

Government Council welcomes new members to its ranks

The regular session of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) took place on Friday 27 November in the form of a video conference. The main items on the agenda included R&D support under the National Recovery Plan, the initial proposal for state budget expenditures on research and development for the years 2022–2024 and the National RIS3 Strategy for 2021–2027. The meeting was attended by the Council's newly appointed members Marián Hajdúch and Jiří Holoubek.

At the start of the meeting, First Vice-Chairman Petr Dvořák welcomed the **new Council members appointed by the government 16 November 2020**. These are **Marián Hajdúch**, director of the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine at Palacký University in Olomouc and head of the Ministry of Health laboratory group (which deals with the capacity for COVID-19 testing), and **Jiří Holoubek**, president of the Electrical and Electronic Association of the Czech Republic and board member of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic and the National Centre for Industry 4.0.

The Council also expressed its thanks to Jan Lata and Jiří Witzany, who completed their four-year term, for their work on the Research, Development and Innovation Council.



A remote meeting of the Council took place 27 November 2020 in the form of a video conference. Photo: Office of the Government

The government once again addressed support for research and development as part of the economic strategy. Council members discussed the results of the activity of the working groups for industrial applied research and for medical research. Professor Dvořák and representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Ministry of Education informed the Council members about **talks with the European Commission on the National Recovery Plan**, which took place 20 November 2020.

The Council approved the Initial Proposal for the Czech State Budget Expenditure on Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2022–2024, with an outlook to 2028, totalling CZK 38.0 billion for 2022, CZK 38.0 billion for 2023 and CZK 38.6 billion for 2024. These expenditures do not include those covered by income from EU programmes and financial mechanisms. Thus began the preparation process for the Draft Expenditure for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2022–2024, which will continue next year with talks with individual providers of aid. The Council expects a specific proposal to be submitted to the government in the second quarter of 2021.

Under the next main agenda item, the Council approved its position on the material National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic (National RIS3 Strategy), handled by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The existence and functional implementation of the

National RIS3 Strategy represents a basic precondition for carrying out EU cohesion policy interventions in the field of research, development and innovation in the programming period through to 2027.

A regular topic of the Council sessions is Implementation of the 2017+ Evaluation Methodology. Currently the Council was informed about how the objections of research organisations over the evaluation of results in Module 1 were settled. A seminar will be organised for the objections raised, in particular for the field of applied research, where a discussion of the details of the peer review process is anticipated.

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