

RSF

Russian
Science
Foundation

We have started -
RSFs activity in 2014

RSF

**Russian
Science
Foundation**

Contents

Welcome	4
Who we are and what we do	5
Day-to-day management of RSF	6
Supervisory board	7
Budgets, expenses and grant distribution	8
Our work in 2014 in figures	10
Eligibility rules for proposals	16

Welcome



Andrei Fursenko,
Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Russian Science Foundation, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation

The Russian Science Foundation was founded in late 2013 and immediately became instrumental in the funding of basic and applied research in Russia.

RSF operates on the principles of transparency, competence and result. About 3000 Russian researchers were engaged in review boards that evaluated the proposals, many of whom are renowned not only in their country but also abroad, as well as about 1 000 international experts, who represent leading science and research centres across the world.

RSF advantage is that it offers support to the most promising projects and results-driven scientists

capable of leading world class research.

In 2014, the Foundation organised and ran 5 competitions and awarded funds to over 1100 programmes and projects. Following the first year of its operation, RSF oversaw publication of more than 3 000 papers in journals indexed by Web of Science or Scopus.

RSF fosters international collaboration, nurtures a fruitful environment to promote cross-disciplinary synergies and help scientists find unconventional solutions for the challenges facing the world today.

I would like to wish RSF to keep up the good work and go that extra mile to support the new knowledge for Russia's future prosperity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Andrei Fursenko

Who we are and what we do

The Russian Science Foundation was founded in November, 2013. Its operations are regulated by a special federal law. RSF was incorporated as a foundation, which makes it more flexible and independent in terms of awarding funds in comparison to other Russian institutions providing support for scientific research.

MISSION

Our mission is to find the most promising and ambitious projects, the most effective and successful scientists capable of leading a team of like-minded enthusiasts and inspiring young researchers, and whose research output meets the highest global standards.

KEY VALUES

- Creativity and initiative; recognising good potential and helping it to flourish; search and development of bright ideas.
- Globally recognized research results, their relevance and novelty, and their use for the benefit of the Russian society and economy.
- Offering support to young researchers so they could establish themselves in science and

fostering the development of research faculties.

- Engaging new researchers, methods and competences in science.
- Securing a quality feedback from the scientific community.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Foundation runs competitions to select scientific and technological programmes and projects in the following areas:

- Basic and applied research initiated by research faculties, research institutions and universities;

Here, the Foundation reviews projects carried out by small teams set up for that purpose. The grants are awarded to promote empirical and theoretic research conducted to find new knowledge about the nature, humans and society.

- Support to research institutions and universities to strengthen their talent pool, promote research and development on the globally recognised level and production of high-tech output;

In this area of operation, RSF seeks out programmes led by research institutions and geared towards ground-breaking research. Each programme must include a number of large-scale projects with a significant scientific, economic and societal impact.

- **Establishment of up-to-date laboratories and departments in research institutions and universities; expansion and better equipment of experimental facilities;**

To make this happen, the Foundation reviews projects submitted by long-established or newly-created labs. The projects should tackle the issues of the country's social and economic development.

- **Promotion of international scientific and technological collaboration.**

RSF invites projects carried out by international teams working together to solve a particular problem.



Alexander Khlunov,

Director General of
the Russian Science
Foundation

Day-to-day
management
of RSF

Supervisory board

The Supervisory Board is chaired by Andrei Fursenko, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation. The Board has 15 members including politicians, leading scientists and full members of the Russian Academy of Science.

Andrei Fursenko

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Aide to the Russian President

Yevgeni Vaganov

Rector of the Siberian Federal University

Anatoli Grigoriev

Research supervisor at the Institute of Biomedical Problems, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS)

Mikhail Degtyaryov

State Duma deputy

Lev Zelyoni

Director of the Russian Space Research Institute, RAS

Vladimir Kononov

State Duma deputy

Viktor Kress

member of Russia's Federation Council

Alexei Kudrin

Head of Department at Saint-Petersburg State University

Dmitri Livanov

Russian Minister of Education and Science

Mikhail Lichinitser

Deputy Director of N.N. Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Centre

