



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
**National and Kapodistrian**  
**University of Athens**  
EST. 1837

# PROFILE SARG-NKUA

SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

## 1. Introduction

The Special Account for Research Grants (SARG) was founded at the University of Athens by decision of the University Senate on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1983, under article 1 of P.D. 432/1981 (A' 118), which was amended and replaced by the no: B1/819 re "Structure of Special accounts for the financing of Research Work and relative services or activities carried out by the Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) or Technological Educational Institutions of the Country (TEI)" and following with the Ministerial Decision KA/679/1996 (B' 826), which was retroactively ratified by the article 36 of law. 3794/2009 (A' 156) and was repealed by paragraph xvii of article 88 of Law 4485/2017 (A' 114).

The legal framework for the operation of Special Account for Research Grants lays down on the provisions of Law 4485/2017 (A' 114), while the regulatory framework for its operation is determined by the current Funding Guide to the extent that the provisions of law 4485/2017 are not contrary to the provisions of Law 4485/2017, but also by separate regulatory acts of the University Senate, of the Research and Management Committee of SARG and its Special Seven-membered Body.

The purpose of SARG, according to paragraph 2 of article 50 of Law 4485/2017, is the management and allocation of funds that come from any source as well as from its own resources and are intended to cover expenditures, of any kind, that are necessary for: the implementation of projects: research, educational, training, developmental and lifelong training projects, seminars and conferences, scientific, technological and artistic services, conduction of special and clinical studies, testing, measurements, laboratory tests and analyses, providing opinions, providing specifications on behalf of third parties, design and implementation of scientific, research, cultural and development programs.

By decision no. 919 of the Senate of the University of Athens (B' 5193/2021) on: Organizational structure of the Financial and Administrative Support Unit (F.A.S.U.) of the Special Account for Research Grants (SARG) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) – as amended by the "Amendment of the decision of the Senate of the University of Athens on 19-7-2018 (B' 4118)" the organizational structure of the F.A.S.U. of SARG was determined at the level of the Directorate consisting of two (2) sub-divisions, twelve (12) Departments and one (1) independent Department.

