



**Science Fund**  
of the Republic of Serbia

# 2022

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# Annual Report

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# Word of Acting Director

Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić

Dear colleagues, partners, and stakeholders,

Reflecting on the remarkable journey of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the significant progress we have made in just four short years. Our institution was founded with a clear vision—to elevate Serbia’s scientific landscape by promoting excellence, fostering innovation, and encouraging international collaboration.

Since our establishment in 2019, we have pursued our mission to build an independent institution that serves as a catalyst for scientific advancement in Serbia. Our progress would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the Government of Serbia, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the newly formed Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, the members of the Scientific Council, the Supervisory and Management Board, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Scientific and Research Organizations (SROs) across Serbia, as well as representatives of research funding agencies across Europe, the World Bank, and the European Union Delegation to Serbia. This collective effort has strengthened our institution, transforming it into a dynamic and agile organization capable of addressing the evolving needs of the scientific community.

In just four years, we have successfully launched eight funding programs, each thoughtfully designed to significantly enhance scientific research and innovation in Serbia. These programs are focused not only on strengthening the capacities of research organizations and teams but also on empowering individual researchers. Our dedicated team remains steadfast in supporting scientific endeavours that contribute to building a knowledge-based society.

Through public competitive calls, we uphold the principles of quality, transparency, impartiality, and efficiency, ensuring that our efforts have a lasting and meaningful impact.

As we look to the future, let us remain committed to advancing the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and excellence.

*Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić*  
*Acting Director, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia*



# Timeline

2022 ○

- **February** Preparation of the Public Call for Program IDENTITIES
- **March** Opening of the Public Call for the Program IDENTITIES  
  
Science Fund marked three years since the establishment and presented the scientific results of supported research projects
- **April** Open Door sessions organized during preparation of project proposals for the program IDENTITIES
- **May** Signing agreement on the joint project of EU and the World Bank - SAIGE  
  
Preparation of the Public Call for the Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry  
Preparation of the Public Call for the Program PRISMA
- **June** Opening of the Public Call for the Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry  
  
Opening of the Public Call for the Program PRISMA
- **August** Open Door sessions during preparation of project proposals for the Green Program and Program PRISMA
- **September** Closing of the Public Calls for Program PRISMA and Green Program
- **November** Preparing program completion activities - PROMIS 2020, Program AI and Program COVID-19
- **December** Participating in General Assembly of the Science Europe  
  
Selection of 16 projects approved for funding within Program IDENTITIES

2023 ○



# About Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia is a public organization established in 2019 by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, based on the Law on the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. Goal of the Science Fund is to support continuous development of scientific research and development activities in the Republic of Serbia through competitive public calls.

Science Fund programs are driven by scientific excellence and quality, designed to support both fundamental and applied scientific research and their potential for commercial utilization.

The Science Fund enhances the professional capacities of researchers in Serbia, encourages young researchers to participate in scientific projects, facilitates procurement of capital equipment for scientific research organizations, strengthens researchers' ability to pursue international opportunities, and promotes collaboration between science and industry.

SFRS procedures are aligned with the procedures followed by other funding agencies within EU countries. This alignment aims to ensure competitiveness, transparency, independence and objectivity throughout the project evaluation.

SFRS supports social, technological, cultural and economic development of the Republic of Serbia by providing funds and supporting development of scientific and research activities.

## Our mission

“

Supporting scientific, R&D, and technological projects that are based on scientific excellence and quality.

”

## Our vision

“

Promoting social, technological, cultural, and economic development of the Republic of Serbia by financing scientific and R&D projects.

”



# Organization and Decision-making Bodies

## The Science Fund's Team

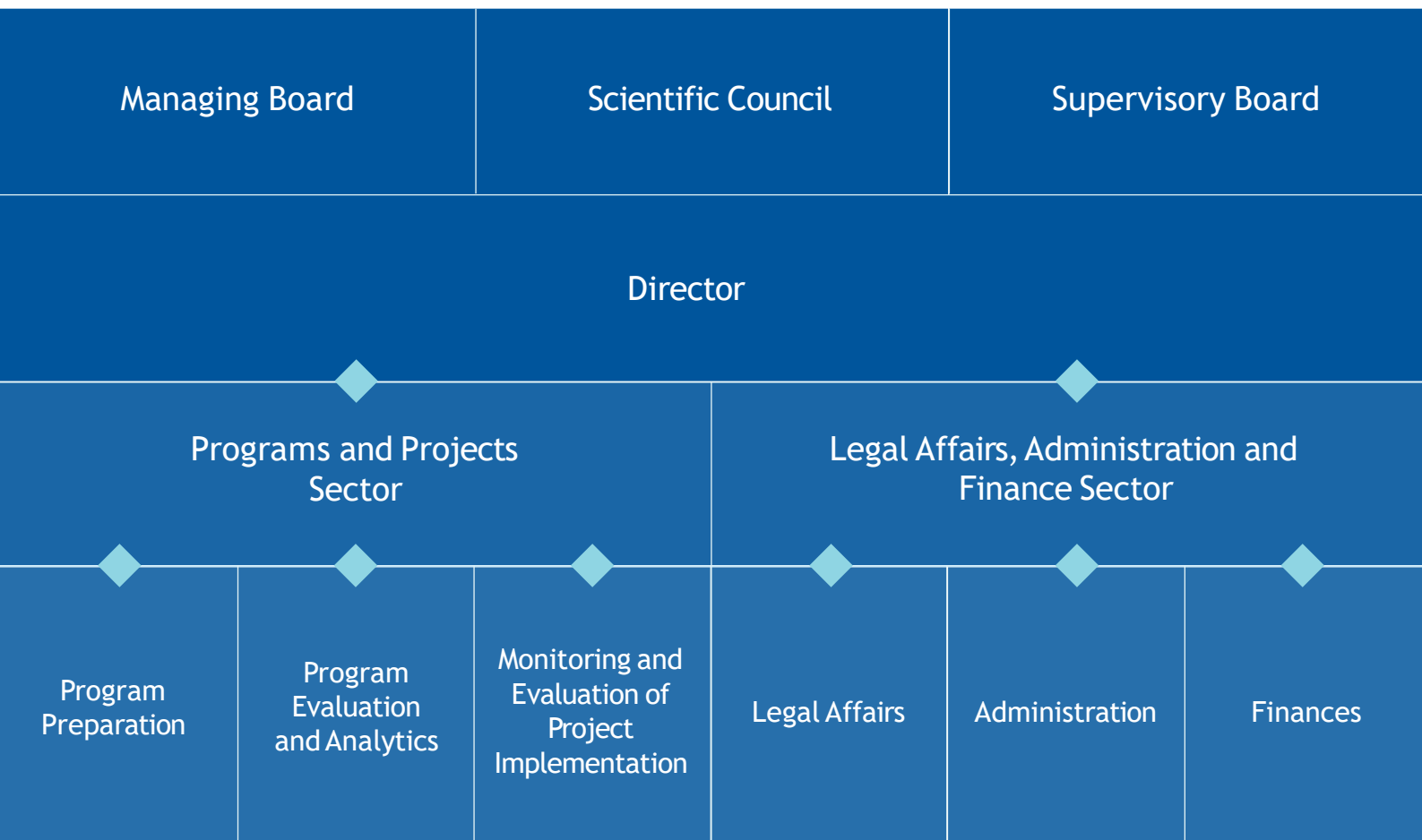
Science Fund's team consists of 40 highly motivated people coming from a range of different areas of expertise. Since its establishment, Science Fund has been growing, continuously building its team and professional capacities.



Acting Director

Dr. Milica Djurić-Jovičić

## Organizational Structure

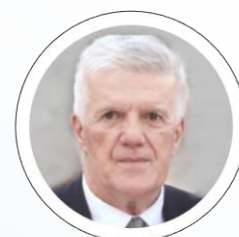


## Managing Board

The Managing Board consists of a chairperson and four members. The Managing board's role is to adopt general acts of Science Fund, its Programs, annual plan of the programs, and financial plans, reports on performed activities, rules of procedure, as well as other procedures, as defined by the Law on Science Fund.

### **Dr. Vujo Drndarević**

Chairman of the Managing Board  
School of Electrical Engineering  
University of Belgrade  
Retired Professor



### **Dr. Vladan Vuletić**

Member of the Managing Board  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
Cambridge, MA, USA,  
Full Professor



### **Dr. Momčilo Pavlović**

Member of the Managing Board  
Institute for Contemporary History  
University of Belgrade  
Principal Research Fellow



### **Mr. Gordana Danilović - Grković**

Member of the Managing Board  
Science Technology Park Belgrade  
Acting Director



### **Dr. Jovan Babić**

Member of the Managing Board  
Faculty of Philosophy  
University of Belgrade  
Retired Professor





## Scientific Council

The Scientific Council of Science Fund is the highest expert and advisory body of Science Fund. The Scientific Council consists of 15 members, representatives of the scientific community: two representatives from each of six scientific fields - natural sciences and mathematics, technology and engineering sciences, medical sciences, biotechnical sciences, social sciences and humanities, two members from industry, as well as one member proposed by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Its members are internationally recognized in their respective scientific fields, whereas at least two thirds hold the highest scientific or teaching title.

The Scientific Council's role is to provide expertise in designing Science Fund's Programs, operations, procedures, and Public Calls.

**Academician Stevan Pilipović**  
Chairman of the Scientific Council  
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
Full member of SASA

**Dr. Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković**  
Faculty of Agronomy Čačak  
University of Kragujevac  
Full Professor

**Dr. Miroslav Nikolić**  
Institute for Multidisciplinary Research  
University of Belgrade  
Full Professor

**Dr. Aleksandar Fišteš**  
Faculty of Technology  
University of Novi Sad  
Full Professor

**Dr. Milan Pantić**  
Faculty of Sciences  
University of Novi Sad  
Full Professor

**Dr. Mina Zrnojević**  
Institute of Comparative Law  
University of Belgrade  
Senior Research Associate

**Dr. Đorđe Vukelić**  
Faculty of Technical Sciences  
University of Novi Sad  
Full Professor

**Dr. Milan Jovanović**  
Faculty of Political Sciences  
University of Belgrade  
Full Professor

**Dr. Dušan Starčević**  
Faculty of Organizational Sciences  
University of Belgrade  
Professor Emeritus

**Dr. Aleksandar Rastović**  
Historical Institute  
University of Belgrade  
Principal Research Fellow

**Dr. Vladimir Đukić**  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Belgrade  
Full Professor

**Dr. Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović**  
Faculty of Dramatic Arts  
University of Arts in Belgrade  
Associate Professor

**Dr. Snežana B. Pajović**  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Niš  
Full Professor

**Igor Bogićević**  
Seven Bridges Genomics Ltd. Belgrade  
**Dr. Darko Ivanović**  
2Dsoft Company



## Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board consists of a chairperson and two members. Supervisory Board's role is to monitor Material and Financial Operations of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, as defined by the Law on Science Fund.

**Dr. Radovan Pejanović**  
Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Novi Sad  
Full Professor

**Dr. Milorad Filipović**  
Faculty of Economics  
University of Belgrade  
Full Professor

**Dr. Marija Ignjatović**  
Faculty of Law  
University of Niš  
Full Professor



# Funding

## Total Funding in 2022

Budget of the Republic of Serbia: € 8,671,921

World Bank - Project SAIGE: € 7,157,597

Total: € 15,829,518




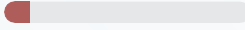
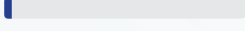

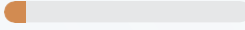
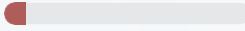

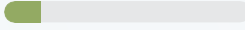
In May 2022, Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia attended the signing of the agreement between the European Union and the World Bank, which formalized this international partnership in the implementation of the SAIGE project. The event on the was organized in the Science and Technology Park Belgrade.



