Burning Issues Of Visegrad Four
Warning: If you are optimist or idealist, do not listen to me.

As journalist, I have got the worst task:

to develop the most negative topics

► relation of society and elites, which is worsening

► the role of media which is diminishing

► lack of leadership, which provides us with no perspective on the horizon of development

► corruption as common denominator of the bad shape of public space and political life
Society – elites I.

Actual situation is reflection of longterm divisions

**Hungary:** one year after Fidesz victory, voters are dissatisfied, decreasing support of Fidesz, but not increasing support of opposition

**Poland:** year after plane crash division between two political camps even deeper than before, (there was a wave of common solidarity immediately after crash)
Society – elites II.

Czechia: right wing government lost credibility due to internal coalition disputes, anticorruption drive waned away

Slovakia: governing coalition just keeping together, long term division of society, hard to overcome

Result: Growing feeling of voters that politicians do not understand them.
The role of media

► Media law in Hungary: attention to the role of media in V4 (postcommunist) countries

► Public media tied to political will

► Private media undercut by crisis and tied by vested interests of the owners (examples: Romania, Slovakia)

► Reporting is the most expensive part of media work: Cuts in investigating and in general quality due to crisis: less people do more work, result is lower quality of reporting, resulting in being less critical and less reflective of the real situation
The lack of leadership I.

- Originally political (ideological) cleavages change into societal using historical, economical and other sources of division → Deep division in the societies: political one as well as in society

- Politicians exploit this division for long term gains: to keep power and being connected with corruption schemes tied to public procurement: main source of finances for parties (In Poland due to different type of financing of political parties politicians have different relation towards state)
The lack of leadership II.

► Lack of long term visions after entering the EU and NATO: confirming thesis about the lack of leadership

► What to do with societies? With economies in crisis? Future development of countries?
Corruption I.

- Connected with lack of leadership issue and finance of political parties, corruption is actual and future burning issue connected with the state of law

Transparency International Corruption perception index: it is perception, not reality, but gives some picture:

- Poland 41. (improvement)
- Hungary 50.
- Czechia 53.
- Slovakia 59.
Corruption II.

- Economic activity undercut: private as well as public (state): Greece as extreme example of malfunctioning state

- Trust in the society: lower → result: social capital gets lower and chances of society (state) to develop and improve in the global (European) competition are severely damaged