

Visegrad Group Joint Declaration on Mutual Cooperation in Digital Projects

Krakow, February 17, 2021

We, the Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries - the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, and the Slovak Republic,

- RECOGNISING the strong ties between our countries and societies,
- ACKNOWLEDGING the progress in the digital area, made over the recent years due to joint actions taken within the V4 cooperation,
- RECOGNISING the need to further strengthen the V4 cooperation in the area of digital affairs by creating a new regional leadership framework in order to facilitate sustainable digital transformation of the region by effective use of EU resources available under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU,
- REITERATING the commitments made in the V4 Prime Ministers' Joint Declaration of Intent on Mutual Cooperation in Innovation and Digital Affairs (referred to as the Warsaw Declaration), signed at the CEE Innovators Summit in Warsaw on 28th March 2017,
- RECALLING the conclusions of the Economic Forum in Krynica held on 4th September 2019, concerning the importance of cybersecurity and digital technologies in ensuring the economic growth in the V4 countries,
- RECOGNISING the European Council conclusions of 1 October 2020 as the basis for cooperation on shaping Europe's digital future, in particular the recommendation to allocate at least 20% of the funds under RRF will be made available for the digital transition, including for SMEs. RECOGNISING the need for cooperation on developing trustworthy digital projects to identify and overcome social, economic and political aspects of the global COVID-19 pandemic,
- UNDERLINING the necessity to work on joint positions and statements regarding digital issues, representing the mutual interests of the signatories on EU and other international fora;
- ACKNOWLEDGING building the digital infrastructure, in particular 5G networks, is the key element for innovations and functioning digital economy;
- RECOGNIZING the need to tackle the spread of disinformation disseminated online in order to protect the security of citizens and businesses alike; and
- ACKNOWLEDGING that close cooperation through cross-border European projects and joint actions are essential to achieve a safe and secure digital environment;

Hereby declare the mutual goodwill to build, enhance and strengthen the bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the V4 group in the following fields:

- 1) Building a joint cooperation framework in digital affairs by, inter alia, establishing a mechanism of consultations on digital affairs to be held on working level and designating an entity/contact point for regional digital cooperation from each of the V4 countries (in order to indicate opportunities for undertaking joint V4 digital projects in various fields (developing new products, business models, investments or research in the field of digital transformation));
- 2) Working together to secure EU funds for digital transformation, in particular for joint V4 digital projects;
- 3) Establishing sustainable R&D&I cooperation between excellent science and research centres in the field of digitalisation (inter alia: computing and data infrastructure, Big Data, Industry 4.0, cloud and edge networks, high performance computing (HPC), quantum computing, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, machine learning, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, smart and digital skills and competences, telecommunication, etc.) to ensure

strong connections between excellent scientific and research centres in order to build strong ties with business and promote technology transfer, creating innovative product range and reinforcing civil society.

- 4) Raising awareness among businesses (especially innovative SMEs and start-ups) of the V4 countries to the effect of creating incentives for establishing cross-border cooperation (including investments and financial opportunities) ,
- 5) Coordinating actions aimed at improving competitiveness and innovation potential of the V4 countries in digital affairs, as well as reinforcing digital transition and accelerating the adoption of key digital technologies by V4 administration and businesses;
- 6) Building knowledge resources, supporting joint international events' organization by delegating experts and high level representatives (i.e. for UN Internet Governance Forum to be held in 2021 in Poland);
- 7) Exchanging best practices and mutually promoting V4 achievements in the field of digitalisation, including the results of cross-border projects (especially in regard to innovative products and services);
- 8) Cooperation in the preparation of relevant legislation at the EU level, which contributes to the creation and successful functioning of cross-border digital projects.
- 9) Identifying global challenges demanding for urgent actions (i.e. serious pandemic, natural disasters, etc.), where immediate and joint actions of the IT experts and digital businesses in V4 countries may successfully contribute to the timely solutions;
- 10) Undertaking other actions jointly decided upon by the signatories, concerning new and emerging telecommunication and digital IT technologies and their innovative applications for sustainable development, resilient economy and society that meet the goals of above mentioned initiatives.

This declaration does not create any rights or obligations under international law and is not legally enforceable.

For the Czech Republic:

For Hungary:

For the Republic of Poland:

For the Slovak Republic: