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## Opening Words



Dear colleagues,  
dear friends,

this year is very special for us. Ten years ago on April 1, 2014, the story of the Health Research Council of the Czech Republic (AZV ČR) began to be written, a story in which many personalities of the Czech health care and medical research have participated over the years and are still participating, who are trying to cultivate and develop it so that it can continue to be written – and for this they deserve a great thanks.

It is my great honour and pleasure to continue the mission started by Professor

Miroslav Ryska and I believe that the Agency will continue to successfully fulfil its main mission, which is to promote quality and innovative medical research and development. Ten years of research and innovation in healthcare represents, among other things, ten years of learning and adapting to the new challenges that modern biomedicine brings.

In the course of its existence, AZV ČR has supported more than 1040 projects in the field of applied health research with a total value of more than CZK 11.5 billion. The results of many of these projects find application in everyday clinical practice and thus help to improve the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of our fellow citizens. We look forward to having the opportunity to contribute together to further inspiring discoveries and innovations in the coming decade that, in addition to advancing knowledge in the medical sciences, will also help improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare in our country!

*I am confident that we will continue to work together successfully,  
Ondřej Slabý*

## Announcement of „VES 2025“ and Changes to the Tender Documentation

Do not forget that you can submit applications for special-purpose support from the Ministry of Health for applied research projects in the framework of the newly announced public tender „VES 2025“ until 26 June 2024. The evaluation of the submitted applications, including the decision on the funding of the projects, will take place until 21 February 2025. The selected projects are expected to start on 1 May 2025 and to end no later than 31 December 2028.

In connection with the newly announced „VES 2025“ tender, at the May seminar we presented the most important changes in the tender documentation, practical information on the submission of project proposals to the ISVP, and also new developments regarding the evaluation process. Presentations with the most



important information are available on our website. If you have any questions, please contact [helpdesk@azvcr.cz](mailto:helpdesk@azvcr.cz), and the answers to the most frequently asked questions can be found in the FAQ section of our website.

Thanks again to all interested parties for the great participation, inspiring questions and rich discussion!

[Learn more](#)

## Partial Reports Evaluation and Control Plan

In the spring, we published the evaluation of the partial project reports for 2023, which took place at the individual meetings of the expert evaluation panels and subsequently at the meeting of the AZV ČR Scientific Board. Out of the total of 334 submitted partial reports, 333 projects were recommended for further implementation, while 32 projects were evaluated with reservations, and 1 project was evaluated as not fulfilled. We would like to remind you that the assessments on the partial reports are published in

the ISVP (<https://ereg.ksrzis.cz/>) in the details of the specific project. Please pay attention to all reservations identified in the evaluation and which can be found in the evaluation report or commentary. In total, 23 non-accepted results were found and 22 projects were proposed for control activities. Planned audits are already underway and will continue until February 2025. Thank you for your cooperation!

[Learn more](#)

[and more](#)



## Join the European Partnerships in Health

By its resolution of 22 May 2024, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the amendment of the Programme for Support of Applied Health Research for the years 2024–2030. The amendment of the Programme consists in its extension by Sub-programme 3: European Partnerships in Health, where the announcement of 6-7 co-funded transnational calls with a contribution from the European Commission for each European partnership is planned. At the national level, the calls will be managed by our Agency, which will further specify the eligibility criteria and obligations of Czech applicants. Information

about current calls will be published on the AZV ČR website.

The total expenditure for the duration of Sub-programme 3 in 2025–2030 is expected to amount to CZK 337.5 million from the state budget expenditure on research, development and innovation. These expenditures are distributed in accordance with the expected phasing of transnational calls and in relation to the expected 3-year duration of the projects. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Monika Kocmanová, European Partnerships in Health Coordinator.

[Learn more](#)

## 10 Years of the AZV ČR through the Eyes of Prominent Personalities

The fact that our Agency has become an integral part of the support of research activities in the field of healthcare and a partner of many different research institutions and their senior and junior scientists is evidenced, among other things, by the kind „birthday wishes“, which we greatly appreciate. You can read or listen to them on our website and social media, where we will be gradually publishing them until September 2024. And one taster for all from the Minister of Health Vlastimil Válek: „I must say that I am really extremely proud of the AZV ČR. I personally

had the opportunity to chair one of the expert panels and I was a member of the Agency for a long time. That is why I would like to thank all of you, colleagues who participate in its activities, because I am aware of how much time and effort you put into it. It is also thanks to you that Czech healthcare and Czech biomedicine can be rightly proud of the fact that AZV ČR has been successfully supporting their development and prosperity for ten years.“

[Learn more](#)

### A Year with the AZV ČR – Key Changes, Current and Future Challenges

Ondřej Slabý has been at the head of our Agency, a key structure for the development of Czech medicine and Czech healthcare, for more than a year. In a great interview for [Medical Tribune](#), he takes stock of what has changed in the AZV ČR and what will change in the near future.

### Evaluation of the Final Reports

During July, the evaluation of final reports on the projects completed in 2023 will be published. We remind the investigators that they can submit any results to the final reports already submitted until 30 June 2024.

### Come to the Gala Exhibition

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the AZV ČR, we invite you to an exhibition that will take place from 23 September to 11 October 2024 at the Carolinum (Ovocný trh 560/5, Prague 1). You will be able to see, among other things, profiles of all the laureates of the Minister of Health's awards for medical research and development. We look forward to seeing you!

[www.azvcr.cz](http://www.azvcr.cz)

You can send your input to [newsletter@azvcr.cz](mailto:newsletter@azvcr.cz). Thank you!

