The Roots of Visegrad Cooperation

- **Common Ground in History, Culture and Religion**
  royal meetings in Visegrád in 1335 and 1336 (John of Luxembourg, Charles I of Anjoy and Casimir III), interconnected histories of V4 countries, common cultural experience

- **Geographical Closeness**
  the crossroads between the East and the West

- **Similar Development**
  struggles for freedom in 1956, 1968, 1980, 1989; social and economic transformations, similar development of infrastructure, etc.
The Origins of the Visegrad Group I

- Visegrád February 15, 1991
- common will to overcome the communist heritage and “to return to Europe”
- a useful means for the promotion of the region
- very quick results of the cooperation and coordination (Soviet troops withdrawal, image of the region as region of cooperation and mutual understanding)
- gradual weakening of the cooperation in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} half of the 1990s
- new impetus in 1999; establishment of the Fund as an evidence of the revival of the cooperation
The Origins of the Visegrad Group II

• the same communist past but **more different** than similar development of future V4 countries
  ▪ different political situation
  ▪ different economic situation
  ▪ different historical background

• real independence led to serious **problems inside and outside of V4 countries**
  ▪ split of Czechoslovakia
  ▪ Czechoslovak/Slovak–Hungarian tension
• new problems emerged also after the establishment of the Visegrad Group:
  
  ▪ reserved attitude of the Czech Republic to V4
  
  ▪ a weak compatibility of political regimes in V4 countries in the second half of 1990s
  
  ▪ concern that V4 cooperation could be regarded as a surrogate for a real integration in Europe
The Origins of the Visegrad Group IV

• V4 was in the state of hibernation, only CEFTA worked in second half of the 1990s

• none of V4 countries proposed to dissolve the group but at the same time nobody was active

• a weak understanding what such cooperation should mean among V4 citizens and why it should be preserved (V4 was established from above)
Reasons behind the Fund’s establishment

- further deepening of the V4 cooperation during its revitalization in 1998–2000
- strengthening of the V4 cooperation on the civil society level (as a pendant of the state cooperation)
- protection against potential “ups and downs” of the V4 cooperation
- improvement of mutual knowledge of each other (three project partners as a minimum)
• **V4 as a Consultation Platform**
  regular meetings at all levels and in all sectors

• **Joint Achievements**
  membership in the EU, NATO; common positions within EU (e.g. the EU budget); cooperation with other regional bodies, Visegrad 4 Eastern Partnership (V4EaP) Program, etc.

• **Goals**
  forming the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Neighborhood Policy, the Schengen Agreement, energy security, etc.

• **Common Experience and Expertise**
  similar levels of social and economic development and transformation experience, fight for freedom as a know-how
Basic Facts about the Fund

• established in **2000** as the only solid organization of the Visegrad Group with the seat in Bratislava

• instrument for **strengthening the regional cooperation** and awareness

• expression of **common priorities** of the Visegrad Group’s foreign policy

• fostering people-to-people contact and supporting **common projects** and **individual mobility**
Basic Numbers about the Fund

- annual budget of \(\text{€7,000,000}\) (as of 2012)
  (equal contributions of \(\text{€1.75 million}\) per member state)
- to date the Fund supported more than
  - 3,300 grant projects
  - 1,100 individual MA-/PhD-level scholarships
  - 150 individual artist residencies
- in total: nearly \(\text{€39.5 million}\)
- 5+ grant programs, 3+ scholarship programs,
  3 artist-in-residence programs, 1 fellowship program
- 10+ annual deadlines
- staff of 13 (secretariat) + external trustees (PL, HU, UA, BY)
Total approved funding per receiving country (€39.5 million)

Target Countries 2000–2011

- Czech Republic: 22%
- Hungary: 22%
- Slovakia: 22%
- Poland: 21%
- Eastern Partnership countries: 9%
- Western Balkans: 2%
- Other non-V4: 2%
Approved budget for 2012 (€7,530,701 in total)
Grant programs:

- **Small Grants** (≤ €6,000; up to 6 months)
- **Standard Grants** (≥ €6,001; up to 12 months)
- **Visegrad Strategic Program** (ca. €40,000; 12–36 months)
- **Visegrad University Studies Grants** (ca. €10,000/€40,000)
- **Visegrad+** (individual budgets)

Mobility programs:

- **Visegrad Scholarship Program** (€2,300 + 1,500/semester)
- **Visegrad Scholarships at OSA** (€2,000/2 months)
- **VARP—General Residencies** (€2,250 + 2,250/3 months)
- **VARP in New York** (€4,000/3 months)
- **VARP—Performing Arts** (€4,000/€ 8,000/3 months)
Grant Categories

- Cultural Cooperation (49%)
- Scientific Exchange and Research (19%)
- Education (14%)
- Youth Exchanges (10%)
- Cross-Border Cooperation (7%)
- Promotion of Tourism (2%)

100% = 3,240 projects approved in 2000–2011

www.visegradfund.org/grants
Basic Granting Principles

• involvement of at least 3 V4 countries
• Visegrad/Central European topic
• grant covers up to 70% of 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
• separate bank account for every grant project
• project website (with unique URL), project calendar, press releases
Non-Refundable Project Costs

- **capital investments**
  (purchases of laptops, office equipment, etc.)

