

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on Co-operation
in the field of Cluster Development of the V4 Countries in the next EU
programming period 2014-2020

between

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
THE MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY OF HUNGARY,
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
and
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

For and on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Poland, and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”):

- **In full harmony** with the European Union legal frameworks (e.g. Horizon 2020)
- **Committed to the** development of co-operation between clusters and meta clusters at both national and international levels,
- **Bearing in mind** the significance of the clusters cooperation in particular within innovation issues for the promotion of economic, partnership of the Parties,
- **Pursuant** to the laws and regulations of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the legal acts of the European Union,

have reached the following Memorandum of Understanding

1. The Parties recognize and agree to promote in the relevant EU organizations the results and proposals of the ClusterCOOP Project of the Central Europe Program financed by the ERDF and initiated on the bases of their previous Memorandum of Understanding,
2. The Parties aspire to further promote mutual understanding of the clusters of V4 countries, encourage their cross-border cooperation and use of the Virtual Interactive Platform containing, shared points of relevant information created by the ClusterCOOP Project,
3. The Parties aspire to further promote R&D&I aspects in organizations engaged in clusterization,

4. The experts of the relevant organizations of the V4 aspire to regularly consult on the terms improving clusters cooperation, aimed at enhancement of Europe's competitiveness,
5. The Parties aspire to seize all opportunities provided by the new Central Europe Programme, in the 2014 -2020 programming period in the widest possible context of clusters, having in mind the sustainability and further development of reached results.
6. The Parties deem important the mutual assertion of considering the use of the new flexibility rules within the new OP's for opening the national tenders (funded by the EU or national budgets) for non – residents to expand the international linkages and strengthen global value chains.
7. The Parties value highly the inputs of the ClusterCOOP Project to the ongoing work related to the Smart Specialization Strategies of the Parties.

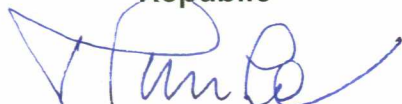
The Parties agree to promote the activities specified in this Memorandum of Understanding through appropriate means and institutions.

In order to carry out duties and intentions herein defined, special agreements between clusters and institutions can be concluded.

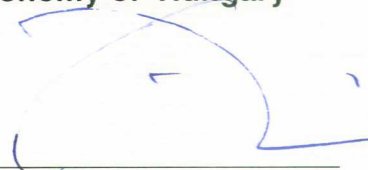
The provisions laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding will continue to be the subject of annual evaluation done by the Parties during their meetings in the framework of Visegrad Group Presidency.

Done in Budapest on the 24th of September 2013, in the English language.

**for the Ministry of Industry
and Trade of the Czech
Republic**



**for the Ministry for National
Economy of Hungary**



**for the Ministry of Economy
of the Republic of
Poland**



**for the Ministry of Economy
of the Slovak Republic**