

# Research, Development and Innovation Council to Begin Budget Discussions for Science and Research 2026+

On 31 January 2025, the first session of the year of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council), chaired by Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Marek Ženíšek, took place at the Straka Academy. Among other items, the Council members discussed preparations for meetings with funding providers (i.e. granting authorities) concerning budget proposals, the annual activity report for 2024, and the handling of objections submitted by research organisations to the results of the national evaluation.

Before the meeting began, the members of the Council held a minute of silence in memory of the historian Prof. František Šmahel.

At the opening of the session, Minister Ženíšek informed the Council of preparations for discussions with funding providers on the **draft state budget expenditure for research, experimental development and innovation for the period 2026–2028**. These discussions are scheduled to take place in February and March in accordance with the approved timetable.

*“Dialogue with funding providers is an essential part of creating the science and research budget. It ensures that resource allocations reflect the real needs of research organisations and contribute to their long-term stability. Our goal is to support excellent research and innovation, to create a stable environment for young scientists, and to bring Czech science closer to international standards,”* said the Minister.

The Council approved the resolution of objections raised by research organisations to the outputs of the peer review evaluation of selected high-quality research results submitted by those organisations. The outcomes of these resolutions will be sent to the respective organisations in February 2025. This evaluation was also the subject of another agenda item, in which the Council approved protocols from meetings with funding providers regarding the evaluation results. These included protocols from meetings with the Ministries of the Environment, Foreign Affairs, Culture, and Industry and Trade.

A key item on the agenda was the 2024 Annual Activity Report, which summarises not only the work of the Council but also that of its advisory bodies. These advisory bodies also submitted their draft work plans for 2025 for approval.

Later in the session, members of the Council were informed about the upcoming **Research Organisation Evaluation Methodology Conference**, to be held on 19 February 2025 in cooperation with the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. The Council was also briefed on updates to the Information System for Research, Development and Innovation (IS RDI), particularly the launch of the new Researcher Register module.

In conclusion, brief information was presented regarding the Czech Republic's national position on the EU's 10th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, as well as the intention to establish a working group to support biotechnology and pharmaceutical research and industry.