

**Polish Presidency  
of the Visegrad Group  
July 2024–June 2025**

**REPORT ON THE COURSE OF THE POLISH  
PRESIDENCY OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP**

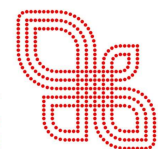
Compiled by Mateusz Szymański based on contributions from ministries and government offices

Poland held the rotating presidency of the Visegrad Group for the seventh time from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. During this difficult period of geopolitical change, marked by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which significantly affected day-to-day transatlantic and European collaboration, regional cooperation, especially on Europe's eastern flank, was of particular importance. Despite the shared heritage and values of the Visegrad Group, the potential for dialogue and cooperation was hampered by distinct differences in the views and stances of the V4 member states in a key area of international activity: security. These circumstances left their mark on the now-concluded Polish Presidency.

Drawing upon our shared Visegrad heritage, as well as the common challenges and needs of the region's societies, Poland centred its presidency on **dialogue and practical sectoral cooperation in areas that hold particular significance to the citizens of our countries**. A vital instrument that helps to achieve this goal remains the **International Visegrad Fund (IVF)**, which organises grant programmes (including the V4 Gen Mini-Grants programme, which enjoys immense popularity in Poland and aims to support the mobility of children and young people and promote democratic values, civic engagement, and cross-border dialogue). Additionally, the IVF offers scholarship programmes across various fields (literature, visual and performing arts, music, fashion, and historical research).

The motto adopted for the presidency, **V4: Back to Basics**, reflected the ambition to preserve the heritage of the Visegrad Group and to recall the values that accompanied the birth of Visegrad cooperation and which – in Poland's assessment – remain relevant even today: human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for freedoms and liberties. The realities of the international situation justified designating **citizens' safety** as one of the priorities of the Polish V4 Presidency. At the same time, this focus aligned closely with the first priority – *Defence and Security* – of Poland's concurrent presidency of the Council of the European Union. Recognising the need to further develop contacts between the citizens of our countries and to stimulate trade, tourism, investment, and development, Poland also included **connectivity** and **unleashing the potential** among its priorities. These broadly encompass youth cooperation and the spheres of scientific research and innovation, as well as cross-border cooperation and collaboration regarding intellectual property, culture and heritage, and tourism. For the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, a cross-cutting objective across all priorities was **the continued support for Ukraine and Ukrainians struggling against Russian aggression**. From a Polish perspective, maintaining an independent Ukraine and ending hostilities on terms acceptable to Ukrainians is crucial for the security of the entire Central European region and the well-being of its citizens.

A pragmatic approach to cooperation enabled dialogue within the Visegrad Group to be maintained despite existing differences of opinion. This was evidenced by events such as the summit of Visegrad Group presidents in Wisła in December 2024, the defence and security dialogue conducted by the V4 chiefs of defence, experts on armaments, planning, and logistics, and parliamentary security and defence committees, as well as discussions concerning agricultural policy, which is of great importance to the region (at the level of agriculture ministers in September 2024 in Poznań, and parliamentary agriculture committees in May 2025). A comprehensive overview of the activities and dialogue undertaken during the presidency can be found on the following pages of the report.



## Poland's Presidency of the Visegrad Group (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025)

In line with the motto adopted for the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, V4: *Back to Basics*, which refers to the fundamental principles of V4 cooperation, the activities undertaken during this presidency were based on three priority areas: *Citizens' Safety*, *Connectivity*, and *Unleashing the Potential*. Additionally, cross-cutting elements linked to these priorities encompassed support for Ukraine and the process of enlarging the European Union to include the countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership. The Polish Presidency also actively supported the International Visegrad Fund, whose successful implementation of grant and scholarship programmes fostered deeper cooperation among the V4 countries.

This report on the course of the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group is divided into thematic sections dedicated to the individual priorities of the Polish Presidency. A calendar of events organised during the Polish Presidency is attached to the report.



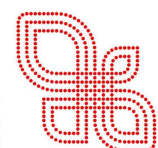
### Priority One: Citizens' Safety

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The *Citizens' Safety* priority encompassed internal and external security challenges, particularly in areas such as support for Ukraine, refugee and migration crises, border security, emergency rescue and civil protection, countering hybrid threats, consular, police, and defence cooperation, judicial cooperation, and the exchange of experience between national institutions in the field of cybersecurity. Additionally, cooperation extended to promoting initiatives in the areas of healthcare, medical data security using modern technologies, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with their digital transformation. An important instrument for implementing this priority was the further development of parliamentary cooperation.

### Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland

On 16–17 December 2024, the annual meeting of the presidents of the Visegrad Group countries took place in Wisła. During the meeting, the Presidents of Poland – Andrzej Duda, the Czech Republic – Petr Pavel, Slovakia – Peter Pellegrini, and Hungary – Tamás Sulyok discussed issues including military security, cooperation within NATO, the situation in Ukraine, and the prospects for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. They also addressed energy security, cross-border traffic, and inter-neighbourhood cooperation, including disaster prevention, primarily in the context of flooding.





4 Press conference following the meeting of the presidents of the V4 member states. Source: National Security Bureau website; photo by Marek Borawski, Chancery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

## Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland

During the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, the activities of the Sejm and the Senate focused on the priority of citizens' safety. The topics covered included issues related to defence, energy cooperation, and food security. Under Poland's leadership of the Visegrad Group, four parliamentary meetings were convened.

On **27–29 October 2024**, a meeting of the defence and security committees of the Visegrad Group parliaments was held in Poznań. The topics discussed at the meeting included building cybersecurity and cryptology defence capabilities to combat hybrid threats; the *Air Policing* mission<sup>1</sup> as an example of solidarity and cooperation in establishing a regional security system; and shaping the civil and military resilience of societies against disinformation and manipulation as a fundamental condition for strengthening security. The next meeting under the Polish Presidency – involving the economic affairs committees of the Visegrad Group parliaments – took place on **13 November 2024**. The agenda focused on methods of countering the energy crisis in Europe, the impact of the ongoing flooding in the region on energy and heating security,

<sup>1</sup> *Air Policing* missions are conducted within the NATO framework and involve the joint safeguarding of NATO member states' airspace by member state air forces. From September 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Poland commenced *Air Policing* missions over Slovak airspace. In July 2023, the Hungarian Air Force joined the *Air Policing* operations over Slovakia.

and the abolition of seasonal time changes. The meeting of the agriculture committees of the Visegrad Group parliaments, which took place on **14–15 November 2024**, focused on the prospects of Ukraine’s membership in the European Union and the Common Agricultural Policy. On **22–23 May 2025**, the second meeting of the agriculture committees of the Visegrad Group parliaments was held, with the chairs of the respective parliamentary committees from Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia attending. The meeting addressed trade relations with Ukraine, the impact of the Mercosur agreement on the European Union’s agricultural sector, and the Common Agricultural Policy.

### **Cooperation Among the Consular Departments of the V4 Countries**

Upon assuming the rotating leadership of the Visegrad Group, Poland – in line with the tradition established in previous years – organised a meeting at the level of consular department directors aimed at exchanging opinions, experiences, and practices related to consular activities. The consultations took place on 27 May 2025 at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They concerned issues such as the modernisation and digitalisation of consular services, the establishment of priority visa pathways for national visas, consular and travel information, and the use of artificial intelligence as an IT tool in consular work.

During the meeting, representatives of the region’s countries exchanged information on ongoing projects related to the modernisation and digitalisation of consular services, as well as on the visa policies implemented by the V4 countries. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences regarding the operation of ministerial call centres that offer consular information, and operational centres that coordinate crisis management. It further served to outline the practical aspects of using artificial intelligence to provide consular information.

### **Ministry of National Defence**

Under the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, practical military cooperation was continued. Events held included:

1. Two meetings of the Planning Group and Capability Directors of the V4 countries (25–26 September 2024, 22–23 May 2025). The talks were devoted to strengthening NATO’s deterrence and defence posture, military mobility, the expansion of the allied fuel supply chain, the V4 Battlegroup, and the reinforcement of the eastern border under the *East Shield* initiative.
2. Two meetings of the V4 chiefs of defence (9–10 October 2024, 3–4 June 2025). Discussions covered the security situation in the region, the transformation of the Armed Forces, and logistical initiatives and challenges arising from the need for interoperability within NATO and the EU.
3. Two meetings of the V4 Logistics Directorates Working Group (8–10 October 2024, 23–24 April 2025), which focused on discussing further cooperation within the framework of the V4 Multinational Joint Logistics Support Group Command.

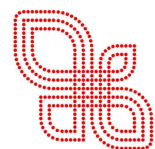
4. Two meetings of the national armaments directors (10 December 2024, 18 June 2025) dedicated to the implementation of modernisation programmes for the V4 armed forces across the land, sea, and air domains, and to tightening cooperation within NATO and European Union initiatives.
5. The Visegrad Military Medicine Conference 2025 (24–25 February 2025), which covered issues such as the strategic-level medical support command system, patient flow management, pre-hospital care and medical evacuation, as well as medical education and training within the military.

## Ministry of the Interior and Administration

### Meeting of the Directors General for Civil Protection of the V4 Countries

One of the recurring meetings held within the V4 is the meeting of the Directors General for Civil Protection. During Poland's V4 Presidency, such a meeting took place on **2 April 2025 in Kraków**. The event was attended by the Directors General for Civil Protection from Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, as well as from Moldova and Ukraine. The meeting was organised **immediately prior to the International Forum *Safe Cultural Heritage - European Challenges in Times of War and Crisis***, which was also held in Kraków.

During the meeting, the discussions covered issues including cooperation within the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the EU Preparedness Union Strategy. Poland delivered a comprehensive overview of the actions taken in response to the flooding that had occurred in September 2024. Additionally, it presented the amendment to the legislation concerning civil protection and civil defence, which entered into force in January 2025, introducing significant changes to the crisis response system.





7 Photo from the Meeting of the Directors General for Civil Protection of the V4 Countries. Source: Junior Captain Dominik Ryba, State Fire Service

### Meeting of Border Guard Experts Dedicated to Drafting the Annual Analytical Report on Irregular Migration in the Visegrad Group Region

On 9 April 2025, the Border Guard Headquarters organised a meeting of border guard experts dedicated to drafting the annual analytical report on irregular migration in the Visegrad region (held online). As a result of the meeting, a joint report was prepared, which was distributed to the heads of the border guard services of the V4 countries in May 2025. The report presents the overall situation regarding irregular migration in the region and in the individual member states of the Visegrad Group in 2024. It draws attention to a decline in irregular migration from southern Europe to the V4 countries (via the so-called *Balkan route*), while simultaneously highlighting an increase in migratory pressure on the Polish-Belarusian border. One of the worrying issues identified pertained to the use of flights from Greece by migrants attempting to continue their irregular migration using forged documents, especially targeting Poland and the Czech Republic. Experts from the analytical divisions of the V4 border guard services prepare an annual report that evaluates the situation surrounding irregular migration in the region.