*Signing of the agreement between the European Union and the World Bank – additional funds for financing within the SAIGE project*

# Programs of the Science Fund

The Programs of the Science Fund have been designed having in mind the needs of the scientific community in the Republic of Serbia and the needs and challenges of society in general. Programs support technological development, advanced and innovative ideas, the development of human resources, laboratories, and scientific infrastructure, integration into international science trends, cooperation between science and industry, and other topics that are of strategic and social significance.

1) Program for Excellent Projects of Young Researchers (PROMIS)	9.0 M€	
2) Program for Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	2.2 M€	
3) Serbian Science and Diaspora Collaboration Program: Knowledge Exchange Vouchers	0.8 M€	
4) Program IDEAS	30.0 M€	
5) Special Research Program on COVID-19	2.0 M€	
6) Program IDENTITIES	2.0 M€	
7) Program PRISMA	25 M€	
8) Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry	3.5 M€	



# Portfolio of the Funding Programs in Implementation

## Research Programs

No.	1	2	3	4	5
Program	PROMIS	AI	IDEAS	COVID-19	IDENTITITES
No. of Submitted Projects	585	70	917	129	160
No. of Approved Projects	59	12	105	14	16
Min. Approved Project Budget	€25.261,66	€121.296,51	€67.943,75	€46.865,92	€73.063,30
Max. Approved Project Budget	€200.000,00	€200.000,00	€499.535,17	€406.612,43	€145.763,81
Total Approved Budget	€8.964.169,42	€2.207.774,08	€29.999.198,17	€1.973.435,71	€1.999.993,80
No. of Researchers from Serbia	317	119	1041	130	115
No. of Research Groups in organization	114	23	267	29	47
No. of Research Organizations	51	19	98	19	29
No. of Researchers from Diaspora	0	3	18	4	0
No. of Female/Male Researchers	184/133	41/78	622/419	85/45	75/40

## International Mobility and Collaboration Programs

No.	6
Program	DIASPORA
No. of Submitted Projects	126
No. of Approved Projects	92
Min. Approved Project Budget	€4.499,25
Max. Approved Project Budget	€10.000,00
Total Approved Budget	€797.591,59
No. of Researchers from Serbia	268
No. of Research Groups in organization	92
No. of Research Organizations	43
No. of Researchers from Diaspora	88
No. of Female/Male Researchers	151/117

## Research Programs in the evaluation phase

No.	7	8
Program	Green Program	PRISMA
No. of Submitted Projects	26	656
Total Budget	€3.500.000,00	€25.000.000,00
Min. Submitted Project Budget	€120.000,00	€71.228,13
Max. Submitted Project Budget	€200.000,00	€300.000,00

	Research Programs Total	Total for 6 Programs
No. of Approved Projects	206	298
Total Approved Budget	€45.144.571,18	€45.942.162,77
No. of Researchers from Serbia	1643	1852
No. of Research Groups in organization	443	541
No. of Research Organizations	119	124
No. of Researchers from Diaspora	25	111
No. of Female/Male Researchers	964/679	1083/769





Out of a total of 59 projects of this program, 47 projects were completed during 2022, while an additional extension was approved for 12 projects.

Our scientists have achieved significant results within the PROMIS Program:

## Scientific Results for period 2020-2022

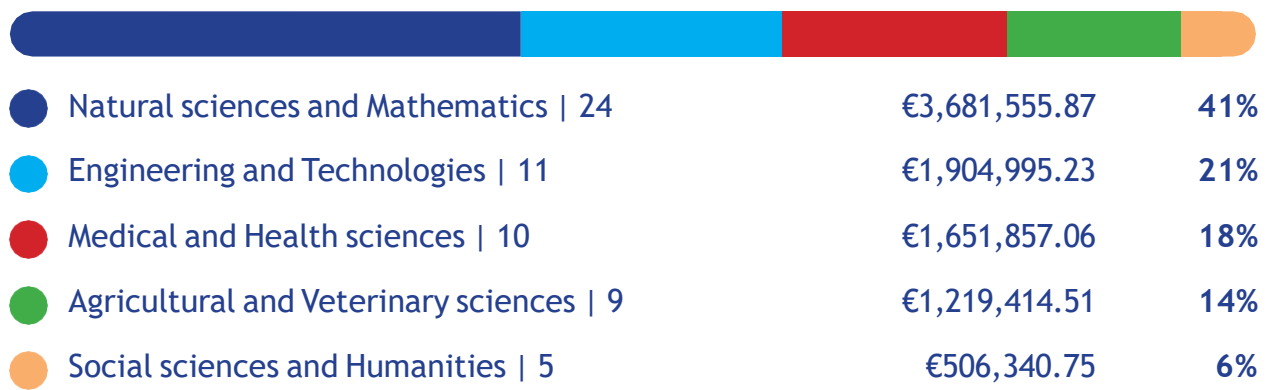
**646** Total number of publications

**424** Publications in international journals

**123** Number of publications in leading international journals (M21 and M21a)

## PROMIS Grants Approved by Research Discipline

59 Projects | € 8,964,169.42 Total Budget



*PROMIS 2020-2022 meeting  
Meeting with 59 Principal Investigators of the PROMIS projects.*

# Program for Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial Intelligence

Program for Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial Intelligence (Program AI) aimed to support the excellence and relevance of scientific research in the Republic of Serbia in the field of artificial intelligence.

Program AI was implemented under two subprograms. The two subprograms supported basic and applied scientific research and contributed to the development of fundamental science, and the application of artificial intelligence, respectively.

The basic thematic areas of the Program include General artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Natural language processing, Planning, Knowledge reasoning, Computer vision and speech communication, and Intelligent systems. Researchers were enabled to propose an additional area regarding the predefined thematic areas.

After two-stage evaluation of the project proposals, 12 research projects were selected for funding, which provided a contribution to the development of agriculture, IT, industry 4.0, and environmental protection.

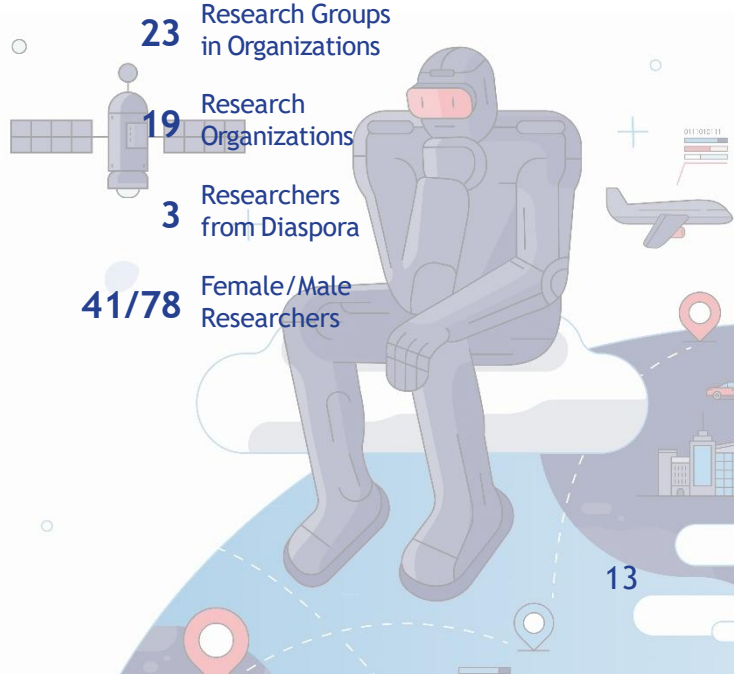
**The total approved budget for the Program AI was €2,400,000.**

The maximum budget per project was €200,000, and the project duration was up to two years.

*Funding for the Program was provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation).*

	<b>€121,296</b>	Min. Approved Project Budget
<b>70</b> Submitted Projects	<b>€200,000</b>	Max. Approved Project Budget
<b>12</b> Approved Projects	<b>€2,207,774</b>	Total Approved Budget
	<b>2 years</b>	Project duration

<b>119</b>	Researchers from Serbia
<b>23</b>	Research Groups in Organizations
<b>19</b>	Research Organizations
<b>3</b>	Researchers from Diaspora
<b>41/78</b>	Female/Male Researchers





Out of a total of 12 projects within the Program for the Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial Intelligence of intelligence, by the end of 2022, 10 projects were completed, and two projects got an additional extension for the project implementation for 3 months.

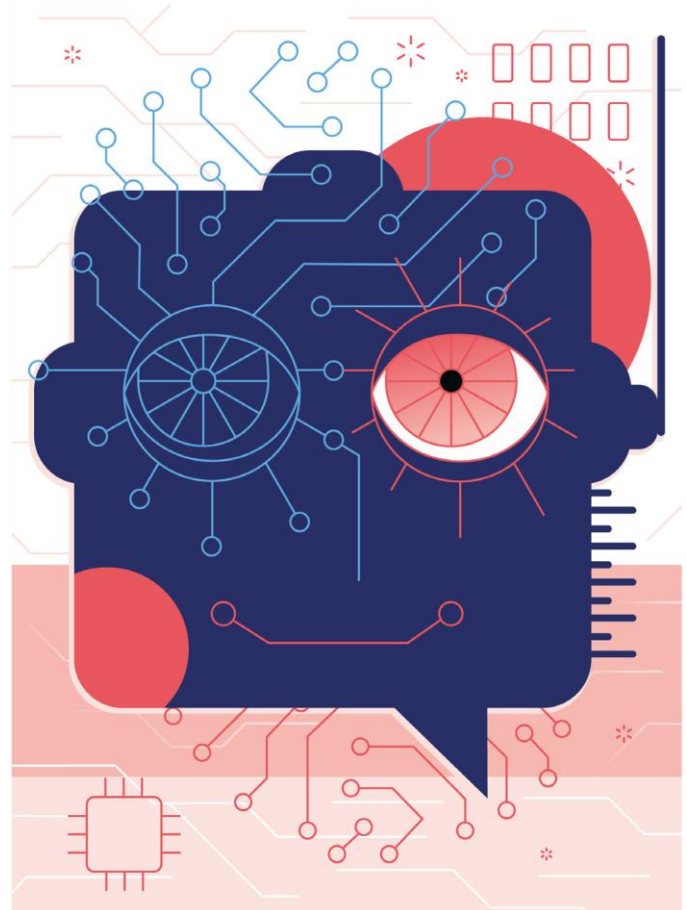
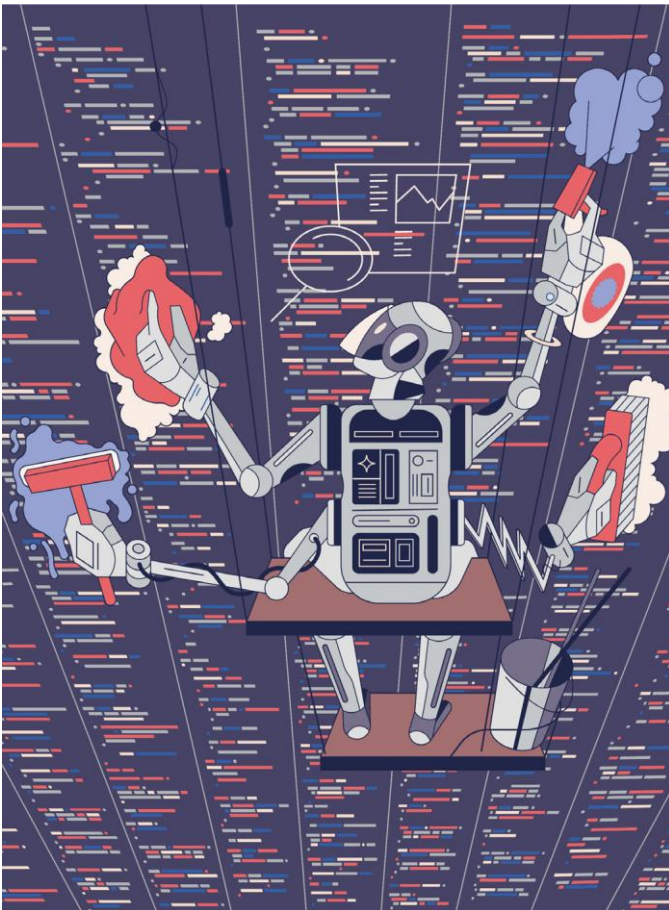
Our scientists have achieved significant results within the Program of Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial intelligence:

## Scientific Results for period 2020-2022:

**285** Total number of publications

**261** Publications in international journals

**21** Number of publications in leading international journals (M21 and M21a)



*Illustrations of the Program AI projects CleanCadet (left) by artist Srdja Dragović and MISSION 4.0 (right) by artist Aleksandra Jovanić. Illustrations are part of the publication The Program for Development of Projects in the Field of Artificial Intelligence published by Science Fund and Center for the Promotion of Science.*



# The Serbian Science and Diaspora Collaboration Program - Knowledge Exchange Vouchers

Serbia is proud to have many distinguished scientists worldwide who represent us in the best possible way. Science Fund supports formal cooperation among researchers from Serbia and Diaspora by introducing collaboration programs for knowledge exchange and joint research. There are three different Public Calls for Project Proposals planned as part of the Serbian Science and Diaspora Collaboration Program. The first Public Call was focused on short-term visits of researchers from the Republic of Serbia to experts from the diaspora while providing support to SROs in the Republic of Serbia for developing cooperation with the diaspora. The support is designed as a mobility grant in the form of vouchers.

