



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its 20<sup>th</sup> year of operations, the International Visegrad Fund engaged more than ever in active dialogue with its partners to seek solutions to unprecedented situations. Having funded more than 6,000 successful projects since its inception, the Fund was able to support 227 projects in 2020, i.e., only 12% fewer than in the year before. The fund remained apprehensive about the pace of the pandemic and project implementation, which resulted in postponing over one third of projects (100+) yet only a few cancellations.

Despite all obstacles, our partners managed to successfully implement and conclude several projects in the V4 and V4+ formats in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Mobility programs, naturally marked by lower interest due to the pandemic restrictions, were considered case by case and 143 scholars/60 artists continued their studies/residencies with some delays, remotely or physically in accordance with border regimes.

Thanks to the entire team, the former director Andor F. Dávid, our partners at V4 Ministries of Foreign Affairs and all grantees and scholars, the fund managed to find new opportunities in the original plans that got disrupted by the pandemic. The formerly planned anniversary caravan tour was turned into an on-line campaign titled "We can support your ideas", reaching a much wider audience than would be physically possible. Also, a photo contest was launched on Instagram and yielded 2,421 posts altogether from users of all V4 countries.

In addition to the regular scope of activities, the V4 governments in cooperation with the Republic of Korea dedicated almost €0.5 million to 15 relief projects in the Eastern Partnership countries under the East Solidarity Program, providing immediate healthcare support. In the Western Balkans, the technical assistance provided to the Western Balkans Fund underwent revision in favor of a new scope of activities aimed at on-line awareness-raising and strengthening internal IT capacities. In both regions, the fund entered a new phase of enhanced cooperation with the local V4 Contact Embassies. Furthermore, preparations for the second round of cooperation activities in the field of research and development with Japan got started.

Grant guidelines were adjusted to reflect the need for digital facilitation in order to be able to back the projects after lockdown measures were introduced. Troubleshooting was applied if there was a properly communicated problem. New communication and cooperation models were applied by our grantees and many creative hybrid solutions were introduced in projects especially in the cultural and educational focus areas. We are happy that the Visegrad Prize, an award for outstanding results in culture, could be handed over to the Hungarian Open-Air Museum in Szentendre.

To inspire others, the fund started publishing inspirational V4 stories about successful projects in all seven focus areas. Soon, this section and the existing media library will fuse into a unified presentational portal for the fund's projects. Parallel to resolving the challenges in communication and project management during the pandemic we managed to start a new, objective-focused approach in project management by processing the project outputs, creating databases and broadening the dissemination of the results achieved.

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Under the Czech and Polish Presidencies of the Visegrad Group and the Polish Presidency in the fund in 2020, we managed to keep the cooperation of the civil society alive, despite the pandemic. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fund's establishment was a great opportunity to look back at the results achieved and think about further improvement in favor of our applicants, grantees, scholars, fellows and residents. We used the anniversary year for stocktaking mobility programs, which showed the big potential for future improvements. A brand-new research fellowship program was launched in the European Union Archives at the European University Institute in Florence. As regards art residencies programs, we instigated an evaluation process and, as a first step, a very well qualified and experienced partner for residencies in New York was identified and contracted.

The Think Visegrad network started to discuss many newly emerging topics, feeding into the public administration structures and their decision-making. We grew more responsible and engaged in reducing the ecological footprint of the Secretariat of the fund leading to a broader project, that resulted in the creation of Green Recommendations even for our grantees. In expectation of the Visegrad Group's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we were instrumental in creating a documentary exhibition of the history of Visegrad cooperation.

Our task for 2021 will be to implement the newly designed programs and to continue the already started reforms, so as to further support Visegrad civil society's new ideas under the fund's incoming 2021 Slovak Presidency and Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group.

Edit Szilágyiné Bátorfi and Marianna Neupauerová

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# The International Visegrad Fund 2000–2020

As the only institution of the Visegrad cooperation, in 2000, the International Visegrad Fund was handed the mission to facilitate the development of closer cooperation among citizens in the region. It follows this mission through giving grant support to civic initiatives and encouraging mobility among cultural, educational, and scientific institutions by awarding study and artists-in-residence scholarships.

**Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Visegrad Fund. June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

*This year, 2020, the Visegrad Group (V4) marks 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the International Visegrad Fund with its seat in Bratislava, the most significant common organisation within the V4 framework.*

*In hindsight, the successful operation of the International Visegrad Fund has proved both the viability of the Visegrad Group as a platform for sharing civic, cultural, scientific, educational and innovative concepts, and the benefit of the V4 as a space of mutual trust where thoughts, opinions and uncharted ideas can be exchanged and multiplied in a truly frank and open "European" manner.*

*The International Visegrad Fund has supported close to 6,000 grant projects and nearly 4,500 semesters of individual scholarships in total worth exceeding €96 million, owing to the significant contributions of the four founding states.*

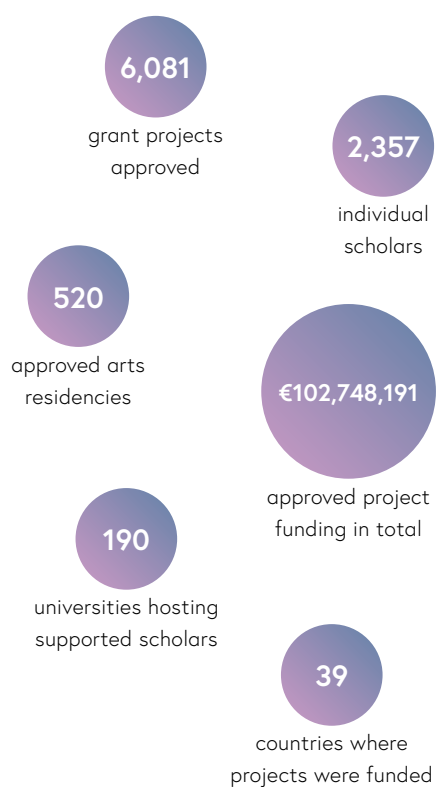
*The common aim of these projects has always been to bring together people inside the V4 region but also within Europe as a common continent and thus making its own contribution to the process of the European integration in general.*

*To meet these cohesive goals, the International Visegrad Fund adopted grant programmes dedicated to the promotion of regional cooperation and solidarity within the V4 as well towards other countries, especially in the neighbouring Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions.*

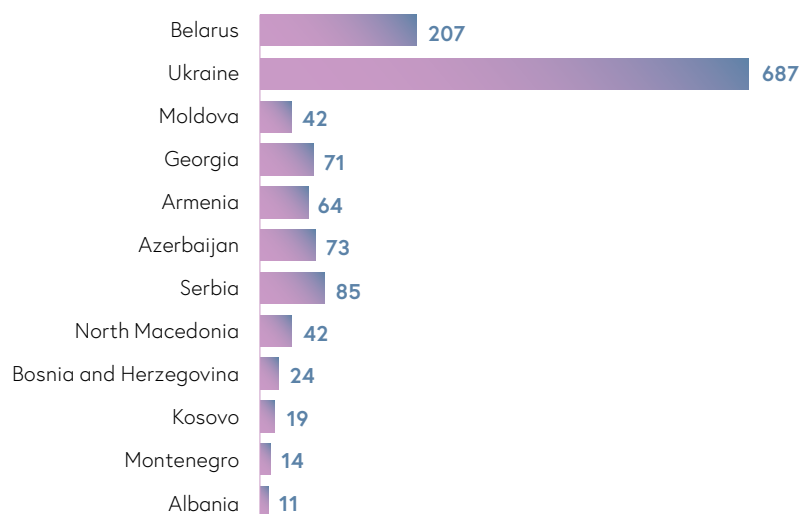
*Efficient, comprehensible and non-bureaucratic functioning of the International Visegrad Fund and its secretariat made it possible that the fund has over the years become a well-established entity and an internationally respected partner. In this context, we pay tribute to all executive directors and members of its secretariat that during the last 20 years contributed to the fund's current high profile. This is a reputation which the founders are proud of as well as keen to build further on.*

*Hence, the V4 countries reiterate their commitment to support the mission of the International Visegrad Fund towards fostering the civic dimension of the V4 cooperation within the broader European framework and deepening mutual trust and understanding in the V4 region as an integral and integrating part of the European Union, and a serious, proactive and successful partner beyond its boundaries.*

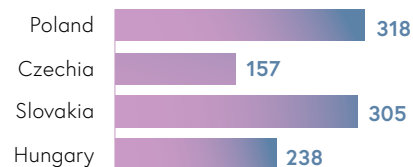
## Basic Figures 2000–2020



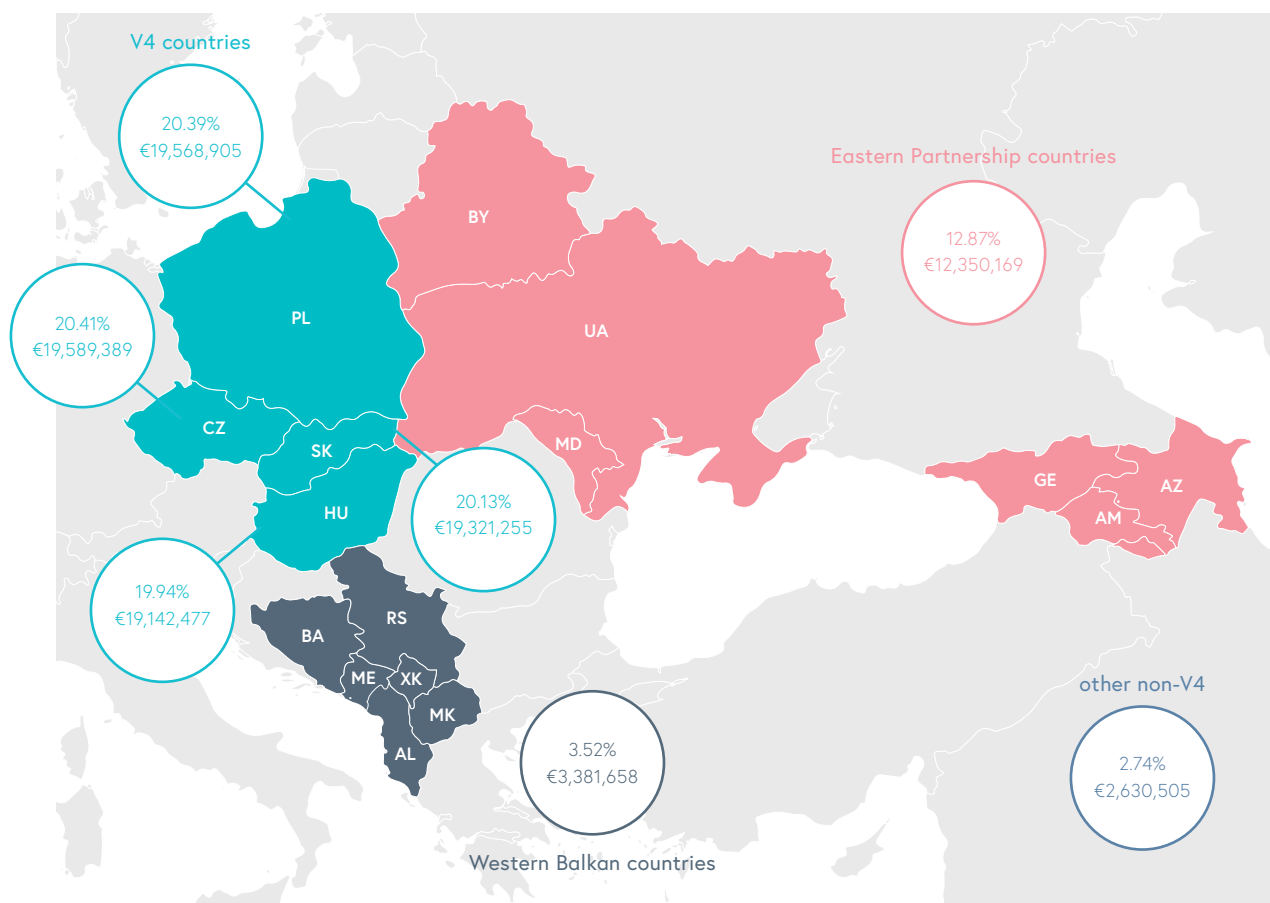
Non-V4 scholars by citizenship 2000–2020



