RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION COUNCIL

Government Office of the Czech Republic

Methodology
For Evaluating Research Organisations
(Methodology 2025+)

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1. Background to the Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations

1.1 Objectives

The Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations (hereinafter referred to as the "Methodology") plays several basic roles in line with good international practice. It is an essential tool in obtaining information on the research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as "R&D&I") system, which is then used for strategic decision-making and for setting the financing. In this respect, the Methodology contributes to increasing the efficiency of management and financing of the R&D&I system. Other key roles are formative and communicative. Evaluation through feedback is motivating, and it reinforces good practice at all levels that enter into the evaluation – the national level, the provider level, and the research organisation level (hereinafter referred to as the "RO"). In its formative function, evaluation is therefore a defining strategic tool necessary not only to ensure the effective and transparent management of the R&D&I system, but also to encourage improvement in the quality of research and cultivate the research environment. The knowledge obtained during the evaluation constitutes an important input informing the national research policy papers,[1] proposals for priority lines of research, national programmes, or possible proposals for reform of the R&D&I system or R&D&I institutions. The communication role consists in particular in emphasising and "mainstreaming" certain selected aspects of the R&D&I system that need to be strengthened in order to attain the objectives defined in the relevant policy papers at all levels of the R&D&I system, or declared in international initiatives, in particular in the "Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment" and the related "Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment" (CoARA) platform.[2]

Drawing on the above, the aim of evaluating research organisations through the Methodology is primarily to:

- improve the efficiency and quality of research, with an emphasis on achieving excellence while retaining ethical principles and good practice,
- support transfer of research results, strengthen the role of applied research outcomes, and improve the principles of evaluation of applied research,
- emphasise the R&D&I research ecosystem and the ecosystem of specific ROs, their diversity and inclusiveness, equal opportunities, and support for people in science,
- support the internationalisation, international competitiveness, and interdisciplinarity of Czech R&D&I,
- strengthen the responsibility of specific actors in the R&D&I system, including the role of providers in relation to the research activities of their evaluated and funded ROs, with an emphasis on the long-term conceptual development of ROs and the fulfilment of sectoral and societal needs,
- raise the standards of RO management,

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[1] See the **Research, Development and Innovation Council.** *Research and Development in the Czech Republic*. [accessed 2025-05-10]. Available from: https://vyzkum.gov.cz

[2] See the **Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment.** *CoARA – Reforming Research Assessment*. [accessed 2025-05-10]. Available from: https://coara.eu

- obtain robust cross-sectional information and background data for the provision of institutional aid for the long-term policy development of research organisations (hereinafter referred to as "LCDRO Institutional Aid").

The Methodology respects the different roles not only of the various levels of evaluation, but also the different missions of the ROs in the R&D&I system. The Methodology also respects the specifics of scientific outputs in different research areas, and it does not compare results across different disciplines. The evaluation then uses the core tools detailed below under each module, in line with international best practices. In addition to delivering evaluation outputs, the aim of the Methodology is to provide the most comprehensive possible picture of each RO.

The Methodology is a way for the Research, Development and Innovations Council (hereinafter referred to as the "RDI Council") to fulfil its duties imposed on it by the Research and Development Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") as currently in force.[3]

1.2 Starting Point of the Evaluation

1. Common framework for assessing the quality of ROs. The Methodology introduces quality assessments through five basic assessment modules, which are common for all types of RO's: Module 1 – Quality of Selected Results, Module 2 – Commented Statistics, Module 3 – Social Relevance, Module 4 – RO Governance, and Module 5 – Strategy and Policies. The relative importance of the modules may vary depending on the disciplinary focus, position, and mission of the RO within the R&D&I system. The modules form a minimum common framework of the evaluation.

2. Evaluation levels. Each management level of the R&D&I system requires different types of information for its decision-making. The roles of the various actors are complementary and must not be mixed up. Therefore, the levels are complementary to each other, and together they form a comprehensive evaluation of ROs. The RDI Council and the provider bear a shared responsibility for the evaluation according to this Methodology. A different level of detail and different sources of information are required for each R&D&I management and funding level, or information of a different nature is used contextually and complementarily.

The Methodology, therefore, recognizes the following levels of management and evaluation:

I. The national level is represented by the RDI Council and the competent Section of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "RDI Council/Government Office"). It uses the evaluation for purposes related to the management and funding of the national R&D&I system. The national level provides the evaluation of the results of research organisations in Modules 1 and 2.

II. The provider level is represented by the LCDRO Institutional Aid providers. It uses the evaluation as a key basis for funding decisions for the relevant ROs. This level is responsible for the implementation of Modules 3 to 5.

[3] Act No. 130/2002 Coll., laying down public support for research, experimental development and innovation and amending certain related acts (the Research, Experimental Development and Innovations Support Act), as amended, specifically Section 35(2)(c) and (d) of the Act.

III. The RO level constitutes a formative evaluation at the level of detail required for the RO with the use of the evaluations provided by Levels I and II.

The Methodology further describes in particular the national level, defines methodological cooperation with the provider level, and sets out a common evaluation framework that must be respected at all levels.

3. Three segments of Ros. As the positions and missions of ROs in the system of R&D&I are varied, ROs are classified into three segments for evaluation purposes: universities; institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (CAS); and departmental ROs.

4. Three basic evaluation tools. Module 1 evaluates ROs' results using reviews of external evaluators followed by an assessment of corresponding expert panels ("peer review"). Field-based statistics, and bibliometric analysis annotated by expert panels, are used as a basic tool in Module 2. Modules 3 to 5 include Evaluation by an Evaluation Panel (hereinafter referred to as "EP") or by the provider's Expert Advisory Body[4], including a recommended on-site visit and an evaluation report. See Chapter 4.1.

5. The evaluation respects the following principles:

I. **A multi-criteria approach.** Research organisations carry out a number of activities that create favourable conditions for research and conduct various research and professional activities that lead to a wide range of outputs with different benefits for the development of research, the economy and society. These activities and outputs are therefore evaluated using a set of criteria divided into the so-called evaluation modules.

II. **Peer review as an evaluation method.** The evaluation is carried out by experts[5] in the relevant field (peer review), who draw on supporting data that provide relevant information on the activities and results of the particular RO. At the national level, the selected results are evaluated by a panel using external reviews; bibliometric statistics are commented on by expert panels.

III. **Field-specificity and respect for disciplinary and interdisciplinary specifics.** The evaluation is carried out by experts with relevant disciplinary or interdisciplinary expertise, having regard to international quality standards. The evaluation respects the specifics of scientific outputs in various disciplines.

IV. **International dimension.** In order to ensure the formative role of the evaluation and to improve the quality of the research evaluation system and the quality of the ROs, the involvement of experts from scientifically advanced countries is sought at all levels of the evaluation. In all modules, care should be taken to ensure that the assessment method is consistent with international good practice (CoARA, etc.).

V. **Objectivity and independence.** The evaluation is carried out by independent experts who have no conflict of interest with the authors of the results and the research organisations being evaluated. The regularity of the evaluation process carried out by the RDI Council and its compliance with the rules is overseen by the Commission for the Evaluation of

[4] Depending on the terminology of the respective provider.

[5] Where other parts of this document use the generic masculine, the reference is to any person regardless of their sex or gender.

Research Organisations and Completed Programmes (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), an independent review body.

VI. **Transparency and predictability.** Key evaluation documents and evaluation results are made available to the ROs and the public on the website.

VII. **Diversity and inclusiveness.** The evaluation conveys respect for the values of diversity, inclusiveness and cooperation in personnel, disciplinary and institutional areas. Adequate representation of women and men on expert panels, panels, or other advisory bodies entering the evaluation is sought at all levels of the evaluation.

1.3 RO’s entry into the evaluation as per the Methodology

At the national level, the evaluation is done for the ROs that have received the LCDRO Institutional Aid in the year preceding the evaluation or meet the conditions for evaluation set by the relevant provider, and the provider demands that the RDI Council/Government Office perform the evaluation.

1.4 Key evaluation actors and their roles

The Research, Development and Innovation Council

- is an expert and advisory body of the Government of the Czech Republic under the Act,
- ensures the preparation of the methodology for evaluating research organisations and its submission to the Government,
- provides for evaluations conducted according to this Methodology,
- monitors compliance with the evaluation principles as per this Methodology,
- monitors the compliance of provider-level assessments with the Methodology,
- resolves any disputed cases, concerns, objections, and relevant questions for the national level evaluation,
- approves national level evaluation outputs and tripartite meeting outputs and ensures their publication.

Provider

- is an organisational unit of the state or a territorial self-government unit which decides on the provision of support, and which provides such support,
- ensures the evaluation in the scope given by this Methodology,
- is responsible for carrying out a full formative evaluation of the ROs that come under its responsibility once every 5 years in cooperation with the RDI Council,
- provides the LCDRO Institutional Aid on the basis of a complete evaluation of the RO as per this Methodology and the Provider's methodology (see Chapter 4).

The Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations

- is not the body carrying out evaluations under this Methodology,
- is a general advisory body to the RDI Council in matters related to the evaluation of research, development and innovation and carries out the tasks assigned to it in this area,
- Commission membership is incompatible with a simultaneous membership on Expert Panels,
- serves as the first instance body in resolving concerns, conflicts, disputes and objections to national level evaluations.

Expert panels

- are bodies carrying out evaluations under this Methodology,
- are advisory bodies to the RDI Council (see Chapter 3.1 for more details).

Lead Evaluation Coordinator

- coordinates the evaluation and ensures compliance with the rules of the Methodology,
- the Evaluation Coordinator is appointed and removed by the RDI Council from among the members of the Commission,
- the Lead Coordinator is not a member of the Expert Panels.

Expert Evaluators Body

- is a body carrying out evaluations under this Methodology,
- is an advisory body to the RDI Council (see Chapter 3.2.1 for more details).

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- carries out input and output analyses and activities related to the evaluations,
- prepares documents for the national level evaluation in Module 1 and Module 2 under the Methodology, and ensures its course in professional, technical, and administrative terms,
- prepares and provides for the presentation of evaluation reports at the national level,
- organises the tripartite meetings under Chapter 5 and ensures related activities (preparation of documents and outputs),
- provides for professional and administrative support to the RDI Council,
- cooperates with the relevant advisory bodies of the RDI Council.

2. Basic characteristics of the evaluation modules

The evaluation is carried out in five core modules, which together enable the strategic objectives of the evaluation and funding system to be attained. The modules are: **Quality of Selected Results**, **Commented Statistics**, **Social Relevance**, **RO Governance** and **Strategy and Policies**.

These evaluation modules are relevant for all types of ROs, regardless of the type of research being conducted or the field in which they are active. However, the importance and scope of the individual modules vary depending on the position and mission of each particular RO within the R&D&I system. The modules form the backbone of the evaluation, which can be supplemented at the provider level with additional indicators to assess in more detail the specific features of different types of ROs. Responsibility for each of the modules is described in Chapters 3 and 4. Beyond the procedural description of the evaluation in Chapters 3 and 4, the evaluation may be added to by additional implementation documents approved by the RDI Council for Modules 1 and 2 or by the provider subject to the conditions under Chapter 4.

2.1 Module 1 – Quality of Selected Results

The main objective of this module is to carry out a cross-sectional evaluation of the quality of selected results submitted by ROs. Another objective is to encourage research with high potential for practical application. The principle underlying the evaluation is that the quality of the selected results is evaluated by an expert panel using external evaluators.

The evaluation is applied to a limited number of selected results in two distinct categories. In the first category, the main assessment criterion is **contribution to knowledge** in the given field. The key assessment criterion in the second category is **social relevance**, or significance for society and, where relevant, the impacts (the economic or otherwise describable benefit for society). Social relevance denotes both "utility" (typically industrial research generating economic profit) and "demand" (typically departmental research resulting from social demand), i.e., benefits felt outside the academic sphere.

2.2 Module 2 – Commented Statistics

Module 2 provides a field-specific statistical overview of R&D&I results and uses data from international databases (mainly Web of Science) and the national R&D&I Information System (hereinafter referred to as "ISREDI"). In addition to a general overview of all results, it provides more detailed information on publications in journals registered in international databases. In accordance with the CoARA principles, Module 2 outputs are subject to a process of expert review and commenting. Information from Module 2 is used in a differentiated manner for the overall RO evaluation, depending on the mission of the organisation and its disciplinary profile. Therefore, where justified, some of the information provided by the Module, typically bibliometric indicators from international databases, can be considered only to a limited extent.

2.3 Module 3 – Social Relevance

An RO's social relevance refers to the degree of positive impact its research activities generate on society, economy, public policy, culture and cultural heritage, justice, public health, environment and the cultivation of the Czech Republic and the region in a broader sense. Social relevance is assessed on the basis of specific benefits, such as social impact with benefits for society, economy, culture, public policy, legislation, public services, health, social, environment, quality of life outside the academic sphere, impact on education, or other areas. The module investigates the degree of positive impact of R&D&I and its results on society and citizens, taking into account the impact on different groups of people in society. In particular, the relevance and current need for the research focus concerned, the methods proposed and used, and the social relevance of the research as a whole can be taken into account.

The outcome of the evaluation is also determined by the actual positive impacts of the research and areas such as the organisation's success in transferring R&D&I results, intersectoral cooperation, strengthening the evaluation of excellence in the context of involvement in project activities in international comparison, especially in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation schemes, or the evaluation of results contributing to knowledge valorisation, for example in public policy-making or popularisation of R&D&I.

2.4 Module 4 – RO Governance

Module 4 assesses in particular the quality of the process settings and management of ROs' research-related activities. In this module, the RO demonstrates that it has put in place or is developing conditions for ensuring high-quality research, in terms of quality and adequacy of management, particularly in the areas of personnel policy and human resources development and equal opportunities (e.g., gender equality plans and HR Award), compliance with ethical principles, scientific integrity and good scientific practice, management and organisation of research infrastructure, or the ability to secure conditions for obtaining grants and projects at the national and international levels. As a result, the module focuses on science management in the broadest sense of the word, the transfer ecosystem, quality control of internal incentive schemes to support excellent science, including the meaningful integration of information from the national evaluation under the Methodology into the organisation’s internal evaluation processes.

2.5 Module 5 – Strategies and Policies

A good formulation of an RO’s research strategy sets the basis for future developments, and its quality is a critical factor for the provider's evaluation panels. The relevance of this criterion applies to all ROs. Strategies and Policies include monitoring of parameters in the following areas: adequacy and quality of the research strategy, the mission of the organisation, policies in place to fulfil this mission and its real fulfilment, the vision for the next period, the link to the fulfilment of the provider/promoter's policy or any links to the attainment of higher strategic objectives and measures resulting from documents in force at the national and supranational level. An important attribute of the module is its prospectivity, which manifests itself not only in the fact that the module builds on the evaluation of the current state and development to date (see previous modules), but also in its orientation towards the development of key parameters of the research of a given RO, for example, the development of support for cutting-edge research or the consideration of sectoral needs or the cultivation of the RO’s research ecosystem in the future.

3. National level evaluation

At the national level, the evaluation is carried out using Expert Panels in Modules 1 and 2, mainly using two basic tools — **remote reviews** and **commented statistics**. Modules 1 and 2 form the basis of the evaluation in five-year cycles, but they also serve an ongoing monitoring function and are therefore carried out annually. For Module 1, results are collected annually for reasons related to both capacity and calibration and continuity of the evaluation. The fact that Module 2 is carried out annually contributes to maintaining the quality of the information kept in the Information Register of RDI results (hereinafter referred to as "RIR") and in the Web of Science and Scopus international databases. In order to maintain the consistency of national benchmarks, it is necessary to use data with respect of the entire R&D&I system in the Czech Republic, regardless of the segment being evaluated. The extent of the use of Module 2 in the evaluation of individual ROs corresponds to the mission and position of the RO within the respective segment (for more information, see Chapter 5 below).

3.1 Expert Panels

Six Expert Panels are set up for the national level evaluation based on the OECD scientific areas:[6] 1. Natural Sciences, 2. Engineering and Technology, 3. Medical and Health Sciences, 4. Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, 5. Social Sciences, and 6. Humanities and the Arts. These scientific areas are further subdivided into the FORD fields (e.g., Scientific field 1 Natural Sciences is further subdivided into 1.1 Mathematics, 1.2 Computer and Information Sciences, 1.3 Physical Sciences, etc.).

Each FORD field is represented by at least two members so that experts in both basic and applied research as well as practitioners or experts from abroad, where appropriate and practical, are present. For the purposes of the evaluation, one of the panellists in the given FORD is the *evaluation supervisor in Module 1* (for details see sections 3.2.4, 3.2.5 and 3.2.8), and another is the evaluation supervisor in Module 2 (for details see Section 3.3). Fields with a large number of selected results submitted for an evaluation may receive additional staffing support.

The Chair presides over the Expert Panel, assisted by the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Expert Panel coordinate and monitor the work of the Expert Panel members and evaluators in coordination with each other and are responsible for harmonising the level of the proposed and assigned evaluators across fields to ensure a comparable level of expertise. The list of members of the Expert Panels is publicly available.

3.2 Module 1 – Quality of Selected Results

The Expert Panel selects external evaluators to assess the selected results through remote reviews. The purpose of the evaluation is to check how well the submitted results demonstrate generally accepted quality standards in the relevant field. The evaluation results in each result being graded on a scale from 1 to 5, with a specific justification (see Section 3.2.5).

The panellists use in their work the Quality Results System application (hereinafter referred to as “QRS application”) that runs on the technical equipment of the Office of the Government.

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[6] **OECD.** *Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development*. Paris: OECD Publishing, 2015. ISBN 978-92-64-23900-5. [accessed 2025-05-10]. Available from: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/frascati-manual-2015_9789264239012-en

The application allows assigning the results to the relevant Expert Panels and fields, helps to find a suitable evaluator for the selected result and is a tool in recording the progress and results of the evaluation.

3.2.1 Evaluators

Evaluators are registered in an internal database, which is part of the QRS application, together with data on their professional focus corresponding to the FORD or DETAILED FORD categories, indicating further specialisation and other required information. With an emphasis on assessing the results of applied research by subject-matter experts, their thematic competence is specifically recorded using keywords, including a definition using the classification of economic activities, etc., where applicable.

The evaluators are not members of the Expert Panels. Ongoing training is provided to evaluators, in particular to ensure the quality and calibration of the evaluation practice. Methodology support documents and manuals are produced for these purposes.

The database of evaluators includes both domestic and international experts in the field. The database of evaluators is continuously updated and supplemented by the members of the Expert Panels to ensure adequate representation of each area. Gender and other equalities are also desirable. Experts with experience in evaluating the results of interdisciplinary research and applied research are identified and recorded in the database. Providers/promoters, ROs and other interested organisations are invited to nominate evaluators for the database. The qualifications for inclusion in the database are proposed by the Commission and approved by the RDI Council and are part of the call for nominations.

In fields where bibliometric support can be used, the evaluators of the submitted outputs are expected to have published in high-quality journals. In disciplines that cannot rely on bibliometric support, the evaluators are expected to have significant research outputs with broad national or international appeal and impact. In particular,practitioners who are known and respected in their professional community should be nominated for the evaluation of applied research results. The calibration of the evaluators takes place in an ongoing manner, and continuous improvements are made to the database.

The database of evaluators is continuously updated once suggestions are discussed at a Commission meeting. Suggestions for the removal of evaluators on the grounds of insufficient qualifications and/or experience in their existing work are made by members of the Expert Panels through their Chairs and by members of the RDI Council and its advisory bodies. A suggestion for a change can also come indirectly from representatives of research organisations if they have disputed the evaluation of their selected results and the Commission finds the suggestion to be justified.

The **Expert Body of Evaluators** (hereinafter referred to as "EBE") is the expert advisory body of the RDI Council, consisting of the active evaluators in a given evaluation round. Responsibility for the quality and diversity of the evaluators reached out to rests with the Expert Panel member who contacted the evaluator with a request for their opinion. The list of added active EBE evaluators is approved by the RDI Council after the evaluation and its verification in the respective year.

The list of EBE members who participated in the remote review is not public. The anonymity of external evaluators complies with the international standard and is explicitly guaranteed by the Methodology, also because of the limited staff capacity of Czech research and development. The full evaluations of selected results of specific research organisations in Module 1, anonymised, are made publicly available on the website.

3.2.2 Submission of the selected results to the evaluation

The results are selected for evaluation in Module 1 by the ROs and approved by the provider in the QRS application. Only results listed in the RIR that fall under the selected time interval and have not been assessed in previous years in Module 1 can be submitted. A given result can only be entered once for a given RO in the evaluation of selected results at the national level.

For each result, the submitting RO selects the FORD field in which it will be evaluated and the evaluation criterion (contribution to knowledge or social relevance). The full text of the result is always submitted in electronic form.[7] For results where the full text is published in a repository of the RO concerned or other repository, the result must be made publicly accessible[8] (not password protected or only accessible after payment of a fee, etc.) and it must be in the form of a link to the result, i.e. not, for example, a link to a library where the result can be found. The RO supplies, together with the result, supporting information relevant to the evaluation of the result, e.g. explanation as to how the evaluated RO contributed to the creation of the result, materials demonstrating the relevance of the result in the given R&D&I area, justification of the selection of the result in relation to the evaluation criteria (including, without limitation, the uniqueness and impact of the result, comparison with similar results, economic and social benefits, etc.).

3.2.3 Number of submitted results

Limits on the number of selected results to be submitted are set for each RO entering the evaluation on the basis of data in the ISREDI and are published by the R&D&I/Government Office. The limit for a given RO consists of two components:

- The basic limit is set based on the size of the IP according to the total LCDRO Institutional Aid amount allocated in the year preceding the evaluation, or the sectoral capacities, etc. The specific calculation of the limit on the number of results is set by the RDI Council in the Call for Submission of Results prior to each evaluation. The ROs may fulfil the basic quota with both bibliometric and non-bibliometric results. Each RO is required to deliver results in proportions appropriate to its internal structure with respect to its research functional units and also with respect to its mission in relation to whether it primarily pursues basic or applied research. The functional research units may be organisational units such as university departments, etc. Fulfilling the basic limit is mandatory.
- Beyond the basic limit, the ROs select additional results in compliance with different quota designed to strengthen the evaluation of applied results and results in social sciences and humanities. The main factor in determining the quota is the total number of results that

[7] E.g., a whole book for a type B result, a whole chapter including data identifying the book for a type C result, the full methodology and not only its certificate for a NmetS type result, etc.

[8] The evaluation of classified results should be predominantly undertaken by the provider, who has more adequate tools to evaluate and subsequently communicate the findings of the evaluation to the tripartite, without the need to disclose specific results to national evaluators.

cannot be captured by bibliometrics[9] submitted to the RIR by the RO concerned with the year of application preceding the year of collection of the selected results. The quota will be filled exclusively with results that cannot be captured by bibliometrics to ensure that the evaluation of those scientific results that only lend themselves to peer review decisions is strengthened. Filling this quota is not compulsory.

- Newly evaluated ROs are required to submit at least 10 results applied in the past 5 years to provide a general insight into the quality of their production. ROs that have submitted fewer than the minimum number of results are not excluded from the evaluation if they manage to explain this fact away.

3.2.4 The process of evaluating the results

Members of the Expert Panels follow the principles below in providing peer reviews.

The results are assessed based on the criterion of the **contribution to knowledge** or **the social relevance**. The criterion is determined by the RO submitting the result for evaluation.

- **Contribution to knowledge** is a criterion assessing scientific quality in terms of originality, significance, and rigour, and is applied in particular to basic research results.
- **Social relevance** is a criterion that assesses relevance both in the sense of "utility" (typically industrial research bringing economic profits) and in "demand" (typically departmental research responding to societal demand), i.e. social impact with benefits for society, the economy, culture, public policy, legislation, public services, health, social, environment, quality of life outside academia, or other areas.[10] The aim of the evaluation under this criterion is to make an expert assessment as to the realistic relevance and societal impact of the result.

Each result selected for the evaluation is evaluated by at least **two evaluators**. Suitable evaluators are assigned by the panellist of Module 1 with the support of the QRS application. The assignment of evaluators to individual results is not made public, and all participants in the evaluation are bound to maintain confidentiality during and after the evaluation.

Exceptionally, if the required two evaluation opinions cannot be repeatedly obtained for a particular result (i.e., either no evaluation or only one evaluation is obtained), the final rating of the result on the scale may be decided by competent Expert Panel members based on their own assessment and justification. Responsibility for the specific solution rests with the competent panellist of Module 1 and the Chair of its panel.

If the Expert Panel members do not find in the database experts corresponding to the field of the result, they may reach out to another external expert and, if the latter agrees, include him/her in the database of evaluators via the QRS application.

If Expert Panel members find that a submitted result shows signs of fraud or other unfair practices, they will bring this to the attention of the Chair of the Expert Panel and the Chief Evaluation Coordinator. The cases will be forwarded to the Commission for comments and a proposal for further course of action.

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[9] These are all result types according to the current definitions except for type Jimp, JSc and D results.

[10] In accordance with the UK REF assessment, in: **UK Research and Innovation.** *REF Impact*. [accessed 2025-05-10]. Available from: https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/research-england/research-excellence/ref-impact/

3.2.5 Multilevel decision-making on the rating of a result on the scale

Each of the evaluators will give the result one of the five grades on the qualitative scale and give a justification of their decision. The justification is not to be treated as a review for a scientific journal; the evaluator provides reasons for the grade they have awarded to the result on the scale (see below). When awarding a grade, the evaluator does not take into account the contribution of the RO's authors but may comment on it in their opinion. Responsibility for the quality of the justification rests with the relevant panellist. If panellists consider the evaluator's reasoning to be fundamentally misleading, they have the right to return it for changes. Once the evaluation process is complete, the anonymised justifications are made public.

The qualitative scale assessing the evaluation criterion of the contribution to knowledge is intended mainly for results in the realm of basic research. The result is evaluated against the scientific quality criterion. A five-grade scale is used to evaluate scientific quality, with grades for such items as originality, significance and rigour.

- **Originality** denotes the extent to which the result makes a significant and innovative contribution to understanding and knowledge in the discipline concerned. Scientific results that are demonstrably original should meet one or more of the following criteria: bring or interpret new empirical findings or new materials/evidence; address new and/or complex issues; develop innovative research methods, methodologies, and modes of analysis; exhibit imaginative and creative approaches; provide new arguments and/or new modes of expression, formal innovation, interpretation, and/or insight; collect and work with new types of data; and/or develop a theory or analyse a doctrine, (scientific) procedures or practices and new forms of expression.
- **Significance** means the extent to which a given result has influenced, or has the potential to influence, knowledge and scientific thinking, or the development and understanding of (scientific) processes and practices, globally or in any sub-field.
- **Rigour** means the extent to which a result demonstrates coherence and integrity in both substance and thought and uses sound and appropriate concepts, analyses, sources, theories and/or methodologies.

Verbal expressions of the scale for the evaluation criterion of the contribution to knowledge

1. The result brings a major breakthrough in the field, opens up new research directions in the field and has the potential to significantly impact the field.[11]
2. The result brings original and significant findings in a part of a field and has the potential to influence a specific part of research in the field.
3. A research result that adds to existing knowledge in the field. In the context of the field, the result has the potential to be used in further follow-up research.
4. The result represents only a limited advance in knowledge, providing new data, but the potential for use in further research in the field is limited.
5. The result does not provide new usable knowledge or does not meet the basic requirements for a research result within the field.

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[11] The term "field" is used here in the general sense customarily employed in ordinary scientific communication. It may correspond to the level of detail of detailed FORD, WoS category, etc.

The qualitative scale for the evaluation criterion of the social relevance is intended mainly for the evaluation of applied research results. This refers to a social impact with benefits for society, economy, culture, public policy, legislation, public services, health, social, environment, quality of life outside the academic sphere, or other areas. A five-grade scale is used when evaluating the social relevance of applied research results, where the grades include **innovativeness (originality), relevance (benefit to society), and potential for application (applicability).**

- **Innovativeness (originality)** denotes the extent to which a result exceeds the current state of the art in the given application area (current state of the art in knowledge, technical solution, current approach to a problem being solved), what its added value is beyond the current situation, and to what extent the research carried out by the RO concerned has contributed to the added value.
- **Relevance (benefit to society)** denotes the expected impact of the result on society with regard to addressing problems, requirements, needs or development of the given application area, benefits of the result for the area in which the result is to be applied, relevance of the research methods used by the RO to achieve the benefit of the result and relevance (importance) for the development of the given issue/application area.
- **Potential for application (applicability)** denotes the extent to which the result can be expected to be applied in the given application area, what the level of development of the result is (e.g. the technology readiness level - TRL) in terms of the time possibility of its application (e.g. whether, or not, a patent exists), what the competitiveness of the result is in the area concerned and what aspects (parameters) underpin the competitiveness, what the possibilities are of applying the result (the RO's strategy for its application) including the protection of intellectual property (rights in its application), to what extent the application sphere is (potentially) interested in its application and/or whether or not the result has been applied.

Verbal expressions of the scale for the evaluation criterion of the social relevance

1. A result with a high degree of originality, whose use in practice is or will be highly beneficial for the given application area. The result has excellent potential for practical application, the specific (future) application of the result is obvious and is adequately[12] documented.
2. A result based on an original approach, whose use in practice has or will have significant societal impacts, and whose contribution to the application area is significant. The result has great potential for application, its specific (future) application is obvious and is adequately[13] documented.
3. A result that advances the state of the art in a given application area. Its use in practice has or will have demonstrable social impacts and the potential for application of the result is clear.

[12] For a number of results evaluated against the evaluation criterion of the social relevance, **it will be impossible to fully demonstrate** the application in practice. However, whatever can be demonstrated should actually be demonstrated in the annotation and in the accompanying materials, e.g., draft licence agreements, financial approximations, letters of recommendation to demonstrate the interest expressed, etc.
[13] See previous footnote.

4. A result that does not advance the current state of the art in the application area. The use of the result in practice has or will have only limited social impacts. The potential application of the result is significantly limited.
5. A result that does not benefit the application area and is unlikely to be used in practice.

For both evaluation criteria, the following rules apply when ranking the results on the rating scale:

- Where grades from the rating scale assigned to a result by two evaluators do not differ, the panellists of Module 1 will check the evaluators' opinions and, if they agree with them, will award the final grade in agreement with the evaluators. If the panellists disagree with the evaluations and the grade awarded, they will proceed according to Section 3.2.8.
- Where the grade awarded to a result on the rating scale differs by one grade between the two evaluators, the panellists of Module 1 will lean towards one of the proposed grades. They shall give a proper rationale for their decision.
- Where the grading of a result by two evaluators differs by more than one grade (e.g., 2 versus 4 or 1 versus 3), a third evaluator may be commissioned to furnish their opinion. On the basis of the evaluations obtained, the panellists of Module 1 will then lean towards one of the proposed grades. They will give a proper rationale for their decision.
- The panellist of Module 1 has the right to award a final grade that differs by one grade from the range awarded by the evaluators. They must provide a rationale for their decision (see Section 3.2.8)

3.2.6 Evaluating a joint result of multiple ROs

When evaluating the result, the evaluators comment only on the quality of the results, justifying their evaluation in accordance with the rules. When awarding a grade, they do not take into account the contribution of the RO's authors but may comment on it in their opinion.

If the panellists have indications that the contribution of the submitting institution to the creation of the result was marginal, they may, once they have discussed the matter with the Expert Panel and following approval by its Chair, reject the result and award it the N grade (not evaluated). Such a course of action must be consistent with research field practice and must be duly justified. In the absence of such indications, they also consider the result as a whole as regards the final grade awarded.

