



V4AI: Advancing Effective Use of Modern AI  
in Education for Industry Transitions

## The Zlín Declaration

Tomas Bata University in Zlín



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Korea

## Strategic Framework for Higher Education and Research Transformation in the AI Era

### The Core Conclusion: University as a Catalyst

The participants of the V4AI Workshop agree that in the age of AI, the traditional role of the university as a "custodian of knowledge" is no longer sufficient. **The University must transform into a Catalyst** – an active enabler that accelerates the transition of ideas from the laboratory to the market, fosters entrepreneurial spirit, and bridges the gap between academic research and industrial application. **This role as a Knowledge Catalyst is the ultimate mandate for the modern university.**



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# I. Overcoming the Transformation Valley & the Productivity J-Curve

## Finding

As highlighted by **Martin Mikeska**, AI investment alone does not guarantee growth. We are in a "transformation valley" where building intangible capital (processes and skills) is mandatory.

## Strategic Focus

We will focus on **process re-design** rather than just technology adoption. Success is measured by an organization's capacity to absorb AI.



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## II. Eliminating Naive Replication (Market Purpose First)

### Finding

**Lukáš Rudy** warned against the "Sin of Ignorance" – copying hubs without local context. Every ecosystem must have a unique DNA.

### Strategic Focus

We will focus on the **industrial strengths of the V4 region**. If no one is willing to pay for a solution, it has no place in our ecosystem.



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### III. Reliability and Determinism (Industry-Ready AI)

#### Finding

**Paweł Skruch** defined the gap between academic research and the industrial requirement for **determinism, safety, and certification.**

#### Strategic Focus

Our research will focus on **transparency and robustness**, ensuring AI systems are ready for deployment in critical infrastructure.



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## IV. Reengineering Education: From Gatekeeper to Network Nexus

### Finding

**Balázs Horváth** emphasized that the "lexical monopoly" of universities has collapsed. Information is now a commodity.

### Strategic Focus

We will shift the focus from **what** a student knows to **what they can do** with what the AI knows, replacing traditional exams with **Challenge-Based Learning (CBL)**.



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## V. The Human Element: Ethics, Empathy, and Meaning

### Finding

**Ľubomír Antoni** reminded us that while AI excels in speed and precision, only humans can create **meaning, ethics, and empathy.**

### Strategic Focus

We will focus on ensuring AI enhances human intelligence. Education must prioritize **critical synthesis** and the "Why" behind the "How".



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## VI. Institutional Adaptation and Curriculum Flexibility

### Finding

**Bartłomiej Moniak** discussed the necessity of rapid curriculum adaptation to keep pace with technological shifts.

### Strategic Focus

We will focus on **modular and flexible study paths** that allow for real-time integration of AI tools and cross-domain cooperation.



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## VII. Infrastructural Synergy (The Power of AI Factories)

### Finding

**Tereza Malíková** presented AI Factories as a gateway to supercomputing power that must be accessible to all.

### Strategic Focus

We will focus on connecting research teams with **AI factories** and turning our universities into "Living Labs".



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## Signatures

Signed in Zlín, Czech Republic, on 14 April 2026, within the V4AI project: Improving AI Use in Higher Education and Research Across the Visegrad Region.

### Project Coordinator



Michal Pluháček  
V4AI Project Coordinator (AGH University of Krakow)

### Representatives of the Partner Universities

AGH University of Krakow (PL)



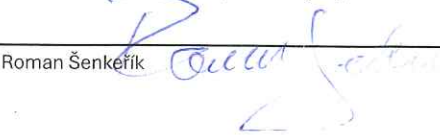
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Lubomír Antoni