



“Think Visegrad” – V4 Think Tank Platform”

Project Report Document

February 2022 – January 2023

March 2023

The end of the COVID 19 pandemic marked an important stimulus for the intensification of all project activities implemented by the Think Visegrad platform. The platform's experts worked on the development of both **short- and long-term analyses**, on the implementation of the editions of **Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP)**, as well as on **Think Visegrad Fellowships** for non-V4 fellows. The platform successfully organized the **V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference** held in Budapest, while the **Think Visegrad in Brussels** continued to increase the visibility of the Think Visegrad platform in Brussels.

The **core network** of think tanks has remained stable, containing eight think tanks, two per each V4 country. (For the list of the "core network" members please see Annex 1). The platform also remained open to cooperation with think tanks and experts from outside the network.

The agreement with the V4 policy planners from 2019 envisaged the development of six **short-term analyses** and **four long-term analyses** every year. In 2022 target numbers in both categories were reached. (For the list of short- and long-term analyses please see Annex 2). In comparison to the previous years, a more intensive communication mechanism between the authors of the analyses on one side and representatives of the V4 MFAs was developed, especially when the second half of the year was concerned. Particular attention of the policy planners was paid to the "**Western Balkans Scoreboard**", a new type of a long-term analysis evaluating the progress/regress of WB countries in their integration with the EU, as well as their relations with the individual V4 countries. Think Visegrad experts presented the draft methodology of the analysis at the meeting with the V4 policy planners held in the framework of the Analytical Days of Svetoslav Bombík at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic on 28 November 2022. In addition, a discussion on the possibilities of further specification of the types of analyses began in January 2023. Most probably the typology of analyses is going to be reconsidered in 2023 (the focus will be predominantly on policy briefs, scenarios and thematic analyses).

Think Visegrad core network members also enabled **9 visiting fellows from non-V4 countries** to spend their fellowships in the respective think tanks. (For the list of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries please see Annex 3).

The **Civil Servants Mobility Program** continued to be the **experience sharing instrument** for civil servants from the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries. In 2022 the CSMP was implemented in five editions, out of which two were postponed from the year 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemics (those focusing on Ukraine and Kosovo) and three were scheduled for 2022. The chosen countries for 2022 were Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. It needs to be highlighted that even the breakup of the Russian aggression against Ukraine did not prevent Ukrainian civil servants from participating in the program. (For further details see a separate report on CSMP).

The platform successfully organized the **V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference** in Budapest on February 24, 2022, during the Hungarian V4 Presidency. The event was attached to the Budapest Balkan Conference, but thematically it focused on three selected topics: possibilities for cooperation between the V4 and the UK, the V4 agenda on climate change and European strategic autonomy. Think Visegrad coordinators also managed to meet on the outskirts of the **EU Enlargement Think Tank Forum** organized by EUROPEUM (Prague, 14 October 2022), as well as during the **Analytical Days of Svetoslav Bombík** (Bratislava, 28-29 November 2022), which were organized by the Slovak MFEA. During the latter Think Visegrad coordinators had the opportunity to meet selected representatives of the policy planning departments of the V4 foreign ministries.

The project **Think Visegrad in Brussels**, led by EUROPEUM, successfully continued to focus on the promotion of Think Visegrad through the organization of on-site events (both closed and public), as well as through the implementation of the fellowships part. (For more details see a separate report developed by EUROPEUM).

Similarly to the previous years, all analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts continued to be **available exclusively for the MFAs of the Visegrad countries**. The equal rights, equal contribution principle – the spirit of Visegrad cooperation - was demonstrated by the balanced nomination of authors of both short- and long-term analyses by the core members think tanks from all V4 countries.

It is worth to underline that the Think Visegrad platform continued to implement all the activities in a very **cost efficient manner** (for the financial report please see Annex 4). Despite high inflation and rising costs, the budget for 2023 remains the same as in previous years.

Annex 1 List of the “core network” members

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

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

Short-term analyses:

V4+DE – What to expect from Germany and its new administration?

