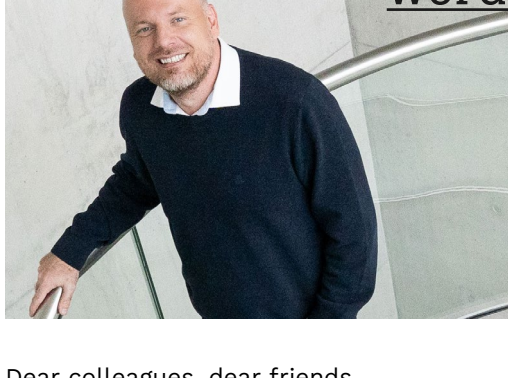


## Opening words



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I would once again like to briefly inform you about the latest developments and changes that have accompanied the activities of the Czech Health Research Council (AZV ČR) over the past few months. I am very pleased that interest in our public tender continues to grow significantly. Compared with the previous year, the number of project proposals submitted to the VES 2027 tender increased by almost 20%. Particularly encouraging is the more than 30% increase in proposals submitted by early-career researchers within the Junior Researcher Projects category. We regard this development as an important sign of the scientific community's confidence in the Agency's work and, at the same time, as confirmation that supporting a new generation of researchers in applied health research is worthwhile.

In the VES 2027 tender, we have also introduced several changes reflecting our long-term commitment to supporting research with a direct impact on clinical practice. As part of our strategy to promote non-commercial clinical research, project proposals focused on non-commercial clinical trials of medicinal products or clinical investigations of medical devices will now receive an additional six points in the evaluation process. Projects involving patient organizations as active partners will also receive a two-point bonus. We believe these measures will contribute to the further development of high-quality clinical research and foster closer collaboration between the research and patient communities.

Important changes have also been introduced to the rules governing the

evaluation of project outcomes. Starting with VES 2027 tender, an exception may be granted for projects that achieve a significant applied research result and demonstrate its implementation in clinical practice or successful technology transfer. Examples include a successfully completed clinical trial of a medicinal product, changes to clinical practice guidelines, a newly reimbursed healthcare procedure, as well as patents, certified methodologies, prototypes, software solutions, or licenses. Such projects may be assessed by the expert panel as successfully completed even if their main outputs do not include a Jimp publication – an original article published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in the Web of Science database under the document type "Article". We greatly appreciate the work of our expert evaluation panels, which represent one of the fundamental pillars of high-quality and transparent project assessment. At present, these panels comprise 128 members. We have been steadily increasing the representation of women in the panels—from 18% in 2022 to 36% this year. At the same time, the panels' level of expertise continues to grow, with the proportion of members holding an h-index above 20 increasing from 39% in 2022 to 62% in 2025. This year also brought changes to the AZV ČR Bord and AZV ČR Scientific Board. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all former members for their years of dedicated service, professional approach, and significant contribution to the development of the Agency and applied health research in the Czech Republic. At the same time, we look forward to working with the newly appointed members and believe that their experience and perspectives will contribute to the Agency's further development.

*Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to our continued cooperation and to many new achievements in Czech health research.*

Ondřej Slabý  
Chairman of the AZV ČR

## Public Tender to Support of National Authorities in Priority Areas of Health Research



On 29 April 2026, the Ministry of Health announced a public tender for targeted support under the Programme for the Support of Applied Health Research for the period 2024-2030, specifically Sub-programme 4: Support to National Authorities in Priority Areas of Health Research- The objective of the sub-programme

is to support the long-term sustainability and further development of national authorities established between 2022 and 2025 under the EXCELES programme. Only consortia that received funding for the establishment of a national authority through the EXCELES programme as an implementation instrument of National Recovery Plan Component 5.1 are eligible to apply. Projects will be evaluated independently within the public tender, there is no legal entitlement to funding.

The tender is open from 30 April to 11 June 2026. Supported projects are expected to commence on 1 August 2026 and may continue until the end of 2030.

[Learn more](#)

## Evaluation of interim reports and control plan

This spring, we published the evaluation of project interim reports for 2025. The assessment was carried out during meetings of the individual expert evaluation panels and subsequently reviewed by the AZV ČR Scientific Board. Of the 342 interim reports submitted, all projects were recommended to continue. However, 31 projects received evaluations with reservations. We would like to remind all project teams that the evaluation reports are available in the ISVP

system (<https://ereg.ksrzis.cz/>) within the detail of each specific project. Please pay close attention to all comments and reservations identified during the evaluation process.

In total, 18 non-accepted results were found, and 23 projects were proposed for audit activities. The planned audits are already underway and will continue until February 2027. Thank you for your cooperation!

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

## European Partnerships Continue Successfully

Are you interested in how Czech research teams performed in calls launched under the European Partnerships in Healthcare? Take a look at the detailed Report 2025, published in February, which provides a comprehensive overview of the participation, interest, and achievements of Czech institutions in the calls announced under these partnerships. The report is available on our website.

At the turn of 2025 and 2026, the Czech Republic, through the Ministry of Health and AZV ČR, actively participated in seven joint transnational calls within six European Partnerships in Healthcare: ERDERA, ERA4Health, THCS, PerMed, OH AMR, and BE-READY. Within the European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed), the Czech Republic participated in two joint transnational calls. This decision reflected the strong interest of the Czech research community in this field as well as the different thematic focus of the individual calls, which cover various aspects of personalised medicine – from innovative diagnostic approaches to targeted therapeutic strategies. In addition, the Czech Republic joined the Widening Mechanism within the THCS partnership call and the PerMed CARMEN2026 call. The purpose of this mechanism is to strengthen participation and integration of research institutions



from countries with historically lower success rates in European research programmes.

All of the above-mentioned calls follow a two-stage evaluation process. Final funding decisions and the number of projects involving Czech participants recommended for support will be determined in autumn 2026.

In the coming period, the Ministry of Health and AZV ČR aim to participate in calls under the Brain Health Partnership. For further information, please continue to follow our website.

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

### Position Statement on the Use of AI Tools

We have prepared a guideline establishing rules for the use of publicly available artificial intelligence (AI) tools in order to ensure scientific integrity, protection of intellectual property, and compliance with ethical standards during both project preparation and evaluation.

### Evaluation of final reports

During July, the evaluation of the final reports of projects completed in 2025 will be published. Investigators are reminded that they can submit any results to the final reports already submitted until 30 June 2026.

### AZV ČR Annual Conference

The AZV ČR Annual Conference will take place on 23 September 2026 in the Main Meeting Room of the Dean's Office of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University (Na Bojišti 3, Prague 2). Selected projects completed in 2025 and nominated for the Minister of Health's Award for Health Research and Development will be presented.