

Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

NEWSLETTER

2018/01

Think Visegrad in Brussels

Editorial



Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first “Think Visegrad in Brussels” newsletter of 2018. Our project, supported by the International Visegrad Fund, will continue with new events and publications in 2018.

In the upcoming year, this bi-monthly newsletter will keep you updated not only about our activities in Brussels, but will also introduce the key activities and publications of our eight Central European members.

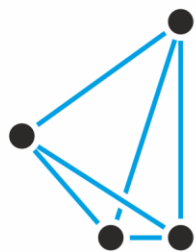
We will organize four public conferences in the course of 2018. The first one will be held in parallel with the EU- Western Balkans summit in May, and the second will tackle the regional expectations of the NATO summit in July. In the fall, we will continue with a debate on the path of Central European states towards the euro and a critical discussion about Asian investments in Europe and associated screening mechanisms. Furthermore, we will organize expert roundtables on PESCO, post-2020 MFF and the role of regional integration within the EU. We will keep you updated with our bi-monthly newsletter and separate invitations!

We have also updated our website with all the information about our 2017 events, you can find it [here](#).

I wish you all a great day and hope to see you at our events in Brussels!

Kind Regards
Zuzana Stuchlíková
Head of Brussels Office. EUROPEUM

 EUROPEUM
Brussels Office



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In this Issue:

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- **What is the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project?**

Think Visegrad publications

["Regional coalition building regarding the MFF post 2021"](#) by Mr. **Andrzej Sadecki** (OSW)

Andrzej Sadecki conducted an analysis of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021-2027, taking into account the possible impacts of Brexit on the discussions. Andrzej Sadecki provides recommendations for the negotiations mainly for the Central European states.

["The labor market reform in the EU and the implications for Central Europe"](#) by Ms. **Alena Kudzko** (GLOBSEC)

Alena Kudzko published a policy brief concerning the ongoing labour market reforms in the EU and recommends steps to be taken for the CEE countries in order not to end on the economic and political periphery of Europe.

["V4–China relations: a lost opportunity or a new start?"](#) by Mr. **Alexandr Lagazzi** (EUROPEUM)

Alexandr Lagazzi explores how China has been changing its centre of attention in the 16+1 platform from the V4 to the Western Balkans. While analysing the current relations between China and the V4, he points out what strategy the V4 could adopt in addressing this shift.

Upcoming events

EU–Western Balkans summit

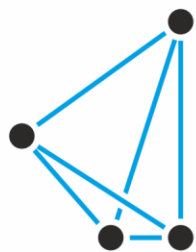
When: **May 2018 (TBA)**

Where: **European Parliament**

NATO Summit

When: **July 2018 (TBA)**

Where: **TBA**



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From our members

The Think Visegrad Fellowship Call for 2018

Eight visiting fellowships will be available for Summer or Autumn of 2018. Each of the core network think tanks (see list below) will host one **non-V4 expert fellow**. Application dossiers consisting of the application form, **structured CV** (including the list of publications) and a **motivation letter** (maximum 300 words) are to be submitted to thinktank@sfpa.sk by **March 20, 2018**. Find more information [here](#).

Charting a new path for a reinforced and improved V4-France cooperation

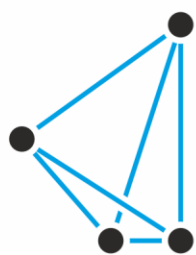
EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM, Center for Euroatlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID) and Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia launched a new project "Charting a new path for a reinforced and improved V4-France cooperation", supported by the International Visegrad Fund.

The objective of the project will be to support policy-makers in charting a course for the engagement of V4 countries with the new French government, especially concerning EU policies where common priorities can be found. These priorities are mainly the development of CSDP, the digital agenda, energy security, justice and home affairs, and social Europe. The project will also look at other issues where positions may be opposed, such as migration, in order to create a mapping of the future of relations.

GLOBSEC

Publications:

- Revisiting Scenarios For Europe: Central and Eastern European Perspectives by *Vladislava Gubalova, Tomáš A. Nagy, Nolan Theisen, Kinga Brudzińska, Jakub Wiśniewski*. Read more [here](#).
- Of Concerns and Image: The Alliance and Its Southern Flank by *Habib Sayah, Dario Cristiani, Kacper Rekawek*. Read more [here](#).
- NATO Adaptation and A2/AD: Beyond the Military Implications by *Guillaume Lasconjarias, Tomáš A. Nagy*. Read more [here](#).
- GLOBSEC Youth Trends: How Young Central Europeans View the World by *Katarína Klingová, Daniel Milo*. Read more [here](#).



