

Appendix No 2: FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE SILESIAN UNIVERSITY IN OPAVA

This Appendix describes the framework of the SU's research strategy. The objective of this Appendix is to establish a framework vision for the general direction of the SU in the field of research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as "R&D&I") for the period 2021+.

Mission and vision of the Silesian University in Opava in Science, Research and Innovation

The mission of the Silesian University in Opava (hereinafter referred to as "SU") is to ensure quality education in science, social, economic, pedagogical and artistic study programmes at bachelor's, Master's, follow-up Master's and doctoral degrees for students who come mainly from the Moravian-Silesian Region and adjacent regions. In the effectuation of these study programmes, the SU relies on the work of highly qualified and well-motivated academic and scientific staff, doctoral students and other university staff. SU focuses on quality scientific and research activities, the outputs of which are subsequently reflected in the improvement of its own pedagogical process, including the preparation of students in doctoral study programmes. SU is a university involved in international cooperation and the preparation of international and European projects, both through international mobility of students, educators and researchers, and as a respected partner of a number of foreign academic and scientific institutions. An integral part of the SU mission is to contribute to the development of the region, in particular through close cooperation with private and public sector actors.

The university's **vision** is to be a modern and open educational institution fully competitive in the higher education market in the Central European area. To be a university providing its students with professionally oriented study programmes strongly connected to the region of Northern Moravia and Silesia, which are supplemented in the subsequent Master's and doctoral degrees with study programmes providing purely academic education, enabling their graduates to find employment on a global scale. SU also fulfils its societal role in education by offering study programmes in the field of lifelong learning and the University of the Third Age. SU is an institution that enables its students to gain deeper practical experience, resulting from their wider involvement in professional experience, international activities and the realisation of its own scientific and research, development, innovation, artistic and creative activities, in highly stimulating academic environment. SU supports the transition of higher education from a quantitative-based approach to an approach in which the quality of graduates and their readiness to find adequate application in the domestic and foreign labour market play a decisive role.

The mission and vision of the SU were most recently formulated in the university's Long-term 2016-2020 project, with both the university's mission and vision being based on the outputs achieved in the resolution of the KREDO Operational Programme for Education and Competitiveness in 2012– 2015.

The university's mission and vision also result from its missions and visions in the field of R&D&I. **The SU's R&D&I mission** is to develop quality scientific, research, development and innovation activities in selected science, social, economic and pedagogical fields, at national and transnational level, including care for the development of the necessary human resources and links with educational activities, development of cooperation with domestic and foreign universities, research institutions and application sector bodies and promotion of VaVal results towards the general public.

The SU's vision in the field of R&D&I is to achieve a level comparable to that of leading universities in the Czech Republic and the EU and contribute to the successful development of the region.

The main fields of scientific, research, development and innovation, artistic and other creative activities cultivated at the SU are set out in Article 31 of the Statute of the SU.

R&D&I objectives and strategies for the following strategic project period

The main objectives of the university in the field of R&D&I for the following period are:

- consolidating the position of SU as a world relevant research site in selected fields, especially in mathematics and physics,
- consolidating the position of the SU as a centre of education relevant at national and Central European level in other fields, in particular historical and economic sciences,
- strengthening interdisciplinary research in the field of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Applied Social Research and Research in The Field of Informatics, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence,
- promoting R&D&I in all areas of creative activity cultivated at the SU to contribute to the development of the region, building on its needs and societal demand, including in the area of professionally oriented fields, promoting entrepreneurship and business environment and other forms of cooperation with practice.

The strategy for achieving these objectives shall include in particular:

- periodic medium-term updates of the R&D&I concept and organisation of activities at SU,
- development of cooperation with both domestic and foreign institutions and the practical sphere in the field of R&D&I,
- promoting the internationalisation of R&D&I and the acquisition of highly qualified foreign researchers;
- creating the conditions for successful acquisition of R&D&I funds from external sources;
- care for career growth of workers and the development of their qualification structure.