V4 scholars by citizenship 2000–2020



Approved funding by country/region 2000–2020



*THE YEAR 2020*

# 1. GRANTS

## I.1. Visegrad Grants/Visegrad+ Grants/Visegrad Strategic Grants

Deadlines: February 1, June 1, October 1

Altogether 227 regular grant projects were approved in 2020—which is less than the 272 approved in 2019 but this reflected the need to comply with the approved budget while not utilizing more reserves as in 2019. Furthermore, the secretariat had to weigh the growing number of non-performing or postponed projects that were delayed due to the pandemic and to consider the higher risk since many projects would have not been physically possible in 2020 as well as in 2021.

The "success" rate between the number of submitted and approved proposals in the end fell well within the long-term trend giving a chance to roughly every third applicant.

Approved Grants by Program/Recipient Country 2020									
Region	Country	Visegrad Grants	Visegrad+		Strategic	Total €	%	Sum €	%
			EaP	WB6					
V4	CZ	993,161	85,592	12,375	64,683	1,155,811	21.77	4,284,247	80.69
	HU	807,242	38,155	161,412	54,615	1,061,424	19.99		
	PL	698,754	269,488	28,268	59,645	1,056,155	19.89		
	SK	789,984	67,175	87,067	66,631	1,010,857	19.04		
non-V4	AL			67,130		67,130	1.26	1,025,289	19.31
	AM		169,855			169,855	3.20		
	AT	38,260				38,260	0.72		
	AZ		89,376			89,376	1.68		
	BA			35,000		35,000	0.66		
	BY		25,400			25,400	0.48		
	DE	19,766				19,766	0.37		
	FR	23,388				23,388	0.44		
	GE		78,142			78,142	1.47		
	IT	18,520				18,520	0.35		
	MK	64,900				64,900	1.22		
	PT	26,320				26,320	0.50		
	RS			102,720		102,720	1.93		
	UA	50,080	145,192			195,272	3.68		
	XK†			71,240		71,240	1.34		
		3,530,375	968,375	565,212	245,574	5,309,536	100.00		

The average approved support followed the long-term trend of granting higher sums to a slightly lower number of recipients: On average, a Visegrad Grant amounted to €20,645 (compared to €21,600 in 2019), Visegrad+ Grant amounted to €31,298 (compared to €32,118 in 2019), and a Strategic Grant to €40,929 (compared to €57,961 in 2019). The overall grant average in 2020 was €23,390 (only slightly lower than €24,580 in 2019).

Focus Area	%
Culture and common identity	33.19
Education and capacity building	23.71
Public policy and institutional partnership	11.64
Regional development, environment, tourism	10.34
Innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship	8.62
Democratic values and the media	7.76
Social development	4.74

As regards the thematic focus of the supported projects (focus areas/objectives), culture and common identity remained the most frequent category (with one-third of all supported projects), followed by education and capacity building (almost one quarter), and public policy and institutional partnerships in third place.

Apart from the regular project categories (objectives/focus areas), since 2005 the fund has been providing strategic grants. Under separate rules, strategic priorities have been announced annually by the political presidency of the Visegrad Group, aiming at the most current issues and presidency priorities.

The following strategic priorities were announced in 2020 by the then Czech Presidency of the Visegrad Group:

- 1. Returning to the Roots**  
Projects focusing on emphasizing cooperation of all V4 members in the Visegrad region, also in the context of the 20th anniversary of establishing the Visegrad Fund.
- 2. Small Things Matter**  
Projects focusing on cooperation at the local level aiming to enhance already established contacts as well as developing new initiatives. Also, projects enhancing the visibility of the Visegrad Fund at the local level.
- 3. 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain—Civil Society Matters**  
Projects focusing on the importance of development and cooperation of civil societies within V4 and the neighbouring regions—EaP and WB6.



Project title (priority #)	Grantee	Approved in 2020
Civil Society Matters: Comparative Analysis of Civic Engagement in V4 Countries (3)	Median, s.r.o.	37,300
BIS: Bubbles in Visegrad Societies (2)	Bratislava Policy Institute	53,751
Engineering Platform and Cooperation in the Area of Nanocomposites (2)	Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, University of Žilina	12,880
V4 Humanities Education for the Climate. Diagnoses—Best Practices—Recommendations [HEC] (1)	University of Silesia in Katowice	26,675
V4 HOBIT: Saving Lives in V4 through Health Education in Schools (2)	St. Anne's University Hospital	27,383
Eastern Bloc (1)	Soharoza Nonprofit Association	54,615
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>245,574</b>

## I.2. V4 East Solidarity Program

Following the Visegrad Group Joint Statement on the Future of the Eastern Partnership issued by the ministers of foreign affairs on April 8, 2020, extraordinary funds amounting to €250,000 were earmarked from the fund's reserves for humanitarian assistance and relief targeting each of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries.

For that purpose, the V4 Contact Embassies were tasked with launching of the East Solidarity Program call as well as coordinating the selection process in each country. Altogether 13 projects were selected, approved, and funded to a total value of €248,890 providing hygienic, cleaning, and epidemiological testing supplies & hospital equipment, but also distance-learning technology for school children and improved infrastructure in hospitals.

Moreover, the resumed cooperation with the Republic of Korea from 2019 continued along the 2014 Arrangement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the fund, and additional funds amounting to €181,620 were allocated towards the V4 East Solidarity Program which was sealed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fund and the Korean government on December 10, 2020.

## I.3. Visegrad Strategic Conferences

In 2020, the fund continued to support Visegrad Group strategic conferences with €345,000, namely the 24th Forum 2000 Conference, the Prague European Summit, the Transatlantic Policy Forum, thinkBDPST 2020, GLOBSEC 2020, and the Central European Energy Conference.

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## 2. MOBILITY

Individual mobility, whether for study, research, or artist residency forms a cornerstone of the fund's efforts to foster understanding between people across borders. The fund supports individuals pursuing innovative ideas in science and education, as well as artists and artist groups wishing to engage in conversation on contemporary art in the Visegrad region. The traditional formats of the Visegrad Scholarship Program, the artist residencies, and the Open Society Archives (OSA) fellowships will be complemented by research fellowships at the Historical Archives of the European Union at the European University Institute in Florence. The 2nd edition of the Visegrad–Taiwan Fellowship will be launched in 2021. Also, the V4–Japan Joint Research Program will be re-launched in 2021.

### 2.1. SCHOLARSHIPS

Visegrad scholarships support Bachelor, Master and post-Master students and researchers in all disciplines and in any language for up to four semesters at more than 190 higher education institutions across Central and Eastern Europe.

This year, the Visegrad Scholarship Program continued to attract a record high number of proposals from the 16 eligible countries, yielding 817 eligible applications. Altogether 143 scholars were approved for 311 semesters in total amounting to €1,200,000. The 2020 edition was the first with the upgraded rules that cancelled the travel grants and standardized the per-semester support to a flat fee of €2,500 semester for the scholar and €1,500/semester for the host institution.

The biggest interest was in the Czech higher-education institutions where 129 semesters of incoming scholars (with Prague, Brno, and Ostrava among the three most frequent destinations) were approved altogether, followed by Poland with a total of 89 semesters (Warsaw, Cracow, and Wrocław/Lublin as the most frequented destinations):

Overview of countries hosting scholars as approved in 2020



## Scholarship applications by citizenship (2020)

Region	Country	Applicants	Scholars by country
V4	CZ	10	6
	HU	32	19
	PL	38	27
	SK	34	14
<b>Subtotal V4</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>66</b>
EaP	AM	13	4
	AZ	398	11
	BY	22	6
	GE	51	6
	MD	4	1
	UA	144	43
<b>Subtotal EaP</b>		<b>632</b>	<b>71</b>
WB6	AL	16	0
	BA	5	1
	XK	19	3
	ME	7	0
	MK	9	1
	RS	15	1
<b>Subtotal EaP</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>817</b>	<b>143</b>

The changes approved at the end of 2019 were duly implemented in the 2020 edition of the program. Among the main changes that were introduced was simplifying the interface and creating a standardized closed list of higher-education institutions (with "Other" as an option) as well as a standardized list of academic fields. The overall interest in economics, business and political science prevails.

Field	Applications
Economics	22.77%
Political science	14.81%
Business	13.71%
Engineering and technology	10.04%
Biology	4.65%
Computer science	4.65%
Languages and literature	4.65%
History	4.28%
Chemistry	3.18%
Law	3.18%
Sociology	2.94%
Visual arts	2.94%
Earth sciences	2.08%
Other	5.02%

## 2.2.VISEGRAD ARTIST RESIDENCIES

The programs continued under severe mitigating circumstances during the pandemic. Since most cultural events had to be cancelled in their physical form or had to be transferred on-line, the effect on the individual artistic mobility was significant. That was obvious not only from cancellations and postponements of cultural grants but also clear from the lower than usual interest in the artist residency mobility schemes.

