

CZECH SCIENCE
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2016

... from curiosity to discovery

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1 FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENTS

In 2016, intensive negotiations took place with the Government Office on the proposal for an Act on Support of Research, Development and Innovation and on the formation of a prospective new Ministry for Science and Research. A change of the GACR Status was approved by the Research, Development and Innovation Council with effect from 1 January 2017. This change stipulates that one cannot be a member of GACR Presidium and at the same time hold certain listed positions, such as a dean or rector. The Government of the Czech Republic endorsed the following materials: on 30 March 2016 the current form of standard projects, on 18 April 2016 the GACR Conception of Operations for years 2016-2020, and a new grant scheme for the Support of international cooperation for the acquisition of ERC grants (Support of ERC Grant Applicants).

A research budget increase of CZK 3.75 billion was positive news for the GACR. In particular, an increase of CZK 0.4 billion meant that the overall GACR budget for 2017 is now CZK 4.2 billion. Success rate was enhanced because of the budget increase; for standard projects starting in 2017 it reached 33.1 % and for junior projects starting in 2017 it achieved 36.5 %. Support of young and early-career researchers is one of GACR priorities because they can fundamentally influence the state of Czech science in the coming decades.

International cooperation is of great importance to GACR. Currently, GACR's partner agencies are Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF) – Austria, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – Germany, Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of China (MOST) – Taiwan and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) – Korea. In future years we will endeavour to expand international cooperation and sign a Memorandum of Understanding of Scientific Cooperation with respective agencies in countries such as Israel, the USA and Poland. In September 2016 GACR announced a call for the submission of project proposals in the "Support of ERC grant applicants" scheme. The announcement was a reaction to an initiative of the European Research Council (ERC). The Czech Republic (among others) has a considerably lower representation of scientists in ERC calls, which leads to unused research potential. ERC therefore appealed to responsible national agencies to set

up programmes of national fellowships to visit ERC projects. These programmes would enable future ERC applicants to visit current ERC principle investigators (PIs) and their teams. The proposer of the "Support of ERC grant applicants" project has to be a PI of a running GACR Junior project or a PI of a finalized GACR Junior project. Proposals are invited in all scientific disciplines of basic research. It is expected that the support will be provided in the period 2016 – 2022 and total planned expenditure amounting to CZK 61.5 million.

GACR continued to build relations with both the professional and general public. For the second time the GACR President participated in a workshop titled „The Role of the GACR in a financing of basic research II“. The workshop was organized by the Council of Higher Education Institutions. GACR held seminars for the staff of grant departments, applicant institutions and also for principal investigators. At these seminars GACR representatives provided advice on the guidelines for individual calls and answered questions from the audience.

A substantial change of evaluation panel members occurred during 2016. In July 2016 Professor Stanislav Labík resigned from his role as Chairman of GACR Supervisory Board because of his appointment as the Chairman of the Council of the National Accreditation Authority for Higher Education. Professor Jana Geršlová was subsequently elected as chair of the Supervisory Board.

On 27 September 2016 the GACR President's Prize was awarded to four researchers of the outstanding basic research projects that concluded in 2015. Results were gender-balanced, as winners are two female scientists and two male scientists: a classical philologist Alena Hadravová, a physicist Kateřina Kůsová, a biologist Michail Kotsyfakis and a mechanical engineer Tomáš Vampola. Congratulations to all winners.

The annual networking event was held in Tuchlovice in November. Members of the GACR Presidium and Heads of individual sections of the GACR Office met with the Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Pavel Bělobrádek and his deputy Lucie Orgoníková. In attendance were representatives

from: the Council of Higher Education Institutions; Czech Rectors Conference; Czech Academy of Sciences; the Expert Commission for the evaluation of research institution and program results, the European Research Council, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, GACR Discipline Committees, GACR Scientific Advisory Board and GACR Supervisory Board. The discussions included a proposed change in evaluation methodology of research outputs (Methodology 2017+). We believe that the new methodology will focus on quality rather than quantity and thus will lead to a better overall evaluation process and a more effective distribution of funds allocated to science and research.

At the end of 2016, Dr. Alice Valkárová from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague, was appointed by the government as a new president of GACR with effect from 10 December 2016. Three new members of the GACR Presidium were also appointed: Dr. Jaroslav Koča from CEITEC, Professor Jana Roithová from the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague, and Dr. Petr Baldrian from the Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Professor Stanislava Hronová is the only member of the previous GACR Presidium that has a mandate for another consecutive term. The new President will be able to capitalise on her extensive work experience as a member of the GACR evaluation bodies. She takes over the organisation in a stable condition from her predecessor and she is ready for the new challenges presented by Czech science in the future.

In conclusion, we would like to comment on the results of an audit carried out by the Supreme Audit Office (NKU) in the period from June to December 2016 at GACR. One of the criticisms raised by the NKU was that GACR "has directed and directs the entire volume of support to basic research rather than to oriented research". However, the main task of the GACR is to provide public funding for projects in basic research according to the Act no. 130/2002 Coll., on support of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and amending certain related laws. Basic research is defined as a theoretical or experimental research conducted especially for the purpose of gaining new knowledge of basic principles of aspects or perceptible facts that is not primarily concentrated on the implementation or use in practice. GACR provides long-term support to basic research in the framework of approved groups of grant projects and in accordance with the respective law. GACR does not have the mandate to give a priority to certain scientific areas over others in the selection process. The distribution of support allocation to

specific priority fields is not within GACR competency but falls under state science policy. GACR leadership emphasises that GACR activities and competencies must stay within the scope defined by § 36 of the Act no. 130/2002 Coll.

prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc.
President
of the Czech Science Foundation
(until 9 December 2016)



RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc.
President
of the Czech Science Foundation
(since 10 December 2016)



2 BASIC INFORMATION

The Czech Science Foundation (GACR) is an independent public organisation supporting basic research of all scientific disciplines. Since its establishment in 1993, GACR provides financial support for both experienced and young early-stage researchers on the basis of Calls for Proposals agreed by government of Czech Republic. Moreover, it funds international research projects.

GACR is the only institution in the Czech Republic, which provides public funding exclusively for projects of basic research. Its activity is regulated by Act no. 130/2002 Coll., on support of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and amending certain related laws (hereinafter the Act on Support of Research, Development and Innovation). GACR independently manage targeted and institutional resources allocated to it directly from the state budget.

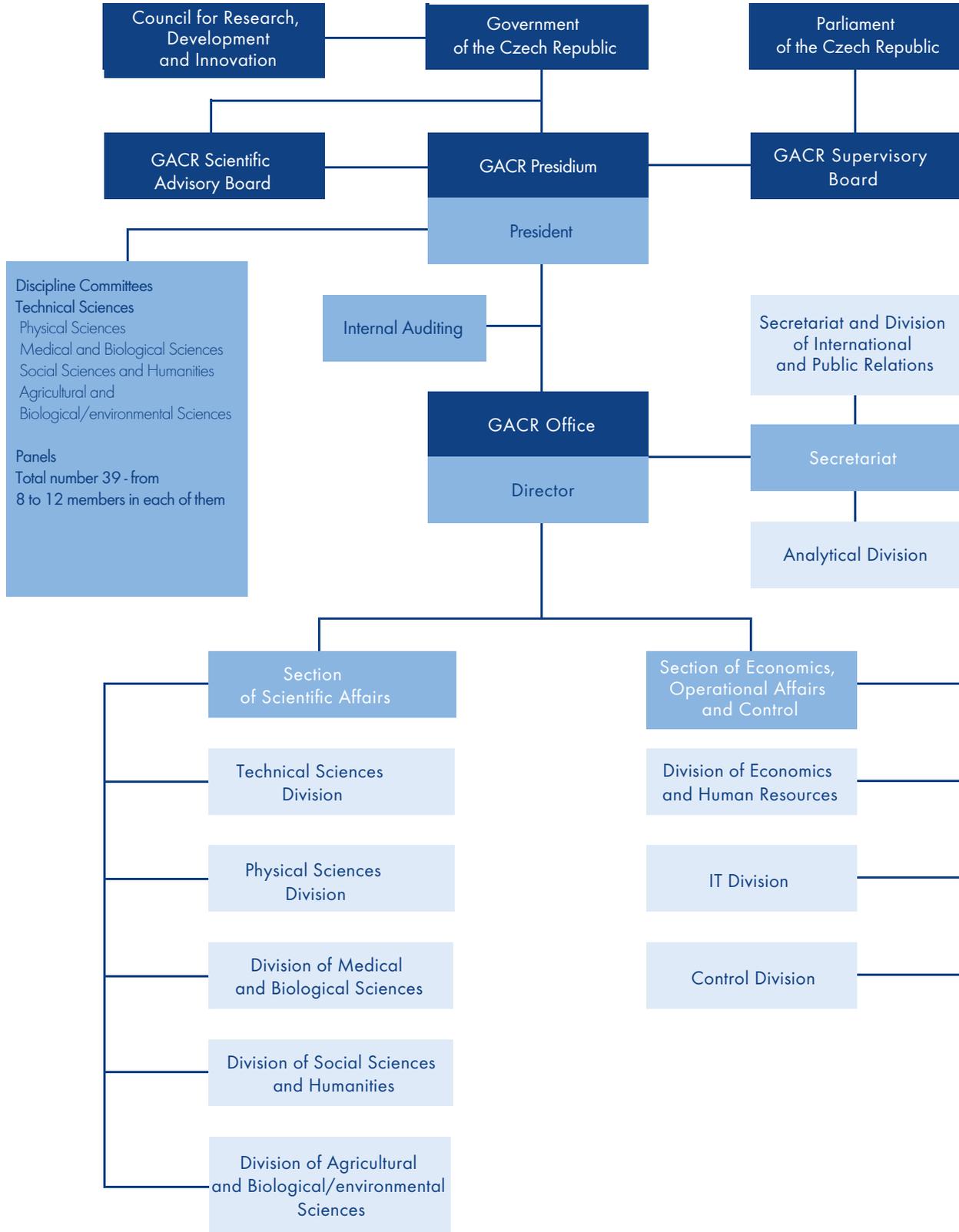
GACR promotes basic research over the whole range of scientific fields. The structure of support is divided into five domains: technical sciences, physical sciences, medical and biological sciences, social sciences and humanities, agricultural and biological-environmental sciences.

Main GACR objectives:

- To provide financial support for projects in basic research with a high potential for achieving world class results.
- To promote and enhance international scientific cooperation in basic research.
- To help create attractive conditions for the professional development of young and early-stage researchers.
- To ensure that entrusted funds are used as effectively as possible to the benefit of the Czech and international scientific community.
- To inform scientific and general public about its activities and plans.

The 2016 annual report provides you with information on activities of the GACR Presidium, GACR Scientific Advisory Board, GACR Supervisory Board and GACR Office. Furthermore, it includes data on financial support provided in 2016 for the implementation of grant projects. The report also contains an overview of the types of projects supported by the GACR together with the information on the evaluation process of project proposals as well as of completed projects. Since last year's annual report it also introduces the topic of gender representation and brings the readers detailed data on the gender situation in the GACR authorities and among projects financed by the GACR. Last but not least the annual report includes chapters on international cooperation and public relations.

Scheme No. 1: Organisational structure



3 AUTHORITIES AND OFFICE

GACR authorities are represented by the President, Presidium, Scientific Advisory Board and Supervisory Board. The GACR Office is the organisational and administrative body of the Czech Science Foundation.

3.1 THE PRESIDENT

The GACR President represents the organization externally and acts on its behalf in all matters. The main activity of the President is the management of GACR Presidium, which is the executive body of GACR.

The office of the President was held by prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc. until December 9, 2016. Based on government decision made on November 28, 2016 with effect from December 10, 2016 RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc. was appointed as a President of GACR.

The President regularly attends meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board and most of the meetings of the Supervisory Board. He/She also participates in meetings of the Parliamentary Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in the defence of a budget draft and a final account of the GACR budget chapter.

The President represents the GACR during negotiations at the highest level in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 2016 the President participated in negotiations resulting from the GACR membership in Science Europe - Science Europe ERA High-level Workshop 2016 and the May 2016 Science Europe General Assembly in Oslo and Science Europe General Assembly and related events in Brussels. Furthermore the President represented GACR at major conferences and seminars on the promotion of science and research, for example Seminar Heritage of the European Science Foundation in Florence, The Role of Research Funding Agencies for the Development of Science in Krakow, Frontier Research and Science Diplomacy (conference organized by the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)) in Brussels etc.

3.2 PRESIDIUUM

The GACR Presidium (hereinafter referred to as the Presidium) is the executive body of the GACR. Its role and position is defined in § 36 para. 5 of the Act on support of research, development and innovation. The Presidium is authorized to approve calls for proposals and to award grants, to manage and control the evaluation process in close cooperation with the Discipline Committees, to approve the results of on-going and completed projects, to report to the Czech Parliament and to the Government of the Czech Republic, to promote basic research in the Czech Republic and to strengthen international cooperation.

The Presidium consists of five members. Each member is responsible for one of the scientific areas. Members of the Presidium are elected for four years for maximum of two subsequent terms.

Until December 9, 2016 the Presidium acted in the following composition:

- **prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc.**
(President; second term of office) – physical sciences
- **prof. Ing. Stanislava Hronová, CSc., dr. h. c.**
(Vice-president; first term of office) – social sciences and humanities
- **prof. RNDr. Bohuslav Gaš, CSc.**
(second term of office) – technical sciences
- **prof. MUDr. Cyril Höschl, DrSc., FRCPsych.**
(second term of office) – medical and biological sciences
- **prof. Ing. Otomar Linhart, DrSc.**
(second term of office) – agricultural and biological-environmental sciences

Since December 10, 2016 the Presidium acts in the following composition:

- **RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc.**
(President; first term of office) – physical sciences
- **prof. Ing. Stanislava Hronová, CSc., dr. h. c.**
(Vice-president; first term of office) – social sciences and humanities
- **prof. Mgr. Jana Roithová, Ph.D.**
(first term of office) – technical sciences

- **prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc.**
(first term of office) – medical and biological sciences
- **prof. Ing. Otomar Linhart, DrSc.**
(second term of office) – agricultural and biological-environmental sciences

Prof. Ing. Otomar Linhart's, DrSc. presidium membership ended on January 6, 2017. RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D. has taken up his position as a member of the Presidium for agricultural and biological-environmental sciences.

The fundamental activities of the GACR Presidium arise from the schedule of the project evaluation. It covers the evaluation of new submitted project proposals as well as on-going and completed projects.

14 meetings of the Presidium took place in total in 2016 including the off-site one. The minutes from the meetings are available on the GACR website at – www.gacr.cz.

3.3 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is a conceptual body of the Czech Science Foundation. Its activities are governed by § 36 para. 3,6 of the Act on support of research, development and innovation. SAB's scope is determined by its statute approved by the Presidium. According to this document SAB main activities are:

- to suggest composition and operation of the GACR Discipline Committees,
- to suggest groups of grant projects and its fields,
- to evaluate overall scientific level of the GACR,
- to discuss and to submit proposals for solving problems related to the activities of GACR,
- to comment on the GACR's international cooperation and facilitate its development.

The SAB consists of 12 experts representing different scientific disciplines. Membership in the SAB lasts for four years and a particular person may hold the position for a maximum of two subsequent terms of office.

Since December 22, 2014 the Scientific Advisory Board acts in the following composition:

- **prof. Ing. Zdeněk Bittnar, DrSc.** (Chair)
- **prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., MBA** (Vice-chair)

- **prof. Ing. Jana Hajšlová, CSc.**
- **prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl, DrSc.**
- **prof. RNDr. Jan Hanousek, CSc.**
- **prof. RNDr. Jan Kratochvíl, CSc.**
- **prof. PhDr. Jiří Kuthan, DrSc., dr. h. c.**
- **prof. Ing. Jiří Málek, DrSc.**
- **prof. RNDr. Bedřich Moldan, CSc.**
- **doc. RNDr. Vojtěch Petráček, CSc.**
- **prof. PhDr. Jan Sokol, CSc., Ph.D.**
- **prof. MUDr. Julius Špičák, CSc.**

Three meetings of the SAB took place in total in 2016 – 19 April, 29 June and 31 October.

3.4 SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board (SB) is the auditing body of the GACR, which was set up by Act no. 110/2009 Coll., Changing the Act no. 130/2002 Coll. on support for research, development and innovation from public funds and amending certain related acts, in accordance with § 36, para. 7 of this Act.. The main task of the SB consists in supervising the activities of the GACR. It discusses and deals with complaints about violation of the conditions of a Call for proposals in awarding grants. It participates in improving the current mechanism of targeted support of scientific projects in the CR as well. In important case the SB may propose statements to the GACR Presidium which are obligatory.

The SB should consist of 10 members. Members of the SB are appointed and recalled by the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Membership in the SB lasts for four years and a particular person may hold the position for a maximum of two subsequent terms of office. The SB submits the report about its activity to the Parliament of the Czech Republic twice a year.

The SB members until September 1, 2016 (only 9 members):

- **prof. Ing. Stanislav Labík, CSc.** (Chair)
- **prof. PhDr. Jana Geršlová, CSc.** (Vice-chair)
- **prof. Ing. Rostislav Drochytka, CSc.**
- **prof. Ing. Ladislav Jakl, CSc.**
- **prof. Mgr. Libor Jan, Ph.D.**
- **doc. JUDr. Věra Kalvodová, Dr.**
- **prof. Ing. Mária Režňáková, CSc.**
- **Ing. Mirka Wildmannová, Ph.D.**

On July 2, 2016 prof. Ing. Stanislav Labík, CSc. renounced his membership in the SB because of his appointment as the Chairman of the Council of the National Accreditation Authority for Higher Education.

Prof. PhDr. Jana Geršlová, CSc. was subsequently elected as a Chair of the SB and Ing. Mária Režňáková, CSc. was appointed a Vice-chair.

Eight meetings of the SB took place in total in 2016. As in previous years, the SB members carried out supervising activity at the meetings of Panels and Discipline Committees. They pointed members of the mentioned advisory bodies not only to prospective differences in project proposals contrary to guidelines but also to formal mistakes and drawbacks which occurred during the evaluation of project proposals and in the process of grant awarding. At meetings the SB was regularly informed about the GACR activities and about work of the GACR Office by the GACR President and the GACR Office Director.

Throughout the past year the cooperation of the SB with the GACR President and the entire Presidium was at a very good level. While the work of the Presidium consisted of managing the organization and its further development, the SB worked in cooperation with the GACR Control Division on monitoring the activities of the GACR through control of both the activities of the Presidium and its advisory bodies, as well as efficiency and effectiveness in the use of funds allocated to individual grant projects.

The main focus of the SB is primarily on a monitoring of panel activities, evaluation process of project proposals and also on the evaluation process of on-going and completed projects. The attention of the SB in cooperation with the Control Division of the GACR Office was also given to expensive projects and to the use of allocated funds in accordance with project proposals and guidelines. During the last period, 158 grant projects from 19 institutions in total were inspected by the Control Division. The controls were carried out in place of principle investigators' institutions.

The SB continuously exercised during the monitored period control of GACR activity, handled complaints about denial of grants to certain projects, discussed and put forward suggestions for improvement of the grant system and carried out personal checks at the panel discussions and Discipline Committees. In cooperation with the GACR Control Division, the SB drew attention to errors in the disbursement of funds, and to any unauthorized use of these funds.

During the year 2016, the SB fulfilled all tasks set by the Act No 130/2002 on Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation. From the general view the SB has participated in effective use of the funds from the state budget allocated to R&D and in consolidation of R&D in the Czech Republic.

3.5 THE GACR OFFICE

The GACR Office in accordance with the GACR Statute provides technical, economical, control, organizational and administrative tasks arising from the activities undertaken by GACR. Under the instructions of President the Office secures organizational and administrative activities of GACR and communicates with outside bodies.

The GACR Office is managed by the Director, who is appointed and recalled by the GACR President. The Office consists of Section of Scientific Affairs, Section of Economics, Operational Affairs and Control and Secretariat. Division of Internal Auditing reports directly to the GACR President.

The GACR Secretariat consists of Division of Secretariat, International Affairs and Public Relations and Analytical Division. Secretariat and Division of International and Public Relations provide an administrative service for the Office, President, Presidium and Scientific Advisory Board. It also assures relations with external entities both at national and international level, publicity and presentation of GACR activities. Analytical Division ensures database administration, also prepares a publication and announcement of calls for proposals and drafts of guidelines. It operates a call center and other information channels.

Section of Economics, Operational Affairs and Control consists of Division of Economics and Human Resources, IT Division and Control Division. Division of Economics and Human Resources ensures the GACR accounting, provides funds to the GACR projects and their control, prepares a draft of the GACR budget and deals with human resources. The main tasks of IT Division are operation and service of the GACR computer system, development, operation and service of the GACR database and information system and also operation of emails. Control Division monitors a compliance with effective economic legal regulations and rules on the side of grant recipients and also compliance with the GACR Statute and the other binding documents.

Section of Scientific Affairs consists of Technical Sciences Division, Physical Sciences Division, Division of Medical and Biological Sciences, Division of Social Sciences and Humanities and Division of Agricultural and Biological/environmental Sciences. They ensure the evaluation process of submitted project proposals and prepare background papers for the Presidium, the Discipline Committees and panels. They also deal with the agenda of ongoing and completed projects.

4 FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF GRANT PROJECTS

At the beginning of this chapter, we would like to mention that all data source used in the document is data from our own calculation, updated for 21 February 2017.

The GACR had a general budget of CZK 3 833 110 thousands for 2016 and no income was planned. The GACR expenditures are distributed to institutional expenditures, i.e. for the GACR operation including an assuring of the calls for proposals, the evaluation of project proposals, monitoring of on-going projects and the other things related to the administration; and to targeted financial means allocated to the grant projects implementation. In 2016, the institutional expenditures were CZK 109 759 thousands, which is 2.86 % of the whole GACR budget. The targeted financial support was CZK 3 573 351 thousands. The amount of CZK 877 678 thousands was planned for projects starting in 2016, i.e. 23.6 % of the total targeted financial means. The financial support for on-going projects was CZK 2 845 673 thousands, i.e. 76.4 % of the total targeted financial means.

In 2016 the GACR distributed financial means for these types of projects:

- standard projects ,
- international projects,
- post-doctoral projects,
- projects of excellence in basic research,
- international projects evaluated on the basis of Lead Agency principle,
- junior projects.

The largest proportion of financial support (more than 77 % of the total targeted financial means) goes to standard projects. The second largest portion of financial support (13 % of total targeted financial means) goes to projects supporting excellence. Conversely, the lowest level of support goes to Lead Agency grants. The table 1 shows the distribution of financial support for the individual types of projects:

Table 1: Approved targeted expenditures of GACR according to project groups in 2016

Project groups	Approved targeted expenditures of GACR (in thousands CZK)	Distribution of targeted expenditures (in %)
Standard projects	2 886 536	77,5
Bilateral projects	33 336	0,9
Postdoctoral projects	100 000	2,7
Support of excellent research projects	483 479	13,0
Lead Agency projects	20 000	0,5
Junior projects	200 000	5,4
Total	3 723 351	100

GACR, in accordance with § 10 par. 2 Act No. 130/2002 Coll. provides support for grant projects on the basis of a decision to grant funding and after signing a contract with the recipient of the funding. If the beneficiary, respectively co-beneficiary is the state organisation, the transfer of funds is carried out by the financial arrangements made by the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic. Funds intended to the beneficiary, respectively co-beneficiary are transferred through the budget of the respective authority. Other recipients receive targeted funds through direct transfer from the provider's account to the beneficiary's bank account.

Targeted expenditures designed to support implementation of projects of research, development and innovation were budgeted in the amount of CZK 3 573 351 thousands. Amended budget amounted to CZK 3 716 667 thousands, the final

budget amounted to CZK 3 870 762 thousands, the actual drawdown amounted to CZK 3 841 862 thousands, i.e. filling of 103.4 %. In 2016, GACR has provided through the transfer to the bank account of beneficiaries support amounted to CZK 3 841 862 thousands. Through the budgetary measure of the Ministry of Finance CZK 6 684 thousands was transferred to state organizational units. The largest volume of targeted funding was provided to universities (CZK 1 924 043 thousands) and public research institutions (CZK 1 804 541 thousands). Compared to 2015, the actual targeted expenses were CZK 280 173 thousands higher than last year, allowing a greater number of grants to be awarded. Targeted funds are granted to projects on the basis of public tender. Table no. 2 Summary of financial means paid out in 2016, describes the recipients of grants by type of organization and describes transferred funds into investment and non-investment.

Table 2: Summary of financial means paid out in 2016 (in thousands CZK)

Entry	Approved budget	Budget after amendments	Final budget	Reality
5212 Non-investment transfers to non-financial businesses	316	544	585	585
5213 Non-investment transfers to non-financial businesses	7 268	16 174	16 174	16 174
5221 Non-investment transfers to public benefit organizations	11 923	11 923	13 287	7 373
5222 Non-investment transfers civic associations	2 036	2 036	2 036	0
5229 Other non-investment transfers to non-profit and similar organizations	848	2 358	2 507	2 507
5311 Non-investment transfers to state budget	7 423	739	739	0
5332 Non-investment transfers to universities	1 228 780	1 799 695	1 932 825	1 921 439
5334 Non-investment transfers to public research institutions	1 208 444	1 787 280	1 806 479	1 802 541
5339 Non-investment transfers to foreign subsidized organizations	23 160	86 427	86 639	86 639
5901 Unspecified reserves	1 173 777	366	366	0
6352 Investment transfers to universities	1 298	2 604	2 604	2 604
6354 Investment transfers to public research institutions	3 370	3 370	3 370	2 000
6901 Capital expenditures reserves	54 708	3 151	3 151	0
Total	3 723 351	3 716 667	3 870 762	3 841 862

5 GACR PROJECTS IN 2016

Projects, submitted within the 2015 Calls for proposals, were launched in 2016. Calls for proposals were announced in 2016 as well, successful projects will start in 2017.

GACR announced on February 16, 2015 a public tender to support standard, junior and international grant projects of basic research with the expected start on 1 January 2016. A deadline was on 31 March 2015. At the end of 2014, GACR announced in cooperation with the Austrian Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF), the joint tender for the Austrian-Czech proposals on the principle of Lead Agency with the expected start on 1 January 2016 and a deadline for submitting proposals on 24 February 2015. The number of accepted proposals to all public tenders announced in 2015 was a total of 2 365 (1 949 standard projects, 297 junior grants, 51 international (bilateral) projects and 68 international projects evaluated on the principle of Lead Agency). 36 projects were rejected due to formal reasons, i.e. 1.5 %. The total number of successful grant projects in 2015 tenders was 635 - 539 standard projects, 72 junior projects, 15 international projects (11 projects in cooperation with the German organization Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG); 4 projects in cooperation with Taiwanese organization the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST); projects submitted to the tender announced in cooperation with the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) were not recommended for funding by the partner organization) and 9 international projects evaluated on the principle of Lead Agency.

GACR on February 15, 2016 announced a public tender for standard, junior and international grant projects with an expected start on 1 January 2017. A deadline was on March 30, 2016. The joint call for the submission of bilateral Austrian-Czech projects of basic research with the expected start on 1 January 2017 was announced at the beginning of 2016. In all public tenders announced in 2016 GACR received 2 572 proposals of which 46 proposals did not meet the prescribed requirements and were rejected, i.e. 1.8 %. The number of successful grant projects with expected start in 2017 was 818, of which it was decided to finance 698 standard projects, 97 junior projects, 11 international projects (5 projects in cooperation with the DFG to the date of February 21, 2017, 3 projects in

collaboration with the MOST and 3 projects in cooperation with the NRF) and 12 international projects evaluated on the principle of Lead Agency.

5.1 STANDARD PROJECTS

GACR has supported this type of projects since its foundation, i.e. since 1993. The duration of projects is 2-3 years. They include all scientific fields of basic research. The topic of a project proposal is determined by the applicant. A natural or a legal person active in research and development is eligible for funding. Projects are implemented by single or several principal investigators from one or more institutions. The Call for Proposals is announced annually, usually in February. The evaluation process lasts until the autumn and the results are usually announced before year-end. A project proposal is accepted providing that all conditions stated in the Act on Support of Research, Development and Innovation and in the guidelines for standard projects are fulfilled. The main evaluation criteria of project proposals are quality and originality of the project proposal, the applicant's previous research and publication record, expected outputs, and eligibility of costs.

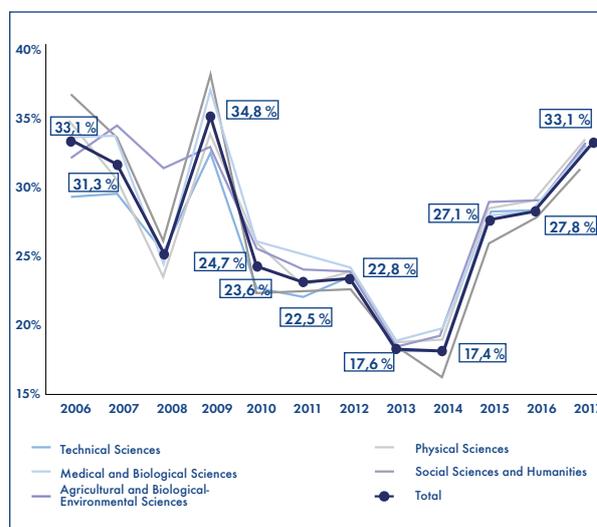
In the public tender for support of standard projects announced in 2015, GACR received a total of 1 949 project proposals with a total funding requirement of CZK 2 844 035 thousands for the first year (i.e. for the year 2016). Of these proposals 4 standard project proposals were not accepted because of failure to meet the conditions of the public tender, three proposals were rejected and five candidates withdrew from the tender. Of 1 937 evaluated proposals of standard projects, most of them were from the field of social sciences and humanities (701 proposals), the second largest group was from the field of physical sciences with 361 proposals, technical sciences had 354 proposals, medical and biological sciences had 269 project proposals and the lowest number of submitted proposals was 252 proposals for projects of agricultural and biological-environmental sciences. When taking into account the distribution of project proposals by the institutions of investigators, the GACR evaluated 1 181 project proposals from universities, 614 project proposals from

institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, 100 project proposals from the category of others (hospitals, libraries, museums, state institutes other than ASCR) and 42 project proposals from private category (individuals, limited liability companies, joint stock companies, private universities, charitable organizations). Based on the recommendations of the advisory bodies and the general consensus, the Presidium decided on the financing of 539 standard projects. The success rate for standard grant projects starting in 2016 was 27.8 %. In a public tender of standard projects starting in 2016, physical sciences were the most successful with a success rate of 28.5 %, unlike the social sciences and humanities with a success rate of 27.2 %.

The GACR in a public tender announced in 2016 received 2 129 proposals of standard grant projects, of which five proposals were not accepted because of failure to meet the conditions of the public tender, 10 project proposals were excluded and three candidates withdrew from the contest. In comparison with the previous year, there was a significant increase in accepted proposals. Of 2 111 evaluated proposals of standard projects most of them were from the field of social sciences and humanities (698 proposals), the second largest group was technical sciences with 411 proposals followed by physical sciences with 397 proposals and agricultural and biological-environmental science with 309 proposals. The lowest number of evaluated project proposals was 296 in the field of medical and biological sciences. When taking into account the distribution of project proposals by the institutions of investigators the GACR evaluated 1 286 project proposals from universities, 680 project proposals from institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, 108 project proposals from the category of others (hospitals, libraries, museums, state institutes other than ASCR) and 37 project proposals from private category (individuals, limited liability companies, joint stock companies, private universities, charitable organizations). In comparison with the previous year, there was an increase in evaluated project proposals from universities by 105 project proposals.

The Presidium at its meeting held on 21 November 2016 on the recommendation of the advisory bodies and the general consensus, decided to finance 698 standard projects. After the allocation of funds, the Presidium decided at its meeting on 21 February 2017 not to fund the additional standard projects supported from cash reserves. The success rate of standard grant projects starting in 2017 increased significantly for the first time since 2009 being at 33.1%. Compared to the last year, this represents an increase of more than 5.2 %. Over the monitored period, the lowest success rate was recorded in 2013 and 2014, see the following chart.

Graph 1: Success rate development of standard projects with the start of project in the years 2006 - 2017

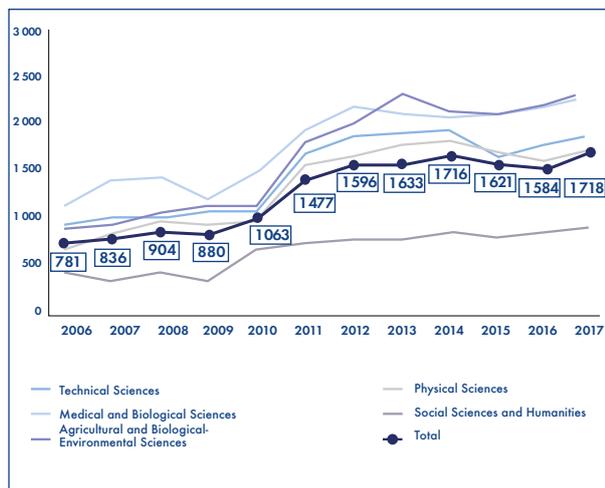


In a public tender for standard projects announced in 2015 were physical sciences the most successful with 28.5 % success rate. This was also similar a year later, when physical sciences achieved the highest success rate of 34.0 %. On the contrary, social sciences and humanities have long-term lowest success rates (27.2 % success rate of projects starting in 2016 and 31.8 % success rate for projects starting in 2017, see the following chart), despite the fact that social sciences and humanities receive the highest number of funded standard projects. From a total of 698 standard projects, the most grants awarded were in the field of social sciences and humanities (222 grants), the second largest group include technical sciences with 138 grants followed by physical Sciences with 135 grants and agricultural and biological-environmental sciences with 104 grants. The lowest number of funded projects was in the field of medical and biological sciences - 99. In Appendix 1 there are listed success rates according to the candidates and individual panels.

The average cost of first year of project implementation for supported standard projects with start in 2016 was CZK 1 584 thousands and for supported standard projects with start in 2017 it is CZK 1 718 thousands. It is therefore more than 8 % increase between these two years. Since 2013, the highest average annual cost for the first year of the project implementation is in the field of agricultural and biological-environmental sciences. In 2017 it is as high as CZK 2 471 thousands. In the field of medical and biological sciences, the highest annual average cost was registered in 2012. The opposite is true for the social sciences and humanities, which have the lowest long-term average costs for the first year of the successful standard grants. The average cost progression of

the first year of implementation of financed standard projects is illustrated in the following graph.

Graph 2: Average costs development of standard projects in the first year of project implementation in the years 2006 – 2017, in thousands of CZK



5.2 JUNIOR GRANTS

The GACR has supported junior projects since 2014. The duration of projects is 2-3 years. They include all scientific fields of basic research. The topic of a project proposal is determined by the applicant. Only one applicant's institution can be mentioned in the project proposal. The applicant can be a scientist in basic research that gained their PhD to date of a submission deadline and is eight years after getting a PhD at the most. A maternity and parental leave are not included into the mentioned time limit. A six-month stay abroad is a necessary condition for proposal submission. It is possible to divide a stay into two parts. The Call for Proposals is announced annually, usually in February. The evaluation process lasts until the autumn and the results are usually announced before year-end. A project proposal is accepted providing that all conditions stated in the Act on Support of Research, Development and Innovation and in the guidelines for junior projects are fulfilled. The main evaluation criteria of project proposals are quality and originality of the project proposal. Junior projects are intended for excellent early-stage researchers. This type of projects enables them to create an independent research team equipped by appropriate research facilities.

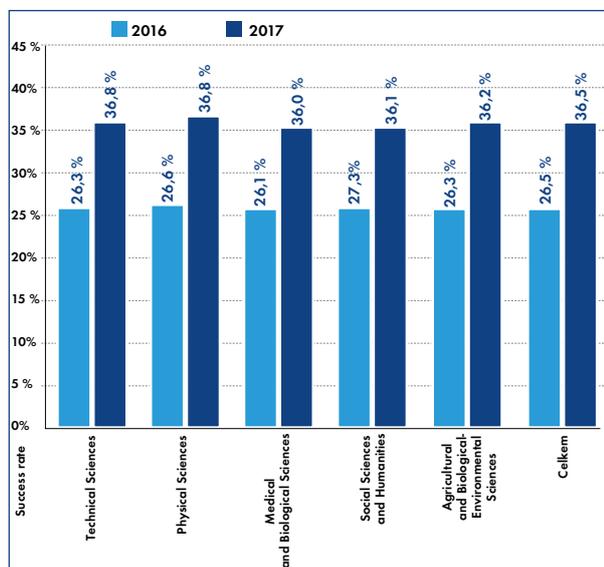
In the public tender on support of junior grant projects announced in 2015, the GACR received a total of 297 project

proposals, of which 25 proposals did not meet the requirements of guidelines. Of the 272 evaluated proposals, 72 grant projects were awarded a targeted support of CZK 123 802 thousands for the first year (i.e. 2016). Success rate of junior projects with start in 2016 decreased from 28.9 % to 26.5 % compared to the last year. The decline in the success rate is related to the increase in the number of evaluated proposals by 33.3 % compared to the previous year. The highest number of junior project proposals (79) was submitted in the physical sciences, the next largest groups include technical sciences and agricultural and biological-environmental sciences with 57 project proposals followed by medical and biological sciences with 46 project proposals and the lowest number of submitted project proposals (33) was in the field of social sciences and humanities. The largest number of junior project proposals starting in 2016 was submitted by universities (171) and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (94). The success rate according to institutions of investigators is further outlined in Annex 1.

Within the public tender announced in 2016, GACR has received 283 junior projects proposals, of which 16 proposals were excluded due to failure to meet the conditions of the tender and one candidate withdrew from the tender. In comparison with the previous year there was a slight decline in the number of received proposals. When we divide project proposals by fields we can find out that the largest group is in the field of physical sciences with 76 proposals, the second place belongs to the field of technical sciences with 57 proposals followed by the field of medical and biological sciences with 50 project proposals and agricultural and biological-environmental sciences with 47 project proposals. The lowest number of evaluated project proposals (36) belongs to the field of social sciences and humanities, similarly to the previous year. When taking into account the distribution of project proposals by the institutions of investigators the GACR evaluated 159 project proposals from universities, 90 project proposals from institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, 15 project proposals from the category of others (hospitals, libraries, museums, state institutes other than ASCR) and 2 project proposals from private category (individuals, limited liability companies, joint stock companies, private universities, charitable organizations).

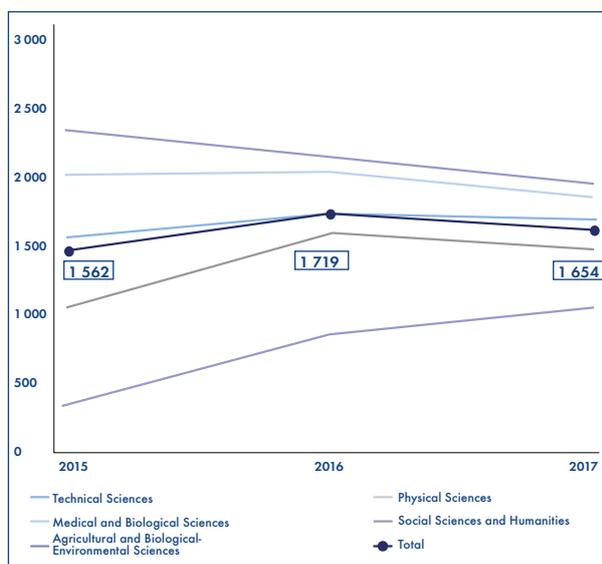
The Presidium at its meeting held on 21 November 2016 based on the recommendation of the advisory bodies and the general consensus decided to finance 97 junior grants. The success rate of junior grants starting in 2017 increased significantly to 36.5 % compared to the previous year. Comparison by disciplines can be seen in the following chart.

Graph 3: Success rate by disciplines - junior projects with the start of project implementation in 2016 and 2017



The average annual cost for the first year of the implementation of successful junior grant projects with the start in 2017 is CZK 1 654 thousands, which is a decrease of 3.8 % compared to the previous year. On the other hand compared to 2015, the annual cost for the first year of the implementation of successful junior grants increased. In the chart below it is possible to see that the highest average cost for the first year of implementation of funded junior projects belongs to the field of agricultural and biological-environmental sciences, while the lowest average annual costs were recorded in the field of social sciences and humanities.

Graph 4: Average costs development of junior projects in the first year of project implementation in the years 2015 – 2017, in thousands of CZK



5.3 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS (BILATERAL)

GACR has supported this type of projects since 2005 when cooperation with the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) has started. Since 2008 the GACR has been in a partnership with the Taiwan organisation National Science Foundation (NSC), presently Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The duration of projects is 2-3 years. They include all scientific fields of basic research. The topic of a project proposal is determined by the Czech applicant in cooperation with the foreign applicant. The evaluation is conducted independently in both partner organizations. Grants are awarded only after approval by both organizations (GACR and the foreign partner organization). Each funding agency supports the costs of the approved projects only within its own territory. In the Czech Republic a Call for Proposals is announced annually, usually in February. The evaluation process lasts until autumn and the announcement of results is based on the date of project approval by the foreign partner organization. The main evaluation criteria of project proposals are quality and originality, complementary approaches and methods, the applicants' previous research and publication record, eligibility of costs and declared research outputs of participating partners.

