

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE V4 MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SMART CITIES DEVELOPMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERENCE V4 – SLOVAKIA TOWARDS SMART CITIES

The V4 countries, represented by representatives of ministries responsible for Smart City development from the perspective of SMEs, convened in Bratislava on 5 March 2019 at the conference ‘V4 – Slovakia towards Smart Cities’ on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the Visegrad Group.

Knowing that professional teams from V4 countries concluded an agreement on professional cooperation and the use of common tools to promote innovation in the Smart City area in Central Europe aiming at creating a single innovation market for public services provided by local authorities and companies (mainly SMEs), and knowing that the successful implementation of Smart City depends on the ability to collaborate and share tools and outputs of innovation projects,

We are committed to:

- **Striving to create and support a transnational coordination team, comprising representatives** of Smart City and other relevant entities and to foster innovations resulting from a signed joint statement,
- **Supporting joint platforms for sharing and standardization** of Innovative Public Services and Catalogue of Innovative Public services,
- **Supporting the standardization of Innovative Public Services** through demonstration projects created by joint teams and with a joint assessment in 2020-2024,
- **Supporting improvements in the management of cities and its urban areas** above their administrative boundaries at the national, regional and local level through an enhancement of cooperation between all stakeholders and promoting innovative solutions relating to the delivery of public services,

- **Supporting joint networking and educational activities** to link national innovation activities and innovative companies in Central Europe,
- **Supporting international cooperation** with similar advanced or transnational innovation structures (e.g. Nordic Edge, Future Cities Catapult, etc.),
- **Supporting Knowledge Government** working on shared data sets of different countries to support the emergence of global innovation, simplification of processes, reduction of administrative burden, increase of digital capabilities of officials and capacity building of public administration.

The V4 countries acknowledged the need to intensify their political dialogue and continue their high-level exchanges, providing that all these activities are of complementary nature to their previous cooperation. The V4 countries accepted that the Innovation and Smart Cities topic will be part of the upcoming V4 presidency agendas.

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