

Review of major events under the 2021/2022 Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group

❖ Cultural opening gala at the VÉNEgy Festival and Theatre Meeting – 1 July, Nagymaros

The cultural opening event of the Hungarian Presidency was held at the venue of the annual VÉNEgy (V4) Festival and Theatre Meeting, which offers concerts, theatre and other activities featuring performers also from the V4 countries. The gala highlighted the importance of V4 cultural cooperation for the Presidency.

❖ Celebration of 5 years of operation of the Visegrad Patent Institute – 7 July, online

The Hungarian V4 Presidency marked the 5th anniversary of launching the [Visegrad Patent Institute](#) with an online conference, which also aimed to distribute information to potential patent applicants on utilising the intellectual property they generate through RDI activities with the help of patenting. Opening the event, the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization underlined the significant innovation potential of Central Europe and appreciated the VPI's reliability.

❖ V4 and V4+Slovenia summit – 9 July, Ljubljana

At the first summit under the Hungarian V4 Presidency, Visegrad Prime Ministers met with their Slovenian counterpart to discuss issues like the future of Europe, EU-enlargement, security and resilience (e.g. in relation to tackling migration), and climate policy; as well as cooperation with Slovenia's Presidency of the Council of the EU. The V4 PMs also adopted a [joint statement](#) on cooperation during the 2021/22 Hungarian V4 Presidency in crucial topics such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, migration and asylum, climate policy and EU-enlargement.



❖ V4 presidency opening festival and Visegrad 4 Bicycle Race – 10 July, Budapest



The Presidency's beginning was celebrated at Várkert Bazár (Castle Garden Bazaar), main event venue of the Presidency, with a public festival where the annual [Visegrad 4 Bicycle Race](#) was launched. Following the Hungarian section, the race continued the next day in Slovakia, and on 17-18 July in Czechia and Poland. At the festival, visitors enjoyed a whole day of colourful activities including concerts, dance performances, arts and crafts, gastronomy and sports.

❖ V4 30th anniversary conference of governors of the V4 Central Banks – 15 July, Budapest

The [online conference](#) commemorating the 30th anniversary of Visegrad Cooperation had the main theme "Gradual Transition into a Greener Economy – Challenges and Opportunities". Participants discussed national responses to the economic aspects of the pandemic and the role of central banks in combating climate change and the opportunities of green renewal after Covid.

❖ Informal V4 meeting of the Speakers of the Parliament – 15-16 July, Fehérvársurgó

The first [meeting](#) of the Speakers of the National Parliaments of the Visegrad countries during the Hungarian Presidency took place at the Károlyi Castle in Fehérvársurgó, focusing on Central European cultural heritage and identity, and common V4 positions within the European Union.

❖ **Informal meeting of foreign ministers of the Visegrad Group – 19 July, Komárom**



V4 ministers had an informal exchange of views on V4 cooperation, as well as current topics like the future of Europe, post-pandemic economic recovery, migration and the Western Balkans. The ministers expressed their solidarity with Lithuania over the extreme migratory pressure on its borders with Belarus.

❖ **Digital Public Administration Summit – V4 Summer Workshop – 27 July, online**

Organised by Hungary's Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the Ministry of the Interior, the Hungarian National Data Asset Agency and the Digital Success Programme, the Digital Public Administration Summit was attended virtually by V4 experts who discussed artificial intelligence solutions in public administration, and questions related to public data and the economy.

❖ **V4+Romania, Bulgaria, UK meeting ahead of the COP26 summit – 7 September, Budapest**

High-level representatives from the V4, Romania and Bulgaria, joined by David Moran, the UK COP26 Presidency's regional ambassador covering Europe, discussed the latest climate policy achievements, ambitions ahead of the COP26, and issues such as Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and climate finance.

❖ **V4 + Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) foreign ministers' meeting – 14 September, Vanajanlinna**



Co-organized by the Finnish NB8 and the Hungarian V4 Presidency, the 9th annual V4+NB8 meeting was held in Vanajanlinna, Finland. Heads of delegations discussed the current migration challenges, transatlantic relations, the situation in Russia and Belarus, regional infrastructure development, the Western Balkans and strategic objectives for green transition and combating climate change.

