

CEE Digital Summit Warsaw 2021 Proclamation

We, the organisations representing the digital and advanced technologies industry of Central Eastern European countries, building on the foundation of Warsaw Digital Declaration of 2020, wish to restate its ideas and proclaim the conclusions of CEE Digital Summit Warsaw 2021. Staying deeply engaged in our efforts for building digital competence, driving investments in advanced technologies, striving for common access to the internet, digital services and development of fifth generation mobile networks as well as responsible data management, we uphold our support for start-ups and SMEs of Central Eastern Europe and development of uniform and clear regulatory environment, driving the digital economy in our region.

We acknowledge further rapid changes across the economy and society accelerated by the pandemic and the burning need for universal adoption of the digital transformation. Thus, concluding the gathering of CEE Digital Summit Warsaw 2021, we want to accentuate the fundamental value of national and regional work towards:

Growth of the digital economy by providing a fair regulatory landscape

A coherent regulatory policy that is facilitating growth of our countries' and region's digital economy must be secured in order for Central Eastern Europe to remain competitive, overcome the struggle of post-pandemic crisis, achieve resilience and rise to the top of global economic stakes by allowing growth of innovative, local enterprises. We call for deep regional policy-making cooperation in order to make the upcoming Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Market Act (DMA) forward looking and not limit the access of regional users to the state-of-the-art technological solutions. We hope that awareness of the digital economy's significance will be expressed not only by a cautious regulation, showing understanding for a diverse environment of digital services, but also by funding opportunities supporting regional enterprises. A truly common approach and a unified front will greatly benefit our region's society and set the foundation allowing growth of the digital economy and thus, Central Eastern Europe as a whole.

Regional, widespread adoption and development of the latest technology

Making Central Eastern Europe a home of cutting edge technologies - including artificial intelligence, internet of things solutions and cloud computing - in terms of their common adoption throughout our economy and by supporting research and development in the field, should remain one of our regional priorities. We call for sharing of the tools, incentives, know-how and ideas by promoting economic and policy-making cooperation in the region. Only by reaping the benefits of technological advances can we stand up to the challenges ahead, unleash the true potential of our economy and assure that citizens of Central Eastern Europe have access to the very best utilities the world has to offer.

Improvement of connectivity through 5G networks development and assuring digital security

Regional and national efforts for development of 5G mobile networks and cybersecurity are necessary for the digital economy and Central Eastern Europe's society to safely grow and thrive. The next generation mobile networks must be embraced, as we should strive to fully tap into the revolutionary potential they bring for our economy and to stay relevant in the global competition. The inevitable growth, however, must be complemented by raising awareness and spreading knowledge in terms of modern threats and combating them amongst Central Eastern European citizens, entrepreneurs and public administration representatives. Regional approach towards policy-making, sharing best practices and developing standards for 5G networks and cybersecurity are of utmost importance for our region.

Support for digital transformation of small and medium enterprises

Realising that small and medium enterprises lay at the very heart of our region's economy, we wish to encourage all means of regulatory and funding facilitation of their digital transformation. Only by introducing digital tools into the economy as a whole, making them encompass all sectors and companies of all sizes, will we be able to prepare Central Eastern Europe for the age of the digital. Education focused on digital skills adopted to adult life-long learning schemes and proper management of supply of highly demanded ICT specialists workforce as well as funding and incentives boosting the digital transformation of SMEs should remain one of the region's priorities. Thus, we must strive to raise the awareness of its benefits and provide

necessary knowledge and tools to the business, while developing a regulatory landscape favourable for its digital transformation.

Resources and structure for digital cooperation

We believe that our region can greatly benefit from a clear, structured means of providing financial resources to multinational projects supporting digital transformation and growth of CEE's digital economy. We call upon the region's governments as well as non-governmental funds and organisations to work on developing digitally-oriented funding opportunities, dedicated to financing digital projects, SMEs transformation, and technological progress.

As the eyes of the world turn towards digitisation, not only looking for a safe passage out of the ongoing crisis, but also realising its underlying, universal potential and involvement in every single aspect of economy and social life, Central Eastern Europe should take on the opportunity of becoming the home of the digital. Common voice, joint effort and deep economic and policy-making cooperation are the key for the region's growth and strengthening its position on the European and global arena. As the CEE Digital Coalition, we remain ready to be the driving force behind these changes and to provide our knowledge, experience and resources to help the cause and support our governments in building the digital economy of Central Eastern Europe.