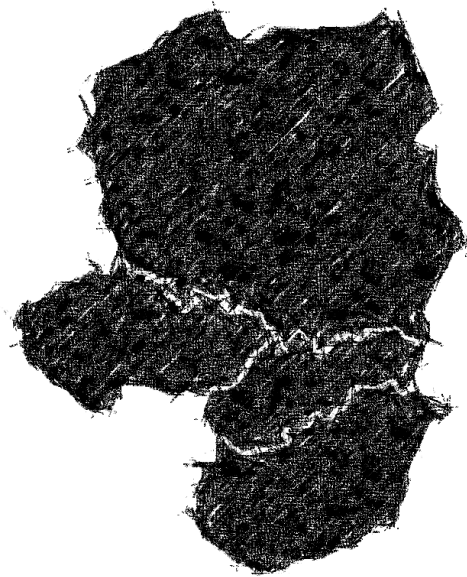




## *“Think Visegrad” – V4 Think Tank Platform*

Project Report Document

February 2025 – January 2026



February 2026

Despite the rising number of challenges in international relations, the *Think Visegrad* platform, consisting of the core network of eight think tanks from all four V4 countries, continued to deliver tangible results. Activities implemented could be divided into three categories: *analyses* (Policy Briefs, Policy Papers, Scenarios and Thematic Analyses); editions of the *Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP)*; and *Think Visegrad Fellowships for non-V4 fellows*. The platform also successfully organized the annual *Think Visegrad Conference* in Warsaw in April 2024. Additional activities continued to be implemented within the framework of the Think Visegrad in Brussels project.

The *core network* of think tanks, consisting of two think tanks per V4 country, underwent one change. Following the Globsec Policy Institute's (GPI) withdrawal from the network based on its own leadership's decision, the *Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS)* became a core member on 1 January 2026. (See Annex 1 for the list of “core network” members.)

According to the revised methodological parameters introduced to Think Visegrad's work in 2023, the total number of analyses and the number of individual types of analysis were not fixed but varied to properly reflect the Visegrad Group's priorities. In 2025, the consortium developed *two Policy Briefs, two Scenarios, two Policy Papers* and *two Thematic Analyses*. The latter category also included the 2025 edition of the “Western Balkans Scoreboard.” The development of the fourth consecutive edition of this specific type of thematic analysis makes it possible to compare, over time, the relations between Western Balkan countries and their Visegrad partners, the progress/regress of Western Balkan countries in their integration with the EU and the inter-regional cooperation between the Western Balkans and the Visegrad Group. The number of analyses *remained the same* as in 2024; what was different was the number in each of the four categories. The principle of *equal rights and equal contribution* continued to be demonstrated by the balanced nomination of authors from all V4 countries for all analyses. Analyses developed by Think Visegrad experts remained *exclusively available to the MFAs of the Visegrad countries*. (For a list of “Think Visegrad analyses,” please see Annex 2.)

The Think Visegrad core network also enabled *seven visiting fellows* from non-V4 countries, from Germany, Chile, India, Georgia, Azerbaijan and the United States, to undertake fellowships at the respective think tanks. The visiting fellowship was not available at the CEID in 2025, as the selected scholar failed to meet the conditions of the fellowship. (For a list of “Think Visegrad visiting fellows” from non-V4 countries, please see Annex 3.)

The *Civil Servants Mobility Program* continued to be a *valuable instrument of experience sharing* for civil servants from the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries. In 2025 the CSMP was implemented in three editions – one of them was traditionally focused on *Ukraine*, while

remaining two editions targeted on *Armenia* and *Serbia*. (For further details see a separate report on CSMP).

The platform successfully organized the *Think Visegrad Conference 2025*, which was held alongside the *Think Visegrad Coordinators' Meeting* in *Warsaw* on 16–17 April 2025. The conference was divided into three thematic panels: Transatlantic relations in the context of the war in Ukraine (Panel 1); Energy in Central Europe: security, competitiveness, and climate goals (Panel 2); and Central European connectivity in times of geopolitical shifts (Panel 3). Both events were hosted by the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM).

As part of the *Think Visegrad in Brussels project*, led by EUROPEUM, a variety of on-site events, both open and closed, continued to be organized in Brussels. These events were attended by various Think Visegrad experts, as well as representatives of EU institutions and stakeholders from V4 countries. Think Visegrad in Brussels also continued to host fellows from other Think Visegrad core network think tanks. Alongside traditional activities, EUROPEUM, in cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund, the Permanent Representation of Slovakia to the EU and its Think Visegrad platform partners, organized a conference dedicated to the *Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034*. The event, which took place in Brussels on 17 November 2025, offered an in-depth examination of issues including competitiveness, cohesion policy, innovation and science funding. (See a separate report developed by EUROPEUM for more details.)

Despite inflation and rising costs, the Think Visegrad budget for 2025 remained the same as in previous years. This demonstrates that the platform continues to implement all activities in a *cost-efficient manner*. (See Annex 4 for the financial report.)

## *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) replaced on 1 January 2026 by Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS), 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**

#### **How do V4 countries navigate EU digital sovereignty initiatives**

Author: Aleksandra Wójtowicz (PISM)  
Co-author: Viktor Buzna (HIIA)  
Co-author: Matej Šimalčík (CEIAS/SFPA)  
Co-author: Asya Metodieva (IIR)

#### **Germany's new government: implications for Central Europe and the EU**

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

### **Scenarios**

#### **Scenarios of Ukraine's EU integration by 2030: full membership, sectoral integration, or a blocked process?**

Author: Alexander Duleba (SFPA)  
Co-author: Andras Rácz (CEID nominee)  
Co-author: Maria Gorbatova (Europeum)  
Co-author: Tadeusz Iwański (OSW)

#### **Drifting allies, divided choices: Central Europe's role amid US–EU tensions and the debate over EU's strategic autonomy**

Author: Marcin Terlikowski (PISM)  
Co-author: Dan Šitera (IIR)  
Co-author: Federica Mangiameli (Globsec)  
Co-author: Daniel Bartha (CEID)

## Policy Papers

### **V4's policies towards China: between economic pragmatism and strategic concerns**

Author: Jakub Jakóbowski (OSW)

Co-author: Alica Kizeková (SFPA)

Co-author: Jan Švec (IIR)

Co-author: Gergely Salát (HIIA)

### **How to mitigate the detrimental consequences of Brexit in the context of the current EU–UK reset and global turmoil: input from Central Europe**

Author: Zuzana Kasáková (Europeum/FSV UK)

Co-author: Tamás Baranyi (HIIA)

Co-author: Przemysław Biskup (PISM)

Co-author: Imrich Marton (SFPA)

## Thematic Analyses

### **Strategic dissonance? Reasons behind the growing V4 pluralism in foreign and defense agendas**

Author: Matuš Halás, IIR

Co-author: Barbora Tomlyová (Globsec)

Co-author: Dániel Bartha (CEID)

Co-author: Andrzej Sadecki

### **Western Balkan Scorecard 2025**

Author: Tomáš Strážay (SFPA)

Co-author: Liljana Cvetanoska (Europeum)

Co-author: Tomasz Żornaczuk (PISM)

Co-author: Filip Ilanković (HIIA)

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

#### **Rachael Rosenberg (USA)**

Deputy Head of Partnerships and Donor Management, The HALO Trust, Ukraine  
Visiting research fellow at the Globsec Policy Institute

Topic: *Until the last mine is gone: integrating humanitarian mine action and transitional justice in Ukraine*

#### **Peter Techet (Germany)**

Research Associate, Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe, Vienna (Austria)  
Visiting research fellow at the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

Topic: *Why and how (not) to accept Montenegro as the next EU member*

#### **Amrita Jash (India)**

Assistant Professor at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, India

Visiting research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

Topic: *China’s green expansion and the EU: Hungary and Spain as strategic gateways*

#### **Tornike Zurabashvili (Georgia)**

Researcher from Tbilisi, specializing on political, social, and security affairs in Georgia and the wider Black Sea region

Visiting research fellow at the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)

Topic: *China in South Caucasus post-2022: toward a new strategic vision?*

#### **Tomás Rogaler (Chile)**

Academic researcher at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute

Visiting research fellow at the Institute of International Relations (IIR)

Topic: *Mapping digital trade regulations in Central Europe: regional trends and the Czech case*

#### **Rusif Huseynov (Azerbaijan)**

Director of Topchubashov Center, a Baku based think tank

Visiting research fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA)

Topic: *Lessons from Central European Regionalism for South Caucasus Cooperation*

#### **Kaklik Karimili (Azerbaijan)**

Political scientist specializing in Political Participation Theories, Gender Studies and Political Communication, Khazar University

Visiting research fellow at the EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy

Topic: *The rise of restrictive civil society laws: Policy diffusion in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, and Slovakia*

*Annex 4 - Financial report (attached)*

- € 108,737.94 EUR – annual budget
- € 99,247.94 EUR – total expenses
- € 9,490 EUR – saved resources