

Communiqué
from the 23rd Meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture
of the Visegrad Group Countries, Kraków 14th June 2013

The meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of the V4 countries was held in Kraków on 14th June 2013.

The meeting of the Ministers was preceded by a working meeting of ministerial experts, which took place on 11th-13th June 2013. 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 22nd Meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of the V4 countries in Prague 2012:
 - a. Ongoing Colloquium of Library-Information Employees from the V4 countries;
 - b. Information on the Working Group for Cultural Heritage in the V4 countries and the second edition of the Heritage Forum of Central Europe in Kraków in 2013;
 - c. Co-operation in the field of performing arts in V4 countries;
 - d. Seminars on the evaluation of the use of EU funds in the area of culture.
2. New project proposals: System of Post-Napoleonic Fortresses of the Habsburg Empire, Working meeting on Implementing the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Selected Central and Eastern European countries, Visegrad Initiative for Audiovisual Co-operation, Support for further research and development in digitization, digital restoration and preservation to enhance existing methods and processes in these areas "Film heritage in the digital era".
3. The idea of signing the Declaration on Jurisdictional Immunities of State Owned Cultural Property by the Foreign Ministers of V4 countries was discussed. The purpose of the Declaration, introduced by the Czech Republic and Austria, is to clarify existing customary international law in this specific area.
4. Nomination for the "2012 International Visegrad Prize" and discussion about the selection procedure after 2015.

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 Polish V4 Presidency, particularly the organization of V4 expert conference "Building cultural capacity for digitization and enabling access to cultural heritage" held in Warsaw in 2013.
4. Several new and follow-up projects were supported: *Seminars on the evaluation of the use of EU funds in the area of culture, System of Post-Napoleonic Fortresses of the Habsburg Empire, Co-operation in the field of performing arts in V4, Working meeting on Implementing the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.*

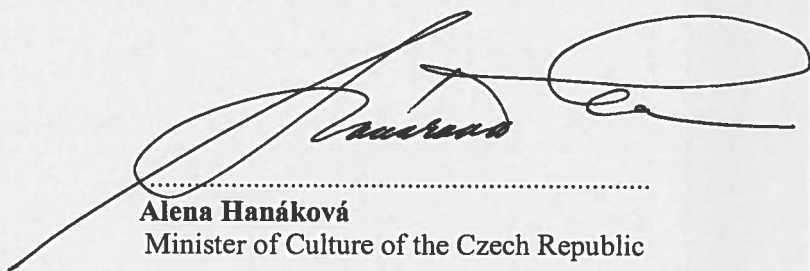
5. The Ministers appreciated the ongoing Colloquium of Library-Information Employees from the V4 countries and expressed their support to the organization of the 4th Colloquium in Budapest during the Hungarian Presidency.
6. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the activities of the Working Group for Cultural Heritage in the V4 countries such as the organization and successful realization of Summer Courses on the Management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the V4 countries and the 2nd 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 co-operation in finding the ways and means for the more efficient use of EU funds for cultural purposes in the New Financial Perspective 2014-2020, 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 celebration of Košice for the title European Capital of Culture in 2013. The co-operation will continue around the European Capitals of Culture - Plzeň 2015 and Wrocław 2016.
9. The Ministers highly appreciated the intention of promoting V4 cultural co-operation internationally aiming at stronger visibility and presence of Visegrad performing arts in the world artistic and cultural forums, through projects such as PACE.V4.
10. The Ministers underlined the importance of digitization process in culture and supported the efforts enabling the digital resources.
11. The Ministers encouraged future co-operation of the V4 countries in connection with the European Heritage Label nominations.
12. In connection with the 2012 International Visegrad Prize, which shall be awarded at the following meeting, the Ministers approved the candidate of the National Philharmonic Orchestra, Hungary.

The parties agreed that the following meeting of the Ministers responsible for culture of the V4 countries will be held in Hungary in 2014.

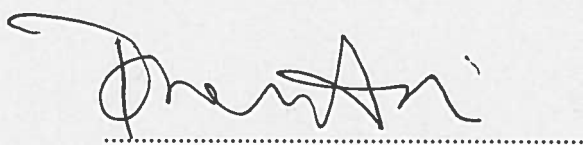
Signed in Kraków on 14th June 2013.



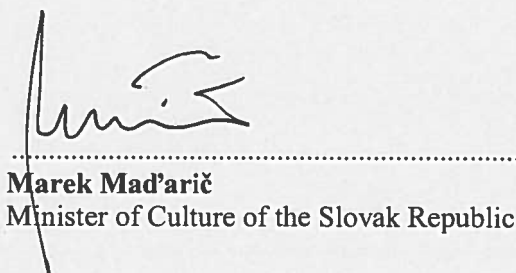
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Bogdan Zdrojewski
 Minister of Culture and National
 Heritage of the Republic of Poland



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Alena Hanáková
 Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic



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András Doncsev
 Minister of State
 Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary



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Marek Mad'arič
 Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic