



RSF

Russian Science
Foundation

2024
Performance
Highlights

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues,

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly emphasized the importance of the country's technological leadership. The Russian Science Foundation is one of the tools for that task. The Foundation interacts with federal and regional authorities, the Russian Academy of Sciences and high-tech businesses to coordinate efforts in scientific and technological development.

In 2024, the RSF supported 60,000 scientists, more than 70% of whom were young researchers. These eager minds will determine where science is heading, and therefore what the world will become in the near future. These awards go not only to those who work in the field of basic research, but also to those who solve specific applied problems that are so necessary today.

The results of the research we fund are recognized in wide research community, among the Foundation's grant recipients, who publish their works in the most credible journals, and by those who receive national science awards. All decisions in the Foundation are made on the basis of scientific and technical review carried out by highly qualified specialists in their fields. We are constantly improving the system of review: members of the expert councils are yearly rotated on the basis of open voting. Currently, the corps of the RSF reviewers engages more than 7 000 highly professional researchers.

Throughout 2024, the Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary. Thousands of scientists from all over the country talked about their research and the results obtained with our support. More than a million schoolchildren and their parents, students, and postgraduates became participants of the Foundation's educational events. The priority area in applied research was funding for projects in microelectronics. The Foundation is a participant in the federal project «Training of Personnel and Scientific Foundation for the Electronics Industry», the funding of which is provided by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia. Today, 85 projects are implemented within 53 technological proposals. Among our most active industry partners are the country's leading microelectronics enterprises such as Element, Mikron, Reshetnev, UPKB Detal, TsKBA, NIIME, etc.

Last year, Russian President signed a special decree in which he defined the strategic directions of the RSF development until 2030 and recognized RSF as an effective instrument

for scientific and technological development. Based on that strategy, we implement RSF development program, which includes activities in four priority areas: support for research and development of research teams with leading positions in certain areas of science; support for projects to develop promising and priority science-intensive

technologies to solve problems associated with major challenges for society, the state and science; support for young scientists and popularization of the achievements of Russian science.

In 2025, new funding programs will be offered and new forms of support will be tested. I am confident that the flexibility of the tools and services of the Foundation will allow us to create an even more effective space for the interaction of science, government and business to ensure the technological sovereignty of our country. I thank the researchers, the reviewers, our colleagues and trustees, the Foundation's team and everyone who contributed to the overall result. I am confident that we can achieve even greater results next year.

Vladimir Bespalov,

Director General of the Russian Science Foundation




ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Special Status

The Russian Science Foundation was founded by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation in November 2013, and its activities are regulated by a special federal law. The RSF is not a budgetary organisation. The Supervisory board chaired by the Aide to the President Andrey Fursenko consists of 20 members represented by leading scientists, academicians of the Russian Academy of Science, representatives of legislative and executive bodies.

Large Grants for Basic and Exploratory Research

The core activity of the RSF is funding basic and exploratory (problem-oriented) research through a variety of programs. The funding for programs and projects is based on a rigorous competitive selection process. The RSF research grant program provides sufficient financial support ranging from 1.5 to 32 million Russian rubles per project each year, which creates a comfortable environment for scientists and allows conducting research without seeking supplementary funds. The researcher awarded undertakes the responsibility to publish research results in the peer-reviewed international journals with high scientific impact. Each researcher in the grant application specifies that research output.

Applied Research Grants

Since 2023, in addition to supporting basic research, the Foundation has been funding experimental design and technology development in microelectronics. In the future, this applied research funding program will include chemistry and new materials, means of production and automation, and transport mobility.

Wide Spectrum of Research Fields

RSF provides funding in 9 research fields: mathematics, computer science and systems science; physics and space science; chemistry and material science; biology and life science; basic research for medicine; agricultural science; geosciences; humanities and social sciences; engineering. Each of these general research fields is comprised of the more specific sub-fields. In total, more than 600 branches of knowledge are on our classification list.

Best Projects Awards

The funding decisions are made by the independent and credible expert councils consisting of the leading scientists. RSF sets high standards for the merit of the project leaders willing to apply for grants. The chief merit is a researcher's academic reputation supported by the publications in peer-reviewed journals with high scientific impact.

Young Researchers Support

RSF strengthens support of young researchers contributing to the formation of the excellent future workforce in science. By our rules not less than half of the research team should be composed of the young researchers aged under 39 years.

Competent Review of the Research Projects

With the assistance of the research community we formed 4 expert councils specializing in evaluating specific research funding projects and programs in basic and applied research. We strive to constantly improve our review system through the regular rotation of the council members and through the collaboration with foreign reviewers. In a multi-layered review process, each proposal is evaluated by 2 to 5 external reviewers exclusively according to scientific merit; on the basis of these review reports, it is assessed by the members of an expert panel, and the final decision is made by an interdisciplinary expert council consisting of members that are regularly rotated by research community on the basis of the on-line voting process.

The rigorous review process involves AI-based toolkit that helps to find appropriate reviewers from internally developed database of some 6000 highly qualified reviewers in all research fields.

Transparency for the Research Community and Citizens

RSF developed an open database of the projects funded. Every internet user can access it to see the annotations of the projects supported and what research results are anticipated. We ensure copyright protection for the rights holders.

RSF IN 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

39.2 B RUR

Total Funding

(appx. 490 million \$US)

836

Organizations funded

55 K

Reviews completed

10 K

Ongoing projects

(Including projects underway
in 2024 that received funding in 2023)

