

Science, research and innovation a priority for the new Government

The Policy Statement of the Government of the Czech Republic of 5 January 2026 refers to Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) as the key driver of the future prosperity and competitiveness of our country. The Government declares its ambition to overcome the period of stagnation and to strengthen the role of SRI as one of the main drivers of economic growth, technological development and improving the quality of public policies.

SRI is not confined to a single chapter in the document but is reflected across the Policy Statement. Even the preamble lists the promotion of innovation, science and research among the Government's main strategic priorities. Specific measures are also proposed in the chapters devoted to the economy and industry (support for start-ups, tax deductions for research, investment incentives), defence (defence research and emerging technologies), education (doctoral studies), health (applied research and technology transfer), digitisation and sport (artificial intelligence, open data).

Chapter 17 provides a systematic framework for the Government's RDI policy. It emphasises the quality of research over its quantity, the modernisation of the evaluation system, fair and predictable funding, strengthening international cooperation, support for talent and a more consistent link between academia and business, including the transfer of knowledge into practice. Science, Research and Innovation are clearly defined here as a Government priority with a direct impact on the economy and the long-term development of society.

17. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

After four years of stagnation and declining spending on science, research, development and innovation will once again become the basis for the country's economic growth and development. We will build on the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-30 and create links between academia and the research and business communities in order to make the Czech Republic an innovation leader. We want to create conditions that will allow Czech scientists and research institutions to achieve top results and attract talent from home and abroad. We will modernise the system of research evaluation and develop pressure for enhance the quality of our universities so that the best Czech universities finally emerge among the top European schools in selected areas. At the same time, we will create a motivating environment for business, both in terms of investment in research and innovation and in the establishment of joint projects with research organisations and universities.

Improving the quality of research

The primary focus will shift from research quantity to quality, with both evaluation and funding systems adapted accordingly. Top-tier researchers must be able to concentrate on their core investigative work rather than being bogged down by administration and grant-seeking. Significant emphasis will be placed on international cooperation; we will introduce incentive schemes designed to attract international students, doctoral candidates, and seasoned researchers alike. At the university level, we will support the development of

innovative degree programmes that address current and future labour market demands and public sector requirements. Within the Czech Academy of Sciences, we will prioritise the formation of international research teams and foster partnerships with world-leading institutions abroad.

Motivating entrepreneurs to spend on research

We will make R&D tax credits more attractive. We will increase the legal certainty of their eligibility, for instance, in cooperation with the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR). We will also extend the carry-forward period for these deductions to better reflect the long-term nature of high-tech projects. Furthermore, we will establish incentive programmes to promote joint projects with universities and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Fair research funding and evaluation

We will significantly increase R&D&I expenditures, as they are the key drivers of economic growth and national competitiveness. At the same time, we will revise the M2017+ research evaluation system to meet the needs of both academic organisations and industry-linked research. We aim to create a fair environment for evaluating publicly funded projects, eliminating non-transparent research assessment procedures. The institutional-to-project-based-funding ratio must be both motivating and predictable.

Nurturing talent

Czech science must be attractive not only to domestic talent, but also to young foreign researchers. We will streamline the arrival of doctoral students, postdocs, and young researchers by removing red tape, accelerating the recognition of their qualifications, and creating rewarding conditions for their work in Czech research institutions.

Effective management and strategic development

*We will strengthen the position of the Research, Development, and Innovation Council, which will once again be chaired by the Prime Minister or a designated Deputy Prime Minister. We will abolish the position of Minister for Science. We are updating the strategy entitled *The Czech Republic: The Country for the Future*, defining priority areas for science and research.*

Source: Policy Statement of the Government of the Czech Republic | vlada.gov.cz | 5. 1. 2025