

# Government council approves system for managing and coordinating Innovation Strategy, strives to streamline Czech science

The Research, Development and Innovation Council (“the Council”) met at the Straka Academy on Friday 13 December for a regular session. The key items on the agenda included the system for implementing the Innovation Strategy of the CR, measures to minimise bureaucracy in the support for science and research, and the Analysis of the Existing State of RD&I, including international benchmarking.

The Council approved a material entitled **System for Managing and Coordinating the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030**. *“This is a truly fundamental document that lays down specific measures in each pillar, outlines a timetable for their gradual implementation and contains a summary of projects already under way,”* stressed deputy prime minister Karel Havlíček. The document also sets out a division of powers between the two main actors, with the Council fulfilling the management and conceptual role, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade taking on the executive and coordinating role. Deputy prime minister Havlíček, who is also deputy chairman of the Council, will now present the material to the government.



Another equally important topic at recent sessions has been the streamlining initiative, which is one of the fundamental activities of the Innovation Strategy. At this session, Council members discussed measures necessary to **reduce bureaucracy** in research support, specifically the need to discuss with

the relevant partners the introduction of a minimum standard of rules for the provision of special-purpose support (unifying the methodological environment) and to move towards an appropriate balance between institutional support and special-purpose support. The third topic was measures relating to the legislation on support, and specifically ways to make it easier to prove beneficiaries' eligibility or to change beneficiaries.

In another of the regular agenda items, the Council adopted information on **the course of tripartite negotiations** between representatives of the Council, panels of experts and providers two years into the implementation of R&D Methodology 2017+.

In keeping with tradition, **the draft state budget expenditures** on research, experimental development and innovation was also covered during the session. The Council approved a timetable for Council representatives' negotiations with budget heading administrators on proposed expenditures on RD&I for the 2021+ period. Working meetings with individual providers will take place next year.

Every year at the December session, Council members approve a material entitled **Analysis of the Existing State of Research, Development and Innovation in the Czech Republic and Comparison with the Situation Abroad**. The analysis for 2018 is divided into 8 chapters, each covering a key issue of the RD&I system, including a focus on the Czech Republic's innovation performance. The analysis also contains an evaluation of the key indicators and is an important analytical material for the planned National RD&I Policy 2021+.

Source: RD&I Council press release, 15. 12. 2019

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