

# Government Council Discussed Energetics Research and Participation in EU Framework Programmes

---

On Friday, 29 April 2022, the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) had a meeting in the Straka Academy, chaired by Helena Langšádlová, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation. The main points of the meeting included research support and success in ministerial programmes, participation in EU framework programmes and research in the field of energetics. Furthermore, the call for proposals for the Česká hlava (Czech Mind) National Government Award for 2022 or the principles of allocation of institutional support according to the Evaluation Methodology 2017+ were discussed.



*Helena Langšádlová, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation. Photo: Office of the Government of the CR*

As part of the regular point of discussion on the issue of Methodology 2017+, the members of the Council approved the material “Principles of allocation of support for long-term conceptual development at the level of research organisations.” **The Council expects all providers to move to index-based funding in line with the current methodology.** “A key task for the next period will be for the RDI Council to negotiate with providers on the use of evaluations for the allocation of institutional support in order to promote excellence and international competitiveness of Czech science, with an effort to ensure that the financial and personnel investments invested in the evaluation are actually reflected in the management and funding of research organisations,” added the Council's Vice-Chair Štěpán Jurajda. An overview of the expenditure on institutional support by individual providers and research organisations is also part of the draft budget for science and research for 2023.

The Council also discussed the material **HORIZON 2020 – Participation of the Czech Republic** from the Technology Centre of the CAS (TC CAS), which creates the background for the programmes Horizon (Horizont) in the Czech Republic. According to the report, the Czech Republic is not one of the Member States with high participation and activity. On the positive side, however, is the high participation rate of Czech subjects (up to 15.84%, i.e. the seventh highest success rate among EU countries). *“According to the report, the framework programmes have conditioned the increase of international cooperation of Czech research institutes, opened the possibility to cooperate with teams from the most important European scientific institutions, industry could participate in the activities of globally strong consortia. In the Czech Republic, however, efforts to make a name for itself in international research are concentrated in a few dozen top research teams and participation in the framework programmes is still something exceptional,”* said Minister Langšádlová. The Council subsequently asks the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT), or the CAS TC, to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the Czech Republic's participation in Horizon 2020.

As a regular point on the preparations of **the Jan Amos Komenský Operational Programme (JAK OP)**, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports informed the Council members about the Call Schedule for 2022 and the expected allocation of funds, possibly taking into account current societal challenges and priority topics recommended by the Council, such as research on disinformation processes, adaptation of society to climate change, energy crisis and research in the field of public health.

A major topic of the moment, which the Council has been addressing since autumn 2021, is **research in the field of energetics**. Informal discussions are held between Council members and invited experts in the field, e.g. from institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Czech Technical University in Prague. In this regard, the Council is examining the potential of the RDI system to address the energy crisis and transition, and how existing projects/programmes can help, inter alia, to reduce dependence on natural gas, to apply hydrogen technologies in the energetics etc. Draft Council conclusions on the topic of the Future of Energy will be submitted to the May meeting.

In the next part of the meeting, the Council approved the text of the **Call for Proposals for Candidates for Member of the Scientific Council of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (GA CR)**, with the deadline for submission of applications on 01/06/2022. At present, the Scientific Council needs to be completed due to the resignation of prof. Martin Hartl for incompatibility of functions. On 23/03/2022, prof. Hartl was appointed by the government to the Board of the GA CR.

The members of the Council also approved the text of the **Call for Candidates for the Česká hlava (Czech Mind) National Government Award for 2022**, which will be announced during May 2022 on [www.vyzkum.cz](http://www.vyzkum.cz) and [www.vlada.cz](http://www.vlada.cz), with the deadline for submission of applications on 30/06/2022.

Source: press release of the RDI Council – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 29/04/2022