

Technology Foresight Programme in the Czech Republic

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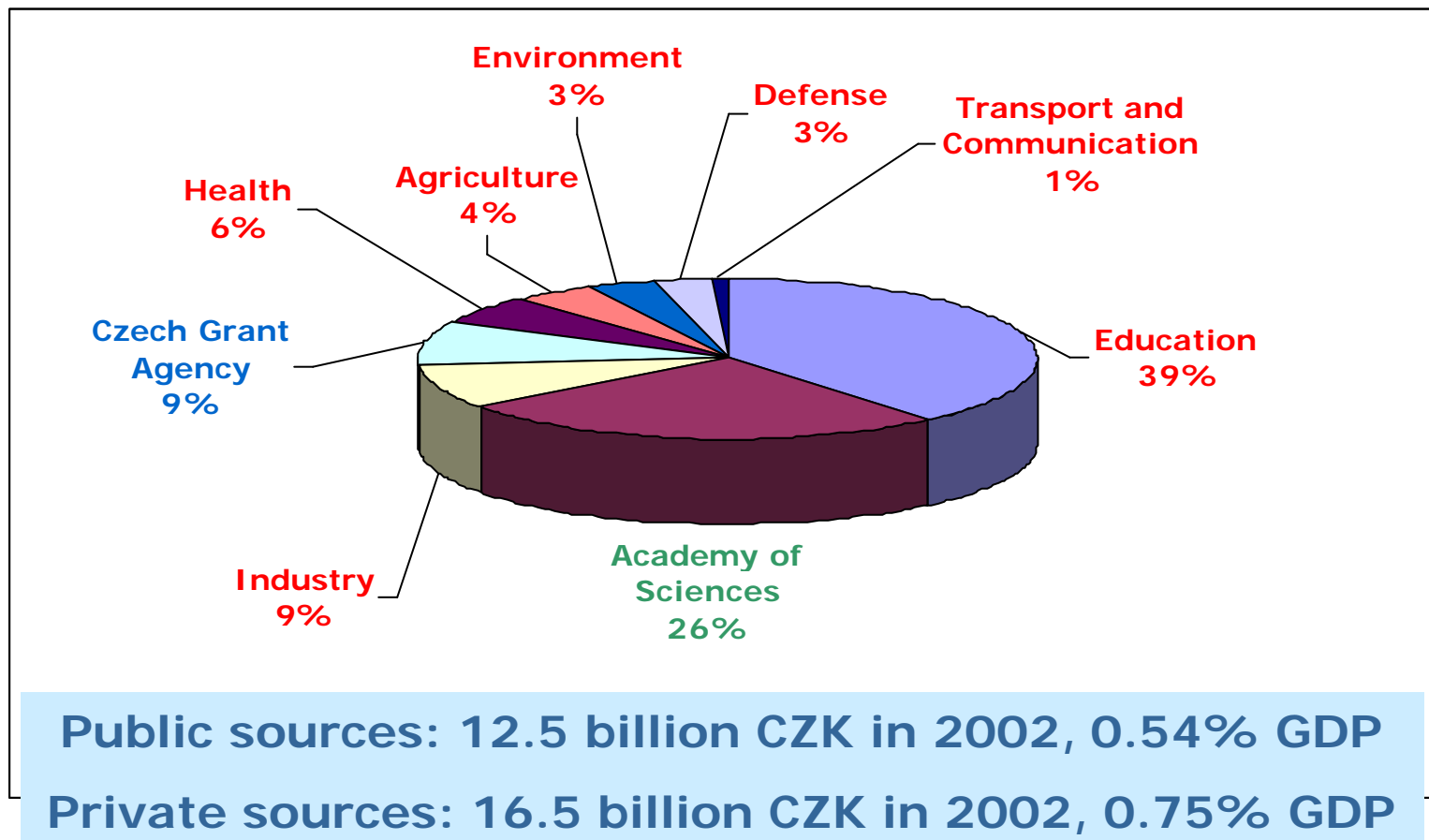
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Structure of this presentation

- **State-supported R&D in the Czech Republic**
- **Technology foresight exercise**
 - Reasons
 - Objectives
 - Method
 - Results
- **Conclusions and future activities**

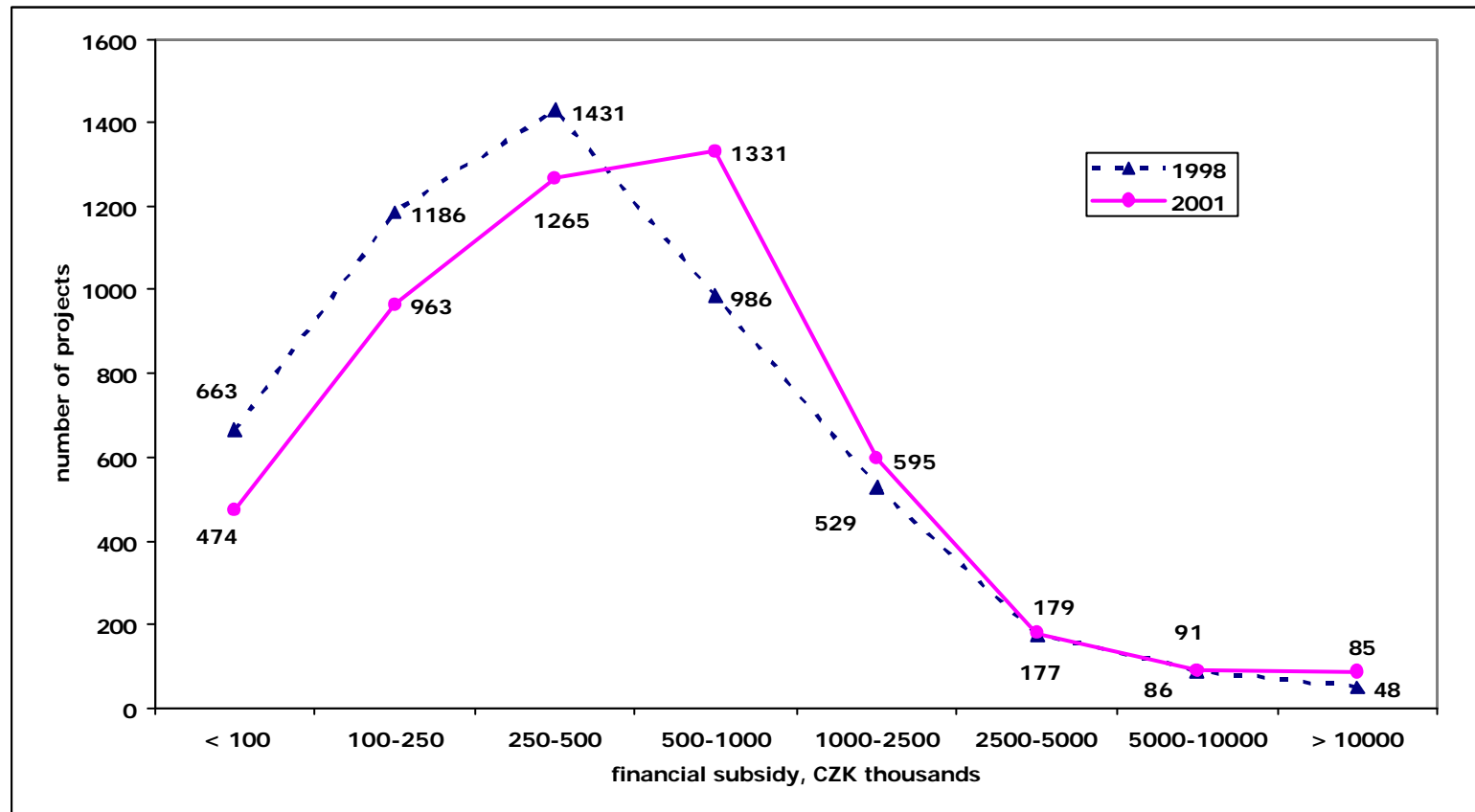
State-supported R&D (public sources)

