



“Think Visegrad” - *V4 Think Tank Platform*

Project Report Document

September 2012 – September 2013

by the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

24 September 2013

New Visegrad Instrument

“Think Visegrad” – The V4 Think Tank Platform is a new instrument aiming to enhance cooperation among V4 think tanks and develop analyses on the issues of strategic importance for the governments of the Visegrad countries. The first year of the existence of Think Visegrad showed that these two strategic priorities were fully met. The cooperation among V4 think tanks became more intensive due to the participation of their experts in the development of both short-term (the so called “red button”) and long-term (“blue button”) analyses. In addition, through the involvement of non-Visegrad fellows in the work of V4 think-tanks contributed to the strengthening of the V4 Plus dimension of cooperation.

Up to now “Think Visegrad” managed to develop four long-term and seven short-term analyses. Analyses covered the most important thematic priorities of the V4, including internal cohesion of the V4, EU institutions and politics, EU neighborhood policy, hard security or transatlantic relations. (For the list of short-term and long-term analyses please see Annex 1). Every short- and long-term analysis was developed by experts from all V4 countries. “Think Visegrad” also managed to develop and coordinate fellows-exchange program for experts from non-V4 countries. (For the list of visiting experts please see Annex 2).

Equal Participation and Openness

“Think Visegrad” builds up on existing network of think tanks in V4 countries. The so-called “core network” consists of eight think tanks and each of the V4 countries is represented by two institutions. These eight think tanks do have coordination abilities and decide jointly on the appointment of experts for both short- and long-term analyses, as well as on other issues related to the work of “Think Visegrad”. Nevertheless, “Think Visegrad” proved that it remains open to cooperation with other interested think tanks as well. A number of experts from the so-called “general network” have already participated in the development of both short- and long-term analyses. (For the list of “core network” members and other participating think tanks please see Annex 3).

Efficiency

“Think Visegrad” has proved to be an efficient instrument of Visegrad cooperation. The amount of work realized in the framework of “Think Visegrad” has been related to high costs efficiency.

“Think Visegrad” not only realized all planned activities, but managed to spare some recourses for the next budgetary period. “Think Visegrad” has showed that high quality analysis can be conducted for very reasonable costs. (For the financial report please see Annex 4).

Challenges for the future

“Think Visegrad” has an ambition to strengthen its position as a viable and efficient instrument of Visegrad cooperation. In the next project period “Think Visegrad” aims to:

- include additional think tanks in the development of short- and long-term analyses
- develop the full amount of 12 short-term analyses
- developed 4 long-term analyses on pre-agreed topics (For the list of proposed topics please see Annex 5)
- develop consultation mechanisms with the respective representatives of V4 foreign ministries in order to enable them to reflect directly on the process of development of long-term analyses
- develop feedback mechanisms with the representatives of V4 foreign ministries, especially regarding short-term and long-term analyses
- host 8 visiting fellows from non- V4 countries and develop alumni program for them.

Annex 1 List of short-term and long-term analyses

Short-term analyses:

- Balance of Competences in the Light of Cameron's Speech: What Should Be the Visegrad Reaction? (15.2.2013)

Author: David Král (Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM, Prague)

Co-authors: Zoltán Gálik (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Radovan Geist (EurActiv.sk, Bratislava)

Agata Gostyńska (Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw)

- What message should the V4 have for Germany and France at the upcoming V4-Weimar Triangle summit? (15.2.2013)

Author: Jakub Groszkowski (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw)

Co-authors: Vladimír Bilčík (Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava)

Zoltán Gálik (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Vladimír Handl (Institute of International Relations, Prague)

- Transatlantic policy of new B. Obama administration – what does John Kerry's visit mean for the V4 (20.3.2013)

Author: István Balogh (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Co-authors: Michal Kořan (Institute of International Relations, Prague)

Bartosz Wiśniewski (Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw)

Tomáš Valášek (Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava)

- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: chances, risks and challenges for the V4 (19.4.2013)