Country/ Support	Support (€)		
	Artists	Hosts	Total
CZ	36,500	33,350	69,850
HU	38,750	28,100	66,850
PL	38,750	20,100	58,850
SK	32,000	26,750	58,750
<b>Total (€)</b>	<b>146,000</b>	<b>108,300</b>	<b>254,300</b>

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## Visegrad Artist Residency—Performing Arts

Deadline: October 15, 2020 with the planned implementation in 2021

Performing Arts		
Support to	Artists (€)	Hosts (€)
CZ	8,000	8,000
HU	8,000	5,000
PL	8,000	1,500
SK	8,000	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48,000</b>	

The seventh annual edition of the Performing Arts residency was implemented in association with Truc Sphérique in Žilina. Out of the 27 registered applications, 8 projects were supported.

## Visegrad Artist Residencies—Visual & Sound Arts

Deadline: October 15, 2020 with the planned implementation in 2021

Visual & Sound Arts		
Support to	Artists (€)	Hosts (€)
CZ	9,000	11,250
HU	11,250	9,000
PL	11,250	4,500
SK	4,500	11,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72,000</b>	

The seventh annual edition of the Visual & Sound Arts residencies successfully supported 16 artists out of 23 registered.

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## Visegrad Artist Residencies in New York

Deadline: March 1, 2020; planned implementation in July/August 2021

The tenth edition of the program continued with 118 registered applicants altogether; as in the previous years, the high turnover has made this program the most attractive of all mobility and even grant vehicles operated by the fund. In the end, four artists were selected. Talks continued with the implementing partner in Prague, Futura Prague, and a new partner in Brooklyn, New York was identified and contracted, namely the International Studio & Curatorial Program.

## Visegrad Literary Residencies

Deadline: November 30, 2020; planned implementation moved from May to July 2021

The eighth annual edition of the literary residencies successfully approved 16 residents for the compact six-week spring edition and 16 residents for the "standard" three-month fall edition out of 110 submitted applications altogether. Villa Decius in Krakow continued to be the main program coordinator cooperating with the respective institutions—the Arts Institute in Prague, Petőfi Literary Museum in Budapest, and the Literary Information Center in Bratislava. Literary Residencies also remained the only program whose participants (beneficiaries) are selected outside of the fund.

Given the equal distribution of funding, each country was approved altogether €13,500 for the residents (€1,125 for each within the compact spring edition and €2,250 for each within the fall edition). The host institutions shared the €60,900 "lump sums" for covering all associated costs incl. accommodation costs and costs of the selection process.

Country/support	Applications	Artists (€)
CZ	33	13,500
HU	73	13,500
PL	28	13,500
SK	33	13,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>54,000</b>

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### **2.3. Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives in Budapest**

In its 10<sup>th</sup> edition, applicants from the fields of history, arts, philosophy and sociology were invited to the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives in Budapest to reflect on the conditions of knowledge production during and after the Cold War, testing the "Possibilities of knowing: Truth seeking in a polarized world and [in] its aftermath". The two deadlines for research fellowships registered 31 applicants in the July and 43 in the November deadlines. Out of these, 8 and 9 researchers respectively were selected to analyze the documentary practices of different agencies and persons on both sides of the Iron Curtain.



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# OTHER PROJECTS

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## Think Visegrad Think-Tank Network + the Mid-Term Conference

The Think Visegrad think-tank platform concluded its eighth year of successful operations in January 2021 with a total output of (recently downscaled) 6 short-term analyses, 4 long-term analyses and with 8 visiting fellows from non-V4 countries. Out of the 8 fellows, the visits of 3 had to be postponed and will be implemented in 2021.

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## Think Visegrad in Brussels

EUROPEUM's Brussels office continued to enjoy the full support of the Think Visegrad platform and again served as its hub during 2020. With the limitations on travel and public gatherings, all its activities were moved on-line. The four planned public debates were moved to Zoom, as were the two private roundtables. Unfortunately, the short-term research stays which are organized for select think-tankers that get hosted in Brussels by the platform had to be postponed to 2021. This proved to be the only viable solution and was duly consulted with the fund.

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## Civil Servant Mobility Program

The implementation of the Civil Servants Mobility Program was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Long-term travel restrictions did not allow the Think Visegrad members to proceed with the study trips for civil servants from the selected countries—Ukraine, Kosovo, and Georgia. In the end, a decision was reached in consultation with the Fund to postpone the entire 2020 edition of the program to 2021.

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## V4 Energy Think Tank Platform

The third edition of the project had to move most of its events on-line.

The main outputs consisted of the following: Three regional energy policy papers (on 2050 Decarbonization Plans, Coal Phaseout and the Role of Power-to-Gas in the region), an additional paper on the Gas Flow changes in the V4; and a study titled "State of the V4 Energy Sector 2020–2021: Green Recovery in the V4 region."

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## V4 Startup Force

Design Terminál, Kft. continued with the V4 Startup Force project under the same consortium of partners as in 2019—UP21 (CZ), Reaktor (PL) and Campus (SK). The budgeted sum of €146,852 was fully utilized despite most of its activities having to be moved on-line and altogether 56 startups and incubators applied for the program. We can be proud of the alumni of the program, as they managed to become strong competitors on the market having attracted investments or created their own branch offices in the region.

