

# Research, Development and Innovation Council to Propose Appointment of New Chair of the TA CR Research Council

On 13 December 2024, Science, Research and Innovation Minister Marek Ženíšek chaired a regular meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council at the Straka Academy. The Council members discussed, among other items, the activity plans of the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) and the Scientific Council of the Czech Science Foundation, the document “Evaluation of the Results of Programmes and Grant Project Groups in Research, Development and Innovation Concluded in 2022”, and recommendations for funding providers on implementing open science practices. A proposal for changes in the TA CR Research Council will be submitted to the government.

At the start of the session, the Council approved the 2025 activity plans for both the TA CR Research Council and the Czech Science Foundation Scientific Council. Following the appointment of Prof. Fusek as a new member of the Council and his subsequent resignation as Chair of the TA CR Research Council, Council members elected, by secret ballot, a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Research Council: **Ing. Jan Kleindienst, Ph.D.**, and **Ing. Šárka Houdková Šimůnková, Ph.D.** The proposals for their appointment will be submitted to the government.

*“Dr Kleindienst is a leading expert in machine learning and artificial intelligence. He has devoted his entire professional life to this field and has acquired high-level experience in the private sector. I believe that his expertise, particularly in this area, makes him an excellent candidate for Chair of the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic – especially at a time when technologies such as artificial intelligence are transforming all aspects of our lives. The Technology Agency is one of the main actors in the Czech research and innovation system, and I consider it appropriate that its Research Council be led by someone who thoroughly understands its needs and trends. I congratulate him on his election and look forward to working together,”* said Minister Ženíšek.

The government will also be presented with the document Evaluation of the Results of Programmes and Grant Project Groups in Research, Development and Innovation Concluded in 2022, which was discussed and approved by the Council. The evaluated programmes included targeted support schemes from the Ministries of Culture, Defence, the Interior, and Industry and Trade, as well as those of TA CR and the Czech Science Foundation.

The Council also discussed its own work plan for 2025, the schedule for negotiations with funding providers regarding draft state budget expenditure for research, development and innovation for 2026 to 2028, the implementation of measures from the 2021–2025 Concept of the Research, Development and Innovation Information System, and recommendations for funding providers on applying open science practices in national programmes and public competitions in research, development and innovation. This recommendation was developed in collaboration with the National Library of Technology, specifically its National Centre for Information Support of Research, Development and Innovation.

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