



The Visegrad Group Academies

The representatives of the V4 Academies met on the 29 – 30 November 2011 in Smolenice Congress Centre in Slovakia. The discussions involved also representatives of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Max-Planck-Society. The participants found it useful to exchange views on the matters of common interest. On this basis the undersigning Academies participating in the V4 forum decided to issue the following

STATEMENT

The V4 Forum Academies express their wish to contribute to the improvement of the common European Research Area as the basic environment in which our scientists perform their research activities. We carefully follow the discussions going on the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation prepared by the European Commission. In this regard

- we support the proposal to increase significantly the Horizon 2020 budget as compared to the allocation for research in the previous 7th Framework Programme;
- we find important to implement the program in the way maintaining significant presence of collaborative projects with small number of participants and relatively small budgets;
- we consider the harmonization of Horizon2020 and the rules for the use of European Structural Funds in the next programming period as crucial in covering the existing under-representation of our researchers in European collaborative programmes.

V4 Forum Academies welcome the foundation of Science *Europe* and its Vision and Mission statements on cooperation between policy and activity levels in science. We also welcome the ambition to form the third voice of the scientific community, besides European Commission and national governments. V4 Forum Academies feel their obligation to contribute to this very important issue. In order to increase the relevance of *Science Europe* all V4 Forum Participants as research performing organizations should be part of it. Otherwise, the voice of scientific community will be seriously incomplete.

Slovak Academy
of Sciences

Academy of Sciences of the
Czech Republic

Polish Academy
of Sciences

Hungarian Academy of
Sciences

Bulgarian Academy of
Sciences