❖ **V4+Republic of Korea meeting of political directors – 17 September, Budapest**

At the 6th V4+Republic of Korea Political Directors' consultation, parties discussed V4+Korea cooperation, the current situation in Afghanistan and its wider implications, EU-Republic of Korea relations and other global and regional issues, such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

❖ **Civitas Sapiens '21 Smart City Conference + V4 Summit – 21-22 September, Budapest**

Continuing the series of events aiming to deepen digital V4 cooperation organised by Hungary's Digital Success Programme, the Civitas Sapiens '21 Smart City Conference + V4 Summit provided a forum for the public and business sectors of the V4 countries to exchange ideas and present successful smart solutions, with the guest participation of Czechia.

❖ **V4+ Pension Seminar – 23 September, Budapest/online**

At the international conference on retirement "Physical and Human Capital in an Aging Society", speakers from the V4 countries and Italy, Spain, Finland, Serbia, Austria and Argentina discussed issues like the future of the pension system, the digitalization of pension institutions.

❖ **Meeting of speakers of the parliaments of the V4 countries – 23 September, Visegrád**

Held at the Royal Palace in Visegrád, the [meeting](#) focused on the future of Europe – values and interests, and cooperation in the 'V4+' format. Speakers stressed the need to support South-East Europe and accelerate their European integration, and agreed that V4+ partnerships have a great potential. The next day, V4 Speakers attended the 10th Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeast European Countries, organised by the Hungarian National Assembly, where parliamentary delegations adopted a [joint statement](#) calling for progress in EU-enlargement and increased support to South-East Europe.

❖ **Adoption of a [joint statement](#) on the Scenarios of Trans-European Transport Network Development – September**

❖ **V4 High-Speed Railway Working Group meeting I. – 29 September, Budapest**

The Working Group continued its work at its first session during the V4 Hungarian Presidency, where delegations shared information on the status of the V4 high-speed railway project's developments in their respective countries, and discussed future joint steps, especially in relation to financing.

❖ **Meeting of V4 ministers of finance – 30 September, Budapest**

At the first meeting of V4 Ministers of Finance under Hungary's Presidency, participants signed a [joint declaration](#) on relaunching V4 economies, including fiscal policies, cooperation in combating tax fraud, and supporting families. Hungarian finance minister Mihály Varga highlighted the growing role of the region's economic strength in Europe's competitiveness, and that the V4 economies grew faster before the epidemic and performed better during the crisis than the EU average.



❖ **V4 defence ministers' meeting – 30 September – 1 October, Erdőbénye**

The V4 Defence Ministers' first met in Erdőbénye under the Hungarian Presidency, and discussed defence policy issues of the V4 countries, the challenges of hybrid warfare and possible cooperation in the field of military health. The ministers also approved a tasking on defence cooperation for the presidency period, outlining defence policy issues and the responsibilities of chiefs of defence and armament directors.

❖ **V4 nuclear experts' meeting – 1 October, Paks**

Nuclear experts of the V4 governments met in Paks, and discussed the future vision of the V4 and the EU as regards the energy mix, the EU taxonomy regulation, the role of nuclear energy in ensuring the security of electricity supply and the reduction of CO2 emissions. They also drew up a draft of V4 joint statement on nuclear and climate policy issues and visited the Paks 2 construction site.

❖ **360 Design Budapest fashion exhibition – October, Budapest**

The design exhibition was held in collaboration with the Hungarian Fashion and Design Agency and provided a platform to draw attention to designers from the V4 countries.

❖ **V4 prime ministers' meeting ahead of the EU-Western Balkans Summit – 5 October, Brdo**

Prime Ministers of the V4 held a traditional coordination meeting ahead of the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Slovenia. Leaders discussed climate policy and agreed to make a joint proposal to reduce rising energy prices and strengthen national competences.

❖ **V4+Austria+Slovenia meeting of ministers of interior – 5 October, Budapest**



V4 Ministers of Interior met with their Austrian and Slovenian counterparts to discuss current challenges of the migratory situation developments in European border control, and issued a [joint declaration](#). They agreed on the need to support all efforts to stop illegal migration outside the EU through closer cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination. They stressed the need to help the Western Balkans countries in their efforts to build border protection facilities and properly functioning asylum systems.

❖ **Meeting of National Visegrad Coordinators and Visegrad Fund Experts – 5 October, Budapest**

V4 teams of the four countries' foreign ministries discussed recent and upcoming V4 events. Joined by the Visegrad Fund's leadership, current issues related to the Fund, in particular new projects in the field of RDI and youth mobility, to be supported from the Fund's increased budget from 2022, were discussed.