Author: Robert Kron (Center for European Policy Analysis, Washington, D. C)

Co-authors: Zoltán Gálik (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Maya Rostowska (Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw)

Jan Dinga (Institute of Economic and Social Studies, Bratislava)

- Plan B: if Vilnius Summit fails, should the Eastern policy of the V4 change? (27.6.2013)

Author: Adam Eberhardt (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw)

Co-authors: András Rácz (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)
Balázs Jarábik (Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava)
Lucia Najšlová (Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM, Prague)

■ Building the V4 Brand - Achievements and Ideas for the Future (1.7.2013)

Author: Tomáš Strážay (Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava)

Co-authors: Mateusz Gniazdowski (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw)

András Rácz (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Michal Kořan (Institute of International Relations, Prague)

■ The effect of the Syrian and Egyptian events on the European Neighborhood Policy (20.9.2013)

Author: Róbert Ondrejcsák (Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, Bratislava)

Co-authors: Dr. Erzsébet N. Rózsa (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Irena Kalhousová (Prague Security Studies Institute, Prague)

Patrycja Sasnal (Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw)

Long-term analyses

■ Overall Analysis of the Results of the 20 Years of V4 Cooperation

Developed by:

Daniel Bartha (Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava)

Michal Kořan (Institute of International Relations, Prague)

Judit Hamberger (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Jakub Groszkowski (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw)

■ Macro-Regional Development and Regional Cohesion

Developed by:

Mateusz Gniazdowski (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw)

Tomáš Strážay (Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava)

Péter Reményi (University of Pécs, Pécs)

Vít Dostál (Association for International Affairs, Prague)

■ Visegrad's Voice in EU Governance and Legitimacy Debate

Developed by:

David Král (EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy, Prague)

Vladimír Bilčík (Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava)

Zoltán Gálik (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest)

Grzegorz Gromadzki (independent expert, Warsaw)

■ Defense Sector Cooperation

Developed by:

Milan Šuplata (Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava)

Vít Strátecký (Institute of International Relations, Prague)

Marcin Terlikowski (Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw)

Gergely Varga (Strategic Defense Studies Center of the National University of Public Service, Budapest)

Annex 2 List of “Think Visegrad” visiting fellows from non-V4 countries

Natalia Shapovalova (Ukraine, UK, Spain) - Institute of East-Central Europe, Poland

For visa free Europe: advocacy strategies and influence of non-state actors on EU policy of visa liberalisation with EU's Eastern neighbours.

Rick Fawn (UK) - EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy, Prague

Positive decision-making lessons from Visegrad

Vitalyi Shpak (Ukraine) – Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest

European Union-Ukraine relationship

Paul Qian LIU (China) – Institute of International Relations, Prague

The Correlation between Political Culture and Political Development - Case Studies on Czech Political Culture and its Role in the Period of Transition (1989-2009)

Volkan Sezgin (Turkey) - Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw

The observance of Maastricht Criteria in Visegrad Group countries and in Turkey in the context of the global financial crisis.

Christian Schweiger (Germany, UK) - Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava

The Visegrad-4 countries in the EU's emerging multiple cores

Armen Grigoryan (Armenia) - Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava

The way towards EU Association for Armenia, Georgia and Moldova

Ešref-Kenan Rašidagić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – University of Pecs, Pecs

Background for the EU's, Russia's and Turkey's involvement in the Western Balkans

Annex 3 List of the “core network” members and other participating think-tanks

The “core network” members:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Central European Policy Institute – SAC, Bratislava
- Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw
- Institute of East-Central Europe, Lublin
- Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest
- University of Pecs, Pecs
- EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy, Prague
- Institute of International Relations, Prague

Other participating think tanks:

Czech Republic: Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI); Association for International Affairs (AMO), Institute of Political Studies – Charles University

Hungary: Strategic Defense Studies Center of the National University of Public Service

Poland: Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

Slovakia: Euractiv, Institute for Economic and Social Studies (INESS)