In the public tender on support of international (bilateral) projects with an expected start in 2016 in cooperation with the DFG, NRF and MOST the GACR has received 51 project proposals, of which 8 proposals were excluded due to non-recommendation for funding by foreign partner agency. Applicants of 4 project proposals resigned from the competition. The highest number of evaluated project proposals was similarly to previous years in cooperation with the DFG (33 proposals). In collaboration with MOST 6 proposals were evaluated. A total of 15 project proposals were awarded financial support. In a public tender of international projects with DFG 11 projects succeeded based on a favorable opinion from both agencies. In cooperation with MOST GACR awarded support to 4 international projects starting in 2016. None of the projects submitted to the tender announced in the cooperation with NRF was recommended for funding by the partner organization.

In a public tender of international (bilateral) projects starting in 2017, GACR has received a total of 80 project proposals, of which 50 project proposals were in cooperation with DFG, 21 project proposals with MOST and 9 proposals with NRF. Of these 80 proposals of international (bilateral) projects 15 proposals were excluded, because partner organization decided not to recommend the projects for funding and

5 applicants withdrew from the tender. In cooperation with MOST the GACR awarded support to 3 international projects starting in 2017 and in cooperation with Korean organization NRF GACR is funding 3 international projects starting in 2017. In a public tender on international projects with the German organization DFG to the date of 21 February 2017 5 projects succeeded based on favorable opinion from both agencies.

5.4 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS (LA GRANTS)

On May 27, 2013 the GACR signed, on the occasion of GRC Summit in Berlin, the Memorandum of Understanding of Scientific Cooperation in basic research with the Austrian organisation Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF). The aim of the Memorandum is to establish and increase scientific cooperation between researchers and institutions of these two countries and enable the exchange of information and techniques and the use of specialized equipment available in the countries involved. This Austrian-Czech bilateral cooperation constitutes an entirely new group of grant projects where the evaluation process is based on a Lead Agency (LA) principle. The first Call for proposals on the LA principle was announced at the end of the year 2013. The duration of projects is 2-3 years. They include all scientific fields of basic research. The topic of a project proposal is determined by the Czech applicant in cooperation with the foreign applicant. The joint research proposal is submitted to one funding agency only and must be prepared in accordance with the formal guidelines of the LA. The LA is in charge of carrying out the peer review process according to its standard evaluation process. GA CR and FWF have agreed that in the first two to three years the Austrian partner will be in the role of the LA. Each research funding organization funds its national part of awarded projects in accordance with the approved budget proposal. A Call for Proposals is announced annually, usually in autumn. The main evaluation criteria of project proposals are quality and originality, complementary approaches and methods, the applicants' previous research and publication record, eligibility of costs and declared research outputs of participating partners.

In the joint call for proposals of bilateral Austrian-Czech basic research projects with the start on 1 January 2016 a total of 68 project proposals that met the conditions of FWF were received. 9 projects starting in 2016 were recommended for funding.

In the following year the number of submitted project proposals in the joint call for proposals in the Austrian-Czech tender ba-

sed on the principle of Lead Agency and an expected start on 1 January 2017 increased to 80. In early December of 2016 the GACR Presidium agreed to support 12 international research projects recommended for funding by the Austrian Agency FWF.

Based on the decision of the Presidium of Austrian agency FWF it will not be possible to submit Austrian-Czech project proposals of basic research with start in 2018. It is expected to build on the traditional cooperation of GACR and FWF in the following year with the announcement of a joint call for proposals to the Austrian-Czech tender with the start in 2019.

5.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF ERC GRANT APPLICANTS

At the beginning of 2016, the European Research Council (ERC) stated that some countries of the European Union (EU) have a significantly lower number of scientists in their competitions, resulting in, among other things, that there is no use of their scientific research potential. In January 2016 the ERC published a document called Fellowship to visit the ERC grantee, inviting national agencies to develop programs of study internships through which visits of future ERC applicants at workplace of existing ERC projects investigators would be funded. Foreign study internship should enable top Czech scientists to gain insight into the competitive environment of international research. Thanks to this, applicants will be more successful in getting the prestigious ERC grant.

„Support of ERC grant applicants“ is intended for researchers of GACR junior grants from all disciplines (technical sciences; physical sciences; medical and biological sciences; social sciences and humanities; agricultural and biological-environmental sciences), where before submitting an application for the grant project „Support of ERC grant applicants“ the last carried out evaluation assessed the junior grant as completed or excellent. The project is carried out at a foreign workplace where the „Principal Investigator“ of ERC grant („Mentor“) solves the ERC project. The Investigator of a grant project „Support of ERC grant applicants“ is required, following the completion of the project, to develop and apply for ERC grant (in programs - ERC Starting Grants; ERC Consolidator Grants or ERC Advanced Grants) with the host organization in the Czech Republic.

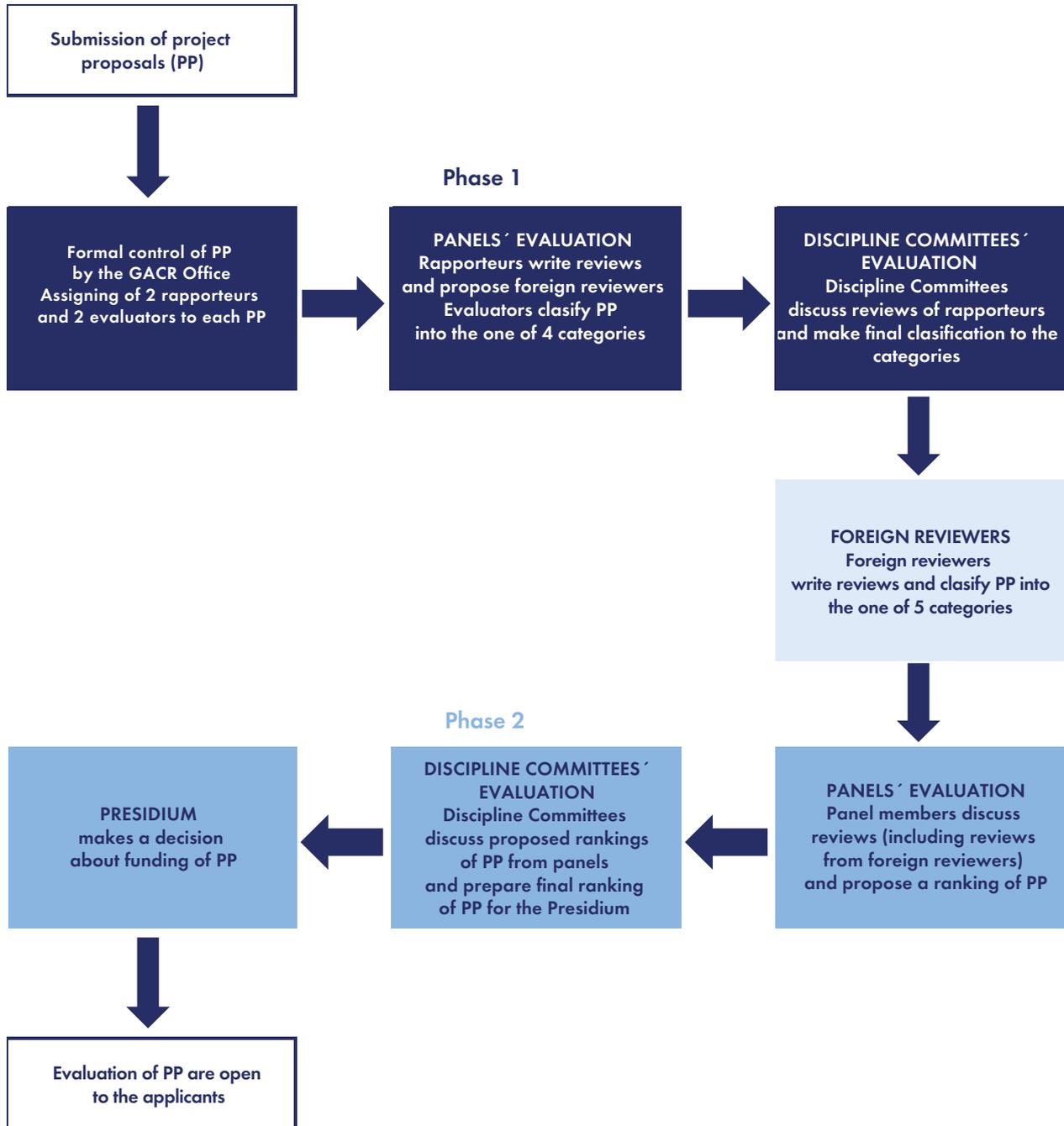
GACR published on September 9, 2016 continuous call for a group of grant projects „Support of ERC grant applicants“ and so far has received no application. The funding for group

of grant projects „Support of ERC grant applicants“ will be available during the period 2016-2022.

5.6 EVALUATION PROCESS OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

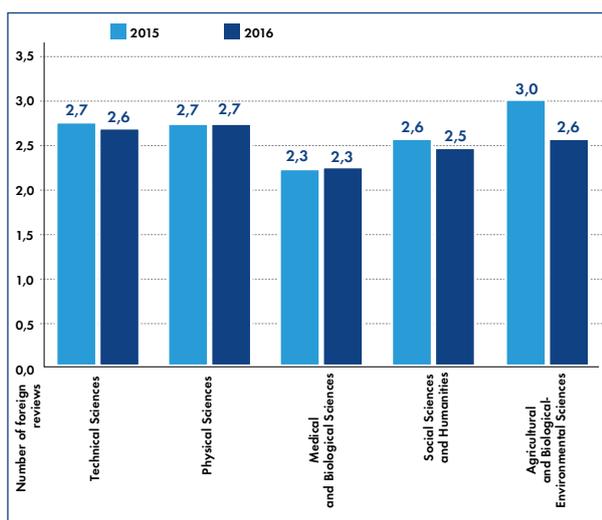
Scheme 2 represents the evaluation process of project proposals. The evaluation process meets the following conditions: eight month evaluation period setting by the law; three-stage evaluation process (panels, Discipline Committees, Presidium); two independent peer reviews per project proposal at least setting by the law; one foreign review at least per project proposal moved into the second phase of the evaluation; participants of the evaluation process are obligated to maintain confidentiality. Proposals of standard, junior and international projects are evaluated providing that all conditions stated in the Act No. 130/2002 on Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation and in the guidelines for each type of projects are fulfilled. In the first phase of the evaluation two panel members write reviews for project proposal. The other two panel members, assigned to the project proposal, classify the proposal to A1, B1, C1 or Cn category. At the panel meeting at least 30 % of proposals (classified to C and Cn category) are stopped for further evaluation due to their lower scientific quality (as compared with the other project proposals). Then the panel members assign foreign reviewers for projects classified to A and B category. In the second phase of the evaluation the panel members discuss reviews (including reviews from foreign reviewers) and propose a ranking of project proposals according to their quality. At most 25 % of project proposals are classified to the A2 category. There is no limit for B2 and C2 category. The Discipline Committees discuss proposed rankings from panels and prepare a final ranking of proposals. The GACR Presidium makes a decision on funding of project proposals. The whole process is described in detail at www.gacr.cz.

Scheme 2: Evaluation process



In 2016, as in the previous year, all project proposals in the second phase of the evaluation were evaluated by foreign reviewers. The average number of foreign evaluations for one project by disciplines can be seen in the chart below.

Graph 5: Average number of foreign reviews per one evaluated project in the years 2015 and 2016 by disciplines



5.7 EVALUATION OF COMPLETED PROJECTS

An evaluation of 608 project proposals, to which GACR provided financial support and principal investigators submitted final reports on 1 February 2016, was carried out in March 2016. Evaluation panels and subsequently discipline committees assessed the results of grant projects based on predetermined criteria and recommended projects for closure to the GACR Board. Table no. 3 shows number of projects evaluated in March 2016 in relation to the overall evaluation and relevant discipline committees. During 2016 another 121 final reports were evaluated.

Table 3: Number of projects according to final evaluation and Discipline Committee evaluated in March 2016

Discipline Committees	Number of grant projects	The reform:				
		Excellent	Fulfilled	Fulfilled with reservation	Not fulfilled	Deferred evaluation
Technical Sciences	120	16	76	10	3	15
Physical Sciences	119	25	86	0	0	8
Medical and Biological Sciences	70	11	42	3	0	14
Social Sciences and Humanities	210	16	57	8	13	116
Agricultural and Biological-Environmental Sciences	89	17	37	4	0	31
Total	608	85	298	25	16	184

6 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Developing and strengthening of international cooperation in basic research is a crucial issue for the GACR. Efforts to deepen and improve cooperation with existing foreign partners and develop new opportunities for international cooperation are the GACR's top priorities.

Since 2005 GACR has successfully implemented a traditional form of bilateral cooperation to promote joint projects with a partner organizations from Germany, Taiwan and South Korea. Memorandums of understanding were signed specifically with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - Germany, Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of China (MOST) - Taiwan and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) - South Korea. A cooperation on the principle of Lead Agency has been successfully established with the Austrian partner agency Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF).

In an effort to maintain and develop a strategic research cooperation in international relations the GACR is a member of multinational organizations. Currently, it is mainly the Science Europe (SE), which is an European organization, and Global Research Council (GRC), which is a virtual platform at the global level.

SE is an association of organizations providing funding for European research (Research Funding Organizations) and organizations that directly perform research (Research Performing Organizations). SE was founded in 2011 and is headquartered in Brussels. It brings together 47 organizations from 27 European countries; the GACR is so far the only representative of the Czech Republic. Besides these organizations SE cooperates with other entities, such as European universities and academies, European scientific intergovernmental organizations, individual national governments and the European Commission. Through a direct negotiation with key partners SE helps to develop the European Research Area (ERA). The main interests of the association include the coordination of policies and strategies of European organizations that promote and perform research to improve the competitiveness of European science and research at the global level. Therefore it supports both the work of each of its member organizations

and also their mutual cooperation, whether it is on strategy level or through specific activities. It also cooperates with research organizations outside Europe. The aim of the SE is to promote the interests of the scientific community so that, in cooperation with the European Commission, it is possible to maximize the contribution of individual member organizations to the development of ERA.

GRC is an organization that was founded in 2012. GRC brings together national agencies supporting basic research from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the US. The idea that motivated the founding of this organization was to create a platform for communication and cooperation between national agencies, to promote common interests and principles of basic research financing, sharing of experience in financing of basic research in various countries, coordination of sharing of information and data, support of excellent research and excellent research teams across continents. The long-term aim of GRC is to promote multilateral research and cooperation to achieve the benefit for both developing and developed countries. The main topics of GRC include the issues of science policy and strategy at the global level, merit review (also known as peer review), Open Access, scientific integrity, interdisciplinary research and the position of women in science.

In order to strengthen the international cooperation, the GACR President conducted several meetings with prominent personalities. He met among others with Dr. Mark Hersam, who is one of five science commissioners (Science Envoys), falls under the US Department of Foreign Affairs and Rebecca Kašēns, head of economy and science division at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague. The GACR President has also personally met with the newly appointed head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Mr. Wang and the new director of the Scientific Section Prof. Liaw. Employees of the GACR Office at the invitation of the DFG attended two-day meeting in Bonn, aiming to discuss further opportunities for cooperation and simplifying joint administrative procedures.

The GACR President participated in several important international meetings at the highest level during 2016. These included participation in the High-Level Workshop - Best

Practices in Supporting outstanding scientists and Helping Them successfully apply for ERC grants in Krakow, Heritage of the European Science Foundation Seminar in Florence, Science Europe High Level Workshop and General Assembly Meeting in Oslo, European Mathematics Representatives Meeting 2016 (EMRM 2016) in Berlin, ERCEA Conference Frontier Research and Science Diplomacy in Brussels and Science Europe General Assembly also in Brussels.

In connection with the GACR's interest to establish a bilateral cooperation with the Israel Science Foundation, the GACR President met with Delana Mikolášová, a scientific diplomat of the Czech Republic in Israel.

At the beginning of 2016, the GACR Presidium paid an attention to a new issue related to an initiative of the European Research Council (ERC). The ERC announced on its website a new initiative called „Fellowship to visit ERC grantee“. The motivation was to challenge the concern felt by the ERC that some EU member states have a low long-term success in ERC competitions. The GACR responded promptly and in February 2016 sent a proposal of a new group of grant projects titled Promoting international cooperation for obtaining ERC grants, (hereinafter „Support of ERC grant applicants“) to the Research and Development Council. The Czech government approved the new grant scheme „Support of ERC grant applicants“ at its meeting in May 2016. The new scheme was announced on 24 May 2016. ERC in September 2016 included in its scheme „Fellowship to visit ERC grantee“ the new group of grant projects „Support of ERC grant applicants“. The GACR published a call for project proposals on 5 September 2016.

The „Support of ERC grant applicants“ is intended for investigators of GACR junior grant projects of all disciplines defined by the Statute of the GACR (technical sciences, physical Sciences, medical and biological sciences, social sciences and humanities, agricultural and biological-environmental sciences). The GACR will finance visits of successful junior grants' investigators and simultaneously future applicants for ERC grants at workplace of current investigators of existing ERC projects. Foreign study internship should enable top Czech scientists to gain insight into the competitive environment of international research. Thanks to this, the applicants should be more successful when applying for the prestigious ERC grant. Getting the ERC grant significantly strengthen the international scientific reputation of the researcher, his team and his workplace. Applicants for these grants must submit a project, which aims to significantly affect the discipline, push the limits of knowledge and open up new research perspecti-

ves. Total spending on „Support of ERC grant applicants“ for the duration of the grant projects in the years 2016 to 2022 will be approximately CZK 61.5 millions.

7 GENDER SITUATION IN THE GACR AUTHORITIES AND PROJECTS

7.1 GACR AUTHORITIES

The GACR authorities consist of the Presidium, Scientific Advisory Board and Supervisory Board. The Presidium and the Scientific Advisory Board are appointed and recalled by the Government of the Czech Republic. Members of the Supervisory Board are appointed and recalled by the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The Czech Science Foundation does not enter into the selection process of the GACR authorities' members and therefore has no opportunity to influence a representation of women in the GACR bodies.

In December 2016 there was a change in the GACR Presidium, the previous Presidium composed of one woman and four men was replaced by a new Presidium, see table no. 4. During the year, there was also a change in the GACR Supervisory Board – the former Chair of the board Stanislav Labík resigned from his post on 1 September 2016. In the monitored course of the year the GACR Supervisory Board consisted of 9 members (5 men, 4 women).

Table 4: Proportion of women and men in the GACR bodies

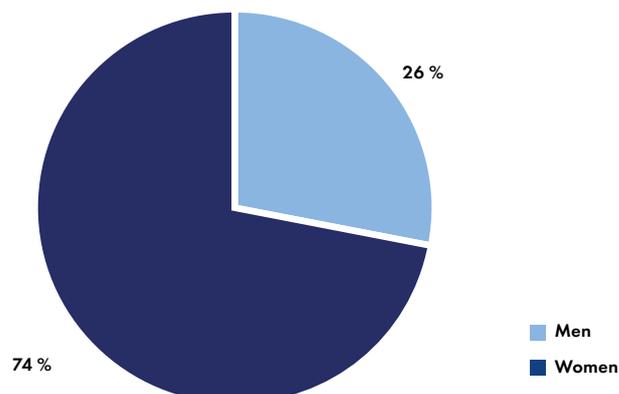
GACR	Total	Number of women	Number of men	Proportion of women
Presidium	5	3	2	60,0 %
Scientific Advisory Board	12	1	11	8,3 %
Supervisory Board	8	4	4	50,0 %

7.2 GACR OFFICE

Heads of the GACR Office choose their employees and co-workers on the basis of professional qualifications and experience. The GACR systematically follows steps leading to an achieving of a gender balance. Upon an agreement the GACR Office enables an individual organisation of the working time, flexible contracts and home office.

In 2016 the GACR Office had 46 employees – 34 women and 12 men.

Graph 6: Proportion of women and men employed in the GACR Office



7.3 PANELS

Evaluation panels are expert bodies of the Discipline Committees. Based on the invitation of the GACR Presidium natural or legal persons active in research propose nominations for panel members. Working groups, consisted of a representative from the Research, Development and Innovation Council, a member of the GACR Presidium and a member of the GACR Scientific Advisory Board, carry out a selection of panel members.

In 2016, there was a personal change in evaluation panels according to the Statute and the Rules of Procedure of Discipline Committees and evaluation panels of GACR. During this change 14 members of panels in three different Discipline Committees were replaced. New experts began their first term on 1 April 2016. At the end of 2016, there were 400 professionals (331 men and 69 women) in 39 panels. The overall representation of women in evaluation panels was 17.3 %.

7.4 DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

Discipline Committees are professional advisory bodies for the evaluation process of project proposals. Each committee

has 10 to 20 members. They are composed of chairmen/ chairwomen and vice-chairmen/vice-chairwomen of individual panels who are nominated by the GACR Presidium. The members are appointed for a two-year term with the possibility of two consecutive terms maximum.

In 2016, there were 39 chairs and 39 vice-chairs in 39 discipline committees. Of all chairs 7 were women (i.e. 18 %) and 32 were males (i.e. 82 %). Nine women held a position of vice-chair (i.e. 23 %) compared to 30 men in the vice-chair position (i.e. 77 %).

7.5 GACR PROJECTS

At the beginning of 2015, GACR contacted The Office for Personal Data Protection (OPDP) for an opinion on a possible request and further use of information about gender of applicants or co-applicants of grant projects in an effort to record information on the representation of women and men in the role of the applicant. According to the opinion of the OPDP the GACR must not require such data and indicating gender by applicants can be only voluntary. The GACR Office thus continues to process this data on its own.

Table 5: Number of panels' chairmen/chairwomen and vice-chairmen/vice-chairwomen by the Discipline Committees

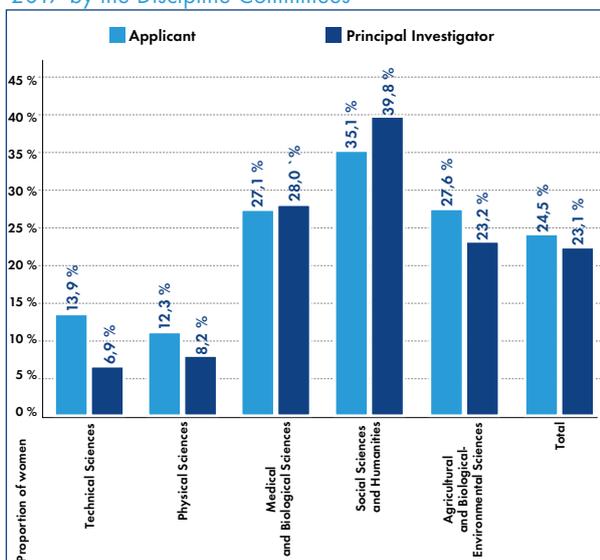
Discipline Committees	Position	Total	Women	Men
Technical Sciences	Chairmen	8	1	7
	Vice-Chairmen	8	1	7
Physical Sciences	Chairmen	10	3	7
	Vice-Chairmen	10	1	9
Physical Sciences	Chairmen	5	0	5
	Vice-Chairmen	5	2	3
Medical and Biological Sciences	Chairmen	10	3	7
	Vice-Chairmen	10	3	7
Social Sciences and Humanities	Chairmen	6	0	6
	Vice-Chairmen	6	2	4
Total	Chairmen	39	7	32
	Vice-Chairmen	39	9	30

STANDARD PROJECTS

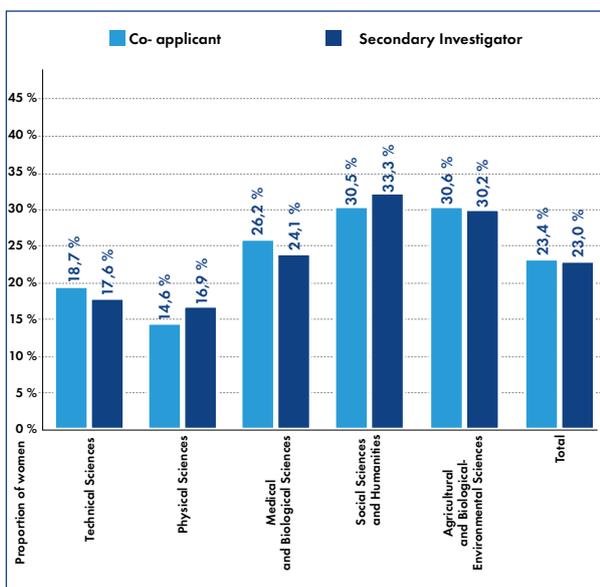
Below-mentioned data are related to standard projects where it was possible to determine a gender of applicants.

For standard projects starting in 2016 women were applicants in 477 evaluated project proposals (i.e. 25 %). Of these projects women are principal investigators of 90 projects (i.e. 18.1 %). In the role of co-applicant of project proposals there were 134

Graph 7: Proportion of women as applicant and principal investigator of standard projects with the start of project in 2017 by the Discipline Committees



Graph 8: Proportion of women as co-applicant and co-investigator of standard projects with the start of project in 2017 by the Discipline Committees



women (i.e. 22 %) and in the role co-investigator there are 30 women (i.e. 17.1 %).

In a public tender to support standard projects with the expected start in 2017 women were in the role of the applicant of 503 project proposals (i.e. 24.5 %) of which 150 projects were awarded (i.e. 23.1 %). There were 177 women in the role of co-applicant (i.e. 23.4 %) and 65 women (i.e. 23 %) in the role of co-investigator. Women success rate was 29,8 % compared to men success rate of 34,5 %.

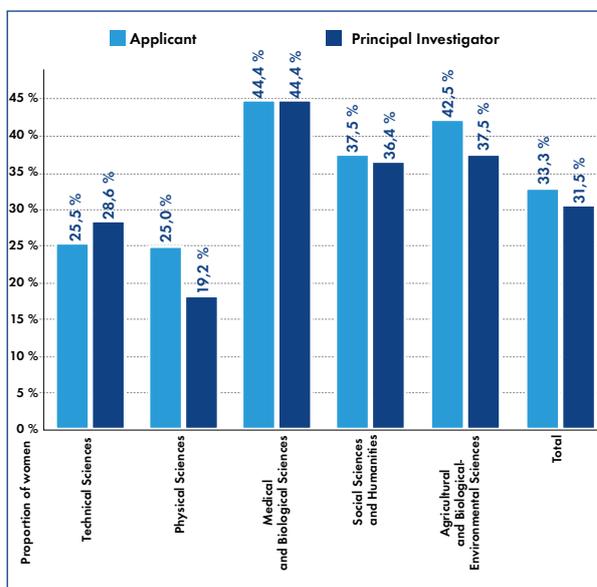
JUNIOR PROJECTS

Below-mentioned data are related to junior projects where was possible to determine a gender of applicants.

90 women (i.e. 32,1 %) in the role of applicant submitted a project proposals that were evaluated in 2015 (successful projects started in 2016). 25 projects (i.e. 37,3 %) where women are in the role of principal investigator were funded.

In a public tender on support of junior projects with the expected start in 2017 women were in the role of applicant of 80 project proposals (i.e. 33.3 %) and 29 projects (i.e. 31.5 %) were funded. Women success rate was 26.3 % compared to men success rate of 39.4 %.