❖ **V4+4 planning workshop on cohesion policy – 7-8 October, Budapest**

Representatives of the V4 countries and Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria shared their experiences on negotiating with the European Commission during the planning process, and discussed various related topics concerning Operational Programs and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

❖ **Meeting of customs directors general of the Visegrad Group – 7-8 October, Győr**

Continuing their decades-long successful cooperation, V4 Customs Directors' General discussed new proposals for cooperation e.g. creating a network of e-commerce experts, cooperation in waste shipment control, VAT refunds and the training of service dogs capable of identifying COVID-19, and the exchange of information on vehicles and persons crossing the EU border.

❖ **V4+4 meeting of ministers of agriculture – 8 October, Budapest**

As one of the main priorities of the Hungarian Presidency, V4 cooperation on the Common Agricultural Policy reform was a key topic at the meeting held at the 80th National Agriculture and Food Exhibition and Fair (OMÉK), organised during the “One with Nature” Exhibition. Ministers of the V4 and Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia discussed common points of interest about the need for transparent procedure for the adoption of the strategic plans of CAP, about sustainable food systems and BIOEAST. The participants also adopted a joint declaration.

❖ **V4+Egypt foreign ministers' meeting – 11 October, Budapest**

The 3rd meeting of V4+Egypt foreign ministers took place in Budapest and focussed on migration, EU-Egypt relations, the fight against terrorism, energy, and the regional situation in the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting also prepared the V4+Egypt summit that was held the next day.

❖ **V4+Egypt summit meeting – 12 October, Budapest**

At the 2nd summit of V4 prime ministers and the president of Egypt, leaders discussed regional and global issues, with a focus on Egypt's important role in tackling illegal migration and fighting terrorism. On behalf of the V4, the Hungarian PM offered support to Egypt in relation to the 2022 Climate Summit, convening of the EU-Egypt Association Council, the EU's recognition of groups designated as terrorists by Egypt, and lifting of EU economic sanctions that hamper Egypt's border protection efforts.



❖ **V4+2 Good Governance Forum – 14-15 October, Budapest**

Since 2015, the V4+ Good Governance Forum has been an effective platform for senior public administration experts from the V4, Bulgaria and Romania to exchange ideas and best practices. The 6th edition of the event focussed on digital public administration, cutting red tape, innovative solutions in tackling the challenges of COVID-19, and smart cities and regions.

❖ **V4 meeting of ministers of labour – 18 October, Budapest**

The agenda of the meeting of V4 labour ministers included national experiences, good practices and plans concerning future challenges in the labour market in the context of Covid-19, as well as current and forthcoming EU initiatives. A [joint declaration](#) was also signed on the margins of the event.

❖ **V4 Higher Education Summit – 22 October, Győr**

At the V4 Higher Education Summit, parties signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on the automatic mutual recognition of higher education qualifications, to provide general access to the higher education systems of the V4 countries and guarantee the simplification of recognition procedures. This also paved the way for further discussions between accreditation institutes of the Visegrad Group.

❖ **V4 Capability Directors' meeting – 26-27 October, Budapest**

The first meeting of V4 defence Capability Directors under the current Hungarian Presidency was held back-to-back with the regular meeting of the V4 Planning Group. Capability Directors also issued a joint communiqué on meeting regularly in this format in the future.

❖ **V4+Western Balkans conference of chambers of commerce – 3 November, Budapest**

The roundtable “Perspectives of Regional Cooperation in the View of Economic Reopening” was organised by the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) and attended by V4+Western Balkans chamber leaders. Participants discussed their countries' economic situation, challenges of digitalisation, logistics, sustainable economy and energy policy in the pandemic, the role of chambers of commerce in relaunching the economy, and V4+WB cooperation, and signed a [joint statement](#).

❖ **V4+Republic of Korea summit meeting – 4 November, Budapest**



At their second summit, V4 PMs and Korea's President discussed topical issues like climate change, Afghanistan, migration, and developments in the neighbourhood of the V4 and Korea, respectively. They also reviewed possibilities of V4+Korea cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, people-to-people contacts and joint support to the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership. Based on the successful meeting, the V4+Korea Joint Research Programme, as well as Korea's donor contribution to the Visegrad Fund's projects in the V4's neighbourhood may continue. The five leaders also adopted a [joint statement](#). As a side-event preceding the summit,

Hungary hosted the first-ever V4+Korea Business Forum.

