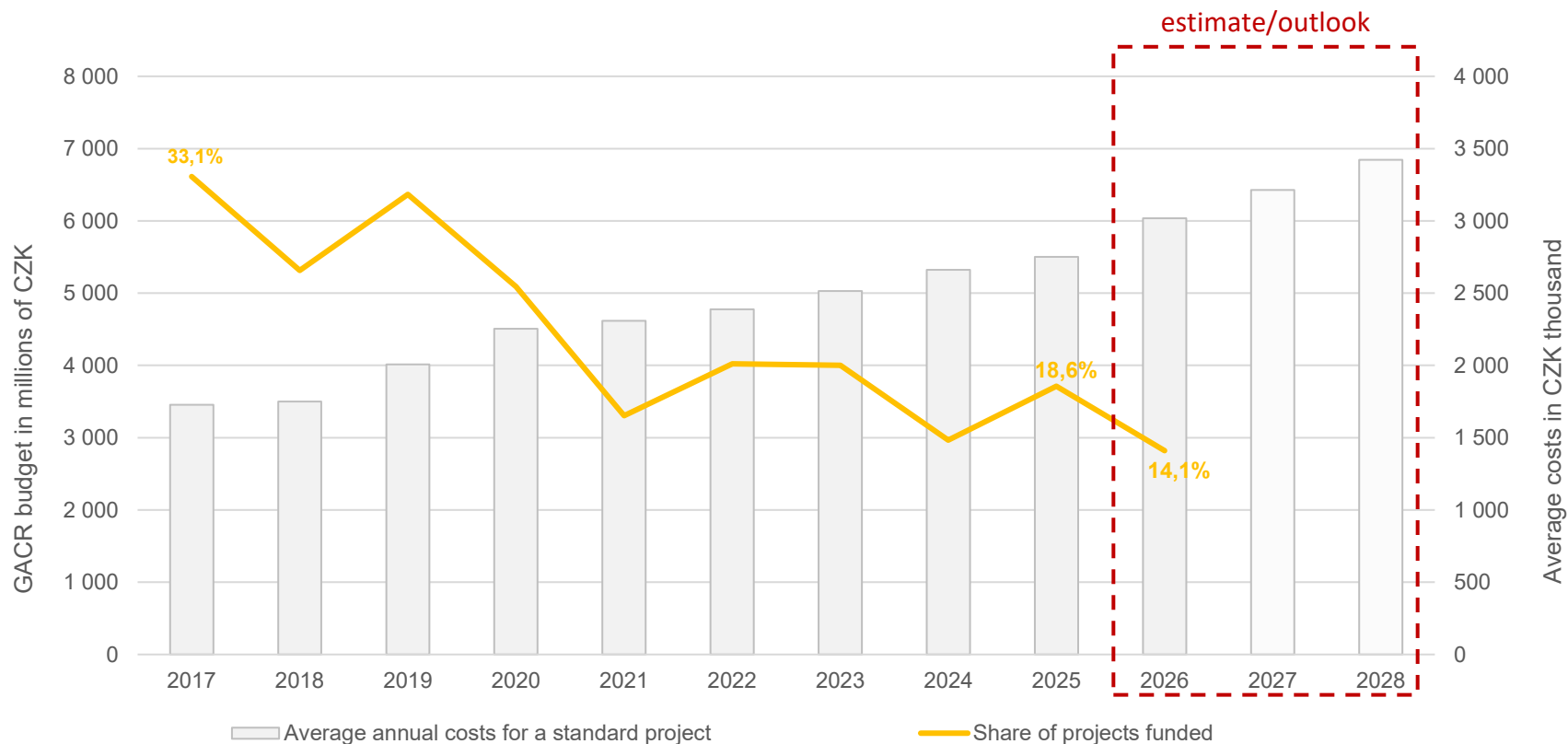


AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER PROJECT INCREASES



+74% cost of a standard project (2017-2026)

