

The Research, Development and Innovation Council approved the Methodology for Evaluation of Research Organisations 2025+

On 30 May 2025, Marek Ženíšek, minister for science, research and innovation, chaired a regular meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council at the Straka Academy. In the main agenda items, Council members approved the draft state budget expenditure for research, development and innovation for the period 2026+, the position on quantum technologies strategy, and research topics for the public tender in the SIGMA programme. The update of the Methodology for Evaluation of Research Organisations effective from 2025 was discussed, and the Council members also approved the call for proposals for awards in research popularisation and promotion.

The first item on the agenda was the **election of members to the Presidium of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic**. Through a secret ballot, the members of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (RDI Council) proposed the government appoint three Presidium members from among 10 candidates, namely Prof. PhDr. Matúš Šucha, Ph.D., Mgr. Miroslav Havránek and PhDr. Pavel Doleček, Ph.D.

Minister Ženíšek further informed those present about the progress in preparing the **draft state budget expenditures for research, development and innovation (RDI budget) for 2026**, with a medium-term outlook for 2027–2028 and a long-term outlook until 2032, as well as about the results of the interdepartmental comment procedure. The total RDI SB expenditure, including co-financing, is proposed for Government approval as follows:

- **for the year 2026** in the amount of **CZK 46.77 billion**,
- **for the year 2027** in the amount of **CZK 50.08 billion**,
- **for the year 2028** in the amount of **CZK 50.34 billion**.

The total amount of expenditures proposed for 2026 is CZK 3.47 billion higher than the expenditures approved for 2025 and at the same time CZK 3.12 billion higher than the current medium-term outlook.

The RDI Council subsequently approved the position on the document **National Strategy for Quantum Technologies**. Together with the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the National Semiconductor Strategy, the material forms a group of strategic documents essential for ensuring international competitiveness as well as national security and defence capabilities. The preparation of the Strategy was coordinated by the Quantum Technologies Commissioner Dr. Petr Kavalíř. The document sets strategic objectives for the period 2026–2032 in five key areas: Research and Development, Education and Talent Development, Competitive Economy, International Cooperation and Internationalisation, and Security and Defence.

“Quantum technologies represent one of the most fundamental directions of current technological progress with the potential to transform industry, security, healthcare and digital infrastructure. The vision of this strategy is to create a resilient economy that utilises the scientific and commercial potential of quantum technologies while mitigating the risks arising from their use,” stated Minister Marek Ženíšek, who is the submitter of the material.

A significant achievement was the approval of the update to the **Research Organisations Evaluation Methodology (Methodology 2025+)**, which will replace the currently valid methodology approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic dated 08.02.2017. The material will now be

submitted to the Government, which will repeal the 2017+ Methodology by its resolution, while any evaluations commenced under this methodology shall be completed in accordance therewith.

The Methodology 2025+ codifies and describes good practice in greater detail and further specifies the previously insufficiently emphasised evaluation principles with the aim of anchoring existing developments while providing a more detailed description of processes and implementing new evaluation elements.

“The aim of the evaluation according to Methodology 2025+ is to obtain information for quality management of the research, development and innovation system in the Czech Republic at all its levels, to increase the efficiency of public spending and thus support the enhancement of the quality and competitiveness of the Czech system,” added Tomáš Polívka, First Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Evaluation Commission (KHV), regarding the submitted material.

Research topics were also approved for the **public tender in the SIGMA programme: partial objective 5 – long-term research plans**. The topics are based, inter alia, on the priorities of semiconductor and artificial intelligence strategies and include the following areas: AI4CZ – Artificial Intelligence in Research, Development and Innovation, Circular Economy and Raw Material Security, and Accessible, Resilient and Connected Transport for the Security of the Czech Republic in a Multipolar Environment.

The Call for Proposals for the RDI Council Chairman's Award for the Promotion or Popularisation of Research, Development and Innovation for 2025, which will be announced in June 2025 on vyzkum.gov.cz, was also discussed

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