

The Research, Development and Innovation Council met with international experts associated with the ISAB

Members of the Research, Development and Innovation Council met on Wednesday, 21 May at the Hrzán Palace in Prague for a joint session with their international advisory body, the International Council. The main points of the expert meeting, which takes place annually in Prague, included science policy topics: the new Act on Research, Development, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, the methodology for evaluating research organisations, and the National Priorities of Oriented Research.

The intensive afternoon meeting of the International Council (ISAB) with members of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Council was held in a hybrid mode. The international guests were thoroughly briefed on the current state of **science and research policy development in the Czech Republic**, specifically in the areas of state budget formation for science and research, the approval process of the new Act on Research, Development, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, and the scope of the amendment to the Act on Public Research Organisations.

The subsequent part of the discussion covered topics including the evaluation methodology and its update (Methodology 2025+) and the redefinition of National Priorities of Oriented Research. The international experts were also informed about the activities of the working groups People in Science and Technology and Knowledge Transfer, and newly prepared targeted support programmes (IMPAKT2, PRODEF, TWIST, STRATE, etc.).

“The experience of International Council members provides valuable feedback to the RDI Council. Their overview of the functioning of scientific systems abroad is irreplaceable, especially if we want to keep pace in supporting excellent research and the openness of the research environment,” stated the RDI Council Vice-Chair Dr. Adéla Gjuričová, who chaired the meeting.

The International Council is an advisory body to the RDI Council, composed of distinguished foreign experts who have been providing valuable international expert comparisons since 2017. With the end of the second term of office on 27 April this year, the ISAB members have been replaced, and currently, 12 internationally renowned scientists serve on the council:

Prof. Wilhelm Jan Ansorge, Professor Emeritus active at EMBL Heidelberg in Germany, **Prof. Michele Aresta**, CEO of IC2R (Innovative Catalysis for Carbon Recycling-Ltd.) in Italy, **Prof. Jannette Carey** of Princeton University (USA), **Prof. Joseph Hamill**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts in the USA, **Dr. Klára Jelínková**, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Harvard University in the USA, **Dr. David Kolman** serving as Head of Grant Office at IT:U – Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria in Linz, **Prof. Joachim von Puttkamer**, Director of Imre Kerész Kolleg Jena, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Leiden University in the Netherlands **Prof. Sarah de Rijcke**, **Prof. Sebastian Scholz** working at the Fraunhofer Institute in Zittau (IWU), **Prof. Hyněk Wichterle** from Columbia University in the USA, **Dr. Martin Tolar**, founder, president and CEO of Alzheon, Inc. in the USA, and **Prof. Wolfgang Wahlster**, founding director and long-standing CEO of the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI).

At the conclusion of the meeting, ISAB members proposed the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation and RDI Council Chairman Marek Ženíšek appoint Prof. Wilhelm Ansorge as the chairman of this international advisory body.

In recent years, the International Council has issued, inter alia, a series of recommendations regarding the research funding system in the Czech Republic with the aim of improving the functionality and efficiency of the Czech Science Foundation and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.

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