Ivan Melnikov

First Deputy Speaker of the Russian State Duma

Vladislav Panchenko

Chairman of the Board at the Russian Foundation for Basic Research

Alexander Khlunov

General Director of the Russian Science Foundation

Alexei Chepa

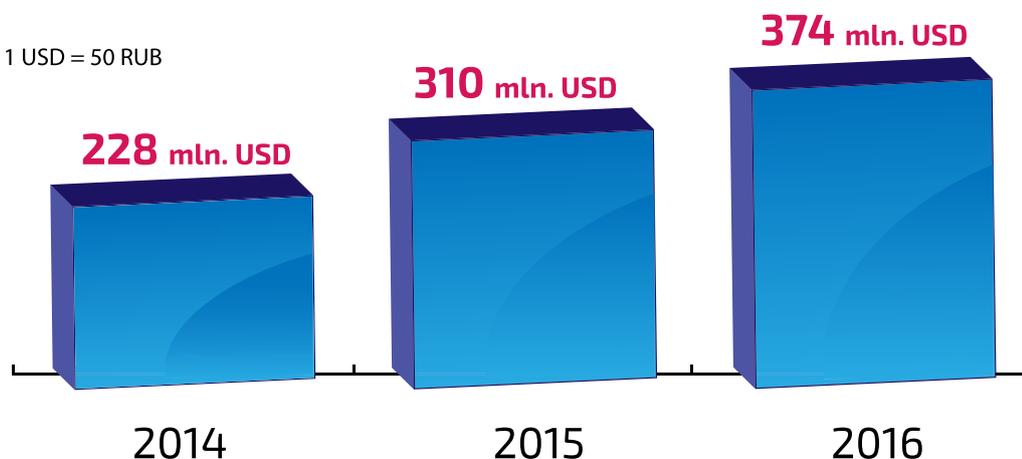
State Duma deputy

Alexander Chubarian

Director of the Institute of General History, RAS

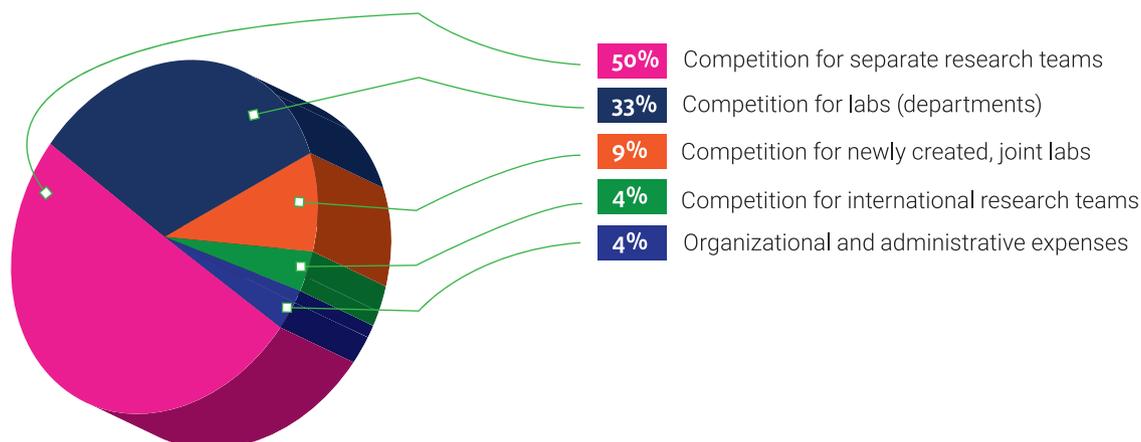
The amount of asset contributions into the Foundation

1 USD = 50 RUB



Breakdown across grant schemes awarded to basic and applied research projects in 2014

Breakdown of RSF expenses and the grant portfolio 2014



Budgets, expenses and grant distribution

Type of grants	Maximum grant amount awarded per year*, USD	Grants awarded
Grants for separate research teams Grants were awarded to small-sized research teams	100 000	875
Grants for labs (departments) Grants were awarded to labs and research departments established before 1 January, 2014	400 000	161
Grants for newly created joint labs Grants were awarded to teams uniting scientists and their colleagues from universities	500 000	38
Grants for international research teams Grants were awarded to multi-national teams of scientists, each with a max. of 50% Russian researchers	200 000	30
Grants for comprehensive research programmes** Grants were awarded to research institutions or universities that submitted their comprehensive development programmes	600 000	16

1 USD = 50 RUB

*Up to 3 years, with a possible extension by another 2 years

**Up to 5 years (in 2014 - 600 000 USD, in 2015 - 5 400 000 USD, in 2016-2018 - 3 000 000 USD)

Our work in 2014 in figures



Over 110 000 scientists from Russia and abroad applied for the Foundation's support