### Expert Meeting under the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4): *Strengthening the Coordination of Cooperation among V4 Countries in Combatting Environmental Crime*

On 25–27 November 2024, the Economic Crime Bureau of the National Police Headquarters organised an expert meeting entitled *Strengthening the Coordination of Cooperation among V4 Countries in Combatting Environmental Crime*. The meeting was organised in the V4 + Ukraine format, which facilitated the exchange of experience in combatting this type of crime, systematising existing knowledge, reviewing current legal regulations, and discussing national models for organising law enforcement agencies focused on combatting environmental crime. Efforts were made to define the current threats to the natural environment and to develop future directions for action in this area. This process took into account the need to implement Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law within the EU. An important aspect of this undertaking was also an attempt to ascertain the extent to which the armed conflict in Ukraine has affected the state of the natural environment, not only within Ukraine itself but also in the countries directly bordering it.

### **Meeting of the Heads of the International Police Cooperation Bureaus of the Visegrad Group Countries**

On 5–6 December 2024, a meeting of the heads of the international police cooperation bureaus of the Visegrad Group countries was held in Wrocław. The main topics of the meeting were:

- the implementation of the Directive on the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities in the European Union (Case Management System – CMS);
- the development of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for information exchange;
- the new capabilities and functionalities of SIS RECAST;
- the impact of the war in Ukraine on international police cooperation, as well as on security and public order in the Member States.

During the meeting, the heads of the V4 international bureaus also discussed joint operational and strategic activities.

### **Expert Meeting on the Impact of the Current Geopolitical Situation on Drug Trends in Europe**

An expert meeting on the impact of the current geopolitical situation on drug trends in Europe was held in Warsaw on 22–23 May 2025.

The main theme of the meeting was the exchange of experiences among entities analysing the drug market, the research methods applied, and the applicable legislation. Participants delivered presentations on current trends and statistics maintained by research laboratories. The meeting promoted a wider understanding of the drug market in neighbouring countries, encouraged the exchange of experiences, and facilitated the establishment of contacts between laboratories.

## Ministry of Justice

Within the area of security, significant attention was devoted to legal security. This was also a priority of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2025 within the area of justice. Negotiations were conducted within the forum of EU institutions on instruments strengthening the protection of citizens' rights in criminal and civil law, in particular regarding the protection of adults, the protection of victims of crime, and the fight against corruption. The Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group emphasised the role of civil society in building democratic resilience and in safeguarding the rule of law.

## Ministry of Health

Cooperation in the field of healthcare complemented the programme of the 2024–2025 Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group with regard to the *Citizens' Safety* priority. Activities were centred around three priorities:

1. health data security;
2. non-EU medical personnel;
3. mental health in primary healthcare, with particular focus on children and young people.

With regard to health, the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group commenced with a meeting of the V4 deputy health ministers, which took place on 24 July 2024 on the sidelines of the Informal Meeting of Health Ministers in Budapest. Discussions during the meeting focused on national and EU solutions related to healthcare. As part of the *Non-EU medical personnel* priority, an expert meeting was held online, during which two main topics were addressed: legal solutions for recognising qualifications in medical professions (excluding physicians, dentists, nurses, and midwives) acquired in a non-EU country, and the recognition of nursing/midwifery qualifications obtained in the United Kingdom.

## Ministry of Digital Affairs

In connection with Poland's assumption of the Visegrad Group leadership, the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) organised an expert workshop on 5 November 2024. The workshop focused on the regulation of markets 3a and 3b, as well as the situation in the 18/2003 market in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. Participants included UKE experts dealing with the regulation of the aforementioned markets, along with representatives of the regulatory departments of the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU), the Slovak Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RU), and the Hungarian National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH). During the meetings, experts from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary presented their experiences in regulating the relevant markets in question and outlined their plans for the future.



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Photos from the regulatory workshop for experts from V4 countries as part of the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group. Source: Office of Electronic Communications, Ministry of Digital Affairs

The workshop participants took favourable views of the workshop initiative and the sharing of experiences and views concerning the ex-ante regulation of markets.



## Priority Two: Connectivity

The *Connectivity* priority encompassed initiatives strengthening regional infrastructure and energy interconnections. Particular attention was devoted to issues such as road safety, north-south transport, including in the context of European Transport Corridors; rail transport, intermodal freight transport, and public transport; the promotion of links between Polish seaports and V4 markets; and the problems, opportunities, and challenges facing the industry in the era of transitioning to zero-emission transport. The Polish Presidency also focused on matters related to the raw material security of the V4 countries, nuclear energy, electricity and gas, as well as oil and transport fuels. Other significant areas of cooperation within this pillar also included: digitalisation, the transformation of industrial areas, waste management, and the circular economy.

### Ministry of Infrastructure

The issue of road safety emerged as a central theme under the Polish V4 Presidency with regard to infrastructure due to the untapped potential for joint action among the V4 countries. Acting in its capacity as holder of the presidency, Poland initiated a broader discussion on the existing challenges, which led to an agreement that subsequent rotating V4 presidencies will incorporate this topic into their presidency programmes. Emphasis was placed on the need to continue the initiated exchange of experiences and discussions regarding best practices for improving road safety in the V4 countries, as well as developing a plan for future cooperation. Discussions were held on the methods and topics for implementing public awareness campaigns and other educational activities designed to enhance understanding of how the behaviour of all road users affects the level of safety.

Cooperation also addressed the challenges of financing infrastructure projects (including planned or ongoing investments in the TEN-T) in the upcoming EU financial perspective.

The Polish Presidency continued the efforts of the Working Group on the high-speed rail line connecting Warsaw, Bratislava, Budapest, and Prague, with the aim of further advancing the project in terms of technical harmonisation and future financing, which directly impacts the adoption of the project's implementation timetable.

The presidency also devoted attention to current problems related to the inspection of heavy goods vehicles in the individual V4 countries, as well as the challenges associated with the execution of the EU-Ukraine agreement, which exempts Ukrainian vehicles from the international permit system. The need to establish closer cooperation among inspection services was emphasised, due to the difficulties faced by Poland and other V4 countries

resulting from the effects of the armed conflict in Ukraine (an increased number of vehicles on Polish roads heading to or from Ukraine, including those originating from outside the EU).

The Polish Presidency also focused on promoting Polish logistics offerings for entrepreneurs from V4 countries utilising Polish ports, based on the development strategy for the most important seaports in Poland. From the Polish perspective, cooperation with the ports could become a viable platform for regional cooperation and logistical security for the economies of the V4 countries.

## Ministry of Climate and Environment

During the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, the organisation of events was based on close cooperation between the Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute (PIG-PIB), a body supervised by the Minister of Climate and Environment. This was due to the fact that the subject matter within the remit of the Department of Geology is closely linked to the tasks carried out by the Polish Geological Survey. Two events were held: a high-level meeting in the form of a conference and an expert meeting attended by representatives of governments and local government authorities (attended by 97 people in total).

**Meeting title:** *High-level meeting on the raw material security of the Visegrad Group and Western Balkan countries.*

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**Meeting dates:** 10–11 October 2024, Warsaw; [link to the event is available here.](#)

The conference provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss the raw material security of the Visegrad Group and Western Balkan countries. It brought together government representatives responsible for raw material policy, alongside representatives of the geological surveys of these countries and the European Commission.

The Polish Presidency presented the priorities and directions of action of the Polish government related to the implementation of the state's raw material policy, which encompasses activities in both the domestic and international arenas. Furthermore, the meeting highlighted the significance and role of geological surveys in this process, providing examples of the tasks they carry out. A discussion and debate took place regarding the implementation of the European Critical Raw Materials Act.<sup>2</sup>

The V4 countries presented information on the occurrence of raw material deposits and the structure of raw material imports and exports. Participants shared their experiences regarding the implementation of the CRMA, while representatives from the Balkan states had

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<sup>2</sup> CRMA (Critical Raw Materials Act) – Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020.

the chance to outline the opportunities and challenges associated with this process. The talks also focused on the possibilities for cooperation in the field of raw materials.

Thanks to the European Commission's presence, participants had the opportunity to discuss problematic issues concerning the implementation of the CRMA and to learn how implementation was progressing. The main side event during the meeting was **the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Geological Surveys of the Visegrad Group Countries**.

The Memorandum of Cooperation among the Geological Surveys of the Visegrad Group Countries was signed in the presence of Deputy Minister Krzysztof Galos and Peter Holica, Deputy State Secretary for EU Affairs and International Relations at the Hungarian Ministry of Energy. **The memorandum updates a document signed by the V4 countries in 2000 and concerns issues including the implementation of joint activities aimed at ensuring raw material security through projects related to critical raw materials.**

The scope of cooperation among the participants will cover areas such as:

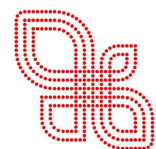
- joint activities aimed at ensuring raw material security through projects related to critical raw materials of the V4 and EU Member States;
- research on climate change from a geological perspective and the geological history of the Carpathian Mountains;
- geohazards and geodynamic processes in the Carpathian Mountains, as well as geological and hydrogeological processes in border zones;
- geological educational maps, geoparks, geotrails, and the exchange of geological literature, documentation, and geological materials;
- joint scientific research programmes and joint projects;
- the reciprocal visits by scientists and specialists, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information and knowledge.

The term of validity for the memorandum was set at ten years.

