



## **Statement of the Visegrad Group Academies Forum on the Role of Science in Society and Research Security**

*The Visegrad Group Academies Forum, during its meeting on 17 – 18 June 2026 at Smolenice Castle, agreed on the following statement.*

The Academies of Sciences of the Visegrad Group reaffirm the essential role of science and scientific institutions in addressing the challenges facing our societies today.

The need for reliable, evidence-based knowledge in public discourse has grown significantly. Scientific expertise underpins informed decision-making in areas of major societal importance – including, among others, public well-being, public health, energy security, responses to climate change, biodiversity protection and the resilience of democratic institutions – and respect for scientific knowledge is essential for developing effective and responsible policies. Yet at the same time, the role of science is increasingly challenged by the spread of misinformation and declining public trust in scientific institutions, both of which pose serious and ongoing risks.

The Visegrad Group Academies recognise their responsibility to contribute to informed public debate, communicating scientific knowledge responsibly, and actively countering the misuse or misinterpretation of scientific findings that may cause harm or erode public confidence in science.

The environment in which research is conducted is becoming increasingly complex. Scientific and technological progress, while offering immense benefits, may also carry risks related to unintended or deliberate use or misuse. The growing importance of dual-use research and emerging security challenges require careful and proactive attention from the scientific community.

The Visegrad Group Academies underline the importance of maintaining a thoughtful balance between openness in science and responsibility in the application of knowledge. International scientific cooperation remains fundamental to progress, and must be grounded in shared ethical standards and a firm commitment to research integrity.



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The Visegrad Group Academies reaffirm their commitment to scientific excellence, independence and integrity. They stand ready to strengthen public trust in science and to ensure that scientific knowledge serves the long-term benefit of society.

Martin Venhart, D.Sc.  
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Slovak Academy of Sciences

Prof. Radomír Pánek  
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Smolenice Castle, 18 June 2026