

The Research, Development and Innovation Council tackled the Open Science issue

On Friday, 24 October 2025, another regular meeting of the Council for Research, Development and Innovation, chaired by Minister Marek Ženíšek, was held at the Straka Academy. The council members discussed, among other things, the costs of Open Access publishing. The agenda also included the approval of a call for nominees for the expert panels and for the Board of the Czech Science Foundation (GA CR).

As the first item of the meeting, the Research, Development and Innovation Council (RDI Council) focused on Open Science. With the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and the National Technical Library (NTK), RDI Council members discussed **Open Access** (OA). The discussion focused on the growing need for a systemic solution, especially in view of the high cost of OA covered by R&D&I funds and OA publication rules.

RDI Council members recognised the information on publication costs prepared by the NTK and recommended that the MoEYS relax the requirements for OA publishing under OP JAK projects. The RDI Council proposed that the updated requirements should also apply to other programmes funded by the state budget of the Czech Republic for all providers. The RDI Council had already addressed the issue at its September meeting and offered to assist in finding a sustainable solution.

At the same time, the RDI Council recommends that the government introduce the author's right to secondary publication into the national legislation, taking into account the good practices used abroad with a view to making the use of public funds for research more efficient.

"Open Science is an essential part of the modern research environment, and the Czech Republic has made great progress in this area. However, it is important that the open publishing system is sustainable in the long run and appropriately set to reflect the capabilities of research organisations. That is why I appreciate that the key players in the research, development and innovation system are working together to find a solution that will safeguard the principles of open access while helping to remove unnecessary financial barriers for our scientists," said Minister Ženíšek.

Under an item dedicated to the evaluation of research organisations, the RDI Council approved the text of the Call for proposals for members of expert panels. Basic and applied research experts can be nominated until 1 December 2025. The call will be published at vyzkum.gov.cz

In the second part of the meeting, the RDI Council members approved the text of the Call for nominees for the Board of the Czech Science Foundation in the field of Technical Sciences. The deadline for the nominations being 31 December 2025, the call will be published again at vyzkum.gov.cz.

Finally, RDI Council members were briefed on the **meeting** of the **International Advisory Board (ISAB)**, which took place online on 15 October 2025.