International Visegrad Fund: Visegrad Group’s Tool for Regional Cooperation
The Fund’s Main Aims

• (financial support of) **movement of people and ideas**
• strengthening of the **internal cohesion** of the region
• weakening of **historical animosities** and **awareness-building**
• instrument for the **V4 foreign policy** (since 2004):
  – support of **transfer of know-how** from the region to the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries
  – ca. **20%** of funding goes **beyond** the Visegrad region (2012)
  – **priorities** defined by the group (Strategic Grants, Visegrad+)
Basic Characteristics

• V4’s only solid organization to date
• equal contributions of member states (€1.75M p.a.)
• equal rights of member states:
  – annual rotating presidency (January–December)
    (presidencies in the group: July–June)
  – rotating management (3-year missions)
  – consensus as a basic principle in decision-making
• 2-member management + 12-member staff (+ interns)
• key leverages: grant programs (7), scholarships and fellowships (6), artist residencies (4)
Program Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic and Mobility Programs</th>
<th>Grant Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visegrad Scholarship Program:</td>
<td>Small Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>Intra-Visegrad, In-Coming, Out-Going</em></td>
<td>Standard Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visegrad Artist Residency Program (VARP):</td>
<td>Visegrad Strategic Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VARP—Visual &amp; Sound Arts</td>
<td>Visegrad+ (Western Balkans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VARP—Performing Arts</td>
<td>Visegrad 4 Eastern Partnership Program:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Visegrad Literary Residency Program</td>
<td>• Flagship Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VARP in New York</td>
<td>• V4EaP (Extended) Standard Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visegrad University Studies Grants</td>
<td>• V4EaP Visegrad University Studies Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visegrad–Taiwan Scholarships</td>
<td>IVF–NSC Taiwan Joint Research Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visegrad Scholarships at OSA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.visegradfund.org/scholarships, .../residencies
www.visegradfund.org/grants
Small Grants/Standard Grants

**Budgets:**
- up to €6,000
- €6,001+ (average €10–13,000)

**Timeframe:**
- up to 6 months
- up to 12 months

**Deadlines:**
- March 1
- June 1
- September 1
- December 1
- March 15
- September 15

www.visegradfund.org/small, .../grants/standard_grants/
Grant Project Categories

• cultural cooperation (35%)
• scientific exchange and research (24%)
• education (19%)
• youth exchanges (9%)
• cross-border cooperation (10%)
• promotion of tourism (2%)

100% = 3,568 grant projects approved in 2000–2012
Basic Grant Principles

• projects must have “Visegrad added value”
• projects involve entities from at least 3 V4 countries*
• grants cover up to 70% project costs
• reimbursements in tranches with advance payments (up to 80% of project costs)
• 5% overhead costs
• costs documented through copies of invoices and bills
• only a single project per applicant* (multiple project-partnerships possible)

* Strategic Grants, Visegrad+ projects and the V4EaP chapter are exceptions
Who Can Apply?

- majority of applicants are CSOs and other NGOs
- primary/secondary schools, colleges + universities
- municipalities, regional governments
- other public institutions (museums, galleries, sports clubs)
- individual citizens or even private companies

- not organizations fully funded from state budget or government bodies (ministries, cultural institutes, etc.)
What **Cannot** Be Refunded?

- **tangible/non-tangible assets**
  (capital investments)
- **indirect costs**
  (utilities, bills—with the exception of 5% overhead costs)
- **internal costs and expenses**
  (with the exception of 5% overhead costs)
- **employments ruled by labor code**
  (and related costs, such as per diems)
What Can Be Refunded?

- printing and publishing costs
- website design and updates
- rent of premises
- expert fees and honoraria
- accommodation and board
- translation and interpreting
- awards and prizes
- advertizing and promotional costs
- office supplies, etc.
Visegrad University Studies Grant

• support for the development and launching of outstanding courses or degree programs to be taught at HEI and explicitly dealing with the Visegrad region

• necessary involvement of at least two guest lecturers (from two different V4 countries)

• any accredited higher education institution worldwide is eligible for support

• deadline: November 10, 2013
Visegrad University Studies Grant

The grant supports:
• mobility of experts and university teachers,
• development of a library related to V4 countries and to the subject,
• development of scriptum(s), readers,
• field trips, workshops, etc.

grants: ca. €10,000/course, and ca. €40,000/degree program (the amounts depend on the scope and individual needs of each project, in justified cases the budget and support can be higher)

www.visegradfund.org/vusg
Visegrad University Studies Grant
- Joint Degree Program

• support of mobility within and running of outstanding Joint-/Multiple-/Double-Degree Programs
• involvement of institutions in all V4 countries
• supporting programs at Master’s and Doctoral level
• the program can be taught in any language
• any public or private HEI and research center/organization worldwide is eligible for the grant
• minimum two subsequent enrollments of the Program are required within the Grant
• granted amount per program up to €200,000

• deadline: TBA

www.visegradfund.org/vusg/joint/
Visegrad University Studies Grant
- Joint Degree Program

the joint study program needs to secure **mobility of students** as follows:

- if involving all V4 countries and no other country: the students/doctoral candidates shall spent at least 1 semester during the Program in each V4 country;

- if involving all V4 countries and one non-V4 country: the students/doctoral candidates shall spent at least two semesters during the Program at institutions within the consortium in two different V4 countries + at least one semester at the institution in non-V4 country
Visegrad Scholarship Program

- support of individual mobility on MA/PhD levels
- involving the **V4 region** + the **Western Balkans** + **EaP**
- support for both **scholars** and **host institutions**: €2,300/semester + €1,500/semester
- **public/private** higher education institutions + **science academies** can host scholars
- annually supporting more than 300 semesters
- annual deadline: **January 31**
Visegrad Artist Residency Programs

• **VARP—Visual & Sound Arts**
  • individual 3-month residencies, free choice of host organization
  • €750/month (€4,500/project)
  • deadline: **September 10**

• **VARP—Performing Arts**
  • individual/group 3-month residencies, free choice of the host
  • €4,000–8,000/project
  • deadline: **October 1**

• **VARP in New York**
  • 3-month individual residencies in Brooklyn, NY
  • €4,000/project
  • deadline TBA

www.visegradfund.org/residencies
Visegrad Literary Residency Program

- run in partnership of **Villa Decius** (Cracow) with **The Arts Institute** (Prague), **Petőfi Literary Museum** (Budapest), and **Centre for Information on Literature** (Bratislava)
- **3-month** annual residencies for **16 authors** (writers, journalists, translators)
- deadline: **TBA**
- former recipients: Marta Dzido, Róbert Gál, Viktor Horváth, Michal Hvorecký, Peter Krištúfek, Katarína Kucpbelová, Iva Pekárková, Jan Těsnohlídek, etc.

[www.visegradfund.org/residencies/literary](http://www.visegradfund.org/residencies/literary)
Funding by Recipient Regions (2000–2012)

100% = €46,988,908
The Western Balkans (2000–2012)

100% = €938,090 (= 2.00% of total funding)

- **Albania**: 50,300 (5%)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 154,400 (16%)
- **Kosovo**: 4,600 (1%)
- **Macedonia**: 67,400 (7%)
- **Montenegro**: 13,800 (2%)
- **Serbia**: 647,590 (69%)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
The Eastern Partnership (2000–2012)

100% = €4,553,426 (= 9.69% of total funding)
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Main Results

• **stable and visible component** of V4 cooperation
• stronger level of **regional cooperation** and cooperation with neighboring regions
• good promotion of the region in the EU
• **to date** (by Q4 2012):
  – more than **3,700 grant projects**
  – over **1,500 “mobilities”** (scholarships/residencies)
  – total worth of ca. **€47 million**
Useful Links

- www.visegradfund.org/think
- www.visegradgroup.eu
- visegradfind.visegradfund.org
FOCUS ON CENTRAL EUROPE

www.visegradrevue.eu
www.visegradinsight.eu
Thank you for your attention.