

## The Council for Research, Development and Innovation has nominated prof. Julius Lukeš for the Czech Mind National Government Award

On Friday, 19 September 2025, a regular meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Council was held at the Straka Academy. The council members decided on the nominations for this year's edition of the Czech Mind National Government Award. As the main agenda, the council approved an opinion on the inter-ministerial concept of support for security research and a call for nominations of members of the Research Council of the Czech Technical and Scientific Committee. The agenda also included an update on the development of the cohesion policy for the period 2028+.

In the initial secret vote on the **2025 Czech Mind National Government Award (Národní cena vlády Česká hlava)**, members of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (RDI Council) selected, from among the nominees, **prof. RNDr. Julius Lukeš, CSc.**, for his outstanding contribution in the field of parasitology.

*"The National Government Award is the highest award presented to personalities of Czech science and research. It is a tribute to the best Czech scientists whose lifelong and exceptional expertise has had a truly global impact. I am pleased to be able to nominate for this award Professor Julius Lukeš, an internationally renowned parasitologist, whose scientific insight, passion and breadth of research make him one of the most prominent exponents of Czech science,"* said Marek Ženíšek, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation and Chair of the RDI Council.

As the next item on the agenda, the RDI Council approved the opinion on the Inter-ministerial concept of support for security research in the Czech Republic for 2025-2031. The document builds on the concept for the period up to 2023 and provides a framework for the systematic development of state support in this area, specifically aimed at supporting the security system of the Czech Republic.

RDI Council members agreed to **publish selected results of the national level evaluation** using the 2017+ Methodology in Modules 1 and 2. The results will be published at <https://hodnoceni.rvvi.cz/> and research organisations can provide feedback on the published outputs within 30 days of the data being made available.

In the second part of the meeting, the council members approved the text of the Call for nominations for a member of the Research Council of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic covering the area of departmental research. The call will be published at [vyzkum.gov.cz](https://vyzkum.gov.cz)

The name of the winner of the **Council Chair Award for the Promotion or Popularisation of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for 2025** was also announced, selected by Minister Ženíšek from the large number of received nominations. The award went to **Mgr. Eva Navrátilová**, an expert in science communication and research promotion and the current director of the Academia Film Olomouc festival. The laureate will receive the award during a ceremony on 23 September at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

RDI Council members were also familiarised with a document monitoring the **development of cohesion policy for the period 2028+**. The Horizon Europe 2028-2034 (HE) framework programme and the Cohesion Policy 2028+ European strategic framework significantly strengthen research, development and innovation as a key pillar of EU competitiveness. The HE programme has been

allocated a budget of EUR 175 billion and includes support for excellence in science (ERC, MSCA), innovation (EIC), research infrastructures and regional development. Innovation and research are explicitly recognised as key tools in achieving the EU's objectives in areas such as climate neutrality, digital transformation, food security and rural and regional resilience.

The Czech Republic welcomes the increase in budget in this area, the preservation of the tried-and-true instruments and calls for clear implementation rules, including support for under-performing regions and gender equality.

Source: RDI Council press release – Office of the Government of the CR | 19 September 2025