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## Visegrad Bicycle Races

Already the eight editions of bicycle races with the envisaged budget of €100,000, organized under the single banner of the Visegrad Bicycle Race were to take place in 2020 with a higher budget (€40,000) given to the Polish implementor. Due to the pandemic, however, both the Polish and Czech editions had to be cancelled. The Hungarian side already implemented several preparatory works before having to cancel and therefore utilized a part of the budget but returned the remaining sum back to the fund.

Following last year, which was the first incidence in the history of the project when not all four races took place, two contracts had to be amended and the implementation pushed until October 31, 2021. The only race which took place was that organized by the Slovak Cycling Federation.

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## V4 Innovators in Israel Training Program

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the V4 countries and the State of Israel in Jerusalem in June 2018 and upon a successful completion in 2018 of a pilot training of representatives of startups, incubators and accelerators, the program was to continue under the Czech presidency in the Visegrad Group. Technical reasons on the Israeli side, however, prevented a call from taking place earlier than at the beginning of 2020.

Altogether, 63 applications were collected by February 2020, out of which 24 were selected by the respective selection committees with 7 applicants each for Czechia, Hungary, and Poland and 3 applicants from Slovakia (due to lower turnout, only 3 Slovaks were selected and the remaining 3 open positions were equally divided among the remaining parties). In the end, due to the public health limitations connected with the pandemic, the program was prevented from taking place in 2020 altogether.

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## Western Balkans Fund

Cooperation continued with the Western Balkans Fund in 2020. Its main direction was given by the V4 and Western Balkans ministerial meeting on February 27, 2020, in Prague where a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed extending the technical assistance of the Visegrad Fund to the Western Balkans Fund with additional €60,000.

The first tranche of €19,910 was implemented in the period between February 2020 and the end of the year (with a slight postponement until February 2021). All activities were adjusted to the pandemic situation and restrictions on travelling, with a new focus on the technical equipment of the Western Balkans Fund and its promotion in the Western Balkan region.

# *PROJECTS IN PICTURES*

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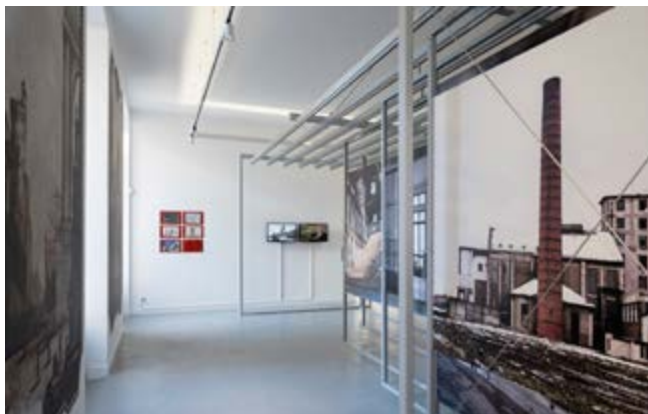
## Projects implemented in 2020 in pictures

### **ASSOCIATION OF POLISH ARCHITECTS POZNAN DIVISION – MOOD FOR WOOD – NEIGHBORHOOD INTERNATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP**

Students of Design Degrees acquiring new skills within Mood for Wood workshops, including further education activities focused on practically applying knowledge acquired during studies. Through the workshop they developed designs impacting the lives of local communities. Participants made 6 pieces of urban furniture placed in the city for all the citizens to use.

**Photo:** Dawis Majewski

**Partners:** Brno University of Technology,  
Architecture Department CZ, 2021  
architects SK, Pasztor Bence HU, Design  
Centre - Zamek Cieszyn PL



**Photo:** François Lauginie

**Partners:** T-TUDOK Centre for Knowledge  
Management and Educational Research Inc.  
HU, FUTURA CZ, Kunsthalle Bratislava SK,  
Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź PL

### **SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY EASTERN SUGAR**

EASTERN SUGAR was an international, interdisciplinary, contemporary visual art project with strong focus on artistic research. The project reflected the recent facets of European history through the sugar industry in Central Europe. By means of artistic research, curatorial cooperation, creating new artworks, five international group exhibitions, participative installations, public and educational programs, and a comprehensive interdisciplinary publication the project investigated the "clearing" process of the Central-European sugar production. Thus, sugar can be understood as a metaphor for the notion of Europe and the world under constant transformation.

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## NGO INSCIENCE—SCIENCE TEENS PLATFORM

In order to raise awareness of the importance of science among Ukrainian teenagers and put them into an international scientific context through cooperation with the V4 countries, the project 'Science Teens Platform' was launched. They linked science and technological entrepreneurship as a result of their cooperative projects and educational programs.



**Photo:** NGO INSCIENCE

**Partners:** The Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences CZ, Science Advocates Association PL, Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences SK, Central European University HU

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**Photo:** Centropa

**Partners:** The "Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre" Centre PL, NGO EDAH SK, Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies CZ, EcoVisio MLD, Center for Studies of Memory Policy and Public History "Mnemonics UA

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## CENTROPA—EXPLORING LOCAL JEWISH HISTORY THROUGH CENTROPA TRAINING PROGRAMS AND AUDIOWALKS

To promote a balanced culture of remembrance and mutual understanding, the project deepened the discourse about European (Jewish) 20<sup>th</sup> century history and Holocaust and tolerance education through an innovative oral history approach. Based on hundreds of interviews with survivors and 22,000 of their digitized family photos, several multimedia films were produced combined with a traveling exhibition on Jewish family stories. This project introduced them to the public in Moldova and Ukraine.



