„Visegrad and Eastern Partnership - lessons to learn from V4 experience"

Václav Nekvapil
What is V4 experience?

- Shared:
  - historical experience (with Russia, ex-USSR)
  - starting point
  - objective
  - newly elected democratic elite
What is V4 experience?

- Differences
  - size
  - interests
  - internal/mutual problems
  - priorities
What is V4 experience?

- Transition to democracy
  - “6-6-6-60” rule by Ralph Dahrendorf
  - “Return to Europe” (feeling of historical injustice)
  - Transition-transformation-europeisation…
EU 1989-2004

- from 12 to 25/27 member states
- from EC to EU
- from Single European Act to EU Constitution
- from internal boarders to Schengen
- from national currencies to Euro

and…from Mitterrand („enlargement will take decades“)…
EU 1989-2004

...to Chirac („you missed an opportunity to keep quiet“)
Eastern Partnership

- established in 2008 (contra-balance to southern dimension of the ENP)
- example of Germany:
  - stability behind the border (Balkans lessons)
  - new markets
  - reunification as 1st enlargement
- V4 countries as advocates of Eastern Partnership countries in the EU for the same reasons
EP countries

Shared:
- historical experience (Bandera? Karabakh?)
- objective (EU? Russia? Neutrality?)
- newly elected democratic elite (new? elected? democratic?)
EP countries

- Differences
  - size (Moldova vs. Ukraine)
  - interests (South Caucasus vs. Belarus)
  - internal/mutual problems (East/West Ukraine, „Transnistria“)
  - priorities (Donbas, Armenia)
V4 could play an important role

- opportunities
  - know-how of the transition – learning from our mistakes
  - “Dichtung und Warheit” – myths of EU integration (sovereignty, “Western prices, Eastern salaries”, obeying Brussels like Moscow before, second-class membership, who is “Brussels”?)
  - knowledge of the territory
  - cautious approach towards Russia
V4 could play an important role
V4 could play an important role

- risks
  - high expectations (EU will solve our problems…)
  - some myths can be true
  - East-East cooperation instead of East-West
  - demonization/obsession about Russia
V4 could play an important role
Eastern Partnership – what for?

- not membership – EU is not willing to enlarge, the membership doors will close after Croatia for a long time (27 vs. 1)
- good governance
- values, proven practices
- sectoral integration policies
- open markets and open minds
Yes we can
Thank you....