Main recipients: **Ministries**, **Academy of Sciences**, **Czech Grant Agency**



State-supported R&D

- Large number of small underfinanced projects
- Too many research topics supported



TF-basic objectives

- **To select**
 - a limited number of „key research directions“ (national research priorities) for new National Research Programme (NRP)
- **To suggest**
 - a suitable system for management of the NRP
 - rules for the NRP implementation

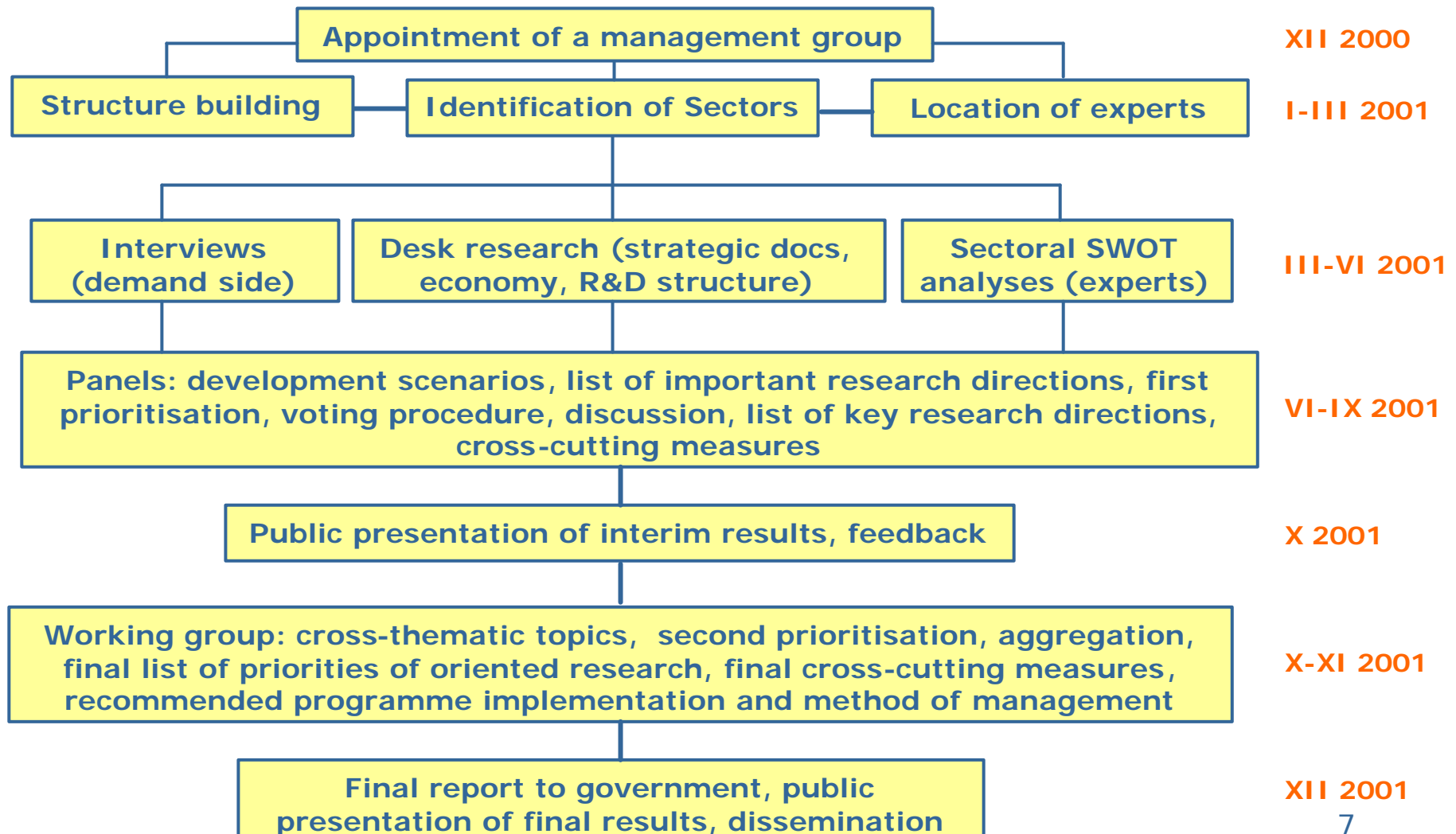
Limited number of selected national research priorities should receive preferential funding from public resources ~ 80% of the total project-type financing available

