

COOPERATION IN COORDINATION OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

Information about the Common Spatial Development Strategy of V4+2 Countries (hereinafter Common Strategy)

Cooperation in coordination of spatial development of the V4+2 countries is the cooperation of six countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia (V4), Bulgaria and Romania – (hence +2), which was launched at the 1. Steering group V4+2 countries in Bratislava in March 2008.

Steering group and Working group of the V4+2 countries has been created for a concrete solutions and document processing.

The basis for cooperation among the participating countries is a common idea, that territorial development cannot develop isolated. In order to be successful and sustainable the connections with neighboring countries and regions are needed. It is also important to recognize the needs, interests and possibilities of neighboring countries.

Mutual sharing of information, knowledge, communication and finding barriers that prevent common communication is essential.

The Common spatial development document of V4+2 countries (hereinafter the Common Document), **agreed conclusions** by ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development **in March 2010 in Budapest**, is an important outcome of cooperation in the field of territorial development. It was developed as a basis for updating national territorial development documents of the participating countries.

In the Common Document, the following measures were taken:

- Defined and unified expression of development poles, development axes and transport networks on the territory of the V4+2 countries resulting from valid national and European spatial development documents and international agreements,
- identification of non-existing cross-border (interstate) connections of development axes. Identification of non-existing border (interstate) connections within the individual transport networks on the territory of the V4+2 countries, i.e. pointing out the barriers interfering with the polycentric development and spatial cohesion on the territory of these states.

The Common spatial development strategy of V4+2 countries (hereinafter the Common Strategy), which is a continuation of the V4+2 countries cooperation in the field of regional development was elaborated in accordance with the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development in March 2010 in Budapest and following the Common spatial development document of V4+2 countries from 2010.



COMMON SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF V4+2 COUNTRIES (hereinafter Common Strategy)

Elaboration of the Common Strategy: April 2010 – March 2014.

Participating countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia (V4), Bulgaria and Romania (+2).

Coordinator of the document and the processor is the **Institute for Spatial Development**.

Availability of the document:

- <http://www.v4plus2.eu/pdf/Common-Spatial-Development-Strategy-of-the-V4-2-Countries-21032014.pdf>
- <http://www.v4plus2.eu/en/>

European context of the Common Strategy:

The Territorial Agenda 2020 of the European Union has a crucial importance - the intelligent and sustainable Europe of inclusive diverse regions, agreed at the informal Ministerial Meeting of ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development on 19th May 2011 in Gödöllő, Hungary. The common strategy is focused on the coordination of possible solutions for problems of common spatial development and to promote territorial cohesion in Europe.

Utilization of Common Strategy:

The Common Strategy is intended especially for the field of spatial planning and regional development, which is oriented on planning, preparation and implementation of changes within an area with the aim to provide it with necessary services of general interest. Territorial development is understood in the Common Strategy as development values and possibilities of the area that benefit to all participants. It is the main idea of the Common Strategy together with overcoming barriers.

The main aims of Common Strategy:

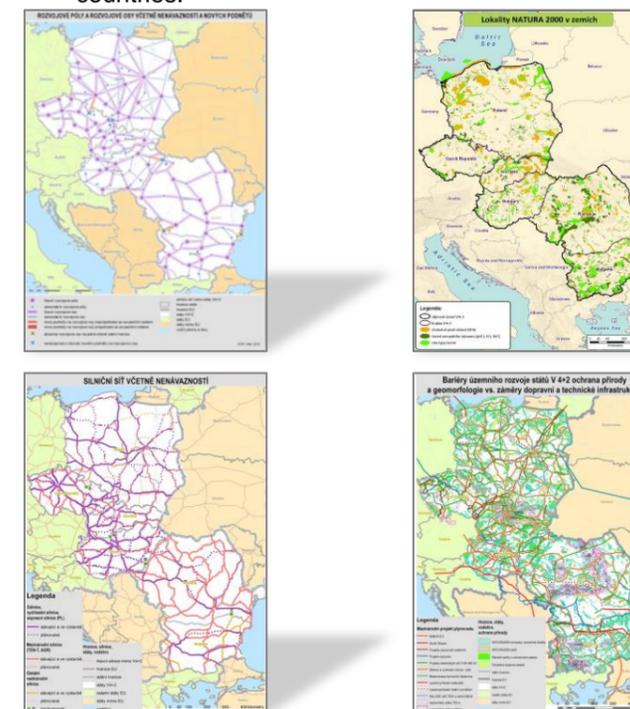
- contribute to the coordination and update of national spatial development documents and development of transport networks and technical infrastructure networks,
- support spatial cohesion in Europe,
- facilitate the coordination of various sectoral policies, which influence spatial development,
- provide the V4+2 countries with arguments and support during the discussions at the EU level regarding issues of spatial development policy, cohesion policy and transport and energy policies.