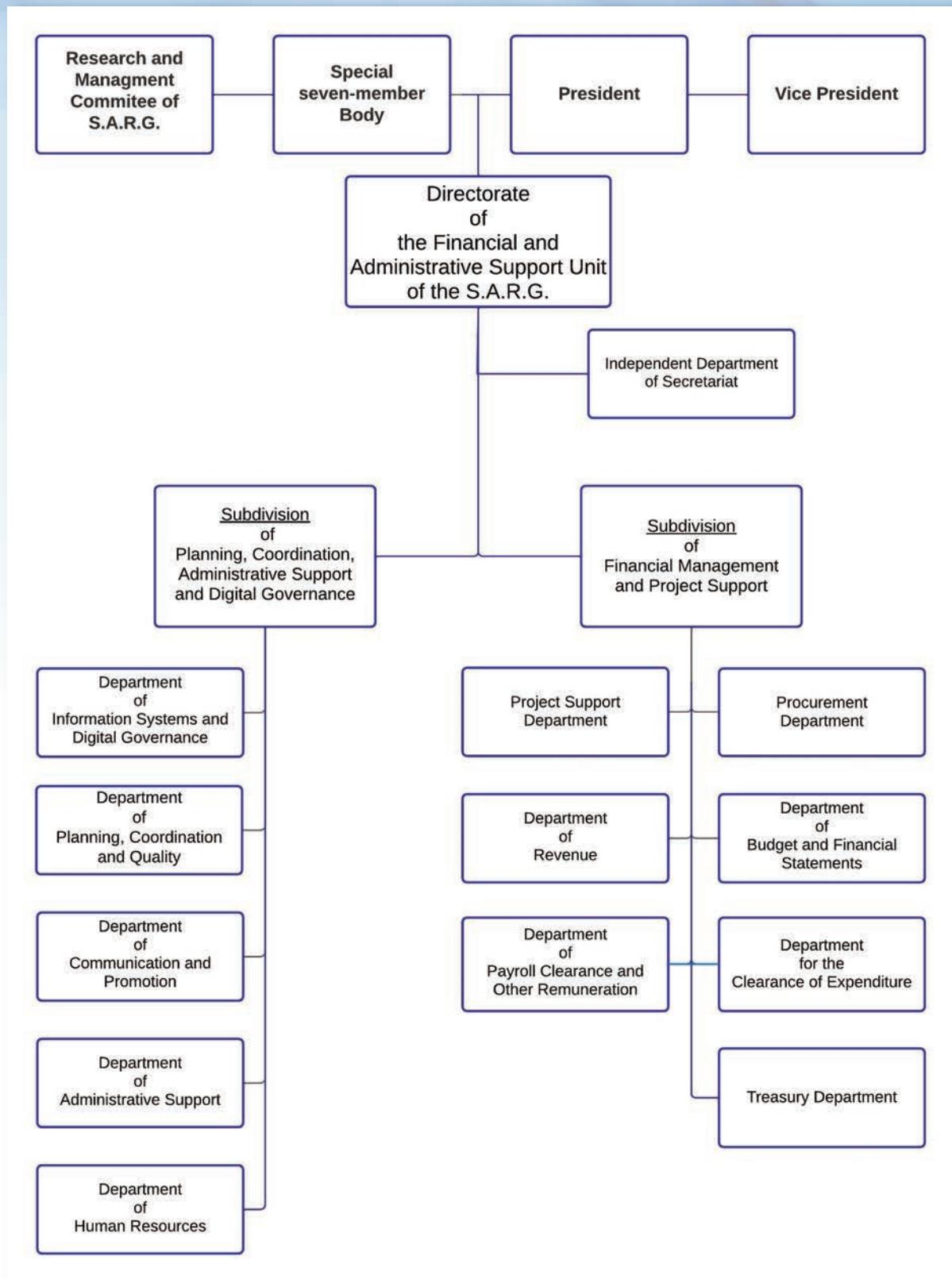
The Special Account for Research Grants (SARG) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is located on the 2nd floor and on the ground floor of the TYPΑ/ELKE building, the KEPA building on the University Campus and 6 Christou Lada Street in Athens, where its registered offices are located. In particular, the protocol of SARG /NKUA operates at the following points: a) University campus, TYPΑ/ELKE building (ground floor), b) 6 Christou Lada Str., 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Athens, c) Medical School, 75 Mikras Asias Str., Goudi, d) Attiko Hospital, AKISA building and e) Psachna of Evia, Department of Agricultural Development, Agrofood and Management of Natural Resources.

## 2. Structure - Organizational Chart

The Financial and Administrative Support Unit, which operates at the level of the organizational structure of the Directorate, comprises an independent Department and two (2) subdivisions, as follows:

- a) Independent Department of Secretariat.
- b) Subdivision of Planning, Coordination, Administrative Support and Digital Governance, which comprises five (5) individual Departments, as follows:
  - 1. Information Systems and Digital Governance,
  - 2. Planning, Coordination and Quality,
  - 3. Communication and Promotion,
  - 4. Administrative Support,
  - 5. Human Resources.
- c) Subdivision of Financial Management and Project Support, which comprises seven (7) individual Departments:
  - 1. Project Support,
  - 2. Procurement,
  - 3. Revenue,
  - 4. Budget and Financial Statements,
  - 5. Payroll Clearance and Other Remuneration,
  - 6. Clearance of Expenditure,
  - 7. Treasury.

A diagrammatic representation of the structure of the Financial and Administrative Support Units can be seen below:



### 3. Quality Policy

The Management and staff of the Organization are committed to providing quality in services as well as their continuous improvement and the following principles that constitute the Quality Policy of the Organization:

- Independence: of the Administration, the staff of the Organization from any influence, in order to ensure their impartiality and integrity,
- Compliance with legality, transparency and rules of operation of the Organization,
- Safeguarding of all confidential information regarding projects under management, stakeholders and customers,
- Faithful implementation and continuous improvement of Quality Systems in accordance with the International Standard ISO 9001:2015,
- Continuous provision of high quality services,
- Continuous training of staff to ensure a high level of know-how and management skills,
- Adherence to internal quality control standards of the projects,
- Prompt address of complaints, based on documented procedures,
- Cultivation of a climate of encouragement that helps motivate innovation in both research and administration alike.

The above Principles are achieved through:

- Measuring of indicators and setting increasingly higher targets,
- Identifying and assessing risks, taking measures to address them and seizing opportunities for growth and improvement,
- Continuous evaluation of the customers' satisfaction,
- Continuous improvement,
- Vigilance, so as to prevent adversities.