For results that have been submitted by **multiple ROs with a sufficient contribution**, the following points are followed:

- Where the result is submitted for evaluation for the same FORD **under the same criterion in the same year**, the result is evaluated only once and the submitting institutions receive the same grade.
- Where the result is submitted for evaluation for the same FORD **under the same criterion in different years** of the evaluation, the result is not re-evaluated and the previous evaluation and the grade are assumed.
- Where the result is submitted for evaluation **under different criteria**, by one RO for an evaluation under the evaluation criterion of the contribution to knowledge, and another RO under the evaluation criterion of the social relevance, it is evaluated under both criteria. The evaluations and grades may be different in this case, as the criteria are different.

- Where the result is submitted for evaluation **for different FORD fields**, the result will be evaluated in those fields independently if each submitting RO has a substantial contribution to a field-specific part of the result.

3.2.7 Evaluation of interdisciplinary results

Interdisciplinary research is defined as research conducted by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts and/or theories from two or more disciplines or teams of specialised expertise with a view to advancing fundamental understanding or tackling problems whose solutions transcend a single field. Interdisciplinary research thus relies on shared knowledge.

Process of assessing interdisciplinary results in Module 1

As part of the call for the submission of selected results for the Module 1 evaluation, the ROs will be invited to identify and justify the interdisciplinary results in the QRS application. From the point of view of the quality of the evaluation of interdisciplinary results, it is essential that the evaluation is carried out by evaluators with expertise in interdisciplinary research. For multiple-panel evaluations, the final grade is decided by consensus between the respective panellists.

3.2.8 Control and corrective mechanisms

To maintain objectivity, transparency, and predictability of the Module 1 evaluation, the following control mechanisms are implemented in the Methodology.

Conflict of interests

A conflict of interest is considered to be disqualifying if the evaluator:

1. is a co-author of the results that she/he is expected to evaluate or has been involved in the preparation of the results,
2. is employed under an employment contract or agreement by the legal entity whose results are to be evaluated (this does not apply to such instances as the preparation of opinions, participation in defences, etc.),
3. has close family ties (e.g., is a spouse, partner, child, sibling or parent, whether or not living in the same household) or other close personal ties with the author of the results to be evaluated or a person who comes from the workplace to be evaluated, or with the head of the unit to be evaluated, or with any statutory representative of the legal entity to be evaluated,
4. is involved in the management of the legal entity whose results are to be evaluated,
5. has or had a relationship of scientific rivalry or professional enmity with any co-author of the outputs and results to be evaluated, or with the head of the unit to be evaluated,
6. is, or has been in the last five years, a mentor for or mentored by a co-author of the results to be evaluated.

A potential conflict of interest denotes any situation where the evaluator:

7. has or has had more than 1 joint result with the authors of the evaluated result in the last 5 years,
8. is working or has worked on more than 1 collaborative research project with the authors in the last 5 years,

9. is in any other situation that might cast doubt on the impartiality of the expert's assessments, or if it might appear so to a third party.

Each evaluator explicitly confirms their agreement to the conflict-of-interest rules in relation to each result evaluated, its author or originator, or the institution that submitted the result for evaluation.

If a situation arises that may raise doubts about the impartiality of an evaluator or if this could appear so to a third party, the Chair of the Expert Panel shall decide whether or not the evaluator has a conflict of interest. If, during an evaluation, it is found that the evaluator has not disclosed a conflict of interest, they will be disqualified from the evaluation by the Chair of the Expert Panel following consultation with the Expert Panel members. The evaluation he has made will be declared invalid, and the result in question will be re-evaluated.

For Expert Panel members, the no-bias provisions apply to a limited extent: no bias in the sense of co-authorship only is required when assigning results to evaluators. In the event of a conflict between the evaluators' grades, the provisions will apply in full.

The no-bias principle does not strictly apply to members of Expert Panels when commenting on disciplinary bibliometric analyses.

Assigning results to evaluators

Suitable evaluators are assigned to the results by the panellist in Module 1. The panellist will endeavour to ensure that the evaluator's expertise is as appropriate as possible in relation to the outcome being evaluated. For evaluations based on the evaluation criterion of the social relevance, special care needs to be exercised to ensure that experts with relevant experience are selected.

If the panellist of Module 1 has a conflict of interest, the evaluator for the result concerned shall be proposed by the panellist of Module 2.

When evaluating a result where the panel finds that it cannot be evaluated in the FORD field applied for, it will be evaluated by the panel in the appropriate FORD field if the field is part of the same area of science (Expert Panel). If the FORD field concerned is outside the area of science and the result is not multidisciplinary, the result is assigned the lowest grade.

Deciding on the resultant grade in disputed cases

The panellist of Module 1 has the right to award a final grade that differs by one grade from the range proposed by the evaluators. If the panellist of Module 2 disagrees with the proposed grade, they may propose an alternative. If two panellists fail to reach a consensus, they will forward their proposals to the Chair of the Expert Panel, who will lean towards one of the proposals. The decision may also be delegated to the Vice-Chair of the Expert Panel.

If the Chair of the Expert Panel fundamentally disagrees with the final grade of the result, she/he must call a joint session of the relevant Expert Panel to discuss such cases and may then change the grade by up to one grade. Members of the relevant Expert Panel may also submit a proposal to the Chair of the Expert Panel for discussion of the final grade with a subsequent decision by the Chair of the Expert Panel.

If the panellist of Module 1 is in conflict with the no-bias rules, the panellist of Module 2 assumes the responsibility for the resulting evaluation.

Before the evaluation is concluded, the resulting evaluations are discussed and approved as a whole by the relevant Expert Panel.

Ensuring transparency and calibration during the evaluation process
Calibration of evaluation refers to the standardisation of processes and approaches to comparable problems. It is achieved gradually through the concerted efforts of the Chairs and members of the Expert Panels, the Lead Coordinator, the Commission, the RDI Council, and other evaluation actors. All Expert Panel members must keep abreast with the process and results of all evaluations pertaining to their panel, with the right to consult the justification. The Commission members responsible for field coordination must keep abreast with the results of all evaluations pertaining to the Expert Panels they coordinate, with the right to consult the justification. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission or the Lead Coordinator of the evaluation under the Methodology must keep abreast with the results of all evaluations pertaining to all Expert Panels, including the justification.

3.3 Module 2 – Commented Statistics

The supporting documents for Module 2 consist of three reports: Bibliometrics as per an international database, Productivity as per AIS, and Statistical reports on results based on the RIR. For each FORD field, the relevant evaluation supervisor will prepare a commentary in Module 2 interpreting the results of statistics in relation to the benchmarks monitored but also commenting on the relevance of the bibliometrics to the field and other field specifics.

3.3.1 Principles underlying the evaluation and content of the reports

The fields (as per the OECD FORD classification) and the ROs constitute the basic aggregation level of the result analysis. Bibliometrics focuses on **three thematic areas**:

- Analysis using the international article influence metric – Article Influence Score (AIS).
- Follow-up reports on productivity by the journal quality bands according to the AIS.
- Production overviews for all types of results according to the national RIR database.

The significance of the different areas in the evaluation process corresponds to the mission of the RO. Module 2 will be an auxiliary module if it makes sense in the context of the RO in terms of its field profile. It will be applied where it is relevant and robust enough given the nature of the outputs. Expert panels comment on the reports; generally, an external expert view is desirable for all ROs across segments.

A separate set of reports is produced for each thematic area at **two levels**:

- national sectoral summary,
- sectoral summary for each RO.

The statistics are processed in keeping with the following **principles**:

- **Field-specificity**. Due to the different publishing practices in each field, the statistics are primarily broken down by field at the FORD level. Any other levels of subdivision are merely ancillary.
- **Robustness**. Reliability of the data obtained is ensured by adherence to the following rules:
    I. measures to limit the possibility of purposeful tampering of the statistics — for example, by avoiding indicators that are sensitive to manipulation, such as the Impact Factor,

II. H-Index, etc.
III. measures to reduce methodological disputability (avoiding statistics with ambiguous predictive value; avoiding unnecessarily complicated and incomprehensible indicators; avoiding indicators sensitive to low numbers of cases or overly prone to being influenced by uneven distribution).
IV. cross-checking databases and communicating with the RO about any discrepancies found.
V. aggregation of data relevant to the national level of evaluation — the level of detail of the national evaluation does not purport to replace internal evaluations by the ROs, who have more detailed information and are familiar with the necessary context.

