



“Think Visegrad” - V4 Think Tank Platform

Project Report Document

January 2019 – January 2020

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As in the previous years, the “Think Visegrad – V4 Think-Tank Platform” was based on three pillars: *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 expand its outreach to other partners in the EU through the *Think Visegrad in Brussels* project.

The *core network* of think tanks remained stable, containing eight think tanks (two per each V4 country). At the same time, Think Visegrad also remained *open to cooperation* with all interested think tanks and experts from the V4 countries, especially through the development of short- and long-term analyses (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). Following the request 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 think tanks also responded positively to the idea of the Czech V4 Presidency to initiate a *debate on some procedural changes* in the process of development of short- and long-term analyses. Though the discussion on how to make the Think Visegrad platform even more efficient is still ongoing, *particular suggestions were already implemented* (e.g. the prolongation of time dedicated to the development process or more precisely formulated assignments on the side of policy planners).

Think Visegrad core network members also hosted *8 visiting fellows from non-V4 countries*, who delivered research papers/analyses on different topics related to the agenda of the Visegrad Group (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*. For the first time in the history of the program civil servants from *three countries* were involved. Besides Ukraine, the program also encompassed two Western Balkan countries: Albania and North Macedonia.

The V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference was interlinked with the regular V4-Western Balkans ministerial. The event took place in Bratislava in May 2019 and was organized by the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA). Besides think tankers from V4 and Western Balkans, representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, including State Secretary František Ružička, International Visegrad Fund and

Western Balkan Fund were also present. The added value of the meeting was that selected representatives of V4 and Western Balkan think tanks were given the opportunity to meet foreign ministers from both regions in the premises of the Slovak MFEA.

Side events of the conference also included the *meeting of Think Visegrad platform coordinators*. (The second meeting of Think Visegrad coordinators was held in Prague in September.)

The year 2019 proved that Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform *became a valuable inspiration* for think tank networks in the Western Balkans. The idea to create a platform for think tanks from Western Balkan countries based on the experience of Think Visegrad was discussed intensively during the V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference, as well as during other events throughout the year.

Though the main implementer *Think Visegrad in Brussels* project. is the Prague based EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, the project enjoyed active support of all Think Visegrad platform core members. The focus of Think Visegrad in Brussels was on the organization of public debates and closed round-tables, as well as on the fellowships for researchers from V4 think tanks.

As in the previous years, all the analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts were *available exclusively for the MFAs of the Visegrad countries*. This practice makes the work of the Think Visegrad platform unique in the Visegrad context (and beyond). The *Visegrad spirit of cooperation* was demonstrated by the fact that all short- and long-term analyses were developed by four experts (each from a different V4 country), as well as by the rule that each participating think tank had the right to nominate exactly the same number of leading authors and co-authors as any other in the network.

The Think Visegrad platform continued to implement all the activities in a very *cost efficient way* (for the financial report please see Annex 4). Though the enclosed financial report covers only the “core” activities - development of short- and long-term analyses and fellowships for non-V4 fellows, effective cost management also applied to other Think Visegrad activities (Civil Servants Mobility Program, V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference, Think Visegrad in Brussels).

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: *Anglo-American University (AAUNI)*

Hungary: *PTE, Pécs*

Poland: *EURACTIV.pl, University of Warsaw, Biznes Alert*

Slovakia: *eRko, Bratislava, Comenius University*

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

Short-term analyses:

Road to Sibiu: Key issues from the V4 point of view

Author: *Karolina Zbytniewska – EURACTIV.pl / Warsaw University, Warsaw*

Co-author: *Dániel Bartha – Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest*

Co-author: *Vladimír Bartovic – Europeum Institute for European Policy (EUROPEUM), Prague*

Co-author: *Kinga Brudzińska – GLOBSEC Policy Institute (GLOBSEC), Bratislava*

V4 and the Western Balkans ahead of the ministerial meeting in Bratislava: How to speed up reform and integration processes? How to build a common European future in current geopolitical realities?

Author: *Tomáš Dopita – Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague*

Co-author: *Ján Cingel – GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava*

Co-author: *Anna Orosz – Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest*

Co-author: *Marta Szpala – Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw*

V4 Policy towards Ukraine following the Presidential elections

Author: *Louis Cox-Brusseau – EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague*

Co-author: *Alexander Duleba – Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Bratislava*

Co-author: *Tadeusz Iwański – Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warszawa*

Co-author: *András Rácz – Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest*

V4 in the new EU landscape: outcomes of the EP elections

Author: *Melchior Szczepanik – Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw*

Co-author: *Daniel Bartha – Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest*

Co-author: *Vladimir Bartovic – Institute for European Policy (EUROPEUM), Prague*

Co-author: *Patrik Kováč – Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Bratislava*

V4-US relations - checklist of positive agenda and irritants

Author: *Martin Michelot – EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague*

Co-author: *Alena Kudzko – GLOBSEC Policy Institute (GPI), Bratislava*

Co-author: *Mateusz Piotrowski – Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw*
Co-author: *Gergely Varga – Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest*

Comparative study/analysis of activities of V4 countries in Africa, possibilities for synergies

