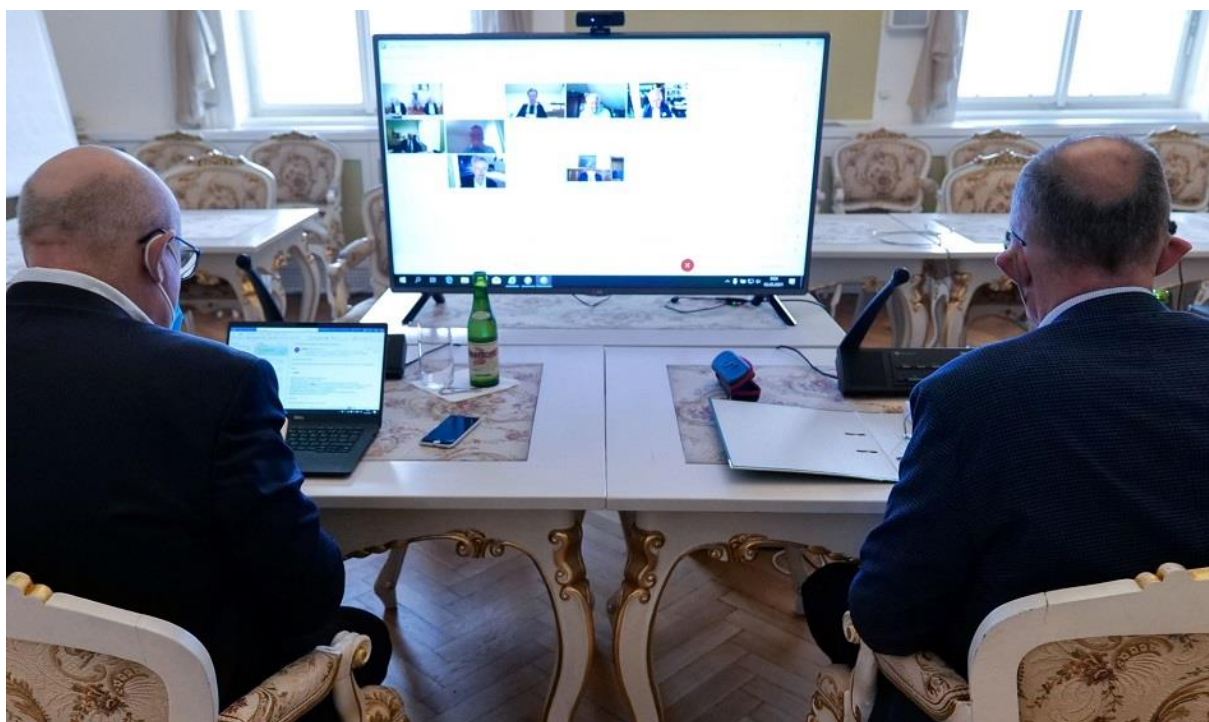


Preparation of National Recovery Plan being finalised. Professor Václav Hořejší joins the government council

A regular session of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council), which is chaired by Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, took place on 5 March 2021, once again in the form of a video conference. Members of the Council primarily discussed the state of preparation of the economic strategy (National Recovery Plan) and considerations for the preparation of the proposal for state budget spending on R&D for the year 2022.



From a videoconference meeting on 5 March 2021 of the RD&I Council. Photo: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

The main item on the agenda of this year's second meeting of the Council was current information on the **support for science and research in the National Recovery Plan**. Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlíček, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Council, emphasised at the beginning of the meeting that there would be no significant changes in the current phase of the proposal for the allocation of financial resources of the national fund for science.

"Preparation of the National Recovery Plan is in the final phase. The financial resources that will be available from this source for research, development and innovation will most likely be set at CZK 12.5 billion. Nevertheless, talks are still underway with the European Commission with the goal of bringing them to

a conclusion and submitting the final draft of the plan to the government so that the Czech Republic meets the deadline for submission to the Commission by the end of April," said Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Silvana Jirotková, entrusted with leading the negotiating team in the European Commission.

The Council went on to discuss the starting points for **drawing up the proposal for state budget expenditure for the year 2022**, pointing out that the expenditure proposed in the medium-term outlook for the year 2022 did not cover the current requirements, capacity and commitments of the R&D system. At the same time, it was agreed that Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlíček would inform the relevant government members of this fact.

In the regular debate on the **Implementation on Methodology 2017+**, the Council members approved the "Settlement of research organisations' objections to the evaluation of the results in Module 1 during the Evaluation of H19". These are the results of scaling after 3 years of implementation approved at most of the providers.

The Council also approved the RD&I Council activity plan for this year and the argument for an above-the-threshold public contract for Conceptual and Analytical Support of the Council for Research, Development and Innovation. The Council was also informed of the preparations for the establishment of a legal entity called ELI-ERIC – European Research Infrastructure, with its planned seat in Dolní Břežany. The Czech Republic is to be jointly represented in this legal entity by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

At the beginning of the meeting, the First Deputy Chairman Pavel Baran welcomed a new member of the Council, **Professor Václav Hořejší**, based on the government resolution from 8 February 2021. *"I am glad that I will be able to contribute to supporting the Council's proposals to the benefit of Czech science. My priority is to support high-quality basic research, whose importance is often underestimated (and maybe even by some members of the RD&I Council),"* stated Václav Hořejší with regard to his work in the government's advisory and professional body.

Prof. RNDr. Václav Hořejší, CSc.

Member of the Laboratory of Leukocyte Signalling at the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Director of the institute from 2005 to 2017. His research field is biochemistry and molecular immunology of surface receptors and signalling proteins of leukocytes.

He has been teaching immunology at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague since 1986. He has participated in the development of a number of practically useful and commercially successful monoclonal antibodies. At present he deals with interactions of synthetic polymers with biological membranes and their applications for the isolation and biochemical characterization of cell surface receptors. One of the most cited Czech scientists (according to Google Scholar over 13,000 citations, h index 62).

Professor Hořejší is a laureate of the government's "Česká hlava" (Czech Mind) award for the year 2020.

Source: Press release from RD&I Council | 8 March 2021