

# 30 YEARS OF VISEGRAD 1991–2021 COOPERATION

*The Visegrad Group was established as an alliance of originally three, later four countries for the purpose of furthering their European integration as well as advancing their military, economic and energy cooperation with one another.*

*The Visegrad Group (or the “Visegrad Four” or simply “V4”) reflects the efforts of the four Central European countries—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia—to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration.*

*The activities of the group are coordinated by V4 countries’ foreign ministries but extend to all levels of the government and state administration. With the establishment of the International Visegrad Fund in 2000—the only solid organization of the alliance to date—support has also been given to non-governmental organizations and civil initiatives for the “bottom-up” building of the regional alliance.*

*Activities of the Visegrad Group are aimed at strengthening stability and prosperity in the Central European region. V4 member states perceive their cooperation as a challenge and its success as the best proof of their ability to integrate into such structures as the European Union.*

*The first high-level summit was held in the town of Visegrád on February 15, 1991. The place was selected to symbolically connect the summit to the meetings of three kings in Visegrád in 1335 and 1336 which had been the results of lengthy and complex diplomatic efforts at that time and can be regarded as one of the earliest examples of regional cooperation in Central Europe.*



Visegrad Group

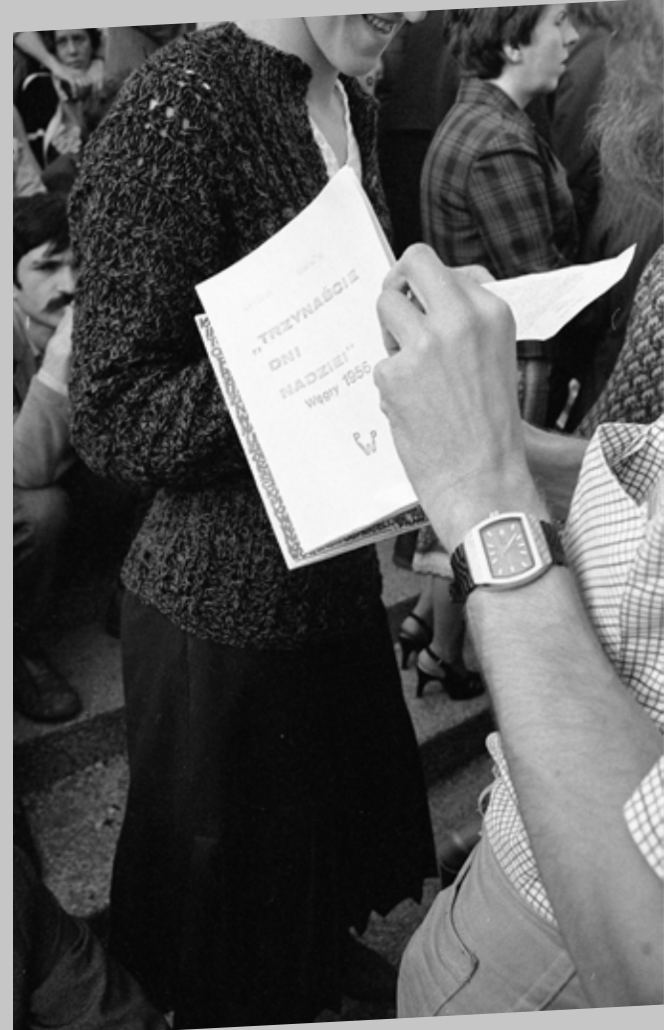


KRKONOŠE/KARKONOSZE (1978)



GIANT MOUNTAINS—Marta Kubišová, Václav Havel, Adam Michnik, Jacek Kuron and others at a meeting of Czechoslovak and Polish dissidents in the Krkonoše/Karkonosze mountains (Giant Mountains) in 1978. Photo: ČTK

GDAŃSK (1981)



GDANSK—Regional meeting of the Independent Self-governing Trade Union Solidarity (NSZZ Solidarność) in Gdansk, a participant of the second round of meetings holds a copy of a Polish translation of Sándor Kopácsi's book "Hungary 1956 – Thirteen Days of Hope" (Węgry 1956: trzynaście dni nadziei), October 1981. Photo: PAP

KRKONOŠE/KARKONOSZE (1989)



GIANT MOUNTAINS—Václav Havel (center) and other dissidents at a meeting of the Czechoslovak-Polish Solidarity movement in the Krkonoše/Karkonosze mountains (Giant Mountains) in summer 1989. Photo: Archive of Anna Šabatová and Petr Uhl/ČTK