- **Benchmark**. The data presented is contextual in nature, i.e., the qualitative nature of the information is mainly derived from the relevant national and/or international context.

The statistics are compiled into three reports in accordance with the defined thematic areas.

3.3.2 Report 1: Bibliometrics as per an international database

The bibliometric analysis includes Jimp, Jsc, and D type publication results (see Appendix 1 to the Methodology). The following types of documents from international databases correspond to the national definitions of R&D&I-type results: article, review, letter, and proceedings paper.

Results registered in the RIR, their date, type of result, and institutional affiliation are checked against a relevant international database.

The primary international database used as a basis for the evaluation is Web of Science. Journals belonging to the following indexes are included in the analysis:

- Science Citation Index-Expanded
- Social Sciences Citation Index
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- Emerging Sources Citation Index

The fundamental statistical metric is AIS, which is used to qualitatively scale journals into percentiles. Web of Science reports are commented by Expert Panels.

The report must contain the following statistics:

- Information about the number of analysed outputs in the time series.
- Distribution of national results in the observed percentile bands by AIS indicator. This distribution is added to by international benchmarks and, for ROs, national benchmarks.
- In the percentile bands under examination, the proportion of results produced in international collaboration, with a large number of authors, with correspondence authors from the Czech Republic and results in Czech and Slovak journals are identified.
- The most important WoS Categories are specifically identified for each FORD. The information submitted is used to infer whether or not there is a specific field that is disadvantaged by aggregation to the FORD level.
- The most important ROs in each field are identified.
- The number and proportion of papers in conference proceedings are recorded.

The SCOPUS database can be used additionally in connection with expert decisions of the Commission at the initiative of Expert Panels. The fundamental statistical metric in such a case is the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR).

3.3.3 Report 2: Productivity according to the AIS

For each author, the dominant field of results is identified. In relation to this finding, all the author's results are classified in this way.[14] This logic is the basis for information on the disciplinary capacity and productivity of the RO in terms of results that can be captured by bibliometrics.

The report must contain the following statistics:

- Data on staff capacities broken down by field obtained by an analysis of the RIR database.
- Shares of the RO's results, broken down by field, in the national production in the AIS percentile bands under examination.
- Field-based productivity data based on the number of authors and the number of outputs across the percentile bands under examination by the AIS, and identification of the most productive ROs in each field.

3.3.4 Report 3: Statistical summaries of results according to the RIR

The data is based solely on information submitted by the ROs to the RIR.

The report must contain the following statistics:

- A production summary for all types of basic and applied research results by field and by RO (in aggregate and broken down by field).
- Information on the language of the results broken down in the same way as in the previous point.
- Information on the number of patents and their countries of registration from the nation-wide industry perspective and at the level of the RO.

3.4 Evaluation outputs at the national level

3.4.1 Summary of evaluations of selected results in Module 1

A published interactive summary of the selected results evaluated with an anonymised rationale for the five-year period under consideration, with the possibility of filtering the data down to the desired level of detail (field groups, fields, criteria, ROs, years, etc.). This information is published by the RDI Council on its website after approval.

3.4.2 Bibliometric reports and comments in Module 2

Specific published reports (see Section 3.3) "Bibliometrics according to an international database", "Productivity according to the AIS", "Statistical summaries of results according to the RIR" and summary expert panel comments integrating the main findings of the reports.

3.4.3 Reports to providers and ROs from the national level

The reports for providers and ROs for analytical purposes, prepared on an ongoing basis and published by the Government Office, constitute the basis for tripartite meetings (see Section

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[14] The subsequent identification of the percentile ranking of the results is unchanged but is taken from Report 1: Bibliometrics by an international database.

5). They provide a selection of Module 1 and Module 2 summary data and are supplemented by other key information (mission, dominant field(s), RO scaling in previous years).

The evaluation in Module 1 and Module 2 at the national level is aggregated for the ROs in collaboration with the Expert Panels using a rating scale (Section 5.4). The rating on the scale is differentiated by segment and reflects, to a reasonable extent, field affiliation, field specifics, the mission, and capacity of the ROs.

The outputs of national level evaluations conducted according to the Methodology are used for monitoring analytical purposes and as a basis for discussing the results of the evaluations in the form of the tripartite, as per Section 5. The national evaluation outputs are prepared by the RDI Council/Government Office in cooperation with the Expert Panels, approved by the RDI Council, and subsequently published on their websites.[15]

3.4.4 Objections to the evaluation at the national level

The publication of the Module 1 and Module 2 evaluation outputs is approved by the RDI Council, with the ROs having the right to raise objections. An objection to an evaluation carried out in the relevant year is submitted by the RO concerned within 30 days of its publication. The Commission serves as the appellate body for resolving any objections raised to the evaluation.

The Commission will seek the opinion of the Chairs of the Expert Panels and the Module 1 evaluation supervisors in the relevant disciplines. At the same time, the representatives of the Government Office will comment on the objections from the procedural point of view. These opinions will be discussed in detail by the Commission and a settlement of the objections, including a rationale, will be prepared. There is no re-evaluation of the results as part of this objection settlement process.

The final settlement of all objections is approved by the RDI Council. The settlements and rectified outputs are transparently published.

4. Evaluation at the provider level

The provider level evaluation primarily focuses on Modules 3 to Module 5. This does not preclude the provider from carrying out parallel and, if necessary, more detailed Modules 1 and 2 evaluations for their own purposes. However, such evaluations have a complementary and informative role in the context of the aggregation process, and they do not change the basic design that involves a link between the national and provider level evaluations.

The primary evaluation tool for Modules 3 to Module 5 is peer review provided by the provider (see Section 4.1 below). The Methodology, as a common framework for assessing the quality of ROs, ensures, in procedural terms, consistency or minimum common parameters across providers' methodologies for their evaluation level. The consistency between the Methodology and the providers' methodologies is made up of three basic procedures:

- **Common content of the modules**. This refers to a list of areas that will be evaluated at the provider level and that can, in principle, be aggregated to the level of the RO in the

[15] The reports are published in pdf format or in other electronic form. Any data that can be published as per the relevant license agreements with the data provider are published in the xlsx format.

overall evaluation report. This is also the case under the assumption that the unit being evaluated is a functional unit at a lower level than the RO itself. These areas are common to all segments – see Section 4.2.

- Description of the **harmonisation and coordination mechanism**. This refers to making sure that the provider's methodology is consistent or complementary with the Methodology following the submission of basic information and the subsequent opinion of the RDI Council/Commission – see Section 4.3.
- **Requirements for the joint information for each RO as part of the overall evaluation output report**. This refers to information that may not in itself be subject to evaluation, but is assumed to be collected as underlying information for the evaluation, containing relevant or contextual information on the basic parameters of the RO. The information must be obtained at the system-wide level and across segments (see Appendix 2).

4.1 Activities of the Provider's Evaluation Panels (Tool 3)

The Module 3 to Module 5 evaluation is carried out by EPs or by the EAB.[16] The composition of the panels and bodies is public. A description of the essentials associated with their activities (e.g., the statute and rules of procedure or similar document containing the rules governing the actions taken by the body) shall be submitted by the provider for the opinion of the RDI Council/Commission under Section 4.3. These parameters reflect the specifics of the individual segments, especially with regard to the participation of foreign experts. A recommended part of the EP activity is an on-site visit to the evaluated research organisation, and the output is an evaluation report[17] prepared in keeping with the structure set out in the Methodology (for more details see Section 4.4 and Appendix 2) and the specific rules of the provider.

4.2 Commonly monitored areas and information

Below are basic areas across segments for Modules 3 to Module 5. The aim is to get essential cross-cutting consistency across segments while defining a thematic standard of the subject of evaluation for any RO. Where relevant and justified, a given area may be evaluated in a different module than the one mentioned below, or may be evaluated in more than one module, or not evaluated at all, if adequately justified in the provider's methodology. In such a case, the provider shall state and provide a rationale for this according to Section 4.3 of the Methodology. The Provider may include other areas beyond the common areas that reflect the RO's mission in the segment. The provider also monitors, either by modules or in aggregate, whether and how the previous overall evaluation of the RO has been reflected or implemented.

For Module 3, these areas are:

- Social relevance in relation to the mission of the RO.
- Results applied or applicable in practice and their socio-economic impact.
- Transfer of research results into the educational process.
- Funds obtained for research and development (national grants, foreign grants, contract research, licenses from technology transfer, funds from commercialisation of R&D&I results, etc.).
- Service to the scientific community.

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[16] Depending on the terminology of the respective provider.

[17] Or a report from the evaluation of research organisations by the provider, using the terminology of the respective provider.

- Transfer, cooperation with the business community.
- Service to society or the region (expert and consulting activities, cooperation with local government, etc.)
- Popularisation and communication of research.

For Module 4, these areas are:

- Organisation and management of the RO.
- Personnel policy — in particular measures to ensure qualification enhancement, promotion of promising staff members, equal opportunities policy, including gender equality issues.
- Mechanisms for internal evaluation of research quality and compliance of the mechanisms with international good practices (CoARA, etc.).
- Project support and knowledge transfer system.
- International research cooperation.
- Information and research data management access policies.
- Research infrastructure management.
- Meaningfulness of the link between the evaluation and internal funding.

For Module 5, these areas are:

- Vision and research objectives in relation to the mission of the RO.
- Strategic development tools.

4.3 Opinion on the compliance of providers' methodologies

The Methodology is a common basis that providers elaborate upon and render more specific at their level according to their focus and needs, with the understanding that the principles of evaluation according to the Methodology must be maintained. At the same time, the RDI Council/Government Office methodologically ensures the necessary common parameters of the providers' methodologies. Therefore, 6 months before the start of an RO's evaluation at the latest, the provider must submit a draft methodology for a compliance check to the RDI Council, indicating:

- Basic parametric data about the RO according to part B of Appendix 2.
- The method of evaluating the areas under consideration.
- The unit subjected to evaluation in all modules.[18]
- Mechanisms for appointing EPs, including the treatment of conflicts of interest.
- Methods of aggregating the overall evaluation and using the results of the evaluation as a key basis for the management and funding of R&D&I in their remit.
- Method of evaluating the reflection or implementation of the previous overall evaluation of the RO.
- Supporting information and data sources to inform the evaluation itself in the areas listed.

For the purpose of preparing an opinion, the RDI Council/Government Office may request an opinion of the Commission.

[18] The unit subjected to evaluation can be defined differently for each module; usually, this means the IN level. For higher education institutions, this can go as far as the level of organisational units (faculties) or, for the CAS, the level of specific teams.

4.4 Outputs from provider evaluations for tripartite meetings

The output from the provider level is an evaluation report for the RO containing aggregated information from evaluations in Module 3 to Module 5.[19] The evaluation report also contains both information on adherence to the set processes as well as the actual results of the RO's evaluation with sufficient rationale. Other forms of outputs are specified by the provider, from their level, while a necessary part of the outputs are the parameters according to Section 4.3 and according to Appendix 2 to the Methodology. The provider level evaluation outcomes, in the form of an evaluation report, serve as a basis for the discussion of the evaluation results in the form of tripartite meetings as per Chapter 5. These outputs, including the rationale, are published after the evaluation.

[19] The provider may evaluate Modules 3 to 5 separately; their aggregation then forms the supporting documents for the tripartite.

5. Discussion of evaluation results in the form of tripartite meetings

5.1 Meeting format

Three parties (the tripartite) are always involved in discussing the results of an evaluation:

1. representatives of the provider [20] and experts invited by the provider (e.g., representatives of the provider's/promoter's expert advisory body),
2. representatives of the RDI Council/Government Office,
3. (Vice)Chairs of the Expert Panels.

5.2 Subject and outcomes of a complete tripartite meeting

Following a regular full five-year evaluation (hereinafter referred to as the "complete evaluation") at the national and provider level, a full tripartite meeting is held in the given segment.

The tripartite constitutes a format where all stakeholders have an opportunity to apply their views on the full evaluation of the RO and allows for information sharing, consolidation of the view of the RO's evaluation based on the evaluation in all modules, using input from the national and provider level.

The aim of the complete evaluation meeting is to complete the evaluation process. The outcome of a complete tripartite meeting is a decision on the rating of the RO on the scale. The basis for the discussion consists of the results of the national level evaluation, as publicly available from the RDI Council website, and the results of the provider level evaluation, as published by the provider (see Section 4). The evaluations carried out according to the Methodology at the national and provider levels are complementary.

In order to ensure effective deliberations, all evaluation documents will be exchanged between the tripartite stakeholders at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. The provider's documentation includes a proposal for the rating of the RO on the evaluation scale according to Section 5.4, and information on how the proposal was determined, i.e., how the specific modules implemented by the provider were aggregated, together with a rationale. The tripartite discusses the provider's proposal to rate the RO on the evaluation scale as per Section 5.4.

The resulting scaling of the RO takes into account the sectoral perspective in the national and international comparison, the specifics of the RO within individual segments, its mission, and role in the R&D&I system. The final rating of the RO on the evaluation scale assumes consensus of all stakeholders.

Another output of the tripartite meetings is a structured report that describes in detail the course of the meeting and the arguments raised by the participants on the spot to justify the resulting aggregation. The structured reports are published after approval by all participants and discussion by the RDI Council.

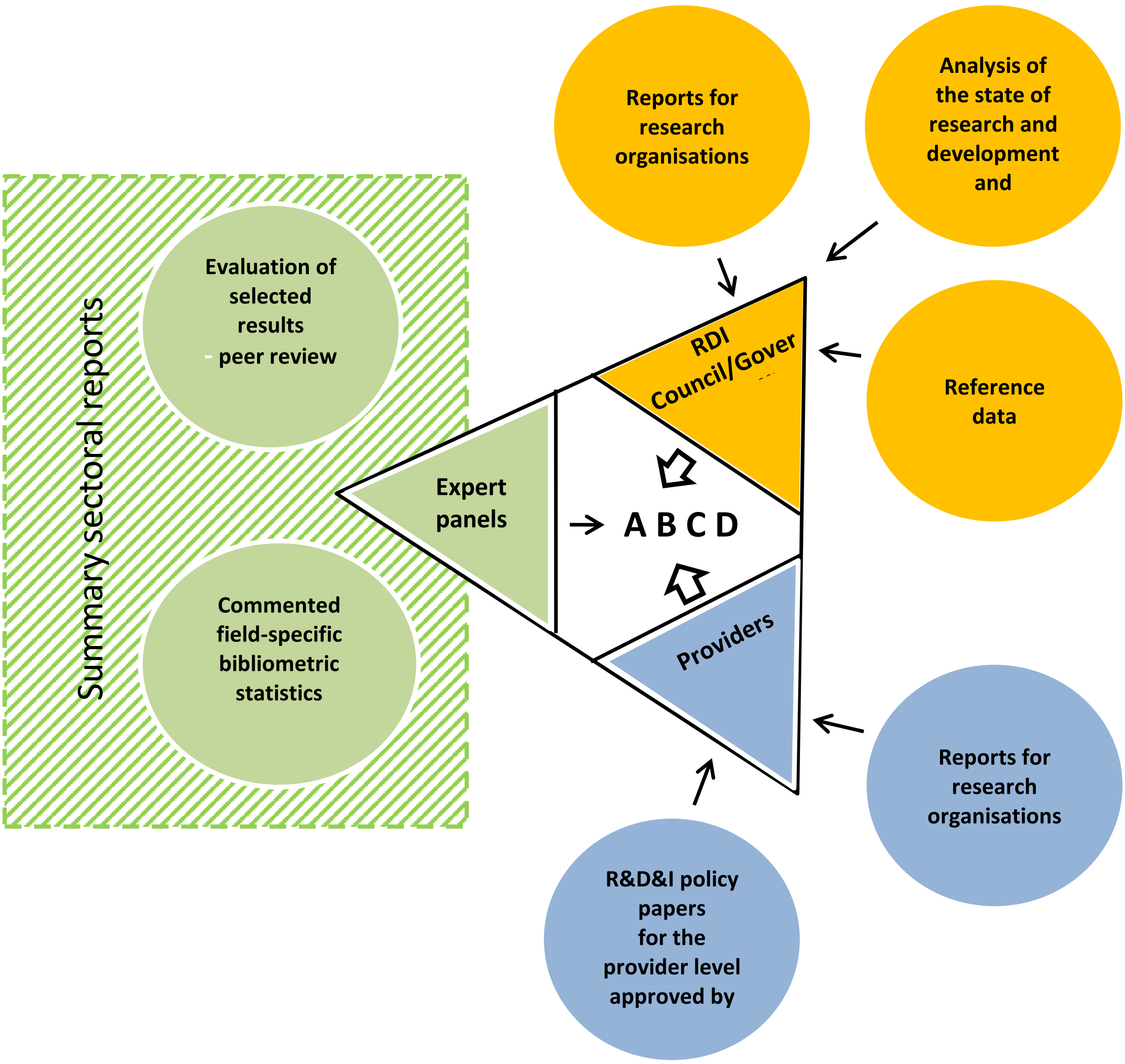
An integral part of the structured reports are the attached summary reports for specific ROs as per Appendix 2. The summary reports are prepared by the Government Office by bringing together the national level and provider level outputs and other information provided by the

[20] Where the provider is not identical as the promoter, a representative of the promoter is also invited.

provider as per Appendix 2. Approval of a structured report by all meeting participants completes the evaluation process for the year and segment. Once the evaluation process has been completed, the outputs are made public, subject to the approval of the RDI Council, and the publication also extends to the structured report and the RO summary reports specified above.

Information on the progress and results of the complete evaluation of the EIP will be subsequently presented by the authorised representatives of the provider at a meeting of the RDI Council dedicated to that purpose. The provider will have to discuss and comment on any comments made by the RDI Council and take them into account when preparing the next evaluation.

Image: Meeting diagram



5.3 Monitoring tripartite meetings

Monitoring tripartite meetings may take place in the interim period between the cyclical five-year complete evaluations. The aim of a monitoring tripartite meeting is to reflect on the annual implementation of the evaluations at the national level, continuously discuss the identified trends in specific fields, and discuss any measures to reverse any negative trends identified. Monitoring tripartite meetings do not result in ROs being rated on the evaluation scale as per Section 5.4.

A monitoring tripartite meeting will take place provided, that it is requested by the provider or the RDI Council at least 30 days before the tripartite meeting. The interim meetings lead to a gradual cultivation of the debate, and they are mainly used as a means of calibration. Minutes of the meetings are drawn up.

5.4 Resultant evaluation scale

A complete evaluation using all modules in five-year cycles results in the RO concerned being rated on the following scale:

A – Excellent: ROs internationally competitive in the research parameters of global research fields, and/or an RO with a strong innovation potential and excellent applied research results, and/or an RO excellently fulfilling its mission.

B – Very good: ROs of stable quality with excellent results in research, sufficient innovation potential, and/or significant applied research results; R&D&I results correspond to the purpose of the institution.

C – Average: ROs of satisfactory quality achieving, prevailingly good or average results in the parameters of basic and/or applied research, and/or institution fulfilling its purpose in an average manner ROs showing strategies and efforts to remove weaknesses and deficiencies.

D – Below average: Below-average ROs in the vast majority of the parameters of basic and/or applied research. ROs with a number of weaknesses and deficiencies, showing limited effort to remove them.

The position and mission of research organisations in the R&D&I system are varied, therefore the division into three segments (HEIs, CAS, departmental ROs) is taken into account throughout the evaluation process, including during monitoring and complete tripartite meetings, where the aggregate classification takes place in the context of the segment. The mission of a particular RO is a critical consideration in the final rating decision. This logic is also reflected in the nomenclature used for each of the bands. Research organisations in the sectoral ROs segment are divided into the following bands: A_{DEP} – D_{DEP}. Research organisations in the higher education segment are classified into the following bands: A_{HEI} – D_{HEI}. Research organisations in the Czech Academy of Sciences segment are divided into the following bands: A_{CAS} – D_{CAS}. In the case of an exceptionally low scientific performance, the rating of an RO may also be not applicable (n/a).

5.5 Timetable

This Methodology builds continuously on the 2017+ Methodology evaluation as follows:

2025	2026	2027	2028
M17+ provider's HEI rating	complete HEI tripartite under M17+ (preparation 2025, completion spring 2026)		check of compliance of the provider's forthcoming Methodology 25+
CAS provider rating under M17+ CAS tripartite under M17+	complete CAS tripartite under M17+		check of compliance of the provider's forthcoming Methodology 25+
Departmental ROs tripartite under M17+		Departmental ROs check of compliance of providers' methodologies under M25+	complete evaluation and tripartites with departmental ROs (RO scaling)
Call for submission of selected results for the M25+ Module 1 evaluation for all segments	Call for submission of selected results for the M25+ Module 1 evaluation for all segments	Call for submission of selected results for the M25+ Module 1 evaluation for all segments	Call for submission of selected results for the M25+ Module 1 evaluation for all segments

Implementation of the M3–5 evaluation in departmental ROs needs to be aligned in terms of time.[21] The periodicity of evaluations in the HEI and CAS segment is based on the current state of affairs; the evaluations that have recently been started there under the M17+ will be completed according to the M17+. The complete tripartite meeting, culminating in a consensus on the RO scaling, must be preceded by the provider's decision as to the amount of the allocated LCDRO Institutional Aid.

National-level RO evaluation process in year N under M25+:

06/N-1	approval and publication of the Call for Submission of Selected Results for Module 1 Evaluations
09-11/N-1	collection of selected results in the QRS application, Module 1 – Quality of Selected Results
02-06/N	the process of evaluating selected results using the remote review tool in the QRS application

[21] If the five-year cycle for a given RO ends in 2027, the provider should conduct an M3 to M5 evaluation at the end of 2027 or in early 2028 so that a complete tripartite, i.e. aggregation of evaluations across all modules, can subsequently be undertaken. If the provider's timetable stipulates that, for example, they will launch the call in November 2027 and in January 2028, they will carry out the initial RO evaluation for the 2028–2032 period (and at the same time an evaluation of the fulfilment of the concept for the 2023–2027 period), they can count on the tripartite taking place in the time frame required by them, i.e. in February 2028, so that they can incorporate the outcome of the complete evaluation into the decision on the grant of the LCDRO Institutional Aid for the upcoming five-year period.

01-04/N	preparation of data matrices and checking the dataset (RIR, WoS, Scopus) for Module 2, analysis and preparation of field reports (reports 1, 2, 3) and RO level reports (reports 1, 2, 3)
05-07/N	commenting on the Module 2 reports and the Module 1 evaluation (The analysis of the results itself serves as information background, while the comments put the information into context.)
09/N	approval and publication of national evaluation outputs
09-11/N	interpretation and aggregation of evaluations as a basis for tripartite dealings and scaling up research organisations
10-12/N	dealing with suggestions from the ROs as to the M1 and M2 evaluations
11-12/N	complete (or monitoring) tripartite meetings
01-02/N+1	approval and publication of tripartite minutes

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIS	Article Influence Score
CAS	Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
CR	Czech Republic
EP	Evaluation panels
EU	European Union
FORD	Fields of Research and Development
HR	Human resources
LCDRO Institutional Aid	Institutional aid for the long-term conceptual development of research organisations
ISREDI	Information System for Research, Experimental Development and Innovations
Commission	Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and Completed Programmes
M1	Module 1
M2	Module 2
M3	Module 3
M4	Module 4
M5	Module 5
M17+	Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and Research, Development and Innovation Purpose-Tied Aid Programmes approved by Government Resolution of 8 February 2017 No. 107
M25+	Methodology for the evaluation of research organisations (2025+ Methodology)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EBE	Expert Body of Evaluators
EP	Expert Panel
RIR	Information Register of R&D&I Results
RDI Council	Research, Development and Innovation Council
QRS	Quality Results System application
SRJ	SCImago Journal Rank
Government Office	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
R&D&I	Research, Experimental Development and Innovation
RO	Research Organisations
HEI	Higher Education Institution
WoS	Web of Science