

Government Council approves the Strategy for Developing Publicity and Communication of Science. Petr Konvalinka nominated again to chair the Technology Agency

On 24 June 2022, the Research, Development and Innovation Council (*the Council*) held a meeting at the Straka Academy, chaired by Helena Langšádlová, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation. The main points of the meeting included proposals for appointments to the Board of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and to the Presidium and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation. The Strategy for Developing Publicity and Communication of Science, Research and Innovation was discussed.



380th meeting of the RDI Council. Photo: Office of the Government of the CR

In the first item of the meeting, the Council proposed on the basis of a secret ballot to appoint **Prof. Ing. Petr Konvalinka, CSc., FEng.**, a member of the Board and at the same time the **Chairman of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic**. Petr Konvalinka has been nominated for a second term of office from 26 September 2022. The material was approved for the government meeting.

The members of the RDI Council further proposed to the Government to appoint **doc. PhDr. Martina Hřebíčková, DSc.**, a member of the Presidium of the **Czech Science Foundation** and **prof. Dr. Ing. Jan Černocký** a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Czech Science Foundation.

June 2022 also marks the end of the term of office for the majority of the members of the **Bioethical Commission**, which is an advisory body of the R&D&I Council. By secret ballot, the Council proposed to its Chair to appoint **10 members of the Commission**.

Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Radka Wildová informed the Council about work on the **amendment to the Higher Education Institutions Act**. The Council will actively participate in the implementation of the amendment together with the MEYS. *“A significant part of the amendment to the Higher Education Institutions Act is the reform of doctoral studies. The Government’s goal is to increase the scholarships for doctoral students. Likewise, measures must be set up that will lead to a higher success rate in completing this type of study programmes,”* added Minister Langšádlová, who is a co-sponsor of the amendment.

In another of the main agenda items, members of the Council approved the **Strategy for Developing Publicity and Communication of Science, Research and Innovation**. The document was prepared by the Section for Science, Research and Innovation at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic with the aim of mapping publicity and communication in the field of science and research, connecting the world of science with the media and generally building trust in science.

“We want to bring the Council’s agenda, current scientific knowledge and its transfer into practice closer to the people, to present Czech science abroad and at the same time motivate students and young people to pursue a career in science,” added Helena Langšádlová with regard to the Strategy.

The Strategy also presents traditional and innovative off-line and on-line tools through which the objectives are to be achieved. The Publicity and Communication Strategy will be presented to the public on the www.vyzkum.cz website and on the RDI Council’s social network profiles.

During the meeting, Council members also got acquainted with the [Energy Research in the Czech Republic](#) document and approved the Council’s draft opinions on the [Programme for Support of Applied Research and Innovation in Transport – Transport 2030](#) and the [Health Research Concept until 2030](#).

Prof. Ing. Petr Konvalinka, CSc., FEng

Petr Konvalinka graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU). In 2008 he was appointed Professor in the field of Theory of Building Structures and Materials. Since 2014 he has been a member of the Engineering Academy of the Czech Republic.

Since 1984 Petr Konvalinka has been part of the academic staff at the CTU. He has been the principal investigator and co-investigator of major basic and applied research projects. In 2014–2018, he served as Rector of the CTU, and in September 2018 he was appointed by the Government of the Czech Republic as Chairman of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.

During his career, prof. Konvalinka engaged in research activities mainly in the field of experimental and numerical mechanics, analysis of material and structural properties of building materials, in the field of destruction of building structures, as well as in the field of static and dynamic load tests of bridges and engineering structures.

Source: press release of the RDI Council – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 24 June 2022