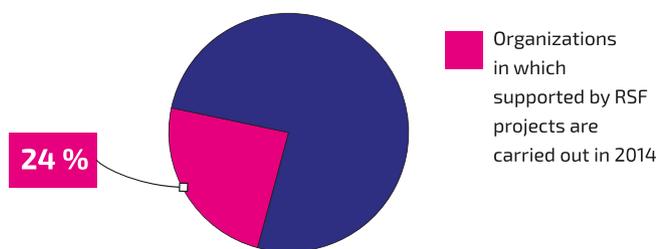
15 972 competitive proposals went through expert reviews

About **3000** Russian researchers representing **73** regions were engaged in review boards that evaluated the proposals

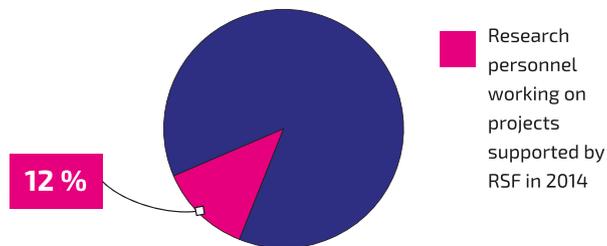
41 874 reviews were issued by RSF's experts

1120 projects and programmes, **383** research institutions and universities from **51** Russian regions became recipients of RSF's grants

Russian organisations engaged in R&D



Russian specialists engaged in R&D

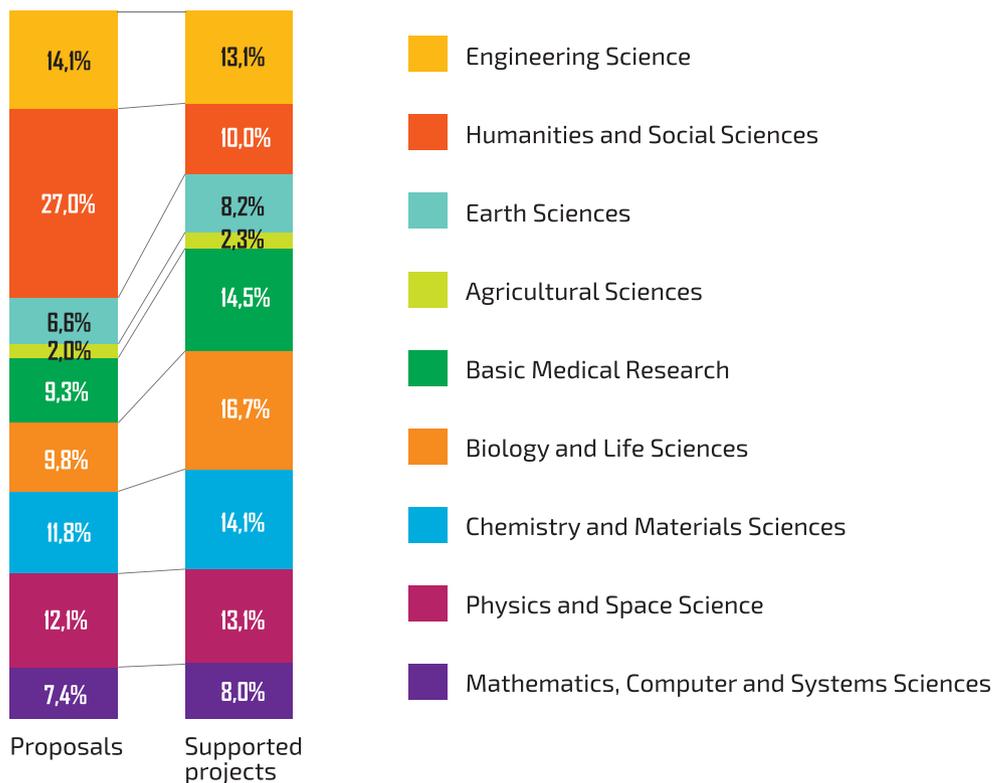


161 labs (departments) that engaged in world-class research were funded by RSF

38 new labs tackling the focus issues were created thanks to RSF funding and are working to benefit Russia's economy and society

