

The government council discussed procedure for assessing research in 2019 and balancing scientific professions with parenthood

The Research, Development and Innovation Council (“the Council”) met at the Straka Academy on Friday 29 November for a regular session. The main items on the agenda included procedures for evaluating results and aggregating and interpreting the evaluation according to Methodology 2017+; a debate on the systemisation of the management and coordination of the Innovation Strategy of the CR currently being implemented; the initial proposal for state budget expenditures on research and development 2021-2023; and the issue of how to balance scientific professions and parenthood.

In keeping with tradition, a meeting of Innovation Strategy (IS2030) guarantors took place before the Council session proper. Subsequently, the Council session discussed the **System for Managing and Coordinating Innovation Strategy 2019-2030**, a covering document that lays down specific measures in each pillar and sets out in greater detail what kind of measures are already being executed or will be executed in the coming years. The material has now been put before the Council for comments and could be approved at the next Council session. The material will then be presented to the government for discussion.

In another of the key items, the Council approved **the evaluation procedure according to R&D Methodology 2017+ in 2019**, including the interpretation and aggregation of the acquired information and data. In the words of Council vice chairman Petr Dvořák, *“The evaluation of research in the Czech Republic has reached a stage where quality has to be identified and it must be shown which fields and which institutions are excellent, which are good and which need to improve. Today we approved a guide for interpreting the analyses done in modules 1 and 2. It is important to realise that the new methodology will bring about a relatively dramatic change in how the quality of research is assessed – we will be able to identify which field in a particular institution is excellent, comparable to or even better than the EU15 standard, and which has some way to go.”*

Another material approved today, **Mapping Thematic Fields for the Next Programming Period**, was drawn up in close cooperation between the Council and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. This material sets out ten recommended priority fields of research and tertiary education that will be negotiated with the European Commission in the context of new ESIF-financed operational programmes under preparation.

Another item of importance at the session was the question of currently lacking capacities in connection with difficulties faced by families in the Czech research environment. After the New Year, a rapporteur for **balancing scientific professions and parenthood** will be appointed from among the Council’s members. The rapporteur will have specific responsibilities and tasks.

In the continuing debate, the Council approved the Initial Draft Czech State Budget Expenditures on Science, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2021-2023, as well as the Procedure for Assessing Draft Special-Purpose Support Programmes and Groups of Grant Projects.

In an informal discussion, Council members noted with satisfaction that the Chamber of Deputies had this week consensually debated the draft amendment of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., the key part of which is a change to and legislative definition of the research evaluation system according to R&D Methodology 2017+.

Source: RD&I Council press release, 1. 12. 2019