17.5 K

Applications submitted

29.3 K

Publications

4.2 K

Experts

3 042

New project awards

41.4 K

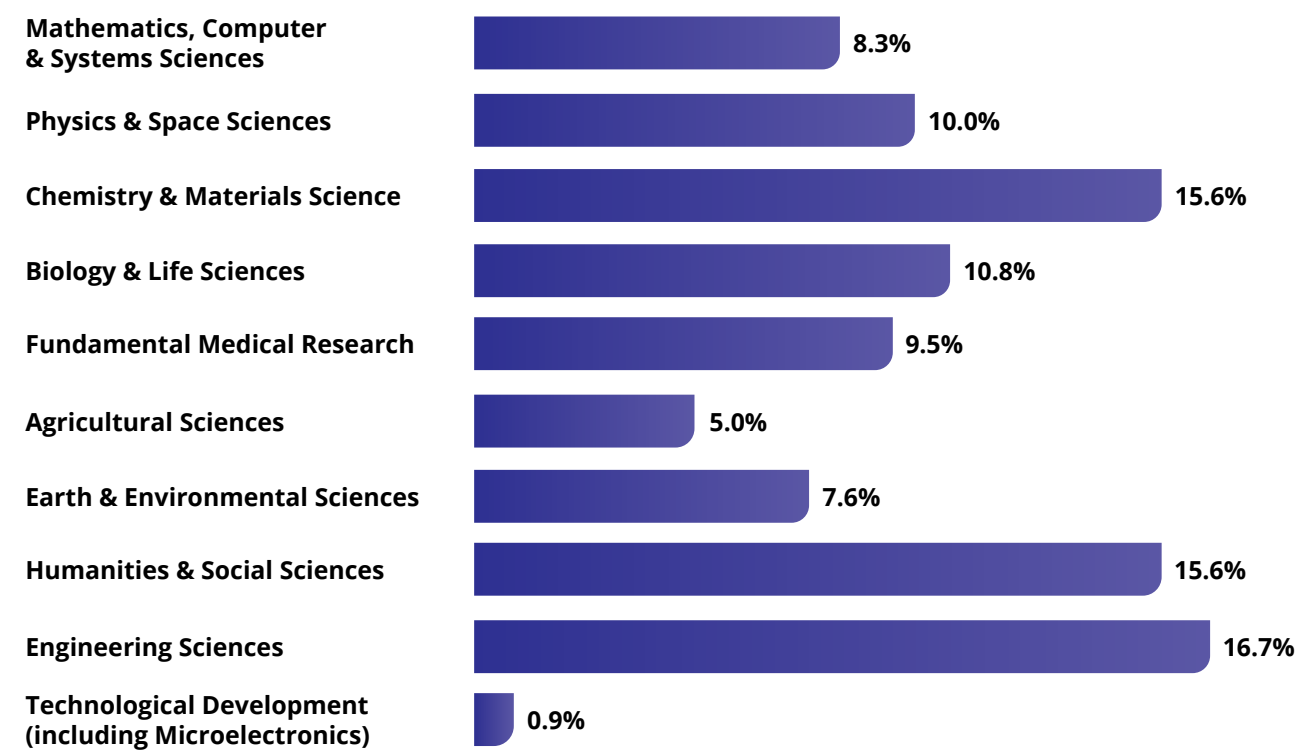
References in media

Project Finder

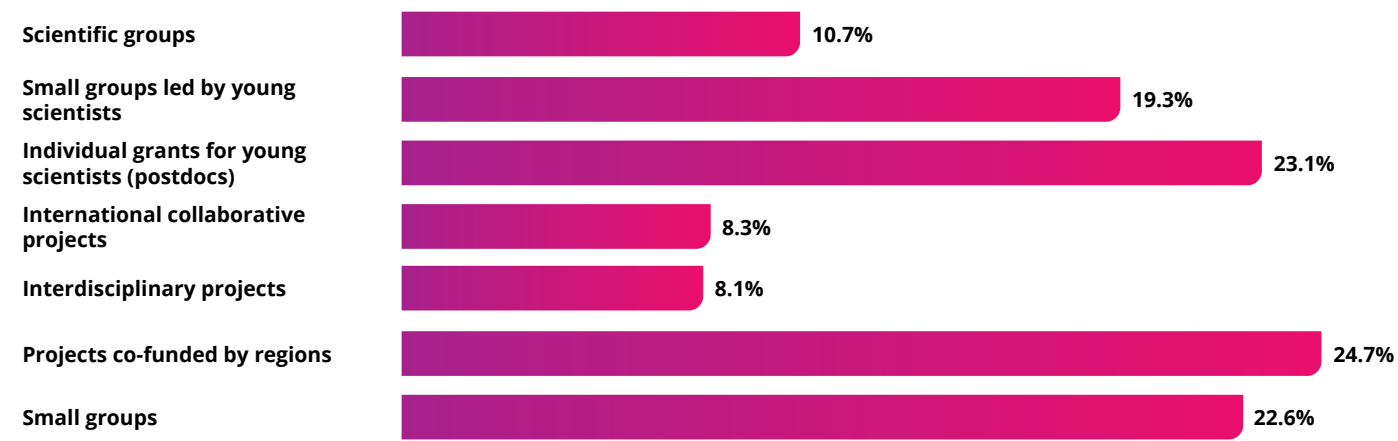


FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDING BY RESEARCH AREAS, %

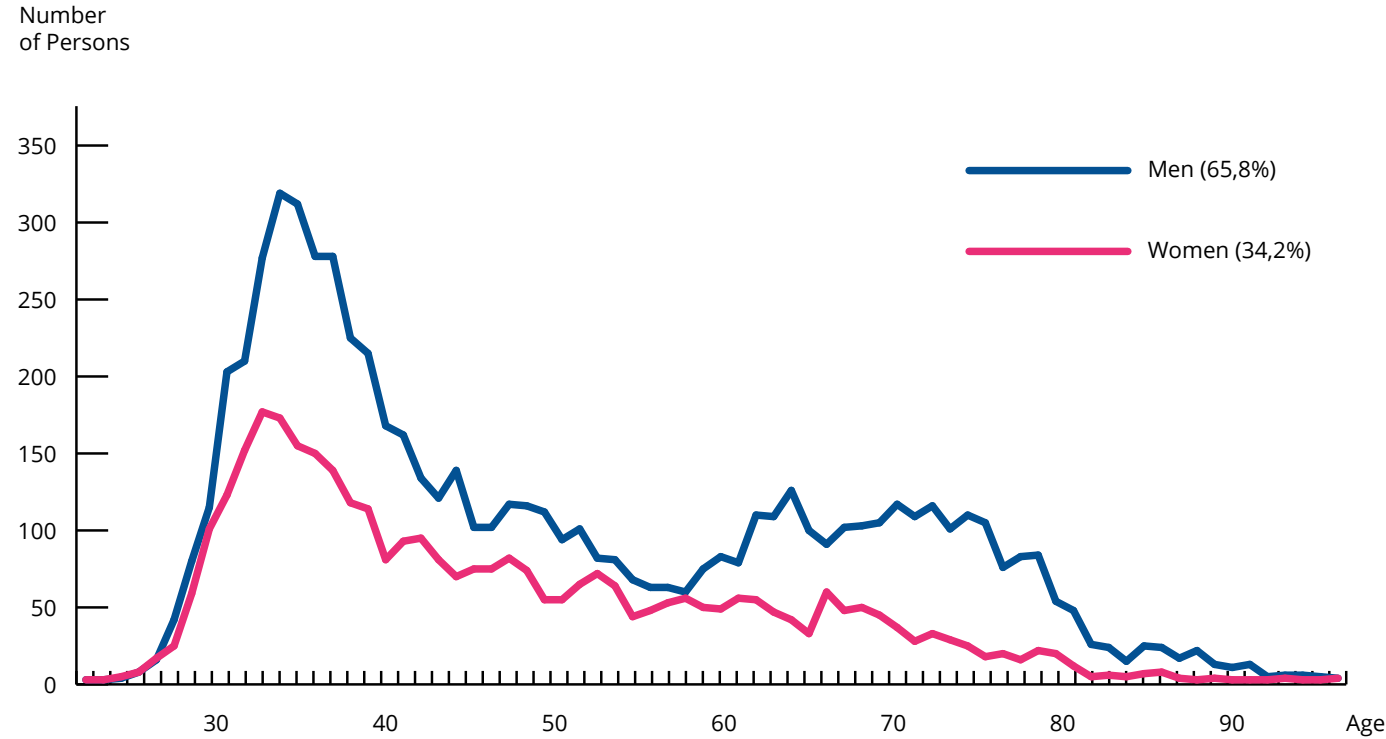


SUCCESS RATES BY FUNDING PROGRAMS, %

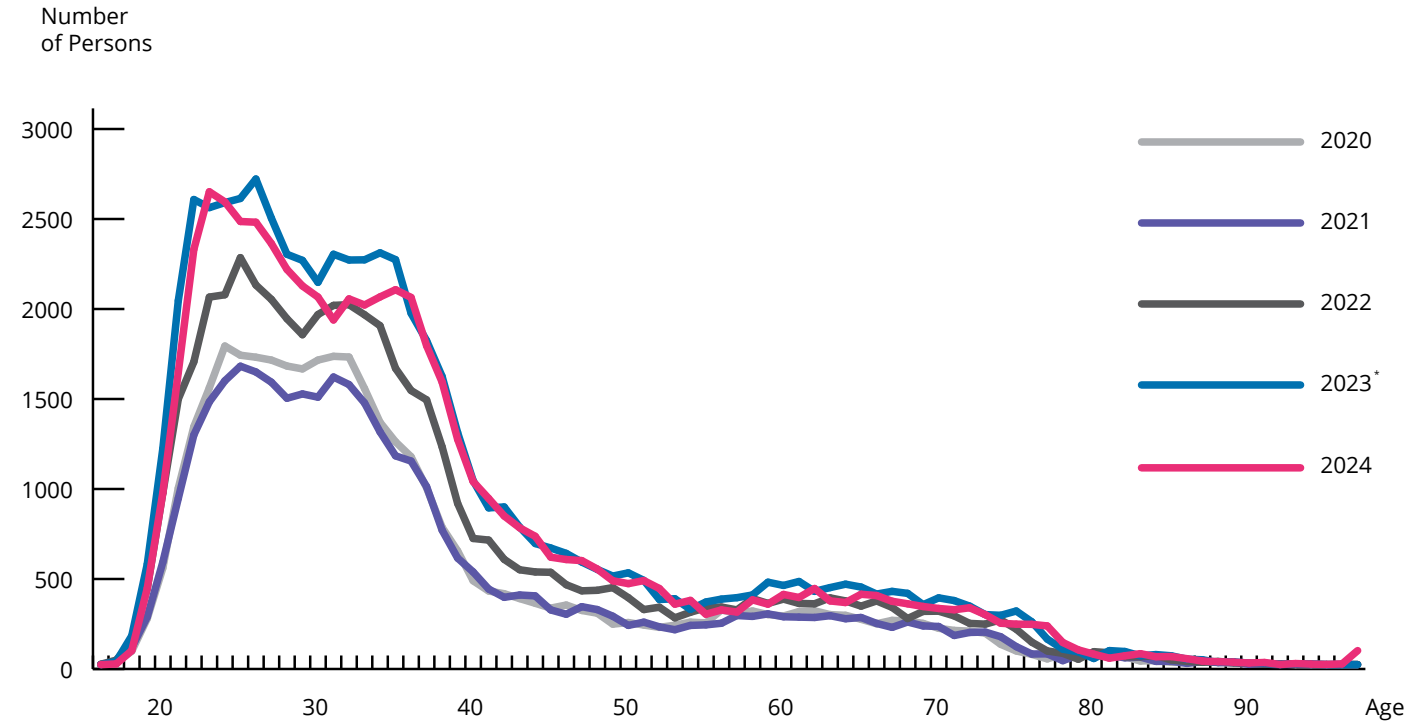


FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

GENDER DISTRUBUTION OF PI













AGE DISTRUBUTION OF PI



* Excluding data on the performers of the 2024 «Youth Competition» projects

FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS







TOP-10 ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED

	Projects Funded, %	Organization name
 Lomonosov Moscow State University	5.5	Lomonosov Moscow State University
 St Petersburg University	3.1	St Petersburg University
 Ural Federal University	2.0	Ural Federal University
 MIPT	1.8	Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology
 Kazan Federal University	1.5	Kazan Federal University
 Higher School of Economics	1.5	Higher School of Economics
 TOMSK POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	1.2	Tomsk Polytechnic University
 ITMO	1.2	ITMO University
 POLYTECH	1.1	Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University
 RESEARCH CENTER OF BIOTECHNOLOGY RAS	1.1	Federal Research Centre «Fundamentals of Biotechnology» of the Russian Academy of Sciences



