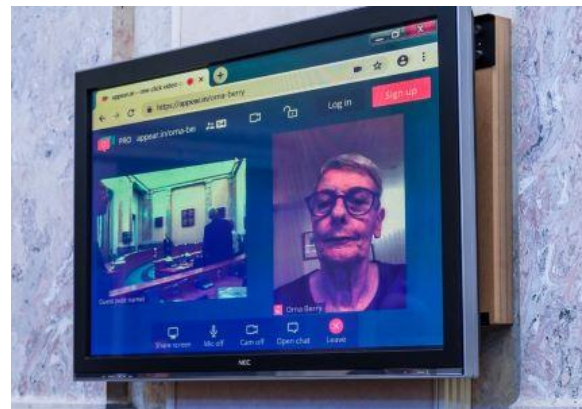


Foreign experts appreciated the Innovation Strategy and the principles of research evaluation

The Government Council for Research, Development and Innovation ("the Council") met on 31 May, 2019 in Straka's Academy at its regular meeting led by its 1st Vice Chair Dvořák and Deputy Prime Minister Havlíček. The meeting of the Government Council was also attended by members of its International Advisory Panel (International Council) headed by Chair Josef Michl. The main points on the agenda of the joint meeting were mainly the opinions of the International Council on introducing the Research Evaluation Methodology 2017+ and on the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030.

"We were pleased by the news about introducing the Methodology 2017+. We strongly support what is happening, we believe that the measures are in line with the best international practice. That the Czech science will be known for its quality, not so much for its quantity," said Prof. Michl on the results of the International Council meeting that took place on 30 May at the Office of the Government. Members of the International Council met there with representatives of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to discuss e.g. support for young scientists and excellent science. They expressed enthusiastic approval of the general principles contained in the new Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic. The output of the meeting of top-level foreign experts included a recommendation that providers simplify their requirements on investigators. Today's meeting was then attended, through a video conference from Israel, by Dr. Orna Berry. *"We are grateful that we can take part in the development of science in this country,"* Josef Michl added to conclude the Government Council meeting.



The actual Council meeting was preceded by a traditional meeting of the Innovation Strategy supervisors over the completed action plans. The outputs of that working group were presented at the Council meeting. The Deputy Prime Minister for Economy, Karel Havlíček, who also acts as the Council Vice Chair, highlighted the new features already generated by the preparation of the specific delivery of the Strategy tasks. First, it is **introducing the subject Technology in primary schools**: *"The project was adopted in the following scenario. Fifty-three selected schools that have sufficient personnel and technical equipment will start*

to pilot polytechnic education at upper primary schools already in the autumn of this year. The subject will appear in the curriculum of all schools in 2022 as a compulsory subject.

The second novelty is the establishment of a **National Communication Team** consisting of representatives of ministries and marketing experts, which clearly builds the future presentation of the Czech Republic on the brand name “Czech Republic: The Country For The Future”.

"The main task of the National Communication Team will be to propose marketing and communication elements in order to build the new brand name of the Czech Republic as a country for the future. The team will also provide expert support to public administration institutions that are responsible for presentation of the Czech Republic abroad," said Silvana Jirotková, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade and general manager of the CzechInvest agency, who is responsible for the Smart Marketing pillar in the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic.

In this connection, the Council approved the draft **Concept of Uniform Presentation of the Czech Republic** submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The updated Concept adopted, in line with the new brand, the logo Country For The Future as its integral part and, in this sense, it seeks to raise its validity from an "innovation logo" to a national logo. The Council recommended to the Ministry to submit the document to the Government after it is discussed by the inter-ministerial Committee for the Presentation of the Czech Republic.

Source: press release of the Council for Research, Development and Innovation / 31.05.2019