

Organization Name: Technology Agency of the Czech Republic
 Residence: Evropská 1692/37, 160 00 Prague 6
 Legal form: organizational unit of the state
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CONTENT

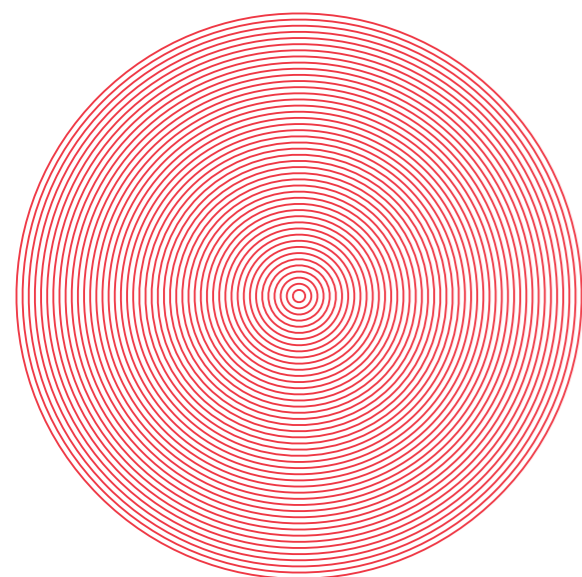
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1. THE YEAR 2025 IN NUMBERS

EUR

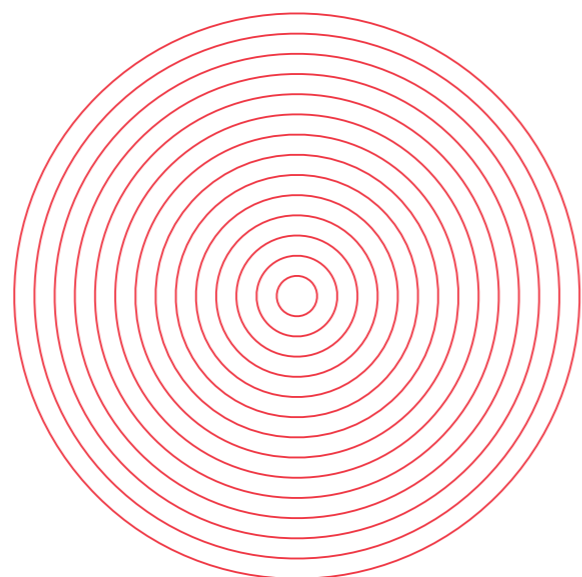
279.3

million paid to beneficiaries



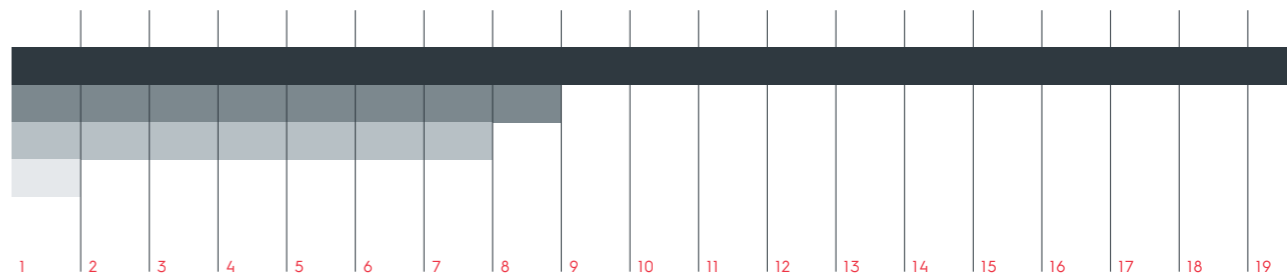
4 684

administered projects



1 437

projects in progress



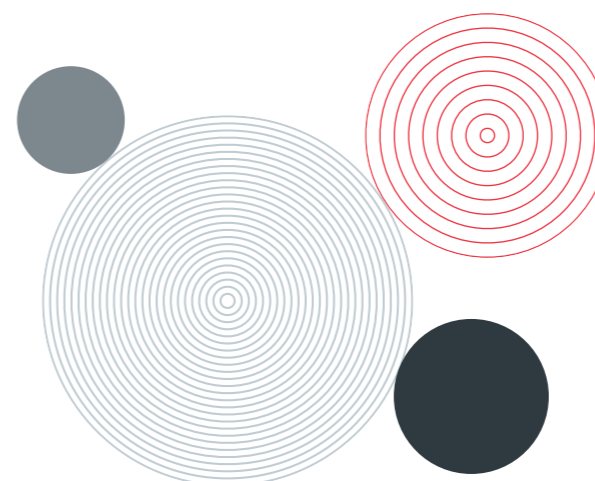
● 19 administered programmes

● 8 calls for proposals launched

● 7 international calls announced

● 1 national call for proposals announced

Data downloaded:	56,9 TB
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- 2 599 requests handled by the ICT Department
- 1 714 requests handled by the Cabinet Department
- 754 requests handled by the Communication and Marketing Department
- 1 085 requests handled by the Economic Department

2. FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

I have the pleasure to present to you the sixteenth Annual Report of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) that provides a holistic snapshot of the past year. The year 2025 was full of challenges and hard work, but also positive changes, inspiration, and successes, which I would like to recap in this brief overview.

Allow me to underline two pivotal moments for the Agency in the past year. The first one was the extension of the SIGMA Programme until 2035, which was the result of a series of important negotiations. This extension fully reflects the underlying concept and continuity of the SIGMA Programme as a stable, long-term framework tool for supporting R&D&I. Secondly, I would like to highlight the significant progress achieved in the development of the new TA CR shared

information system – **SISTA**. It is developed step by step in stages and designed to be independent of any single supplier, licensing models, or operating environments. Early in 2025, the Agency began the phased commissioning of individual SISTA services, which enabled successful announcement of calls for proposals in the new system. Consequently, the past year saw not only the submission of project proposals in SISTA but also other procedures such as formal eligibility checks, project evaluations (including the preparation of peer review reports), and the conclusion of contracts or the issuance of decisions on the provision of funding. Other services were, as of the end of the year, just before going live or at the stage of implementation.

Last year, we successfully announced 8 calls for proposals within the national programmes, 7 international calls under the ERA-NET Cofund projects/European Co-funded Partnerships, and one national call. I should also mention that TA CR has newly joined the Eurostars programme, part of the European Co-funded Partnership „The European Partnership on Innovative SMEs“. The Agency has taken over the role of the funding organization from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

The administration of ministerial programmes continued smoothly, as did the cooperation with other ministries on multiple levels – including the use of our information system, the provision of evaluation activities, assistance in preparing new programmes, and meeting ministerial research needs. The following pages prove that TA CR once again performed very well and efficiently in 2025. I would therefore like to express thanks to the excellent team of all Agency employees who have done a tremendous amount of honest and high-quality work. Furthermore, my thanks go also to our partners in state administration as well as in the academic and business spheres, whose support and cooperation were vital for the Agency to operate effectively. Together, we have achieved a lot that helps make life better for all of us.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.



Petr Konvalinka
Chairman of TA CR

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3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION)

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

In 2025, TA CR continued its cooperation with the network of European innovation agencies, **TAFTIE**. TA CR regularly participated in meetings of the TAFTIE Board, the Executive Working Group (EWG), and most of the ongoing Task Forces, particularly the Membership Policy Group, High Potential Community, Innovation Procurement, Scale Up Group, and State Aid Group. The Agency also participates in all training sessions available through the **Taftie Academy (TA)**, maintaining the highest attendance rate of all member agencies. As in 2024, TA CR's proposals for new networking workshops ranked among the top 3 selected for implementation. Subsequently, the Agency hosted a workshop on the topic "Monitoring and Evaluation of Societal Outcomes and Impacts" in May 2025, earning high ratings in participant feedback.

In 2025, TA CR newly joined the Eurostars programme under the European Co-funded Partnership "The European Partnership on Innovative SMEs" (InnovSMEs). Starting from the Call 9 announced on 4 July 2025, the Agency took over the role of the funding organisation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (MEYS). Calls are announced twice a year, and the Eurostars programme and the Partnership as such are designed to support innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As a result thereof, Czech applicants can now participate in multilateral calls across five European Co-funded Partnerships.

In addition to these five partnerships in which TA CR is already engaged, the Agency continued throughout 2025 to negotiate its participation in and the launch of the following partnerships planned under the **Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025–2027** (the so-called 3rd wave of European Partnerships):

- **Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future (FOREST)**, focused on the forestry sector. In this partnership TA CR acts as the **implementing agency** (i.e., the funding organisation). The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture will participate as expert supervisors.
- **Raw Materials Partnership for the Green and Digital Transition (RAMP)**, succeeding the ERA-NET Cofund "ERA-MIN", which is nearing the end and focused on supporting international projects in the field of non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials. TA CR acts as the implementing agency (the funding organisation), with the Ministry of the Environment participating as the expert supervisor.

As of 2026, TA CR will thus be involved in 7 European Co-funded Partnerships.

Beyond the European Co-funded Partnerships, negotiations for TA CR's involvement in other multilateral cooperation schemes also continued in 2025. Together with foreign partners, the Agency took part in the preparation of the CSA project "LUKE – Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area", co-funded by the EU Horizon Europe programme (Wid-era) designed to support R&D projects with Ukraine. The project's primary goal is to achieve agreement among the funding bodies on call topics, their announcement, evaluation, and the funding of successful projects. The key condition will be the submission of consortium projects that involve at least one partner from Ukraine. The long-term aim is to promote and deepen Ukraine's integration into the European Research Area. The LUKE joint call will be launched in early 2026. Furthermore, TA CR is involved in the QuantERA III project (successor to QuantERA II), which will assume the form of a Research and Innovation Action (RIA) with Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), the so-called cascade funding. Building on the highly successful ERA-NET Cofund M-ERA.NET 3, a new CSA project in materials research, M-ERA.NET 4, was developed, with TA CR participation in 2025. Thus, Czech applicants will continue to have the opportunity to participate in this popular multilateral scheme in 2026.

PHOTO BY AKRAM HUSEYN ON UNSPLASH.COM

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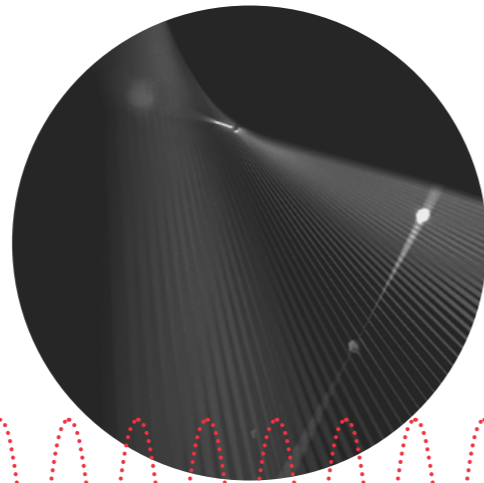
Overview of new and follow-up CSA projects involving TA CR:

- **LUKE** – a CSA (WIDERA) type project, focused on supporting R&D projects with Ukraine
- **QuantERA III** – a cascade funding (FSTP) “RIA” project (similar to CSA), focused on quantum technologies, and a follow-up to the QuantERA II project
- **M-ERA.NET 4** – a CSA type project (WIDERA), focused on materials research and following up on the ending ERA-NET Cofund M-ERA.NET 3

At the end of 2025, TA CR also successfully completed the Water4All TAP Action, an “Alignment” type call designed to support mobility and sharing best practices, materials, infrastructure, data, and results. The Agency coordinated the entire two-year project and in the past year also continued playing the role of coordinator of the BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub (operating under the ERA-NET Cofund BiodivRestore). The hub focuses on ecosystem restoration and the implementation of the European Nature Restoration Regulation. The Knowledge Hub brings together a total of 50 researchers and experts in this field from across Europe, including a couple of representatives from non-European countries. In cooperation with colleagues from France, TA CR coordinates the work and outputs of the involved researchers, who are expected to continue their activities until at least September 2026 (with a potential extension envisioned). According to the workplan, the outputs of the Knowledge Hub will range from recommendations to the EU Member States and other stakeholders, to documents facilitating the implementation of the Regulation, or papers aimed at strengthening knowledge in this field.

Last year, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic also successfully hosted several multi-day international conferences and other events on its grounds as part of multilateral cooperation. These activities, among other things, help strengthen the Agency’s position within the respective cooperation schemes:

- At the beginning of June, TA CR successfully hosted a two-day DUT Governing Board Meeting within the Driving Urban Transitions European Partnership. The representatives of the consortium of funding agencies addressed strategic issues regarding the Partnership’s future direction and participated in joint workshops.
- In late June, TA CR welcomed the representatives of the Biodiversa+ Evaluation Committee and successfully hosted a three-day meeting of the international expert evaluation panel of the BiodivTransform Call 2024 of the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+). Experts from around the world jointly evaluated 106 project proposals (Full Proposals) submitted in the step 2 of the international call.
- In December, the Agency organized the final meeting of Water4All TAP Action, a three-day meeting of the international cluster of national projects involved in the TAP Action, which is coordinated by TA CR. Project

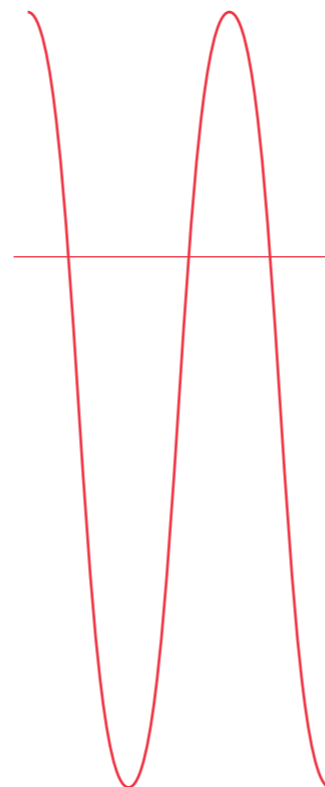


representatives discussed the fulfilment of the Implementation Plan, shared the results of their national projects as well as synergistic activities and cooperation within the TAP Action.

Furthermore, thanks to their roles within the international schemes, the TA CR representatives co-organized several events abroad:

- **BiodivNBS Montpellier Events** – as part of a three-day meeting of the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) in April 2025, the TA CR representatives organized a one-day kick-off meeting for projects supported under the BiodivNBS Call 2023.
- **Water4All Kick-off Meeting** – during a three-day meeting held in France in April, the TA CR representative organized a one-day event dedicated to the Water4All TAP Action, which is coordinated by TA CR.
- **BiodivRestore Final Conference** – during a two-day event held in October, the TA CR representative, who also serves as the coordinator of the BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub, organized a full-day meeting on the topic of “Science-based guidance to support the Nature Restoration Regulation implementation”.

In the course of 2025, preparations for the implementation of the 1st national call (so-called projects selected at the international level) under the PRODEF Programme, focused on the defence industry, namely its Sub-programme 1, continued. This sub-programme aims to provide top-up funding for Czech applicants in the calls under the European Defence Fund (EDF). For more details, please see Chapter 4, Ministerial Programmes.



Furthermore, in 2025, TA CR organized a screening for the EIC Accelerator plug-in mechanism. The beneficiaries of the call for proposals under the SIGMA Programme Sub-objective 1, Commercialisation of R&D&I+ who expressed their interest in this screening were evaluated against the criteria of the European EIC Accelerator instrument as to whether they could skip the step 1 of the evaluation process in this instrument and be allowed to submit their application directly at step 2 of evaluation. Apart from this opportunity, the selected beneficiaries also received coaching by the EISMEA experts. Four companies were selected in this screening, two of which have already tapped the opportunity to submit their application at step 2. One of them advanced to the interview stage.

In 2025, the Robotwin company was awarded prestigious EIC Accelerator funding, partly thanks to the plug-in screening successfully passed in 2024.

For information on other international projects, see Chapter 7, Development activities of TA CR.

In 2025, TA CR completed the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants Research Programme under the KAPPA Programme. Its aim was to strengthen the international cooperation between Czech entities and partners from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein in applied research, and to connect research organizations with the application sphere, particularly with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). From 2020 to 2024, 25 projects were implemented, supported by a total amount of EUR 30.83 million in the fields of natural sciences, medical and health sciences, engineering and technology, and agricultural and veterinary sciences. Furthermore, negotiations regarding the upcoming period of the EEA and Norway Grants took place in 2025, culminating in the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the Czech Republic and the donor countries (Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein). This officially launched the fourth programming period of the EEA and Norway Grants 2021–2028. TA CR has once again become the Programme Operator for the research and innovation programme, this time with a designated allocation of EUR 43 million. The goal of the new programme will be to enhance excellence in research and innovation and to strengthen the foundations for green and digital transformation, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, and resilience. The first calls are expected to be announced no earlier than the turn of 2026/2027.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

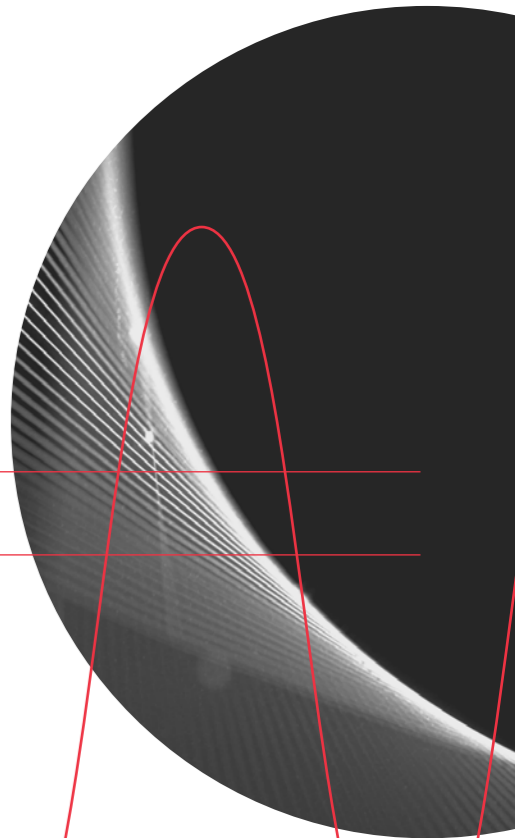
In May 2025, the 11th call for proposals was announced under the SIGMA Programme – Sub-objective 4, Bilateral Cooperation. The call was open for proposal submission from 8 May to 9 July 2025. This call involved seven foreign partner organizations from the following locations: South Korea (2×), Israel, Taiwan (2×), Saxony, and France. A total of 73 project proposals were submitted, of which 59 advanced to the evaluation stage.

In total, 22 project proposals were supported by both sides.

Within the SIGMA Programme – Sub-objective 4, Bilateral Cooperation, cooperation continued with the existing partners with whom memoranda had been concluded under the previous DELTA and DELTA 2 Programmes. In February 2025, TA CR, together with its Korean partners, organized the Korea-Czech Industry and Energy Technology Cooperation Forum in Seoul. The forum focused on electric vehicles, batteries, artificial intelligence, robotics, nuclear energy, and hydrogen. In October 2025, TA CR, in cooperation with the Czech Academy of Sciences and the National Science and Technology Council, hosted the Czech-Taiwanese Technology Days in Prague. The seventh edition of this event was dedicated to current technological topics – lasers, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

Synergies with the European EIC Accelerator Instrument

In 2025, the Technology Agency announced the 3rd national call for proposals – Sub-objective 4, Seal of Excellence – EIC Accelerator – 04/2025. Under this call, the Agency supported two projects by providing the full amount of the grant component originally requested from the EIC Accelerator. Applications for these projects were submitted by the October 2024 deadline and were awarded the Seal of Excellence quality label.



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4. PROGRAMMES AND CALLS FOR PROPOSALS OF TA CR

Last year, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic had 19 active programmes. A total of 1,437 applied research projects were implemented, funded by the amount of EUR 272.73 million (i.e. including EU/FM funds). 8 calls for proposals, 1 national call and 7 international calls were announced.

TA CR PROGRAMMES

Table 1:

Summary data on programmes administered by TA CR (2010–2025)

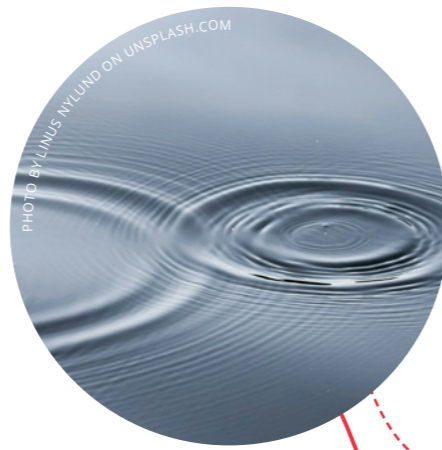
PROGRAMME	PROGRAMME DURATION	CALLS FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED	PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED	PROJECTS FUNDED	SUCCESS RATE (%)
CK - TRANSPORT 2020+	2020-2026	4	765	153	20,00
CL - TRANSPORT 2030	2023-2030	3	474	73	15,40
FW - TREND	2020-2030	11	2 685	743	27,67
OZ - PRODEF	2024-2031	1	20	17	85,00
SQ - ENVIRONMENT FOR LIFE 2**	2024-2033	3	235	60	25,53
S - ENVIRONMENT FOR LIFE	2020-2026	7+4	1 524	257	16,86
TA - ALFA	2010-2019	4	3 501	961	27,45
TD - OMEGA	2012-2017	3	650	194	29,85
TE - COMPETENCE CENTERS	2012-2019	2	210	34	16,19
TF - DELTA	2014-2021	6	142	47	33,10
TG - GAMA	2014-2019	8	82	42	51,22
TH - EPSILON	2015-2026	6+23	2 256	722	32,00
TJ - ZETA	2017-2025	4	888	300	33,78
TK - THETA	2018-2025	5+1	694	297	42,80
TL - ETA	2018-2025	5	2 035	419	20,59
TM - DELTA 2	2020-2025	5	185	75	40,54
TN - NCK	2018-2028	2	61	31	50,82
TO - KAPPA	2019-2024	1	163	25	15,34
TP - GAMA 2	2020-2022	4	89	42	47,19
TQ - SIGMA**	2022-2035	17+18	2 017	362	17,95
TS - THETA 2**	2024-2031	3	285	156	54,74
TOTAL		104+46	18 961	5 010	26,42

Note: Public procurement programmes BETA, BETA2 and BETA3 are not included

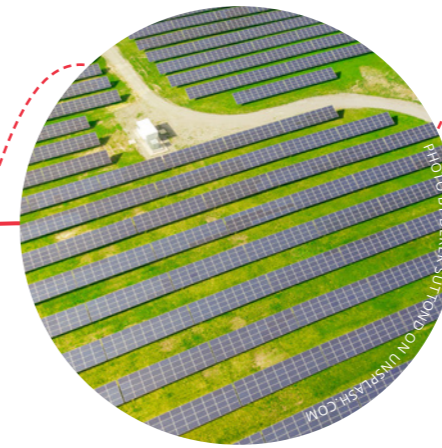
**data on the number of projects and success rate are calculated only for calls for proposals and calls with announced results.

INTERNATIONAL ERA-NET COFUND CALLS AND EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, TA CR participated in ERA-NET Cofund projects and European Co-funded Partnerships, under which 7 international calls were announced. The Eurostars programme, part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, has newly been included among these schemes. The number of opportunities for Czech researchers to participate in international multilateral cooperation projects is steadily increasing while their interest in international calls continues to grow. In 2025, project proposals could be submitted under the following calls:



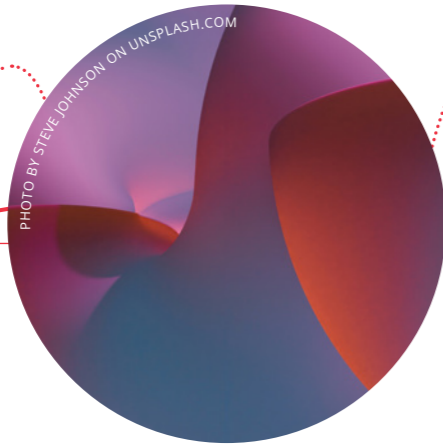
Water4All Partnership Call 2025
securing water resources



Clean Energy Transition Partnership Call 2025
clean energy



Driving Urban Transitions Partnership Call 2025
sustainable mobility, urban climate neutrality and circular economy



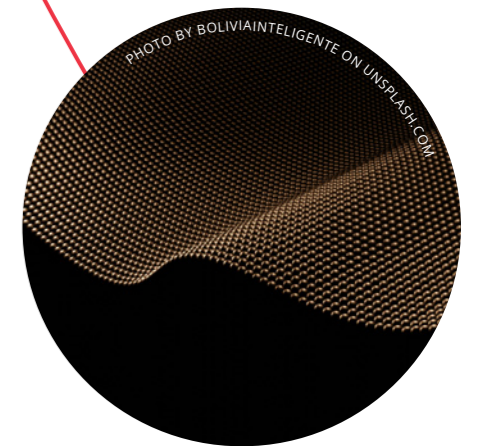
M-ERA.NET 3 Call 2025
materials research and innovation



Biodiversity Partnership Call 2025
supporting biodiversity and protecting ecosystems



QuantERA III Call 2025
quantum technologies



The European Partnership on Innovative SMEs (program Eurostars)
supporting innovative SMEs

The conditions to be met by the Czech applicants reflected the international rules of the call as well as the national conditions set out by the funding programme (in these cases, the SIGMA Programme – Sub-objective 4). In 2025, the M-ERA.NET 3 Call remained the most popular international call among Czech researchers. Last year, 383 projects proposals were submitted to this call, of which a record high of 97 projects with 123 Czech applicants. The results of the call will be announced in February 2026. Other schemes, however, were just as popular; the CET Partnership Call 2025 saw a 30% increase in the number of submitted projects with Czech applicants, and the Water4All Call 2025 witnessed a record high increase of more than 100%. Similarly, the DUT Partnership Call 2025 and the Biodiversity Partnership Call 2025 attracted the highest number of Czech applicants ever. In total, 265 Czech applicants applied for funding under the aforementioned seven international calls last year, representing a 67% increase compared to 2024.

In addition to the calls announced in 2025, also the results of the calls from 2024 (5 evaluated international calls) were announced.

Table 2:

Overview of announced and evaluated international calls under the ERA-NET Cofund/European Partnerships in 2025

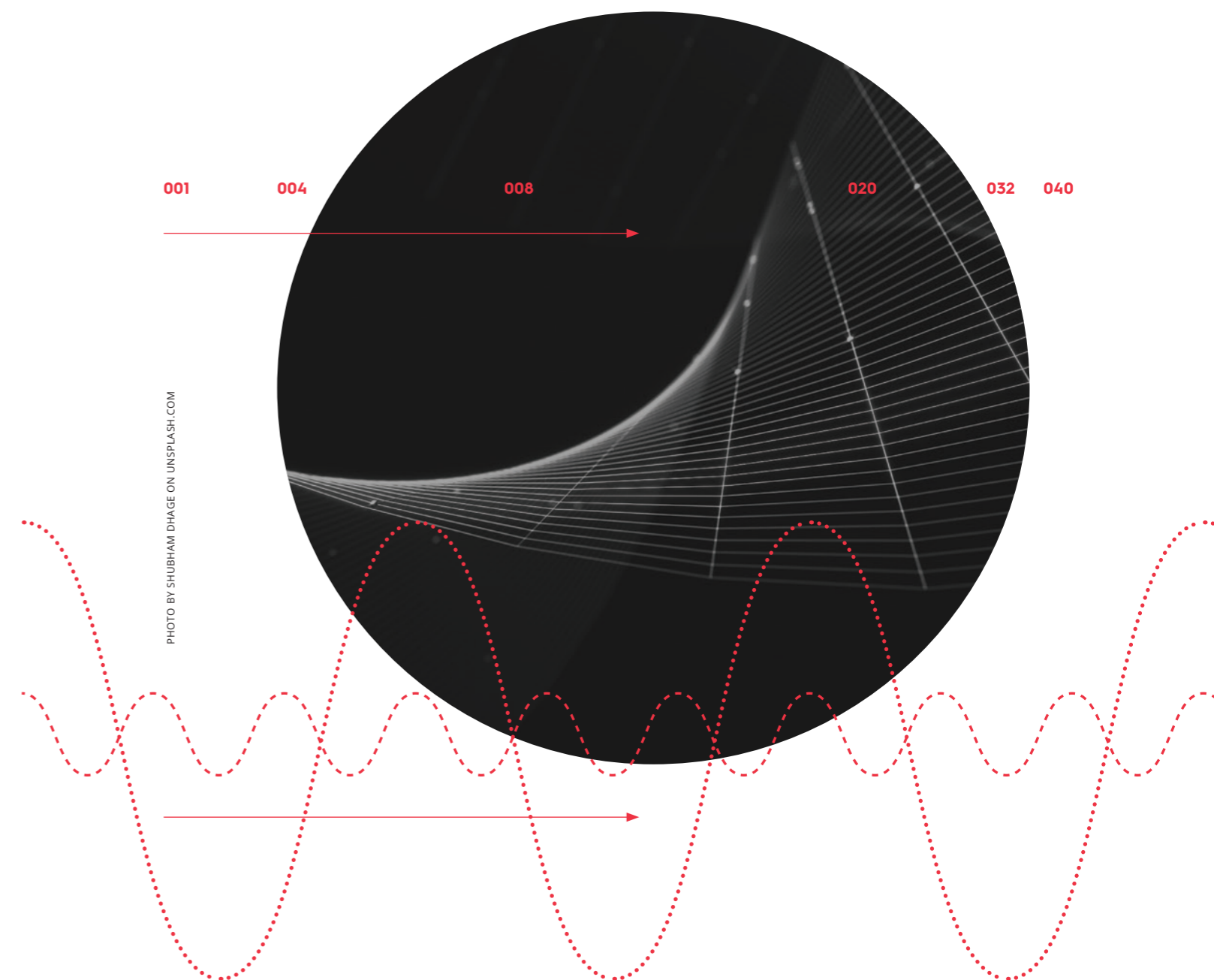
ERA-NET COFUND/PARTNERSTVÍ	CALL	TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED	NUMBER OF PROJECTS WITH CZECH APPLICANTS	NUMBER OF CZECH APPLICANTS IN PROJECTS	PNUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS	NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL CZECH PROJECTS / CZECH APPLICANTS
M-ERA.NET 3	CALL 2024	389	79	107	31	8/9
PARTNERSHIP FOR BIODIVERSITY	CALL 2024	284	29	33	35	3/3
WATER4ALL	CALL 2024	148	12	12	27	3/3
CET	CALL 2024	309	32	35	55	5/5
DUT	CALL 2024	254	7	7	47	0/0
EUROSTARS 3	CALL 9	648	22	29	124	3/4
M-ERA.NET 3	CALL 2025	383	97	123		the results will be announced in February 2026
PARTNERSHIP FOR BIODIVERSITY	CALL 2025	278	50	54		the results will be announced in September 2026
CET	CALL 2025	378	39	44		the results will be announced in June 2026
WATER4ALL	CALL 2025	283	25	27		the results will be announced in June 2026
DUT	CALL 2025	249	20	25		the results will be announced in July 2026
QUANTERA III	CALL 2025	287	16	16		the results will be announced in May 2026

In the concluded ERA-NET Cofund calls and European Partnerships, 170 Czech applicants in 124 projects have been supported to date, out of a total of 973 submitted projects involving Czech researchers.

In each of the above-mentioned schemes, TA CR fulfils the responsibilities (Work Packages and Tasks) through its representatives, as outlined in the consortium agreements. In the framework of ERA-NET Cofunds and European Partnerships, the Agency's representatives are thus in charge of agenda covering e.g. *Outreach* (mapping and establishing various collaborations between the partnership and other schemes), *Follow-up* (for projects and RFOs within the given scheme), *Partnership Impact* (definition of indicators and assessment of the impact of projects, the given partnership and the European policies), or *Communication* (communication,

especially externally on behalf of the given scheme). TA CR will carry out similar tasks in the framework of new schemes (European Partnerships and new CSA projects in particular), the involvement in which the Agency negotiated in 2025 (for more please see Chapter 6).

On top of that, the Agency continues its efforts to participate in the executive bodies of European co-financed partnerships. In 2025, the TA CR representative on the Executive Board of the European Partnership for Biodiversity (Biodiversa+) was re-elected, while another representative of TA CR became a member of the Executive Board of the new 3rd wave European co-financed partnership called *RAMP* (for more on the new partnership, please see Chapter 6). In both cases, TA CR representatives are among top managers of these projects.



NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN

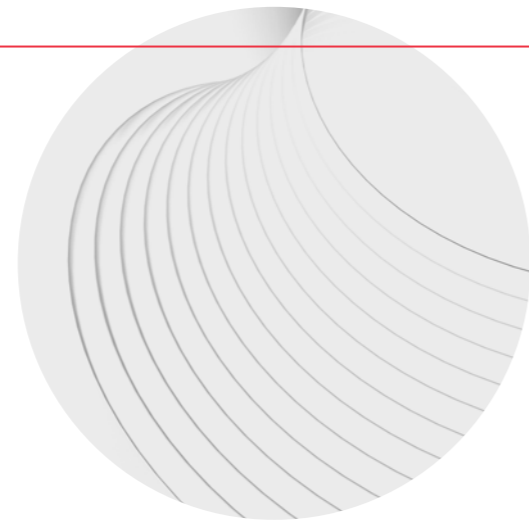


In 2025, the implementation of the National Recovery Plan (NRP) continued under the Components 1.3 and 5.2, which are focused on research and where TA CR acts as the implementing body.

Within Component 1.3, projects supported under the 7th and 8th calls for proposals of the TREND Programme were implemented. In Component 5.2, the implemented projects included those funded under the 2nd call for proposals of the National Centres of Competence Programme and the 6th and 7th calls for proposals of the Environment for Life Programme (Sub-programme 2). This component also encompassed projects from the European Partnerships and ERA-NET Cofund calls, projects awarded the Seal of Excellence under the European EIC Accelerator, and projects funded under the 10th call for proposals of the TREND Programme and the 1st call for proposals of the Transport 2030 Programme.

All objectives of the National Recovery Plan set and regularly updated with respect to components 1.3 and 5.2 are being successfully met. Seven of the thirteen objectives set have already been fulfilled.

Within Component 4.1.4, TA CR continued to implement the project "Ensuring TA CR Human Resources for the Implementation of the National Recovery Plan" in 2025. The project aims to provide staffing and administrative support for the NRP, particularly for projects supported under the investments of Components 1.3 and 5.2 and related activities.



MINISTERIAL PROGRAMMES

In 2025, the Agency continued to implement ministerial programmes of three ministries – the TREND Programme of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Environment for Life and the Environment for Life 2 programmes of the Ministry of the Environment, and the TRANSPORT 2020+ and the TRANSPORT2030 programmes of the Ministry of Transport.

This year, however, marked a major change, namely that **the calls for proposals are now to be announced exclusively in the new shared information system of the TA CR – SISTA (formerly ISTA)**. In the first type of cooperation, TA CR assumed the role of the implementing body of the ministerial programmes through SISTA as a service (Ministry of Agriculture – ZEMĚ II Programme, Ministry of the Interior – OPSEC and IMPAKT 2, SECTECH programmes), while in the second type of cooperation, TA CR has become the co-developer and the implementing body of the PRODEF Programme (Ministry of Defence).

TREND programme

- Support for industrial research and experimental development to enhance the competitiveness of new products, manufacturing processes and services on the market
- Programme Guarantor: Ministry of Industry and Trade

TRANSPORT 2020+, TRANSPORT 2030 programmes

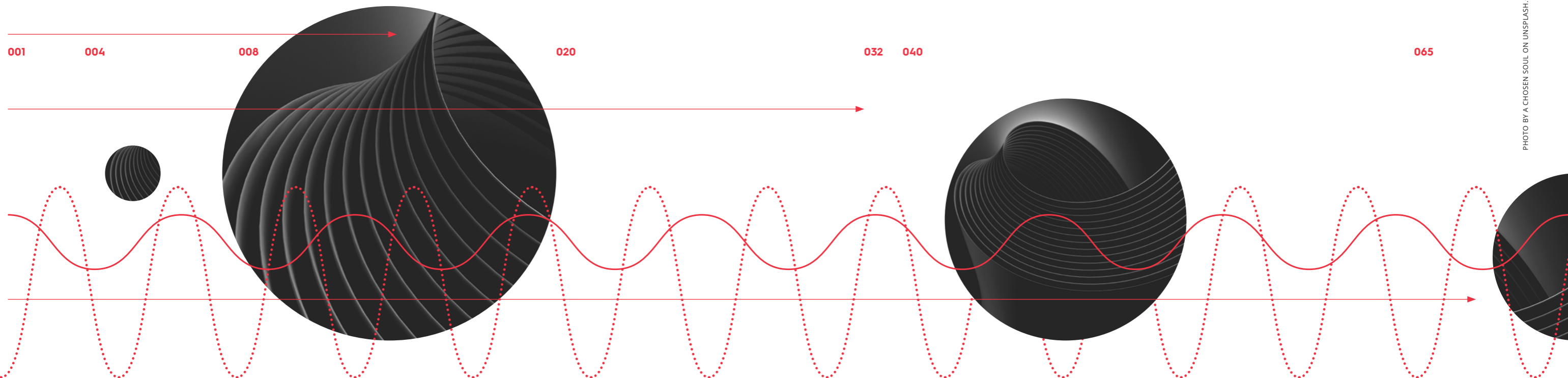
- Development of the transport sector regarding sustainability, security and societal needs
- Programme Guarantor: Ministry of Transport

Environment for Life, Environment for Life 2 programmes

- Improving the quality of the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources
- Programme Guarantor: Ministry of the Environment

PRODEF programme

- Supporting applied research and innovation in defence industry
- Programme Guarantor: Ministry of Defence

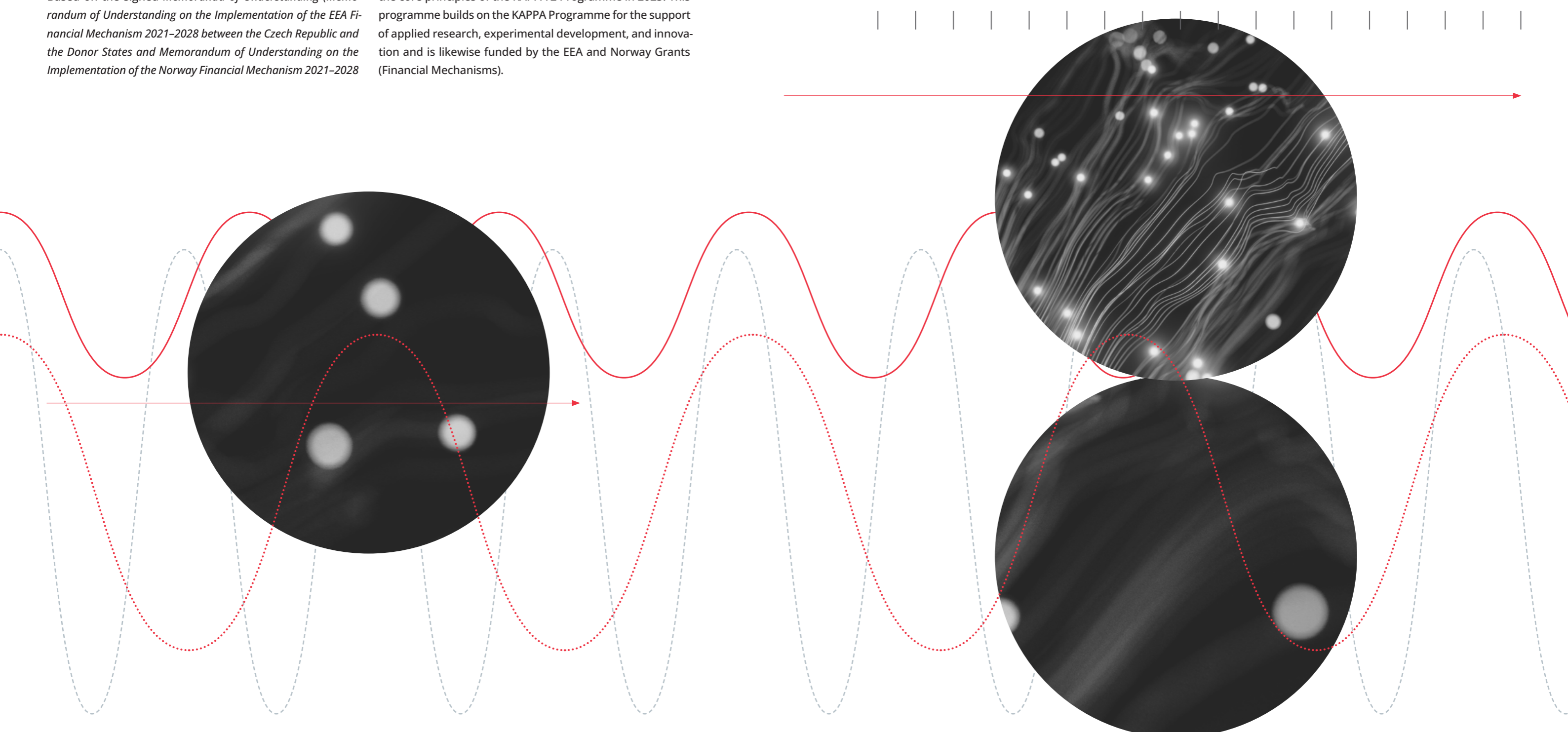


DEVELOPING NEW PROGRAMMES AND CHANGES TO THE EXISTING PROGRAMMES

KAPPA 2 programme

Based on the signed *Memoranda of Understanding (Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021–2028 between the Czech Republic and the Donor States and Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norway Financial Mechanism 2021–2028*

between the Czech Republic and Norway), TA CR started defining the core principles of the KAPPA 2 Programme in 2025. This programme builds on the KAPPA Programme for the support of applied research, experimental development, and innovation and is likewise funded by the EEA and Norway Grants (Financial Mechanisms).



7. IMPROVEMENT OF TA CR ACTIVITIES

TA CR PROJECTS FUNDED FROM THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS



In 2025, in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds, the Agency continued to implement a project under the Johannes Amos Comenius Programme (P JAC) and launched the implementation of a new project under the Just Transition Programme (JTP). It implemented international projects under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes. Furthermore, it continued to implement a project under the European Interreg Europe programme and successfully submitted a new project proposal to the European Digital Europe Programme.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the CzechInvest agency, TA CR continued implementing the "Systemic Support for the Implementation and Management of the National RIS3 Strategy 2021+" project (P JAC programme). The main objective of the project is to improve the implementation and management of the National RIS3 Strategy so that it intensively supports the development of strengths of the R&D&I system's strengths at both national and regional levels, responds to new challenges/trends/megatrends arising from the process of identifying business opportunities, strengthens industrial transformation and digitalisation, and develops interregional and international cooperation. At the same time, again in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, TA CR developed and submitted a follow-up project called "Systemic Support for the Implementation and Management of the National RIS3 Strategy 2026+", the implementation of which will begin in April 2026.

In March 2025, TA CR launched the implementation of a technical assistance project entitled "Ensuring TA CR Administrative Capacity for the Implementation of the Just Transition Programme". The project aims to provide the staffing required for the announcement, implementation, coordination, and management of a call under the Just Transition Programme.

At the transnational level, the Agency is still involved in CSA-type projects, ERA-NET Cofund projects under the Horizon 2020 programme, and in European Partnership projects under the Horizon Europe programme.

During 2025, TA CR successfully completed the implementation of the GENDERACTIONplus, a CSA-type project. Within the project, a network of representatives of research funding organisations and ministries from individual EU Member States (and several associated countries) was established. This network helps coordinate the efforts promoting gender equality in research and fulfil the ERA objectives in this field. For more information on the project, please see Chapter 5 Promoting gender equality and responsible research and innovation.

TA CR continued implementing the international project KnowledgeAnalytics, funded by the Interreg Europe programme. The project aims to improve the tools supporting the knowledge transfer between research institutions and the business sphere in order to promote activities in the field of research, development, and innovation. The project is dedicated to activities supporting joint projects of research and business entities, contract research, and involvement of researchers in business activities. The project coordinator is the Research Council of Lithuania, while TA CR acts as a project partner. In September 2025, TA CR hosted an international meeting of all project partners in Prague.

In 2025, TA CR submitted the CYLANCES (*Cyber Alliance for Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration on NIS2 Implementation*) project to a call under the European Digital Europe Programme, and the project was selected for funding. The implementation of the project will commence in January 2026. For more information on the project, please see Chapter 7, Cybersecurity.

STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC 2035

The objective of the TA CR Development Strategy 2035, approved by the Czech government in 2024, is to facilitate continuous improvement of TA CR in fulfilling its mission. The Strategy represents a key document that serves as a long-term framework for the TA CR management. It is primarily intended for the high-level bodies of TA CR (namely the TA CR Board, the Research Board, and the Supervisory Board) and the TA CR Office, which implements the strategy.

