

The Government Council Discussed the Science Budget 2023+

On Tuesday, 12 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. Council members discussed the research, development and innovation (RDI) budget.

The extraordinary meeting of the Council was mainly devoted to the proposal of the state budget expenditures for 2023 with an outlook for the future. After an extensive discussion, the councillors approved the Proposal of the State Budget of the Czech Republic for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2023 with an outlook to 2024 and 2025 and a long-term outlook to 2029 material, which will now be submitted to the inter-ministerial comment procedure.

On the basis of the negotiations that took place between the Minister for Science and Research and the Minister of Finance, taking into account the economic development, the current situation in the state budget and current events, it is necessary for the proposal of RDI expenditure for 2023 to comply with the medium-term outlook approved by the Government Resolution of 09/02/2022.

The Council therefore maintains the **draft budget for 2023** at the level of the medium-term outlook approved by the government, i.e. a total of **CZK 39.32 billion**. The volume of financing in 2023 shows a year-on-year increase of CZK 249.8 million. In the following years, the Council proposes to increase the medium-term outlooks to a total of **CZK 43.44 billion for 2024** and **CZK 45.22 billion for 2025**. The budget also takes into account funding from EU funds.

“The presented draft budget outlook for 2024 and 2025 takes into account the expected inflation and assumes that the macroeconomic growth of the Czech Republic after the pandemic crisis and in the international situation influenced by the war in Ukraine will be conditioned by investments of public funds also for science and research. The draft budget also emphasizes, among other things, the need to support excellence, the proven ability of relevant scientific disciplines to respond quickly and strategically to current societal challenges and the need to support the applied research, technology transfer and knowledge necessary for the long-term economic growth, competitiveness and transformation into an economy with higher added value,” said Minister Langšádlová.

The draft budget is part of the effort to **create stable conditions for the development of the RDI system**. Based on discussions that took place with providers to date, outlooks for the future are available up to 2029.

Pursuant to Act No. 130/2002 Coll., the Council annually prepares a proposal for the medium-term outlook for RDI support and a proposal for the amount of total expenditure on research and development for individual budget chapters, including a proposal for their distribution. The binding deadline for submitting the draft RDI budget 2023+ to the government is 31/05/2022.

Source: press release of the RDI Council – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 12/04/2022