The Public Call was opened on November 30, 2019, and closed on January 31, 2020. Total of 126 applications were received under this Call.

After a two-stage evaluation, a **total of 92 projects** were approved for funding.

**The total approved budget for the Program DIASPORA was €800,000.**

*Financing for the Program was provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation).*

<b>126</b> Submitted Projects	<b>€4,499</b> Min. Approved Project Budget	<b>268</b> Researchers from Serbia
<b>92</b> Approved Projects	<b>€10,000</b> Max. Approved Project Budget	<b>92</b> Research Groups
	<b>€797,591</b> Total Approved Budget	<b>43</b> Research Organizations
	<b>1 year</b> Project duration	<b>88</b> Researchers from Diaspora
		<b>151/117</b> Female/Male Researchers



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused restrictions and limitations, the start of the implementation of the Program was postponed. At the beginning of 2022, considering the improvement of the epidemiological situation, the conditions were created for the continuation of project implementation within this program. Out of 92 projects, 27 projects were completed in 2022.

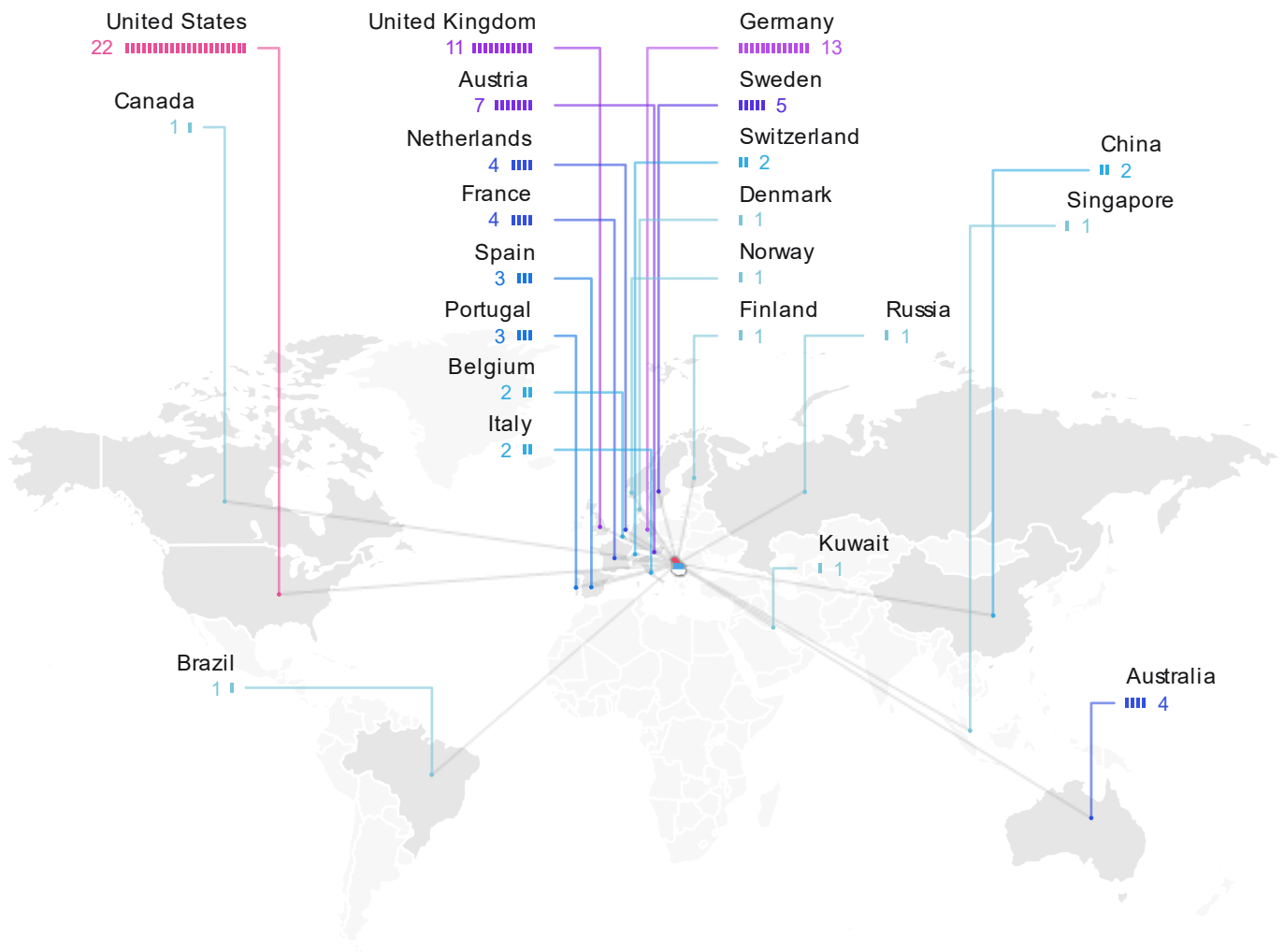
Our scientists have achieved significant results within the Serbian Science and Diaspora Collaboration Program.

## Scientific Results for period 2020-2022

**173** Total number of publications

**75** Number of international publications

**27** Number of publications in leading international journals (M21 and M21a)



*Illustration of geographic distribution of SR0s leading the awarded Projects under the Serbian Science and Diaspora Collaboration Program: Knowledge Exchange Vouchers*



# Program IDEAS

Program IDEAS is designed to support and finance research projects based on outstanding ideas that could have, in the future, a significant impact on the development of science and research, economy and/or society, to include outstanding researchers into scientific and research work, to strengthen professional capacities of researchers and to create new research teams.

The Program lends support to basic and applied research in all fields of science. There are no pre-defined topics for Projects within the Program. The program allows researchers to define their own research programs, form their own teams, and collaborate with relevant laboratories, research centres, and industries in the Republic of Serbia and worldwide.

Program IDEAS is implemented with four subprograms for the development of scientific research in the following fields of science:

- **Natural sciences and mathematics**
- **Engineering and technological sciences**
- **(Bio)medical sciences**
- **Social sciences and humanities**

Program IDEAS is the largest program of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. After a two-stage evaluation, a total of **105 projects** were approved for funding.

**The total approved budget for the Program IDEAS is €30,000,000.**

Based on a program budget of 30 million euros, support was provided to the top-ranked 105 projects, with 28 of them receiving an additional budget for capital equipment. Considering that investment in capital equipment is an investment in research and the entire scientific community of Serbia, the support for these projects will have broader value and long-term effects in enhancing the capacity of scientific research work in Serbia.

*Financing for the Program is provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation), and World Bank through Project SAIGE.*



		<b>€67,943</b>	Min. Approved Project Budget	<b>1041</b>	Researchers from Serbia
<b>917</b>	Submitted Projects	<b>€499,535</b>	Max. Approved Project Budget	<b>267</b>	Research Groups
<b>105</b>	Approved Projects	<b>€29,999,198</b>	Total Approved Budget	<b>98</b>	Research Organizations
		<b>3 years</b>	Project duration	<b>19</b>	Researchers from Diaspora
				<b>618/423</b>	Female/Male Researchers

## IDEAS Grants Approved by Subprogram

105 Projects | € 29,999,198.17 Total Budget



● Natural sciences and Mathematics   39	€11,820,981.35	<b>39%</b>
● Engineering and Technologies   23	€6,565,164.09	<b>22%</b>
● Social sciences and Humanities   24	€5,947.684.14	<b>20%</b>
● (Bio)Medical sciences   19	€5,665,368.59	<b>19%</b>

Our scientists have achieved significant results within the Program IDEAS.

## Scientific Results for 2022

- 412** Total number of publications
- 144** Number of international publications
- 56** Number of publications in leading international journals (M21 and M21a)



# Special Research Program on COVID-19

Special research program on COVID-19 aimed to support projects that will contribute to the efficient scientific response to the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and enable better preparedness and the timely reaction of the whole society to this pandemic.

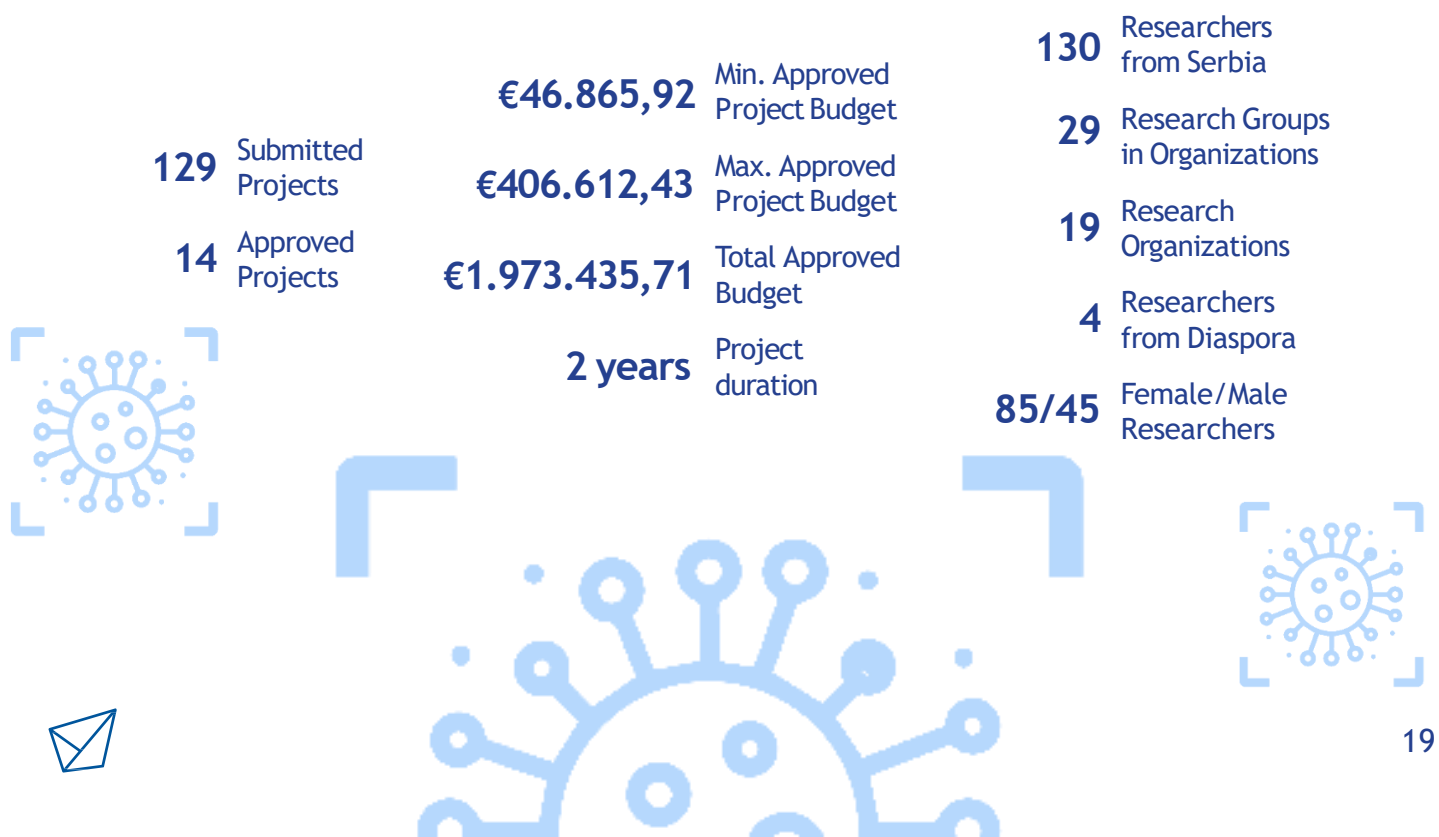
The program was initiated and prepared under the circumstances of the state of emergency declared in the Republic of Serbia considering the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the importance of involving the scientific community, this Program had a special strategic significance for the Republic of Serbia and its citizens.

This Program included the development of applicable solutions while supporting applied scientific research, the creation of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams, and project applications made by consortiums. This program was inciting the projects that can offer solutions that actively contribute to the fulfilment of the goals of this Program the fastest.

After two-stage evaluation, a **total of 14 research** projects were selected for funding: 11 from the biomedical, two from economics, sociological, psychological research and management of complex systems, and one project from biomedical engineering and IT.

**The total approved budget of the Program was €1,975,435.71.**

*Financing for the Program was provided by the World Bank through Project SAIGE.*



Our scientists have achieved significant results within Special Research Program on COVID19

## Scientific Results for period 2020-2022

- 72** Total number of publications
- 61** Number of international publications
- 13** Number of publications in leading international journals (M21 and M21a)
- 1** Patents



*Implementation of project activities - Project AntioxIdentification, Program COVID-19*

# Program IDENTITIES

Program IDENTITIES is the first program of the Science Fund designed to support scientific research in the fields of social sciences and humanities.

The objectives of the Program are to encourage excellence and relevance of scientific research in Serbia in the field of social sciences and humanities; affirm the importance of social sciences and humanities for education and society at large; and improvement of international visibility and cooperation within the relevant scientific field.

The subject of the program can be the theoretical and empirical systematization of scientific knowledge necessary for (re)defining the content, form, and determinants of identity and the importance of social and cultural identities for creating public policies and government decision-making in the Republic of Serbia.

The Program is aligned with the goals of scientific research, in terms of creating new knowledge to encourage social, cultural, artistic, and economic development. The aim of the research is to preserve and affirm national identity as a part of civilizational heritage and focus on social challenges and priorities.

**The Public Call for Project Proposals was opened on March 14, 2022, and it was closed on May 20, 2022.**

**Initially, 1300 researchers from 106 scientific research organizations applied with 160 project proposals.** After the administrative check, project proposals were proceeded to the first stage of evaluation. After the first stage of evaluation, where each project proposal was evaluated by independent international peer reviewers, **33 project proposals proceeded to the second stage of evaluation.**

The second stage of evaluation of project proposals was performed by the Program Board for Project Evaluation including 5 panel experts. Based on the results of the second stage of evaluation, the Program Board compiled the proposal for the final ranking list of projects proposed for funding, ensuring that total required budget for all projects cannot be greater than the total budget of the Program defined by the Program Act. The Program Board submitted a proposal for the final ranking list of projects to the Scientific Council of the Science Fund. Scientific Council considered the proposal and submitted positive opinion on a final ranking list to the Managing Board of the Science Fund. Managing Board adopted the final ranking list of projects that have been approved for funding.





After the second stage of evaluation, **16 projects were selected and supported for funding**. The Program IDENTITIES supports 115 researchers from 29 scientific research organizations.

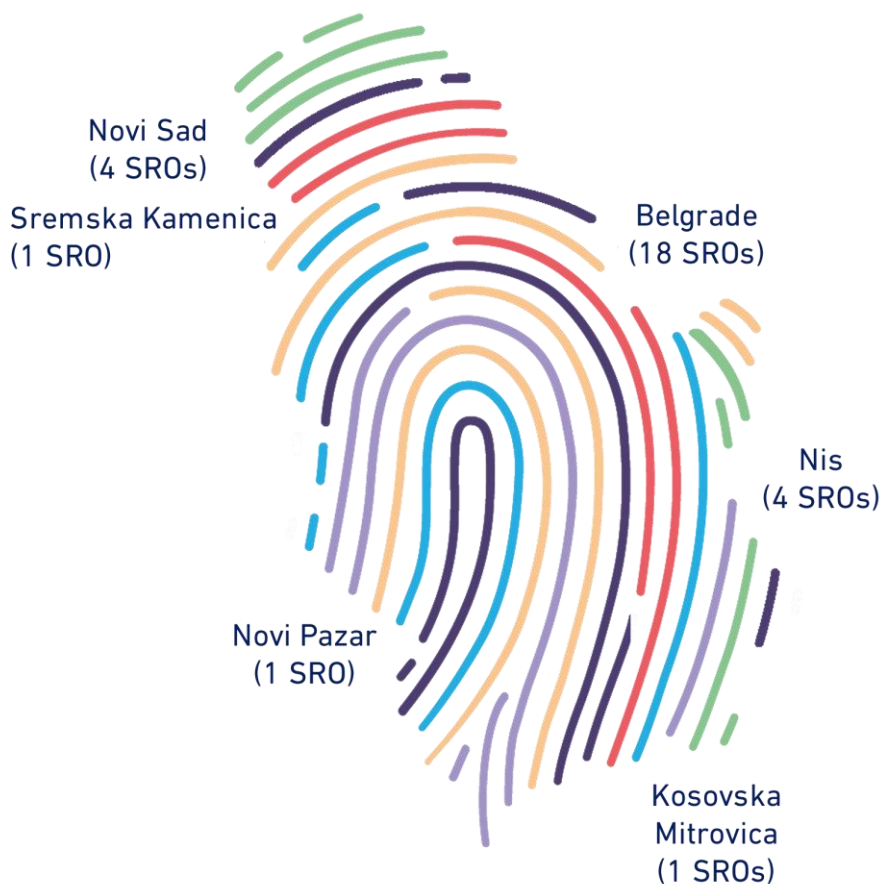
Lead scientific research organizations (SRO) are from Belgrade (10), Niš (3), Novi Sad (2) and Sremska Kamenica (1). SROs from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Novi Pazar and Kosovska Mitrovica participate as partners on projects.

Among the 16 projects supported for funding, 10 are managed by female and 6 by male principal investigators.

**The total approved budget of the Program IDENTITIES is €2,000,000.**

*Financing for the Program is provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation).*

<b>160</b>	Submitted Projects	<b>€73.063,30</b>	Min. Approved Project Budget	<b>115</b>	Researchers from Serbia
<b>16</b>	Approved Projects	<b>€145.763,81</b>	Max. Approved Project Budget	<b>47</b>	Research Groups
		<b>€1,999,993.80</b>	Total Approved Budget	<b>29</b>	Research Organizations
		<b>2 years</b>	Project duration	<b>75/40</b>	Female/Male Researchers



# Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry

The modern world is facing a major challenge when it comes to the pollution of the environment - water, air and soil are becoming more and more endangered resources. Science will play a key role in the fight for a healthier planet that we will leave to future generations. Through the development of innovative solutions, science can help create a world where man and nature can function together in a sustainable way. However, for scientific research to find a way to practical application, it is very important that scientists together with industry develop solutions that can be applied in every aspect of society: from industry to everyday life.

Considering the importance of this mission, **Science Fund has opened the Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry**, which is intended to provide practical support for the cooperation of science and the industry, based on the use of available scientific potential, as well as support for sustainable development and raising the level of environmental quality. **The program is based on the Program DEVELOPMENT and is in line with national strategies, as well as the European Union strategy “Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All” and the action plan “Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil”.**

The general objectives of the Program: supporting cooperation between science and industry based on the use of available scientific potentials; supporting projects that can significantly influence the further development of society and the economy, including excellent research in solving vital problems of the society; engaging young researchers; strengthening the professional capacities of scientific research institutions.

The specific objectives of the Program: supporting sustainable development and increasing the level of environment quality by solving problems that are causing climate change, environmental pollution, loss of biodiversity and unsustainable use of natural resources; enabling better monitoring, reporting and prevention of pollution of air, water, soil, and consumer products, having in mind strategic national goals of zero pollution, cleaner circular economy and restoration of biodiversity.

**The Program supports applied research in all fields of science** that will result in patents, patent application, technical solutions, copyright protected works that are related to the given topics of the Program and include design and improvement of the technologies, products and services.



The projects within this Program have predefined themes:

### 1) Air, Water, and Soil:

- Reducing emissions of major air pollutants.
- Enhancing sustainable and efficient water consumption practices.
- Decreasing water pollution in industry, agriculture, and households.
- Mitigating surface and groundwater pollution.
- Sustainable water resource management aiming for ecologically enhanced rivers and water bodies.
- Reducing soil, water, and air pollution from pesticide use.
- Restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- Reducing environmental pollution from persistent organic pollutants, microplastics, waste, and other harmful persistent substances in products.
- Improving contaminated environment cleaning procedures.
- Addressing environmental quality impacts resulting from accidents.

### 2) Industry:

- Developing circular agriculture with minimal environmental pollution.
- Reducing the use of micro pollutants like microplastics, including pharmaceutical products.
- Implementing sustainable industrial systems, cleaner technologies, improved business models that reduce environmental pollution, and positively influence consumer habits.
- Enhancing energy efficiency with harmful gas neutralization, considering the expansion of “polluters pay” principles.
- Innovative approaches in the digital transformation of how regulators and industries tackle harmful gas and material emissions, including remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.
- Design and utilization of chemicals, materials, and products that retain desired non-toxic properties throughout their lifecycle.

### 3) Waste:

- Waste management, plastic materials, waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, hazardous chemicals, persistent organic pollutants, and heavy metals.
- The impact of waste on human health, animal life, and plant ecosystems.

**The Call for Project Proposals was opened on June 30, 2022, and it was closed on October 11, 2022.** A total of 26 project proposals were submitted to the open Public Call through the Portal for submitting scientific projects. All 26 project proposals passed administrative check and were sent to the first stage of project evaluation. **Within the Green program 20 projects were approved for funding.**

**The total approved budget of the Program is €3,500,000.**

*Financing for the Program is provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation).*

<b>€3,500,000</b>	Program budget	<b>€200,000</b>	Max. budget of the project proposal	<b>24 months</b>	Maximum project duration
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Science Fund Event - Opening of two new programs of the Science Fund - Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry and Program PRISMA.

# Program PRISMA

Program PRISMA supports basic and applied research in all fields of science.

The objective of the Program is to support research projects based on excellent ideas that in the future may have a significant impact on the development of science and research, as well as society, and clearly stated motivation for research within the framework of modern trends in the development of science in the relevant scientific fields.

Its objective as well is to support: development of scientific and practical aspects in the field of technical and technological sciences; development of research of strategic importance for agriculture, food production and environmental protection; development of experimental, practical and clinical research that should contribute to human health in Serbia; research on topics that contribute to development in the fields of social sciences and humanities in Serbia; raising the level of science in artificial intelligence as well as its application; involving young researchers in scientific research and strengthening their professional capacities.

