



# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2021

10<sup>th</sup> edition

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM



EUROATLANTICKÉ CENTRUM  
EURO-ATLANTIC CENTER

# December

# 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>



• Visegrad Fund



# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2021



**THURSDAY, December 02, 2021**

**9:00 - 09:15 Keynote speech**

**Marianna Neupauerová** - Deputy Executive Director of International Visegrad Fund

**09:15 – 10:30 Panel Discussion: 30 years of V4: lessons learned and perspectives for the future**

Thirty years ago, the countries of Central Europe set out on the path of freedom and democracy when the Presidents of Poland and Czechoslovakia and the Prime Minister of Hungary, signed a Visegrad Declaration of cooperation for the realization of European integration. This Declaration provided a political framework for extensive cooperation and close ties for the three countries: Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The group eventually extended to four after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993 however the mission of the Visegrad group remained the same. The similarity of problematic situations in the states has determined these countries to convergent basic objectives as they strive to fully restore national independence, democracy and freedom, establish a market economy, and fully integrate into the European political, economic, security and legislative systems.

With three decades of experience, the Visegrad Group became one of the symbols of successful political and economic transformation. Even though accession to the European Union and NATO has been completed, the organisation was not able to establish itself as a unified political entity under the guidance of the International Visegrad Fund. Eventually the region has the chance to finally define itself and work on strengthening mutual cooperation and thus gain a stronger position within the Euro-atlantic structures.

The difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic proved that regional cooperation such as V4 can be crucial in coping with unprecedented challenges and can in many aspects influence the effectiveness of dealing with such situations. The V4 faced many common challenges over the past decades but there are still many new ones that will test the V4 unity and strength not only from the outside but also from the inside of the Group.

New common topics and new challenges in the form of different views are also opened within the V4 countries and Austria as a strategic partner. What will be the next future of these five countries in the Euro-Atlantic structures?





# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2021



Being part of these structures is rather a tool or an obstacle to the enforcement of national interests considering the latest development in Hungary and Poland? What is the V4 task and position in NATO? What is the V4 strategic regional significance not only for NATO, but also in the EU and how to strengthen V4 position to become a major player in Euro-Atlantic structures?

## **SPEAKERS:**

**Sebastian Schäffer** - Managing Director at Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Vienna

**Alica Kizeková** - Senior researcher at Institute of International Relations, Prague

**Oľga Gyárfášová** - Associate professor at Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Comenius University, Bratislava

## **MODERATOR:**

**Alžbeta Púpalová** - Program Coordinator, Euro-Atlantic Center, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

**10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break**

**10:45 - 12:00 Workshop part I.: Future of the Central European Cooperation: V4 at Crossroads**

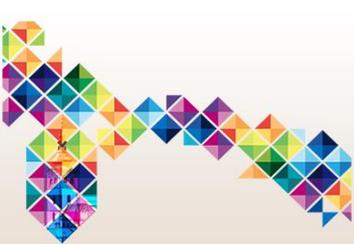
After panel discussion, the program continues with workshops where the participants will be given the opportunity to discuss their opinions and propositions about current topics and future prospects of not only the future of the V4 but also of potential deepening of the cooperation between the four countries and Austria.

## **MENTORS:**

**Róbert Vancel** - Special Assistant, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica

**Vladimír Müller** - Special Assistant, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica





# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2021



12:00 - 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 - 14:15 Workshop part II.

14:15 - 14:35 Coffee Break

14:35 - 15:10 Evaluation of the Workshops

**FRIDAY, 03 December, 2021**

09:30 - 11:00 Simulation part I.: **NATO 2030 concept and its priority areas**

**CHAIRMAN:**

**Filip Šufliarsky** - Program Coordinator, Euro-Atlantic Center, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

**CO-CHAIRMAN:**

**Marek Gallo** - Program Coordinator, Euro-Atlantic Center, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

The conference will culminate with the NATO summit simulation which will be focused on the strategic NATO 2030 concept, its priority areas, challenges concerning the future of warfare and a role of new and emerging technologies. Every participant, set in the role of the state representative of the NATO member state will be tasked to negotiate their demands and to achieve a consensus, which will be satisfactory for all involved parties. At the same time, participants will improve their critical thinking and the ability to deal with crisis situations.

Is it possible to achieve all set goals, especially the need of increasing resources of all three NATO budgets (military, civil, and infrastructure) necessary for implementation of the set objectives? What are the most problematic areas in reaching the conclusions? Is the organisation able to face the hybrid threats such as spread of dangerous misinformations and more and more sophisticated cyber-attacks? And are all NATO members sufficiently responsible to maintain collective resilience? Simulation ends by conclusion and final outputs as response to all these topics.





# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2021



**11:00 - 11:10** Coffee Break

**11:10 - 12:00** Simulation part I.: **NATO 2030 concept and its priority areas**

**12:00 - 13:00** Lunch break

**13:00 - 15:00** Simulation part II.: **NATO 2030 concept and its priority areas**

**15:00 - 15:20** Coffee Break

**15:20 - 15:35** Closing remarks

**Barbara Lukáčsová** - President, Euro-Atlantic Center, Banská Bystrica Slovakia





## Financial partners



## Partner organisations



## Institutional partner



@EACentre



@euroatlanticcenter

[www.vyf.eac.sk](http://www.vyf.eac.sk)