Author: *Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň – IIR, Prague*
Co-author: *Marián Čaučík – eRko, Bratislava*
Co-author: *István Tarrósy – PTE, Pécs*
Co-author: *Kamil Zajączkowski – UW, Warsaw*

V4 + Benelux: avenues of potential co-operation and sticky points ahead of the V4 + Benelux ministerial (and policy planning consultations)

Author: *Attila Kovács – Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest*
Co-author: *Juraj Hajko – Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Bratislava*
Co-author: *Veronika Józwiak – The Polish Institute of International Affairs, (PISM), Warsaw*
Co-author: *Alica Kizeková – Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague*

Ukraine after the Parliamentary elections: opportunities and pitfalls from the V4 perspective and proposed course of action

Author: *Louis Cox-Brusseau– EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague*
Co-author: *Ján Cingel – GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava*
Co-author: *Sławomir Matuszak – Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warszawa*
Co-author: *András Rácz– Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest*

Analysis of Ursula von der Leyen´s foreign policy guidelines as seen from the V4 perspective

Author: *Kinga Brudzińska – GLOBSEC Policy Institute (GPI), Bratislava*
Co-author: *Dániel Bartha – Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest*
Co-author: *Ryszarda Formuszewicz – Center for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw*
Co-author: *Matúš Halas – Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague*

EU after Brexit: Building a New Relationship

Author: *Juraj Hajko – Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Bratislava*
Co-author: *Barnabás Szabó – Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest*
Co-author: *Przemysław Biskup – The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw*
Co-author: *Vladimír Bartovic – EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague*

Prospects of cooperation between Turkish and V4 think tanks

Author: *Máté Szalai – Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest*

Co-author: *Pelin Ayan Musil – Anglo-American University (AAUNI), Prague*

Co-author: *Mateusz Chudziak – Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw*

Co-author: *Lucia Yar – Commeinus University in Bratislava, Bratislava*

V4 view on Europe's strategic autonomy

Author: *Edit Inotai – CEID, Budapest*

Co-author: *Alisa Muzergues, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava*

Co-author: *Danielle E. Piatkiewicz, EUROPEUM, Prague*

Co-author: *Marcin Terlikowski, PISM, Warsaw*

Long-term analyses:

Eastern partnership 10th Anniversary: The Future of the Initiative from the V4 Perspective

Author: *Wojciech Konończuk (OSW)*

Co-author: *Sándor Ackermann (IFAT)*

Co-author: *Alexander Duleba (SFPA)*

Co-author: *Věra Řiháčková (EUROPEUM)*

Stratcom capacities in V4

Author: *Katarina Klingová (GLOBSEC)*

Co-author: *András Deák (CEID)*

Co-author: *Jiří Mach (IIR)*

Co-author: *Wojciech Jakobik (Biznes Alert)*

Searching for synergies: V4, TSI and other formats of regional cooperation in Central Europe

Author: *Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM)*

Co-author: *Dániel Bartha (CEID)*

Co-author: *Łukasz Janulewicz (PISM)*

Co-author: *Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)*

China in CEE: threat, opportunity or both?

Author: *Péter Goreczky (IFAT)*

Co-author: *Jakub Jakóbowski (OSW)*

Co-author: *Alica Kizeková (IIR)*

Co-author: *Peter Brezáni (SFPA)*

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

Federica Cristani (Italy), Visiting Professor at the School of International Economic Relations and Travel Business of the V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine)
Hosted by Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)
Topic: *Cybersecurity of foreign investment in the Visegrád Four (V4) countries: designing a governance model with(in) Europe*

James Hoobler (USA), Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation and Program Manager
Hosted by Institute of Central Europe (IEŚ) in Lublin – under the capacity of Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)
Topic: *Responding to Europe’s Continuing Migration Challenge: Recommendations for Member States*

Eoin Micheál McNamara (Ireland), Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at University of Tartu in Estonia
Hosted by Institute of International Relations (IIR)
Topic: *Facilitation or Complication? - The Visegrád Four and the Security of NATO’s “Eastern Flank”*

Takeshi Miyai (Japan), Research Fellow, The Japan Institute of International Affairs
Hosted by Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)
Topic: *How Japan’s and China’s Connectivity Visions Intersect in Central and Eastern Europe: Ambitions and Ambiguities*

Hanna Shelest (Ukraine), Editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica; Member of the Board, Foreign Policy Council „Ukrainian Prism”
Hosted by Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)
Topic: *Is There a Future for Security Cooperation between the Visegrad Four and Ukraine?*

Katsiaryna Shmatsina (Belarus), Political Analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies
Hosted by the Polish Institute of International Relations (PISM)
Topic: *The Importance of the Eastern Partnership for Belarus*

Rufin Zamfir (Romania), Programmes Director, GlobalFocus Center, Romania
Hosted by GLOBSEC Policy Institute
Topic: *Hybrid threats posed by Russian regional influence in the V4 countries.*

Linda Zeilina (Latvia), Director, RE-DEFINE, London; Fellow, Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, UK
Hosted by EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy
Topic: *Sustainability and Energy Security: Opportunities and challenges for better policy*