

Strategy of the Technology Agency of the CR
STRATA 2020
...from ideas to applications

The main objective:

The main objective of STRATA 2020 application is to substantially contribute to the increase of competitiveness of the Czech Republic and to support the transfer to knowledge economy.

Mission

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) is the main organisation which implements the state policy in the sphere of applied research, development and innovations.

The mission of the TA CR is to create and implement effective and transparent system of applied research, development and innovations support to the whole extent thereof.

The TA CR participates in the conceptual orientation and creating of research environment of the CR, in the preparation of National Policy of Research, Development and Innovations, produces strategic document in the field of applied research, development and innovations and implements key programmes in this field, in particular based on national priorities of oriented research and development. The Agency performs analysis of results and data received from its activity and provides them for the needs of further course of applied research, development and innovations. It comes from and develops international cooperation with partner agencies of applied research. The TA CR cooperates upon the preparation of programmes with other sectors and providers of support in the field of applied research, development and innovations and promotes its activity by effective cooperation among research organisations and application sphere and contributes to the attainment of strategic economic and social goals of the Czech Republic while respecting the sustainable development principles.

Vision

The Technology Agency of the CR shall become the principal element of the national system of support of applied research, development and innovations in the Czech Republic. It shall participate in the formation of national policy and national concept of applied research, development and innovations and shall contribute to its effective implementation.

Key values

The activity of the TA CR is based on respecting key values and principles – support of competitiveness of the Czech Republic, effectiveness and interconnectedness of applied research, development and innovations support systems, orientation of the Agency programmes to the attainment of support of strategic objectives of the Czech Republic, expressed in the documents adopted by the Government, effective utilisation of public means for the realisation of programmes and ensuring Agency operation, transparency of decision-making, regular evaluation of benefits of supported projects and programmes and user friendliness of Agency procedures.

Strategic goals

Strategy of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic – STRATA 2020 – is based on six strategic goals:

Goal 1: To create complex system of applied research, development and innovations support in the Czech Republic.

Goal 2: To finish building the position of the Technology Agency CR as the major and respected part of the national applied research, development and innovations system.

Goal 3: To implement applied research, development and innovations in such a manner so as to provide really applicable results, i.e. to ensure effective and transparent implementation of allocated public means for the support of applied research, development and innovations.

Goal: To substantially enhance long-term effective cooperation of public and private sectors in applied research, development and innovations, in particular to stimulate private investments into research, development and innovations.

Goal 5: To stimulate the development of international cooperation in applied research, development and innovations.

Goal 6: To create effective system of presentation and dissemination of information on results of applied research, development and innovations projects supported by the Technology Agency of the CR and on the activity of the Technology Agency of the CR.

Vision realisation

The vision shall be realised by attaining **strategic goals** using the necessary **tools** and on condition of the creation and realisation of system **conditions** for the application thereof.

Goal 1: To create complex system of applied research, development and innovations support in the Czech Republic

The Technology Agency of the CR shall develop a complex system of applied research, development and innovations support based on the strategy of the Agency until 2020 and analysis of needs of the society. This support system shall, by means of suitable tools, cover the transfer of scientific knowledge to the phase of innovations. The Technology Agency of the CR shall gradually become the principal element of the applied research, development and innovations support system which is based on the support of the basic research and purposefully generates outputs for the sphere of application. In border areas, the TA CR shall effectively cooperate with other providers of support with the stress upon the application of new interdisciplinary activities with high potential of innovative solutions of the needs of the Czech Republic development.

Goal 2020: Functional complex system of applied research, development and innovations support. Functionality shall be proven by applicability/application of realised programmes results.

Tools for the attainment of the goal:

- The Technology Agency of the CR shall develop basic portfolio of subsidy programmes which shall form thematic programmes and thematically unspecified programmes. Besides the subsidy funding, the TA CR shall focus also at the implementation of further financial tools.
- Thematic programmes shall be oriented in particular at the support of applied research, development and innovations aiming at the fulfilment of long-term priority goals determined by the Government (oriented research) which are based on objectively identifiable socio-economic needs of the CR.