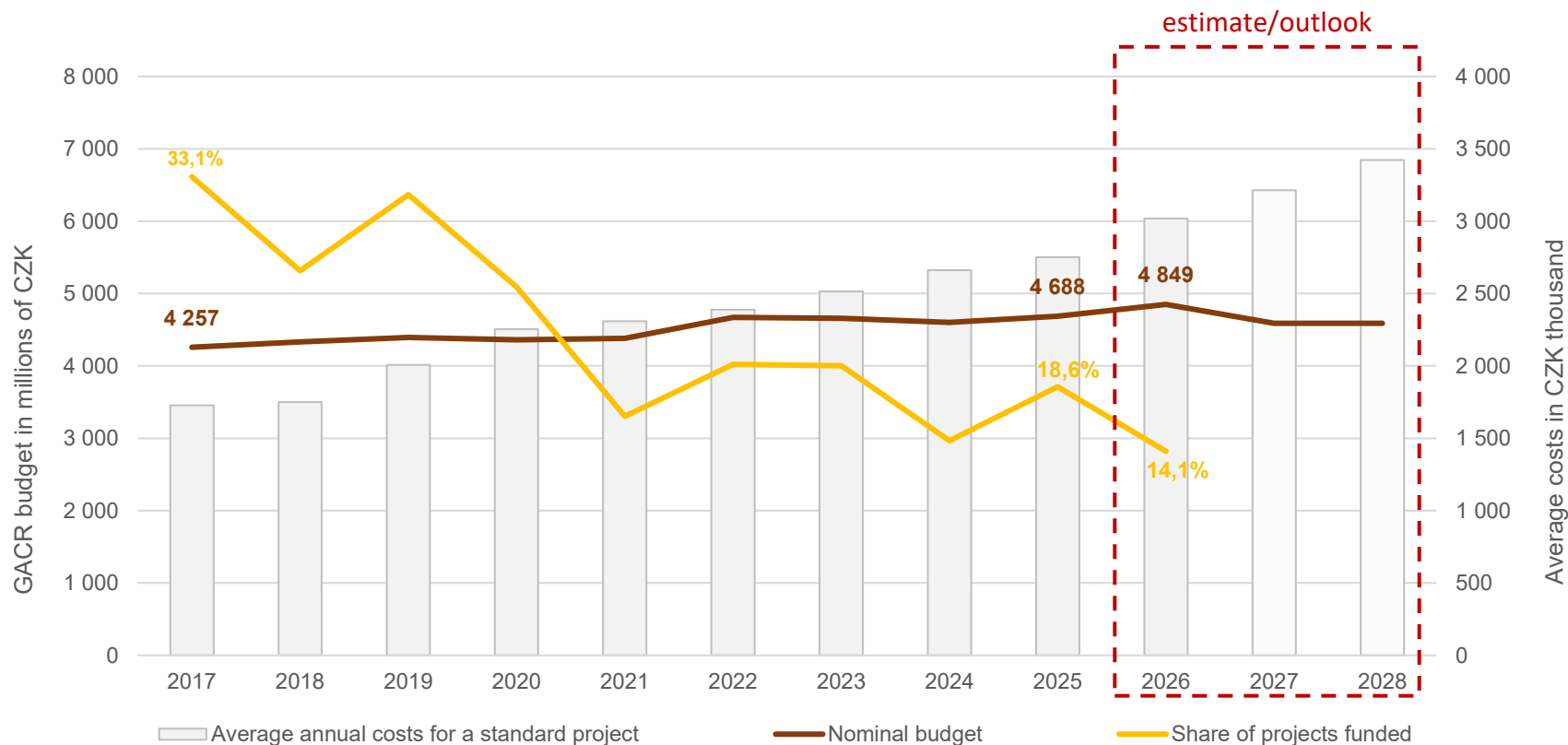
SUCCESS RATE DECLINES



+74% cost of a standard project (2017-2026)

-57% share of project proposals funded (2017-2026)

THE BUDGET IS GROWING IN NOMINAL TERMS, BUT...

