

# Main presidency activities and achievements

July 2021 – June 2022



The Hungarian Presidency has worked to contribute to post-pandemic recovery in the V4, strengthen Central Europe's voice in European decision-making, and support the neighbourhood's stability during geopolitical challenges.

# Presidency priorities and results

## 1. STABILITY

- **V4+ summits** with key partners preparing for EU presidency – **Slovenia, France** – and the **United Kingdom** as strategic ally
- Regular **V4 coordination meetings** before EU Council meetings
- **Joint positions** on the Conference on the Future of Europe, migration and asylum, climate policy, EU enlargement, and EU sectoral policy issues
- High-level and expert discussions on the future of **cohesion policy**
- **Tackling challenges:** joint stance (V4+UK joint statement) on the Russian aggression in **Ukraine**; Visegrad Fund support to war **refugees**; solidarity with Poland in the Belarusian **migration crisis**
- **Defence policy and military cooperation:** V4 defence ministers' meetings with important partners (France, Germany, UK), V4 defence action plan updated, multi-level cooperation continued (chiefs of defence, senior body, armament directors etc.)
- Successful cooperation in **interior affairs, migration, law enforcement, tax and customs**



## 2. REOPENING ...IN THE ECONOMY

- **Finance and economy:** dialogue of V4 finance ministers, Central Banks, export credit agencies, competition authorities, tax & customs offices etc.
- **Energy and climate:** ministers' and experts' meeting, joint statement on **nuclear** energy, on the European **Electricity Network** and **hydrogen**
- **COP26** coordination, **Planet Budapest** sustainability expo and summit with V4 focus, V4+Korea climate consultation
- **Transport:** joint positions on European **transport** network development, **TEN-T; V4 High-Speed Railway:** working group meetings, project promotion in Brussels (DG MOVE), increased international awareness (V4+ partners)
- MoU signed on **cooperative, connected and automated mobility**
- Intensive cooperation on **agriculture and environment:** CAP reform, BIOEAST, sustainable food system, Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Natura 2000, EU Pollinators Initiative
- Events on **digitalisation** (e.g. digital public administration, smart cities, AI), **science and technology cooperation** continued/renewed with Japan and Korea; V4 **start-up** programs and events



## ...IN THE SOCIETY

- V4 cooperation on the automatic mutual recognition of higher **education qualifications** launched
- Sharing experience on COVID via the virtual **V4 information exchange centre for COVID-19**
- **V4 tourism cooperation** & joint marketing continued
- Exchange of good practices & national experiences among labour ministers & experts, conference on the employment of **people with disabilities**
- **V4 digital info pavilion** installed in Visegrád
- **New grant program (V4 Gen)** launched by the Visegrad Fund to promote V4 youth mobility
- **Culture & art:** public events in Hungary (e.g. 360 Design Budapest fashion exhibition, V4 street festival, V4 Festival and Theatre Meeting), sharing experiences on the cultural sector during the pandemic
- **V4 cultural promotion worldwide** at embassies & consulates (music, film, gastronomy, tourism, photo exhibitions, e.g. Natural Treasures of the Visegrad Group)
- **Sport** events (8th Visegrad 4 Bicycle Race, Presidency Running Relay, V4 Teqball Gala)



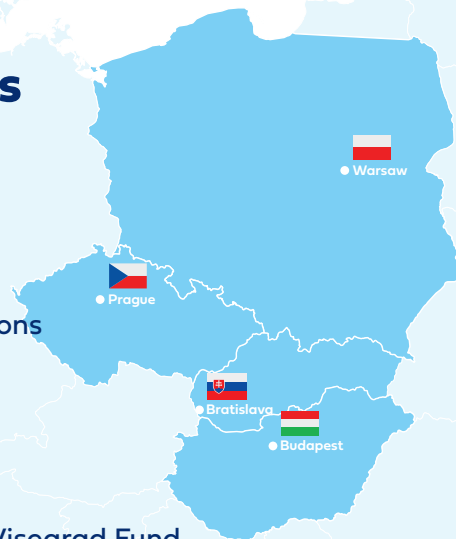
## 3. PARTNERSHIP

- Active **parliamentary dimension:** meeting of speakers of the parliaments, committee meetings (foreign affairs, agricultural, economic affairs, defence and law enforcement, European affairs)
- Involving **regional partners** (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia etc.) in **EU policy coordination** on various topics
- Summits with **global V4+ partners:** Egypt, Korea; continuing RDI cooperation and collaboration through the Visegrad Fund with Korea
- V4+ **foreign ministers'** consultation with **Egypt** and **Turkey**, first-ever V4+ MFA meeting with **Morocco**, preparing cooperation with **India**
- Political consultations & RDI cooperation with **Japan** continued; next edition of the **V4 Innovators in Israel** program prepared
- **Budapest Balkans Forum** organised with a V4 focus, as Hungary's strategic conference co-financed by the Visegrad Fund
- Joint **support to refugees from Ukraine** through extraordinary grants by the Visegrad Fund: by Spring 2022, **1 million €** awarded to **72 projects** that focus on improving the living standards and future perspectives of refugees



# V4HUPRES in numbers

- **12 months**
- **7** prime ministerial and **1** presidential consultations
- **20** ministerial meetings
- **45** coordination meetings before ministerial EU Council sessions
- More than **130** other meetings
- Dialogue with more than **20** V4+ partner countries
- **20+** joint positions/statements adopted
- **72 projects** helping refugees from Ukraine supported by the Visegrad Fund
- More than **180 V4 promotional events** worldwide at diplomatic missions
- **15 %** increase in @V4\_PRES Twitter account followers
- **2** new V4 promo **videos**



Budapest



Bratislava



Prague



Warsaw

## Visegrad Group:



The Visegrad Group is a regional cooperation of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, launched in 1991. Its historical roots stretch back to the medieval summit of Hungarian, Polish and Bohemian kings in Visegrad, Hungary in 1335. The cooperation is coordinated by a rotating presidency, held by Hungary from July 2021 – June 2022.

## 2021/22 V4 Presidency:

