

# Government Council discusses the framework of new Act on the support of science and research

On 20 May 2022, the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) held a regular meeting at the Straka Academy, chaired by Helena Langšádlová, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation. The main items on the agenda included the framework of the new Act on RDI support, the Proposal for State budget expenditure on research and development for 2023, and the Proposal for the appointment of members and chairman of the Evaluation Commission.



Press conference held after a regular meeting of the RDI Council. Photo: Office of the Government of the CR

Members of the Council were presented with a **framework draft of a new Act on research, development, innovation and transfer of knowledge and technology**. The preparatory work on the Act will be carried out in consultation with various stakeholders in the system, with a plan to complete the legislative process by 2024. *“The primary purpose of this piece of legislation is to create legislative conditions for the transfer process, i.e. to support the creation of an innovative environment for the establishment of spin-offs, start-ups and cooperation with business. We also seek to include new areas such as human resources or ethics in science, or the protection of national security interests in research. In response to trends in the European Research Area, the upcoming Act also focuses on open data and career support, especially for early career researchers.*

*Other key topics are the protection of intellectual property, tighter relationship between basic and applied research, flexibility of the system of purpose-tied and institutional support, and a general reduction of the bureaucratic burden,”* said the chairwoman of the Council to open the discussion on the preparation of the new Act.

The Council approved the final version of the **Proposal of the State budget of the Czech Republic expenditure on research and development for 2023 with a view to 2024 and 2025**, including the settlement of comments. The approved proposal of the Council will now be submitted to the Government. The total volumes of expenditure are proposed as follows:

- **a total of CZK 39.32 billion** for **2023**;
- **a total of CZK 43.66 billion** for **2024**;
- **a total of CZK 45.22 billion** for **2025**.

Taking into account the State budget situation and current events, the 2023 proposal leaves science spending at the level of the government-approved medium-term outlook.

Based on the result of a secret ballot, the Council proposed to its Chairwoman to appoint **prof. RNDr. Tomáš Polívka, Ph.D.**, the **Chairman of the Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and RD&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes**, and to appoint the **following members of that Commission** for a second term: prof. RNDr. Ing. František Kocourek, CSc., doc. RNDr. Stanislav Kozubek, DrSc., prof. RNDr. Tomáš Polívka, Ph.D. and prof. MUDr. Pavel Ševčík, CSc.

At his own request, prof. Štěpán Jurajda resigned as Chairman of the Evaluation Commission in May and he will remain a full member of the Commission. The Evaluation Commission is the Council's key expert body for the implementation of the 2017+ Evaluation Methodology at the national level.

On 10 October 2022, the term of office will end for the majority of the members of the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR). In this context, the Council approved the text of the **Call for candidate proposals for 9 members of the Research Board of the TA CR**, which will be published on the [www.vyzkum.cz](http://www.vyzkum.cz) website with the deadline for applications on 31 July 2022.

Finally, the Council approved the holding of two expert meetings, the Round Table on Knowledge and Technology Transfer and the Conference on Research, Development and Innovation to Address Climate Change in the Czech Republic. These events are organised by Minister Helena Langšádlová in cooperation with the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of the Environment at the Liechtenstein Palace in Prague on 9 June and 23 June 2022.

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