

Future funding

Igor Mandić

F9 Strategic Meeting

Hotel Krvavec 28. – 30. 9. 2026

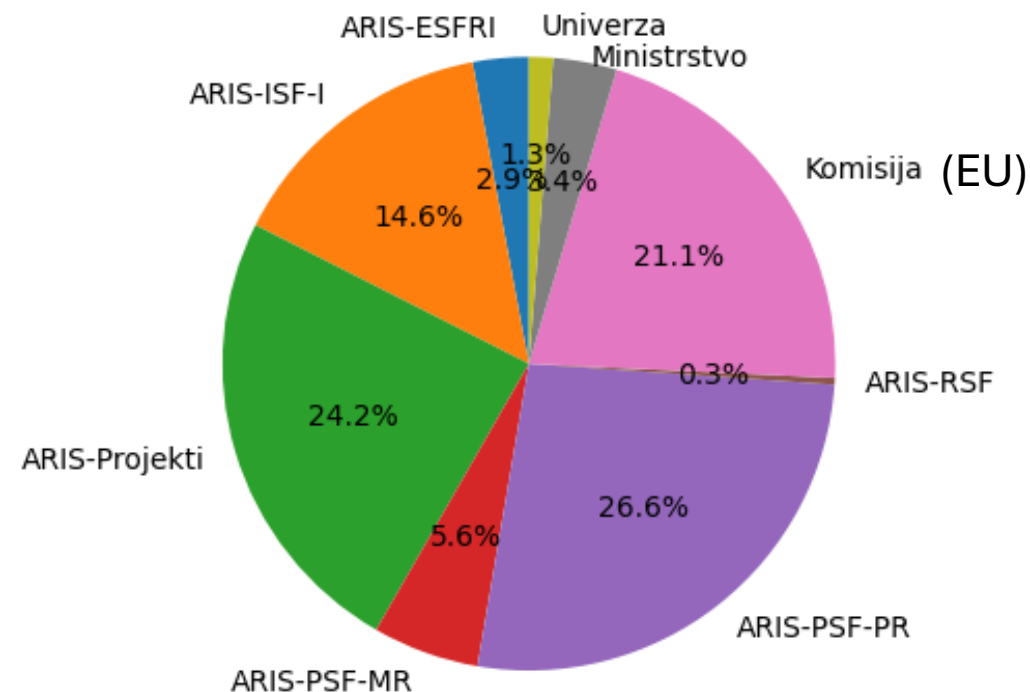
Present funding of F9

The department is fully financed by public money

- Stable financing: ARIS-PSF-PR, ARIS-ISF-I, ARIS-PSF-MR,
➔ only about ~ 50%
 - government funds for JSI foreseen in the budget
 - funds distributed to research programs by JSI
 - revisions of program funding on longer time scale and less abrupt but still competitive
- The other 50% funding: ARIS Projects, EU Projects
➔ fully competitive
➔ project duration 3 – 5 years

ARIS and EU projects are essential!

Delež javnega financiranja po virih (skupaj 4,070,370 €)



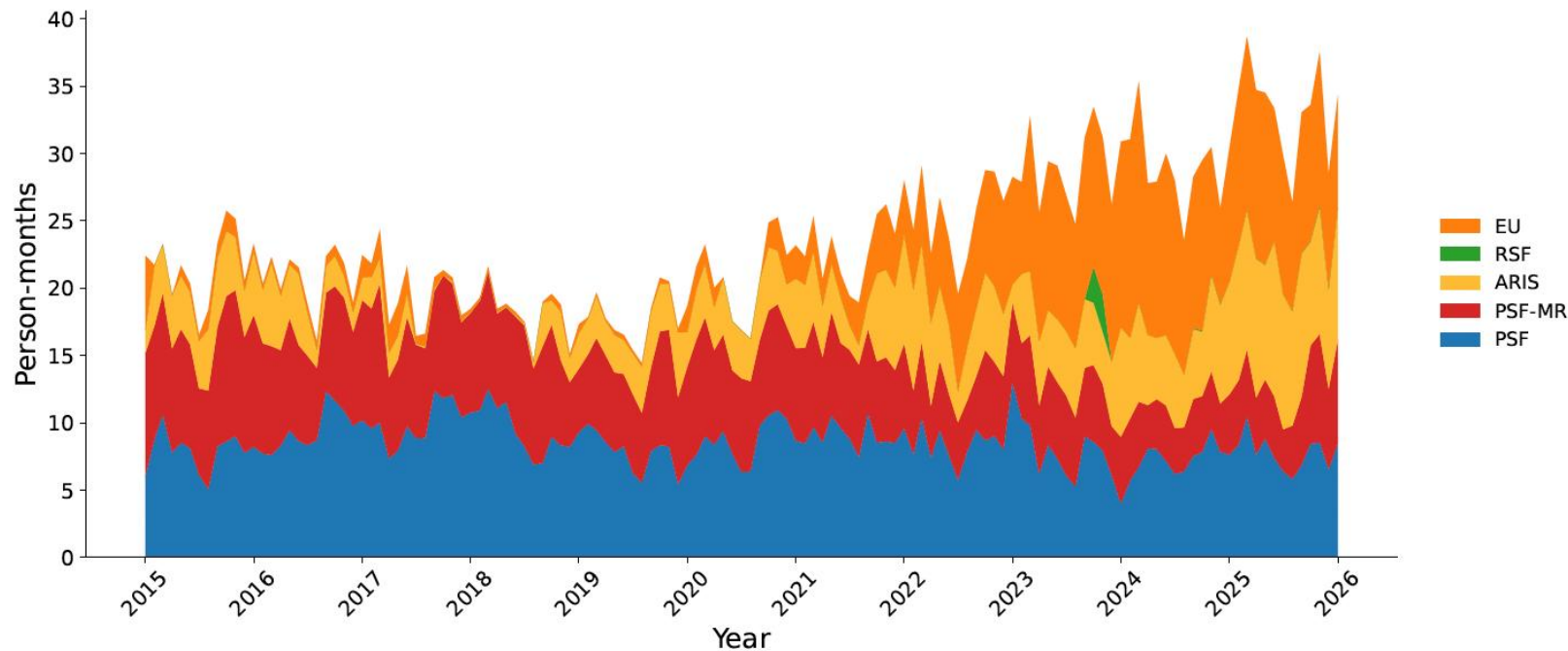
Graph by R. Pestotnik

(ARIS is the national funding agency)

Present funding of F9

- growth of F9 funding in the last few years due to EU projects
- Projects ending in 2026: 3 ARIS + 2 European projects
 - ➔ need successful applications for EU projects!
 - ➔ Good news: several applications for EU projects are being prepared

Funding history:



Graph by Rok Pestotnik

ARIS projects

<https://www.aris-rs.si/en/activities/funding-for-scientific-research>

- [“Standard” research projects](#):
 - projects proposed and led (if approved) by a Principal Investigator (not a group or consortia ..)
 - eligible: postdocs and older scientist meeting certain criteria (depending on the call)
 - calls normally published annually
 - project size and duration depend on project type and the current call but between 75 and 150 k€/y for 3 years
- Larger projects
 - [Gravitation](#): pilot projects for top research teams with the ambition to make scientific breakthroughs, 750 k€/y for 3 years
 - [Strategic](#): support outstanding researchers at various career stages, designed to develop world-class research programmes and research teams...., 500 k€/y for 5 years

ARIS projects

- Lead Agency / Weave

- ARIS finances the Slovenian part of joint basic-research projects evaluated by one lead agency
- 2026 Weave partners: FWF (Austria), NCN (Poland), SNSF (Switzerland), FWO (Flanders), HRZZ (Croatia), GA ČR (Czechia), FNR (Luxembourg) and DFG (Germany),
- Advantage: one scientific proposal / one evaluation; each agency funds its national team
 - ➔ if ARIS is the partner agency: project submitted to and evaluated by the foreign agency, ARIS finances Slovenian part of the project
 - ➔ if ARIS is the lead agency: ARIS evaluates the project, foreign agency finances foreign part, generally without further evaluation

- **Other types international cooperation**

- Bilateral projects → financing of visits
- International partnerships
- ARIS is financing also purchases of larger equipment

ARIS projects

How to apply for ARIS projects:

- <https://www.aris-rs.si/objave/razpisi> :future, current, past calls (currently the page is only in Slovenian)
 - ➔ JSI notifies all researchers about open calls and deadlines by email
- proposal are submitted using **Digital forms** (<https://digitalforms.arris.si/>)
- applications are divided into fields and subfields according to ERC classification
- every ARIS call is different, adapt the strategy
 - ➔ if possible select the field with better prospect, interdisciplinary projects, projects with industrial partners....
- professional help with writing the proposal can be provided
- cross reading of proposals (within F9) can also be useful

JSI internal projects:

- Internal Call for Submission of START and FUTURE Projects within the RSF Pillar »SCIENCE«:
 - 2 START projects are funded in the amount of 75.000,00 EUR per year for 3 years
 - 2 FUTURE projects are funded in the amount of 150.000,00 EUR per year for 4 years
- ➔ Call open until **19th of October 2026**
 - START: up to 5 years after PhD, at least 5 publications in international scientific journals.
 - FUTURE: from 5 to 12 years after PhD, at least 10 publications in international scientific journals
 - application forms were sent in an email from rsf@ijs.si on 24th of August 2026

Ministry of Defence (MORS)

- **National R&D and innovation (RRI)**
 - MORS publishes calls for R&D and innovation activities aimed at increasing the technical and technological capabilities of the Slovenian defence system.
 - Potential relevance for F9: detectors and sensors, radiation monitoring, electronics, advanced instrumentation, data acquisition/analysis and other dual-use technologies.
- **European Defence Fund (EDF)**
 - EU-level collaborative defence R&D funding; MORS is the Slovenian responsible institution / national contact point and publishes information on the annual EDF work programme and calls.
 - Useful strategy: monitor both MORS national RRI opportunities and EDF calls, especially where existing F9 detector/electronics expertise has a credible dual-use application.

ARIS Ciljni Raziskovalni Program (CRP)

- CRP – Targeted Research Programmes: Research projects addressing specific topics of strategic/public interest defined by ministries and other government bodies;
- Calls typically co-funded by ARIS and the relevant ministry, sometimes interesting also for F9
- CRP 2026 call planned for publication on 30 September

EU funding

EU research and innovation is funded mainly through Horizon Europe, organised into three pillars

Horizon Europe Pillar I: Excellent Science

- European Research Council (ERC) grants

- proposals written and grants led by **individual Principal Investigators**
- types of grants: Starting (up to €1.5 M/5 y), Consolidator (up to €2 M/5 y), Advanced (up to €2.5 M/5 y), Synergy (up to €10 M/6 y), Plus Grant (new scheme; up to €7 M for 4–7 years)

→ FAIME, led by P. Križan, Advanced grant

→ **good to know:**

- ERC grant applications which pass certain selection level are eligible to **ARIS** funding of the proposed research:
- funding depends on the type of ERC grant and passed selection level: from 50 kEUR/y to 375 kEUR/y
- ARIS finances also visits to present and former ERC grant holders help researchers develop their own ERC proposals and improve their chances of success.
- JSI and F9 helps with project writing (pays professionals who can help with the text)
- Marko Mikuž has some experience with ERC grant reviewing → can give some useful advice

EU funding

- **Horizon Europe - Pillar III: Innovative Europe**

- European Innovation Council (EIC)

- The EIC covers a progression from early breakthrough research to commercialisation
 - Funding scheme names: Pathfinder, Transition, Accelerator etc
 - Example:
 - EIC Pathfinder: typically up to ~€4 M grant per project (call-specific conditions apply)
 - Pathfinder Open: normally consortia of ≥ 3 independent legal entities in ≥ 3 eligible countries
- ➔ PETVision, coordinated by JSI (R. Pestotnik), is an EIC Pathfinder project
- ➔ EU contribution: €3.5 M in 5 years; JSI share: ~ 830 k€

EU funding

- Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions (MSCA)

- funding people: PhD students, postdocs etc..
 - Doctoral Networks, Postdoctoral Fellowships, COFUND, Staf Exchanges
- Example: [SMASH](#) project (COFUND) coordinated by UNG → funding 52 postdocs for 2 years, duration 5 year
- An institution can coordinate a project or be connected to a project
- Individuals (PhD students, postdocs, ...) apply to positions advertised by different projects
- Postdoctoral Fellowships → individuals apply directly to ERC for funding:
 - a postdoc finds a suitable **host institution and supervisor** and develops their own research proposal together with them. The host institution formally submits the proposal
- Example: [JENNIFER 3](#) → EU Japanese collaboration, in F9 funds used to cover costs of travel to Japan

