

**Communiqué**  
**from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture**  
**of the Visegrad Group Countries , Prague, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012**

The meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of the V4 countries was held in Prague, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.

The meeting of the Ministers was preceded by a working meeting of ministerial experts, which took place on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. In preparation of the Experts' Report for the meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture the following day, the topics given below were discussed:

1. Progress on the implementation of cultural programmes since the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of the V4 countries in Bratislava 2011.
2. Ongoing Colloquium of Library-Information Employees from the V4 Countries.
3. Information on the Working Group for Cultural Heritage in the V4 countries and their new proposals.
4. The follow-up of the V4 Seminar on the Use of EU Structural Funds and Programmes for Culture.
5. V4 Conference Incorporation of Culture into Future Cohesion Policy and the Conference on the Role of Theatre in the Visegrad Countries after 1989.
6. New project proposals.
7. The selection procedure for the "2011 International Visegrad Prize".

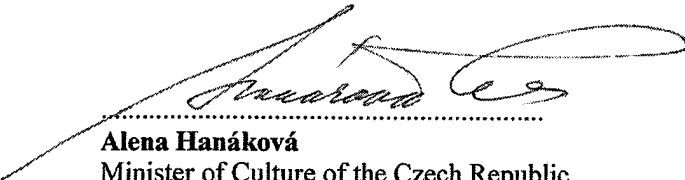
**The following conclusions were adopted at the meeting of the Ministers:**

1. The Ministers accepted the joint Experts' Report and expressed their satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the individual projects, and agreed with the experts' recommendations.
2. The Ministers welcomed the information on the activities and success of the International Visegrad Fund.
3. The Ministers welcomed the projects and activities complying with the priorities of the Czech V4 Presidency, particularly the organization of V4 conference on the Incorporation of Culture into Future Cohesion Policy, held in Mikulov in 2011, and the signing of Joint Statement on Promoting the Role of Culture in the EU Cohesion Policy and all financial instruments for 2014-2020 programming period, forwarded through Polish EU Presidency to the Committee for Cultural Affairs of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, and to all EU members states.
4. Several new and follow-up projects were supported: *the Seminar on the evaluation of the use of EU funds in the area of culture, the Promotion of literature for young people in the V4 countries, the System of Post-Napoleonic Fortresses of the Habsburg Empire, V4 countries as guests of honour at the Paris Book Fair, PACE V4, Performing Arts Central Europe – Focus on Visegrad Countries, Working meeting on Implementing the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Working meeting for Central European Countries on Implementing the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.*
5. The Ministers appreciated the ongoing Colloquium of Library-Information Employees from the V4 Countries and expressed their support to the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in Hungary in 2013.

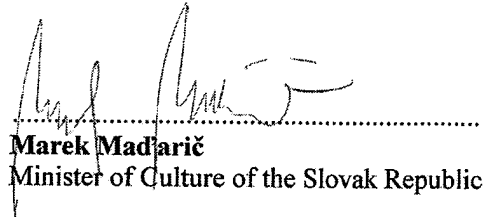
6. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the activities of the V4 cultural heritage working group such as the organization and successful realization of Summer Courses on the Management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the V4 Countries and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heritage Forum of Central Europe in Kraków in 2013.
7. The significance of the EU funds for cultural infrastructure building, cultural heritage preservation and the implementation of cultural projects was emphasized. The Ministers expressed their wish to deepen cooperation in finding the ways and means for the more efficient use of EU funds for cultural purposes, as well as for ensuring EU funds for cultural heritage.
8. The Ministers supported the sharing of experience among the V4 countries with regard to the preparations of Košice for the title European Capital of Culture in 2013. The cooperation will continue around the European Capitals of Culture - Píseň 2015 and Wrocław 2016.
9. The Ministers highly appreciated the intention of promoting V4 cultural cooperation internationally.
10. The Ministers underlined the importance of cultural and creative industries with regard to their contributions to regional and national economies in the V4 countries.
11. The Ministers encouraged future cooperation of the V4 countries in connection with the European Heritage Label nominations.
12. In connection with the 2011 International Visegrad Prize, which shall be awarded at the following meeting, the Ministers approved the candidate "Museum of Jan Amos Komenský in Uherský Brod".

The parties agreed that the following meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of Visegrad Group will be held in Poland in 2013.

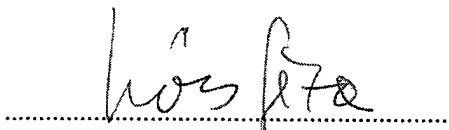
Signed in Prague on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012



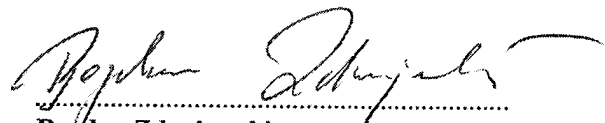
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**Alena Hanáková**  
Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic



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**Marek Madžarič**  
Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic



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**Géza Szócs**  
Minister of State for Culture  
of the Ministry of Human Resources  
of Hungary



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**Bogdan Zdrojewski**  
Minister of Culture and National  
Heritage of the Republic of Poland