

Democratic Transitions and the Role of Visegrad Countries: The Way Forward

Panel Discussion of the Policy Paper

May 14, 2014, 12.30–14.30

Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Central European University, Budapest

Address: Central European University, Nádor utca 9., Budapest, Hungary

Room: Senate Room, Monument Building

Number of participants: 30–40

Target groups: NGOs, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Embassies, experts and students

The panel discussed the policy paper summarizing the outcomes of a two-part workshop which took place during the annual [Forum 2000 Conference](#) in Prague in September 2013.

The paper argues that the general ambitions of political transitions are shifting, and that the demands and expectations in the respective countries are entrenched in the cultural and socio-economic context. Western liberal democracy may not be the principal aim of political transitions taking place in the present-day world, and democratic countries providing aid to societies in transition should be sensitive to this fact. This also applies to democratic assistance provided by the Visegrad (V4) countries. The paper considers the International Visegrad Fund to be a useful platform on which the V4 countries can fully utilize their transitional experience and knowledge to support good governance and democratic initiatives in third countries and in the V4 countries itself.



Panel Discussion

- What are the key differences between the transitions that took place after communism and the more recent developments to emerge within the context of the Arab uprisings?
- How should observers define a successful transition outcome? What should be the expectation?
- What has been the role of the V4 countries, relatively young democracies with their own transitional experiences, in this process?
- How can the V4 countries contribute to global transitional efforts most effectively?
- How to enhance the cooperation in the region?

Participants

Opening Remarks:

Jakub Klepal, Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czech Republic

Opening Presentation:

Jan Hornát, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, Project Coordinator, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czech Republic

Panel Discussion:

Attila Bartha, Center for Policy Research, Central European University, Hungary

Zsuzsanna Végh, Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Central European University, Hungary

Ferenc Jári, EaP Coordinator, International Visegrad Fund, Hungary

Danuta Glondys, Director, Villa Decius Association, Poland

Moderator:

Jiří Schneider, Senior Fellow and Director of Special Projects, Prague Security Studies Institute, Czech Republic

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Forum 2000 Foundation

Czech Republic, www.forum2000.cz



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Hungary, www.demnet.hu



Stowarzyszenie Willa Decjusza

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