

## CONNECTING V4 AND OTHER REGIONAL EXPERT NETWORKS:

### V4 & BALTICS AND THEIR VIEW OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

*Online working sessions organized by the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID) in cooperation with the Association for International Affairs (AMO), Res Publica Foundation and Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) with the support of the International Visegrad Fund (IVF).*

Wednesday, 11 November 2020, 10:00-11:30 – Thursday, 12 November 2020, 10:00-11:30 (CET)

The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union has been reshaping the dynamics of decision-making within the EU. Partnerships among the remaining 27 Member States are to be rethought and new alliances established. The coalition potential of individual EU members will change, directly affecting qualified majority voting, as well as blocking minority in the Council of the EU.

When it comes to European regional groupings, the Baltic States and the V4 Group have their respective geopolitical motivations toward the Eastern Partnership, therefore, these interests would dictate shared initiatives and cooperation through active engagement. This working session is the second of a 19-month project focused on building inter-regional connections across the EU through connecting V4 and other regional expert networks and thus researching concrete potential for the future EU coalitions.

The online discussion will be divided into two 90-minute sessions focusing on the following topics:

#### **Wednesday, 11 November – Overview of Baltic-V4 Cooperation and Geopolitical Backgrounds of Interest in the Eastern Partnership**

- To what extent has there been an intensive interregional cooperation between the Baltic and the V4 countries?
- What is the current mutual political perception of the Baltic States and the V4 and the factors affecting it? In what areas is there a working cooperation and where are the biggest divisions?
- What are the most important points of interest for the two regions vis-à-vis the Eastern Partnership?

#### Speakers:

- Elizabete Vizgunova, Researcher, Latvian Institute of International Affairs (TBC)
- Andžej Pukšto, Associated Professor, Department of Political Science, Vytautas Magnus University
- Monika Bičkauskaitė, Program Assistant, German Marshall Fund
- Balázs Jarábik, Senior Analyst, Head of Political Analysis and Coordination Department, EU Advisory Mission Ukraine.

## Thursday, 12 November – Past and Future Areas of Baltic-V4 Interregional Cooperation with the Eastern Partnership

- What are the existing shared priorities of the regions regarding the Eastern Partnership, where is the biggest potential for cooperation? What are the possible differing views and agendas?
- Can the two regions act as stabilizing players in the conflict ridden region of the EaP on the short and the long term?

### Speakers:

- Piret Kuusik, Junior Research Fellow, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute
- Linas Kojala, Director, Eastern Europe Studies Center (TBC)
- Vytis Jurkonis, Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Vilnius University
- András Rácz, Senior Fellow, CEID.

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