

The Memorandum of the V4Clusters Board

Establishment and Operation

I. Preamble

Both the Polish and Slovak Visegrad Group presidency strategies focus on two important targets - the necessity of cooperation within Europe to boost the competitiveness and innovation of V4 national economies, and enhancing the V4 position and visibility in the global arena. These requirements are embedded in the V4Clusters project through the identification and connecting of the strong sectors of the V4 in leading cluster networks able to promote V4 internationally. The coordination of these processes and ensuring the sustainability of the Visegrad countries benefiting from the economic and innovation impacts arising from the strategic cooperation among V4 clusters is the cornerstone of the V4Clusters Board establishment and operation.

II. Statute

The V4Clusters Board acts as a non-institutionalised expert platform of partners engaged in fostering the V4 competitiveness via boosting the strategic cluster cooperation, creating adequate framework conditions for cluster development and capitalising the results of the V4 clusters internationalisation.

The V4Clusters Board has the advisory, implementary and supervisory roles. The execution of its function is materialised through the adoption and implementation of annual action plans, annual meetings, protocols of the proceedings and the reports on activities of the V4Clusters Board members. The reports of the V4Clusters Board activities and issues will be further submitted to the appointed representatives of ministries responsible for cluster policies in each country.

III. Members

Following the successful cooperation of the partners in the V4Clusters project co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund in 2013-2014, the members of the V4Cluster Board are:

A. The V4Clusters project partner representatives, namely:

1. Pavla Břusková, President, National Cluster Association, Czech Republic
2. Mátyás Lazáry, International Projects Coordinator, Pannon Business Network Association, Hungary
3. Karolina Piwowarska, Project Manager, Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd., Poland
4. Daniel Ács, President, Union of Slovak Clusters, Slovakia

At its annual meeting, the members of the V4Clusters Board will nominate their Chair representing the country holding the presidency of the Visegrad Group for the corresponding period.

To quit the membership in the V4Clusters Board, the member has to submit a written resignation. The V4Clusters Board then nominates a new member based on a per rollam approval within a 6 week-time.

Further to the V4Clusters Board, the V4Clusters Advisory Group has been appointed to represent both the identified V4 Leading Clusters and their achievements as well as provide the feedback on opportunities of leveraging their potential requiring a targeted assistance of the V4Cluster Board.

B. V4Clusters Advisory Group members are:

1. Ladislav Mravec, Czech Machinery Cluster, on behalf of the V4 Leading Cluster in mechanical engineering
2. Anna Gibicsár, Pannon Wood and Furniture Cluster, Hungary, on behalf of the V4 Leading cluster in furniture
3. Marcin Jablonski, Connectionpoint sp z o.o., on behalf of the V4 Leading Cluster in ICT
4. Marian Cipár, Automotive Cluster Slovakia, on behalf of the V4 Leading Cluster in automotive and plastics

IV. Scope of activities

To ensure the sustainability of the V4Clusters project (Id. No. 31310070) co-financed by the International Visegrád Fund, assuming clusters as a strategic tool for the enhancement of the V4 competitiveness and globalisation and based on the proven collaboration results of the V4Clusters project, the members of the V4Clusters Board agree to cover the following activities:

1. To help to exploit the cluster concept in the Visegrad Group policy by promoting the following strategic priorities to the governing bodies:
 - a. **Internationalisation** - to create appropriate conditions for implementation of commercial and marketing activities of clusters in the V4 strategic destinations, such as the ASEAN countries.
 - b. **Strong V4 Clusters** - to promote R&D and innovation activities of clusters on the basis of excellence and smart specialization for the reinforcement of the globally competitive advantages of the Visegrad countries demonstrated by V4 Leading Clusters.
 - c. **Support of clusters in new socio-economic areas**, cross-sectoral and emerging industries and new societal topics (quality of life, knowledge, creative industries, educational and social entrepreneurship sectors etc.).
2. To propose measures for the optimisation of the V4 inter-cluster cooperation with positive impact on the V4 competitiveness, including the harmonisation and self-assessment of the V4 cluster policies as well as mutual cluster policy learning.
3. To develop effective communication with national policy-makers towards integration of clusters in the Visegrad Group strategies and programme planning providing both the presentation of past and current developments and the outlook for capitalising on future cluster trends and regional industrial change.
4. To maintain the V4Clusters database of cluster organisations prepared for cooperation in functional shape including its updating and promotion; to disseminate the achievements of the V4Clusters project and national cluster policies of the Visegrad Group via V4Clusters.eu web portal.

Signed in four identical copies in Ostrava on 4 November 2014:

1. On behalf of the Czech Republic:

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| Pavla Břusková, National Cluster Association |
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2. On behalf of Hungary:

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| Mátyás Lazáry, Pannon Business Network Association |
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3. On behalf of Poland

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| Sylwia Rudek-Matuszczak, Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd. |
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4. On behalf of Slovakia

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| Daniel Ács, Union of Slovak Clusters |
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V4Clusters Advisory Board on behalf of the V4 Leading Clusters:

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| Ladislav Mravec – on behalf of mechanical engineering clusters | |
| Anna Gibicsár – on behalf of furniture clusters | |
| Marcin Jablonski – on behalf of ICT clusters | |
| Marian Cipár – on behalf of automotive clusters | |