❖ **Meeting of V4 Cyber Commanders – 10-12 November, Budapest**

V4 Cyber Commanders discussed possibilities of cyber defence cooperation and agreed to develop expert level cooperation during the next V4 presidency.

❖ **V4+ Competitiveness Operational Programmes' conference – 11-12 November, Budapest**

At the 15th instalment of the Conference, participants from the Member States and the Commission shared views on 'Restarting the economy with the support of the new competitiveness programmes', to gather lessons from the 2014-2020 period and get first impressions of the 2021-2027 programming period.

❖ **V4+France meeting of defence ministers – 16 November, Brussels**

Continuing high-level V4+ defence cooperation with strategic partners, the Hungarian Presidency organised a V4+France meeting of Defence Ministers on the margins of the EU Defence Ministerial Meeting. Leaders exchanged views on the first draft of the EU Strategic Compass and on defence-related priorities of the upcoming French EU Presidency. They also discussed current security challenges emanating from the East and South, with special emphasis on the worsening migration situation at the Polish-Belarussian border and the Task Force Takuba in Mali.



❖ **V4 meeting of ministers for nuclear energy – 18 November, Paks**

Hungary's minister without portfolio responsible for the planning, construction and commissioning of the Paks nuclear plant's two new blocks, and his V4 partners, discussed current developments related to nuclear energy, and signed a V4 [joint statement](#) on the energy and climate protection aspects of the discourse on the future of the EU. The V4 partners also visited the Paks 2 construction site.

❖ **V4+Baltics online meeting of parliamentary foreign affairs committees' chairmen – 22 November**

The online meeting of the Chairmen of the Committees on Foreign Affairs of the Parliaments of the V4 and Baltic countries focussed on the situation at the external borders of the EU with Belarus, in particular illegal migration, security concerns, hybrid attacks and the use of migrants as means by the Belarusian regime, as well as the security situation in Ukraine. Participants also adopted a [joint statement](#).

❖ **Extraordinary summit of V4 prime ministers – 23 November 2021, Budapest**

Initiated by Poland, Prime Ministers of the V4 held an extraordinary meeting in Budapest to discuss the economic and geopolitical aspects of migration in face of the growing migratory pressure on the EU. Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic assured Poland of their full solidarity and support.

❖ **V4 meeting of heads of state – 29-30 November, Budapest**



V4 Presidents (with the Czech President participating online) discussed current challenges related to migration and the pandemic, and the future of the V4. Presidents adopted a [joint statement](#) on the situation on the borders of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, declaring readiness to provide them with all necessary support to protect the external borders of NATO and the EU. In a [joint appeal](#), the presidents encouraged V4 citizens to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The following day, the Presidents of Hungary, Poland and Slovakia also addressed participants of the Planet Budapest 2021 Sustainability Expo and Summit, a flagship event of the V4 Presidency.

❖ **“Impact and Influence” V4 virtual conference. Cultural Innovations during COVID-19 – 1-2 December, online**

In the cultural dimension, the Hungarian V4 Presidency organised an online conference to review good practices developed during the pandemic in the cultural sphere, which could be used in the future, too. The representatives of each cultural field (museum, library, music, performing and creative arts) shared their experiences from the perspective of their own institutional system. On 2 December, V4 ministers for culture shared their experiences and plans for long-term changes in the respective support systems.

❖ **Meeting of National Visegrad Coordinators – 1 December, online**

Coordinators reviewed planned major V4 events and discussed the Visegrad Fund’s draft budget for 2022, as well as developments concerning the Western Balkans Fund & the ‘Think Balkans’ project.

❖ **V4+Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia environment ministers’ meeting – 2 December, Budapest**



The V4+4 meeting aimed to move forward regional cooperation on the successful implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and the adoption of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Parties exchanged views on the preparation of Natura 2000 management plans and the compilation of Natura 2000 objectives. The evaluation of the EU Pollinators Initiative and good practices on the protection and the sustainability of pollinators were in focus. The ministers also shared their thoughts on the possible creation

of a joint “V4+4 ecolabel” that would reflect the region’s efforts to advance sustainability and benefit the environment, namely manufacturing high-standard “green products”.

❖ **V4 Senior Body Meeting (defence) – 2-3 December, Budapest**

At the regular meeting of the V4 Senior Body, the Hungarian Presidency presented the first draft of the V4 Defence Cooperation Mechanism, describing the tasks and working methods of the main bodies of V4 defence cooperation (Ministers of Defence, Senior Body, Defence Policy Directors, Chiefs of Defence, National Armaments Directors) and of the rotating V4 Presidencies. The aim of the HUPRES is to adopt the document at the next V4 defence ministerial meeting in March 2022.

❖ **V4+Canada meeting of political directors – 6 December, Budapest**

Political directors of the V4 countries’ foreign ministries met with their Canadian counterpart to discuss matters of common interest, including NATO and CSDP aspects of European and transatlantic security, the Middle East Peace Process and the situation of Libya, as well as recent developments in Afghanistan, and the security situation in Eastern Europe and the Eastern Partnership.

❖ **V4 high-level panel discussion at the 3rd Budapest LNG Summit – 6 December, Budapest**

As part of the 3rd Budapest LNG Summit, a high-level panel discussion of V4 government representatives took place. The panellists agreed that natural gas will continue to play a significant role in the region, and there is a further need to diversify routes and sources. They also discussed topical issues like the current high energy prices and the security of supply for Ukraine. They agreed that the EU’s Taxonomy Regulation should be adopted as soon as possible, and nuclear energy, along with natural gas, should get the green stamp in order to accelerate away from coal.

❖ **V4+Morocco meeting of foreign ministers – 7 December, Budapest**

The Hungarian V4 Presidency hosted the first V4+Morocco Foreign Ministers' meeting in Budapest. Ministers discussed Morocco's role in addressing regional challenges in the MENA region and Sahel, such as the fight against illegal migration, terrorism and organized crime. Morocco's relations with the EU and the V4 were also on the agenda.

❖ **V4 expert meeting on the role of hydrogen – 8 December, Budapest**

The V4 Energy Think Tank Platform and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary organised an online expert meeting titled "The role of Hydrogen in the Decarbonisation Pathways in the Visegrad Region" with a focus on the latest H2-related developments in the V4. Speakers reviewed recent scientific findings that help to better understand the role of hydrogen in achieving climate goals in the region.

❖ **Videoconference of agricultural committees of the V4 Parliaments – 8 December, online**

The videoconference of the Agriculture Committees of the national parliaments of the Visegrad countries focussed on current issues concerning the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Participants discussed the state of play of the adoption of the CAP legislative package; and the adoption of CAP Strategic Plans by the European Commission and the functioning of the new delivery model. V4 representatives adopted a [joint declaration](#) on the necessity of transparency in the approval process of CAP Strategic Plans, on ensuring the operation of the new delivery model and on the current challenges concerning CAP.

❖ **Videoconference of economic affairs committees of the V4 Parliaments – 10 December, online**

Representatives of the V4 Parliaments' economic affairs committees discussed, among others, hydrogen-based economy, energy security and the reduction and sustaining of low energy costs, as well as the tax system and the reduction of contributions on wages in light of competitiveness. At the end of the online meeting, parties adopted a [joint statement](#).

❖ **V4+France Summit – 13 December, Budapest**

The Hungarian Presidency hosted an important summit of V4 Prime Ministers and the President of France, ahead of the 2022 French EU Presidency. Leaders shared views and discussed potential cooperation on important European issues including the future of Europe, climate and energy policy (in particular the role of nuclear energy), migration & border protection and EU enlargement. The Hungarian Presidency issued a [statement](#) on current joint V4 priorities in EU affairs, and the V4 PMs also signed a memorandum on enhancing V4 space cooperation.



❖ **V4 High-Speed Railway Working Group visit to DG MOVE – 15 December, Brussels**

A V4 High-Speed Railway Working Group delegation paid an official visit to the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the Commission and presented the preparatory steps of the V4 high-speed railway project, which received a warm welcome and support as a multi-country green initiative with high European added value, a strong cross-border component and wide social-economic effects that will significantly improve overall connectivity.

❖ **V4+Turkey meeting of foreign ministers – 21 December, Budapest**

As the last high-level V4 event of 2021, the Foreign Ministers of the Visegrad Group and Turkey met in Budapest to discuss issues like migration, the impact of the developments in Afghanistan, the Western Balkans, the possibilities of enhanced economic cooperation following the Covid-19 pandemic, EU+Turkey and V4+Turkey relations.

OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE PRESIDENCY

❖ V4 coordination meetings before EU Council meetings

Organised by the incumbent presidency, V4 countries' representatives including prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors and other officials traditionally meet before European Councils, EU Council meetings and in other formats, to coordinate positions. During the first half of the Hungarian Presidency, consultations included:

- V4 prime ministers' coordination before European Council sessions of heads of state and government
- V4 coordination meeting before the Justice and Home Affairs Council (15-16 July 2021)
- V4+BG+RO informal coordination meeting before the Environmental Affairs Council (20-21 July 2021)
- V4 extraordinary meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Council (31 August 2021, Brussels)
- V4 coordination meeting before the General Affairs Council (21 September 2021)
- Informal meeting of energy and transport ministers (22-23 September, Ljubljana)
- V4+BG+RO coordination meeting before Environmental Affairs Council (6 October 2021, Luxembourg)
- V4 coordination meeting before the Justice and Home Affairs Council (7-8 October 2021)
- V4 coordination meeting before the General Affairs Council (19 October 2021)
- V4 coordination meeting, Extraordinary Energy Council (26 October 2021, Luxembourg)
- V4 coordination meeting, Foreign Affairs Council (15 November 2021, Brussels)
- V4 high-level meeting before the Cohesion Policy-related General Affairs Council (18 November 2021)
- V4 coordination, Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (2 December 2021, Brussels)
- V4 coordination, Justice and Home Affairs Council (9-10 December, Brussels)
- V4+BG+RO coordination before the Environmental Affairs Council (20 December 2021, Brussels)
- meetings and events with the involvement of V4 Permanent Representations to the EU

❖ V4 Information Exchange Centre for Covid-19

The Presidency continued the work of the V4 Information Exchange Centre for Covid-19, established in October 2020. Hungary's Ministry of Human Capacities hosted eight online meetings in 2021. Given the similarities of the epidemiological situation and the related challenges in the V4 countries, this working group is an effective tool to discuss experts' experiences, gain insight on current developments, measures taken by the V4 countries and the state of play as regards vaccination.

❖ Events of V4 embassies and consulates worldwide

Hungarian diplomatic missions abroad, in cooperation with their local V4 partners, continued organising joint meetings with the respective host country's high-ranking officials, media appearances, as well as public cultural, business, academic and touristic events promoting the Visegrad Group worldwide, including travelling art exhibitions and concerts.

❖ Visegrad Fund activities; V4EastSolidarity Programme to help EaP countries tackle COVID

In the 2nd half of 2021, the V4 countries' joint institution, the [Visegrad Fund](#) continued supporting grant projects, scholarships and residency programs, and other flagship projects such as the Think Visegrad network, the V4 Energy Think Tank Platform, the V4 Start-up Force mentor programme, the Visegrad 4 Bicycle Race and the V4 Civil Servants Mobility program that benefits WB and EaP countries' officials.

One of the most significant projects concluded successfully in 2021 was the extraordinary [V4 East Solidarity Program](#), launched in April 2020 by the V4 foreign ministers to support alleviating the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in all Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). Providing more than €430,000 in aid, co-financed by a generous donor contribution by the Republic of Korea, the program directly benefited thousands of people.

VISEGRADBULLETIN

JULY 2021 – DECEMBER 2021

| LIST OF HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 9 July 2021 | Ljubljana | V4 + Slovenia meeting of Prime Ministers |
| 10 July 2021 | Budapest | Start of the V4 Bicycle Race and public opening event of the Presidency |
| 15 July 2021 | Budapest | V4 Governors of Central Banks conference "Transition to a greener economy – challenges and opportunities" |
| 15-16 July 2021 | Budapest, Fehérvárcsurgó | V4 Informal Meeting of the Speakers of Parliament |
| 19 July 2021 | Komárom | Informal V4 only Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs |
| 7 September 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Bulgaria, Romania informal meeting of state secretaries responsible for environment (preparations for COP26) |
| 14 September 2021 | Finland | V4 + Nordic–Baltic 8 Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs |
| 23-24 September 2021 | Visegrád, Budapest | V4 Meeting of the Speakers of Parliament on the margins of the "10. Conference of Parliamentary Speakers of Southeast European Countries" |
| 23-24 September 2021 | Budapest | IV. Budapest Demographic Summit with high-level V4 participation |
| 30 September 2021 | Budapest | Meeting of Ministers of Finance |
| 30 September – 1 October 2021 | Erdőbénye | V4 Defence Ministers' Meeting |
| 5 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Austria, Slovenia meeting of Ministers of Interior |
| 5 October 2021 | Brdo | V4 Prime Ministers' Coordination Meeting ahead of the EU-Western Balkans Summit |
| 8 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia meeting of Ministers of Agriculture on the margins of the "National Agriculture and Food Exhibition and Fair" within the "One with Nature" World Exhibition |
| 11 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Egypt Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 12 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Egypt Summit Meeting |
| 12-14 October 2021 | Balatonakarattya | V4 Chiefs of Defence Meeting |
| 18 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 meeting of Ministers of Labour |
| 22 October 2021 | Győr | V4 Higher Education Summit (meeting of V4 ministers responsible for higher education) |
| 4 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Republic of Korea Summit |
| 16 November 2021 | Brussels | V4 + France Meeting of Defence Ministers (on the margins of the EU Defence Ministerial meeting) |
| 18 November 2021 | Paks | V4 meeting of ministers responsible for nuclear energy issues |
| 22 November 2021 | online | V4 + Baltic Countries Meeting of the Chairmen of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committees (due to the situation at the external borders of the EU with Belarus) |
| 23 November 2021 | Budapest | Extraordinary Summit of V4 Prime Ministers |
| 29-30 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 Meeting of Heads of State and participation at the "Planet Budapest 2021" Sustainability Expo and Summit |
| 2 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia Meeting of Ministers of Environment |
| 7 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Morocco Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs |
| 8 December 2021 | online | V4 Meeting of the Chairmen of the Agricultural Parliamentary Committees |
| 10 December 2021 | online | V4 Meeting of the Chairmen of the Economic Parliamentary Committees |
| 13 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 + France Summit Meeting |
| 21 December 2021 | TBC | V4 + Turkey Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs |

VISEGRADBULLETIN

JULY 2021 – DECEMBER 2021

| LIST OF OTHER EVENTS | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 23 June - 1 July 2021 | Nagymaros | V4 ("VéNégy") Festival and theatre meeting, 1 July: Opening gala of the cultural Presidency |
| 2 July 2021 | Visegrád | V4 circus art exhibition and reception |
| From July 2021 | Budapest+ V4 capitals+ Brussels | Budapest + V4 capitals + Brussels: Visegrad portraits. Portraits from Central Europe's Past travelling exhibition |
| From 1 July 2021 | online | Publication of the Artificial Intelligence Challenge V4 e-learning course |
| 5-6 July 2021 | Budapest | V4 Sherpa meeting |
| 7 July 2021 | Budapest (hybrid format) | Celebration of 5 years of operation of the Visegrad Patent Institute, hybrid conference |
| 8-9 July 2021 | Budapest | V4 Defence Policy Directors' Meeting |
| 21 July 2021 | online | V4+ consultation on the Fair and Affordable Pricing of Medicines |
| 27 July 2021 | online | Digital Public Administration Summit V4 Summer Workshop |
| 23-25 August 2021 | Tokaj | Tokaj Writers' Camp with V4 participation |
| 26-29 August 2021 | Budapest | Olympic Hopes Competition – Men's ice hockey competition |
| 24 August-22 September 2021 | 5 pilot sites of the LIFE-MICACC project (Bátya, Püspökszilágy, Rákócziújfalú, Ruzsa, Tiszatarján) | Field trip to the site of sample interventions (natural water retention measures) implemented in the LIFE-MICACC project |
| September – November 2021 | Budapest | Olympic Hopes Competition – Fencing competition |
| 2 September 2021 | online | COP26 climate conference expert consultation V4+2+UK |
| 7-9 September 2021 | online | Setting up a Migration Analysis Centre in Warsaw (under the MCRM) |
| 14-15 September 2021 | Budapest | Legal accessibility among the Visegrad countries – forum and conference |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 15 September 2021 | Budapest | Fight against mineral oil fraud |
| 15-16 September 2021 | Budapest | International conference on COVID-19 dedicated to law enforcement partners |
| 16 September 2021 | Hybrid (online, Budapest) | V4 consultation on building Artificial Intelligence European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) corridors |
| 17 September 2021 | Budapest | V4+Republic of Korea meeting of political directors |
| 17-19 September 2021 | Budapest | Olympic Hopes Competition – Short track competition |
| 17-26 September 2021 | Budapest | PesText World Literature Festival |
| 21-22 September 2021 | Hybrid (online, Budapest) | Civitas Sapiens V4 Summit (smart city conference with V4 participation) |
| 22 September 2021 | online | V4 EU Battlegroup 2023-1 Working Group Meeting |
| 23 September 2021 | Budapest | V4+ Pension Seminar |
| 23-24 September 2021 | Budapest | IV. Budapest Demographic Summit with high-level V4 participation |
| 27 September 2021 | online | BIOEAST International Conference |
| 28-30 September 2021 | Budapest | V4 meeting of the heads of border police |
| 29 September 2021 | Budapest | V4 High-Speed Railway working group meeting I. |
| 30 September 2021 | Budapest | V4+ Hungarian Railway Conference |
| 1 October 2021 | Budapest | Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 8. Concert performance with soloists from the V4 countries |
| 1 October 2021 | Paks | V4 nuclear experts' meeting |
| 4-5 October 2021 | Budapest | Kick-off meeting of the V4 Diplomatic Academies |
| 4-10 October 2021 | Budapest | 360 Design Budapest Exhibition |
| 6-8 October 2021 | Győr | V4 customs leaders' meeting |
| 6-8 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 Conference on the Research and Maintenance of War Graves |