The Strategy for the Development of the TA CR 2035 is based on three key strategic objectives. The first objective "Maximizing the impact of funding from TA CR programmes" reflects the main purpose of TA CR's existence by emphasizing the achievement of specific results and impacts of projects funded by the Agency. The second objective focuses on strengthening international cooperation in applied research, as it is a crucial factor for the openness of the research environment, sharing know-how and gaining access to European resources and global perspectives. The third objective, "Increasing the effectiveness of TA CR processes", focuses on continuous improvement of internal functioning of TA CR and on qualitative improvement of its services provided within its role as an organization funding applied research and innovation. Special attention is paid to digitalisation, automation and introduction of artificial intelligence into the Agency's processes, which should increase their efficiency and speed. Measures are then listed for each strategic objective. They represent the planned activities of TA CR leading to gradual accomplishment of the strategic objectives.

In 2025, the implementation of the Strategy was commenced. The Agency introduced and continuously finetuned the management system for its implementation, which includes a clear definition of responsibilities, regular monitoring, and evaluation of the progress achieved in individual measures. TA CR Office employees are actively involved in the implementation as persons responsible for the measures, which reinforces the collective ownership of the Strategy and its integration into the Agency's daily operations. The TA CR Board evaluates the progress achieved in the fulfilment of the Strategy at regular intervals and adopts measures to address the identified risks and to update priorities. At the beginning of the year, a pilot Action Plan 2025 for the TA CR Development Strategy 2035 was drafted; it is evaluated at six-month intervals and serves as a practical tool to manage the implementation, cross-departmental coordination, and transparent reporting on progress to the leadership.

In the course of 2025, the implementation of the strategy was reflected in measurable progress across all strategic objectives. In the area of increasing the impact of support, TA CR further innovated its portfolio of calls for proposals focused on knowledge transfer and commercialisation, announced the SIGMA "From Research to Business" call for proposals, and launched support for establishing spin-off companies in selected projects under the National Centres

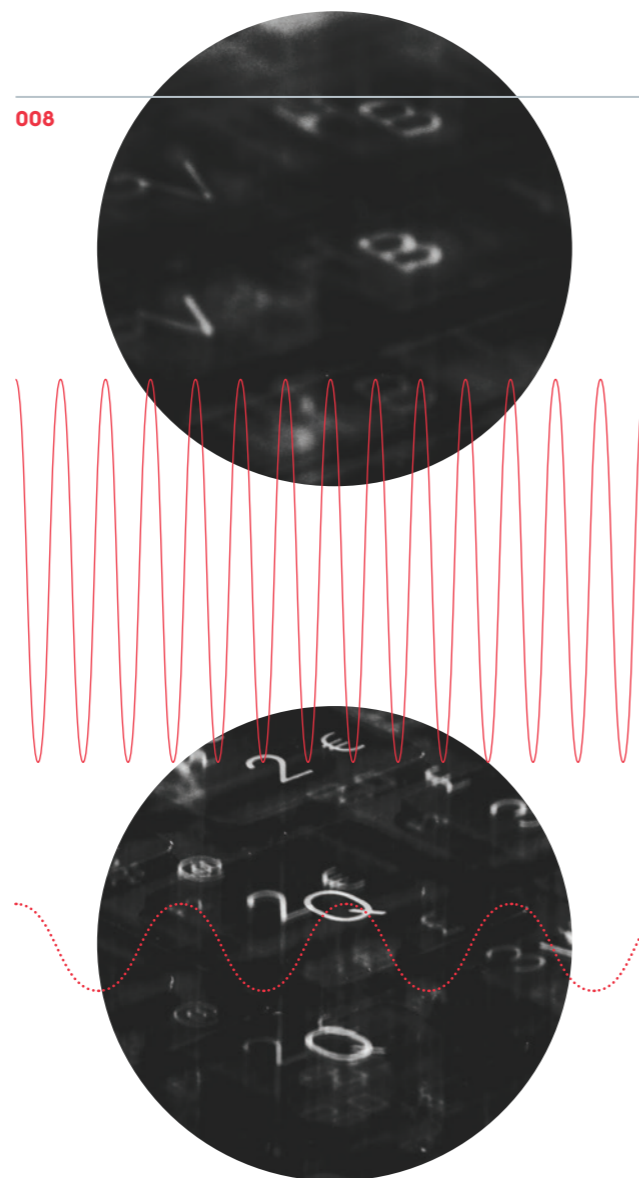


PHOTO BY MOHAMED MAREY AND BOZHIN KARAIWANOV ON UNSPLASH.COM

INKA MAPPING

of Competence Programme and the SIGMA Sub-objective 5 Programme. Beyond the original plans, the development of the Technology Incubation 2 project was initiated in cooperation with the CzechInvest Agency.

In the field of international cooperation, TA CR succeeded in maintaining its role as the Programme Operator for the EEA and Norway Grants and managed to take over a part of the Eurostars agenda, including the announcement of the first call. At the same time, more was done with respect to digitalisation and data management – from 2025 onwards the announcement of calls for proposals has taken place in the shared TA CR information system called SISTA. Furthermore, since 2025 programme dashboards have been operational, and integration of the data warehouse with the remaining project data is underway. The utilization of artificial intelligence was launched as planned in the initial phase.

In 2025, the 4th round of innovation capacity mapping, INKA 4, got fully underway. A brand-new application, INKAviz, was launched to cater to the mapping needs, serving not only for data presentation but also for recording and administration of data obtained during interviews in companies. The mapping itself is again carried out in the form of structured interviews with senior executives of innovative companies throughout the Czech Republic. Our partners from innovation centers in individual regions and the CzechInvest Agency are also participating in the mapping. Data collection will come to an end in February 2026. It will be followed by evaluation of primary data collection and conduct of macro- and micro-economic analyses.

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PUBLIC CONTRACTS

The establishment of the Department for Coordination of Procurement and Public Procurement Procedures in September 2024 marked the beginning of a new stage in which public procurement became a strategic pillar of the modernization of TA CR, with a focus on creating an environment facilitating the Agency's development. In 2025, a total of 54 public procurement procedures were conducted in the National Electronic Tool, while the international dimension of procurement procedures was confirmed by active participation in the upcoming project of the Network of Competence Centers for Innovative Procurement (formerly Procure2Innovate, now P2Innovate).

SISTA

At the beginning of 2025, the phased rollout of individual services within the shared TA CR information system (ecosystem) called SISTA started. In accordance with the agile development principles and DevOps approach, individual services were launched gradually to ensure that the entire project cycle of projects submitted to calls for proposals and calls announced in the SISTA ecosystem during the year could be completed within this system.

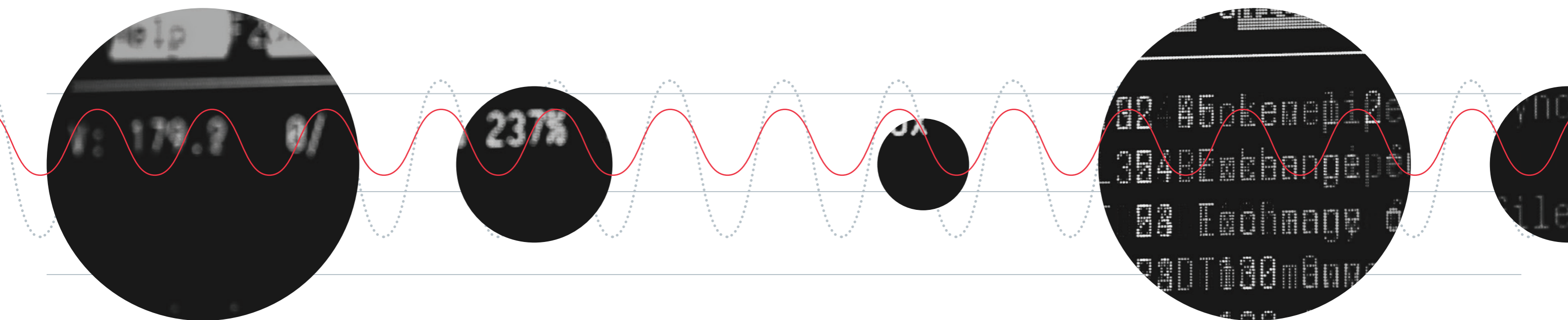
Towards the end of 2025, the announcement of calls for proposals, submission of project proposals, formal checks, project evaluation (including the elaboration of peer-review reports), as well as conclusion of contracts/issuance of decisions on the provision of funding are already carried out in the SISTA system. Other services were just before going live or at the stage of implementation at the end of the year. By the end of the year, a functional set of essential technical services, including a UX/UI system solution, was in place.

During the third stage of the project, cooperation with 12 suppliers was carried out through framework agreements. The entire SISTA environment is operated on a cloud technology platform, which is staffed by the Agency's employees.

In the course of 2025, interest in the SISTA ecosystem was expressed not only by other R&D&I funding organisations (in addition to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Interior, also by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Defence) but also by grant providers with similar processes – specifically the EEA and Norway Grants (the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports/Czech National Agency for International Education and Research). The Ministry for Regional Development also expressed interest with regard to the upcoming programming period of the Structural Funds.

CYBERSECURITY

The largest number of activities related to cybersecurity were carried out in order to act upon the amendment to the Cybersecurity Act and related regulations. As part of the Cybersecurity Act, NIS 2 and the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) implementation, the CYLANCES project (Cyber Alliance for Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration on NIS2 Implementation) was submitted to the call under the European Digital Europe programme and successfully selected for support. The aim of the project is to implement the requirements of NIS2 and CRA in the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and at the same time to encourage cooperation between public and private entities, with a focus on supporting the sharing of best practices in the implementation of NIS2.



8. PEOPLE IN TA CR

EMPLOYEES

For 2025, TA CR was allocated 127 permanent positions and 17.12 FTE for internal projects. The resulting annual cumulative number of FTE of core employees (including 5 members of the Board) was 127.14. The following table gives an overview of the employment situation.

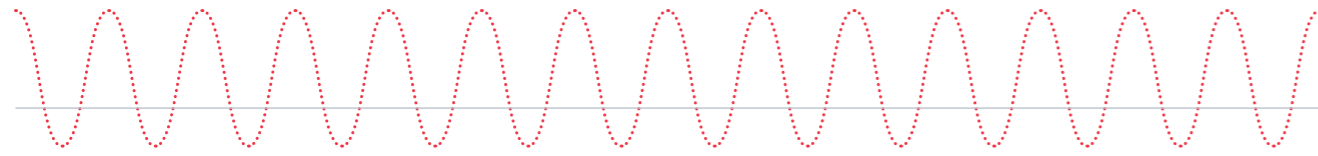


Table No. 3:
Employment situation as of 31 December 2025:

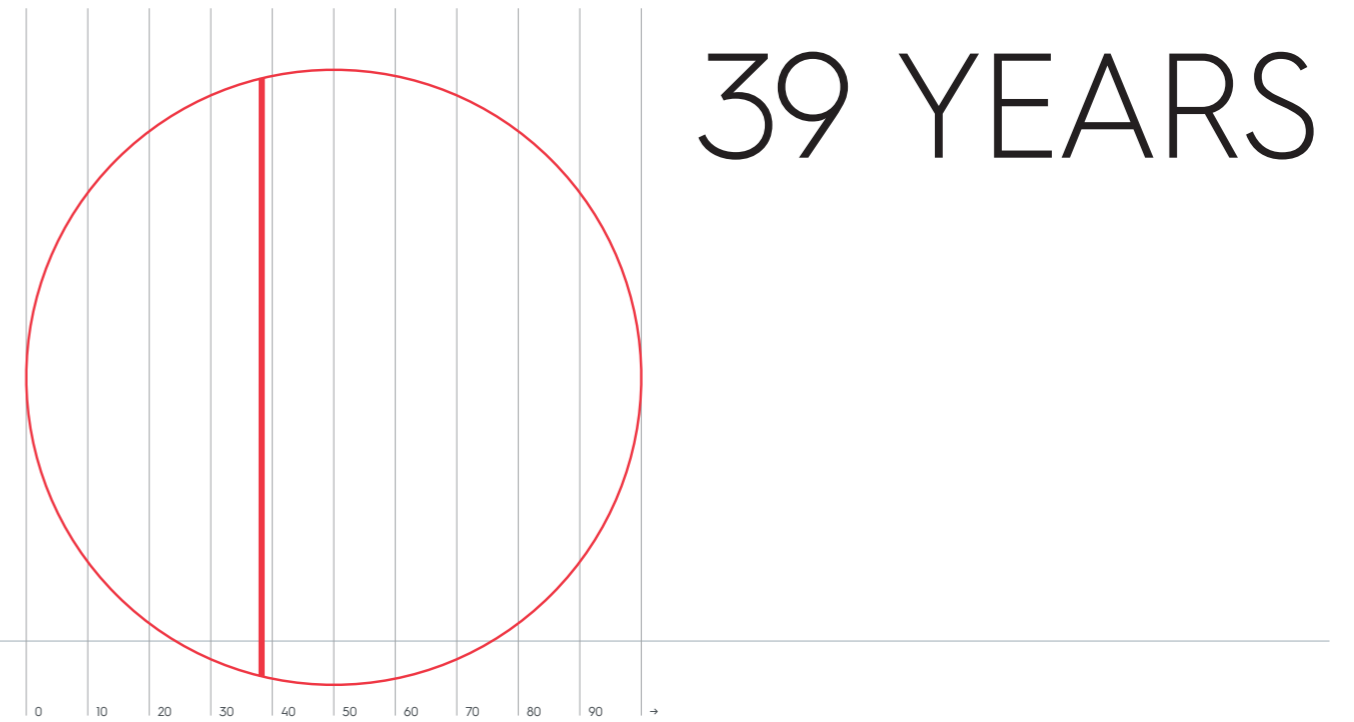
	TOTAL	OF WHOM WOMEN	OF WHOM WOMEN IN %	MEN
FULL-TIME CONTRACTED EMPLOYEES	169	122	72,1 %	47
EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE BASIS OF WORK AGREEMENT	38	15	39,4 %	23
EMPLOYEES TOTAL	207	137	66,2 %	70
EMPLOYEES IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS	37	23	62,1 %	14
EMPLOYEES IN THE POSITIONS OF DIRECTOR AND SECTION DIRECTOR	4	2	50 %	2

One of the key indicators of equal treatment of employees is fair remuneration of women and men. TA CR has been paying attention to this aspect for a long time, using the Logib tool developed in Switzerland. Its adaptation to the Czech environment was arranged for by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs through the 22% TOWARDS EQUALITY project. In 2025, a retrospective analysis of the results for 2024 was carried out. The gender pay gap was identified, with women being paid 3% less than men (and this gap was evaluated as

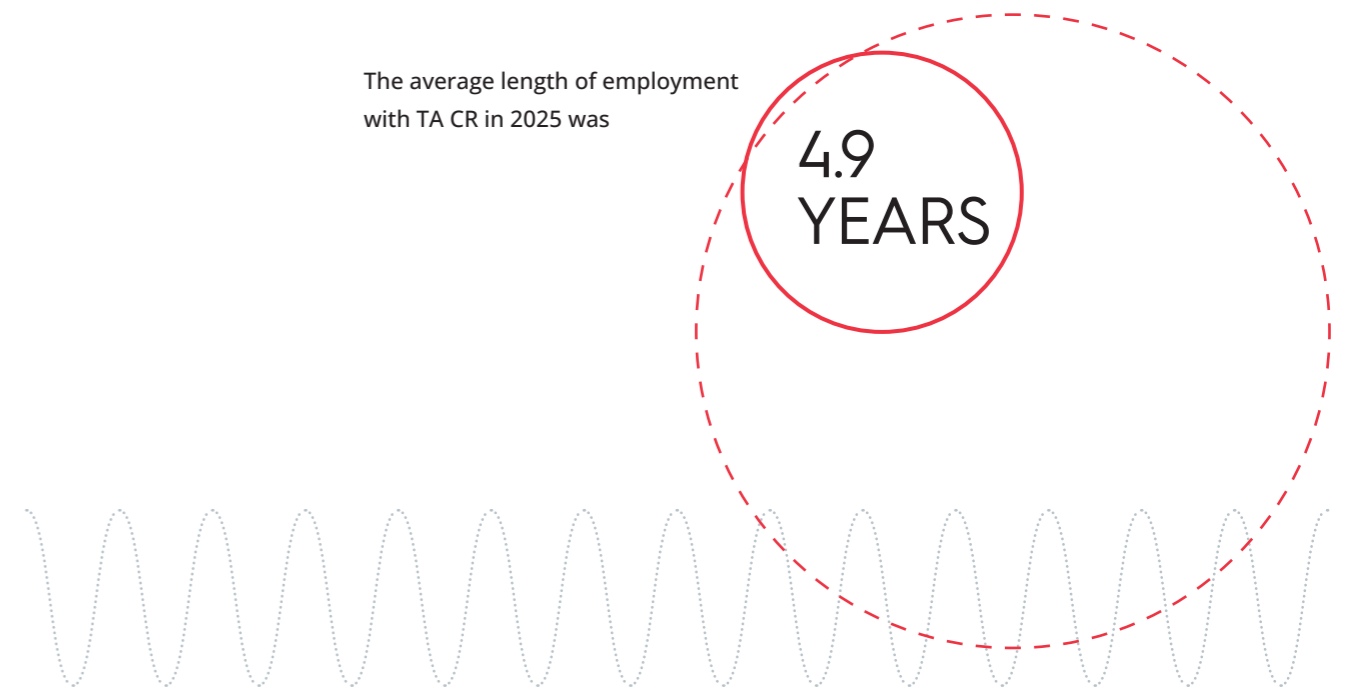
statistically insignificant). This is the best result achieved by TA CR to date, and also better than the average pay gap seen in other workplaces in the Czech Republic.

In 2025, TA CR received the Fair Employer of the Year award. The Atmoskop portal recognizes companies with the best corporate culture. The results are derived from the evaluations provided by current and former employees to Atmoskop over the past year. TA CR ranked third in the category of medium-sized companies with 100 to 1,000 employees.