The Program enables researchers to define their own research ideas and plans, form their own teams and collaborate with relevant laboratories, research centres and industry in Serbia and worldwide. There are no predefined topics for projects within the Program.

The Program is implemented within six subprograms for the development of scientific research in the following fields of science:

- Natural sciences and mathematics
- Engineering and technological sciences
- (Bio)medical sciences
- (Bio)technical sciences
- Artificial intelligence
- Social sciences and humanities.

**The Call for Project Proposals was opened on June 30, 2022, and it was closed on October 14, 2022.** A total of 656 project proposals were submitted to the open Public Call through the Portal for submitting scientific projects. In 2022, evaluation of project proposal has been started.

**The total approved budget of the Program PRISMA is €25,000,000.**

*Financing for the Program is provided through the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation), World Bank and European Union through Project SAIGE.*

**€25,000,000** Program budget    **€300,000** Max. budget of the project proposal    **36 months** Maximum project duration



## Researchers on Submitted Projects Proposals

Total number of researchers	6,190
Female researchers	55.12%
Male researchers	44.88%

## Lead SROs (SRO TYPE) on Submitted Project Proposals

Faculties	169
Institutes	109
Integrated Universities	4

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY SRO TYPE (Lead SROs + PARTNERS)

Faculties	€25.011.598,55	56.92%
Institutes	€17.888.435,22	40.71%
Integrated Universities	€551.957,60	1.26%
Innovation Centers	€490.177,6	1.12%

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY LEAD SRO

Belgrade	77,24%
Novi Sad	16,02%
Niš	3,28%
Kragujevac	2,26%
Čačak	0,92%
Subotica	0,06%
Sombor	0,04%
Kruševac	0,03%
Vranje	0,03%
Valjevo	0,02%
Leskovac	0,02%
Bor	0,01%

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY RESEARCH DISCIPLINE

Natural Sciences	29%
Engineering and Technological Sciences	24%
Biomedical Sciences	19%
Biotechnical sciences	13%
Social Sciences and Humanities	12%
Artificial Intelligence	3%

Out of the 656 project proposals, the largest number of projects are in the field of natural sciences and mathematics, with 193 project proposals, accounting for 29% of the total number of submitted project proposals, followed by engineering and technological sciences (24%), biomedical sciences (19%), biotechnical sciences (13%), social sciences and humanities (12%), and the field of artificial intelligence (3%). The total budget for the submitted project proposals within the 6 subprograms amounts to €175,061,696.37. The largest portion of the budget for submitted project proposals is in the field of natural sciences and mathematics, amounting to €51,471,678.71 or 29.4% of the total proposed budget, followed by engineering and technological sciences (24.48%), biomedical sciences (18.8%), biotechnical sciences (12.89%), social sciences and humanities (11.39%), and the field of artificial intelligence (3.03%).



# Project monitoring

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia regularly supervises and monitors project implementation by evaluating submitted reports, organizing supervisory visits to project teams, monitoring project activities, as well as evaluating Reports during project implementation.

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia periodically organizes an audit of the expenditure of funds during the implementation of projects, in accordance with the acts of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia.

The achieved results of the Project are evaluated through annual, exceptional evaluation and evaluation at the end of the Project implementation. Evaluation may also include audit.

In 2022, Science Fund monitored the implementation of 282 projects, evaluating administrative and financial quarterly reports submitted on project implementation. The monitoring efforts extended across diverse programs, namely PROMIS, PRVI (AI), DIASPORA, IDEJE, and KOVID-19.

## *SFRS Supervisory visits to project teams within the Program IDEAS*



# Supervisory visits

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia conducted supervisory visits to ensure the fulfillment of project obligations. These visits served the dual purpose - monitoring project implementation and acquainting the Science Fund team with project members. During the visits, Principal Investigators and project team members presented research results, as well as the equipment and consumables funded under the respective projects.

A total of 10 supervisory visits were conducted under the IDEAS program, spanning eight leading research institutions: Medical Faculty, Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, Institute for Technology of Nuclear and Other Mineral Resources, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Faculty of Pharmacy, Institute for Medical Research, and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. These visits were strategically distributed, with four dedicated to projects in the (bio)medical subprogram, three to projects in the natural sciences and mathematics subprogram, and two projects in the engineering and technologies, and social sciences and humanities.

Science Fund actively conducted supervisory visits to project teams within the Special Research Program on COVID-19 throughout 2022. These visits served as a comprehensive evaluation of project obligations, a thorough review of project archives, and an assessment of the acquired equipment and materials.

Supervisory visits involved experts from the SAIGE PIU team, specializing in environmental impact, social impact, and ethical considerations. These comprehensive visits encompassed a thorough examination of project execution, reviews of project archives, and assessments of procured equipment and materials. Engaging discussions were conducted to delve into various facets of project activities, outcomes, and the firsthand experiences of researchers actively contributing to the projects.



*Representatives of the Science Fund visiting research team of project AntioxIdentification, Program COVID-19, Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade*



# Forthcoming Programs in 2023

During 2023, the Science Fund will continue to work on ensuring quality conditions for engaging in research projects and the continuous progress of science in Serbia. Science Fund will continue to provide support to researchers in strengthening their capacities, connect scientists from Serbia with scientists from the diaspora, strengthen the capacities of young scientists and provide funds for the implementation of research in all scientific fields.

In 2023, four programs are planned to be opened, three of which represent new cycles of the programs PROMIS, DIASPORA and IDEAS, while the fourth program PROOF OF CONCEPT is a new program of the Science Fund.



## 1) PROOF OF CONCEPT

*Testing of scientific ideas, hypotheses or assumptions with possibilities of commercial application*

Program duration: 1 year



## 2) PROMIS 2023

*Support for young researchers and researchers at the beginning of their scientific career (all scientific research fields)*

Program duration: 2 years



## 3) DIASPORA 2023

*Cooperation of Serbian science with the diaspora (all scientific research areas)*

Program duration: 2 years



## 4) IDEAS 2023

*Support for basic and applied research based on excellent ideas (all scientific research areas)*

Program duration: 3 years



# Project Evaluation

Project evaluation procedures are aligned with international standards applied by other funding agencies in the EU countries. Evaluation procedures include administrative check and two stages of evaluation. The Proposal that has passed the administrative check is sent to the first stage of the evaluation procedure.

**First stage of evaluation** - Each Project Proposal is evaluated by peer reviewers, foreign internationally acclaimed experts, which are assessing by the three criteria: excellence, impact, and implementation of the Project Proposal. The proposals are ranked after the first stage of evaluation. Proposals that pass the first stage of evaluation and whose individual budgets in total do not exceed the double Program budget are being proceeded to the second stage of evaluation.

**Second stage of evaluation** - Members of the Program Board are foreign experts with an internationally recognized professional career. The Program Board performs evaluation of all proposals that are qualified for the second stage of evaluation.

**Ranking list** - Based on the final evaluation, the Program Board forms a ranking list of Project Proposals that have met both levels of evaluation and will be funded within the available funds of the Program. The final ranking list needs to be accepted by the Scientific Council and adopted by the Managing Board of the Science Fund.

**Transparency of the expert selection** - SFRS Call for expression of Interest for Peer Reviewers is permanently open and published on official website. Reviewers must have a PhD, at least 5 years of work experience, scientific references, and experience in project evaluation. For the evaluation of a specific Project Proposal, expert reviewers for the given field are engaged. Members of the Program Board that evaluate projects in the second stage are elected in the same way, with the exception that they are appointed by the SFRS Managing Board after a public call.

**Publishing the Results** - SFRS publishes all results on the official website, showing the final ranking list with all project proposals which are approved for funding, project partners, final scores, and approved budgets.



# Three Main Criteria for the Evaluation of All Project Proposals



## 1. Excellence

Science Fund supports projects with sustainable goals, clear concepts, and systematic and well-designed working methodologies. High-level scientific excellence, quality, and innovative ideas represent the fundamental values of all projects supported by the Fund.



## 2. Impact

Projects should contribute towards resolving relevant social issues and current topics. The quality of the project proposals is evaluated based on the usability and potential dissemination value of the expected results. Project activities and results are presented to different target groups.



## 3. Implementation

Projects have an effective work plan and resources, matched with goals, tasks, and expected results. The complementary skills and aptitudes of the participants and the whole team's expertise are evaluated. Participants have the resources and knowledge to fulfill their roles and tasks.



# Experts for Project Evaluation and Selection

Our peer reviewers are international experts from 63 countries, and we continuously keep expanding our pool of experts for new programs.

**Grand Total 1300+**



# Building Institutional Capacity

## System support for the development of Science Fund

To achieve its mission and vision, as well as to effectively devise, implement, monitor, and improve its Programs, Science Fund has been carrying out consultations with all major stakeholders including, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, World Bank and European Union through Project SAIGE, representatives of SROs, members of the scientific community in the Republic of Serbia, research organizations, individual researchers.

In 2022, the Science Fund continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (MPNTR), as well as other public institutions, including the newly formed Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation established on October 26th, 2022. Resources allocated by relevant ministries through the budget of the Republic of Serbia have facilitated financial support for scientific research programs administered by the Science Fund.

Throughout the year, regular cooperation and communication persisted, addressing key matters related to the institution's operations, program implementation, initiation of new funding programs, and efforts to enhance and promote science in Serbia. This ongoing communication took various forms, including quarterly reports on Science Fund activities, visits by ministry representatives, joint meetings, and interactions with representatives of the scientific community and international institutions collaborating on science development in Serbia.



# Support from World Bank and European Union through Project SAIGE

European Union and World Bank are key partners who have contributed to the development of Science Fund, not only by providing funds for project implementation, but also by supporting the development of procedures and strengthening the internal capacities of the Science Fund.

Funding for the Project SAIGE was provided by the budget of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation), through a loan and technical support from the World Bank, and non-refundable financial support from the European Union.

The goal of the Project SAIGE is to improve the relevance and excellence of scientific research, as well as to raise the capacity of scientific research organizations, and to promote innovative entrepreneurship and access to funding for company growth, to contribute to the growth and competitiveness of the Serbian economy.

During 2022, representatives of the Science Fund held regular meetings with associates from the World Bank engaged in monitoring the implementation of the Project SAIGE. Representatives of Science Fund regularly informed representatives of the WB and other participants of the Project SAIGE about ongoing activities. Cooperation with the WB included regular communication regarding program activities and the preparation of new programs.

Over the past year, representatives from the World Bank were hosted by the Science Fund on three different occasions. Science Fund hosted the delegation of the World Bank, organizing thematic meetings with a wider circle of collaborators on the Project SAIGE, including the beneficiaries of the funds, i.e. scientists.



*Visit of delegations of the World Bank and the European Union*



*Visit of the Regional Director of the World Bank for the Western Balkans*

Delegations of the World Bank and the European Union visited the Science Fund on September 12, 2022. Science Fund representatives presented work and programs of the Science Fund. During the meeting, Science Fund discussed with partners the improvement of procedures, and further development of Science Fund's capacities. Representatives of the World Bank and the European Union praised the development of Science Fund programs and procedures.

On October 5, 2022, a joint meeting was organized, which was attended by Shaoqing Yu, the regional director of the World Bank for the Western Balkans. The meeting was attended by the World Bank Country Manager for Serbia, Europe and Central Asia Nikola Pontara, other representatives of the World Bank, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia, Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Nikola Tesla Institute of Electrical Engineering, and Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia.

The participants presented the activities and plans of their institutions within the further implementation of the Project SAIGE. Science Fund also presented several projects funded within PROMIS 2020 program.



