

Government Council Holds Talks with Research, Development, and Innovation Support Providers

On Friday, 31 March 2023, another regular meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) took place at the Straka Academy, chaired by Minister Helena Langšádlová. The beginning of the meeting was devoted to a joint negotiation of the Council with providers of support for research, development and innovation. The main points of the meeting also included the preparation of the draft state budget for R&D&I 2024+, a report on the status of implementation of the Methodology 2017+, the election of members to the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and the establishment of the Knowledge Transfer Working Group.

At the beginning of the programme, a working meeting of the members of the Council with providers of support for research, development and innovation was held. The key topics discussed included the new law on research, development, innovation and knowledge transfer, higher correlation of the evaluation of research organisations with the amount of institutional support provided, issues of reducing the administrative burden or deepening coordination in the preparation of new programmes and calls for proposals.

"Today's meeting with providers of support for research, development and innovation is a valuable opportunity to discuss important issues together and share perspectives and experience. I am pleased that a wide range of topics were discussed," said Minister Langšádlová.

The RDIC also proposed to the Government to appoint two new **members of the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic**, namely PhDr. Pavel Baran, CSc., from the academic sphere and Ing. Jiří Reiss, CSc., MBA, for the business sphere.

The members of the Council have approved the Draft State Budget for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2024+, which will now be submitted to the inter-ministerial comment procedure. The Council proposes expenditure of **CZK 47.8 billion for 2024**, CZK 50.7 billion for 2025 and CZK 50.1 billion for 2026. For 2024, the total amount of funding is proposed to be CZK 7.6 billion higher than the 2023 expenditure.

Minister Langšádlová is ready to advocate to the Government **an increase in the budget for science and research**, which is necessary in particular to maintain the real value of funds for research, development and innovation. *"By increasing spending on science and research, we aim to maintain the stability of the entire system. It is necessary to respond to rising inflationary spending by research organisations. The budget reflects the priorities, namely excellence, support of human resources in science and transfer,"* the Minister said concerning her mission.

Public money invested in science, research and innovation has a long-term positive effect on gross domestic product growth and on increasing future tax revenues.

In the second part of the meeting, the main coordinator of the evaluation, prof. Tomáš Polívka, informed the Council members about **the status of the implementation of the Methodology 2017+ after the five-year cycle** of the evaluation. Over 13,300 selected results were evaluated and more than 26,000 reports were produced during the period. 100,000 results were processed bibliometrically, with a total of 40 expert panels commenting on the subject analysis.

The Council has established a new **Knowledge Transfer Working Group**. The issue of transfer is one of the pillars of the government's policy statement for science, research and innovation. The main goal of the working group is to strengthen the transfer of results and the valorisation of results in cooperation with companies, as well as in the form of licensing and creating spin-offs. The group also aims to link the results of science with public administration, using knowledge for public policy making.

Source: press release of the RDI Council – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 31 March 2023