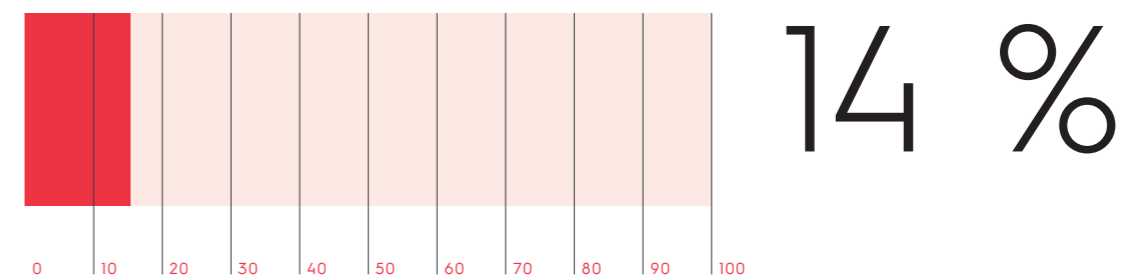
The average age of the employee was



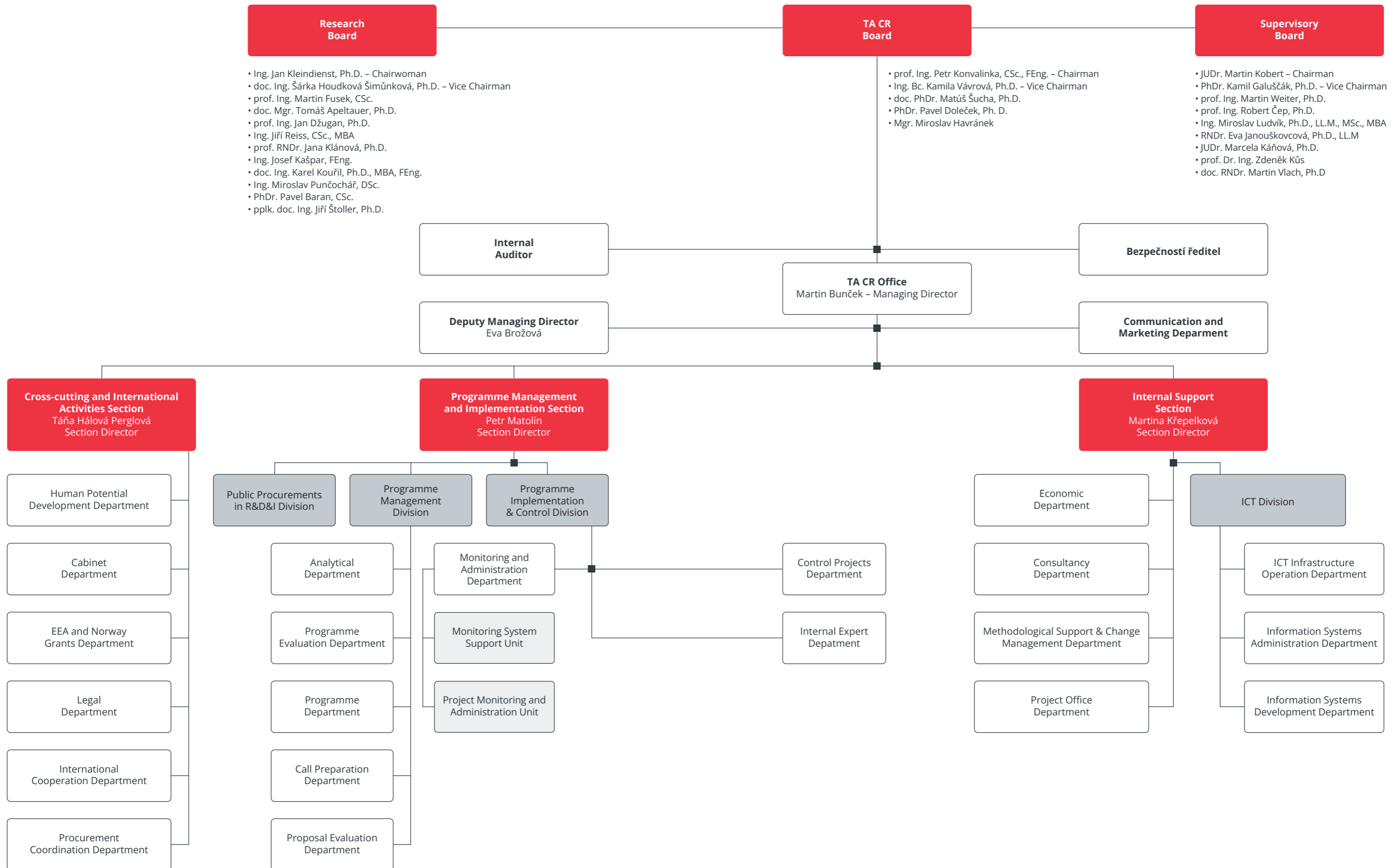
The average length of employment with TA CR in 2025 was



The turnover rate of TA CR employees in 2025 was



**TECHNOLOGY AGENCY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**





COOPERATION WITH EXTERNAL EVALUATION EXPERTS

Last year, 4,119 expert evaluation reports, 542 expert reports, 1,367 summary evaluation reports, and 710 reports for project evaluation and final project evaluation procedures were drawn up.

In 2025, TA CR database included 6,168 registered experts (1,294 foreign, 4,874 Czech and Slovak) – of whom 2,686 were contracted for 2025 (2,401 contracts with Czech experts, 107 contracts with Slovak experts and 178 with other experts). The majority of experts – 55.4% – were from the research and academic sphere, 26.1% from the business sphere and the remaining 18.5% cannot be clearly classified.

Among the domestic experts, men (72.8%) predominate over women (27.2%).

The foreign experts come from a total of 52 countries around the world, with most evaluators coming from Italy, Spain and Germany. Also, in the group of foreign experts, men (67%) prevail over a woman (23%), and in the remaining 10% of respondents, gender could not be identified from the available data. The Czech and Slovak experts are considered domestic evaluators and can evaluate all programmes, both Czech and foreign. Therefore, the number of Czech and Slovak experts is a cumulative number.

9. TA CR AWARDS



THE TA CR DAY

For the thirteenth time in a row, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic awarded the best applied research projects. The underlying topic of the TA CR Day 2025 was Forgotten Innovations: The World (Un)Know, pointing to the fact that we often take the established innovations and technologies for granted. On 13 November 2025, four top-tier projects with major benefits for society and economy were awarded at the National Museum in the categories of PARTNERSHIP, GOVERNANCE, BUSINESS, and SOCIETY. The absolute winner was chosen through a public vote on the TA CR website together with the audience in the hall. The investigators of the winning project from the SOCIETY category developed a safer and more efficient fuel for the nuclear power industry.



Montage from the entire
TA CR Day 2025.

WINNING PROJECTS OF THE TA CR AWARDS 2025

BUSINESS CATEGORY

Lighter and more durable airframe design of the L-39 Skyfox aircraft for modern defence

Investigators:

- AERO Vodochody AEROSPACE a.s.
- Aeronautical Research and Test Institute (VZLU AEROSPACE), a.s.



SOCIETY CATEGORY

Safer and more efficient fuel for nuclear power

Investigators:

- UJP PRAGUE a.s.
- Czech Technical University in Prague / Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering



PARTNERSHIP CATEGORY

Innovative shoes for the first steps of toddlers with ankle defects

Investigators:

- Masaryk University / Faculty of Sports Studies
- Shoes J HANÁK R, s.r.o.



GOVERNANCE CATEGORY

Controlled groundwater recharge by precipitation and snow for drought periods

Investigators:

- T. G. Masaryk Water Management Research Institute v. v. i.
- Czech Geological Survey



THE TA CR FILM AWARD



For the sixth time, the Film Award of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic was awarded for the popularization of science among youth, this time by non-statutory juries at the award ceremony, held following the final press conference at the conclusion of the 65th Zlín Film Festival.

The sixth year of the competition built on last year's successful concept - it focused on filmmaking by school children, this time on the topic "How I Imagine the School of the Future." Pupils of all grades of primary school could make a live-action, animated, or combined (live-action combined with animation elements) film with the footage of up to five minutes, depicting their vision of how instruction will change in the future as a result of the introduction of new technologies. The winner was Kryštof Stříbrný, a fifth grader from Modřice whose animated film portrays an "ordinary" school day of pupils in 2054, full of high technologies and futuristic inventions.

The TA CR Film Award was printed on a 3D printer by 3Dees company and assembled in collaboration with the glassblower Lukáš Jabůrek, the author of the TA CR Awards for Applied Research.



10. TA CR AS A RESPONSIBLE COMPANY

Every year, the Agency's employees take an active part in various charity collections. This year, they made a financial contribution to Charita Hvězda, a non-governmental non-profit organization which provides material assistance not only to children in alternative family care, but also to children from socially disadvantaged families.

Some employees joined the community of voluntary blood donors in the Czech Republic last year and repeatedly donated blood at the Military University Hospital Prague. Thus, 3,600 ml of blood (3.6 litres) was donated last year.

The Agency's management supported an employees' initiative and had a SWAP wardrobe set up on its premises. Employees have the opportunity to bring in clothes they no longer wear but are still in good condition. Instead of leaving in their closet or throwing them away, they give them a second life and can take home some other items they like. The clothes nobody wants are then collected at regular intervals and donated to the charity collection bins.

