

Communiqué
from the 30th Meeting of the Ministers responsible for Culture
of the Visegrad Group Countries,
24 June 2020

The meeting of the Ministers responsible for Culture of the V4 countries (the “Ministers”) was held in the form of videoconference on 24 June 2020.

The meeting of the Ministers was preceded by a working meeting of ministerial experts, which took place on 17 June 2020. During the preparation of the Experts’ Report for the meeting of the Ministers the following day, the following topics were discussed:

1. Progress on the implementation of cultural projects since the 29th Meeting of the Ministers responsible for Culture of the V4 countries in Vígl’as in 2019:
 - a. The Colloquium of Library and Information Workers from the Visegrad Group;
 - b. The Working Group for Cultural Heritage in the V4 countries;
 - c. Co-operation in the field of performing arts in the V4 countries;
 - d. Visegrad Initiative for Audio-visual Cooperation;
 - e. International Master Courses Project (Visegrad and the EU)/Convergence Academy;
 - f. Rings in Water – exhibition and competition;
 - g. “TRANS/MISJE” International Festival of Arts;
 - h. SEFO Cooperation (The Olomouc Central European Forum);
 - i. “Active Collections” international conference on collection mobility;
 - j. International conference on open air museums in Central Europe;
 - k. Digitization programme on Circus Arts.
2. New project proposal:
 - a) Design: Discovering the potential of culture and creative industries;
 - b) Visegrad Cinema Days
 - c) Visegrad Film Prize within the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival
3. Nomination for the “2019 International Visegrad Prize”

The Ministers’ discussion focused on the topic “Impacts of Covid-19 on the cultural and creative industries”. The focus of the discussion was on what measures have been implemented in V4 countries and which areas appear to be most affected. The given overview of specific and targeted measures both for immediate and long-term action will help to find the best and most effective solutions that could help to restore the cultural sector, which has been hit hard in its entirety, and which is linked to many other sectors affected no less destructively.

The following conclusions were adopted at the meeting of the Ministers:

1. The Ministers accepted the joint Experts' Report, received the overview of the current situation concerning the implementation of the individual projects and agreed with the experts' recommendations.
2. The Ministers acknowledge that the International Visegrad Fund plays a crucial role in the cooperation of the V4 countries in the field of culture and express their confidence in its further contribution to the cultural achievements of these countries.
3. The Ministers fully supported the activities of the Working Group for Cultural Heritage in the V4 countries and look forward to the next activities in the framework of The Summer Course on the Management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the V4 Heritage Academy and the Heritage Forum of Central Europe.
4. The Ministers appreciate the successful continuation of co-operation in the field of performing arts in the V4 countries (PACE.V4) and the “TRANS/MISJE” International Festival of Arts.
5. The Ministers supported cooperation in the field of audio-visual issues.
6. The Ministers supported the continuation of the follow-up projects: the Colloquium of Library and Information Workers from the Visegrad Group, International Master Courses Project, Rings in Water - exhibition and competition, SEFO Cooperation, “Active Collections” international conference on collection mobility and international conference “Open air museums in Central Europe”.
7. The Ministers welcomed information on continuation of the project “Digitization programme for Circus Arts” and supported this idea of cooperation within their competences.
8. The Ministers welcomed the idea of new projects aimed at cooperation in the field of cultural and creative industries, Visegrad Cinema Days and Visegrad Film Prize within the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.
9. The Ministers approved the nomination of the Boiler (the main organizer of Visegrad Film Forum) for 2019 International Visegrad Prize, which will be awarded at the following meeting in 2021.

The Parties agreed that the following meeting of the Ministers will be held in Poland in 2021.

Signed by

Lubomír Zaorálek
Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

Piotr Gliński
Minister of Culture and National Heritage
of the Republic of Poland

Péter Fekete
Minister of State for Culture of Hungary

Radoslav Kutaš
State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture
of the Slovak Republic