EU funding

Horizon Europe – Pillar I: Excellent Science

- Research Infrastructures

- Many different projects financed under this programme
- large projects (tens of M€)
- many institutions participating, coordinated by one institution
- work divided into several WP
- writing of application is collaborative work, usually coordinated by institution which will coordinate the project
- Examples of projects where F9 participated recently:
 - [AIDAIInnova](#) (finished in 2025), ***Advancement and Innovation for Detectors at Accelerators***, 10 M€, 47 institutions, coordinated by CERN,
 - JSI 100 k€
 - Participant in WP6: *Hybrid Pixel Sensors for 4D Tracking and Interconnection Technologies*
 - Participant in WP8: *Qualification of neutron irradiated SiPMs at different temperatures*
 - Coordination of WP13 by P. Križan, *Prospective and Technology-driven Blue Sky Detector R&D*
 - [EURO-LABS](#) (finished august 2026), ***EUROpean Laboratories for Accelerator Based Sciences*** 14.5 M€, 33 participants from 18 countries
 - JSI 400 k€ : Transnational access to reactor (irradiations), improvement of radiation facilities
 - Coordination of WP4 by M. Mikuž, *Access to Research Infrastructures for Detectors*

EU funding

- New proposal (application submitted in June 2026):
 - **OTELLO: InnOvative Technologies for dEtectors at Large colliders and Large-scale Observatories**
 - Project will be coordinated by CERN (if approved)
 - 10 MEUR of EU contribution, 45 partner institutions, JSI: 227 kEUR
 - F9 in two WPs:
 - WP3: *Test beam, Irradiation, characterisation facilities and related infrastructure*
 - WP5: *Photodetector sensors and PID*
- Other EU projects
 - projects, lead by Andrej Filipčič, funding **EuroHPC ecosystem** : SLAIF, DaFab, EuroCC ...
 - CHIPS JU, F9 Participating in KC ČIP.si (A. Seljak et al.) electronics, chip design
- **How to join a consortia proposal:**
 - sometimes proposals are “continuations” of previous projects
 - find an interesting proposal and try to join
 - group is invited to join by proposal coordinators
 - build your own consortium
 - ➔ **Networking!**

Future funding

- By ChatGPT:
 - the likely future financial situation of the Experimental Particle Physics Department (F9) at JSI **is more positive than uncertain:**
 - Slovenia is now a full CERN member since June 2025
 - Slovenia has made a legal commitment to increasing research funding (at least the former government)
 - it ensures that Slovenia has a direct national interest in having sufficiently strong groups capable of exploiting that membership
 - CERN membership also creates a financial issue (CERN fee)
 - **it doesn't automatically mean that F9 receives more money**
 - ➔ funding via various projects in addition to stable financing is essential for F9
 - ➔ there are many sources of financing
 - ➔ success rate of application is not very high → need many applications
 - ➔ all scientists (postdocs and older) should try to get some sort of funding

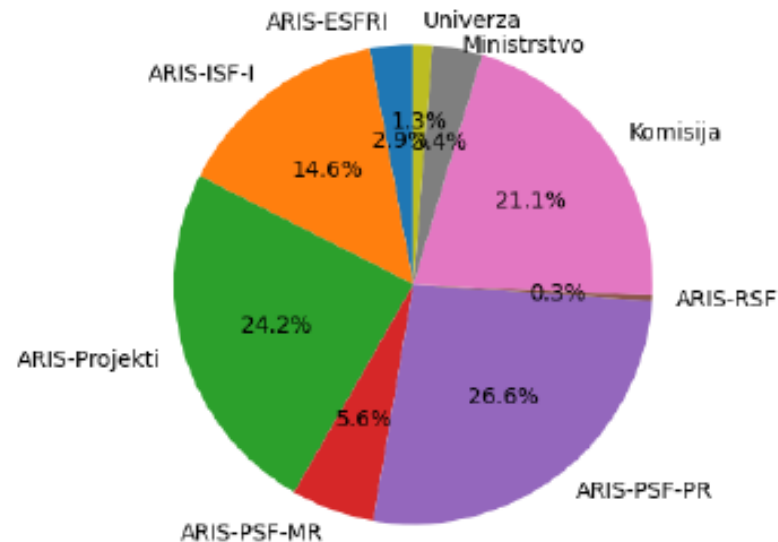
There is no money without submitting applications!

Backup

Current and expected funding

F9 – public financing (2025: 4.1 MEUR)

Delež javnega financiranja po virih (skupaj 4,070,370 €)



Base funding: stable funding

Projects: ARIS, Horizon Europe, ERC, EIC

Goal: continuous execution of at least one ERC or EIC project.

Part of the funding is allocated to: maintenance, and contributions to the operating costs of international research infrastructure.

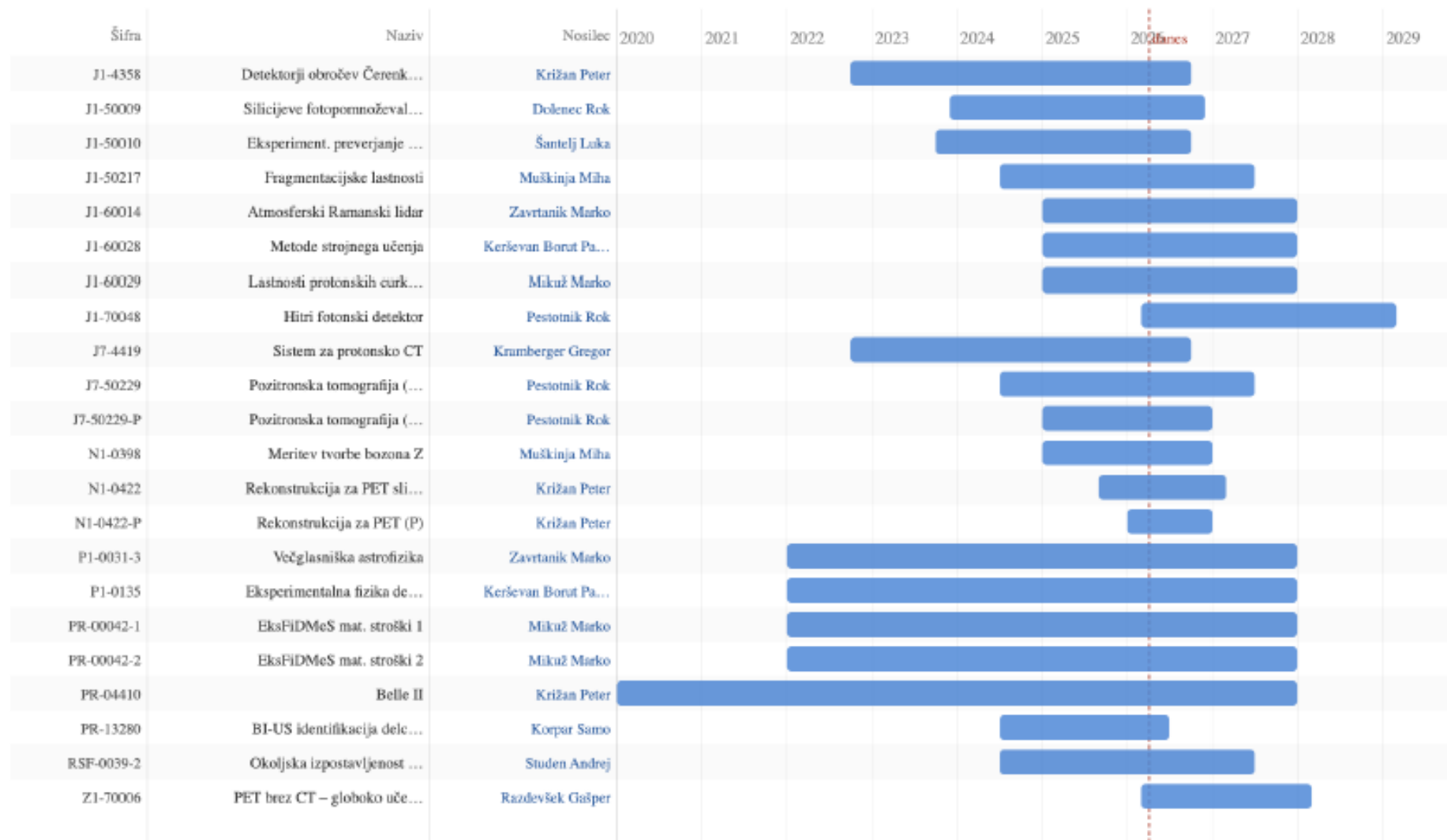
Funding structure	
– stable funding	PSF programmes P1-0135 and P1-0031, ISF-I
– infrastructure	Belle II ARIS
– national projects	13 ARIS projects
– European projects	10 projects
– major projects	ERC Advanced Grant FAIME (P. Križan), EIC Pathfinder PetVision (R. Pestotnik)
Changes in 2026	
– projects ending	3 ARIS + 2 European projects
– new projects	2 ARIS research projects ongoing, +1 ARIS ERC complementary project
Planned applications	
– ERC projects	7 applications: Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants
– HE Otello	1 additional European project

Funding objective

Protect long-term scientific continuity while retaining the capacity to invest in infrastructure and people.

ARIS Projects

■ ARIS projekti ■ EU projekti ■ Mladi razisk. ■ Drugo



Slide by Rok P.

EU Projects

■ ARRS projekti ■ EU projekti ■ Mladi razisk. ■ Drugo

