

## Minister Balaš at the conference on research and innovation funding

**Prague, July 7, 2022 - Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Vladimír Balaš, together with EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel opened a two-day conference today on synergies in research and innovation funding in Europe at the Prague Congress Centre. This is the first ever major event organised by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in the context of the European Research Area. The conference is attended by 350 participants from all over Europe, while other interested parties can watch the live webcast.**

The conference, which is currently underway, focuses on the issue of synergies in the use of national and European funding to support research, development and innovation. Despite the fact that Member States and the European Commission are making great efforts to fully exploit the potential of synergies, i.e. the effective combination of financial resources, the conference also discussed the shortcomings in their set-up, as well as how to use these instruments to finance research infrastructures, European Research and Innovation Partnerships, EU missions or innovation in the most effective way without overlaps and duplications.

*"Research and innovation enable us to find knowledge-based solutions to current and future societal and economic challenges, be it climate change, digitalisation and the green transition, the energy crisis or research into diseases of civilisation. To realise the full potential of S&T cooperation in Europe, we need to ensure effective use of national and EU instruments to support research and innovation. Synergies thus represent one of the key priorities of the research agenda of the Czech EU Presidency,"* said **Vladimír Balaš**, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, at the opening of the conference.

*"Research and innovation are key to promote ideas and initiative to modernise Europe and foster our sustainable socio-economic recovery. The Horizon Europe programme can be a catalyser to support the ambitious investment targets that Member States agreed with the ERA Pact for R&I. It is important to exploit the opportunities offered by synergies across different programmes and instruments, at EU national and regional levels, to align our strategies towards the green and digital transformation, with a positive impact in our society,"* added **Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.

Participants from the research and innovation community further shared their experiences and presented examples of good practice in combining different sources of funding from national and EU sources to support the development of scientific knowledge and the development of new technologies and innovations.

The aim of the conference is, among other things, to present and promote the so-called **Prague Declaration on Synergies in Research and Innovation Funding in Europe**, which will be submitted to EU Member States for their support and which calls on European stakeholders to continue to remove barriers to the full exploitation of synergies. The conference was organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports together with the House of International Cooperation.

More information about the conference is available here: <https://synergies2022.eu/>.