TF – background information



- Project was ordered by the Czech Government through the Ministry of Education
- Project was managed by the consortium of the Technology Centre AS CR (principal contractor) and the Engineering Academy CR
- Project deadline: 30.12.2001 (exercise lasted 13 months)

TF - stages of the project



TF - panels



- Agriculture and Food
- Environment
- Health and Pharmacy
- Construction, Urbanism and Housing
- Information Society
- Materials
- Discrete Manufacturing
- Machinery and Equipment
- Devices and Instruments
- Chemical Products and Processes
- Transport Systems
- Energy and Raw Materials

- Social Transformation

- Human Resources for R&D
- Integrated R&D
- Regional and International Co-operation in R&D

- Management and Implementation of the National Research Programme

13 application sectors (panels)

3 cross-cutting panels

1 systemic panel

Panels

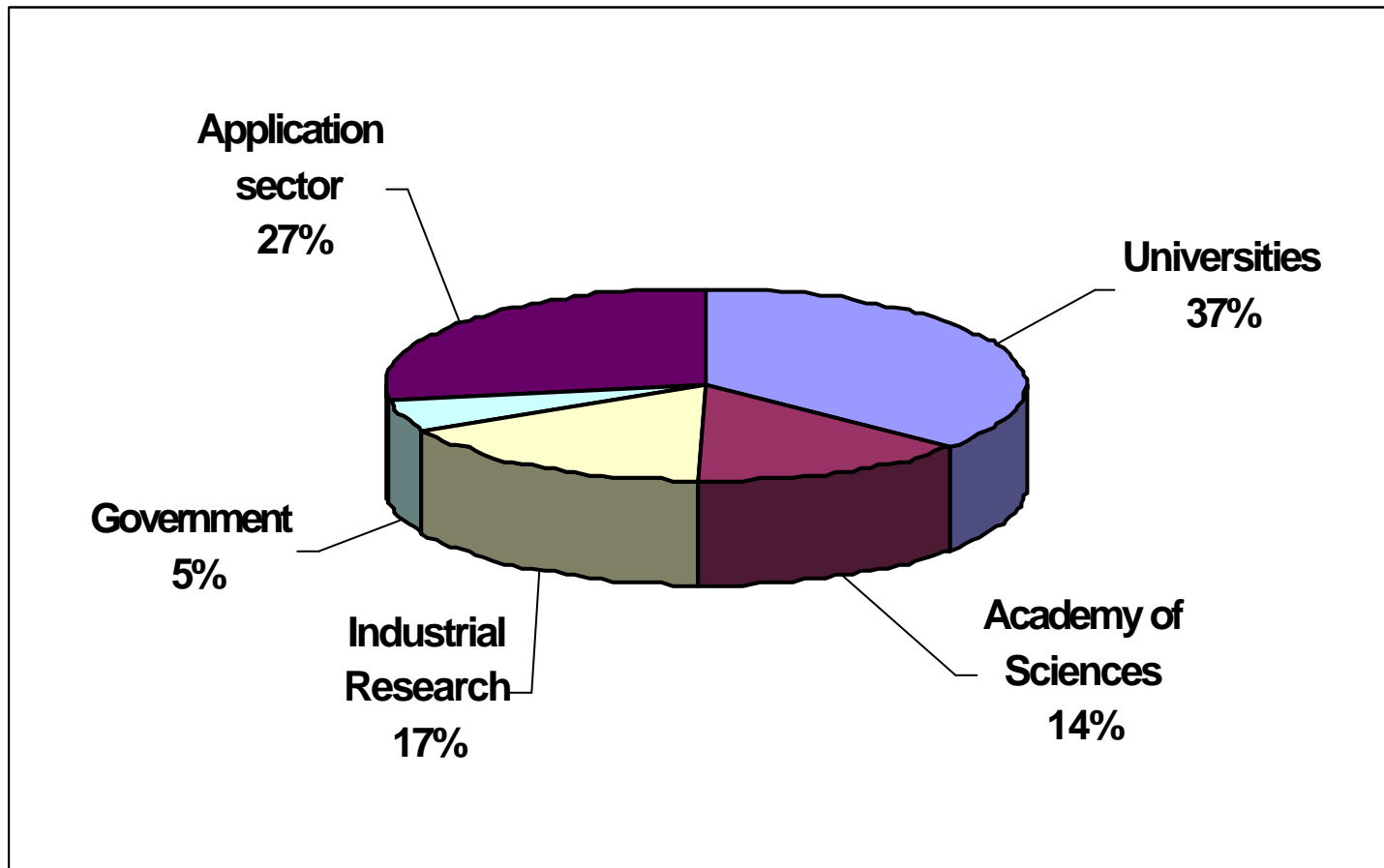
creation



- one of the most critical points of the project
- typically 15-20 experts
- mixed background – research, industry, business, government
- chairperson – a respected „strategic thinker“ assisted by secretary
- members suggested by important stakeholders (institutions), individual recommendations, co-nomination
- about 300 experts of 1000
- panel members received a modest fee to compensate for travels and other expenses

