



Centre for functional and surface-functionalized glasses -FunGLASS

The **Centre for functional and surface functionalized glasses (FunGLASS)** has been the only successful Slovak project in the European framework program for research and innovations Horizon 2020 in the call Widespread: ***Teaming, Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation***. The team of the university's Centre of excellence for ceramics, glass and silicate materials led by Prof. Galusek was selected from more than 160 originally submitted applications to become one of the **only nine funded projects in European Union**. The success is the result of a close collaboration with leading experts and institutions in glass science and technology in Europe, namely (in alphabetical order) Prof. Bernardo from the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy), Prof. Boccaccini from the Friedrich – Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany), Prof. Durán from the Instituto de Cerámica y Vidrio (CSIC-Spain), and Prof. Wondraczek from the Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena (Germany), who are the partners and members of the project consortium. The partners will be directly involved in establishment and management of the new Centre, contributing to achievement of scientific excellence.

These five European institutions joined in the effort to establish this new research centre in Trenčín, Slovakia, specialized to cutting edge research in the area of glasses with special functional properties and to functionalisation of conventional glasses with the aim of modification of their properties and adding them new functionalities. The research topics include also materials for personalized health care and energy-related issues, utilization of waste materials for production of glasses and glass ceramics with high added value and application of glass-based coatings in automotive and machinery industry. In addition, the ambition of the Centre is continuous support of training and education of young researchers, including establishment of an international graduate school issuing joint diplomas with project partners from high performing EU countries.

The financial support of 15 M€ for the time period 2017-2023 will ensure an upgrade of the existing national Centre of excellence for Ceramics, Glass and Silicate Materials and its transformation to internationally recognized and established Centre for functional and surface functionalized glasses – FunGLASS. The support from the European commission will be mainly dedicated to personnel expansion of the Centre, creating 44 new jobs for highly qualified research personnel and administration staff. The funding will ensure motivating conditions not only for researchers from the Slovak republic, but also for influx of experts from other countries, with the aim of building multidisciplinary, creative, highly competitive and motivating environment. Continuous education and training of research staff through extensive scientific exchange program and creation of international doctoral degree programs issuing double diplomas with project partner institutions will ensure desired qualification growth of scientists for more than 100 PhD students from the Centre.

The importance of the project is reflected in the special ceremony organized by the European Commission in Brussels for the signature of the nine funded Teaming projects that will be held in Brussels next 16th February with the attendance of all the partners involved in these 9 projects.