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## **RAPTOR PROTECTION OF SLOVAKIA - WILDERNESS ON THE BORDER**

The Protected Bird Area Sysľovské polia located on the border of Slovakia, Hungary and Austria offers a habitat to unique bird species that live only in this area. Unfortunately, the birds are now facing threats caused by humans. The project 'Wilderness on the Border' aimed at raising local community awareness towards valuable areas in their neighborhood. As a result, 15 nest boxes were installed in the frontier region of the area occupied later by three bird species – Long-eared owl, Common kestrel and Red-footed falcon.

**Photo:** Raptor Protection of Slovakia

**Partners:** Czech Union for Nature Conservation CZ, Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Association HU CZ, Science Advocates Association PL, Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences SK, Central European University HU



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## **TRIVENTUM SGT LTD. - WITH DOGS FOR BETTER LIFE CROSS BORDER PROJECT**

Local nature, healthy lifestyle and a non-traditional sport with dogs is what cross-border project 'With dog for better life' focused on. Since people from the nearby industrial regions of Ostrava, Katowice & Žilina struggle with high air pollution, physical activity significantly improves their quality of life. The dog trekking race offered a unique opportunity that perfectly fits such needs.

**Photo:** Matej Rajcan

**Partners:** Slovak Club of Nordic and Japanese Dog Breeds SK

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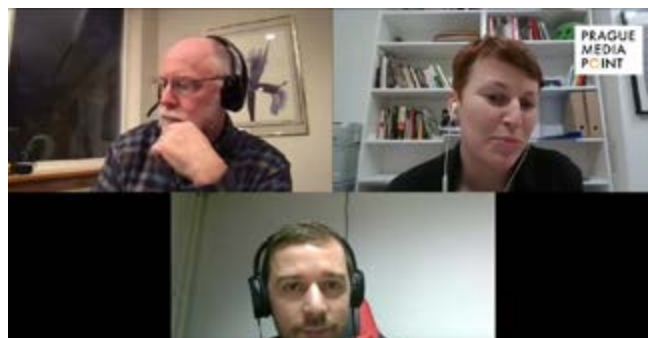
## KEYNOTE - PRAGUE MEDIA POINT 2020: FOCUS ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN V4 AND WESTERN BALKANS

'Prague Media Point' is an international interdisciplinary conference for journalists, media professionals, scholars, policymakers, and activists, organized annually since 2012. Part of the conference's 2020 edition focused on the safety and practice of investigative journalism in V4 and the Western Balkans countries.

**Photo:** Keynote

**Partners:** Transitions CZ, Balkan Investigative Reporting Regional Network, BIRN Hub BiH, Independent Journalism Foundation/Center for Independent Journalism HU, N Press Ltd. SK, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University CZ, Budapest Metropolitan University HU, Budapest Metropolitan University PL, Crime and Corruption Reporting Network – KRIK RS, Outriders non-profit association PL, Albanian Media Institute AL, Dept of Media and Communication, F. of Pol. Science and Journalism, Univ. of M. Curie-Skłodowska PL

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**Photo:** FB TRTITA

**Partners:** Home of social services and facilities for seniors Zákamenné SK, Center of Social services Horelica SK, District Residential Home "Pogodna Jesień" ("Sunny Autumn") PL, Social Services Center in Český Těšín CZ, 9forces Foundation PL, Public Servis Company St. Joseph, p.s.c. Ropice CZ, Nursing house for seniors under a patronage of Sainth Elizabeth, Konvent sisters of St. Elizabeth CZ, Cambio Foundation PL, District Residential Home "Betania" PL, Retirement home Vrbno, funded organization CZ

## EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION TRITIA, LTD.: VISEGRAD COOPERATION FOR WORKING WITH SENIORS

The project provided external support for institutions providing care for elderly people in different contexts, working for the benefit of seniors themselves by enabling them to integrate into society and live more active lives. At the same time, the partnering institution caregivers had the opportunity to exchange best practices and learn from each other. The transfer of experience and knowledge from different countries to the V4 improved the situation of seniors and thus had a positive impact on the social care sector.



## FOR BETTER FUTURE—VISEGRAD MENTORSHIP ACADEMY FOR WAR AFFECTED YOUTH IN GEORGIA

The Project aimed to improve the situation of people still internally displaced 10 years after the war conflict, suffering from depression, isolation, lack of interest in education and other traumas. As the region is underdeveloped and lacking further assistance, the focus was put on youth to think about effective grassroots organization techniques that empower them to take a more prominent role in their local communities.

**Photo:** FB: For Better Future

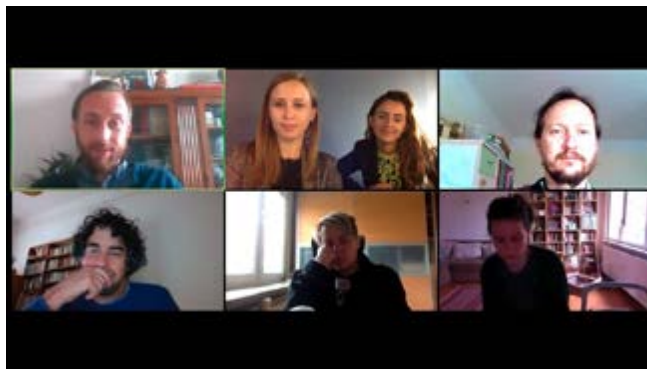
**Partners:** Galician Foundation of Development and Education PL, Pro Progressione Non-Profit Ltd HU, ADRA - Adventist Development and Relief Association (ADRA Slovakia) SK



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## OPEN DATA KOSOVO—ALGOVRITHMS. ARE CITIZENS GOVERNED BY COMPUTER PROGRAMS? 2.0

ALGOvrithms; Are citizens governed by computer programs? 2.0 project focused on public policy, legislation and justice in order to create common advocacy strategies addressing regional issues.