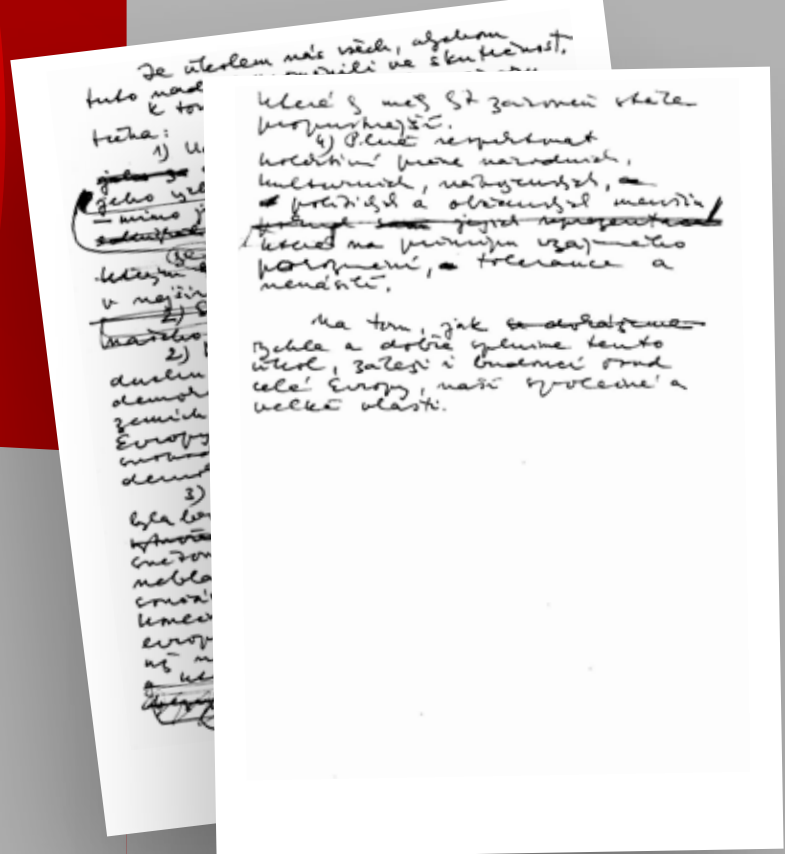
THE IRON CURTAIN (1989)



HATÉ—Tearing down the "iron curtain" at Austrian-Czechoslovak border near Haté near Znojmo (December 1989). Photo: ČTK



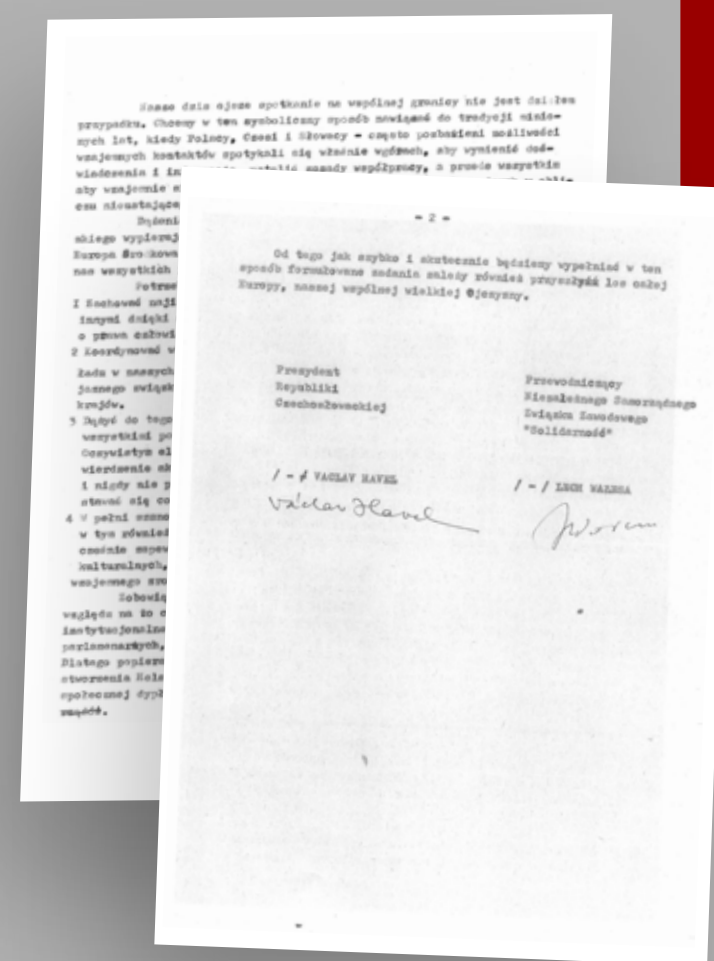
SOPRON—Foreign Ministers Alois Mock of Austria and Gyula Horn of Hungary cut through the "iron curtain" between the two countries (June 27, 1989). Photo: MTI



Hand-written notes of the joint declaration written by Václav Havel (March 17, 1990).