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News:

GLOBSEC has launched:

- Online course [Media and Disinformation: A Survival Guide to Your Everyday Life on the Internet](#) which bring participants closer to understanding the dynamics surrounding media and the spread of disinformation. Read more [here](#).
- This unique GLOBSEC website counterdisinfo.org that provides committed Internet 'elves' with guides and materials to support online campaigns, tips on creating effective online content and making better use of social media. Read more [here](#).

OSW

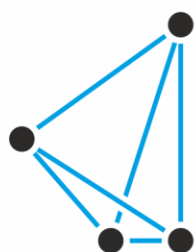
Publication:

- [A neighbour discovered anew. The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary's relations with Ukraine](#)
- OSW REPORT, 2017-08-03, [Jakub Groszkowski](#), [Tadeusz Iwański](#), [Andrzej Sadecki](#)
- The Ukrainian-Russian war has prompted Bratislava, Prague and Budapest to take a new look at their eastern neighbourhood. Cooperation with Ukraine is gaining momentum, although relations with Russia are still the top priority for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Diplomatic contacts with Kyiv have been rekindled, and the Visegrad Group has intensified its political support for Ukraine within the EU. The big success in the relationship between the V4 countries and Ukraine has been their booming energy cooperation. However, the pro-Russian gestures made by some leading politicians from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary remain a challenge for relations between Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Kyiv. Co-operation between Budapest and Kyiv is further complicated by the dispute over the Hungarian minority in Ukraine.

IIR

Event:

- [Brexit, Post-Brexit Europe and the V4: Potential Impacts, Interests, and Perceptions](#)
Institute of International Relations would like to cordially invite you to the presentation of the report: Brexit, Post-Brexit Europe and the V4: Potential Impacts, Interests, and Perceptions with further discussion. The event will take place on March 13, 2018 at 4 pm in the IIR building, Nerudova 3, Praha 1 - Malá Strana.



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EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Publications:

- The Future of the Visegrad Group Tereza Novotná and Zuzana Stuchlíková contributed with a chapter focused on the relation of the Czech public vis-a-vis the European Union to a new title of think-tank 'Das Progressive Zentrum', in cooperation with the 'Foundation for European Progressive Studies'
- Brussels Monitor: Andrej Babiš and the European Union – what to expect in 2018? Zuzana Stuchlíková.
Andrej Babiš and his ANO movement emerged as clear victors of the Czech Parliamentary elections in October 2017. Now it's January 2018 and the results of upcoming presidential elections will have a major influence on the future direction of the country.
- Commentary: Informal meeting of the 27 heads of state or government
Vladimír Bartovic, Martin Michelot, Zuzana Stuchlíková and Vít Havelka react to the informal meeting of the 27 heads of state or government held on the 23rd of February 2018.

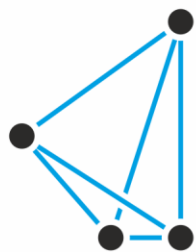
Event:

- European Summer School
Traditional, 16th, summer school will take place from July 14 to July 24, 2018. Applications for the summer program are now opened, apply [here](#).

Think Visegrad platform

Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform is a network for structured dialog on issues of strategic regional importance. The network analyses key issues for the Visegrad Group (V4), and provides recommendations to the governments of V4 countries, the annual presidencies of the group, and the International Visegrad Fund. Think Visegrad covers thematic priorities of V4 including V4's internal cohesion, EU institutions and politics, the Western Balkans, relations with Eastern Partnership countries, development assistance, migration, security, energy security, environmental protection, energy security etc.

The formation of the network of V4 think-tanks was one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the Visegrad Group of 2011–2012. This idea reflected the long-term interest and willingness of Central European think tanks to enhance their cooperation



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within the Visegrad Group and to deepen its cohesion. Think Visegrad was established in 2012 by eight V4 research centres and institutes, and is funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

The project brings together all the members of the Think Visegrad network, namely:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFP), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), 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

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