

# The Council proposed Barbora Šmahlíková for the Government Award for Gifted Students

On 27 January 2023, the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council), chaired by Minister Helena Langšádlová, held a regular meeting at the seat of the Czech Government. The main items on the agenda included a vote for the laureate of the 2022 Government Award for Gifted Students. The Council discussed a proposal for the THETA 2 programme to support applied research and innovation, and the Analysis of the state of research, development and innovation in the Czech Republic and their international comparison in 2021.



The opening part of the meeting was dedicated to the proposal for a laureate of **the Government Award for Gifted Students**. The Council stated that many quality nominees were proposed and it appreciated the fact that many young people work in science already during their studies. Out of the 20 recommended nominations, the Council members proposed to the Government to grant the award to Barbora Šmahlíková, BSc., a student of the Faculty of Information Technology, Brno University of Technology.

*"I am pleased that I can welcome among laureates also the youngest talents next to the best Czech scientists traditionally receiving the national award of the Government. One of the ambitions of the new Government award is to win young promising adepts for a future career of scientists,"* said Helena Langšádlová, Minister of Science, Research and Innovation and the Council Chair on the result of the vote.

**The 2022 Award will be granted for the first time in history**, thanks to a decision of the Government to create an annual opportunity to award a gifted student of a secondary school or higher education institution who has shown an extraordinary talent and interest in research and scientific work. The Government decides on the winner of the award on the proposal of the Council. The prize is accompanied with **a reward of CZK 50 thousand**.

At the presence of the President of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Prof. Petr Konvalinka, the Council discussed the proposal for the **THETA 2 Programme to support applied research and innovation**. The programme will support applied research and innovation in energy and it follows up immediately on the THETA programme. It covers all areas and relevant kinds of energies in the energy sectors. THETA 2 responds to the need for substantial transformation of the energy sector in the next years, aiming to relatively significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, subsequently, to achieve climate neutrality at EU level. The THETA 2 programme is expected to be implemented **in the period 2024–2031 with total expenditure at up to CZK 10,621.7 mil.**

The Council approved the document Analysis of the state of research, development and innovation in the Czech Republic and their international comparison in 2021. The Analysis, drawn up every year by the Council, provides an overview of the most important aspects of the research, development and innovation sector in the Czech Republic. The publication gives a current view on the R&D&I system and uses to the maximum extent **the unique data from the Information System of Research, Development and Innovation (IS R&D&I)**, available to the Council. After it is endorsed by the Government, the analysis will be published at [www.vyzkum.cz](http://www.vyzkum.cz).

The Council members also approved the establishment of **the working group People in Science**, which will follow up the activity of the previous WG for equality of women and men in research, development and innovation. The purpose of the newly established group is, apart from methodological recommendations and good practice sharing, mainly to approach the agenda from the perspective of a more general monitoring of the conditions for scientists. The WG seeks to remove obstacles for the mobility of scientists in the internationalised research practice, to continue to promote equal opportunities and to develop the reconciliation of professional and family life of scientists.

According to Helena Langšádlová, it is necessary to give more support to people in science and research in all of the above aspects. *“People are the building blocks of the system, they substantially determine the quality of science and research,”* the Minister added.

At the meeting, the Council members approved the Plan of Activity of the Research, Development and Innovation Council for 2023 and the text of the Call for proposals of candidates for 2 members of the Research Board of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, which will be published at [www.vyzkum.cz](http://www.vyzkum.cz).

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**Barbora Šmahlíková, BSc.** proposed by the Council for the Government Award for Gifted Students, currently studies a Master's study programme Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence, specialising in Mathematical Methods, at the Faculty of Information Technology, Brno University of Technology.

Barbora Šmahlíková joined research already at the start of her Bachelor studies. Her work in the development of algorithms, so-called omega-automatons, soon resulted in publications at international conference fora that are mostly reserved for doctoral students. The complementation algorithm, to the development of which she significantly contributed, is currently one of the world's best. Based on the recommendation of the Faculty and the study outcomes achieved so far, Barbora is truly an exceptional student with great talent for science and research.

Source: press release of the RDI Council - Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 27 January 2023