



“Think Visegrad” - V4 Think Tank Platform

Project Report Document

January 2016 – December 2016

January 2017

“Think Visegrad – V4 Think-Tank Platform” entered the fourth year of its existence with two new initiatives – *V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review* and *Think Visegrad in Brussels*. Otherwise the platform successfully continued activities from the previous years: development of *short- and long-term analyses*, *Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP)*, as well as *Think Visegrad Fellowships* for non-V4 fellows.

Think Visegrad experts managed to develop *6 short-term* and *4 long-term analyses* on pre-agreed topics (for the full list of developed analyses please see Annex 2). Think Visegrad core network members also hosted *8 visiting fellows from non-V4 countries* (for the list of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries see Annex 3).

Thanks to the continuing support of the International Visegrad Fund the Think Visegrad platform successfully implemented the next phase of the *Civil Servants Mobility Program*. In 2016 the whole program focused on Ukraine, so Think Visegrad core network members hosted Ukrainian civil servants with different professional background. During their stay in the V4 capitals their main focus was on topics related to different aspects of reform processes, in which the V4 countries experience to share. As in the previous years, also the last edition was highly appreciated by participating civil servants.

In the Autumn of 2015 the core network members submitted three proposals of additional activities to the International Visegrad Fund, out of which two started to be implemented in 2016. The first proposal focused on the *Presidency Mid-Term Review*, while the second aimed at the establishment of a joint representation of V4 think tanks in Brussels – *Think Visegrad in Brussels*.

The Czech V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review was developed jointly by the representatives of all Think Visegrad core members and presented on 17 -18. February, 2016 in Prague at the conference organized on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad cooperation. The review was developed jointly by experts from all eight Think Visegrad core members, while the leading author was from the Czech Republic.

The pilot phase of the *Think Visegrad in Brussels* ran from June to December 2016. The project was implemented by the EUROPEUM Brussels office, with an approval of all Think Visegrad core members. Besides two public debates and one private round-table that were organized in the framework of the project, Think Visegrad in Brussels also hosted researchers from V4 for their fellowship stays in Brussels.

All analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts are *available only for the MFAs of the Visegrad countries and other relevant governmental institutions*, which highlights even

more the role of the Think Visegrad platform as a useful instrument providing governmental structures of the four countries with constructive reflection and expertise. The only exception was the Czech V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review, which became the first publicly accessible Think Visegrad analysis. The fact that every analysis is developed by four experts – each from a different V4 country – proves that Think Visegrad is dedicated to the Visegrad spirit and cooperation.

The composition of core members remained unchanged – the only change appeared in the name of the Central European Policy Institute, which became Globsec Policy Institute. Nevertheless, Think Visegrad remained **open to cooperation** with all interested think tanks and experts from the V4 countries, which was demonstrated in the development of several short- and long-term analyses (for the list of “core network” members and other participating think tanks please see Annex 1). Think Visegrad was also actively developing **cooperation with non-Visegrad experts**, through the **Think Visegrad Fellowship** program.

Annex 1 List of the “core network” members and other participating think-tanks

The “core network” members:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Central European Policy Institute (CEPI) – Globsec Policy Institute (GPI), Bratislava
- Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw
- Institute of East-Central Europe (IESW), Lublin
- 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

Other participating think tanks:

Czech Republic: Association for International Affairs (AMO), Faculty of Social Studies - Charles University

Hungary: Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies, Kitekinto.hu

Poland: Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Collegium Civitas University, DELab Warsaw University, Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)

Slovakia: Comenius University – Department of Political Science, Slovak Security Policy Institute (SSPI)

Annex 2 List of short-term and long-term analyses

Short-term analyses:

In what ways could the V4 support Slovakia in its execution of the EU presidency in the second half of 2016? Possibility of synergy of SK's presidency of the EU Council and the V4 agenda

Author: Pavol Szalai (independent expert)

Co-authors: Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)

Leszek Jesień (Collegium Civitas)

Botond Feledy (Kitekinto.hu)

How the V4 evaluate its implementation of the Wales obligations (in the run up to the Warsaw summit)

Author: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)

Co-authors: Milan Šuplata (CEPI)

Dániel Bartha (CEID)

Marcin Terlikowski (PISM)

How to reconcile the V4/16+1 format of co-operation with China with the EU framework.

Author: Marcin Kaczmarek (OSW)

Co-authors: Peter Brezáni (SFPA)

Rudolf Fürst (IIR)

Fruzsina Németh (IFAT)

Should the V4 countries try to counter the Russian propaganda in the Central European region and in what ways?

Author: Milan Šuplata (GLOBSEC)

Co-authors: Jan Šír (Charles University)

András Rácz (CEID)

Tomasz Stępniewski (TIESW)

What measures should the V4 countries envisage in order to foster research and development as tools for increasing their competitiveness?

Author: Gábor Braun (IFAT)

Co-authors: Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň (IIR)

Anna Białek-Jaworska (DELab Warsaw University)

Pavol Baboš (Comenius University)

Is there a common interest of V4 states in keeping the Schengen system and what should they do in order to achieve that?

Author: Zsuzsanna Csornai (IFAT)

Co-authors: Vladimír Bilčík (SFPA)

Christian Kvorning Lassen (EUROPEUM)

Konrad Popławski (OSW)

Long-term analyses:

V4 and Germany revisited

Author: Michal Kořan (IIR)

Co-authors: Milan Nič (GLOBSEC)

Anna Tamási (IFAT)

Ryszarda Formuszewicz (Genshagen Foundation)

V4 think-tanks reflection of the IVF and its activities

Author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)

Co-authors: Daniel Bártha (CEID)

Vít Dostál (AMO)

Anita Sobják (PISM)

The future of CSDP from a V4 perspective

Author: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)

Co-authors: Marian Majer (SSPI)

Tomasz Stępniewski (TIESW)

Tamás Csíki (Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies)

The future of the EU internal market in the light of new emerging dividing lines from a V4 perspective

Author: Sándor Gyula Nagy (IFAT)

Co-authors: Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)

Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska (Warsaw School of Economics (SGH))

Zsolt Gál (Comenius University)

Think Visegrad – Czech V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review

Author: Michal Kořan (IIR)

Co-authors: Dániel Bartha (CEID)

Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)

Jakub Groszkowski (OSW)

Milan Nič (CEPI)

Tomasz Stępniewski (TIESW)

Tomáš Strážay (RC SFPA)

Márton Ugrósdy (IFAT)

Annex 3 List of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries

Olga ZELINSKA, *Open Society Foundation, Ukraine* – Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)

Oana POPESCU, *Global Focus Centre, Bucharest* – Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)

Tija MEMISEVIC, *Proffs Consulting, Sarajevo* – EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy

Marta CHURELLA, *Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.* – GLOBSEC Policy Institute (former CEPI)

Yuri TSARIK, *Center for Strategic and Foreign Policy Studies, Belarus* – Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)

Marko LOVEC, *Centre for International Relations of Faculty for Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana* – Institute of International Relations (IIR)

Patrick McGRATH, *State University of Novi Pazar, Serbia* – Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

Yaroslav KIT, *The Institute of Religion and Society at the Ukrainian Catholic University* – The Society of the Institute of East-Central Europe (TIESW)

Annex 5 - Financial report (attached)

- € 99 700 – annual budget *
- € 83 134,99 – total expenses

- € 16 565,01 – saved resources

*** Including expenses related to the development of the Mid-Term Presidency Review
(1500 EUR)**