- Thematically unspecified programmes shall focus on system area and horizontal objectives of research, development and innovations policy (e.g. programmes of support of cooperation in research, development and innovations in small and medium businesses), including interdisciplinary activities. Within the thematically unspecified programmes, the TA CR shall come from foreign experience and shall implement and develop new tools of support in this sphere.
- The TA CR shall, in cooperation with other entities, establish supportive mechanism for the implementation of research, development and innovations results in innovations. In this context, the TA CR shall support the phase of verification of business potential and finishing the applied research, development and innovations results into the practical applicability.
- Suitable system for the use of application potential of research and development results attained with the support of TA CR shall be developed.
- The TA CR shall support activities reacting to the demand of the public administration for innovative solutions.
- The TA CR shall analyse results of programmes applied by the Agency and all other own activities with the aim to provide supporting documents for the decision-making on further development of research, development and innovations.

Conditions for the implementation of tools

- The TA CR shall initiate the amendment of valid research, development and innovations legislation, if necessary for the development and effective application of new tools for the support of research, development and innovations.
- Synergy among the programmes of the TA CR, programmes of other providers of support and EU structural funds shall be used to develop complex system of support.

Goal 2: To complete building the position of the Technology Agency of the CR as the key element of national research, development and innovations system

The Technology Agency of the CR is an integral key component of the research, development and innovations system in the Czech Republic with substantial extent of responsibility for the development of research and innovative environment in compliance with the CR strategy in this field. The Technology Agency shall, within its activities and competencies, strive for the fulfilment of goals of research, development and innovations system reform started in 2008 and shall become the main provider of targeted support of applied research and development in the CR including the sector programmes of research and international development in this field. The TA CR shall be the respected partner of central state administration bodies responsible for the research, development and innovations policy in its field.

Goal 2015: The TA CR is the main provider of applied research, development and innovations support in the Czech Republic, it realises 2/3 of all programmes of applied research, development and innovations in the Czech Republic.

Tools for the attainment of the goals

- The TA CR shall proactively participate in the preparation of all strategic documents in the field of research, development and innovations support, shall prepare proposals of own programmes of support which shall contribute to the fulfilment of national research,

development and innovations policy. In this connection, it shall closely cooperate with the Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Government, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and other sectors.

- The TA CR shall cooperate with the ministries and other central state administration bodies responsible for the preparation and implementation of sector concepts in the field of research, development and innovations when formulating new or modifying existing programmes of research, development and innovations support.
- The TA CR shall preferably concentrate on the support of long-term effectively working strategic centres in key field of applied research, development and innovations.
- The TA CR shall develop principles for the creation of applied research, development and innovations programmes which shall be respected while implementing sector concepts by the central bodies of the state administration.
- The TA CR shall form unified rules for the implementation of applied research, development and innovations support, obligatory for all support providers.
- The TA CR shall closely cooperate with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Grant Agency of the CR and other public administration bodies in order to ensure complementarities of supporting measures in the field of research, development and innovations and with the aim to create complex, mutually interconnected system of support of research, development and innovations in the CR. The TA CR shall, while providing professional advisory services, cooperate with the national network of specialized advisory centres in the field of research, development and innovations.

Conditions from the implementation of tools

- The TA CR shall participate in the preparation of all strategic documents relating to the field of research, development and innovations (generally competitiveness of the CR based on the knowledge economy) with the possibility to influence their contents and to delegate members into the relevant working teams.
- Analytical, conceptual and methodological centre of the TA shall be established which shall produce professional supporting documents for the decision-making of TA bodies in cooperation with external capacities.

Goal 3: To implement applied research, development and innovations in such a manner so as to provide really applicable results, i.e. to ensure effective and transparent implementation of allocated public means for the support of applied research, development and innovations.

The Technology Agency shall provide public support on the basis of programmes which shall provably fulfil objective needs of the society. Indicator of programme success shall be set, programmes, projects and their results, profits and impacts shall be monitored and assessed, system of results and their impacts shall be introduced. Results of evaluations shall be then used by the TA CR for the directing of applied research, development and innovations, formulation of new measures or the amendment of existing support tools.

Goal 2014: Functional system of assessment of programmes and projects results, their measurability shall be set on the basis of competitiveness indicators in the particular sphere, foreign experience and existing research, development and innovations support.

Tools for the attainment of the goals

- Based on foreign experience and existing results of applied research, development and innovations results in the CR, the TA CR shall prepare a set of success indicators of programmes and projects and shall direct its activity in the field of programmes preparation and implementation of public support to their fulfilment.
- Prior to the commencement of programme preparations, the TA shall produce short analysis of objective needs of the society in such a manner so that each programme through its specialisation and contents may react, as effectively as possible, to the identified problems and needs with the view to the global trends. At the same time, real creative potential of national innovation programme and absorption capacity of application sphere shall be taken into account.
- The TA CR shall consistently cooperate with other providers of research, development and innovations public support and with other bodies responsible for the creation and implementation of national research, development and innovations policy in order to ensure the connectedness of support programmes and exclusion of duplicities in supported activities.
- The TA CR shall consistently require clear formulation of clearly controllable outputs and results of projects in all programmes and supported activities with explicit formulation of benefits for the competitiveness of the CR and fulfilling of socio-economic needs of the society.
- The TA CR shall ensure the system of objective assessment of projects. Equal attention shall be paid both to the process of selection of projects and to the continuous assessment of projects, their results and benefits.
- The TA CR shall create a system of programmes evaluation. Programmes shall be assessed both from the point of view of fulfilling of formal criteria, and in relation to the real benefits and impacts. These evaluations shall be used as a direct base for the creation of connecting or new programmes, however, in particular for the formulation of national policy in the field of applied research, development and innovations.
- The goal of the TA CR is to gradually build own capacities for the assessment and creation of professional standpoints of the TA CR. This system shall limit possible conflicts of interests and shall ensure comparable assessment of all projects.
- The TA CR shall consistently provide information support in the field of intellectual property protection – dealing with rights to the research results realized through the TA CR.
- By introducing an effective system of projects and programmes assessment, trust-based manner of support distribution shall be gradually strengthen, which shall be reflected in the decrease of administrative burden for applicants.

Conditions for the attainment of the goal

- In the Office of the Technology Agency, analytical and conceptual capacity for the creation and aiming of programmes in compliance with the development of needs of the society and fulfilling of national priorities of oriented research shall be established. Simultaneously, it is necessary to create the capacity for quality and effective ex ante assessment of draft projects, monitoring and evaluation of projects and ex post assessment of programmes and impacts.

Goal 4: Substantially increase long-term effective cooperation of public and private sector in research, development and innovations, in particular to stimulate private investments into research, development and innovations

The Technology Agency shall create conditions and stimulation mechanisms for the development of long-term and effective cooperation between public research organisations and application sphere. The aim is to increase the utilisation of results of exploratory research in the commercial field and support of competitiveness of economy of the Czech Republic. Active functional relations between research capacities in public sector and innovating entities (in particular enterprises) shall be ensured, which relations are capable to transfer new knowledge into practical, effectively usable applications. The Technology Agency of the CR shall, in cooperation with the sectors, formulate programmes and supporting measures in such a manner so that additional investments of private sector into research, development and innovations may be supported. Public funds provided by the Technology Agency will have important initiation and multiplication role in implementing results of research in favour of the development of the Czech Republic and its international competitiveness. On the basis of its experience, the Technology Agency will initiate such measures and legislation changes which shall lead into higher private investments into research, development and innovations.

Goal 2014: In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Finance, and Research, Development and Innovations Council to achieve such amendment of the legislation which shall support maximum private investments into research, development and innovations.

Goal 2020: Share of private investments into research, development and innovations increased by 1/3 compared to 2012.

Tools for the attainment of the goal:

- The TA CR shall, in cooperation with other sectors, develop programmes aimed at the concentration of public research capacities and their connection with innovating commercial entities. In connection with the aim of public research, development and innovations policy to concentrate financial and personal capacities into research and development which fulfils priority goals of the CR, the TA CR shall support the development of strategic meaning centres. Increased attention shall be paid to the implementation and further development of Competence Centres programme and connecting programmes aiming at the establishment of big centres of strategic research.
- For the stimulation of cooperation in research and innovation activities among public and private sector, the TA CR shall favour such cooperation in the terms of the programmes (e.g. in selection criteria or higher extent of support).
- The TA CR shall set the programmes for applied research support in such a manner in order to increase the co-financing from the side of the recipients (with possible exception of border programmes supporting verification of application potential results of basic research). Extent of co-financing shall differ depending on the type of programme and shall typically be in the range 20-50% (up to 85% in case of innovations support) for an individual project.
- When assessing the projects prior to the granting of support, the TA CR shall consider existence and extent of motivation effect which the support has to the implementation of a project from the view of its extent, financial involvement of partners or speed of solution in comparison with the situation when this support was not provided.

- TA CR shall propose, in cooperation with the support recipients entering the project with private investments, such amendment of binding legal norms so as the share of private investments in research, development and innovations support may be further effectively increased.

