



## **“Think Visegrad” - V4 Think Tank Platform**

*Project Report Document*

*January 2018 – December 2018*

*January 2019*

In the year 2018 the “Think Visegrad – V4 Think-Tank Platform” successfully continued its flagship activities: *short- and long-term analyses*, *Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP)*, as well as *Think Visegrad Fellowships* for non-V4 fellows. The platform also successfully organized the *V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference* and continued to cooperate with external stakeholders in Brussels through the *Think Visegrad in Brussels* project.

The composition of core members remained unchanged, while Think Visegrad has remained *open to cooperation* with all interested think tanks and experts from the V4 countries. The openness was reflected also in the development of some short- and long-term analyses, since some of the co-authors were from other than Think Visegrad core network think tanks (for the list of the “core network” members and other participating think tanks please see Annex 1).

Think Visegrad experts managed to develop *12 short-term* and *4 long-term analyses* on pre-agreed topics (for the full list of developed analyses please see Annex 2). In order to respond positively to the demands of V4 policy planners, one out of the four long-term analyses was developed in a shorter time and was submitted to the MFAs already in June.

Think Visegrad core network members also hosted *8 visiting fellows from non-V4 countries*. A diverse group of fellows is the proof of the *attractiveness of the Visegrad model of regional cooperation* to experts and scholars in entire Europe and beyond. (For the list of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries see Annex 3).

The Think Visegrad platform also successfully implemented the next phase of the *Civil Servants Mobility Program*. In 2018 the first part of the program focused on Ukrainian civil servants, while the second part encompassed civil servants from Montenegro. There is an interest of all involved parties to maintain the Western Balkans as one of the target regions of the CSMP also in the future. In order to satisfy increasing demands, the Think Visegrad core members offered to extend the program to three rounds every year.

*The V4 Presidency Mid-Term Conference* was organized in Tata in February 2018 by the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) and Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), followed by a public event in the premises of the Hungarian MFA in Budapest. Besides Think Visegrad platform core members, the representatives of the MFAs, as well as selected experts and journalists from V4 and other countries took part in the debate. Side events of the conference also included the meeting of Think Visegrad platform coordinators.

Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform has gradually *become an inspiration* for other think tank networks, especially in the neighboring regions of the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. It is worth to mention that the representatives of the Western Balkan Fund also showed their interest in the functioning of the Think Visegrad network during their visit in Bratislava in May 2018.

Cooperation with external stakeholders was also maintained through the *Think Visegrad in Brussels* project. Though the main implementer is the Prague based EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, namely its Brussels office, the project has enjoyed active support of all Think Visegrad platform core members. Besides the organization of public debates and closed round-tables, Think Visegrad in Brussels provided researchers from eight V4 think tanks with the opportunity to spend short stay fellowships in Brussels.

All analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts have continuously *been available only for the MFAs of the Visegrad countries* and other relevant governmental institutions. This makes the work of the platform unique (not only) in the Visegrad context. The Visegrad spirit of cooperation is demonstrated through the fact that all the analyses are developed by four experts – each from a different V4 country, as well as by the rule that each participating think tank has the right to nominate exactly the same number of leading authors and co-authors as any other in the network.

The ministries of foreign affairs of the V4 countries continued to *provide their feedback* on selected short- and long-term analyses. After the Polish and Hungarian V4 Presidency also the current Slovak V4 Presidency took the opportunity to organize a closed discussion of the representatives of V4 MFAs (departments of policy planning) with the authors of a long-term analysis entitled “What Visegrad we want?”. This practice is very much valued by the Think Visegrad platform members, since it provides the authors of analyses with useful reflections and appreciation of their work.

As the financial report (Annex 4) shows, the Think Visegrad platform continued to implement all the activities in a very *cost efficient way*. Though this report covers only the “core” activities, such as the development of short- and long-term analyses and fellowships for non-V4 fellows, effective cost management also applies to other Think Visegrad activities, such as Civil Servants Mobility Program, Think Visegrad in Brussels, as well as V4 presidency mid-term conference.

## **Annex I 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)
- Globsec Policy Institute (GPI), Bratislava
- 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

### **Other participating think tanks:**

Czech Republic: Jan Masaryk Centre for International Studies – University of Economics, Prague, Association for International Affairs (AMO), Faculty of Social Sciences - Charles University, Prague, ASPEN Institute, Prague

Poland: The Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding (CPRDIP), Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE), Kosciuszko Institute, Centre for Europe – University of Warsaw

Slovakia: Comenius University Bratislava – Department of Political Science

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

### **Short-term analyses:**

#### **Cyberthreat perceptions in the V4, and steps to counter them** (March 2018)

Author: Izabela Albrycht (Kosciuszko Institute)

Co-authors: Anushka Kaushik (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)

Nikola Schmidt (Charles University)

János Barabás (IFAT)

#### **The Transatlantic relations in the light of Merkel & Macron Washington visit and trade disputes** (May 2018)

Author: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)

Co-authors: Kinga Brudzinska (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)

Péter Goreczky (IFAT)

Marek Wąsiński (PISM)

#### **Russian influence in Europe and American endeavours to counter it** (May 2018)

Author: András Rác (CEID)

Co-authors: Dušan Fischer (SFPA)

Karel Svoboda (Charles University)

Agnieszka Legucka (PISM)

#### **Transatlantic coherence in the light of the recent EU member states high level visits to Russia** (June 2018)

Author: Márton Ugrószdy (IFAT)

Co-authors: Matúš Halás (IIR)

Stanislav Matějka (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)

Szymon Kardaś (OSW)

#### **What place of EU in a contested global order? UN, WTO, G7, G20 and other fora** (June 2018)

Author: Kinga Brudzinska (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)

Co-authors: Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)

Sándor Gyula Nagy (IFAT)

Damian Wnukowski (PISM)

#### **How to enhance EU strategic approach on Central Asia?** (June 2018)

Author: Peter Plenta (SFPA)

Alica Kizeková (IIR)

András Rác (CEID)

Krzysztof Strachota (OSW)

#### **V4 and OSCE** (October 2018)

Author: Samuel Goda (SFPA)

Co-authors: Sándor Ackermann (IFAT)

Zbyněk Dubský (Jan Masaryk Centre for International Studies)

Łukasz Adamski (CPRDIP)

**V4 and Germany** (October 2018)  
Author: Konrad Popławski (OSW)  
Co-authors: Edit Inotai (CEID)  
Alena Kudzko (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)  
Zuzana Lizcová (AMO)

**Extension of QMV to certain areas of CFSP (as suggested by EC President Juncker)**  
(October 2018)  
Author: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)  
Co-authors: Gergely Varga (IFAT)  
Elżbieta Kaca (PISM)  
Vladimír Bilčík (SFPA)

**V4 - US relations – what can we expect in the second half of Pres. Trump’s term (especially following the mid-term elections)?** (December 2018)  
Author: Daniel Bartha (CEID)  
Co-authors: Andrzej Dąbrowski (PISM)  
Stanislav Matějka (GLOBSEC Policy Institute)  
Jan Hornát (IIR)

**Situation in FYROM – how can the situation develop, what are the forces in the background, is there a role for the V4?** (December 2018)  
Author: Marta Szpala (OSW)  
Co-authors: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)  
Anna Orosz (IFAT)  
Jana Juzová (EUROPEUM)

**Strengthening of the EBCG from V4 perspective** (December 2018)  
Author: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)  
Co-authors: Agnieszka Kulesa (CASE)  
Tomáš Madleňák (SFPA)  
Gergely Varga (IFAT)

### **Long-term analyses:**

**Assessment of EU-NATO cooperation (and the 42+X points) with a view of providing future frameworks for V4 defence policies** (Delivery: December 2018)  
Author: Tomáš Nagy (GLOBSEC)  
Co-authors: Martin Michelot (EUROPEUM)  
Beata Górka-Winter (University of Warsaw)  
Diána Szóke (IFAT)

**When is it worth joining the Eurozone? - Lessons from Slovakia, considerations from Poland, Czechia and Hungary** (Delivery: December 2018)  
Author: Sebastian Płóciennik (PISM)  
Co-authors: Vladislava Petrova Gubalova (GLOBSEC)

Daniel Šitera (IIR)  
Sándor Gyula Nagy (IFAT) + Gábor Kutási (IFAT)

**Debate on the future of the EU – 27 allies and opponents on foreign, defence, energy and environment policy** (Delivery: December 2018)

Author: András Deák (CEID)  
Co-authors: Marek Waśniński (PISM)  
Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)  
Aneta Világi (Comenius University)

**What Visegrad we want? Finding common grounds for the future development of the V4 - internal aspects** (Delivery: June 2018)

Author: Michal Kořan (ASPEN Institute)  
Dániel Bártha (CEID)  
Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)  
Andrzej Sadecki (OSW)

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

**Valeriy Semikashev**, Institute of economic forecasting of Russian Academy of sciences (IEF RAS) – hosted by Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)

Topic: Analysis of prospects and risks of the energy balance of the Visegrad 4 countries in view of climate regulation and trends in energy markets.

**Anke Schmidt-Felzmann**, Expert on Baltic and Russian Affairs, Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI), Sweden – hosted by Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)

Topic: Cooperation and Conflict in the Transatlantic Relationship: Nord Stream 2 and the Battle for European Energy Supply Security

**Gentiola Madhi**, Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance, Albania – hosted by EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy

Topic: The V4 role in promoting regional cooperation in the Western Balkans

**Sebastian Schäffer**, Research Associate Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Secretary General Danube Rectors’ Conference (DRC), Austria – hosted by GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Topic: Towards a New Model for European Governance: From Macro-regionalisation vs. Minilateralism to an Institutional Reform of the EU

**Muhammad Mohiuddin**, Assistant Professor of International Business at Thompson Rivers University, BC, Canada – hosted by Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)

Topic: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA): Opportunities of Business Collaboration between Canada and V4 (Czech, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) Countries

**Ruth Ferrero-Turrión**, Adjunct Professor of Political Science and Senior Research Fellow, Complutense Institute of International Studies (ICEI), Spain – hosted by Institute of International Relations (IIR)

Topic: Facing Migration Flows in the EU: The Cases of Spain and the Czech Republic - Different Views, Different Solutions

**Alexander Nice**, Researcher and Alfa Fellow, Development Centre, Higher School of Economics, Russia – hosted by the Polish Institute of International Relations (PISM)

Topic: Brexit Scenarios and the economic implications for the Visegrad Four

**Mihai Mogildea**, Researcher, Institute for European Policies and Reforms, Moldova – hosted by Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

Topic: The Visegrad Group vs. Eastern Partnership: comparing two models of regional cooperation for advancing the Europeanization process in Central and Eastern Europe



**Annex 4 - Financial report (attached)**

- € 99 700 – annual budget
- € 93 568,50 – total expenses
  
- € 6 131,50 – saved resources