

Government Council Selects Laureates of the Government Award for Gifted Students

On 26 April 2024, the 400th session of the Research, Development, and Innovation Council (the Council) took place at the Government's seat, chaired by the Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation, Helena Langšádlová. Among other activities, the Council members selected the laureates of the Government Award for Gifted Students by secret ballot. For the first time this year, the award will be presented in three categories.

The selection of candidates for the **2023 Government Award for Gifted Students** was a significant point of the Council's 400th session. This year saw a high number of quality nominations, with the councillors appreciating that many young people are interested in science, and some are already engaged in research during their studies. From a total of 47 nominations received, the Council members proposed that the Government present the award to the following laureates: **Tereza Šustrová**, a student at Brno Grammar School, in the category of secondary and tertiary vocational school students; **Vasil Kostin**, a graduate of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine at Charles University, in the category of Bachelor's or Master's degree programme students; and **Markéta Kocmanová**, a doctoral student at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, in the category of doctoral programme students.

"I am pleased that we can now present the Government Award for Gifted Students in three categories. Increasing the number of awarded students is certainly a suitable motivation for young people interested in science and a scientific career," added Minister Langšádlová.

During the session, the Council also approved a nomination **call for the 2024 National Government Award "Czech Mind"** for extraordinary achievements in science and research, which will be published in early May on vzkum.gov.cz and vlada.gov.cz.

Additionally, the Council approved the opinion on the **Final Report on the Implementation of the Inter-ministerial Concept of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity for 2016–2022** and the material **Analysis of the State of Research, Development, and Innovation in the Czech Republic and its Comparison with Foreign Countries in 2022**. The analysis includes an evaluation of the main indicators reflecting the state of RDI in the Czech Republic, including international comparisons, and focuses on key topics: the RDI system in the Czech Republic; finances; people in science; research organisations; RDI performance and efficiency; and international cooperation.

In conclusion, Helena Langšádlová bid farewell to the Council members and thanked them for their cooperation: *"It has been a great honour to work with such personalities as the members of this Government Council,"* she said. The Council members also collectively expressed their thanks to the outgoing Minister for her leadership and contributions to the development of science policy.