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2024 COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS PORTFOLIO

		Announced Contests	Supported Projects
Iran National Science Foundation (INSF)		1	15
Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)		1	10
Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia (MES)		1	17
Ministry of Science and Technology of India (DST)		4	86
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)		3	148
The Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR)		2	55

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

The RSF actively encourages international research cooperation. The Foundation participates in a number of bilateral funding schemes that provide assistance to the outstanding Russian researchers to participate in collaborative research projects with their top international peers based on the principles of excellence, parity funding, credible independent peer-review and mutual trust.

In 2024, the RSF funded 305 international collaborative projects jointly selected for funding with international partners in total amount of US\$ 20 million (40% growth compared to 2023).

In 2024, the RSF strengthened its cooperation with partners in Asian countries. Cooperation with China, both in terms of the number of projects and applications, is at an unprecedentedly high level. Since 2022, the portfolio of Russian-Chinese projects funded has grown almost 4 times. Since 2022, the number of joint projects with India has doubled. More than 40 new projects were funded together with new RSF partners such as Iran National Science Foundation (INSF), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Ministry of Education, and Science of Mongolia (MES).

INTEGRATING RUSSIA'S EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH WITH GLOBAL TALENTS

The Foundation's grant recipients are actively involved in international scientific collaborative work. In 2024, 21% of the publications came out of the RSF-funded projects are prepared jointly with foreign researchers, which is above Russia's average collaboration level. Today, RSF grant recipients are mostly involved in productive cooperation with researchers from China, United States, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Japan, Israel and India.

The opportunity to conduct effective research in Russia in globally competitive financial conditions continues to attract the attention of scientists working abroad, including young researchers. Among the projects submitted in 2024, there are 348 applications from project investigators and contributors with foreign citizenship. Scientists from Kazakhstan, Iran, Belarus, India, Egypt and Syria demonstrate the greatest interest in pursuing their ideas and research activities in Russia.