The Management of the Organization is committed to: a) providing all the necessary resources and appropriate means for implementing the quality policy and b) ensuring the reliability and impartiality of the employees. The Management ensures the integrity of the quality system is maintained when changes are planned and implemented.

The Management of the Organization is responsible for the adherence to the above principles of our Quality Policy by all the staff of the Organization. All staff of the Organization involved in project management activities are responsible of being aware of all documentation concerning quality, so as to apply the Policy and Procedures of the Quality System in their line of work.

The Quality Policy is drawn up by the Management of the Organization and is reviewed periodically.

## **4. Institutional Objectives and Strategy for Research and Innovation**

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens displays extensive research activity, increased participation in European projects, international networks and collaborations with public and private sectors. For this purpose, the University either employs or cooperates with distinguished researchers. The University's research policy is interconnected with its educational mission and aims at strengthening research through creative collaborations with leading research institutes, government agencies and consortia around the world. NKUA focuses on the quality of the results produced in all scientific fields and is inextricably linked to a policy of both group and individual excellence, rewarding excellence in individual performance, the creation of new research teams and the cultivation of a positive environment that promotes innovation. It also encourages interdisciplinary research that promotes scientific knowledge for the benefit of society as a whole. The Educational process in itself contributes highly - at the postgraduate level primarily- to the development of research in particular by training young researchers. The research policy of NKUA is characterized by the following main objectives: a) the development of the necessary skills, most notably for postgraduate students, who - as part of their studies - become familiar with research activities in laboratories and clinics (in the case of Medical School) and / or participate in conferences, publications in international journals, etc., b) the participation of doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers and professors of the University in research programs of esteemed scientific panels in collaboration with researchers from institutions both in Greece and abroad c) the promotion and development of the research activity of the Departments/Faculties, which comprise, among others, the organization of seminars and conferences, the implementation of research programs, the presentation of research results in conferences, the publication of articles in scientific journals, the writing of books, monographs, chapters in collective volumes, etc., d) the promotion of interdisciplinary knowledge as well as the fulfillment of the country's own research, social, cultural and developmental goals, e) the recognition, mapping and exploitation of the results of the research carried out in the NKUA, the protection of intellectual property by obtaining patents, etc. In the academic year 2019-20, the Center for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship was founded under the name "Archimedes" and started operations aspiring to connect the research community with the industry and business sectors thus linking the innovative thinking of University research to the entrepreneurial community, helping the creation of start-ups and such.

## 5. Research funding and employment opportunities

The Research and Management Committee is responsible for the management of research funds from the projects undertaken by the members of the academic community through the Special Account for Research Grants (SARG). The main sources of research funding of NKUA are:

- the European and international programmes,
- the Corporate Pact for the Development Framework,
- collaborations with public and private sector bodies,
- the provision of scientific services to legal and natural persons,
- sponsorships and
- donations.

It is worth mentioning that, during the economic crisis in Greece, the resources for research and development programs that the University attracted were six times higher than those of the state subsidy for the operating costs of education. These resources not only allowed the University to maintain and improve the quality of studies during this critical period, but also have considerable liquidity for conducting research and still maintain reserves for development investments. In the last three years, the average annual funding for research and development projects NKUA Professors undertake, exceeded 70 million Euros. It is broken down by source of funding in accordance with Chart 1 below.

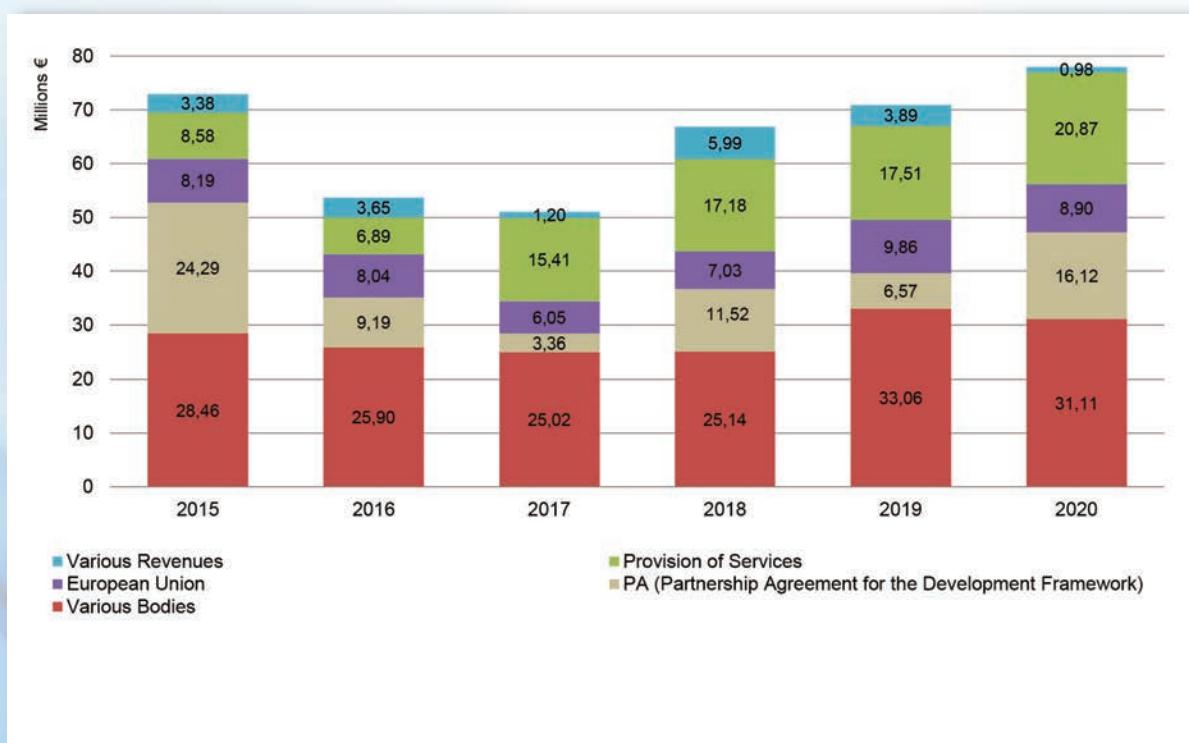


Figure 1:

SARG's annual revenue from projects/programmes by source of funding in million Euros over the period 2015-2020

Today, the SARG of the NKUA manages more than approximately 3,800 active projects and the number of new projects per year is reflected in Chart 2 below.

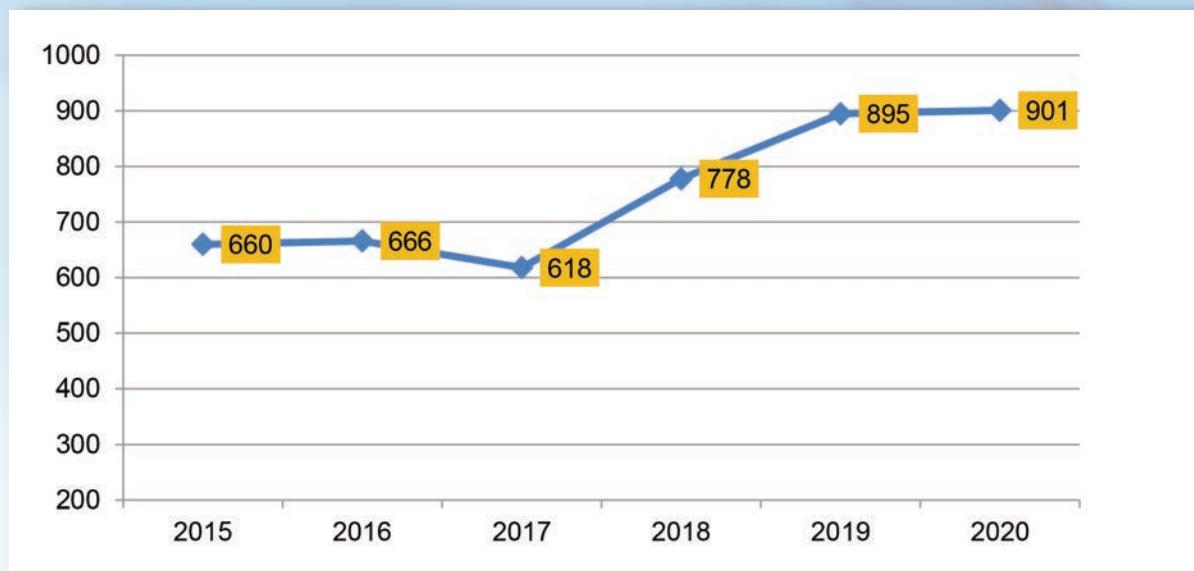


Figure 2:  
Number of new projects per year

Following is a diagram with the total number of projects managed over the years by the SARG of NKUA is depicted in Chart 3.