Author: Sebastian Płóciennik (OSW)

Co-author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)

Co-author: Edit Inotai (CEID)

Co-author: Jakub Eberle (IIR)

The question of Taiwan and the impact on world politics: positions of the V4 countries, the case of Lithuania and prospects

Author: Alica Kizeková (IIR)

Co-author: Viktor Eszterhai (IFAT)

Co-author: Jakub Jakobowski (OSW)

Co-author: Ruxandra Seniuc (GLOBSEC)

French EU Presidency priorities (especially vis-à-vis V4 policy priorities)

Author: Žiga Faktor (EUROPEUM)

Co-author: Amanda Dzubińska (PISM)

Co-author: Gergely Fejérdy (IFAT)

Co-author: Lucia Rybníkárová (GLOBSEC)

The implications of Baltic states' withdrawal from the 17+1 Initiative for the future of this format

Author: Matej Šimalčík (CEIAS)

Co-author: Viktor Eszterhai (IFAT)

Co-author: Jakub Jakobowski (OSW)

Co-author: Alica Kizeková (IIR)

Results of the Italian parliamentary elections and their impact on the EU cooperation and policies

Author: Federica Cristani (IIR)

Co-author: Jana Kazaz (GLOBSEC)

Co-author: Łukasz Maślanka (PISM)

Co-author: Anna Molnár (CEID)

U.S. Midterm Elections

Author: Tamás Baranyi, (IFAT)
Co-author: Alexandra Visnerova (EUROPEUM)
Co-author: Vladislava Gubalova (GLOBSEC)
Co-author: Andrzej Kohut (OSW)

Long-term analyses:

France – trends and future endeavours

Author: Gergely Fejérdy (IFAT)
Co-author: Karin Filkászová (GLOBSEC)
Co-author: Łukasz Maślanka (PISM)
Co-author: Jan Eichler (IIR)

Impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on European security and international order: a scenario analysis

Author: Alexander Duleba (SFPA)
Co-author: Jana Juzová (EUROPEUM)
Co-author: András Rácz, (CEID)
Co-author: Jadwiga Rogoża (OSW)

V4 defense cooperation

Author: Veronika Józwiak (PISM)
Co-author: Juraj Kuruc (GLOBSEC)
Co-author: Dániel Bartha (CEID)
Co-author: Josef Procházka (University of Defence, Brno)

Western Balkans – spiral of regress or new impetus for a revitalisation of the enlargement process?

Author: Jana Juzová (EUROPEUM)
Co-author: Ferenc Németh (IFAT)
Co-author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)
Co-author: Tomasz Żornaczuk (PISM)

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

2022 Fellowships

Diana CUCOS, Senior Researcher, Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research, Moldova

Visiting Research Fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

Topic: *The Diplomatic and Consular Protection of Refugees by Their State of Asylum: Challenges Facing the V4*

Dario ČEPO, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Visiting Research Fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Topic: *EU Member States and the Fundamental Values: A Changing Dynamic*

Ivan LIDAREV, foreign policy analyst and an expert on Asian security, former advisor at Bulgaria's National Assembly

Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for International Relations (IIR)

Topic: *Crisis Impact. China-Central Europe relations amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine*

Nirvana DELIU, analyst, European Movement in Albania

Visiting Research Fellow at the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

Topic: *Ukraine crisis implications on EU migration policy and security*

Yuliia FETKO, researcher, Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine

Visiting Research Fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Topic: *Cross-border cooperation between local and regional authorities of Ukraine and the Visegrad Group states*

Khrystyna SEMERYN, Freelance journalist, researcher, culture and gender expert, and writer, Ukraine

Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)

Topic: *The Role of Ukrainian Wartime Resilience for Modern Identity-Building*

Lilei SONG, Professor at School of Political Science and International Relations, Deputy Director of European Research Center, Researcher of German Research Center of Tongji University, Peoples Republic of China

Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)

Topic: *EU Strategic Autonomy: Views and Positions of Visegrad countries*

Angana GUHA ROY, Research Associate at Delhi Policy Group (DPG), India

Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)

Topic: *India's relations with Visegrad Countries: Prospects and Opportunities*

2021 Fellowships

Mare USHOVSKA, Council for European Studies and World Society Foundation North Macedonia

Visiting Research Fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Topic: Public perceptions in the Czech Republic on European integration and trust in supranational governance following the Covid-19 pandemic

Annex 4 - Financial report (attached)

- € 123,678.38 EUR – annual budget
- € 108,161.11 EUR – total expenses
- € 15,517.27 EUR – saved resources