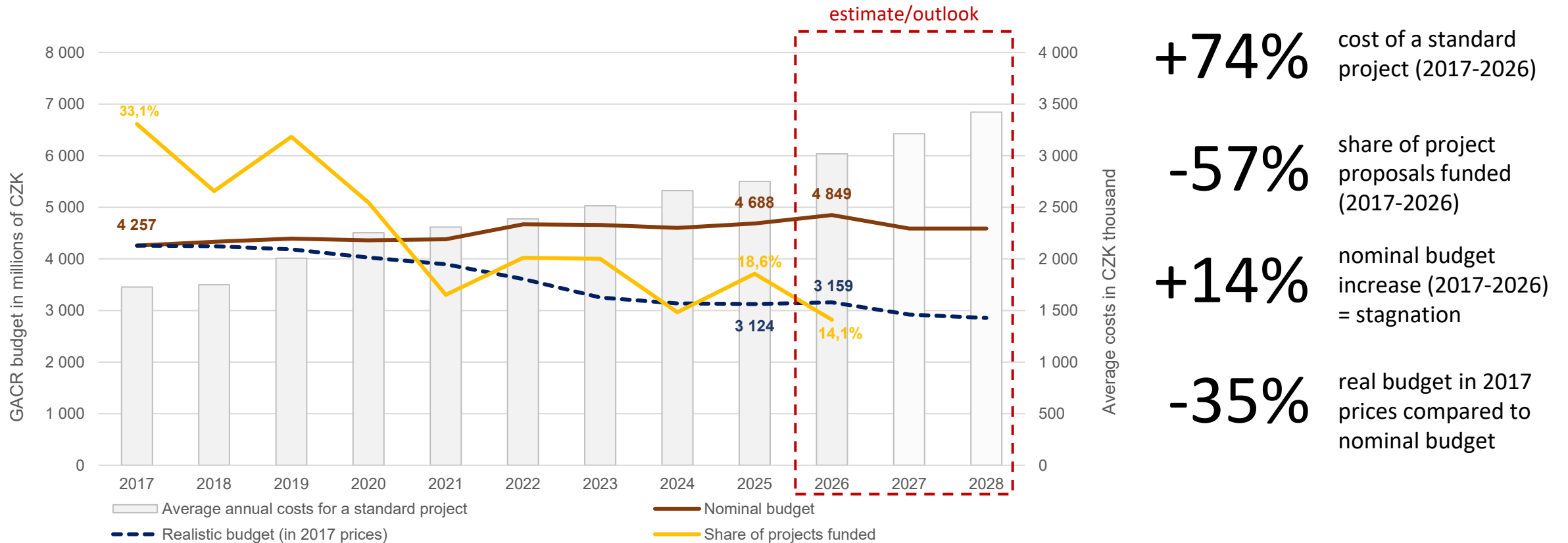


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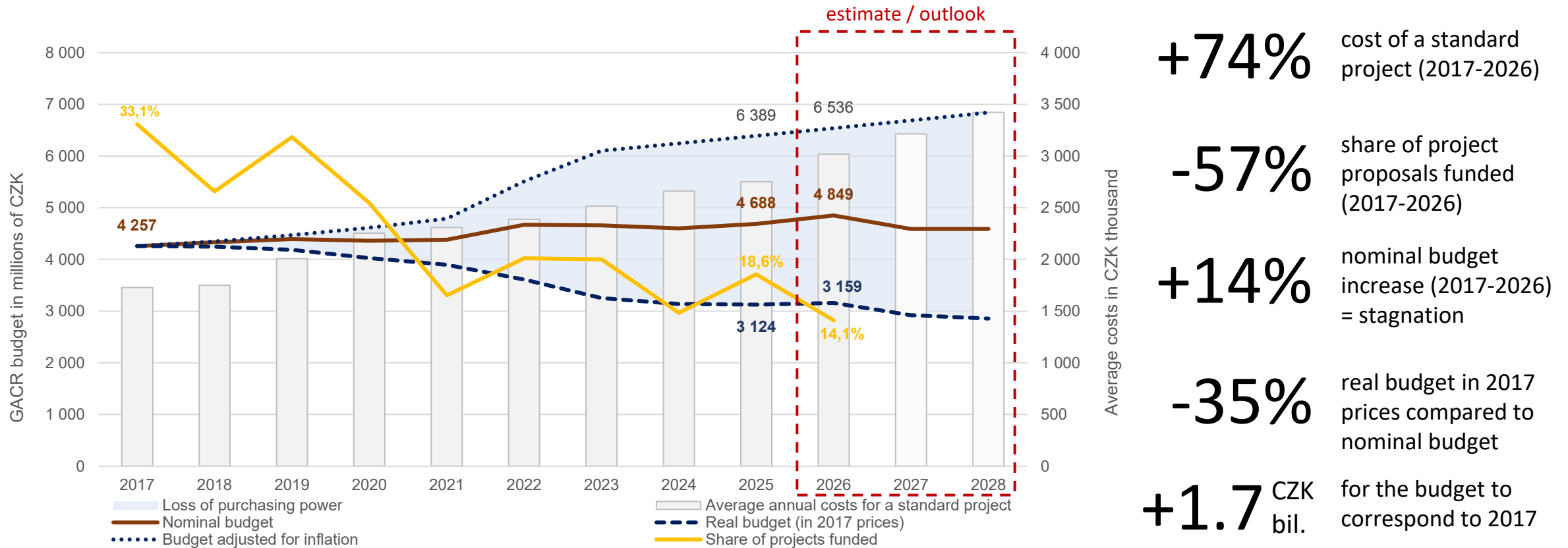
+14% nominal budget increase (2017-2026)
= stagnation

— — ○ AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PURCHASING POWER PARITY, IT DROPPED BY 35%



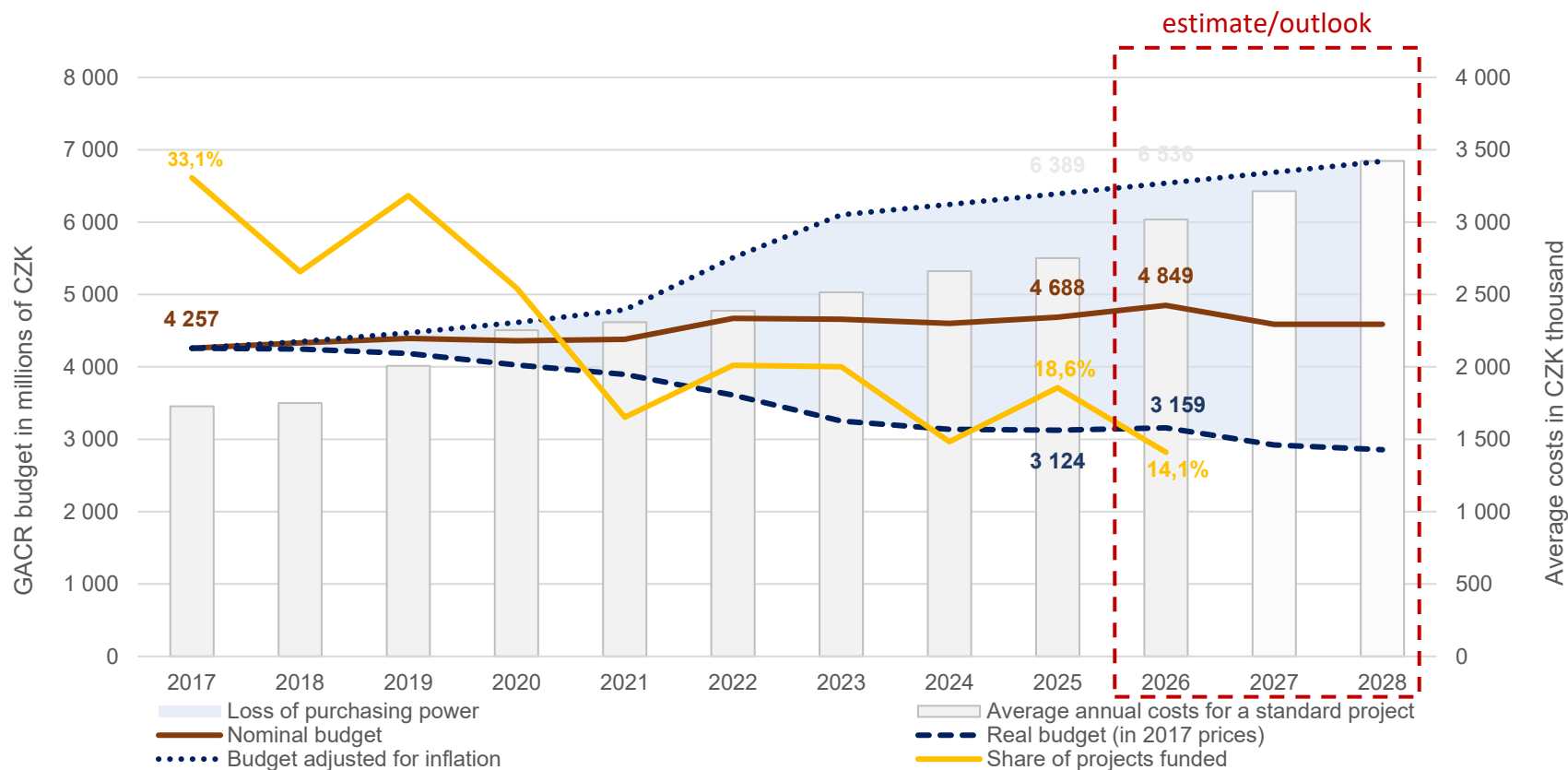
In **2019**, funding for the excellence **EXPRO and JUNIOR STAR tenders** kicked in, worth **CZK 300 million per year**, meaning that the amount of funding available for standard national calls dropped even further, explaining the decline in the success rate of Standard Projects.

TO MAKE UP FOR INFLATION IN 2017-2026, AN AMOUNT OF CZK 6.5 BILLION WOULD BE NEEDED



In 2025, GACR received a total subsidy of CZK 4.813 billion, which was reduced by CZK 160 million by a government resolution of November 19, 2025!

REAL BUDGET PLUMMETS



- +74%** cost of a standard project (2017-2026)
- 57%** share of project proposals funded (2017-2026)
- +14%** nominal budget increase (2017-2026) = stagnation
- 35%** real budget in 2017 prices compared to nominal budget
- +1.7 CZK bil.** for the budget to correspond to 2017

Outlook



-5.4% (CZK 262 million) **X**

in 2027 and 2028



+100%

for FP 2028-2034

! The widening funding gap is destabilizing Czech science



Thank you for your attention.