Graph 9: Proportion of women as applicant and principal investigator of junior projects with the start of project in 2017 by the Discipline Committees



8 GACR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In 2016 GACR intensively worked on building relationships with both professional and general public informing them about successful projects and the importance of basic research. In addition to the events attended by GACR representatives, the agency focused on promoting outstanding project results through media, GACR websites and social networks.

The GACR representatives participated in a series of public events and also performed at some of them, for example at Veletrh Věda Výzkum Inovace in Brno on March 9-11, 2016 or at Grants Week, organized by Masaryk University on October 13, 2016.

Similarly to the previous years even in last year, the director of the GACR Office Lada Knetlová held seminars to familiarize grant departments' staff, grant applicants and project investigators with the rules applicable under the GACR guidelines for public tenders and provide practical information for project submission through an online application GRIS. Seminars for applicants in public tenders announced in 2016 took place in Prague and Brno – on February 25, 2016 the seminar was held in the premises of the University of Economics in Prague and on March 1, 2016 in the premises of Masaryk University in Brno. On February 11, 2016 Prague hosted the debate entitled The Role of GACR in funding of basic research II, which was organized by the Council of Universities. GACR President Ivan Netuka and the other members of the Presidium participated in this open discussion meeting.

On 21 - 22 November 2016 at the offsite meeting of the Presidium held in Tuchlovice the GA CR Presidium and the heads of individual sections of the GACR Office met with Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Pavel Bělobrádek and his deputy Lucie Orgoníková, representatives of the Council of Universities, Czech Rectors Conference, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Expert Commission of the Research and Development Council for evaluation of the results of research organizations and finished programs, the ERC Scientific Council, TACR, GACR Discipline Committees, GACR Scientific Advisory Board and GACR Supervisory Board.

The Czech Science Foundation presents itself and communicates mainly through its website www.gacr.cz and social networking. Via mentioned communication channels it informs about important

events and new information from the area of basic research. For researchers and administrators the GACR offers helpdesk. The GACR staff responds to enquiries sent to the Office via email address info@gacr.cz, phone number +420 227 088 841 and online contact form. The most frequent enquiries are worked into the folder of FAQ and published on the GACR website. In 2016 the GACR received almost 10 000 enquiries.

8.1 GACR PRESIDENT'S PRIZE

The GACR President's Prize was awarded to researchers of the best basic research projects on September 27, 2016 in the refectory of the Profession house in the building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University in Prague. Results were gender-balanced, as winners in 2016 are two female scientists and two male scientists: classical philologist Alena Hadravová from the Institute of Contemporary History ASCR was awarded for interdisciplinary research on the historical development of ideas about the stellar sphere from the Middle Ages to the early modern period, physicist Kateřina Kůsová of the Institute of Physics ASCR and her breakthrough discovery in research of silicon nanocrystals, Greek biologist Michail Kotsyfakis from the Institute of Parasitology of Biology Centre ASCR for research on saliva of ticks and mechanical engineer Tomáš Vampola from the Faculty of Mechanical engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague for his fundamental research of artificial vocal folds.

The GACR President's Prize is awarded annually as recognition for outstanding achievements in basic research supported by GACR in accordance with the Act on support of research, development and innovation. Every year up to four researchers whose grant projects were completed in the previous year, were assessed as excellent and recommended for awards by the GACR expert advisory bodies for the GACR President's Prize. The final choices for the award are ultimately determined by the five-member Presidium vote. Together with the GACR President's award the award-winning investigator and his colleagues at the respective grant project receive a financial reward.

The GACR in addition to press releases has also prepared short video vignettes, which describes each of the winning scientists and their projects. The videos are available on the GACR website www.gacr.cz.

The winners of the Prize together with the members of the GACR Presidium. From left Tomáš Vampola, Otomar Linhart, Alena Hadravová, Ivan Netuka, Kateřina Kůsová, Stanislava Hronová, Cyril Höschl, Michail Kotsyfakis



Information about projects awarded the GACR President's Prize in 2016:

Sphaera octava. Historical development of the ideas about the sphere of fixed stars
Alena Hadravová

The Institute of Contemporary History, ASCR



Investigating the role of tick salivary protease inhibitors at the interface between ticks, pathogens and the vertebrate host

Michail Kotsyfakis

Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre, ASCR



**Macroscopic and microscopic luminescence properties
of silicon nanoparticles**

Kateřina Kůsová

Institute of Physics, ASCR



**Biomechanical modelling of human voice production - way
to artificial vocal folds**

Tomáš Vampola

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Mechanical
Engineering



9 CONTACTS

Czech Science Foundation (GACR)
Evropská 2589/33b
160 00 Prague 6

Hadovka Office Park – Building B

Databox ID for common correspondence:
[a8uadk4](#)

Databox ID for submission of project proposals, annual progress
and final reports: [ntq92qs](#)



E-mail: info@gacr.cz

GACR International Affairs

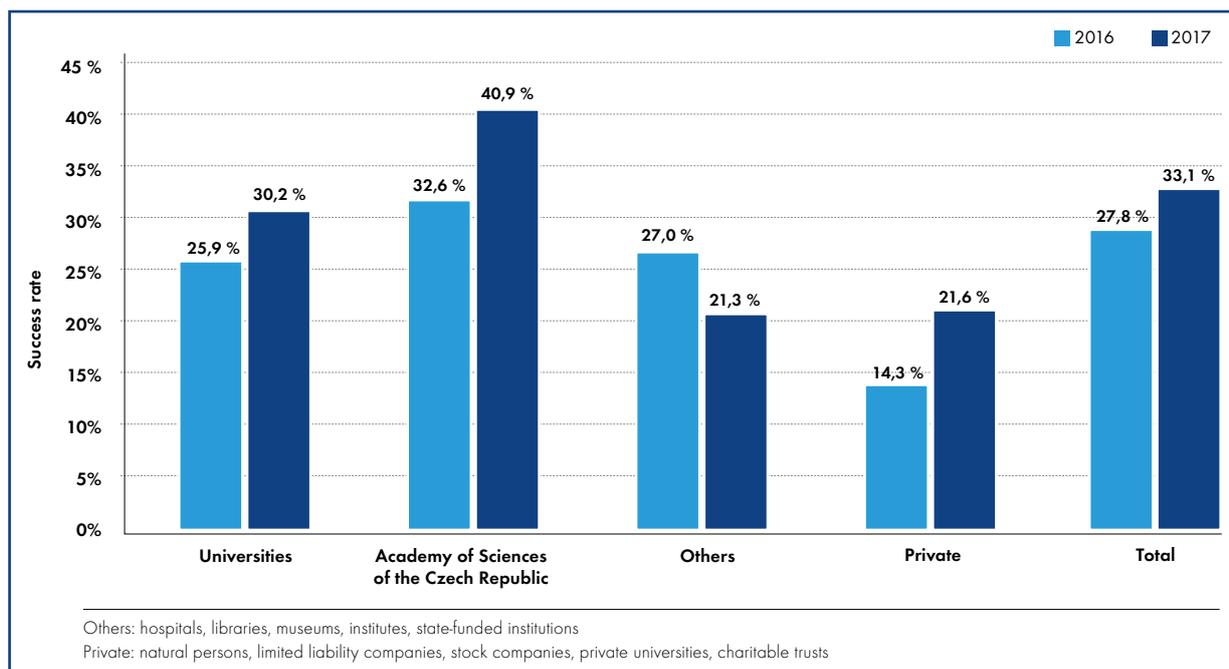
Zuzana Mrázková, MSc Econ
Telephone: +420 227 088 863
E-mail: zuzana.mrazkova@gacr.cz

Call centre

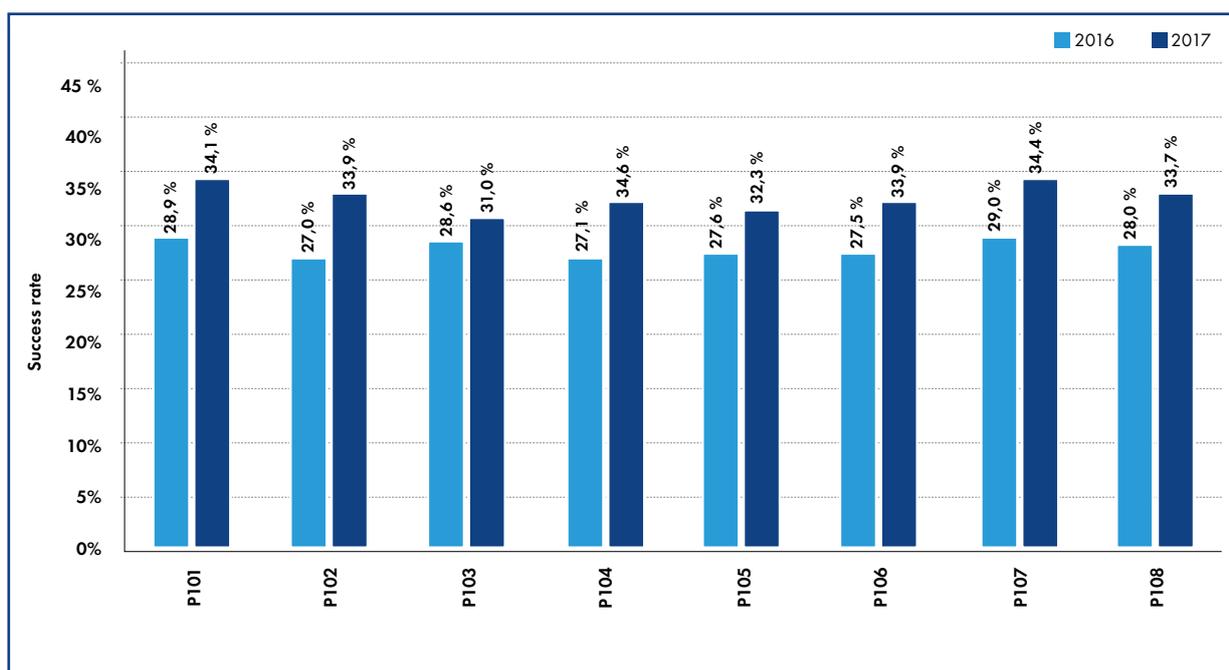
Telephone: +420 227 088 841

APPENDIX 1 - SUCCESS RATE OF STANDARD AND JUNIOR PROJECTS WITH STARTING DATE IN 2016 AND 2017

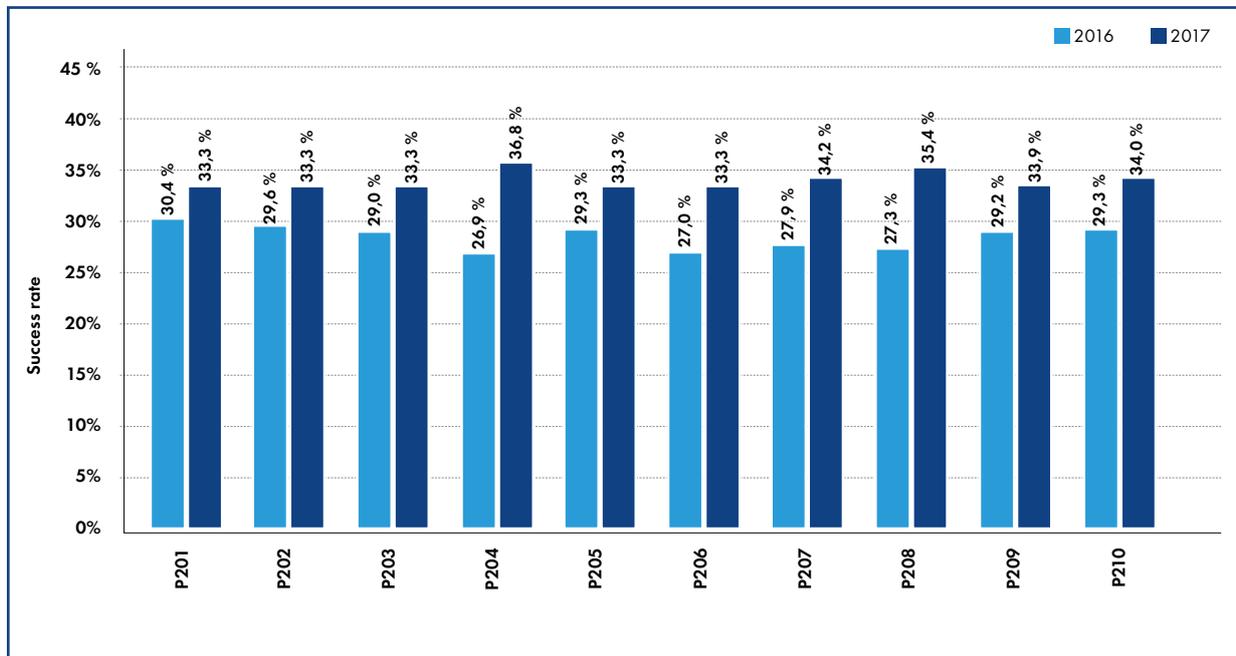
Graph 10: Success rate according to institutions of applicants – standard projects with starting date in 2016 and 2017



