



IT Asociácia  
Slovenska

DIGITALIZUJEME BUDÚCNOSŤ

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Rzeszow, October 7th, 2019

## **Letter of intent by the Visegrád Four's innovation leaders regarding a common policy towards development of the digital sector and advanced technologies**

As representatives of unions and associations bringing together the largest enterprises of the digital and advanced technologies industries as well as delegates of the pioneers of engaging citizens in the process of innovation in the Visegrád Group countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, we put forward an initiative to cooperate in order to create a policy supporting development of advanced technologies- in particular those demonstrated to be required by the citizens and developed in a citizen-oriented manner as well as to promote the digitization in our countries.

We believe that sustainable and inclusive growth of innovative economies should be a priority for the governments of V4 countries, allowing to strengthen their role as the leaders in Central and Eastern Europe. Indeed, only advanced, digitally and technologically developed economies stand a chance to compete against both Europe and global giants such as the United States of America and Asian markets. Therefore, it is our in our best common interest to support all initiatives, including legal regulations, helping advancement of digital industry and technology in the countries of Visegrád Group. It is vital for the innovation to be built for the people, as an answer to their needs and with their input. As the Member States of the European Union, we understand that in the face of evolving needs and the constantly growing number of people traveling, the goal can only be achieved by cooperation – both across borders and between the private and the public sectors.

It should also be our common goal to build R&D and data centers as a technological and scientific base for development of innovative ideas in the fields such as artificial intelligence and robotics ready to be used worldwide. From the standpoint of V4 economies, it is important to build the know-how and ready products right here – allowing to boost the position of our economies on the global arena. Thus, we need i.e. incentives for companies to stay in their home countries, promote their products on the European and global markets as well as means for cooperation between the private business, universities and the public sector leading to education of our future innovators.

Another challenge ahead of our countries is providing all of our citizens with access to safe Internet, education in scope of digital competences, guidelines for protecting their privacy



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in the digital world and rising awareness of cyberthreats. It is especially important at the dawn of introduction of 5G technology bound to change the world. Universal digitization will affect all aspects of social and economic life. We must together make sure that we keep up with the revolution, which will accelerate the growth of IoT, Smart Cities and the 4.0 economy with intelligent machines at its heart.

We must not forget that digitization will change the face of the job market as we know it. Some of the tasks will be completed by automated machines, while the employees will be forced to acquire new skills valuable for evolving enterprises. Consequently, it is crucial to provide the public with means of mobility allowing to overcome geographic obstacles so that the full potential of individuals can be utilized.

It is as important for the development of innovation and advanced technologies industry to provide the Government Technology (GovTech) sector, dynamically growing in our region and worldwide, with an environment to unleash its capacity. Poland, currently one of the GovTech leaders on a global scale, holds a great responsibility of being the voice of the Group's countries on the worldwide arena. Our countries must effectively unite entrepreneurs into a chain providing advanced technologies while maintaining a dialogue with the industry and citizens.

Having all of the above in mind, as the representatives of a wide agreement amongst the digital sector and the advanced technologies industry in the Visegrád Group's countries as well the leaders of engaging citizens in designing services, interested in developing digital economy, education, science and civil society, we hope to cooperate with the V4 governments in their legislative work and to initiate bold projects shaping the environment for rapid and sustainable growth in our countries.