The preparation of the Common Strategy was carried out by:

- **Steering group**, composed of representatives of the ministries of the individual countries responsible for spatial development.
- **Working group** consisted of experts from individual countries, dealing with spatial development and spatial planning. The Working group prepared background papers for the Steering group meeting, which had decision-making and approval powers, formulated specifications and regulated works on the document.

Content of the Common Strategy:

- I. Introduction;
- II.1 Development poles and axes and their no-continuations;
- II.2 Transport networks and their no-continuations (railways, roads, water transport);
- II.3 Technical infrastructure (networks and electrical energy installations, gas transmission network, crude oil transmission network);
- II.4 Socioeconomic spatial analysis (common demographic and social features, common economic features, spatial structure of the V4+2 countries);
- II.5 Environmental conditions (physical-geographical characteristics, geological characteristics, water, climatic conditions, flora and fauna, land use, nature and landscape protection);
- II.6 Spatial development barriers and possibilities of their elimination;
- III. Common territorial perspectives and priorities of the V4+2 countries.



The significance of the *Common Strategy* was appreciated in the **Conclusions of the meeting of ministers of the V4+2 countries, responsible for spatial planning and territorial development**, which took place in April 2014 in Budapest.

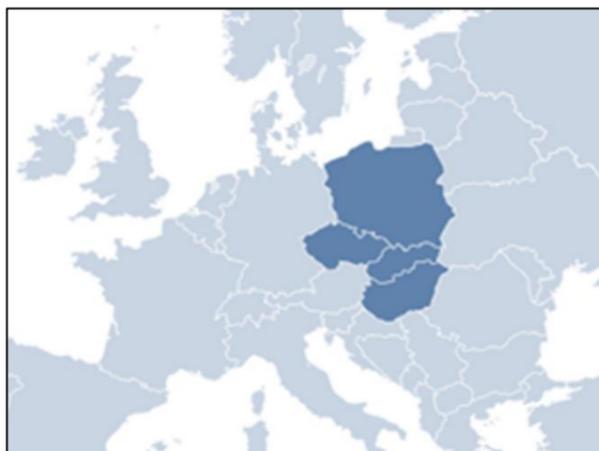
The conclusions emphasize effectiveness to use the lessons and outputs of coordination of national spatial development documents and the formulation of "Common Strategy" in the new programming period 2014-2020 and to incorporate the specific development needs primarily to the relevant national and departmental documents of territorial development, particularly in the transport and energy policy. The Conclusions commit interested parties to further cooperation.

The ministers responsible for spatial and regional development called for the consideration of updating the "Common Spatial Development Strategy of V4+2 Countries".

According to the Conclusions of the Steering Group of the V4+2 from Prague (April 2016) a need to update the document "Common Strategy" will be reviewed in 2017.

V4 – COOPERATION OF V4 COUNTRIES

The Visegrad Group, the unofficial name is the Visegrad Four – V4, is an alliance of four Central Europe countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.



Agreement on cooperation of three countries was originally founded on the 15th February 1991 in Visegrad between Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, Czechoslovakia president Václav Havel and Polish President Lech Walesa. The designation of alliance was changed to Visegrad Four (V4) after the separation of Czechoslovak Federative Republic because membership was transferred to two successor states of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Group works with other countries in Central and Eastern Europe within the program V4+.

The Group is focused on promoting cooperation and stability in the wider region of Central Europe.

The aim is to strengthen mutual trust and solidarity between the European states, but also at international level.

Countries of Visegrad Four - V4 stand on a common idea of cooperation and mutual trust based on functional and close relationships of the member states and on the open exchange of views between the partners, whose cooperation may be very useful and productive in certain areas. This is the main reason that the Visegrad Group is currently a fundamental and key format of cooperation in Central Europe.

Presidency of the Visegrad Group is for one year and is transmitted at midnight from June 30 to July 1. The 1st of July 2015 began the annual presidency of the Czech Republic. The Czech Presidency followed the presidency of Slovakia and in July 2016 will be forwarded to Poland.

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LINKS TO WEBSITES V4+2

Access from website of Institute of Spatial Development

<http://www.v4plus2.eu/en/>

Another access from Spatial Planning Portal –

<http://portal.uur.cz/>

International institutions, cooperation and documents

<http://portal.uur.cz/mezinarodni-souvislosti/mezinarodni-institute-spoluprace-a-dokumenty.asp>



MINISTRY
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COOPERATION IN COORDINATION OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF V4+2 COUNTRIES

Information about the Common Spatial
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