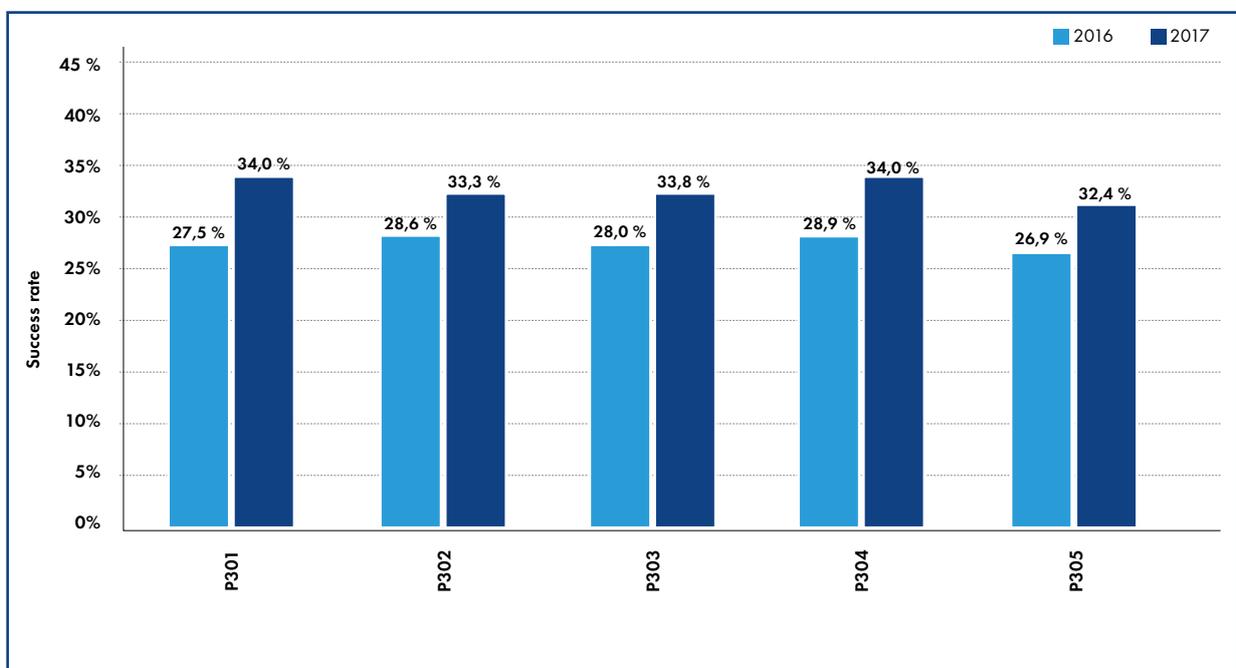
Graph 11: Success rate in the Discipline Committees for Technical sciences – standard projects with the starting date in 2016 and 2017



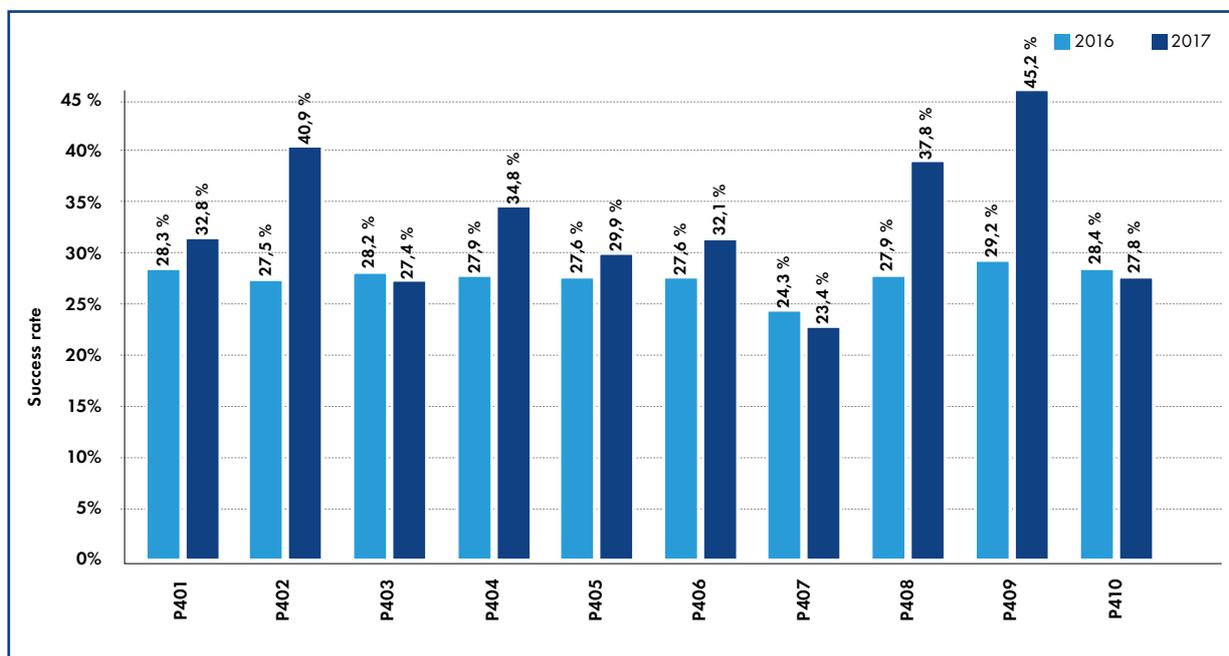
Graph 12: Success rate in the Discipline Committees for Physical sciences – standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



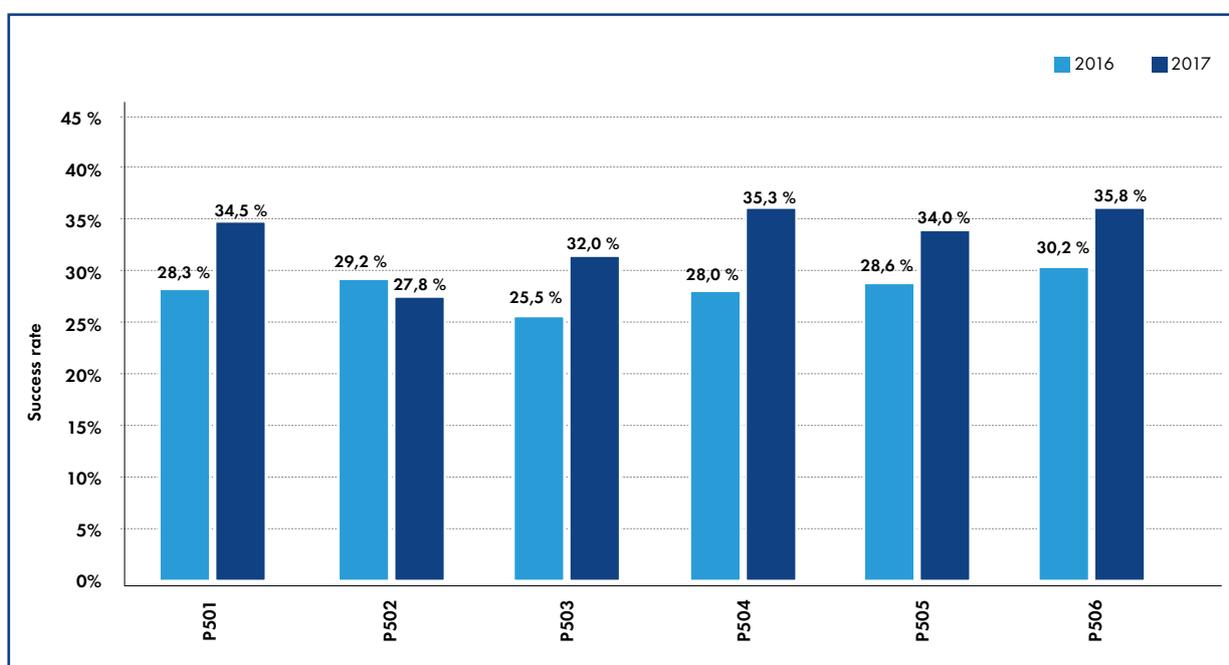
Graph 13: Success rate in the Discipline Committees for Medical and Biological sciences – standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



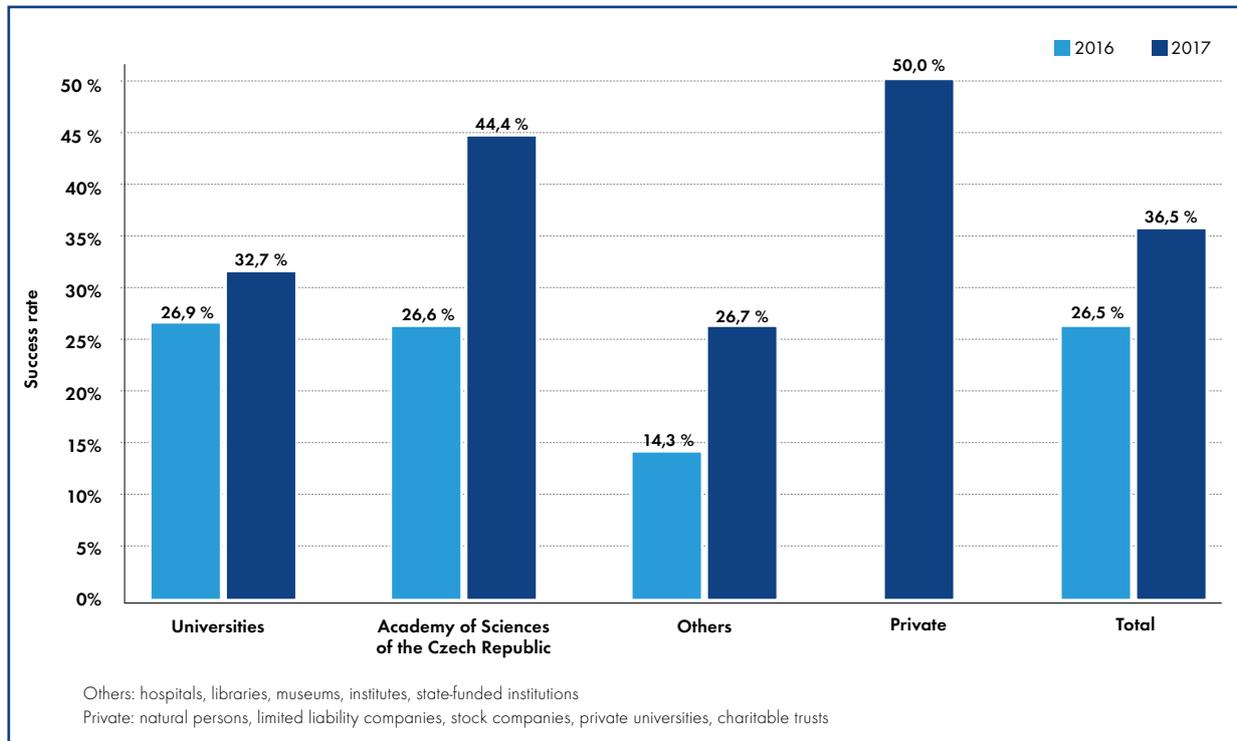
Graph 14: Success rate in the Discipline Committees for Social Sciences and Humanities – standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



Graph 15: Success rate in the Discipline Committees for Agricultural and Biological-environmental Sciences – standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017

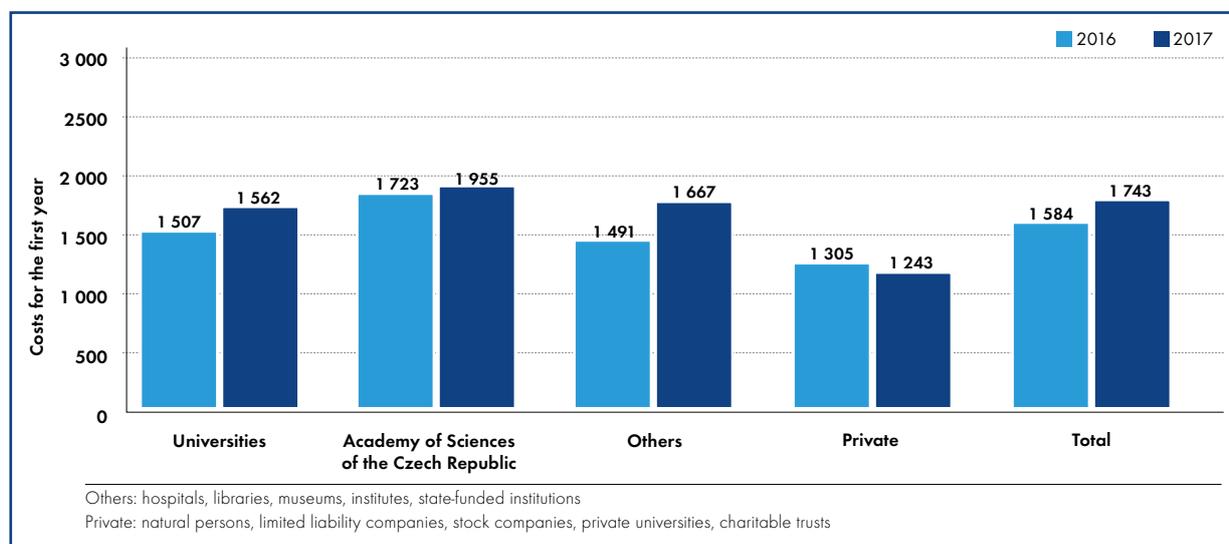


Graph 16: Success rate according to institutions of applicants – junior projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017

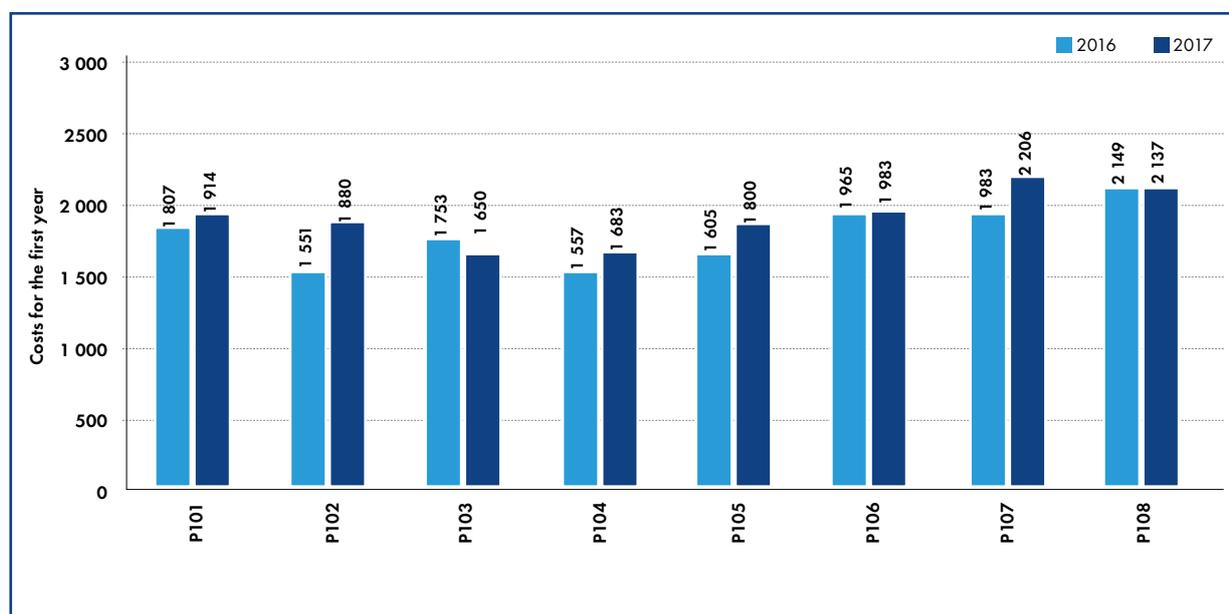


APPENDIX 2 – AVERAGE COSTS FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF STANDARD AND JUNIOR PROJECTS WITH STARTING DATE IN 2016 AND 2017

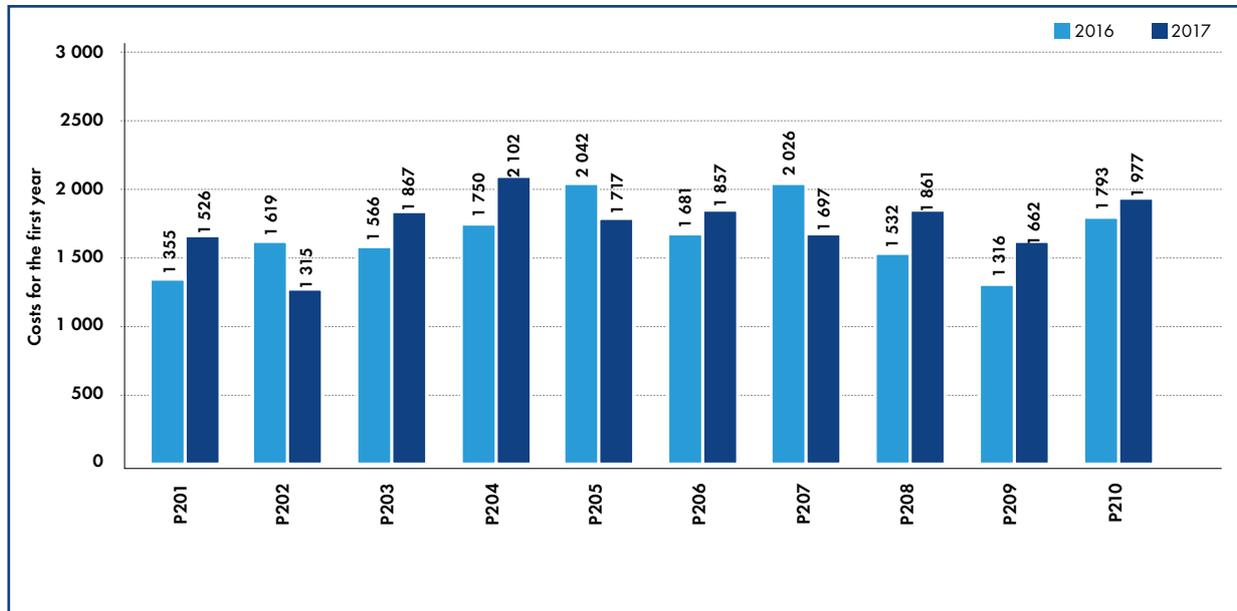
Graph 17: Average costs for the first year by institutions of applicants - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



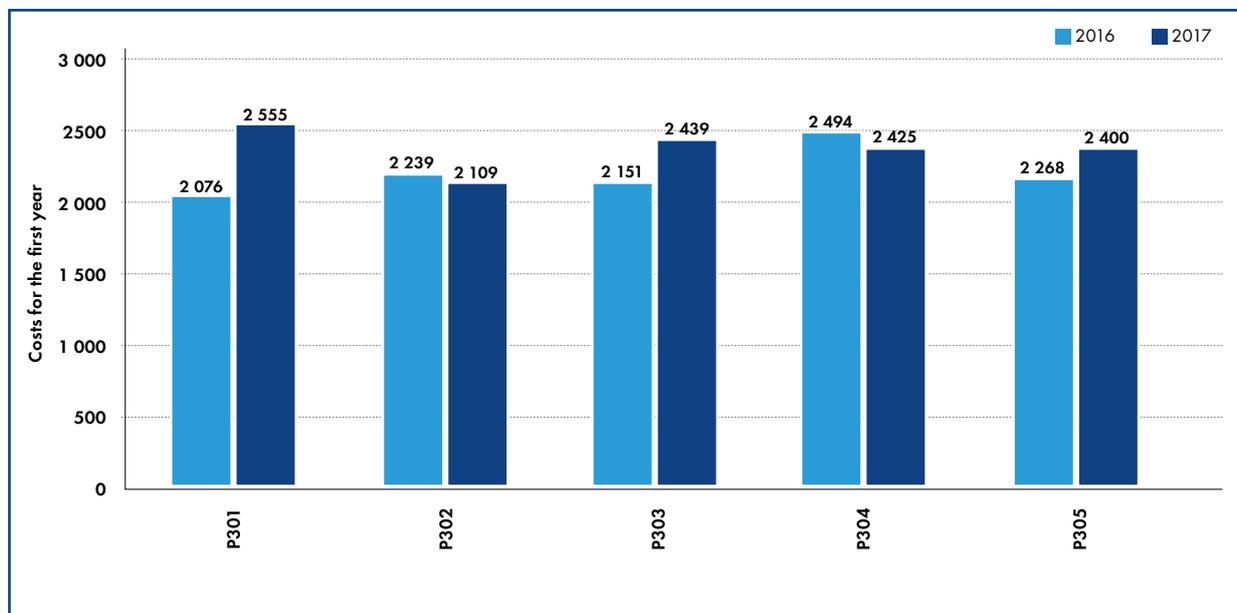
Graph 18: Average costs for the first year in the Discipline Committee for the Technical Sciences - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



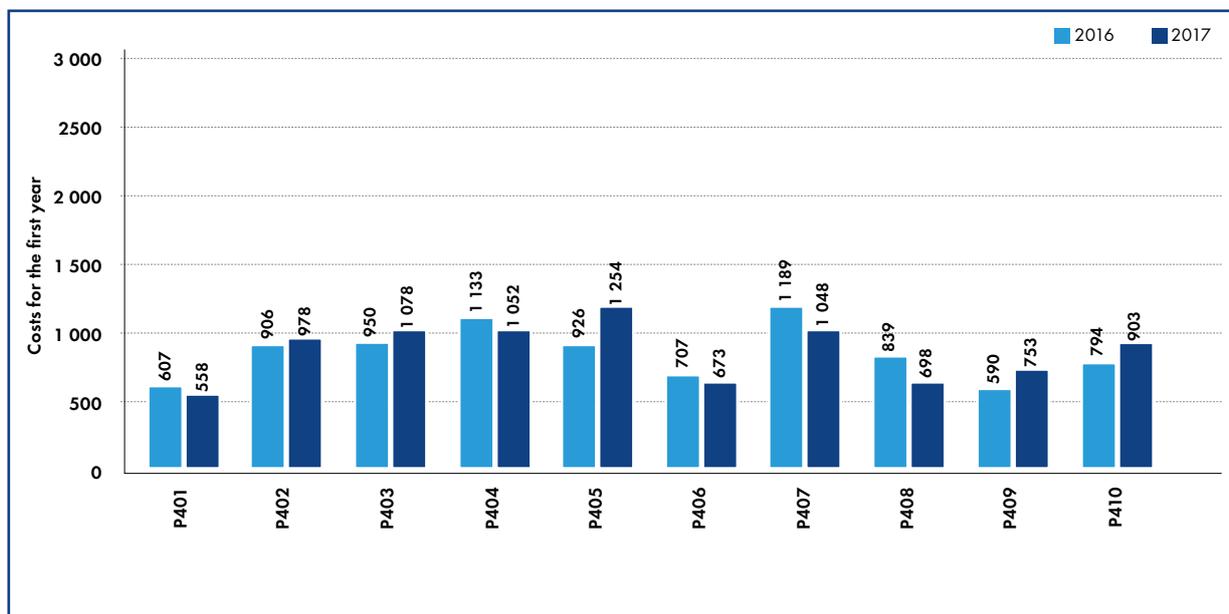
Graph 19: Average costs for the first year in the Discipline Committee for the Physical Sciences - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



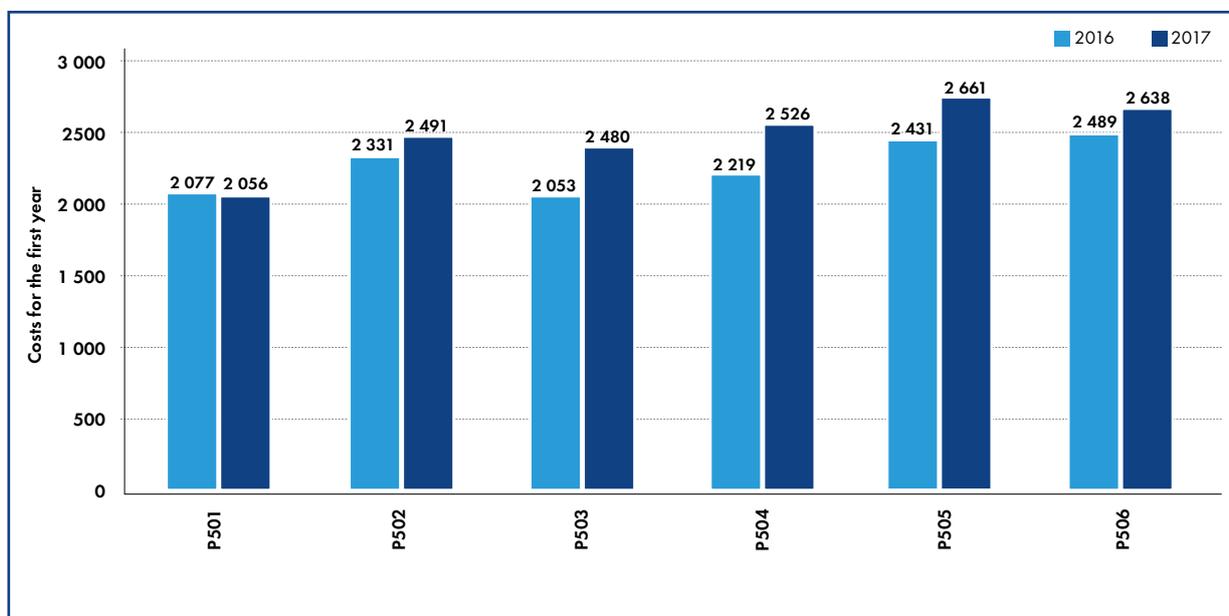
Graph 20: Average costs for the first year in the Discipline Committee for the Medical and Biological Sciences - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



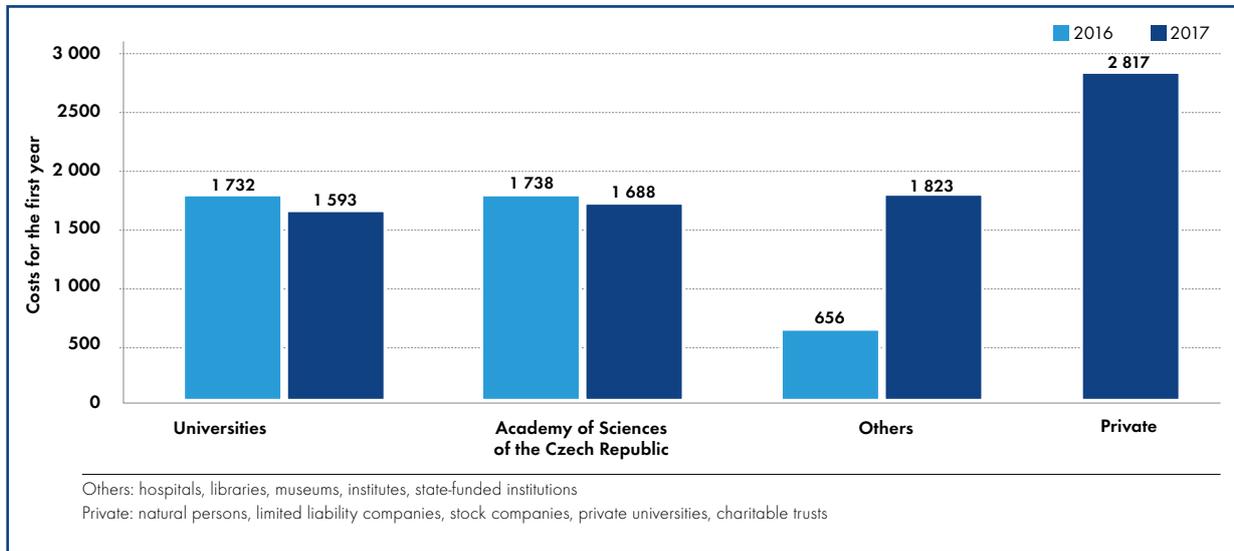
Graph 21: Average costs for the first year in the Discipline Committee for the Social Sciences and Humanities - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



Graph 22: Average costs for the first year in the Discipline Committee for the Agricultural and Biological-environmental Sciences - standard projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



Graph 23: Average costs for the first year by institutions of applicants - junior projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017



Graph 24: Average costs for the first year by disciplines - junior projects with the starting date in 2016 a 2017

