International Visegrad Fund 2011: on the Threshold of New Challenges
Key points

- A brief history of the Visegrad Group leading to the IVF establishment
- Establishment of the IVF
- Main tasks and aims, key programmes
- Year 2011: year of changes and new programmes
- Mutual exchange of opinions and experiences
Have you ever heard about the International Visegrad Fund?
What is your, if any, personal experience with the IVF?
The Roots of ‘Visegrad’

- **Common Ground in History**
  (meeting of kings of Bohemia, Hungary and Poland in Visegrád in 1335, **interconnected histories** of V4 countries, common cultural experience)

- **Similar Historical Development after Second World War**
  (brothers in disaster, the same aims after 1989)

- **Geographical Closeness**
  (in the very exposed Central European region)
CZ + HU + PL + SK = V4

- **V4 as a Consultation Platform**
  Regular meetings at all levels and in all sectors

- **Joint Achievements**
  Membership in the EU, NATO; looking for common positions within EU;

- **New Goals (Kroměříž 2004)**
  Forming the *EU Common Foreign and Security Policy* and the *European Neighbourhood Policy*, the Schengen Agreement, energy security, etc.
Support of V4 Cooperation

- Established in 2000 with the seat in Bratislava (Secretariat of the Fund)
- The IVF as a concrete means of the V4 cooperation
- Support of the movement of people and ideas
- Instrument of V4 foreign policy
Basic Facts about the Fund:

- The only organization of the Visegrad Group
- To date the Fund has supported more than 3,000 grant projects, 1,000 scholarships and over 100 artist residencies
- Annual budget: €6,000,000 (i.e. €1.5 million per member state)
- From 2012: €7,000,000
Supported Fields of Project Activities*

- Cultural Cooperation (ca. 50%)
- Scientific Exchange and Research (ca. 18%)
- Education (ca. 13%)
- Youth Exchanges (ca. 11%)
- Cross-Border Cooperation (ca. 6%)
- Promotion of Tourism (ca. 2%)

* Every project should be recognizable in one of the fields but can in fact fall in any category of activity (e.g. environment, sports and leisure, social affairs, publishing, etc.).
Do you think the IVF has omitted any important field which should be also supported?
Target Countries:

- **CZ**: 22%
- **HU**: 22%
- **PL**: 21%
- **SK**: 22%
- **UA**: 5%
- **BY**: 3%
- **RS**: 1%
- **other non-V4**: 4%

Total funding of all programs per receiving countries (2000–2010)
First Challenge: New Changes

- to manage the involvement of changes made in March 2011
- to prepare second round of changes by the end of 2011 (letters of intent, strategic grants, biyearly grants)
- to improve knowledge about Fund
- new programmes (NSC Taiwan, V4EaP, CEPA, Visegrad review)
Changes of the Grant programme

- grants cover up to 70% project costs/*earlier 50%*
- *reimbursements in tranches with advance payments* (up to 80% of project costs)/*earlier payment after finishing of grants*
- 5% overhead costs / *earlier did not exist*
- copies of invoices and bills/ *earlier originals*
  - new means of the interaction with grantees
- *separate bank account* for the purposes of grant project
- *project website* for every project
- updating *press releases* regarding each project event
- updating *calendar of events*
Any further idea, what to improve or change?
Small Grants

- 2011 Budget: €540,000
- Deadlines: 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December
- Contractual period: 6 months
- Supported amounts: up to €5,000
- Approval period: up to 40 working days (the project cannot start sooner)

More information:
www.visegradfund.org/grants/small_grants/
Standard Grants

- 2011 Budget: €2,200,000
- Deadlines: 15 March, 15 September
- Contractual period: 12 months
- Supported amounts: more than €5,001 (on average ca. €9,000–10,000 per project)
- Approval period: up to 50 working days (the project cannot start sooner)

More information: www.visegradfund.org/grants/standard_grants/
Visegrad Strategic Program

- 2011 Budget: €400,000
- Deadline: 16 May
- Cooperation of all V4 countries
- Contractual period: 12–36 months
- Supported amounts unlimited
  (on average ca. €30,000 per project)
- Approval period: up to 50 working days
  (the project cannot start sooner)

More information:
www.visegradfund.org/grants/strategic_grants/
Visegrad Scholarship Program

2011 Budget: €1,448,000
380 semesters

Deadline: 31 January

- Master’s and Post-Master’s levels
- Study/research periods for 1 or 2 semesters
  (Except for the Master’s level within the In-Coming scheme in which it is possible to apply for 1- to 4-semester scholarships.)
- Financial support for both scholars and host universities + possibility of travel grants
  (Scholarships: €2,300/sem./scholar, €1,500/sem./host university.)
- Applications evaluated by independent experts from V4 countries
Types of Scholarships:

- **OUT-GOING SCHOLARSHIPS**
  (for V4 scholars to study in ALB, ARM, AZE, BIH, BLR, GEO, HRV, MDA, MKD, MNE, SRB and UKR; the same rules are applicable to Kosovar universities)

- **INTRA-VISEGRAD SCHOLARSHIPS**
  (for V4 scholars to study at universities in a V4 country other than that of residence)

- **IN-COMING SCHOLARSHIPS**
  (for scholars from ALB, ARM, AZE, BIH, GEO, HRV, MDA, MKD, MNE, RUS and SRB to study at V4 universities; the same rules are applicable to Kosovar scholars)

  - **Ukrainian Scholarships** (60 semesters annually for scholars from Ukraine to study at V4 universities)
  - **Belarusian Scholarships** (60 semesters annually for scholars from Belarus to study at V4 universities)

More: [www.visegradfund.org/scholarships/](http://www.visegradfund.org/scholarships/)
Visegrad Scholarships at OSA

Launched in 2010 as a joint project between the Fund and the OSA Archivum Budapest (Open Society Archives).

- **10 fellowships** annually (8 x V4, 2 x non-V4)
- max. research periods of **2 months**
- **€2,000/project**
- **no regular deadline** (continuous submissions)

Where should we look for reason that Czech students have not used Intra-Visegrad Scholarships more?
Visegrad University Studies Grant

2011 Budget: €280,000
Deadline: 10 November

- Grant for the development and launching of outstanding Visegrad-related university courses or degree programs
- Lump-sum, one-time support (€15,000/course, €50,000/degree program)

More/contact: http://www.visegradfund.org/grants/VUSG/
Second Challenge: Go East

- special IVF programme for EaP
- to find appropriate methods and topics
- what can be useful for EaP countries?

- sharing of V4 countries experience
- support of civil society
- European perspective
- mutual cooperation
- new methods of cooperation
Is the idea to establish similar fund like the IVF in South Caucasus or Western Balkans too surreal?
2010 in numbers:

Grant programs:
- **133** Small Grants
- **253** Standard Grants
- **8** Strategic Grants
- **10** VUSG grants
- **4** Visegrad+ grants

Individual programs:
- **23** VARP residencies
- **187** scholarships

In total: **€4,980,290**
How to awaken bigger interest in the IVF grants in Hungary and Poland?
Inquiries/Consultations:

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10/09/2010—CALL FOR PROPOSALS

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group (see more on the first Visegrad Summit), the International Visegrad Fund in cooperation with the four respective foreign ministries plan to mark the anniversary with a public debate and accompanying events which are to take place in Brussels, Belgium in February 2011. Proposals are accepted until 16 September 2010.

Call for Proposals—Brussels events, 1/2011

21/07/2010

The Council of Ambassadors approved projects submitted within the June deadline of Small Grants. The complete list is available here:

List of Approved Small Grants June 2010 Deadline

21/08/2010

The International Visegrad Fund announces a call for proposals for Visegrad+ projects towards the Republic of Georgia in the following areas:

1. Vocational Training Reform and Vocational Training for IDPs
2. Sharing V4 Experience with the EU Integration: Legislation Reform and Cooperation with NGOs
3. Sharing V4 Know-How on Decentralization of Administration Structures

Deadline for proposals is Wednesday 15 September 2010. For more details please see the Call for...
Thank you!
Děkujeme!
Köszönjük!
Dziękujemy!
Ďakujeme!