

Think  
Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2017/November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

## Editorial



Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to share with you the third and last 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' newsletter of 2017. At the same time, we are happy to announce that the project has been approved by the International Visegrad Fund also for 2018! We will bring to you more events and news with the Central-European perspective, powered by the platform of eight think tanks from the region.

In the past few months, we have organized two public conferences (on Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership) and two expert roundtables (on Cohesion policy post 2020 and 2017 elections in EU member states) and you can read the reports in this newsletter. We have also hosted 3 researchers from our member institutes in Brussels, whose papers on labor market reforms, new MFF or V4-China relations will be published in early 2018.

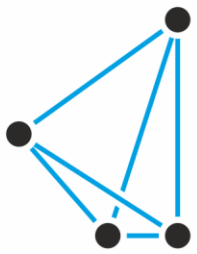
The Think Visegrad platform is a relatively new contribution to the Brussels think tank scene, however even the short time shows that it has found its audience and partners. We are very pleased that there is such a broad interest in bringing together researchers from the V4 and Brussels and enriching the often Brussels-centered debates with new perspectives. My special thanks therefore go to our amazing members, all partners and most importantly, to all of you who participated in our events and activities!

I wish you all a relaxing and joyful holiday season and a very happy New Year – and we are looking forward to meeting you again in 2018!

Zuzana Stuchlíková

Head of Brussels Office, EUROPEUM





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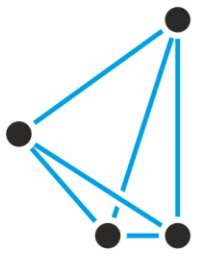
#### Think Visegrad platform

Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform is a **network for structured dialog** on issues of strategic regional importance. The network analyses key issues for the Visegrad Group (V4), and provides recommendations to the governments of V4 countries, the annual presidencies of the group, and the International Visegrad Fund. Think Visegrad covers thematic priorities of V4 including V4's internal cohesion, EU institutions and politics, the Western Balkans, relations with Eastern Partnership countries, development assistance, migration, security, energy security, environmental protection, energy security etc.

The formation of the network of V4 think-tanks was one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the Visegrad Group of 2011–2012. This idea reflected the long-term interest and willingness of Central European think tanks to enhance their cooperation within the Visegrad Group and to deepen its cohesion. Think Visegrad was established in 2012 by eight V4 research centres and institutes, and is funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

The project brings together all the members of the Think Visegrad network, namely:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFP), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw
- Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw
- Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest
- Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest
- EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague
- Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague



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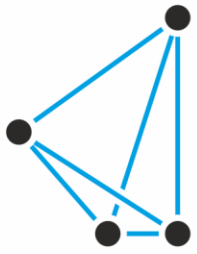
## What is the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project?

In the first half of 2016, the Think Visegrad platform members agreed on the idea proposed by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, to create a common representation office in Brussels. The main motivation for it is the need to encourage debate on issues of common interest to the EU and the V4 and explain the positions of the V4 to a wide audience. We would like to project an image of constructive partners, to explain the dynamics of the debates within our regions and to highlight our active contributions to EU policy-making.

The pilot project run in the second half of 2016 and the second part of the project was approved in June 2017 and will continue until the end of the year.

## Past events

- "Quo Vadis Eastern Partnership? A Retrospective look into The Future". A second TVB conference took place on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The event was organized in cooperation with the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, the Open Society European Policy Institute, the Slovak Foreign Policy Association and the European Endowment for Democracy (EED), which hosted the event. The conference critically assessed the achievements of the Eastern Partnership policy, the effectiveness of its existing toolbox and the breadth of the changes it had so far fostered in the countries. The speakers also looked ahead to the Brussels Eastern Partnership summit and beyond and offered recommendations for calibrating the EU's policy to better tackle the emerging trends and challenges in the region. The keynote speech was provided by Linas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. The program consisted of two panels: "Assessing policy performance: the Eastern Partnership on the eve of the Brussels summit" and "Eastern Partnership Quo Vadis? Expectations and recommendations for the next steps". You can find the full report and pictures from the event [here](#). Record of the event is available [here](#).
- The future of the Cohesion Policy in the new Multiannual Financial Framework: Perspectives from Central Europe". The expert roundtable took place on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and brought together four Ambassadors to the European Union of the V4 Countries, representatives of other Permanent Representations and prominent research centres. Event was hosted by the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU, in cooperation with the Hungarian Presidency of the V4. The event was moderated by Barbara Wieliczko (SGH Warsaw School of Economics). All four V4 ambassadors participated in the event and provided detailed remarks about the future of the cohesion policy: H.E. Olivér Várhelyi (Hungarian Permanent Representation to the EU), H.E. Martin Povejšil (Czech Permanent Representation to the EU), H.E. Peter Javorčík (Slovak Permanent Representation to the EU) and Sebastian Barkowski, Chargé d'affaires a.i (Polish



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Permanent Representation to the EU). You can find the full report and pictures from the event [here](#).

- “The EU after a year of crucial elections: Which new chances and challenges?”  
The event was organized in cooperation with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), two leading European think tanks. The event took place on November 21<sup>st</sup> in the premises of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and was organized as a closed roundtable for selected experts under Chatham House rule. A keynote speech was delivered by Alfredo Conte, Head of Strategic Planning Division at EEAS. The first panel, “Future of the EU and the Eurozone in light of 2017 elections: What is at stake for further European Integration?” focused on the European context of the recent elections in France, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. The second panel “After the elections: New chances for a deeper EU foreign, security & defence policy?” focused on perspectives of development in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy, and especially the promises brought forward by Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

## Upcoming events

We will let you know in the first months of 2018 - see you soon at our events!

 EUROPEUM  
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