

The laureate of the Award of the Research, Development and Innovation Council Chairman will be Pavla Hubálková

On 27 September 2024, a second September meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council was held at the Straka Academy. The Council was informed that this year's award for research promotion and popularisation would be granted to the science journalist Pavla Hubálková. The second piece of important information was the increase in the 2025 budget for research, development and innovation to CZK 43.3 bil., approved by the government at its Wednesday meeting.

First, the members of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) received information on the final **proposal for state budget expenditure on research, experimental development and innovation for 2025** with a mid-term outlook for 2026 and 2027 (proposal for R&D&I expenditure). At its meeting on 25 September 2024, the Government approved the budget proposal at CZK 43.3 bil. for 2025, 43.7 bil. for 2026 and 43.9 bil. for 2027. Against the 2024 budget, the proposed public expenditure on R&D&I in 2025 grew year on year by nearly 8%, i.e. CZK 3.1 bil.

"After two years of stagnation, we managed to negotiate a jump increase in the budget for next year. The new amount of CZK 43.3 billion is a great success and I believe the budget will grow in the following years so that Czech scientists can enjoy the best possible conditions," said Minister Marek Ženíšek on the positive result of negotiations before the Council meeting.

The Council members debated broadly on the results of the review of the evaluation principles after five years of implementing Methodology 2017+. The upcoming update to the **methodology for evaluating research organisations** aims to optimise processes and remove identified problems so that it motivates organisations and researchers to produce excellent results in all areas of science. The methodology update will be discussed with the professional public also at the nearest conference meeting to be held on 15 October at the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.

An announcement was made of the 2024 laureate of the Council Chair's Award for Promotion or Popularisation of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, selected from the nominees by the Science, Research and Innovation Minister and the Council Chair, Marek Ženíšek. This year, it was granted to Pavla Hubálková, Ph.D., a science journalist who is dedicated to popularising and communicating science in both Czech and international context.

"Out of the proposed candidates, I decided to grant the chair's award to Dr Hubálková. In the popularisation of science, it is important that communication towards the public is comprehensible, based on positive examples and motivating mainly the young generation to pursue a career in science. The work of Dr Hubálková runs exactly along those lines. I am looking forward to handing her the award in person," said Ministr Ženíšek.

Profile of the laureate



Pavla Hubálková, Ph.D., started her career as a scientist. Currently, she is active in science journalism and popularisation. She holds a Fulbright scholarship that has enabled her to go for an internship in the United States and watch how science is popularised and communicated by top foreign centres.

The work of Pavla Hubálková includes writing science-popularising articles and making interviews for Czech media as well as training scientists in communication with the public. She provides the training regularly for prominent Czech universities and scientific institutions.

Pavla Hubálková co-authored the first book on science communication in Czech: *Science Communication. Úvod do komunikace vědy (Introduction to science communication)* (2023, MatfyzPress). Since 2020, she has written over 700 science-popularising texts and interviews for Czech media. She communicates science also on social media where she publishes, for example, the series *Women in Science*. She is the author of the newsletter *I write about science*, focused on the achievements of Czech scientists working both in Czechia and abroad.

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