**Photo:** Blerta Thaci

**Partners:** ePaństwo Foundation PL, K-Monitor Public Benefit Organization HU, KohoVolit.eu CZ, Metamorphosis Foundation NM

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## AKADEMIA FINANSÓW I BIZNESU VISTULA—EFFECTS OF INDUSTRY 4.0 ON FDI IN THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

The aim of the project was to call public attention (media and companies) and revitalize discussion on Industry 4.0 and foreign investments. Apart from that, the project formulated recommendations for policymakers about how to shape future policy towards FDI in terms of attracting and maintaining investments. It examined a long term-challenge of eroding locational advantages of V4 countries, based on cheap, skilled labour, and considers policy actions necessary to face this challenge.

**Photo:** MG

**Partners:** Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS HU, University of Economics, Prague CZ, School of Management in Trencin SK

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## **ACADEMY NGO–INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOOL: IRIS SLOVAKIA 2020**

The IRIS initiative focused on biomedical researchers and healthcare professionals in general, with the initial idea to reduce the gap in education. The healthcare professionals have a natural obligation to share their experience, to mentor and to train junior colleagues. The IRIS courses provide an interdisciplinary international environment for training skills required for preparing research study protocols, scientific manuscripts and international collaboration. During four days, the participants experienced the process of elaborating and presenting a common research project.

**Photo:** Premedix Academy

**Partners:** Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University UA, Military Institute of Medicine PL, Czech Heart Foundation CZ

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## Strategic Projects

### **RES PUBLICA FOUNDATION—NEW EUROPE 100 INNOVATION FESTIVAL—EDUCATION, FINTECH, CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND TRENDS**

The events of the New Europe 100 festival gathered innovators, students, representatives of academia and business, opinion leaders, young entrepreneurs in order to share their ideas, their knowledge and to broaden their regional network opportunities. Organized not in capitals, but in smaller cities covering the most current topics of education, training and networking to support the innovation branch.



**Photo:** FB Res Publica

**Partners:** Startup Hub Warsaw (PL), SAPIE The Slovak Alliance of Innovation Economy (SK), Mindpartners (HU), Dataweps (CZ).



**Photo:** FB Global Arena Research Institute

**Partners:** Wroclaw University of Science and Technology PL, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association SK, Kopint-Tárki Economic Research Institute Ltd HU, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University Brno CZ

### **GLOBAL ARENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE – VISEGRAD–CARE-ARSEC: COMPUTER AIDED REASONING IN ANALYSING REGIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY**

The V4-CARE-ARSEC project aimed to establish an interdisciplinary research center aiming to alter the ways we understand regional and global processes and globalization. The project partners combined pioneering ways of analyzing big data on flows, interactions and political & regulatory frameworks and have developed a new analytical foundation for real-world policy-making and business decisions.

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**ANTALL JÓZSEF KNOWLEDGE CENTRE  
OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
– DEFINING CENTRAL EUROPE FROM  
HISTORICAL AND POLICY PERSPECTIVE**

The main focus of the project was to provide up to date information about the Visegrad Cooperation, its results and its place in the contemporary political environment authored by various contributors, for higher education purposes.



**Photo:** FB Antall József Centre

**Partners:** Slovak Foreign Policy Association  
SK, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy  
CZ, Casimir Pulaski Foundation PL

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## Special Programs

### V4 STARTUP FORCE BY DESIGN TERMINAL

Meeting potential business partners from V4 region who have gained access to the global market. One startup from each of the V4 countries is annually selected by Design Terminal and its V4 partner organizations, who joined a 7-day long training and mentoring program by Design Terminal in Budapest & a 10-day long mobility and networking tour in the V4 countries. This is how impactful changes are being made!

**Photo:** Design Terminal

**Partners:** Reaktor Warsaw PL, Campus SK, Dex-lc CZ



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# Strategic Confereces

## GLOBSEC BRATISLAVA FORUM 2020

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of GLOBSEC 2020 Bratislava Forum took place in both the virtual interactive studio and the physical world over two days in September. World leaders focused on crucial issues and tried to answer how and on what issues should countries co-operate to deal with COVID-19? They discussed the main geopolitical challenges for our post-pandemic world and other topics of tomorrow like 5G, digitalization and hybrid threats to democracy.

**Photo:** Globsec



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# Arts Residencies

## VISUAL AND SOUND ARTS RESIDENCY

Michał Mitro at Katowice City of Gardens,  
Exhibition: Edge of Chaos



## PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCY

ProFitArt at Fundacja Pałac Gorzanów,  
Performance: Nothing else, Mothers

## RESIDENCY IN NEW YORK

Agnieszka Grodzińska (PL)





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- Visegrad Fund
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