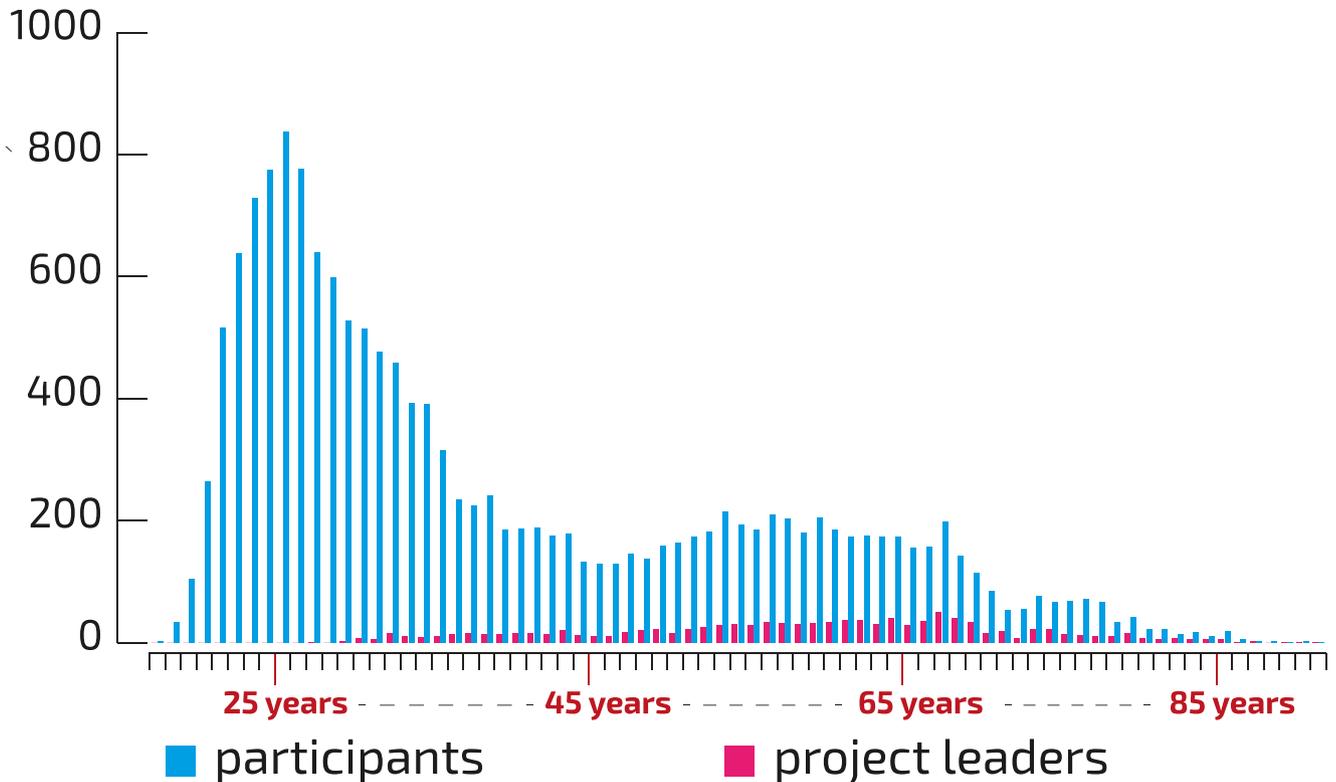
16 development programmes submitted by research institutions and universities that aim to improve career progress and training opportunities for their personnel and facilitate globally recognised R&D activities were supported by RSF

More than a 30% of the projects funded deal with basic and applied research in the socially relevant aspects of **life sciences**