VISEGRAD BULLETIN

JULY 2021 – DECEMBER 2021

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| 7 October 2021 | Budapest | Forum of V4 Accreditation Agencies - Higher Education |
| 7-8 October 2021 | Budapest | V4+4 Planning Workshop on cohesion policy |
| 7-10 October 2021 | Budapest | Art Market international contemporary art fair, Visegrad Contemporary art festival |
| 14-15 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 + Bulgaria, Romania Good Governance Forum: "Experiences of digital public administration in the Visegrad countries" |
| 19-20 October 2021 | Dubai/online | V4 panel at the Expo SpaceWeek |
| 20-22 October 2021 | Budapest | Consultation on the fight against the misuse of tobacco products |
| 26-27 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 Planning Group Meeting |
| 26-27 October 2021 | Budapest | V4 Capability Directors' Meeting |
| 28 October 2021 | online | Online conference on water retention and adaptation - focus on 5 sample areas of the LIFE-MICACC project |
| 3 November 2021 | Budapest | V4+Western Balkans meeting of officials of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry on dealing with economic damages caused by the pandemic |
| 6 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 PARA-TEQBALL Competition (for disabled people) |
| 10-12 November 2021 | Budapest | V4+ conference on the planning and use of EU funds |
| 10-12 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 Cyber Commanders' Meeting |
| 11 November 2021 | Hybrid | "Digital Tesi Summit '21" (Digital Assisted Physical Education Conference) |
| 11 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 family policy conference of demography institutes |
| 15-19 November 2021 | Poland | Strengthening EASO Asylum Support Teams - Training of Member State officials (under the MCRM) |
| 16 November 2021 | Budapest/online | Preparation of the Dubai High Level Meeting on water management |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 17 November 2021 | Budapest | V4+ Chief Veterinarians' meeting |
| 19 November 2021 | Budapest | V4 Special Operations Forces Commanders' Meeting |
| 23 November 2021 | Brussels | Programmes and results for the digital development of the economy and society, coordination in legislation |
| 25 November 2021 | online | Workshop and conference on facilitating the automatic, mutual recognition of higher education qualifications in V4 countries |
| 1-2 December 2021 | Budapest (online) | V4 Virtual Conference: Impact and influence. Cultural innovations during the COVID-19 period |
| 1-2 December 2021 | Budapest (online) | V4 Librarians' Conference (as part of the V4 Cultural Conference) |
| 1-2 December 2021 | online | Fashion and Tech Summit |
| 2 December 2021 | online | V4 Training, Education and Exercise Synchronization Conference (V4 TEESC) |
| 2-3 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 Senior Body Meeting |
| 6 December 2021 | Budapest | V4+Canada meeting of political directors |
| 6-7 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 high level panel at the 3rd Budapest LNG Summit |
| 8 December 2021 | online | Identifying hydrogen projects I. |
| 8 December 2021 | Budapest | V4 Energy Expert Meeting in the framework of the V4 Energy Think Tank Platform (topic: hydrogen economy and technologies) |
| 8 December 2021 | online | V4 National Armaments Directors' Meeting |
| 8 December 2021 | online | V4+UK consultation on cyber security and internet governance (as part of the Internet Governance Forum) |
| 15 December 2021 | Brussels | V4 High-Speed Railway Working Group Meeting II. |
| 16 December 2021 | online | V4+ consultation on the way to circular economy along EU directives (waste management and deposit system) |