# Cooperation with experts on environmental protection, social impacts, and ethical issues

As part of building capacity of the Science Fund, within the Project SAIGE were hired experts on environmental protection, social impacts, and ethical issues who evaluate compliance of projects with ESMF plan. During 2022, these experts evaluated projects funded within the Program IDEAS. As a result of the experts' assessments, the Science Fund organized meetings with the principal investigators of certain projects that World Bank experts identified as requiring increased oversight regarding environmental, social, and ethical impacts.

Out of a total of 105 projects approved for funding, 40 projects were marked as projects which needed to go through additional checks related to the impact on the environment, social and ethical issues. For this purpose, the Science Fund organized a total of 40 individual meetings with principal investigators of selected projects in the period from April 8 to June 23, 2022. During 40 meetings, a total of 50 recommendations were issued for 24 projects. The recommendations were related to the creation of documented information/instructions/procedures for work in the laboratory, waste management, and preparation of the project proposals.

In the period from October to December 2022, Science Fund organized 10 supervisory visits attended by experts on environment, social and ethical issues engaged through the Project SAIGE, as well as representatives of the PIU team, and representatives of the Science Fund.

## Innovation strategy consulting Company - CARSA

Through Project SAIGE, Science Fund hired CARSA, an innovation strategy consulting company, for evaluation of the work and programs of Science Fund.

CARSA conducted surveys with applicants and users of funds on the first 5 programs of the Science Fund (PROMIS, IDEAS, AI, COVID-19, and DIASPORA), and comparative analysis of the surveys revealed that principal investigators positively assessed their participation in the Science Fund programs and their impact on achieving excellence in scientific research activities in Serbia. According to their opinion, implementation of the funded projects strengthens their professional capacities, and empower young researchers to manage large scientific projects.

International evaluators, in their analysis of the Science Fund's work, particularly emphasized the results related to scientists' opinions on the impact and importance of individual programs of the Science Fund, PROMIS and IDEAS, on the scientific community in Serbia. On a scale from 1 to 5, the impact of the Science Fund programs on the professional development of researchers received mostly positive ratings from principal investigators.

CARSA, as well, evaluated projects funded by the Science Fund. This agency will continue its work during 2023.

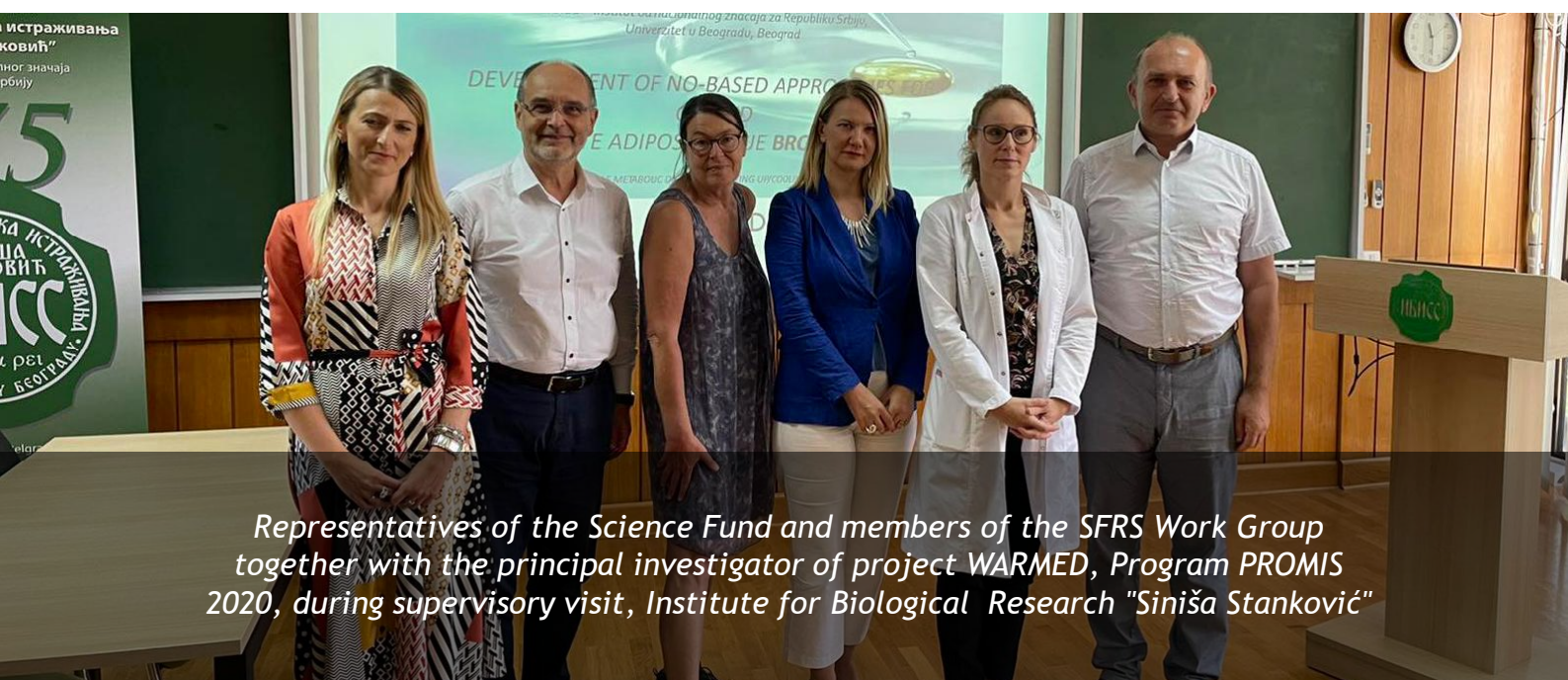




# International Work Group for design and further development of SFRS programs and procedures

Through Project SAIGE, Science Fund established the International Work Group for design and further development of SFRS programs and procedures, which consists of foreign collaborators: Dr. Dorothea Sturm, Dr. Adrian Kuraj, Dr. Franci Demsar and Dr. Roko Andricevic. The representatives of the work group are internationally recognized experts with many years of experience in scientific research and management of European science funds, and they actively participate and contribute to the development of the Science Fund.

During 2022, the representatives of the Science Fund held regular weekly meetings with members of the Work Group, where they worked on improving the evaluation procedures and monitoring of project implementation, based on successful practices from European countries, and in accordance with the legal framework in Serbia.



*Representatives of the Science Fund and members of the SFRS Work Group together with the principal investigator of project WARMED, Program PROMIS 2020, during supervisory visit, Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković"*

Thanks to a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the work procedures of the Science Fund, the Work Group proposed a certain number of new procedures that have already been implemented in new programs, and several changes were proposed regarding the Law on the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia that would enable greater efficiency of the Science Fund's work.

After a careful analysis of data and proposals, SFRS had simplified the administrative procedures for preparation and submission of project proposals, project implementation, project monitoring and project reporting.



# International Collaboration

## Science Europe

In November 2021, Science Fund proudly joined Science Europe, becoming a member of this esteemed organization. Collaborating with science funds and research agencies from over 40 European countries, Science Fund actively engages in the initiatives of Science Europe. The organization is committed to enhancing the landscape of scientific research, ultimately fostering a positive impact on the long-term development of European research area.

As the newest member of Science Europe, Science Fund has swiftly gained recognition for its rapid advancement, commitment to developing procedures aligned with international standards, and its significant contributions to scientific advancements through funding and support for research projects.

Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić, the Acting Director of Science Fund, participated in a meeting on September 15, 2022. The meeting centered around the international agreement on reforming the evaluation of scientific research, highlighting Science Fund's active involvement in shaping the future of scientific evaluation.

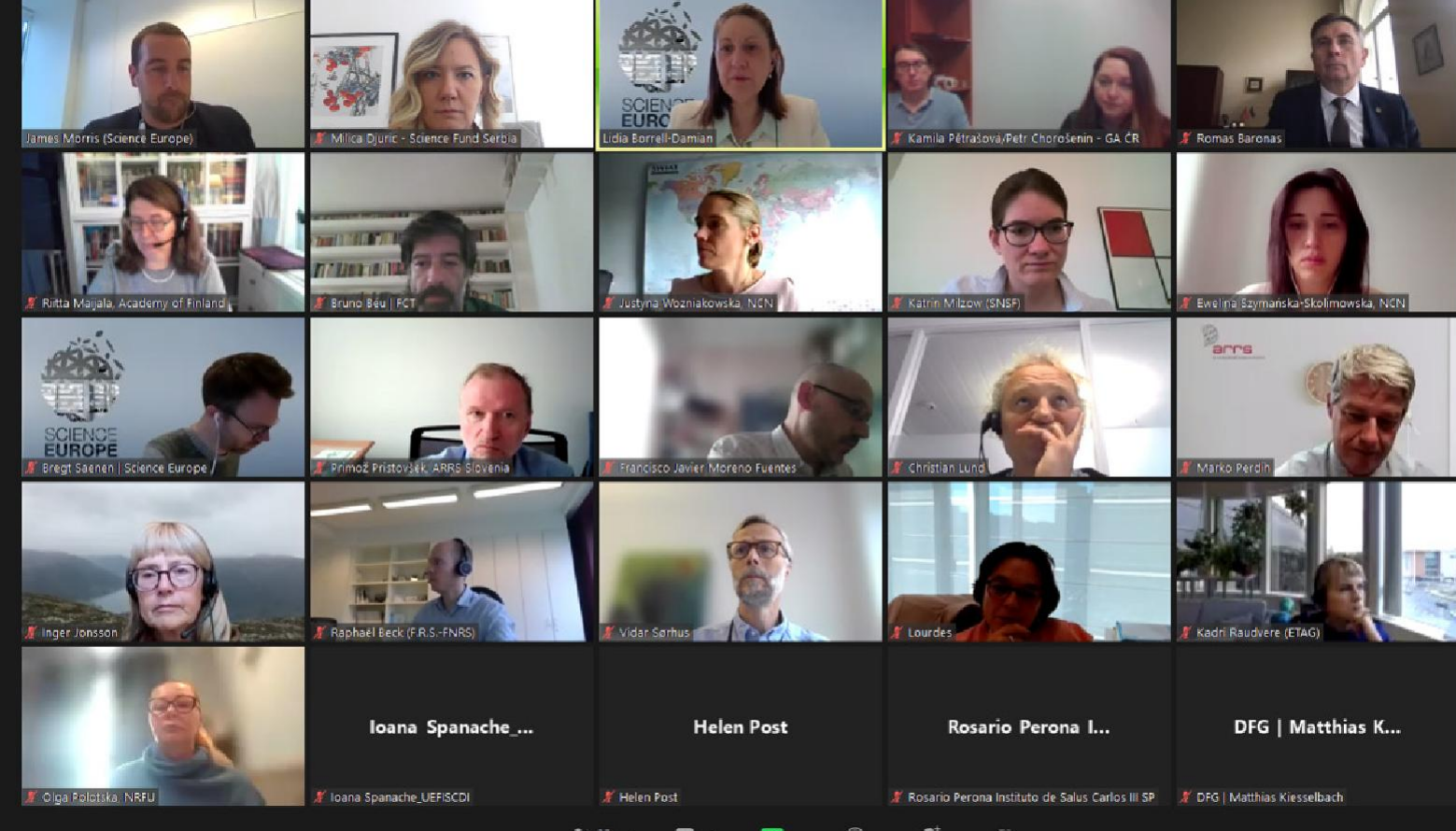
Under the umbrella of Science Europe's activities, Science Fund took part in the "Belmont" forum, a gathering of institutions supporting research in environmental protection. Two "online" workshops were conducted, focusing on funding and support for research addressing the critical issue of climate change.

From December 12-13, 2022, "UK Research and Innovation," in partnership with Science Europe, organized a regional meeting of European institutions dedicated to financing science and scientific research. This event provided a valuable platform for sharing insights and fostering collaboration among institutions.

In the spirit of partnership and progress, Science Fund continues to collaborate with European partners, actively contributing to the development of programs and procedures that advance scientific research. The commitment to these collaborative efforts underscores Science Fund's dedication to the collective advancement of scientific knowledge and innovation on the European stage.

In November 2022, representatives from the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia actively participated in the session of the General Assembly of the Science Europe organization held in Zurich and hosted by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The assembly delved into discussions on forging new standards for evaluating science and scientific work, enhancing excellence and competitiveness in research, and addressing the ethical dimensions of communication between the research community, politics, and the public.





*Online meeting within the organization Science Europe*

Collaborating with partners across Europe, the Science Fund remains dedicated to advancing its program. A key focus is on developing criteria for project selection that not only uphold the highest quality standards but are also aligned with those in other countries.

## International Cooperation Development Plan for 2023

In 2022 Science Fund has established a new sector dedicated to international cooperation. Simultaneously, Science Fund has initiated the development of new procedures to outline ways of funding international projects.

A particularly important aspect of international cooperation development in 2023 will be the establishment of bilateral and multilateral collaborations with related institutions abroad. In this regard, initial contacts have already been made with potential partners, with meetings scheduled to take place in 2023.



# Cooperation and Open Communication with the Scientific Community in Serbia

Science Fund gives great attention to openness and transparency as the guiding principles of its work. In preparation and implementation of its Programs, Science Fund reaches out to the scientific community with the aim to get feedback that will improve the quality of the prepared Programs. Since its establishment Science Fund has been dedicated to communication with researchers.

By promoting open communication, Science Fund builds transparency and trust within the scientific community. Researchers provide feedback on funding priorities, suggest innovative ideas, and offer insights important for the work of Science Fund. This collaborative approach strengthens the research ecosystem.

Communication and collecting feedback are performed through thematic workshops, webinars, open-door sessions, info days, surveys, and many other forms of communication channels.

To ensure open communication and valuable feedback from scientific community Science Fund organized meetings and visits to the universities in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Novi Pazar. Representatives of Science Fund presented the results, programs, and work of the Science Fund, while the representatives of scientific community shared their view of procedures and programs and gave important suggestions and comments about the future improvements.





*Science Fund visits the University of Novi Sad (top left), University of Kragujevac (top right), University of Belgrade (bottom left) and State University of Novi Pazar (bottom right).*

At the ETRAN conference, the oldest scientific conference in Serbia, which was held at the State University in Novi Pazar, Acting Director of Science Fund, Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovicic, announced the opening of new programs of the Science Fund.

Meetings with the scientific community represented an opportunity to discuss the experiences during the submission of project proposals, and implementation of projects within Science Fund's programs, as well as to start a constructive discussion on ways to further improve the processes.



*Meeting with representatives of the scientific research organizations of the University of Belgrade*

Science Fund participated in the meeting of Presidency of the Association of Institutes of Serbia. The session was attended by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technological Development Dr. Jelena Begović, State Secretary Vukašin Grozdić, Assistant Minister Marina Soković, and Acting Director of Science Fund Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić.

Science Fund organized a working meeting with the project principals of 59 PROMIS projects. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development and Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. The main topics of the meeting included discussions about the experiences from the PROMIS Program, recommendations for future programs for young researchers, as well as conversations about project results and the ambitions of project teams for continuing their research.

Following the meeting, the Science Fund created a specific questionnaire for principal investigators within this program, who had the opportunity to propose plans for the continuity of research and suggest ways to transfer scientific knowledge to the industry.



*Scientific Conference at Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art*



*Meeting of the Presidency of the Association of Institutes of Serbia*

# Open-door Sessions and Workshops

Science Fund regularly organizes open-door sessions and workshops for researchers. In 2022, Science Fund organized open-door sessions during the preparation of project proposals within programs IDENTITIES, Green Program, and PRISMA program. Science Fund organized workshops for principal investigators and team members participating in the implementation of 105 projects within Program IDEAS. In the second quarter of 2022, the Science Fund initiated specialized workshops aimed at equipping research teams with the necessary skills to use and submit reports through an innovative new software system. At the request of 43 project investigators and team members, additional online consultations were organized in the Q2 of 2022 to provide further support for researchers when submitting quarterly administrative and financial reports.

<b>2022</b>	<b>IDENTITIES</b>	<b>PRISMA</b>	<b>GREEN PROGRAM</b>
Open Door Online Sessions	5	8	8
Participants	269	1318	130
Q&A Published Online	309	800+	115
Q&A (e-mails)	200	300	51

## **Total**

<b>Open Door Online Sessions</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Published Online</b>	<b>Q&amp;A (e-mails)</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>1717</b>	<b>1224+</b>	<b>551</b>

## **2022 Program IDEAS**

Workshops	
Participants	562
Online consultations	

Science Fund created specialized email addresses for researchers to send inquiries related to the Program: [identiteti@fondzanauku.gov.rs](mailto:identiteti@fondzanauku.gov.rs), [prizma@fondzanauku.gov.rs](mailto:prizma@fondzanauku.gov.rs), [zeleni@fondzanauku.gov.rs](mailto:zeleni@fondzanauku.gov.rs). All other information about the programs were available on the Science Fund website and social networks. Questions and answers from the open-door sessions were regularly published on the Science Fund's website to provide complete information to all researchers.



# Online surveys

Science Fund highly values feedback from the scientific community. After each Open call, the Science Fund organizes online surveys to collect feedback, comments, and suggestions for future programs and procedures. Through these surveys, everyone who applied to or was interested in Program can use the opportunity to communicate all issues pertaining, which can contribute to the future work of the Science Fund.

# Science Fund newsletter

During 2022, Science Fund started publishing quarterly newsletters on activities and work, to inform the scientific community, but also the public, with all important information about the work of the institution, as well as the results of programs and scientific research projects.

The newsletter contains all important information about the current programs and activities of the Science Fund, news and plans, information about significant results of the Science Fund as an institution and projects and scientists supported through the programs, as well as examples of successful projects or notable media appearances by scientists.

# Mail address for collecting feedback

The research community is also invited to send their comments, suggestions, and opinion about programs, procedures, or SF work in general. For this purpose, there is a dedicated email address: [misljenje@fondznanauku.gov.rs](mailto:misljenje@fondznanauku.gov.rs).

Communication and collecting feedback are also performed during supervisory visits to the project teams and research organizations as a part of project implementation monitoring activities. The members of project teams present the research results while the SF staff visits the premises and performs all necessary checks. Such visits are always opportunities for discussion about the results, further ambitions and needs, potential obstacles, and plans.



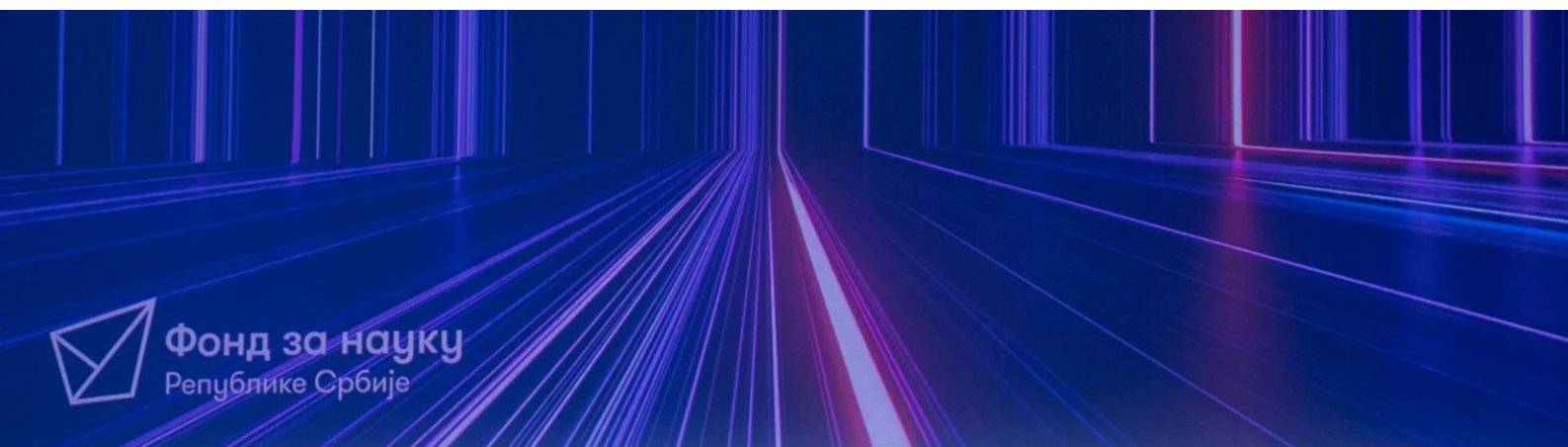


# Events of the Science Fund

## Celebrating three years since the establishment and the opening of the Program IDENTITIES

On March 2022 Science Fund celebrated third anniversary since the establishment and officially opened the new funding program - Program IDENTITIES.

The event was attended by Acting Director of the Science Fund, Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić, the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development in the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Branko Ružić, and principal investigators of the funded projects, who addressed the audience at Yugoslav Film Archive. The celebration featured short promotional films that showcased the Fund's accomplishments over the past three years, highlighting achievements in funding and executing scientific research projects, as well as successes in fostering international cooperation and attaining the highest standards in scientific development.



*The event on celebrating three years of work and opening of the IDENTITIES program*



Science Fund event - Celebrating three years of work and opening of the Program IDENTITIES

# Evening of Green Science - Opening of the two new SFRS programs

On June 29th, Science Fund organized „Evening of Green Science“, an event at Botanical Garden “Jevremovac” in Belgrade to mark the opening of two new programs - PRISMA and the Green Program of Cooperation between Science and Industry. The event included a special presentation of PROMIS projects focusing on ecology and environmental protection. Principal investigators presented the project outcomes, accompanied by illustrations from the publication PROMIS 2020-2022, published in collaboration with Center for the Promotion of Science.

The event welcomed distinguished guests, including Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, Emanuele Giaufret, World Bank Country Manager for Serbia, Nicola Pontara, State Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Prof. Dr. Marijana Dukić-Mijatović, representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, foreign embassies, university rectors, deans, directors of SROs, members of the scientific community, business leaders, and media representatives.

In his speech, Ambassador Giaufret emphasized that investing in science and research in Serbia is not merely an expense but a strategic investment benefiting both the scientific community and society at large, both nationally and internationally. World Bank Country Manager Nicola Pontara underscored the objective of investing in science to yield practical applications that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Prof. Dr. Dukić-Mijatović expressed that through the Science Fund, as well as other institutions, the Republic of Serbia ensures the quality and excellence of its scientists' research, both within the country and on the global stage, aiding them in meeting the highest international standards.



*Evening of Green Science - Opening of the two new programs of the Science Fund*



*Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, Emanuele Giaufret, State Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Prof. Dr. Marijana Dukić-Mijatović, Acting Director of the Science Fund, Dr. Milica Đurić-Jovičić, World Bank Country Manager for Serbia Nicola Pontara*

## Participation at the International Fair of Technics and Technical Achievements

Science Fund proudly participated as an exhibitor at the International Fair of Technics and Technical Achievements in Belgrade from May 24 to 27, 2022. This event brought together exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations and solutions of Industry 4.0. Main themes of the exhibition included digitalization, artificial intelligence, decarbonization, circular economy, and other pivotal trends in science and industry.

For the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, prioritizing investment in science and supporting cutting-edge scientific research remains paramount. The objective is to foster the development of innovative solutions that can address challenges across various facets of life. The International Fair served as an excellent platform to unveil the outcomes of projects funded by the Science Fund. These projects, applicable in sectors such as healthcare, economy, energy, education, finance, information and communication technologies, and pharmacy, showcased the Fund's commitment to making a tangible impact.

Noteworthy is the rising prominence of artificial intelligence as a key research area. The results emerging from these endeavors are already reshaping the global landscape, influencing the way the world operates. During the event, the stand of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia garnered attention, including a visit from the esteemed Minister of Education, Science, and Technological Development Branko Ružić.