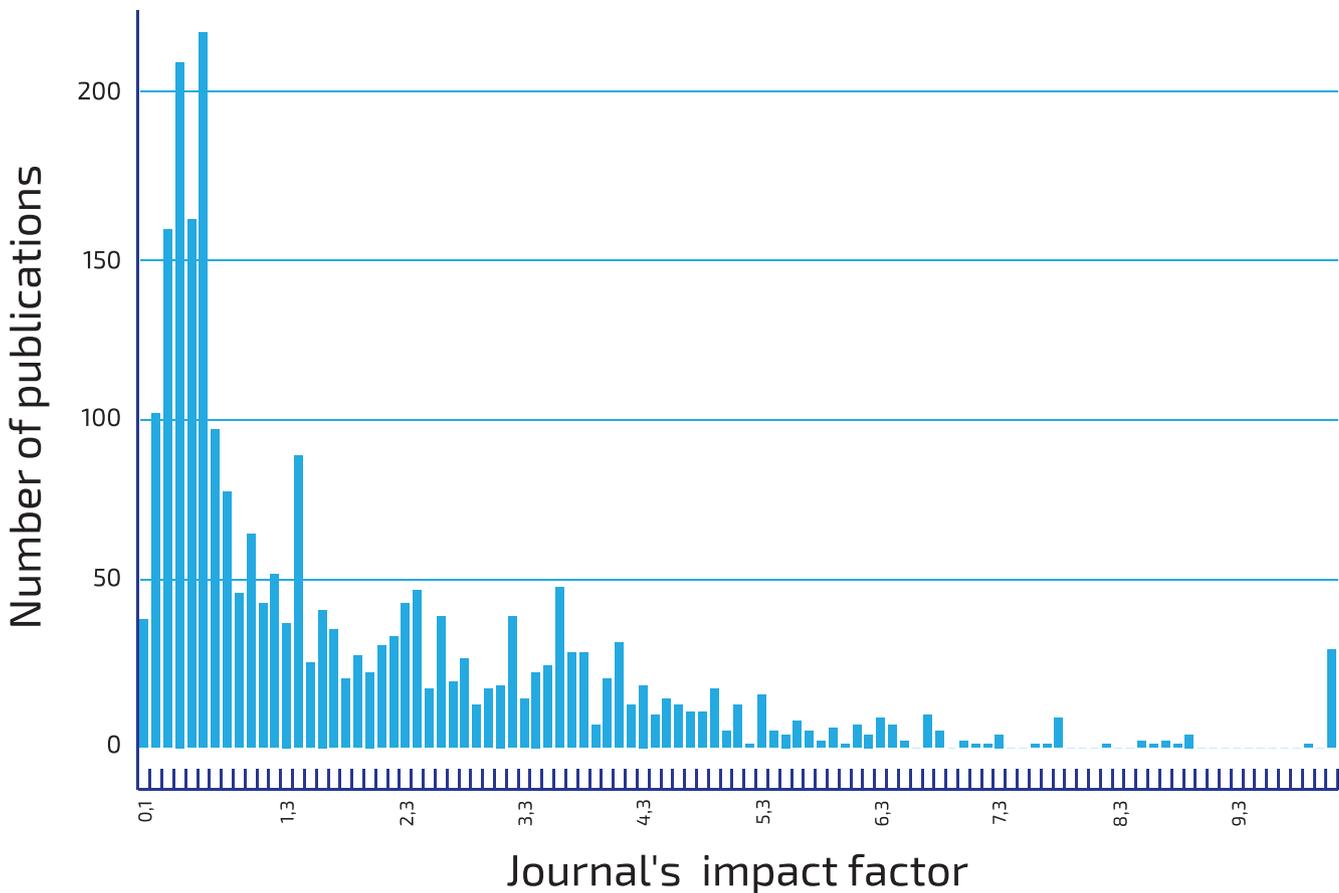
15 748 Russian and foreign scientists participate in the projects funded by RSF. The majority of those **(62%)** are aged **39 or younger**

Breakdown of the RSF grant portfolio by age of project leaders and participants of supported projects

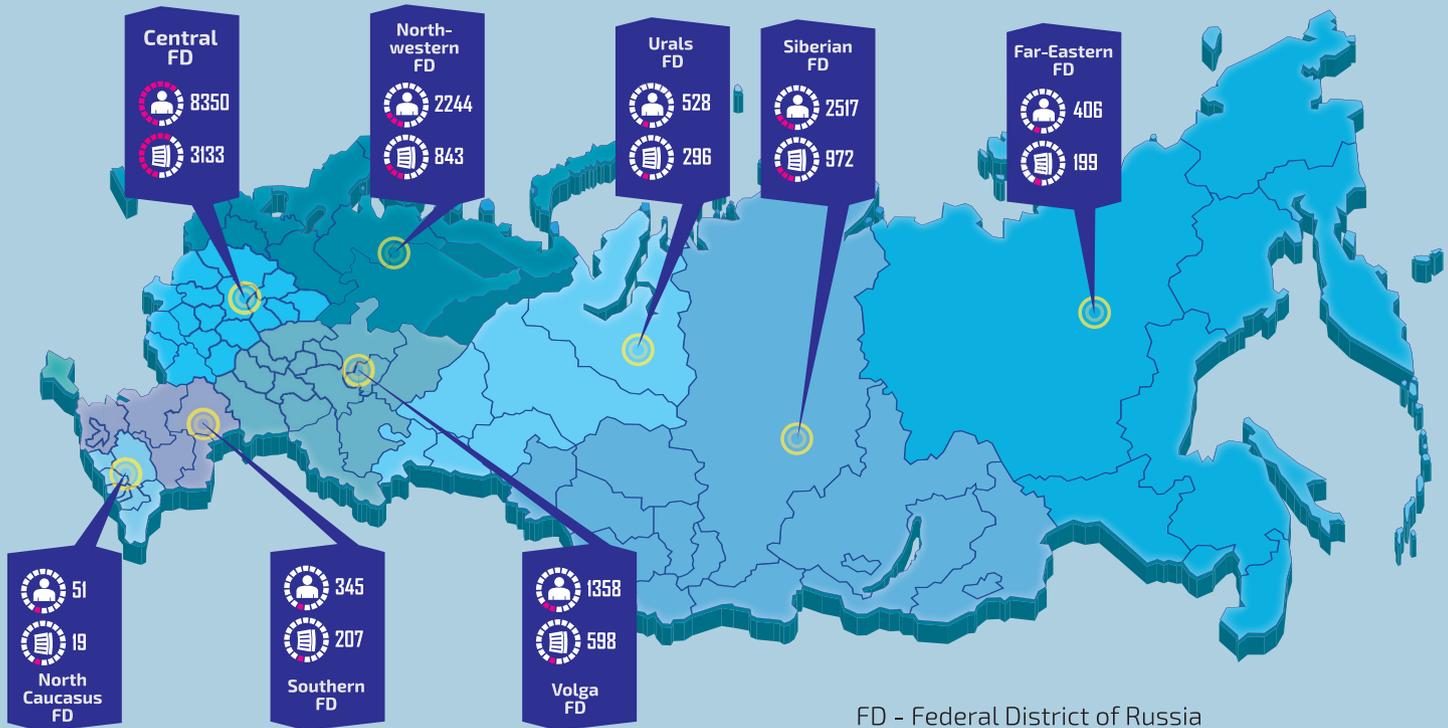


Over 850 publications appeared in journals with an impact factor above 2 (according to JCR Science Edition or JCR Social Sciences Edition at the time of this report's compilation), while 167 works were published in journals with an impact factor above 5

Number of publications and journal's impact factor subjection



Geographic breakdown of the RSF portfolio, showing project participants and the total of publications issued during project participants



Eligibility rules for proposals

Selection criteria for projects

1. RESEARCH TOPIC SHOULD CONFORM TO THE SCOPE SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION

RSF offers support to researcher-initiated projects run by Russian as well as foreign scientists and to research in RSF-designated focus areas.

2. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROJECT LEADER AND THE RESEARCH FACULTY

Applicants must submit credentials of the project leaders (members of the research team), listing their academic degrees and titles, fellowship in the leading scientific communities, awards and prizes for professional achievements, activities on editorial boards in peer-reviewed journals;

A 5-year record of the principal publications by the project leader and key project participants should be attached (publications published in the leading peer-reviewed journals indexed by citation systems Web of Science, Scopus);

The application should indicate if the project leader (team members) has (have) relevant experience (including any earlier awarded grants, projects delivered) over the past 5 years;

Applicants should also describe the project leader's or key participant's engagement in education (supervision of post-grad student research, development and delivery of new courses read in Russian universities and abroad).

3. SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT

The project's scientific agenda and its impact on science, relevance of the project's topic, the scale of the issues in its scope and novelty of the research;

The research should be comprehensive, the team

should possess a state-of-the-art knowledge in the field; a summary of the proposed methods and approaches should be provided, detailing the anticipated results and explaining why the applicants count on the project to succeed;

Applicants should confirm if they have access to the necessary research facilities and equipment, including shared labs / research centres; they also need to demonstrate what unique installations and exhibition stands, information and other resources they have at their disposal.

4. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT'S SUCCESS

Applicants should indicate if the anticipated results meet the world standards of research quality;

whether they can be put to use in the economic and social context;

Publications or other means of publicly revealing project results (including monographs, papers published in the leading peer-reviewed journals and in publications indexed by Web of Science, Scopus, etc.;

The project should undertake to engage young scientists and experts, post-graduate and undergraduate students in the research.

