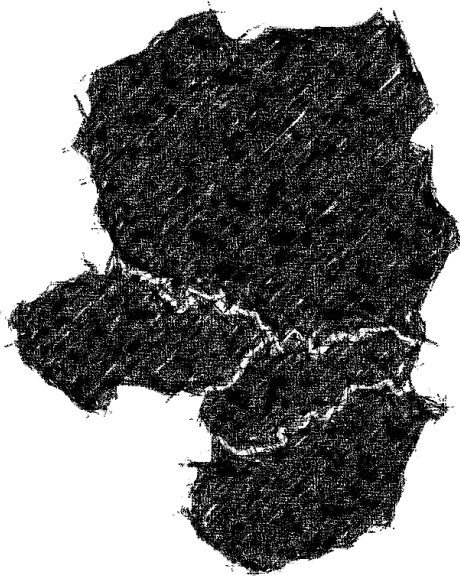


Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

“Think Visegrad” – V4 Think Tank Platform”

Project Report Document

February 2023 – January 2024



February 2024

The year 2023 brought some changes into the functioning of the **Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform**, especially when analyses were concerned. Still, the three basic pillars of Think Visegrad remained stable. The platform’s experts worked on the development of various types of *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 Bratislava in May 2023. Last but not least, various activities continued to be implemented in the framework of the *Think Visegrad in Brussels* project.

The **core network** of think tanks has remained stable, containing eight think tanks, two per each V4 country. When compared to the previous year, the only change occurred in the name of one of the Hungarian think tanks – the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) regained its previous name Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA). (For the list of the “core network” members please see Annex 1).

As of 2023, reflecting the intense debate with the V4 policy planners at the foreign ministries and the International Visegrad Fund, the consortium redefined the methodological parameters for Think Visegrad’s analytical outputs. Instead of preparing **4 extensive and detailed long-term analyses** focusing on the most important priorities of the Visegrad Group, as well as **6 short-term analyses** reflecting the most current and urgent topics, the consortium would prepare the analyses in the four following formats: **Policy/Issue Briefs, Scenarios, Thematic Analyses** and **Policy Papers**. The total number of analyses, as well as the number of individual types of analyses, would not be fixed and would vary depending on the priorities of the Visegrad Four presidency country. In the framework of the last year, the consortium developed **one Policy Brief, two Scenarios** and **three Thematic Analyses**. The latter category also includes the newest edition of the “**Western Balkans Scoreboard**,” in which – already for the second time – Think Visegrad experts evaluated the progress/regress of WB countries in their integration with the EU, as well as their relations with the individual V4 countries. (For the list of “Think Visegrad” analyses please see Annex 2).

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 an **efficient experience sharing instrument** for civil servants from the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries. In 2023 the CSMP was implemented in three editions, out of which two focused on the countries of the Eastern neighborhood (Ukraine and Moldova) and one on the Western Balkan region (Kosovo). (For further details see a separate report on CSMP).

The platform successfully organized the **V4 Presidency Mid-Term Review Conference/Think Visegrad Conference 2023** in Bratislava on May 23, 2023, during the Slovak V4 Presidency. The conference, which was thematically focused on the future vision of the EU in the context of Russian aggression against Ukraine, was preceded by the Think Visegrad coordinators meeting. The meeting took place in the premises of the International Visegrad Fund on May 22, 2023.

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), with the participation of the representatives of the EU institutions and stakeholders from the region. Similarly, to the previous years, Think Visegrad in Brussels also included its fellowships part, which is traditionally aimed at fellows from the Think Visegrad core network think tanks. (For more details see a separate report developed by EUROPEUM).

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 all analyses by the core members think tanks from all V4 countries.

It is worth to underline that despite still high inflation and rising costs, the Think Visegrad budget for 2023 remained the same as in previous years. This leads to a conclusion 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).

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
- Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA), 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 analyses

(Policy/Issue) Briefs

Top issues to watch after the elections in Turkey

Authors: Pelin Musil Relations (IIR)
Co-author: Sylvia Tiryaki (SFPA)
Co-author: Tamás Baranyi (HIIA)
Co-author: Adam Michalski(OSW)

Scenarios

Scenarios of the post-war relations of Russia with Trans-Atlantic community

Authors: Dániel Bartha & András Rácz (CEID)
Co-author: Alexander Duleba (SFPA)
Co-author: *Danielle Piatkiewicz* (EUROPEUM)
Co-author: Marek Menkiszak (OSW)

Changing dynamics in the Middle East

Authors: Hanga Horváth-Sántha (HIIA)
Co-author: Jan Daniel (IIR)
Co-author: *Sara Nowacka* (PISM)
Co-author: Marie-Anne Brouillon (GLOBSEC)

Thematic Analyses

Approaching the Indo-Pacific in the 21st century

Author: Alica Kizeková (IIR)
Co-author : Peter Goreczky (HIIA)
Co-author: Kristina Kironska (CEIAS/SFPA)
Co-author: Damian Wnukowski (PISM)

European Political Community after Chişinău

Author: Tomasz Żornaczuk (PISM)
Co-author: Žiga Faktor (EUROPEUM)
Co-author: Miroslava Pisklová (SFPA)
Co-author: Edit Inotai(CEID)

Western Balkans' Scoreboard 2023

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

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

Fellows 2023

Elena Polo

Lecturer at the University of Tirana, Institute for European Studies – Department of Policies and Governance; and Faculty of Economy – Department of Economics
Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)
Topic: *From vague economic criteria to real economic transformation: evidence-based assessment for the Western Balkan candidate countries*

Tatiana Cojocari

Expert at the Chişinau based think tank WatchDog.md, Researcher at the Romanian Academy’s Institute of Political Science and International Relations
Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)
Topic: *The European Union engagement with de facto states from the Black Sea Region. Some Evidence from Transnistria Region*

Alina Boiko

Professor of Public Administration, Department of State University of Trade and Economics, Senior Expert – Recovery Plan Analyst in the Reform Support Team of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
Visiting Research Fellow at the EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy
Topic: *Enhancing governance, stakeholder involvement, and communication in Czech recovery planning: strategic lessons for Ukraine*

Dea Elmasllari

Independent Researcher, Communications Manager at the National Youth Congress of Albania
Visiting Research Fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute
Topic: *Digital youth engagement in Slovakia and Poland: How is technology leveraging participatory democracy*

Ayhan Satiji

Head of Turkic World Research Center under the Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communications of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CAERC)
Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)
Topic: *Examining the impact of the Middle Corridor on the Visegrad Group (V4) countries*

David Cadier

Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, the College of Europe in Bruges and Sciences Po in Paris
Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations (IIR)

Topic: *Changes in France's policies towards Ukraine and Russia: Implications for Central Europe*

Taras Prodaniuk

Scholar on Democracy and Global Trends, Fellow at the University of Oxford and the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, Founder of the ADASTRA think tank (Ukraine)

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

Topic: *The fight for freedom Ukraine's mitigation of war conditions for democratic process*

Luka Nikolić

Central European Digital Media Observatory Research Consultant /

PhD candidate at the Charles University, Prague

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

Topic: *Disruptive disinformation: countering malign Russian influence in Estonia and Ukraine*

2022

Loren Kocollari

Researcher, Journalist and Communication Consultant, former Media and Communication Advisor to the President of Albania

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

Topic: *Open Balkan – the end of the initiative or a new beginning*

Annex 4 - Financial report (attached)

- € 115,517.27 EUR – annual budget
- € 99,222.58 EUR – total expenses
- € 16,295.14 EUR – saved resources