

## Joint Statement of the Czech Rectors Conference, the Council of Higher Education Institutions and the Higher Education Trade Union on the Draft State Budget for 2026

Prague, 4 September 2025

The budget for public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) published at the end of August is unfortunately completely unacceptable, as it does not take into account the priorities declared in previous years by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS), which were for example to manage the demographic increase in the grades currently heading to HEIs or to strengthen socially highly necessary professions.

For 2026, it is essential to support the increase in funds for **educational activities** at public HEIs by **CZK 6 billion** proposed by the MEYS. Similarly, in the field of **science and research**, an increase in the Long-term Conceptual Development of a Research Organization (DKRVO) chapter by at least **15%** will enable the necessary development and ensure competitiveness in the European context.

Only a sufficiently pro-growth budget can guarantee the development of activities at public HEIs and thus support the knowledge economy and prosperity of our society. The current proposal will mean, on the contrary, a decrease in the share of the budget of public HEIs in GDP, which will further distance the Czech Republic from the average of OECD countries.

Prague, 4 September 2025

On behalf of the Czech Rectors Conference  
Presidium of the Czech Rectors Conference

On behalf of the Council of Higher Education Institutions  
Presidium of the Council of Higher Education Institutions

On behalf of the Higher Education Trade Union  
Board of the Higher Education Trade Union