

Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform



Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group
July 2016–June 2017



Permanent Representation
of the Republic of Poland
to the European Union
in Brussels

International conference organized by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in the framework of the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project*.

The Visegrad Contribution to the EU Digital Single Market

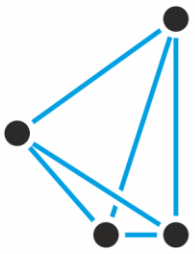
30th November 2016, 15:30 – 19:00

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland
to the European Union, Rue Stevin 139, Brussels

Focusing on a positive agenda for the EU and identifying its tangible benefits for the EU citizens, the Visegrad countries have a track record in promoting an open Internal Market. In the same vein, they have been **pushing together for embracing the digital revolution and completing the Digital Single Market to encourage job creation and scale up of start-ups**. Being an economically open space driven by export and strong industry, Central Europe is well placed to play an active role in navigating the EU through its digital transformation. **With its entrepreneurial attitude and prodigy initiatives such as the V4 Hackatons, the Visegrad countries have a distinct contribution to make**. This event brings together policy-makers, businesses and entrepreneurs both from the region and from Brussels to discuss two key areas of the digital revolution in particular: **the creation of the right regulatory environment and promotion of digital skills for everybody**.

Programme:

15:30–15:50	Registration and Coffee
15:50–16:00	Welcome Word by Ambassador Jarosław Starzyk Introduction of the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' Project Keynote Address by Krzysztof Szubert
16:00–17:00	Panel 1: Innovation Friendly Regulatory Environment
17:00–17:15	<i>Showcase Session I: Warsaw 2016 Hackaton Winners, Poland</i>
17:15–17:30	Coffee Break
17:30–18:30	Panel 2: Digital Skills for Everybody
18:30–18:45	<i>Showcase Session II: V4 Prague 2016 Hackaton Winner, Czech Republic</i>
18:45–18:55	Closing Remarks by Włodzimierz Marciński
19:00	Networking Reception



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Programme:

Welcome words:

Jarosław Starzyk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union

Keynote address:

Krzysztof Szubert, Plenipotentiary of Minister for International Affairs / Strategic Advisor to the Minister (Ministry of Digital Affairs), Republic of Poland

Panel 1: How to Create an Innovation Friendly Regulatory Environment?

Technological start-ups originating in Europe often move to the US where they find it easier to scale-up, relying on simple legislation and a large market. Europe however has the same potential if it can quickly implement key enabling changes – such as creating a unified rulebook, devising future-proof legislation that encourages innovation and investment and ensuring reliable data protection and data flows. The panel will discuss how to deliver these changes in a balanced way, introducing a variety of perspectives: start-ups, SMEs, national regulatory authority, European Commission and an initiative seeking digital transformation of public decision-making and civic engagement

Speakers:

Luc Hendrickx, Director Enterprise Policy and External Relations, UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises)

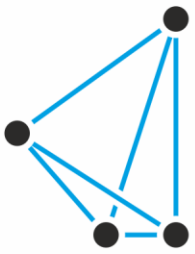
Stephanie Lepczynski, Associate Director, The Lisbon Council

Jaromír Novák, Chairman of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office, Czech Republic

Lex Paulson, International Counselor, Democracy 2.1 (disruptive voting system and digital solutions for participatory governance), Czech Republic

Peteris Zilgalvis, Head of Unit Start-ups and Innovation, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Moderator: **Colin Blackman**, Director of the CEPS Digital Forum, CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies)



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Showcase Session I: 'Fringers Team' Winners of the Warsaw 2016 Hackaton in Poland

Meet the team of computer science students from Cracow who won a technology competition and created their own start-up project 'Liveaid', which uses new technology to build a more effective system for emergency calls.

Panel 2: How to Ensure Digital Skills for Everybody?

According to the European Commission, nearly half the EU population is missing crucial digital skills, while 90 % of jobs will require them in the near future. Acquiring the right skills is an important way to ensure that everybody benefits from digitalization and that it does not turn out into a disappointment several years down the line, like globalization did for some. The panel will debate how can we best capitalise on the opportunities of digitalization in terms of redefining our education systems, encouraging life-long learning, garnering public and private investment into skills development and introducing it into corporate social responsibility. The panel features speakers of different backgrounds: European Parliament, educational NGO, European Commission, national government and a multinational technology company.

Speakers:

István Erényi, Digital Champion of Hungary, Ministry of National Development, Hungary

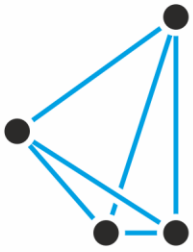
Bob Kartous, Head of Communications, EDUin (NGO promoting education), Czech Republic

Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Member of the European Parliament in Industry, Research and Energy Committee, Poland

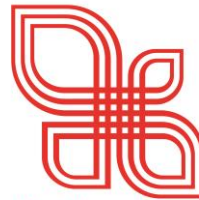
Marta Poslad, Head of Public Policy for Central and East Europe, Google

Lucilla Sioli, Head of Unit, Digital Economy and Skills, European Commission

Moderator: **Nick Wallace**, Center for Data Innovation



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Showcase Session II: Jakub Klauco, Winner of V4 Hackaton 2016 in the Czech Republic

Meet a young Big Data Engineer who won the technology competition in the category on best use of open data. His application 'CleanAir' uses government data for geo-visualization of pollution in the Czech Republic.

Closing Remarks:

Włodzimierz Marciński, Digital Champion of the Republic of Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Networking Reception

It is our pleasure to invite you to a dinner and a drink after the conference.

* 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' is a project implemented by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and funded by the International Visegrad Fund. The aim of the project is to strengthen the voice and visibility of the Central European think-tanks at the heart of the EU policy debates and to encourage the EU dialogue back in the region.

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 Visegrad Fund



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