- **indirect costs**
  (utilities, telephone bills, etc.)

- **internal costs and expenses**
  (with the exception of up to 5% overhead costs)

- **employments ruled by labor code**
  (including all other related costs, e.g. per diems)
Refundable Project Costs

- printing and publishing costs
- rent of premises and related technical services
- fees for experts, fees for artists
- accommodation and board
- transportation costs
- translation/interpreting costs
- awards and prizes
- office supplies
- advertising costs and promotional material
- website design and update, etc.
Frequent Mistakes

• copies of the letters of intent (original documents necessary)
• wrong ID documents (official registries of the statistical offices, district courts or interior ministries are eligible—simple copies are enough)
• unclear V4 feature (missing “Visegrad added value”)
• unclear role of project partners
• dates of project events too close to the announcement of the grant selection results
• absence of proper acknowledgement of the Fund’s support (missing logo, website links, etc.)
Visegrad Scholarship Program

- **Master’s (MA)/Post-Master’s (PhD) levels**
- **1 or 2 semesters** (MA up to 4 semesters)
- **Funding both the scholar and host university**
  (€2,300/sem. + €1,500/sem. + a possibility of one-time €200 travel grant)

❖ **Intra-Visegrad Scholarships**
  CZ–HU–PL–SK

❖ **Out-Going Scholarships**
  V4 → AL, AM, AZ, BA, BY, GE, HR, MD, MK, ME, RS, UA and XK

❖ **In-Coming Scholarships (+ Scholarships for EaP)**
  AL, BA, HR, MD, MK, ME, RU, RS, XK (+ AM, AZ, BY, GE, MD and UA) → V4

www.visegradfund.org/scholarships
joint project with the **Open Society Archives** at CEU Budapest (archives of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty)

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

- annual budget: €200,000 (2012)
- deadline: 10 November
- grant for the development and launching of Visegrad-related university courses or degree programs
- all accredited public and private universities worldwide are eligible
- support of ca. €10,000/course/€40,000/degree program
Visegrad Artist Residency Program

- **Visegrad Artist Residency Program—General Residencies**
  (€2,250 + €2,250 per project, 4x4 3-month residencies)

- **Visegrad Artist Residency Program—Performing Arts**
  (€4,000/€8,000 for individual/group residency, 3-month residencies)

- **Visegrad Artist Residencies in New York** (4 stipends annually)
  (€4,000 per project, 3-month residencies in Brooklyn, NY)

- **Visegrad Literary Residency Program** (16 stipends annually)
  (€750 per resident, 3 months residencies in V4 countries)

www.visegradfund.org/residencies
The International Visegrad Fund supports the development of civil society and contacts among people in the Visegrad Group (V4) countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and in the neighborhood—mainly the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. In 12 annual deadlines, the Fund operates several grant programs, individual scholarship and fellowship programs and individual and group artist residencies. By the end of 2011 the Fund had approved more than 3,300 grant projects and 1,200 individual mobility projects in the total sum of nearly €39 million. The Fund’s annual budget of €7 million consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.
Visegrad 4 Eastern Partnership Program (V4EaP)

- Total budget in 2012: €1,456,000 + co-financing from other sources (NL, US)
- Focus on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- Programs have similar structure to the other programs (grants/mobility programs)

www.visegradfund.org/east
V4 EaP Programs

- **Flagship Projects**
  long-term projects of **strategic character**; transfer of V4 know-how on **democratic transformation** and **regional cooperation**

- **Standard Grants—EaP**
  medium-length projects linking the EaP and V4 regions

- **Visegrad University Studies Grants—EaP**
  development of college/university courses and degree programs

- **Visegrad Scholarships for EaP**
  individual **academic mobility** between V4 and EaP universities and colleges

www.visegradfund.org/east
### Deadlines in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Visegrad Scholarship Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Small Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Standard Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Visegrad Strategic Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Small Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>Small Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>Visegrad Artist Residency Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>Standard Grants/Standard Grants—EaP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>VUSG/VUSG—EaP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>Small Grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org)
Useful links

- **Visegrad Find**
  - on-line notice board for project partner search and database of selected grantees

- **Visegrad Books**
  - on-line library catalogue of the International Visegrad Fund

- **Visegrad Group**
  - official portal of the Visegrad Group

www.visegradfind.visegradfund.org
www.library.visegradfund.org
www.visegradgroup.eu
February/March 2012

Collecting the materials regarding the tradition of Hungarian individual philanthropy and funds.

01/02/2012–30/04/2012
Collecting the materials regarding the tradition of Polish individual philanthropy and funds.

01/02/2012–30/04/2012
Collecting the materials regarding the tradition of Slovak individual philanthropy and funds.

01/02/2012–30/04/2012
Collecting the materials regarding the tradition of Czech individual philanthropy and funds.

01/02/2012–30/04/2012
Collecting the information about the European examples of funds and individual philanthropy.
Thank you.