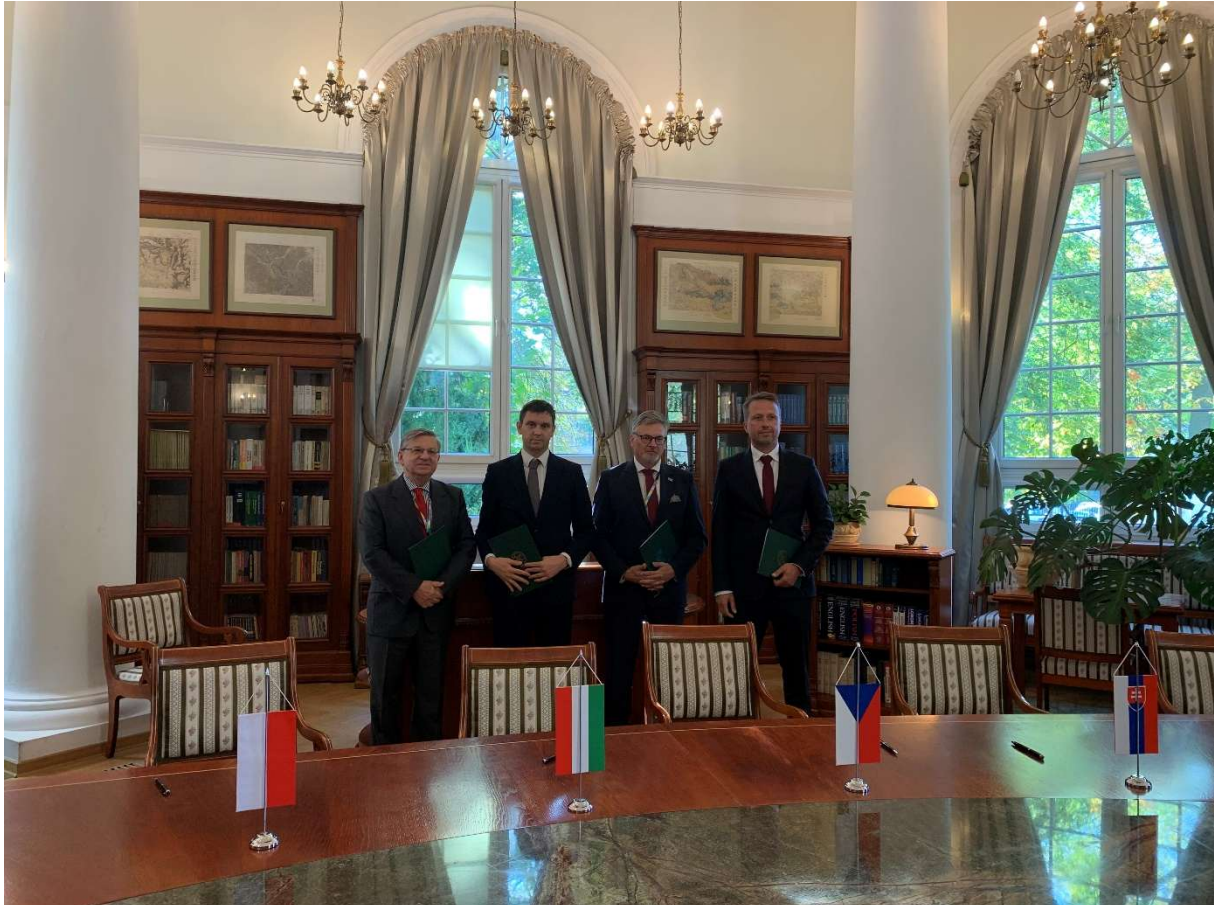
**Meeting title:** *Meeting of the Visegrad Group Geoparks – cooperation and protection of geological heritage.*

**Meeting dates:** 2–4 June 2025, Chęciny (European Centre for Geological Education of the University of Warsaw); [link to the event is available here](#).

The meeting provided representatives of government institutions and geoparks from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary with an important forum for the exchange of experiences, good practices, and ideas for future cooperation regarding the protection and promotion of geological heritage. The extensive programme included presentations by



representatives of government and local government institutions, as well as panel and field sessions, which facilitated a deeper understanding of the natural, cultural, and educational values of the Świętokrzyski Geopark<sup>3</sup> – a UNESCO Global Geopark since 2021. The event not only strengthened ties among partners from the V4 countries but also established the directions for further international cooperation among geoparks in Central Europe.



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Representatives of the geological surveys of the V4 countries, following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Geological Surveys of the Visegrad Group Countries. Source: website of the Polish Geological Institute

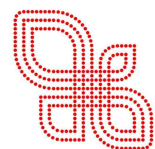
<sup>3</sup> The Świętokrzyski (Holy Cross Mountains) Geopark is the first Polish geopark on the UNESCO Global Geoparks list (since 21 April 2021) to be located entirely within the borders of the country. It is situated in the western part of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and covers an area of 526 km<sup>2</sup>.

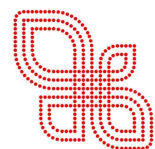
## Priority Three: Unleashing the Potential

The *Unleashing the Potential* priority, which encompassed discussions on the horizontal issues of the region's countries, addressed areas such as cohesion policy, agricultural policy, forestry, the financial and fiscal cooperation among the V4 countries, and the promotion of the UN 2030 Agenda. Emphasis was also placed on supporting the development of border areas, strengthening scientific collaboration, cooperation among research institutes in the context of bolstering R&D activities, youth activation, the exchange of experiences regarding the provision of education for children in need of support, in particular Ukrainian refugees, and actions in the fields of justice, as well as social, family, and disability policies. A further pillar of the *Unleashing the Potential* priority was cooperation with regard to the culture and cultural heritage of the V4 region, intellectual property (the Visegrad Patent Institute), sport (including as part of the annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the Visegrad Group Olympic Hopes Tournament), tourism, and statistics (cooperation among the national statistical offices of the V4 countries).

### Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

On 25–26 September 2024, a meeting of the agriculture ministers of the Visegrad Group countries, alongside Bulgaria and Romania (V4+2), was held in Poznań on the sidelines of the POLAGRA International Trade Fair (FOOD, FOODTECH, and HORECA). The event was hosted by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Czesław Siekierski. The meeting was dedicated to a discussion on the experiences of implementing the Common Agricultural Policy reform and the future challenges for this policy, the effects of EU membership on the agri-food sector and agriculture, the use of biomass for energy purposes, and the challenges for the region associated with flooding. The attendees concluded that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe should coordinate their flood prevention and response activities, taking into account the need to support farmers and make efforts to restore production capacity. It was also emphasised that the balance of EU membership for the countries of the region, including Poland, is favourable: it has become a vital engine of development. However, in the context of the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, the discussion must primarily take into account the planned enlargement of the EU.







Photos from the meeting of the agriculture ministers of the V4+2 countries on 25–26 September 2024 in Poznań.  
Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

## Ministry of National Education

Under the *Unleashing the Potential* priority, the Ministry of National Education continued the discussion on providing high-quality education. Another area for the exchange of experiences was the use of new technologies in education and in working with children and young people. To this end, two webinars were organised:

1. *Education of students with migrant background, in particular children – refugees from Ukraine, in multicultural schools* (19 November 2024, 33 participants);
2. *School education in the face of the challenges of technological transformation* (24 January 2025, 46 participants).

The training sessions were attended by teachers, pedagogues, school educators, and psychologists from the V4 countries, as well as the Western Balkans and Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Foundation for the Development of the Education System, the national agency for the EU Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, organised two seminars aimed at individuals from the V4 countries:

1. The *Youth for Democracy* seminar, aimed at promoting European values, increasing youth participation in public life, fostering their engagement in democratic processes and international cooperation, and networking among youth activists from the Visegrad

Group and Eastern Partnership countries, held in Warsaw (21–24 October 2024; 62 participants);

2. An online seminar for primary school teachers interested in implementing eTwinning projects in cooperation with the Visegrad Group countries (7–9 April 2025; 21 participants).

## Ministry of Science and Higher Education

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education joined forces with the Czech Republic and Slovakia, extending its collaborative efforts. This partnership has sparked initiatives aimed at expanding activities and utilising the Visegrad Group as a platform for the broader promotion of higher education in these countries.

Among the executive agencies of the higher education and science system, the Łukasiewicz Research Network launched a research and development project on 3 February 2025, in collaboration with all the Visegrad Group countries, entitled *European Advisory and Extension Networks on Forestry*.

The National Centre for Research and Development proposed establishing cooperation between the V4 countries and Singapore regarding the financing of joint research and development projects, as well as the organisation of a V4–Singapore scientific seminar.

The National Science Centre (NCN) finances research projects selected in competitions run by the Centre, which incorporate planned bottom-up cooperation among scientists from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. This collaboration occurs independently of the inter-institutional agreements concluded by the NCN. In addition, the NCN continued to cooperate with partners from the V4 countries under multilateral programmes (European Partnerships, ERA-NET programmes, and others).

The Department of Programmes for Institutions (BPI) of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) collaborates with the International Visegrad Fund (IVF). As part of this cooperation, NAWA conducted promotional and informational campaigns regarding the IVF's offer among domestic and foreign higher education and scientific institutions. NAWA representatives participated in consultations on programming documents, main premises, and proposals for institutional cooperation. In response to a request from the Fund's Secretariat in Bratislava, NAWA designated experts to evaluate applications for academic mobility. The experts participated in evaluating the applications.

## Implementation of the Space Summer School Project

The summer of 2025 saw the successful implementation of a pilot project within the Visegrad Group entitled the *Space Summer School*. Thanks to the involvement of domestic and international partners, interdisciplinary workshops were successfully held for a group of 24 students from Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The activities of the three working groups resulted in the drafting of the final reports *Castor*, *Aldebaran*, and *Betelgeuse*, which can

be accessed on the Space Summer School website: <https://newspace.foundation/v4space/>. The common objective of the working groups was to develop a mission concept for secure V4 satellite communications. The International Visegrad Fund was the main sponsor behind the organisation of the Space Summer School.



Participants of the Space Summer School. Source: [The V4 Space Summer School – New Space Foundation](https://newspace.foundation/v4space/) website

## Ministry of Finance

On 28–29 November 2024, the Ministry of Finance organised a Regional Workshop for Financial Intelligence Units in Warsaw. The event was hosted by the General Inspector of Financial Information (GIFI), and the participants included representatives of all the financial intelligence units from the Visegrad Group countries and Germany.

The workshop addressed issues concerning fraud: actions taken by banks in cases of fraud, the rules for reporting fraud to law enforcement authorities, and the practices employed by particular financial intelligence units in fraud-related cases. Workshops were also held on matters pertaining to the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Authority (AMLA) and the implementation of the EU legislative package on combatting money laundering and terrorist financing.

Within the structures of the National Revenue Administration (KAS), a meeting of the Heads of the V4 Tax Administrations was organised in an extended format to include Austria and Slovenia (V4+2). The meeting took place in October 2024 in Gdańsk. During the event, issues concerning SMEs and cooperative compliance were discussed. The Polish experiences with

the National e-Invoicing System (KSeF) and the approach to e-invoicing were presented, along with the possibilities of utilising KSeF for risk analysis purposes.

Furthermore, in August 2024, the National Revenue Administration organised an expert meeting on transfer pricing for the V4+2 countries in Jastrzębia Góra. During the meeting, the key problems encountered in international audits and procedures concerning transfer pricing were discussed, and it was agreed that cooperation in this area must be strengthened.

### **Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy**

During the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy organised two expert-level events. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the role of cohesion policy and regional policy, as well as the significance of the territorial dimension of EU policies.

#### **V4+7 Expert Seminar on the Role of Cohesion Policy and Regional Policy in the Development of EU Territories**

On 17 and 18 October 2024, a V4+7 expert seminar on the role of cohesion policy and regional policy in ensuring the harmonious development of EU territories was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy. The meeting was expanded beyond the core V4 group, and included representatives of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia, along with participants from the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions. The event was structured into four thematic blocks,<sup>4</sup> with its main aim being to conduct a debate on the role and future of cohesion policy in the context of negotiations for the EU's next multiannual financial perspective.

During the discussions, calls were made for greater flexibility and a simplification of European Union policies in the future EU budget. It was emphasised that moving forward, the position of the regions must be strengthened and multi-level governance should be maintained. In discussions regarding the potential connection between cohesion policy and reforms, the member states opposed making the implementation of reforms a prerequisite for accessing funds. Additionally, the need to strike a balance between sectoral and territorial approaches in the future EU Multiannual Financial Framework was underscored.

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<sup>4</sup> *New directions in regional policy – building regional resilience to global challenges, Strategic framework of cohesion policy – priorities and future challenges, Effectiveness of cohesion policy – investments, reforms, and results, and Flexibility and simplification – streamlining processes and adapting to local needs.*



V4+7 expert seminar on the role of cohesion policy and regional policy in the development of EU territories, taking place in Warsaw. Source: Paulina Bukowska

## Meeting of the Evaluation Expert Group in the V4+7 Format

The meeting of the evaluation expert group took place in Zakopane on 9–10 June 2025. The session was attended by representatives of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Croatia, alongside representatives of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Polish regions, the European Commission, and external experts.

During the event, discussions were held on the possibilities of utilising artificial intelligence (AI) in evaluation research. The participants shared their experiences, and workshops were held on the implementation of specific AI tools in the evaluation process. Additionally, the conclusions of a study on the use of evaluation results in Poland were presented, and there was a discussion on the proposed legislation regulating the evaluation of cohesion policy in the upcoming financial perspective.



Photos from the meeting of the evaluation expert group in the V4+7 format in Zakopane. Source: Marlena Stępień

## Ministry of Economic Development and Technology

The activities coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology within the Visegrad Group focused on issues concerning the digital transformation of SMEs, as well as the application of cutting-edge technologies in medicine and pharmaceuticals.

As part of the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology participated in the organisation of two events:

1. *Digital and ecological transformation in SMEs* – dedicated to the digital and ecological transformation of SMEs in the V4 countries, held during the Industry Days in Rzeszów on 5 June 2025.

2. *Medtech conference on cutting-edge technology in life-saving medicine* – held during the Expo Health and Well-being Week in Osaka on 26 June 2025.

On 5 June 2025, a workshop was held on *Technological drivers of Visegrad Group's industry: AI in the Focus*, organised by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) in cooperation with the Digital Poland Association during the EU Industry Days in Rzeszów. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange experiences on creating environments conducive to the digital transformation of SMEs. The meeting agenda included topics such as identifying obstacles to the widespread implementation of AI, analysing the progress of the V4 countries in the European context, and exploring opportunities for closer international cooperation in the field of AI.

The meeting also featured a workshop session attended by Marianna Sidoroff (Director of the Department of Digital Economy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology), Michał Kanownik (President of the Management Board, Digital Poland Association), Jaromír Hanzal (Director of AAVIT – the Association for Applied Research in IT, Czech Republic), and Tomáš Meliško (Board Member of InoCloud and SAPIE – the Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy, Slovakia).

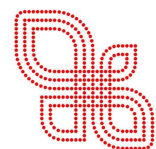
The speakers addressed, among other things, the issue of government support for SMEs in implementing AI, while highlighting the most pressing regulatory challenges and successful examples of AI deployment in traditional industries (Marianna Sidoroff), as well as the question of how current regulatory trends (such as the AI Act) affect innovation within SMEs (Michał Kanownik). Moreover, Jaromír Hanzal and Tomáš Meliško consecutively presented the experiences of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in AI implementation. They provided examples of Czech R&D projects successfully deployed in industry, as well as instances of successful AI implementation in Slovak tourism and agriculture.

The Medtech conference on cutting-edge technology in life-saving medicine was organised on 26 June 2025 in Osaka by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH), in cooperation with the Department of Trade and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. The partners of the event were the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo, the EU Delegation to Japan, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), and the Osaka Prefectural Government. The conference was held as a side event to the Japan Health fair in Osaka during one of the Expo's theme weeks, the Health and Well-being Week. The event, organised as part of Poland's Presidency of the Visegrad Group and the Council of the EU, aligned with the Polish V4 Presidency priority of *Unleashing the Potential* by actively promoting the development of cooperation among research institutes in the context of strengthening R&D activities.

During the conference, representatives of EU and Japanese scientific centres showcased several case studies of successful business and research collaboration between partners from the EU and Japan. Offers for cooperation in exchanging research and the implementation of international medicine and pharmaceuticals projects were also presented. A strong focus was

placed on highlighting joint scientific research projects, where the realms of science and business come together to drive innovations that enhance the quality of life.

The conference, attended by more than 80 representatives of business and scientific centres from the EU and Japan, concluded with a panel discussion devoted to cutting-edge technologies in the field of medical devices and drug discovery.



Photos from the *United for saving lives* conference in Osaka. Source: A. Stykowski / Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH)

## Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

With regard to culture, projects were implemented to strengthen direct contacts between creative communities and experts who are instrumental in fostering relationships and integrating the societies of the V4 countries.

In September 2024, the Heritage Forum of Central Europe was held at the International Cultural Centre (ICC) in Kraków, attended by the deputy ministers of culture from Poland and the Czech Republic. The seventh edition of meetings and discussions for experts from the Visegrad region was held under the theme *Responsibility & Renewal*.

