

PARTICIPANTS' DECLARATION

The participants of the 8th Colloquium of Library-Information Experts of the V4+ Countries:

- welcome the IFLA initiative in the form of the *Library Manifesto for Europe*, endorse its objectives and express their willingness to support and actively engage in the promoting and implementing the declared goals in practice,
- on the basis of presentations, discussions and experts' statements, confirm that the V4+ region is, with regard to its geographic, cultural and political-economic links a natural grouping of countries that are able to address common challenges in the field of library-information systems and services,
- recommend that the parties involved focus intensively on promoting modern forms of library-information systems and services and endeavour to convey them into the broader public awareness,
- call for support for innovations in the education system for information professionals, particularly from the aspect of expanding the possibilities for further education,
- recognise the innovation potential of the library-information sector of the V4+ countries in the field of developing modern systems and services, and call on the national ministries for greater and systematic support of these activities,
- call on representatives of the state administration to create space for implementing international projects that would enable close cooperation between libraries of the V4+ countries,
- highlight the potential for collaboration and exchange of experience in solving organisational, methodological and technological problems, particularly in the application of open-source tools and international standards,
- note that the 8th Colloquium of Library-Information Experts of the V4 + Countries has, through its focus, significantly contributed to updating knowledge of mutual problems and their solutions,
- recommended that stakeholders maintain the tradition of holding the colloquiums in one of the V4+ partner countries, address current problems on an ongoing basis, and support cooperation in solving them,
- propose that the 9th Colloquium of Library and Information Experts of the V4+ countries be held at latest two years after the current meeting.