Conditions for the attainment of the goal

- Ensuring bigger flexibility by means of legislation amendments which shall simplify the rules for the provision of targeted support for research and development is a prerequisite for effective introduction and setting of new types of programmes.
- Common consensus and respecting principles of involvement and support extent upon the creation of programmes presented to the TA CR for implementation by other central bodies of the state administration is an important condition.
- Active cooperation with interested state administration bodies is a prerequisite for achieving relevant amendment of legal norms, in particular in the tax field.

Goal 5: To stimulate development of international cooperation in applied research, development and innovations

The Technology Agency of the CR shall create conditions for the development of international cooperation of Czech research organisations and entrepreneurs in the field of applied research, development and innovations. The mission of the Technology Agency in this field is to ensure effective linkage and synergy effects of European applied research, development and innovations support tools and programmes of support announced by the Technology Agency. Technology Agency of the CR shall also strive for the development of international cooperation with non-European countries in the form of development of cooperation with similar agencies abroad.

Goal 2015: The TA CR concluded cooperation agreements with similar foreign agencies with the highest potential for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Goal 2020: Bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes in the field of applied research, development and innovations are being successfully implemented.

Tools for the attainment of the goal

- The Technology Agency shall generate the strategy of international cooperation which shall be approved by the Research, Development and Innovations Council.
- The TA CR shall conclude agreements on cooperation with similar agencies in the world with the biggest potential for the creation of successful applied outputs.
- The TA CR shall create and implement the program of international cooperation with similar agencies in applied research, development and innovations which shall facilitate flexible international cooperation in the fields of the highest potential for innovations and their application on the international market.
- Where effective, the TA CR shall utilise European mechanisms for the support of cooperation within the European Research Area (ERA). The development of cooperation with partner agencies abroad, both in the phase of formulation of particular common programmes, and when enforcing the topics for their individual calls shall play an important role.
- Besides ensuring direct relation among targeted support programmes announced by the TA CR and similarly directed initiatives on the European level, the TA CR shall effectively utilise

the potential of existing national infrastructure, which provides advisory activity and information in the field of international cooperation in research, development and innovations programmes.

- The TA CR shall consolidate its position of an active member of the Association of Innovation Agencies TAFTIE, shall strive to establish contacts with similar foreign agencies and implementation of these contacts for internal development of the TA CR. These international relations shall also facilitate the introduction of proven procedure in the creation, implementation and evaluation of research, development and innovations support tools into the Czech environment.

Conditions for the attainment of the goal:

- Provision of means (institutional and targeted) for the implementation of own programme is the key prerequisite for an active role of the TA CR upon the creation of the environment suitable for the development of international cooperation in applied research, development and innovations.
- Establishment of a work place – working team for international cooperation within the Office of the TA CR is a condition.

Goal 6: To create effective system of presentation and dissemination of information on results of applied research, development and innovations projects supported by the Technology Agency of the CR and on the activity of the Technology Agency of the CR

The Technology Agency of the CR shall make available and disseminate information on results of applied research, development and innovations projects and their implementation, shall establish a system of presentation of projects results, shall create effective system of communication with media as an intangible support of applied research, development and innovations results application in practice.

Goal 2015: Functional system of presentation of the TA CR and communication with media

Goal 2020: There is a system of informing on research, development and innovations results, including the assessment of benefits of this system for innovations and application in practice.

Tools for the attainment of the goal:

- The TA CR shall create strategies of presentation and provision of information on applied research, development and innovations results as a system of intangible support of results application in practice.
- The TA CR shall create personal capacities, system and methodology for communication with media, PR and marketing of the Agency activity.
- Results of individual projects achieved with programme support of the TA CR shall be published on TA CR websites, results of all projects and their implementation shall be presented.
- Proper system for the use of application potential of research and development results achieved with TA CR support shall be established.

Conditions for the attainment of the goal

- Creating a system of collection and presentation of information on the solution of TA CR project for the dissemination of information on achieved results of applied research, development and innovations.
- Contractual provision of promotion of research, development and innovations support within individual projects realized with TA CR support.

Conditions for the attainment of all goals:

- Adequate increase of personnel of the TA CR Office and ensuring relating institutional and targeted financial sources is a necessary condition for the implementation of all goals.

Implementation Plan

Strategy of the Technology Agency STRATA 2020 shall be implemented via the Implementation Plan the part of which will be personnel and financial prerequisites of the TA CR activity, including the relating time schedule, responsibility for individual steps and assessment indicators. The Implementation Plan which shall be updated, if needed, shall be, as the attachment to STRATA 2020, presented to the Government of the CR for approval. Updating and assessment of achieved results shall be in regular intervals presented to Research, Development and Innovations Council for approval.