

Visegrad at 25: The future of the Central European regional cooperation

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Péter BALÁZS is Director of the Center for European Neighborhood Studies which he established in 2005. Research activities of Prof. Balázs are centered on the foreign policy of the EU and problems of the late modernization and European integration of the Eastern part of the continent. He also analyzes the questions of European governance including the future of European institutions. Péter Balázs graduated in Budapest at the Faculty of Economics of the “Karl Marx” University (later: Budapest School of Economics, today Corvinus University). He received his PhD degree and habilitated at the same University. He is a ScD of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In parallel with his government and diplomatic career, he has been teaching and doing research. He was nominated Professor of the Corvinus University in 2000 and joined the Central European

University as a full time Professor in 2005. He is regularly teaching at various Hungarian and foreign universities, lecturing in English, French, German and Hungarian. After the regime change in 1990, Prof. Balázs joined the Government of Hungary several times. He was State Secretary for Industry and Trade (1992-1993) and State Secretary for European Integration (2002-2003). He was Ambassador of Hungary in Denmark (1994-1996), Germany (1997-2000) and to the EU in Brussels (2003-2004). He was also the Government Representative of Hungary in the European Convention drafting the Constitutional Treaty, which became later, after several modifications, the Lisbon Treaty. In 2004, he was nominated the first Hungarian member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy. In 2009-2010, he was Foreign Minister of Hungary.

Pavol DEMEŠ currently works as a non-resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund in Bratislava, where he served as a director, responsible for the Fund’s activities in Central and Eastern Europe, since 2000-2010. Previously, Demeš was an executive director of the Slovak Academic Information Agency-Service Center for the Third Sector, a Slovak non-governmental organization committed to enhancing civil society. He also served as a foreign policy advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic (1993-97), Minister of International Relations (1991-92), and a director of the Department of Foreign Relations in the Ministry of Education (1990-1991). He has received



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Vít DOSTÁL is a director of AMO Research Centre since 2013. Furthermore, he has been co-editing Agenda for Czech Foreign Policy, the annual review of the Czech foreign policy for more than six years. Dostál has also worked on projects focused on foreign policy elites such as: Trends of Czech European Policy, Trends of Eastern Partnership and Trends of Visegrad Foreign Policy. Apart from the Czech foreign and European policy, he focuses on Poland and the Central European cooperation. Dostál studied European Studies and International Relations at Masaryk University in Brno. His op-eds were published inter alia in EurActiv.com, Carnegie Europe, OpenDemocracy, Hospodářské noviny, Denník N, and Gazeta Wyborcza.

Jan Niklas ENGELS has been the director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in Budapest, Hungary since August 2013. He holds a Master degree in politics and public administration. Moreover, he studied at the University of Konstanz (Germany) and at the University of Limerick (Ireland) and specialized in International Relations. In 2000-01, he took part in the Postgraduate Training Program of the German Development Institute in Bonn.

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Miklós HARASZTI is Director of Research on Human Rights at the Center for European Neighborhood Studies at the Central European University. He is a Hungarian author, professor, and human rights promoter. His books, including *A Worker in a Worker's State* and *The Velvet Prison*, have been translated into many languages. He was a founder of Hungary's democracy and free press movement in the 1970s. In 1989, he participated in the "Roundtable Negotiations" on the transition to free elections. As a member of Hungary's parliament in the 1990s, he authored the country's first laws on press freedom. From 2004 to 2010, he directed the media freedom watchdog institution of the 56-nation Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Recently, he headed the OSCE's observation missions for elections in the U.S. and in Kazakhstan. He

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Beata JACZEWSKA is the Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund. Previously, she held several positions in the Polish state sector, including Ministerial Advisor in European Policy Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministerial Advisor in Energy Department in the Ministry of Economy and Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Environment. Besides being an expert in legal issues and European affairs, she was also the Deputy Director and then the Director of the Economy Department at the Ministry of Economics. She studied at the University of Cambridge and earned her PhD at the Warsaw School of Economics.



Michal KOŘAN is a Deputy Director of the Institute of International Relations in Prague. Furthermore, he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno. Kořan is also a national co-ordinator of a think-tank platform known as Think Visegrad. His research interests include; Czech foreign, European and security policy, politics of Central European states (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria) as well as the Visegrad cooperation.

Róbert ONDREJCSÁK holds PhD. in International Relations, MA in Political Science, History and Philosophy. From 2012 he acted as a director of the Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, currently of CENAA. In 2010-2012, Ondrejcsák was a State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. In 2007-2010 he was a Director of Center for European and North Atlantic Affairs (CENAA) and lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations at Matej Bel University. He also served as a Counsellor and Deputy Chief of the Mission of the Slovak Embassy to Hungary, as well as Foreign and Security Policy advisor to Vice-Chairman of the Slovak Parliament, advisor of the NATO Department at the Slovak Ministry of Defence and analyst of the Slovak Centre for Strategic Studies. Moreover, he is a co-founder and co-editor of Panorama of global security environment. He is a lecturer at several universities and a member of advisory board of numerous journals in Slovakia as well as an author and an editor of numerous publications about international relations and security policy.



Wojciech PRZYBYLSKI is a political commentator, lecturer and social entrepreneur. He currently occupies a post of a Chairman of Res Publica (Warsaw) and of an Editor-in-chief of Eurozone (Vienna), a magazine of a pan-European network of cultural journals. Together with editors from 4 countries he publishes the Visegrad Insight. Przybylski worked previously as a junior research fellow at the Warsaw University, the Political Academy in Vienna, and as a research fellow at CEFRES in Prague. In addition, he also has initiated City DNA program empowering local communities and researching cultural policies. In 2014 he launched New Europe 100 project that highlights innovators from the region run by Res Publica in partnership with Financial

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Anita SOBJÁK is a senior research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs. She pursued her studies in Romania, the Netherlands and in Poland in International Relations and European Studies. The Visegrad Group, foreign and European policies of Hungary, Romania and Moldova and Ukraine, the EU's policy towards its Eastern Neighbourhood, democratization process in the region and development policy are the main areas of her research. She has been active in Polish and international media with appearances and articles in Tygodnik Powszechny (Poland), Népszabadság (Hungary), Adevărul (Romania, Moldova), Pravda (Slovakia), Es Global (Spain), Radio Free Europe, etc.



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