

Amendment No. 1
to the Statute of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund
for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS

Article I

Subject of the Amendment

The Statute of the Štefan Schwarz Support Fund for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS dated 14 February 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Statute') is amended as follows:

1. The obvious error 'full version as follows from the amendments and supplements made by Amendment No. 1, Amendment No. 2, and Amendment No. 3' is deleted from the Statute.
2. The Preamble is amended as follows:

Doctoral studies (DS) ensure the education and continuous renewal of academic researchers. The Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) creates the opportunity to employ outstanding postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral researchers from Slovakia and abroad through a contribution to the salary fund of the organization that employs the graduate. Graduates of doctoral studies are eligible to apply if, by the date of opening of the call for applications, a maximum of 60 months have passed since the date of defence of their dissertation. This timeframe excludes any duration associated with maternity or parental leave.

The support is not primarily intended for graduates shortly after completing their PhD. During the support period, recipients are expected to transition towards independence from their dissertation supervisor by achieving milestones such as securing grants to fund research as Principal Investigators or publishing without co-authorship from their supervisor.

For applicants from Slovakia, the scholarship is conditional on successfully completing international study residences of at least 6 months in total. In exceptional cases, the Council of the SAS for Education and Doctoral Studies may grant an exception to this rule. Candidates cannot be researchers who have already been awarded the IIa scientific qualification.

3. Article I, Paragraph 2 of the Statute is amended as follows:

The Council conducts auditions in which it rigorously evaluates submitted proposals based on their alignment with the quality standards and strategic priorities of the SAS. The auditions include in-person (or videoconference) evaluation sessions for the candidates, organised by the relevant scientific section with the participation of Council members from the scientific section. Auditions are also open to graduates of DS from other research institutes and universities in Slovakia and abroad. The Council presents the audition outcomes to the Presidium of the SAS

(referred to as P SAS) for formal endorsement. The competition is conducted annually, with submissions closing on June 30th each year.

4. Article II, Paragraph 1 of the Statute is amended as follows:

The proposal for audition (a letter of commitment) shall be submitted by the director of the SAS organization which already employs or recruits the doctoral graduate in the manner specified in the call. The proposal for audition (a letter of commitment) constitutes Appendix No. 1 to the Statute.

5. Article II, Paragraph 3 of the Statute is amended as follows:

3. The required details and documents are following:
 - 3.1. name and surname of the candidate
 - 3.2. organization name
 - 3.3. CV of the candidate (The CV must include a link to the applicant's ORCID profile. The applicant should ensure their profile includes a complete list of publications, references, national and international project participation, presentations at professional events, and any patents or patent applications.)
 - 3.4. application of results
 - 3.5. study stay/residency completed
 - 3.6. a project plan for the next 3 years in a maximum of 5 400 characters. The project plan should briefly summarize:
 - research objectives
 - originality of the project
 - main methodological approaches
 - expected benefits
 - assumed sources of funding for the research
 - 3.7. degree certificate (scanned and uploaded into the electronic system)
 - 3.8. two publications of the highest quality (pdf format; for monographs only pages with relevant bibliographic data)

The documents in Articles 3.6. - 3.8. will not be generally accessible.

6. Article IV, Paragraph 2 of the Statute is amended as follows:

In case of the termination of the employment of the selected candidate by organization during the support period, change of the employment arrangement to a reduced weekly working time below the established norm, or if the candidate opts for unpaid leave, maternity, or parental leave, the organization must promptly notify the Department of Education and Doctoral Studies and Department of State Budget Chapter Management. This notification will trigger necessary adjustments to the organization's Implementation Financing Plan (IFP), leading to a proportional reduction in salary funds.

7. Article V, Paragraph 1 of the Statute is amended as follows:

Beneficiaries are required to submit a comprehensive final report using the prescribed template available on the Fund's website within one month following the conclusion of the Fund's support period. The extension requests pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 7 shall replace the final report after 2 years of support. The final report after the 3rd year of project implementation summarizes the results only from the third year of the project. The evaluation of the reports will be conducted by the Chairperson of the Council, in conjunction with the Scientific Sections of the SAS. This assessment will focus on the scientific rigor of the reports and their alignment with the initial project proposal. The final report form constitutes Appendix No. 2 to the Statute.

8. The numerical designation 'Article VI' is added above the article title 'Final Provisions'.

Article II

Final Provisions

Amendment No. 1 to the Statute of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS was approved by the Presidium of SAS at its meeting on 14 May 2026.

This amendment enters into force on the date of its issuance and takes effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.

In Bratislava, May 14, 2026

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Mgr. Martin Venhart, DrSc.
President of SAS

The English translation has been provided for reference only. Discrepancies in meaning may occur and the English translations are non-binding. In case of any ambiguity between the language versions, the Slovak language shall prevail.