The various strategic areas and specific instruments for achieving each target will be elaborated in more detail during 2020 in the context of the creation of the SU strategic project for the next period.

The national and international context of the R&D&I in relation to the achievement of higher national and transnational strategic objectives and research measures, including incl. strategies and strategic management tools to increase the international or field competitiveness of the university's research activities and its quality

The international context of R&D&I at SU is mainly due to the **involvement in international scientific networks and research consortia**, such as the preparation of X-ray space missions XIPE, eXTP, ATHENA and IXPE, international networks for relativistic astrophysics ICRANET, or cooperation on the realization of the FAIR.CZ project for Czech participation in the project of large infrastructure of the European Centre for Nuclear and Hadron Physics GSI near Darmstadt, but also due to its **participation in international projects** type Visegrad Fundči Horizon2020, or **cooperation with a number of reputable foreign institutions**, whether in a contractually secured form at institution-wide level or in the form of individual scientific cooperation.

The national context of R&D&I at the SU is fulfilled in the form of the **implementation of projects, the focus of which corresponds to national strategic priorities** (projects focused on the issue of inclusion in primary school, issues of national minorities, Smart Cities issues, projects Departments of Health aimed at increasing the health of the population; projects focused on social policy are being prepared), **cooperation with the application sphere**, in particular in the area of business development and business environment in the region through the BusinessGate Multifunctional Centre or interdisciplinary research in the area of small and medium-sized enterprises as a form of cooperation with the municipal sphere, or **cooperation with domestic scientific institutions** in a number of areas of basic research, among which the institutes of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic predominate.

We consider the effective setting of rules to use funding to support the development of research organisations (hereinafter referred to as 'DRO') as the main instrument for the strategic management of the SU in the framework of the process of enhancing international and industry competitiveness and quality of research

activities for the period 2021-2025, in conjunction with the ongoing internal quality assessment of R&D&I activities of the university, their workplaces and individual researchers.

Institutional instruments for the implementation of the research strategy, with an emphasis on promoting quality research and an innovative environment, e.g. systemic human resources incentive instruments and support for excellent researchers (ERC grant holders), capacity sustainability tools for newly built research centres or large research infrastructures if relevant for the university

Institutional instruments for the implementation of the SU research strategy fall within the following areas:

- periodic medium-term updates of the concept and organisation of R&D&I activities:
 - effective response to the development of research guidelines in both domestic and international contexts,
 - regular evaluations of the creative activities of workplaces and individual workers,
 - the intra-university R&D&I support system,
 - development of scientific research centres of the university and modernisation of infrastructure for R&D&I.
- development of cooperation with both domestic and foreign institutions in the field of R&D&I:
 - promoting involvement in international scientific networks,
 - promoting the preparation of joint domestic and international projects and establishing cooperation with quality domestic and foreign workplaces,
 - support for incoming and outgoing mobility of academics.
- promoting the internationalisation of R&D&I and the acquisition of highly qualified foreign researchers:
 - effective use of support for DRO and other resources for the acquisition of highly skilled foreign academic and scientific staff;
 - service and support for the integration of foreign workers,
 - support of presentation of the university's R&D&I activities abroad.
- creating the conditions for successful acquisition of R&D&I funds from external sources:
 - incentive measures for the acquisition of projects GAČR, TAČR and projects of other domestic providers,
 - to create conditions for the successful involvement of the SU in EU R&D&I operational programmes,
 - special support for applicants for ERC projects,
 - technical and administrative support for applicants and project investigators in order to reduce their bureaucratic burden.
- care for career growth of workers and the development of their qualification structure:
 - enhancing professional skills as well as transferable competences of R&D&I staff,
 - tools for involvement after returning from parental leave, working abroad, etc.
 - tools to promote career growth, such as reduction of teaching responsibilities, creative time off, etc.
 - promoting the involvement of students, in particular doctoral students, in R&D&I activities,
 - promoting the establishment of postdoctoral start-up jobs,

- introduction of human resources management standards with the aim of obtaining the HR Award certificate.