Minister Ružić, in acknowledging the projects supported by the Science Fund's Program for the Development of Projects in the field of artificial intelligence, emphasized the significant strides made by our scientists. These achievements are pushing the boundaries of science and transforming our perspective on the world.



*Science Fund participating in International Fair of Technics and Technical Achievements in Belgrade*

# Promotion of the projects

Promoting our supported projects and researchers, in addition to informing the public, can lead to new partnerships among research groups and new collaborations between science and industry. It also motivates other researchers to apply and compete for funding while all stakeholders can learn about new scientific activities in Serbia.

During 2022, Science Fund informed the scientific community and the public about current activities and events of importance for scientific research through its website and social networks.

Science Fund actively worked to promote science, scientific results and the importance of science for the economical, technological, social and cultural progress of Serbia, and provided the public with timely and transparent information. To this end, numerous reports on scientific projects, news, articles on projects and other topics important to the scientific community and the public were published, interviews were organized with principal investigators, as well as guest appearances on television with national coverage. In the media, the representatives of the Science Fund emphasized the impartial, transparent and objective evaluation procedures of funded projects, as well as the opening of new programs.

The image shows a screenshot of a National Geographic website article. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the National Geographic logo and various menu items in Serbian: 'NASLONNA', 'ISTORIJA I FESTIVALI', 'KULURA', 'PRISUDA', 'PROMENAMA', 'BIOLOGIJA', 'SUVREMENE VESTI', 'KURIOZNE VESTI', 'ZANIMA LJUDI', and 'JUL'. Below the navigation bar is a sub-header: 'Potencijalni rezervoari gena: Autohtone sorte trešanja u borbi protiv posledica klimatskih promena'. The main article title is 'Potencijalni rezervoari gena: Autohtone sorte trešanja u borbi protiv posledica klimatskih promena'. The author is 'KATA AGRONOMIČKI' and the date is '10.07.2022'. The article text begins with 'Široj Balkanu u privatnim baštama se kriju autohtone sorte voća sa osobinama koje naučnicima mogu da pomognu u borbi protiv klimatskih promena.' Below the text is a large image of dark cherries on a branch. To the left of the article is a vertical advertisement for 'IZABERI SVET BEZ GRANICA' featuring a smartphone and the 'mts' logo. To the right of the article is a 'NAJNOVIJE' section with three small article thumbnails: 'Povlašćenim regijama pasterizovane svinjske da se ne uništi uslovi na...', 'Kako čemo gledati mateneba kije, a kada pomenimo Mizar? Astronomski...', and 'Dvema mladima Muzumelima i Afandil sa pomeni i savetih vrsta stihova...'. At the bottom right of the 'NAJNOVIJE' section is another thumbnail: 'Šta je pokušao iznaći, kako smo izabrali nam male pomeni da ona...'



Dokle je Srbija stigla u radu na baterijama koje ne štete prirodi

5 Podeli: f t e

# Dokle je Srbija stigla u radu na baterijama koje ne štete prirodi

ZELENI KUTAK | Autor: Predrag V. Popović | 27. dec 2022 11:01 | 5 komentara

Podeli: f t e



## NAJNOVIJE VESTI



Kako da pobedite jutarnji umor?

ZDRAVLJE | pre nekoliko minuta | 0



Predsednik Brazila obišao mesta upada Bolsonaroovih pristalica

SVET | pre nekoliko minuta | 0



Nova.rs: Blam za Srbiju - neverovatne greške na natpisu na granici sa Rumunijom

VESTI | pre 15 min | 1

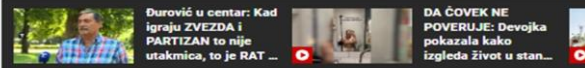


Simptomi akutne respiratorne infekcije i šta je to bakterijska „superinfekcija“

ZDRAVLJE | pre 34 min | 0

Politika Svet Društvo Hronika Beograd Srbija Vojvodina Korona virus Srbija Srpska info Auto

### NAJNOVIJE VESTI



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## Zubi neandertalaca stari 300.000 godina pronađeni u pećini kod Niša

U pećini Velika Balanica u Sićevačkoj klisuri kod Niša otkrivena su četiri zuba koja su pripadala najmanje dvema neandertalskim individuumama (odrasla i dete), saopštili su sa Filozofskog fakulteta u Beogradu.

Piše: Blic • 10.04.2022. 07:46

2

SLUŠAJ VESTI 0:00 / 3:19



Zubi pračoveka

VESTI EKOLOGIČNO



19:36 EKOLOGIČNO

Informera/obz | 09.04.2022.

f t

## ŠOK OTKRIĆE! Svake nedelje pojedemo po jednu karticu! Stručnjaci savetuju: "Pratite brojeve na ambalaži"

Milioni tona plastike završe na otpadima širom sveta, ali delić toga lancem ishrane dođe i do ljudskog organizma, do beba pogotovo, upozoravaju stručnjaci

Project Cov2Soul, Program COVID-19, article, "Danas"; Project NEEMO, Program IDEAS, article, "Blic"; Project Detox, Program PROMIS, article, "Informer"; Project HiSuperBat, Program PROMIS, article, "N1" portal





## Srpski naučnici otkrivaju uticaj gena na podložnost koroni



Naučni tim sa Medicinskog fakulteta u Beogradu, u okviru projekta Specijalnog programa istraživanja kovida 19 koji finansira Fond za nauku Srbije, otkriva povezanost gena sa podložnošću za nastanak kovida 19, kao i pojavu težih oblika te bolesti kod pacijenata.

Kako je saopšteno iz Fonda za nauku, projekat AntioxIdentification, pod vođstvom prof. dr Tatjane Simić, redovnog profesorkom Medicinskog fakulteta i dopisnim članom SANU, došao je do rezultata koji će u budućnosti omogućiti personalizovani pristup lečenju pacijenata.

## Tim beogradskog Medicinskog fakulteta otkrio vezu gena i korone

09:17:10 | Autor: Andrija Lazarević | 31. jan. 2022. 11:54

Podail, f, t, w, p



Naučni tim sa Medicinskog fakulteta Univerziteta u Beogradu, u okviru projekta Specijalnog programa istraživanja kovida-19, otkrio je povezanost gena sa podložnošću za nastanak kovida kao i pojavu težih oblika te bolesti, saopštio je danas Fond za nauku.

PROVOZALI SMO SE  
OBILAZNICOM OKO ČAKA  
**NEMA VIŠE  
GUŽVE NA  
PRELJINI, ALI  
NI ČEKANJA NA  
SEMAFORIMA**



9 770354 928170  
**KOJEMO LI SA  
"MORAMO" ILI NIKAKO  
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SLOBODNE  
SRBIJE NEĆE  
SA DILASOM**

**Blic** 3. DECEMBAR  
2021. Broj 1338  
117 strana  
**SUBOTOM**

VELIKO  
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MEDICINSKOG  
FAKULTETA

SRPSKI  
NAUČNICI  
OTKRILI:  
KAKO DNK  
UTICE NA KORONU

REZULTATE  
ISTRAŽIVANJA, KOJE  
SE SPROVODI U  
SRBIJI, PREPOZNALA  
I SVETSKA  
ZDRAVSTVENA  
ORGANIZACIJA

**ODMOR U BEOGRADU  
NOLE UŽIVA  
NA ADI**

**NAPUŠTILA NAS DRVA  
JUGOSLOVENSKE SCENE  
PREMINULA  
GLUMICA VEŠNA  
MALOHODŽIĆ**

zdravlje

## Srpski naučnici otkrivaju: Kako geni utiču zaražavanje koronom i teže oblike bolesti

Nedeljnik.rs · 31/01/2022

Share f t G+



Foto: Fond za nauku

Naučni tim sa Medicinskog fakulteta Univerziteta u Beogradu, u okviru projekta Specijalnog programa istraživanja COVID-19 koji finansira Fond za nauku Republike Srbije, otkrio povezanost gena sa podložnošću za nastanak COVID-19, kao i pojavu težih oblika ove bolesti kod pacijenata.

Projekat AntioxIdentification pod vođstvom prof. dr Tatjane Simić, redovnom profesorkom Medicinskog fakulteta i dopisnim članom SANU, došao je do rezultata koji će u budućnosti omogućiti personalizovani pristup lečenju pacijenata. U okviru redovnog praćenja reži projekata, Fond za nauku je posetio ovaj istraživački tim i laboratorije u kojima sprovodi istraživanja.

Articles about the AntioxIdentification project, Program COVID-19



english | deutsch

## Mladi istraživač iz Instituta za fiziku u Beogradu osvojio prestižni ERC grant "težak" 1,5 mil EUR



*Article about the project investigator of the Project Key2SM, Program PROMIS, Dr. Jakša Vučičević from the Institute of Physics in Belgrade, on the awarding of the prestigious ERC grant worth €1.5 million, article, "Ekapija"*



*Interview with a member of the Project New SMART Synthesis, Program IDEAS, Dr. Filip Bihelović, winner of the "Thieme Chemistry" Journals Award, "RTS 1"*



# Science Fund in Media and on Social Networks

During the 2022, Science Fund was mentioned in 1148 media reports, articles, news and interviews, and most of the announcements had a positive or neutral tone. Media articles were published in the following types of media: **900 on web portals, 136 in print media, 100 in TV format and 12 in radio program.**

**1148** Total number of press releases during 2022:



**900**

Internet



**136**

Print Editions



**100**

TV



**12**

Radio

Posts on social networks included all current events related to the work of Science Fund, as well as scientific research projects and scientists whose scientific work is supported within the Science Fund's program. News on the website also followed the most important activities of Science Fund.

During the 2022, an increase in the number of followers on social networks was recorded. The number of social media followers at the end of 2022 is listed below:



LinkedIn account Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia:

**5962 followers**



Instagram account @fondzanauku\_rs:

**2861 followers**



Facebook account @Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia:

**1997 followers**



Twitter account @fondzanauku\_rs:

**1197 followers**



# Analytics

Science Fund conducted a financial analysis of the distribution of funds with respect to geographical distribution, Scientific Research Organizations, and scientific areas within 5 programs that were in the implementation phase during the year 2022 (PROMIS, AI, DIASPORA, IDEAS, COVID-19).

## Lead SROs (SRO TYPE)

Faculties	169
Institutes	109
Integrated Universities	4

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY SRO TYPE (Lead SROs + PARTNERS)

Faculties	€25.011.598,55	56.92%
Institutes	€17.888.435,22	40.71%
Integrated Universities	€551.957,60	1.26%
Innovation Centers	€490.177,6	1.12%

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY LEAD SRO

Belgrade	77,24%
Novi Sad	16,02%
Niš	3,28%
Kragujevac	2,26%
Čačak	0,92%
Subotica	0,06%
Sombor	0,04%
Kruševac	0,03%
Vranje	0,03%
Valjevo	0,02%
Leskovac	0,02%
Bor	0,01%



## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY RESEARCH DISCIPLINE

Natural Sciences	<b>29%</b>
Engineering and Technological Sciences	<b>24%</b>
Biomedical Sciences	<b>19%</b>
Biotechnical sciences	<b>13%</b>
Social Sciences and Humanities	<b>12%</b>
Artificial Intelligence	<b>3%</b>

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY COST TYPE

Personnel	<b>49,69%</b>
Equipment, Consumables, Publications, Travel	<b>32,77%</b>
Indirect Costs	<b>10,30%</b>
Services and Subcontracting	<b>5,23%</b>



*"Just as a flash of lightning illuminates the entire horizon before a traveler in the dark night, so do such flashes in the mind of a genius open new horizons in science and reveal new fields of knowledge."*

Milutin Milanković, Serbian mathematician and astronomer





# Science Fund

of the Republic of Serbia