Advancing Ideas for Sustainable Regional Cooperation in Central Europe
Basic characteristics

- Visegrad Group = 1991; Visegrad Fund = 2000
- Established to develop and foster ties among citizens and institutions in the V4 region (bottom-up)
- Key principle: governmental funds → non-governmental recipients
- Principal beneficiaries: civil society organizations, public institutions, municipalities, local/regional governments, private citizens
- Search for an added value for the region
- Search for impactful ideas
- Focus—internal and external on non-EU countries and regions (e.g. transfer of V4’s unique transformation know-how)
Basic characteristics

• **V4’s only (solid) organization** to date
• **Status of international organization** with the seat in Bratislava

**Equal rights & equal duties** of V4 member states:
- **rotating presidency** in the fund/the group
  (January–December/July–June)
- **rotating management** (3-year missions of Exec. Dir./Deputy Exec. Dir.)
- **consensus** in decision-making (coordination by V4 MFAs)

• **Budget = annual contributions** (€2 million/country)

• **Co-financing since 2012**
  (Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Korea, Switzerland, U.S.A.)

• **Staff of 15**
Key instruments—Grants & Individual mobility

• **Internal & External Grants**
  – Visegrad Grants
  – Visegrad+ (Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans)
  – Strategic Grants

• **Scholarships/Fellowships/Residencies, Capacity Building**
  – Visegrad Scholarship Program
  – Fellowships at Open Society Archives
  – Visegrad Artist Residency Programs
  – Civil Servant Mobility Program (capacity building for UA, GE, MD)

• **Other projects**
  – Think Visegrad think-tank platform/Think Visegrad in Brussels
Our aim

“Advancing Ideas for Sustainable Regional Cooperation in Central Europe”

• supporting the mobility of people and ideas
• strengthening the internal cohesion of the region
• promotion of the V4 region
• complementing V4’s joint foreign policy, particularly towards the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan regions
Visegrad Grants

- projects must have “regional added value”
- projects involve entities from at least 3 V4 countries
- grants cover about **100% project costs** (depending on program)
- reimbursements in **tranches with advance payments** (up to 80% of project costs)
- **15% overhead costs**
- costs documented through copies of invoices and bills
- only **a single project per applicant** *
- **applying online** (multiple project-partnerships possible)
- **3x deadlines** (1. 2., 1. 6., 1. 10.)
Main thematic fields

- Culture and common identity
- Education and capacity building
- Environment
- Democratic values and the media
- Public policy and institutional partnerships
- Scientific exchange and research cooperation
- Regional development, entrepreneurship and tourism
- Social development
Who can apply?

- majority of applicants are CSOs and other NGOs
- primary/secondary schools, colleges + universities
- municipalities, regional governments
- other public institutions (museums, galleries, sports clubs)
- individual citizens or even private companies

- **not organizations fully funded from state budgets**, and/or state administration institutions (ministries, cultural institutes, etc.)
What cannot be covered?

• **tangible/intangible assets**
  (with the exception of 7% allowed within Strategic Grants)

• **internal costs and expenses** (utilities, bills...)
  exceeding **15% overhead costs**

• **employments ruled by labor code**
  (and related costs, such as per diems)
What can be covered?

- printing and publishing costs
- website design and updates
- rent of premises
- expert fees and honoraria
- accommodation and board
- translation and interpreting
- awards and prizes
- advertising and promotional costs
- office supplies, etc.
## Visegrad Grants – Quality and Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>TARGET GROUPS</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES &amp; IMPACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good understanding of the context and the problem is necessary (including data, statistics, analysis)</td>
<td>Involved stakeholders (including those who are part of the problem)</td>
<td>Activities involving a particular target group that will lead to achieve the results</td>
<td>Results—shall be the opposite of the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Impact of each result to be evaluated by the staff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[www.visegradfund.org/grants/guidelines](http://www.visegradfund.org/grants/guidelines)
17 years of regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe

€75,473,896 in funding (2000–2016)

Eastern Partnership countries
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Ukraine

Western Balkan countries
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo*
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia

Other non-V4
- 1.8
- 2.37%
Visegrad Scholarship Program

- Individual academic mobility:
  - within V4 region
  - between V4 region and the Western Balkans
  - between V4 region and the Eastern Partnership countries
- MA/post-MA levels (PhD/postdoc)
  - no age limit, affiliation with university not required
- 1–4 semesters (MA level), or 1–2 semesters (post-MA)
- support for both scholar and host institution:
  - €2,300/semester + €1,500/semester (+ €200 travel grant)
- annual deadline: January 31

www.visegrad.fund/scholarships
Main results in numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>75,473,896</strong></td>
<td>total approved sum (€)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5,056</strong></td>
<td>total number of approved grant projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,978</strong></td>
<td>total number of supported individual scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>601</strong></td>
<td>number of cities with approved grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>362</strong></td>
<td>total number of approved artist residencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td>number of universities hosting supported scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td>number of countries with supported projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>number of currently operated programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32.80%</strong></td>
<td>average application “success rate”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.visegradfund.org/about
Thank you for your attention.