5. PROJECT PLANNING QUALITY

We assess the quality of project management, including the leader's ability to steer the project in the right direction, engage adequately qualified specialists and maintain a smart use of resources to ensure a quality project delivery in conformity with its scope; to justify purchase requests for equipment and project-related travel costs (including field trips); to draft a reasonable and valid funds request.

Evaluation of proposals

About 3000 Russian and 1000 foreign experts are involved in RSF's review.

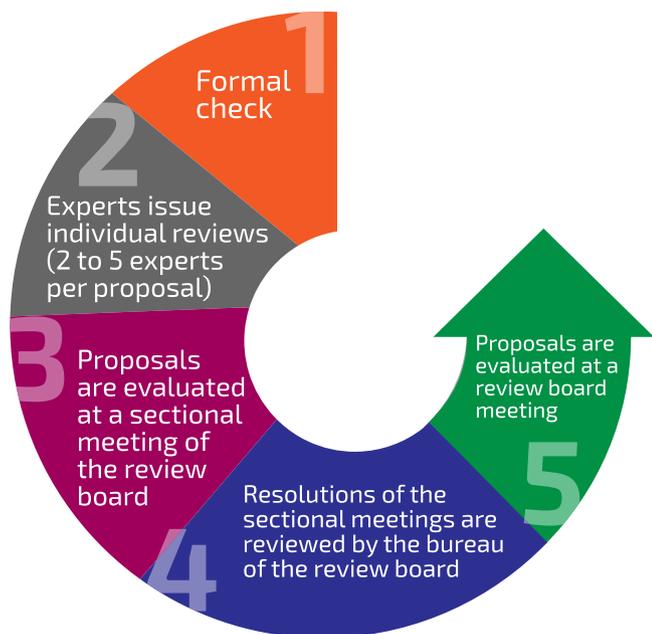
Evaluation of proposals is carried out in several stages, including individual reviews by designated experts, review and discussion at a sectional meeting of the review panel and evaluation at a meeting of the review board.

Key stages of proposal evaluation

First Stage

RSF reviewers evaluated proposals and drafted individual project reviews.

Proposals had been distributed by sectional coordinators according to research classification codes indicated by the applicants. Special attention was paid to avoid conflicts of interest.



Second Stage

Proposals were reviewed by dedicated sections of the Foundation's review board. The reviewers took into account the evaluation obtained at the earlier stage.

In addition, all submitted proposals were put to a vote by secret ballot at a meeting of the relevant review board. The voting results were deemed valid if at least two thirds of the board members attended the meeting. The proposal is approved if at least two thirds of the attending board members voted in its favour.

Conflicts of interest

Reviewers or members of the Review Board may face conflicts of interest in relation to applicants or their organisations.

Circumstances causing conflicts of interest may be as follows:

- affiliation with the same organisation;
- close relationship or personal conflicts;
- professional relationship (e.g. joint projects, publications etc.) with any applicant in the last two years;
- any other personal interest which may influence the project's evaluation.

If a conflict of interest arises, the Reviewer should decline to review, while the member of the Review Board is not allowed to take part in the Project's discussion.

REVIEW
BOARD'S
SECTIONAL
COORDINATORS

Section / Coordinator

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

A. Klimenko, Dr. of technical sciences, corresponding member of RAS

MATHS, COMPUTER AND SYSTEMS SCIENCES

B. Chetverushkin, Dr. of physics and mathematics, full member of RAS

PHYSICS AND SPACE SCIENCES

V. Kveder, Dr. of physics and mathematics, corresponding member of RAS

CHEMISTRY AND MATERIALS SCIENCES

M. Alfimov, Dr. of physics and mathematics, full member of RAS

BIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

O. Dontsova, Dr. of chemistry, corresponding member of RAS

BASIC MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ye. Imyanitov, Dr. of medicine

AGRI-SCIENCE

A. Kochetkova, Dr. of technical sciences

EARTH SCIENCES

N. Kasimov, Dr. of geography, full member of RAS

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

V. Demyankov, Dr. of philology

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

S. Filippov, Dr. of technical sciences, corresponding member of RAS

REVIEW BOARD

For evaluation of the proposals, the Foundation relies on its Review Board, consisting of **63 leading Russian scientists**



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