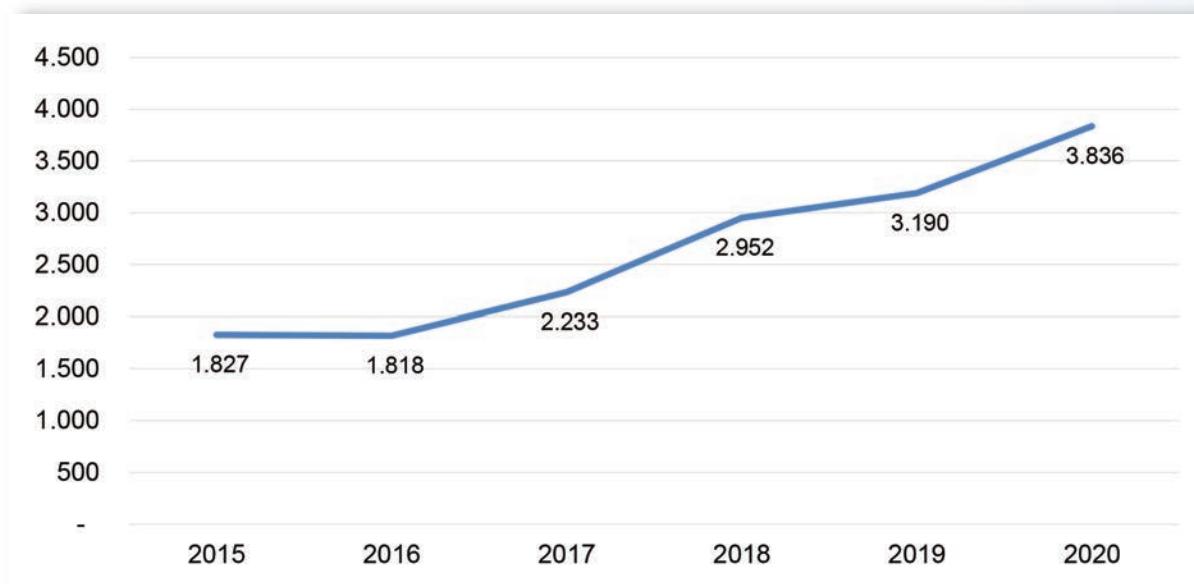
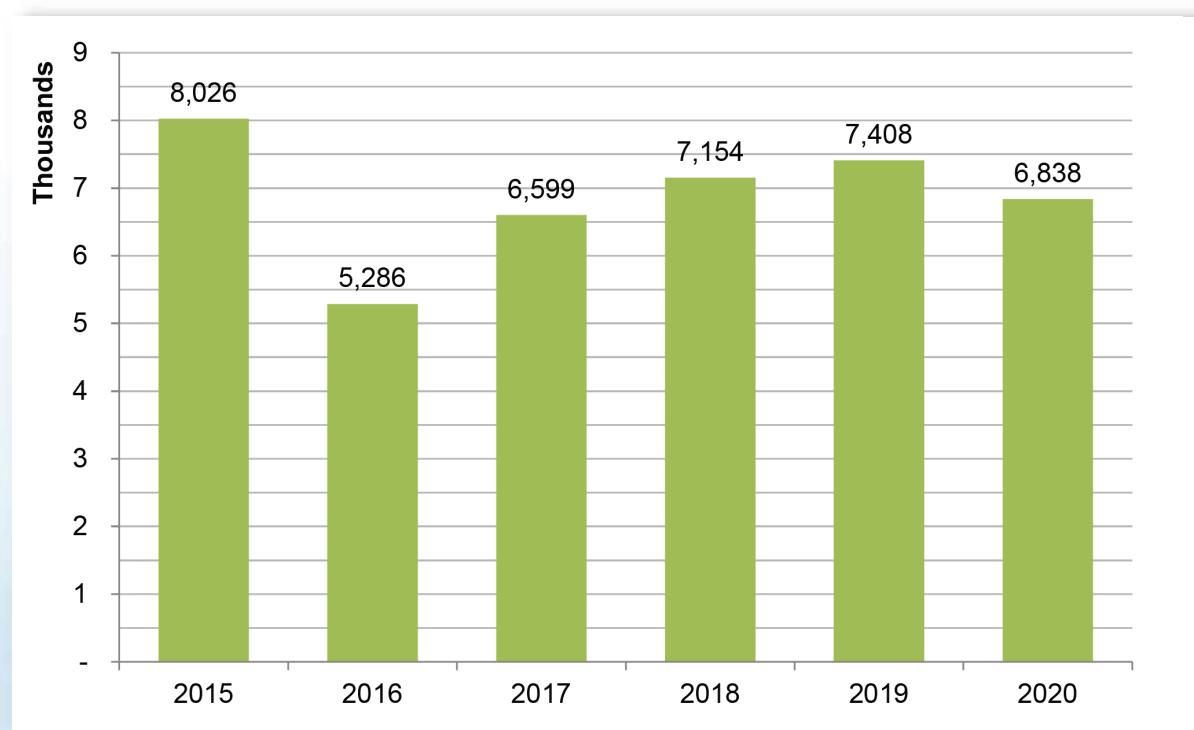


