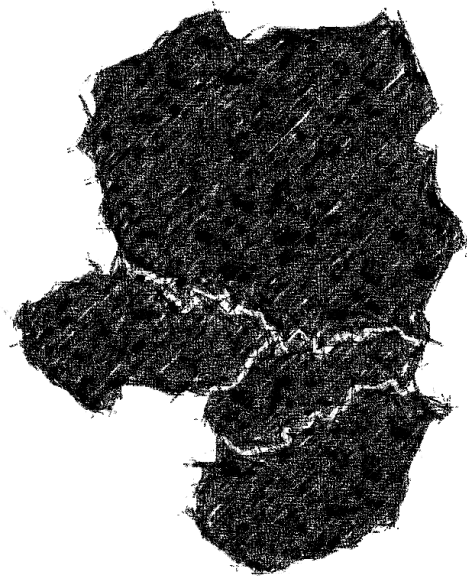




## *“Think Visegrad” – V4 Think Tank Platform*

Project Report Document

February 2024 – January 2025



February 2025

The three basic pillars of **Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform** – various types of *analyses*, different editions of the *Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP)*, as well as *Think Visegrad Fellowships* for non-V4 fellows – remained stable despite a rapidly changing dynamics in international relations. The platform also successfully organized the annual *Think Visegrad Conference* in Prague in April 2024. In addition, 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. (For the list of the “core network” members please see Annex 1).

When analyses are concerned, the Think Visegrad consortium continued to follow the changed pattern of the development of analytical outputs. The new methodological parameters were introduced to the work of Think Visegrad platform in 2023 and proved their viability also in 2024. The main change was that 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 Group and the presidency country. In the framework of the last year, the consortium developed **two Policy Briefs, three Scenarios, one Policy Paper** and **two Thematic Analyses**. The latter category also included the 2024 edition of the “**Western Balkans Scoreboard**,” in which – already for the third time – Think Visegrad experts evaluated the progress/regress of WB countries in their integration with the EU, their relations with the individual V4 countries, as well as inter-regional cooperation between the Western Balkan and Visegrad regions. The number of analyses **increased by 2** when compared to the previous year, while the number of the types of developed analyses reached number 4. 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 mention that all analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts continued to be **available exclusively for the MFAs of the Visegrad countries**. (For the list of “Think Visegrad” analyses please see Annex 2).

Think Visegrad core network members also enabled **eight visiting fellows from non-V4 countries**, varying from the *United Kingdom to Ecuador*, 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 a **very efficient experience sharing instrument** for civil servants from the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries. In 2023 the CSMP was implemented in three editions – one of them was traditionally focused on Ukraine, while remaining two editions targeted on Kosovo and Montenegro. (For further details see a separate report on CSMP).

The platform successfully organized the **Think Visegrad Conference 2024** in Prague on April 10-11, 2024, during the Czech V4 Presidency. The conference was thematically focused on the enlargement of the European Union, as a strategic priority for the new European Commission. The conference was preceded by the Think Visegrad coordinators meeting, connected with a panel discussion on the future of regional cooperation in Central Europe. The meeting took place in the premises of the Institute of International Relations.

The project **Think Visegrad in Brussels**, led by EUROPEUM, successfully continued to focus on the promotion of Think Visegrad through the organization of both closed and open on-site events in Brussels. All the events were attended by different Think Visegrad experts, as well as by the representatives of the EU institutions and stakeholders from the region. 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).

Think Visegrad platform continued to implement all the activities in a **very cost efficient manner**. It is worth to underline that despite the inflation and rising costs, the Think Visegrad budget for 2024 remained the same as in previous years. (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 Briefs**

#### **European Political Community before the summit in the UK (revisited)**

Authors: Tomasz Żornaczuk (PISM)  
Co-author: Vladislava Gubalova (Globsec)  
Co-author: Gergely Fejérdy (HIIA)  
Co-author: Vít Beneš (MUP/IIR)

#### **Austria after elections**

Authors: Łukasz Ogrodnik (PISM)  
Co-author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)  
Co-author: Edit Inotai (CEID)  
Co-author: Vít Havelka (Europeum)

### **Scenarios**

#### **EP elections. New parliament, new commission**

Author: Žiga Faktor (EUROPEUM)  
Co-author: Miroslava Pisklová (SFPA)  
Co-author: Dániel Bartha (CEID)  
Co-author: Tomasz Zajac (PISM)

#### **Implications of elections in the US for EU–US relations**

Author: Jacqueline Dufalla (IIR/Metropolitan Uni Prague)  
Co-author: Tamás Baranyi (HIIA)  
Co-author: Martin Sklenár (Globsec)  
Co-author: Sebastian Płóciennik (OSW)

## **Can the V4 survive, and in what form?**

Author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)  
Co-author: Daniel Šitera (IIR)  
Co-author: Andrzej Sadecki (OSW)  
Co-author: Dániel Bartha (CEID)

### **Thematic Analyses**

#### **Internal situation in Germany: the growing importance of anti-establishment parties in the context of next year's parliamentary elections**

Author: Katarina Schachtschneider (Globsec)  
Co-author: Tereza Novotná (Europeum)  
Co-author: Edit Inotai (CEID)  
Co-author: Lidia Gibadło (OSW)

#### **Western Balkans' Scoreboard 2024**

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

### **Policy Paper**

#### **Foreign policy strategies of the V4 countries**

Author: Agnes Vass (HIIA)  
Co-author: Alexander Duleba (SFPA)  
Co-author: Jana Juzová (Europeum)  
Co-author: Łukasz Ogrodnik (PISM)

### **Annex 3 List of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries (2024)**

**Djego ABEDINAJ** (Albania)

Policy Researcher, Affiliated to Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Tirana, Albania

Visiting Research Fellow at the Globsec Policy Institute

Topic: *Bridging mutual synergies of the energy transition and energy security in Albania*

**Rachel HERRING** (United Kingdom)

Full time ESRC-funded doctoral student in politics at Aston University

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

Topic: *Towards a civil society-based foreign policy: the future of Czech-German and Polish-German relations?*

**Alina HRYTSENKO** (Ukraine)

Senior Consultant, National Institute for Strategic Studies, Foreign Policy Studies Centre, Kyiv

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

Topic: *The essence of Russia’s strategic culture*

**Marko LONČAR** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Founder and Program Manager of the Political Section, Center for Social and Political Studies

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

Topic: *The Visegrad Group and Western Balkans: lessons and interactions in perspective*

**Marija MIRCHEVSKA** (North Macedonia)

Founder and researcher, Institute for Global Politics and Law

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

Topic: *Assessing political alignment: UNGA voting patterns of Western Balkan and Visegrad countries*

**Alejandro ESTESO PÉREZ** (Spain)

Non-Resident International Research Fellow, Group for Legal and Political Studies, Pristhina

Visiting Research Fellow at EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy

Topic: *Illiberalising EU enlargement to the Western Balkans*

**Ingrid RÍOS RIVERA** (Ecuador)

Associate Professor in the Political Science program, University of Guayaquil

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

Topic: *Populism beyond borders: lessons from Hungary and prospects for comparative analysis*

**Rahim RAHIMOV** (Azerbaijan)

Adjunct Lecturer, Political Science at the Azerbaijan University of Languages / The Board

Member of the Association of European Studies for the Caucasus

Visiting Research Fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA)

Topic: *Hungary and the Organization of Turkic States: A Symbiotic Realism?*

*Annex 4 - Financial report (attached)*

- € 116,295.14 EUR – annual budget
- € 107,557.20 EUR – total expenses
- € 8,737.94 EUR – saved resources