

Government Council adopts opinion on the Programme for Support of Health Research and Development for 2024–2030

On 25 November 2022, the 384th meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council took place at the seat of the Czech Government with the participation of the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation and the Chair of the Council, Helena Langšádlová, who, among other things, elected Professor Eva Vejmelková and Professor David Honys as new members of the Committee for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and Completed Programmes.



From the 384th meeting of the RDI Council. Photo: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

The Committee for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and Completed Programmes is an advisory body to the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) and it performs tasks related to evaluating the quality of research, experimental development and innovation and the quality of research organisations' results. It is also an advisory body for the implementation of the 2017+ Methodology at national level.

At its meeting, the Council also discussed the initial draft of the State budget of the Czech Republic for research, experimental development and innovation for 2024–2026. This proposal of the Council will serve as a supporting material for the expenditure proposal, which will be prepared and discussed by the Council with the individual budget chapter administrators and subsequently submitted to the Government for consideration by 31 May 2023.

“As a member of the Government, I am aware of the need to introduce savings into the State budget, but science, research and innovation is an area whose results contribute to the development of our economy and are of great importance for our future, which is why I am

pleased that the Council adopted a resolution stating that it wants to advocate for an increase in spending on research, development and innovation in the next steps of the State budget preparation,” said Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Helena Langšádlová.

At its 384th meeting, the Council also took note of the Operational Programme Just Transition (OPST), which was presented to the Council members by Deputy Minister of the Environment Jan Kříž. The Ministry of the Environment is the Managing Authority of this operational programme, which is intended for three regions (Ústí nad Labem, Karlovy Vary, Moravian-Silesian) affected by coal mining. Out of the total allocation of CZK 42.7 billion, CZK 13.8 billion is earmarked for science, research and innovation.

The Ministry of Health has submitted to the Council a draft Programme for Support of Applied Health Research and Development for 2024–2030. The programme is based on the current needs of health research and it is intended to help grow, streamline and improve applied research in health care. The programme’s objectives are divided into three main areas: Public Health, Pathogenesis and Development of Diseases, and Innovative Solutions for Medicine. The Council approved the Health Research Programme, but also pointed out that its funding will depend on what the State budget allows.

The Council also approved the meeting of the secretariats of the European Advisory Bodies on Science, Technology and Innovation in May 2023 in Prague. These European Councils are held twice a year in one of the EU Member States. The purpose of such meeting is to exchange information on current developments, examples of good practice and trends in RDI policy and to exchange experience regarding the activities of the individual advisory bodies.

Source: Press release of the RDI Council - Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 2 December 2022