Figure 3:  
Number of projects per year

The research projects implemented in the NKUA through SARG, employ 5,000 to 8,000 researchers annually, who in addition to the Professors, serving Lecturers and other permanent staff of the Foundation can also be young scientists such as PhD candidates, postdoctoral, young researchers, scientific, technical and other staff. As far as the funds for research and development projects are concerned, a decisive contribution has been made to the development of research, the strengthening of the profile of the Foundation, the reduction of unemployment among young scientists and the halting of brain-drain. Employment figures in projects/programmes for the last five years are reflected in Figure 4.



**Figure 4:**  
Employment in projects/programmes 2015-2020

## 6. Funding provided by SARG for projects and support of new faculty members

In the context of allocating SARG's annual revenue, the Research Committee submits its recommendations to the Senate seeking to introduce and fund projects that aim to: i) support SARG's own administrative and managerial needs, the communication and dissemination of the outputs achieved, the upgrade of its systems as well as the improvement of its internal procedures and all infrastructure and resources, ii) support the University with its operating cost so as to effectively fulfill its mission iii) develop and support education and research within every Academic Unit of the University, iv) support the University Library and other services, vital for research and education, v) adhere to safety standards and maintain proper hygienic conditions in both classrooms and research space, vi) cover the travelling and accommodation expenses for faculty members and their associates, so as to present their work at international scientific conferences and also publication cost for papers to appear in international scientific journals, vii) develop interdisciplinary research and related infrastructure, ix) support and cater for the needs of newly appointed professors, ix) support new scientists and staff through providing funding for awards that promote educational and research activities, x) vest and safeguard the patents the University holds as well as capitalize upon scientific knowledge and research outputs to the University's benefit and xi) all other requirements the Senate deems necessary for the development of the Institution.

Funding through the annual revenue of SARG for the past five years is reflected in Chart 5.

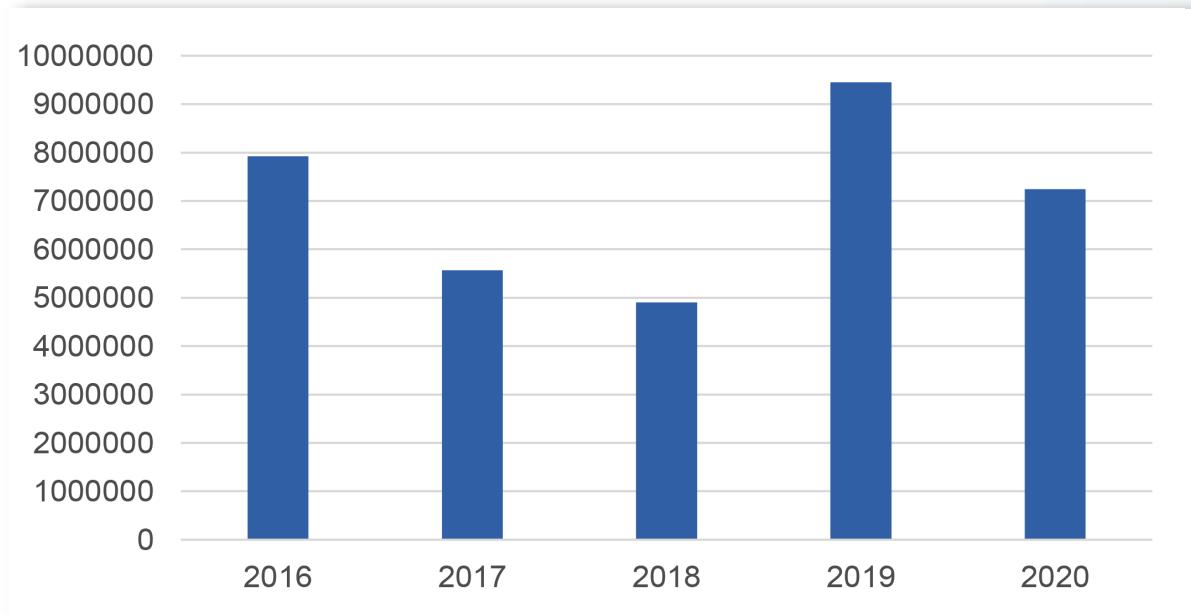
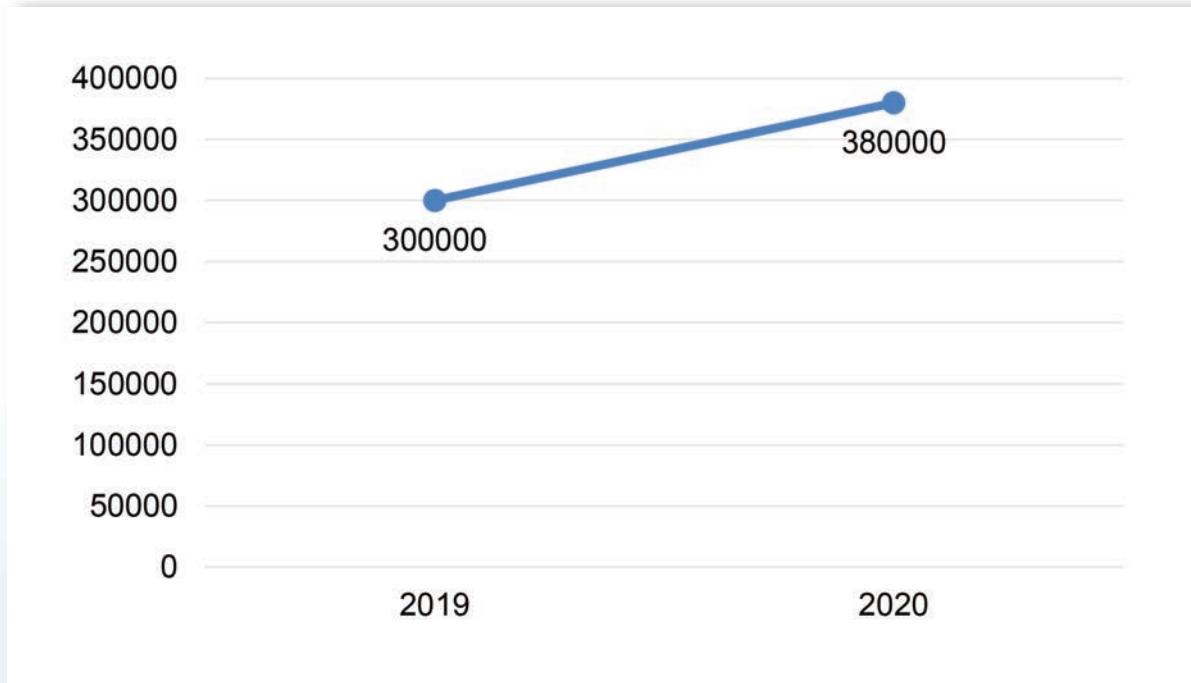


Figure 5:  
Financing from SARG's annual revenues for the period 2016-2020

Specifically, over the last two years, and among other funding projects, a project entitled "Aiding new faculty members and teaching staff" has been introduced in order to cater for new members of faculty and other permanent teaching staff. The relevant figures are reflected in Chart 6.



**Figure 6:**  
Project funding to support new faculty members and permanent teaching staff

