

# Warsaw Digital Declaration

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We, the organisations representing the digital and advanced technologies industry of Central and Eastern European countries, are of the opinion that developing an innovative economy should be a common priority for the governments of our countries. Building digital infrastructure and R&D capacity in our part of Europe, to serve as a technological and scientific foundation and to offer growth of innovative ideas in fields such as artificial intelligence and robotics that are ready to be used around the world, is in the best interest of all of our nations. **It is critical for our economies to have the necessary know-how, as well as high added value products that are developed in our region.**

The significance of those goals has been proven by the recent pandemic. During the global health crisis, the digital industry played a critical role in boosting the digitisation of the administration, business, education and social life of our communities, while allowing all those areas to function despite the current limitations. This process must be sustained once the pandemic is over, so that we can built on the opportunity to enhance the digital transformation of the countries of the Three Seas Initiative. This is vital as the ICT industry and related new growing industries are expected to be the driving force of the economies of Central Eastern Europe in the aftermath of the pandemic-induced crisis.

**Therefore, the intellectual and technological potential and expertise that we possess in various fields must be enhanced through international cooperation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.** It is only in that way that we stand a chance of becoming a globally competitive market. If we cooperate with business, and the state and scientific communities in creating legal regulations that support the development of advanced technologies, encourage innovation, and show domestic start-ups how to commercialise their ideas, then our digital enterprises will stand a chance in competing on the global market.

As representatives of the digital and advanced technologies industry in Central and Eastern Europe, we believe the following subjects are critical for the common growth of our digital economies:



### Digital competence

Universal digitalisation is changing the job market. Some tasks are carried out by automated machines, while employees have to acquire new skills better suited to the changing enterprises. It is important to create educational programmes enabling those who are employed in Central and Eastern Europe to adapt to the dynamic reality as soon as possible – both by acquiring new skills, and in terms of raising cybersecurity awareness.



### Investing in advanced technologies

It is necessary today to invest in technological solutions boosting innovativeness, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the internet of things (IoT). We call on our governments to increase the share of resources from national budgets spent in these areas – both building and supporting R&D and creating applications.



## Access to the internet and digital services as a basic right of every citizen in Central and Eastern Europe

To provide every household with at least broadband access to the internet by 2025 is a common challenge ahead for our countries.



## Data management

Our economies need a modern approach to data processing. This is particularly important for the development of innovative services. It is necessary to maintain the free flow of data, both in the public and private sectors.



## Cybersecurity

As an awareness of cyberthreats grows among the consumers and businesses, so will the demand for cybersecurity services. Central and Eastern Europe has the facilities and the technology enabling companies that are run by experts in our countries to provide such services. Our countries should support the development of domestic cybersecurity sectors.



## Supporting and developing start-ups

We need to stimulate the creativity of young entrepreneurs in our region and make it easier for them to carry out innovative projects. We should create government programmes that not only support the development of start-ups, but above all help them commercialise their business models.



## Uniform and clear regulatory environment

Legal regulations in individual countries cannot result in blocking the development of digital innovations. We should seek to create smart solutions in law and to harmonise them throughout Central and Eastern Europe. This will enable and help the companies from our countries to scale their businesses across the Central and Eastern European market and will make our region more attractive to global investors.



## Fifth generation mobile network

Building and implementing the 5G network, which is already taking place in our countries, will revolutionise the economy. The fifth-generation wireless technology will allow companies, including start-ups, to create new, innovative products and services. The Central and Eastern Europe region has to be a true leader in that regard. The countries of our region should aim to adopt legal solutions that will facilitate the development of 5G-based business.

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We, as organisations from the digital and advanced technologies industry from Central and Eastern Europe, believe that cooperation in these areas at domestic and international levels, including on the forum of the European Union's structures, will strengthen the regional and European digital industry and will benefit the overall economic competitiveness and social prosperity.

We are ready to actively collaborate in order to support our governments, as well as European decision makers, in building a policy securing a rapid and safe development of digital Europe.

It is our intention to provide substantive support that, thanks to our many years of extensive experience and the knowledge we possess, will serve as a voice of advice and expertise in solving issues important for the digitisation of administration, business and society in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, having stable and well-developed positions at a regional level will help our countries to successfully set the direction for the future of digital policy throughout the European Union.

We appeal to the governments of our countries to share a united voice in all matters regarding digitisation and cooperation in this field. Remaining engaged in the development of the digital economy, education, science and civil society, we are ready to contribute to the legislation and to initiate bold projects that will advance the digital economies of Central and Eastern Europe.

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