

Government Council to Announce Expanded Call for the Government Award for Gifted Students

On 26 January 2024, another regular session of the Research, Development, and Innovation Council (the Council), chaired by the Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation, Helena Langšádlová, took place at the Government's seat. Among the main points discussed were the proposal for appointing a member to the Presidium of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, the preparation of the state budget expenditure proposal for science and research for the period 2025+, and the new conditions for nominations for the Government Award for Gifted Students for achievements in research.

In the opening of the meeting, the Council proposed appointing **Ing. Bc. Kamila Vávrová, Ph.D., to a second term as a member of the Presidium of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic**. Dr. Vávrová currently also serves as Vice-Chair of the TA CR. The proposal will be submitted to the Government for approval.

According to the approved schedule, meetings with support providers to prepare the state budget expenditure proposal for research, experimental development, and innovation for the period 2025–2027 will commence in February this year. The Council is obliged to submit the final expenditure proposal to the Government by the end of May 2024.

The current **call for nominations for the 2023 Government Award for Gifted Students**, which will be announced on vyzkum.gov.cz and vlada.gov.cz, has been approved. The newly structured call expands the number of students awarded for exceptional achievements in science and research.

Under Government Regulation No 350/2023 Sb., which amended Government Regulation No 71/2013 Sb., as amended, from 1 January 2024, the award will be presented annually to one laureate in each of the following categories:

- (a) Secondary and tertiary vocational school student;
- (b) Bachelor's or Master's degree programme student;
- (c) Doctoral programme student.

"I am pleased that we can now present the Government Award for Gifted Students in three categories. Expanding the number of students awarded by the Government for their scientific and research achievements is certainly a suitable motivation for young people interested in science and can be an important impulse for their future careers," added Minister Langšádlová.

This award can be given once a year and includes a financial prize of CZK 50,000 for each laureate.

A traditional agenda item dedicated to evaluation according to the Methodology 2017+ was devoted to discussing the **Proposal for Appointing Members of the Expert Panels**. In the ongoing process of regular panellist rotation, the Council proposed appointing the following individuals to the Expert Panels in the fields of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Social Sciences, and Humanities and the Arts: prof. RNDr. Vítězslav **Straňák**, Ph.D., prof. RNDr.



Ivana **Márová**, CSc., Mgr. Martin **Ďurdovič**, Ph.D., Ing. Mgr. Jaroslav **Benák**, Ph.D., prof. JUDr. PhDr. Veronika **Bilková**, Ph.D., E.MA., doc. PhDr. Petr **Kaniok**, Ph.D., doc. PhDr. Irena **Reifová**, Ph.D., and doc. PhDr. Daniela **Rywiková**, Ph.D.

The Council approved the reports from the tripartite discussions on the evaluation results at the national level with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will be published on the website <https://hodnoceni.rvvi.cz/>.

The Council members also approved the Plan of Activities of the Research, Development, and Innovation Council for 2024 and the Plans of Activities of the Council's Advisory Bodies.

Source: R&D&I Council – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic | 26 January 2024