As part of the activities of the Working Group of Experts on Cultural Heritage of the Visegrad Group Countries at the ICC in Kraków, another edition of the V4 Heritage Academy summer school was organised, taking place in Kutná Hora, Czech Republic, in June 2025. The V4 Heritage Academy is an annual programme of meetings, lectures, and *in situ* visits for individuals involved in heritage protection, each year hosted in a different V4 country.

As part of the cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the diplomatic missions in Budapest (the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Institute), and in collaboration with the International Visegrad Fund, the Visegrad Prize<sup>5</sup> was awarded to the *ArtColony Cered* organisation from Hungary. In 2024, the ministers of culture of the V4 countries collectively chose to honour this institution, which joined nearly twenty organisations previously recognised with this award. The award ceremony was combined with events marking the conclusion of the Polish V4 Presidency in Budapest, including a concert given by the V4 String Quartet on 20 June 2025.

## Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy

On 24 June 2025, as part of Poland's Presidency of the Visegrad Group, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy held an event dedicated to demographic policy entitled *Good Practices in Addressing Demographic Challenges*. The meeting was held online at the expert level. The experts presented the demographic situation in their respective countries and the strategic actions undertaken by governments to address demographic challenges. The discussed measures focused on improving the situation of families with children, for example, through introducing allowances and child tax credits, increasing the availability of housing, facilitating a better work-life balance, and developing family support projects.

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<sup>5</sup> The Visegrad Prize was established during the meeting of the ministers of culture of the Visegrad Group countries in November 2004 and is awarded for contributions to the development of cultural cooperation between the V4 member states.

## Ministry of Sport and Tourism

On 5–6 December 2024, a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Visegrad Group Olympic Hopes Tournament took place in Warsaw.<sup>6</sup> The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Olympic Committee, and the Hungarian Ministry of National Defence. The meeting covered issues including the challenges faced by the individual sports associations and the 2024 competitions held as part of the Visegrad Group Olympic Hopes Tournament. The competition calendar for the 2025 Olympic Hopes Tournament was also approved.

Furthermore, on 11 December 2024, a meeting of the presidents and marketing directors of the national tourism organisations of the V4 countries (VTC) was held. During this meeting, the implementation of the marketing plans for 2024 was summarised, and an outline of activities promoting the region's tourist attractions for the following year was agreed upon.

## Statistics Poland

Statistical cooperation under the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group was officially inaugurated on 17–18 September 2024 through a **meeting of the Presidents of the national statistical offices**, which took place in Szczecin. It concluded with an agreement on the content of **Annex VII** to [the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Statistical Offices of the Visegrad Group Countries](#), defining the key areas of cooperation and activities during the Polish V4 Presidency. The planned initiatives included expert and working meetings, as well as the release of a joint publication.

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<sup>6</sup> The Committee meets periodically at the end of November and the beginning of December in the country that holds the Visegrad Group Presidency for that particular year.

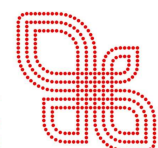


Meeting of the Presidents of the national statistical offices. Source: Statistical Office in Szczecin

The first of the organised events was an **expert workshop** dedicated to the challenges related to fulfilling the obligations set out in the draft EU **framework regulation on European statistics on population and housing (ESOP)**.<sup>7</sup> The workshop took place in Warsaw on 20–21 May 2025 and comprised two thematic sessions – the future of censuses, and the challenges facing the V4 countries in the context of the ESOP regulation. The meeting offered a chance to learn about the methodological approaches used in other countries and generated valuable insights on the solutions presented by the participants themselves.

The second expert meeting was a **workshop** dedicated to the creation of **Cross-Border Functional Areas** and the common challenges identified by cross-border regions (Rzeszów, 5–6 June 2025). During the meeting, examples of the functioning of Cross-Border Functional Areas were presented, and the role of official statistics in providing the informational support necessary for cross-border cooperation between local government units within these areas was discussed. In addition to representatives of the statistical offices of the V4 countries, the workshop was also attended by representatives of the Carpathian Euroregion Association, the Department of Tourism of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, and local government units.

<sup>7</sup> Draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population and housing, COM(2023)31; interinstitutional negotiations on the regulation were finalised during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU.





Workshop on the ESOP. Source: Statistics Poland



Workshop on Cross-Border Functional Areas. Source: Statistical Office in Rzeszów

During the Polish Presidency, a **joint publication** was also released entitled [Circular economy in V4 countries](#),<sup>8</sup> dedicated to the circular economy – one of the EU's policy priorities, which is of particular importance in the context of climate change, limited resources, and sustainable development goals. Based on selected indicators, the publication illustrates the progress of the V4 countries in implementing the circular economy model. Juxtaposing these indicators with the EU average makes it possible to capture both the individual situation of each country and the common challenges facing the entire region.



Cover of *Circular economy in V4 countries*

## Patent Office

On 17 September 2024, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland hosted a high-level meeting of representatives of intellectual property offices from the Visegrad Group countries in Warsaw. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the current initiatives and plans of the individual institutions with regard to industrial property protection. A significant part of the discussion focused on the priorities of the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU, as well as the then-ongoing Hungarian Presidency. The representatives of the intellectual property offices also exchanged views on issues related to cooperation within international organisations, including the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO),

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<sup>8</sup> The publication *Circular economy in V4 countries* is available for download on the Statistics Poland website via the following link: [Statistics Poland / Topics / Environment. Energy / Environment / Circular economy in V4 countries](#).

the European Patent Organisation (EPO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).



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High-level meeting of representatives of intellectual property offices from the Visegrad Group countries. Source: Patent Office of the Republic of Poland