

# Government council elects Presidium members. Pavel Baran is First Vice-Chairman

**The first 2021 session of the Government Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council), which is chaired by PM Andrej Babiš, took place on 29 January in the form of a video conference. The Council elected a chair of the Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations from among its members, and also held a vote to fill in empty Presidium spots. Talks continued on the National Recovery Plan.**



*PM A. Babiš along with Vice-Chairmen K. Havlíček and P. Baran at the 364<sup>th</sup> session of the Council.  
Photo: Office of the Government*

The main points of the Council's January meeting were electing a vice-chair, and First Vice-Chair, as well as the chair of the Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations. These positions were freed up with the departure of Petr Dvořák at the end of last year.

The Council members consensually approved the result of the secret ballot, in which **Pavel Baran** was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman. **Vladimír Mařík** became a new vice-chair of the Council.

*"The Council's primary task this year is to preserve and maintain the stability of the RDI system despite the current complicated situation, making sure it is founded on high-quality research across its spectrum, adequate sources of funding, evaluation under the 2017+ Methodology, and all this with ties to the international context, including support for the emerging scientific generation and work-life balance," said Dr Baran after being elected to the function.*

*"I want to help seek out and implement tools for interconnecting basic and applied research, as well as for sensible utilisation of the National Recovery Fund. I would like to place emphasis on connecting the already established excellent research capacities into larger, predominantly interdisciplinary units, in particular in a virtual form. This is a trend that could significantly boost the efficiency of Czech research to the benefit of all of society," said Professor Mařík on his appointment to the Presidium.*

In the following secret ballot, the Council members proposed that their chairman name **Štěpán Jurajda** as chair of the Commission for the Evaluation of Research

Organisations and RDI Purpose-tied Aid Programmes. This is a key expert body of the Council for the purposes of implementing the Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and Purpose-tied Aid Programmes, known as the 2017+ Methodology, at a nationwide level.

A regular topic of the negotiations is information on **support for science and research under the National Recovery Plan**. Among other things, the Council discussed preparatory materials concerning excellence in research and development in priority areas of public interest in healthcare and support for research and development at businesses, which are being adjusted on an ongoing basis based on comments from the European Commission.

The Council also approved an opinion statement on the draft NAKI III Programme for support of applied research in the field of national and cultural identity for the years 2023 to 2030 under the Ministry of Culture.

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**PhDr. Pavel Baran, CSc.**

Born in 1957 in Ostrava. After graduating in philosophy and history at university in Brno, he completed scientific training at the Institute for Philosophy and Sociology in Prague. He helped organise the restoration of the Institute of Philosophy under the Czech Academy of Sciences from the position of deputy director. At the Institute of Philosophy he devoted himself to the topic of moral and political philosophy, also translating expert literature. At the same time he was a university teacher of the history of philosophy, political philosophy and the philosophy of history at the University of Economics in Prague, then later at the University of Ostrava. Currently he teaches selected philosophy courses at Masaryk University in Brno.

In 2005 he became director of the Institute of Philosophy, holding this position until 2013, when he was elected as a member of the Academy Council and then vice-president of the Academy of Sciences for the field of social sciences and humanities. In 2014 he was named a member of the government Research, Development and Innovation Council, being appointed vice-chair thereof at the September 2016 session.

He has long devoted himself to science policy. In particular he was part of the Commission for the Evaluation of Research Organisations and Completed Programmes of the RDI Council, he served on the CAS Economic Council, led one of the panels of the Coordinating Council of Experts for Preparing the National Priorities for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, was a member of the Council's Expert Commission for Social Sciences and the Humanities, and contributed to the activities of the Czech Science Foundation as a member of a Sub-Discipline Committee. He is also a member of advisory bodies to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in the field of science and research.

**prof. Ing. Vladimír Mařík, DrSc., dr.h.c.**

Founder and scientific director of the Czech Technical University's Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC). Professor Mařík's main areas of interest are artificial intelligence, robotics, knowledge and expertise systems, and most recently multi-agent systems and their applications. It is in this field of multi-agent systems that he made a deciding contribution to the creation of a strong research direction at CTU, leading to new theoretical findings and significant applications in industry and defence. He deals with the transfer of technology from a university environment into industrial practice. He contributes to the process of creating and running spin-off and start-up companies, but also to seeking out optimal models of cooperation between universities and major global corporations as well as SMEs.

Source: press release of the RDI Council and the Office of the Government | 1 February 2021