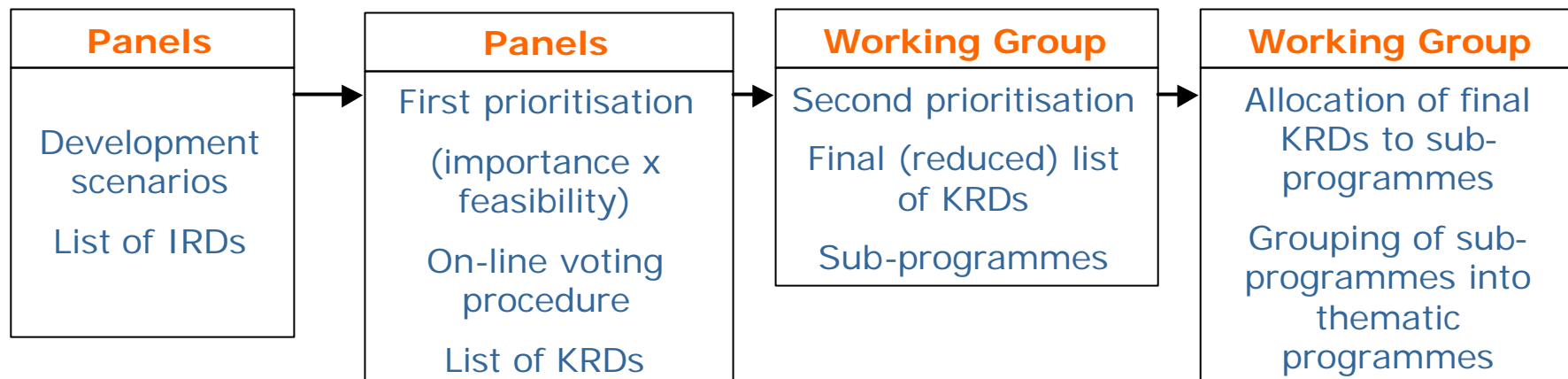
Panels

representation of sectors



Results development

Thematic Programmes

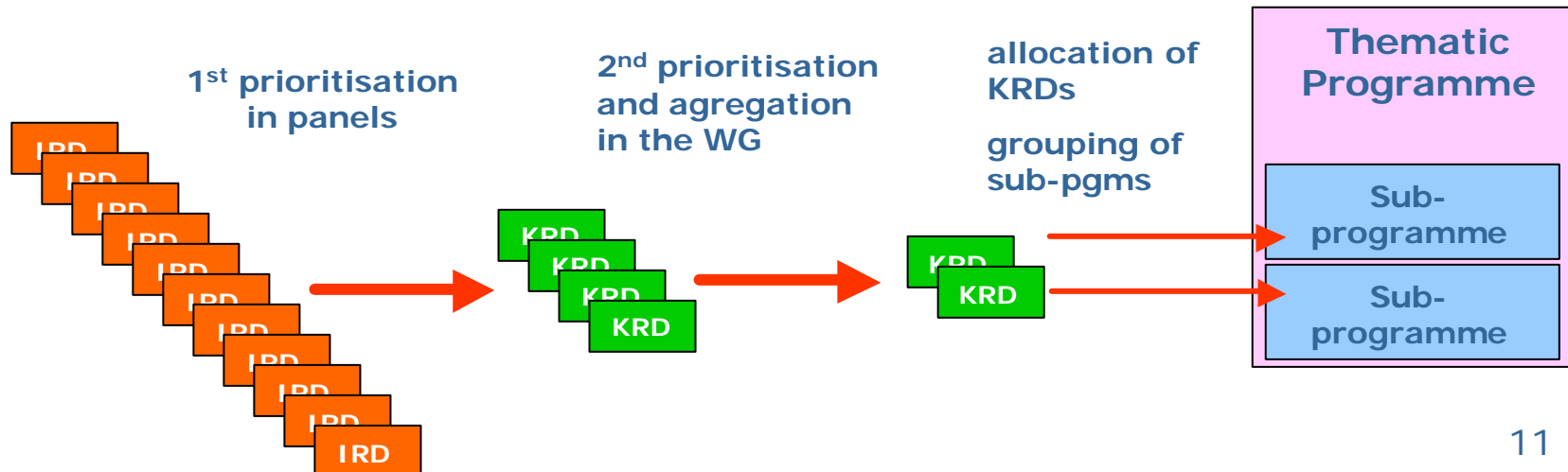


612

163

90

5 (19)



Final remarks (1)

- **Project** 
 - full commitment of the Government as a consequence of the Government demand
 - clearly defined tasks
 - wide support of the research community
 - understanding in industry
- **Project** 
 - expertise and policy mixed
 - insufficient time (12 months) – stressing conditions, each mistake was dangerous, no time for complex consensual discussions across the society

Final remarks (2)

- Project resulted into 19 thematic and 19 cross-cutting sub-programs, 90 key research directions
- Implementation principles and operational rules outlined
- Important side-products: interviews of ~300 industrial and service companies (a demand side), complex analyses of application sectors, development scenarios for main industries
- General principles of the National Programme of Research (NPR) based on the Project results was approved by the Czech Government in May 2002
- Minor modifications in the NPR management still expected till the end of March 2003 (new Act on the Public Support to the R&D)
- Assumed start of the NPR: 1 January 2004
- NPR will have a budget corresponding to ~80% of the project-type funding from public resources (about 50% of the total public funding for R&D)

Final remarks (3)

- A permanent discussion forum established via Internet (former panel members +)
- Raising interest on foresight activities in “decision-making circles” (Czech Government)
- Follow-up:
National Technology Foresight Programme – a strategic competence building for policy-makers, likely to start in January 2004
- For more information: www.foresight.cz