

VISEGRAD SECURITY COOPERATION INITIATIVE

1. Main Organizer

Slovakia

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2. Co-organizing Partners

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Poland

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3. Matter and objective of the project

Through systematic work in the joint expert groups, the project will identify shared security and defence interests of the Visegrad countries and analyze the possible means of their common realization. The process will result in the elaboration of a series of common policy papers that could represent the intellectual as well as practical impetus to the political and expert discussions on the common foreign policy strategies.

4. Detailed project description

Resulting from our longstanding belief that the Visegrad countries share common values and interests and – as endorsed by the findings of the precedent project “Security and Visegrad Countries: Proposals for Effective Cooperation” – we hold that strengthening regional security identity and creating common security strategy of the Visegrad countries should be among the aims of the four countries' cooperation. The project will create a necessary prerequisite for this goal: creation of a regional group of experts gathering on regular basis and discussing the security and defence issues. Moreover, after agreement on the areas of expertise is achieved, the working groups will analyze their respective issues with a view of development of common policy recommendations.

Besides the concrete outcome in form of these policy papers, the project will fill the gap in the cooperation among our four countries by establishing a fully functional network of international security experts from governmental and nongovernmental sphere. Joint meetings of Slovak, Czech, Hungarian and Polish experts will create not only the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding among the nations, but the real exchange of information and ideas in the field of security and defence, too. Emanating from the recommendations of the above mentioned project, newly emerging challenges like energy security, economic interdependence, cyber security or migration will be proposed in the discussion. However, since the classical defence issues are still relevant, we would like to initiate the debate on closer cooperation in this field as well. Common



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actions in some specific areas would enhance ties among the countries and strengthen the security and defence policies' efficacy.

5. Target groups and groups benefiting from the project

The specific character of the project implies that the primary target group includes the most prominent security and defence analysts and professionals from the Visegrad countries. These experts will be incited to work together and analyze the security issues from the perspective of the region, what would be a step forward in promoting the countries' national interests. The secondary target group is even broader. Since the outcomes of the project will be distributed in the governmental, nongovernmental and academic milieu, the ideas will spread and shape the decision-making process from the intellectual level.

6. Events

1.	Planning Commission	25.2.2010	25.2.2010	5/0
2.	Working Group 1.1	19.4.2010	20.4.2010	5/5
3.	Working Group 1.2	19.4.2010	20.4.2010	5/5
4.	Working Group 2.1	28.6.2010	29.6.2010	5/5 (preliminary date)
5.	Working Group 2.2	28.6.2010	29.6.2010	5/5 (preliminary date)

All events will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia.

7. Expected contribution of the project, outputs

The project will establish the regional network of experts in the field of security and defence who will be able to meet several times to achieve their mission: to elaborate a region-focused policy papers analyzing the security issues where the four constituting countries should closely cooperate.

8. Planned PR activities

Besides our effort to promote the project in the most popular electronic and printed media, we will support it in our Euro-Atlantic Quarterly magazine as well as on its exclusive website. We will also publish the information about the project on the website of the organization. Since the outcome of the project is the printed policy papers, we will use this broadly distributed material as a propagation instrument, too. Moreover, the project will be promoted by the partners from Visegrad countries on their own websites. As the traditional organizer of the international conferences in Slovakia, the Slovak Atlantic Commission guarantees high level of public relations and propagation activities of the project itself as well as its the key elements: policy papers & regional security conference.



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9. Continuation of the project

Years of organizing of the conferences and of publishing of our magazine have proved that we concentrate our energy in the sustainable projects of strategic importance. We believe that there is an unused potential of our countries in the field of security cooperation and at the same time we came to the point when issuing of expert analyses becomes a priority. Therefore, we have initiated the previous Visegrad project which outlined the possibilities and the same reason stands behind the actual project as its natural continuation. We suppose that the idea of security policy approximation of these countries is reasonable and therefore we see the proposed project as a next step in the long-time process of its realization. In this process we are determined to take part as an active promoter.



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