PRZEŁĘCZY OKRAJ—Meeting of Czechoslovak President Václav Havel with the leader of the Independent Self-governing Trade Union Solidarity (NSZZ Solidarność) Lech Wałęsa near a mountain hut at Przełęcz Okraj in the Krkonoše/Karkonosze mountains (Giant Mountains) on March 17, 1990. Photo: PAP



Joint declaration of Václav Havel and Lech Wałęsa in the Krkonoše/Karkonosze (Giant Mountains) on March 17, 1990.



Source: NSZZ Solidarność



We have given the task that faces Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks today the working title "The Return to Europe."

Václav Havel in his speech at the meeting of leaders of three neighboring countries at Bratislava castle on April 9, 1990

Visegrad Group



BRATISLAVA—Meeting of the Heads of Governments of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland: Miklós Némethi (left), Marián Čalfa (center) and Tadeusz Mazowiecki (second from right) in Bratislava on April 9, 1990. The meeting took place in the initial proto-“Visegrad” format but also included the representatives of Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia.  
Photo: TASR



BRATISLAVA—Presidents Wojciech Jaruzelski, Václav Havel and Mátys Szűcs at a meeting in Bratislava (1990).  
Photo: TASR



Photo: TASR

BRATISLAVA (1990)

BUDAPEST (1991)



BUDAPEST—Prior to the meeting in Visegrád, the Czechoslovak, Hungarian and Polish delegations met in the morning in the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest.  
Photo: MTI



VISEGRÁD—The first official summit of the “Visegrad triangle” or “troika” in the Royal Palace Václav Havel (President of Czechoslovakia), József Antall (Prime Minister of Hungary), Árpád Göncz (President of Hungary), Jan Krzysztof Bielecki (Prime Minister of Poland) and Lech Wałęsa (President of Poland).

“THE SUMMIT IN THE FROSTY RUINS”

“They were very surprised because we couldn’t find a venue which met the safety and security requirements and additionally could be heated. Eventually, we ended up in one of the cellars of the royal palace, which at the time housed a collection of stones,” recalls Sándor Hadházy, the mayor of the town of Visegrád. On the morning of the signing of the Visegrad Declaration, the thermometers showed  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and it had snowed heavily during the previous days. “There was no door in the room, just some bars, and no heating. We had an idea to install the rather heavy brocade curtains, which were to prevent the heat from escaping. We put a few gas heaters in the cellar, and managed to warm it up a little,” Hadházy added.

Text: Tomasz Grabinski: “The Summit in the Frosty Ruins: The Background of the 1991 Visegrad Meeting in the Visegrad Group – A Central European Constellation,” ed. by Andrzej Jagodzinski, International Visegrad Fund, Bratislava 2006.



PRAGUE—The last meeting of the political committee of the Warsaw Pact chaired by Czechoslovak president Václav Havel on July 1, 1991.  
Photo: ČTK



VISEGRÁD—A glass of wine following the signing ceremony of the (first) Visegrad Declaration in the Royal Palace in Visegrád on February 14, 1991.  
Photo: TASR

CRACOW (1991/1992)



CRACOW—The second meeting of the Visegrad Group, then still an informal alliance of the three Central European countries (Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland). As part of the talks that dealt with political situation after the dissolution of the USSR, economic cooperation and the conflict with Yugoslavia, the so-called Cracow Declaration on mutual trade liberalization was signed (from left—Václav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia, Lech Wałęsa, President of Poland and József Antall, Prime Minister of Hungary) (October 6, 1991).  
Photo: PAP



The so-called Cracow Declaration led to the establishment of Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA); the agreement among the original (V4) signatories was signed in Cracow on December 21, 1992.

- [...] they shall harmonize their activities to shape cooperation and close contacts with European institutions and shall hold **regular consultations** on matter of their security,
  - they shall endeavor to create **free contacts between citizens**, institutions, churches and social organizations,
  - in order to support **free flow of labor force and capital**, they shall develop economic cooperation, based on the principles of the free market, and mutually beneficial trade in goods and services; moreover they shall strive to create favorable conditions for direct cooperation of enterprises and foreign capital investments, aimed at improving economic effectiveness,
  - they shall focus on the **development of the infrastructure** in communications, with regard both to links between the three countries and those with other parts of Europe, mainly in the north-south direction, and shall coordinate the development of their power systems and telecommunication networks,
  - they shall increase **cooperation in the field of ecology**,
  - they shall create favorable conditions for **free flow of information, press and cultural values**,
  - they shall jointly develop multilateral cooperation to ensure optimum conditions for full realization of the **rights of national minorities** living on the territories of their countries,
  - they shall support mutually beneficial cooperation of interested local **self-governments** of their countries and establishment of sub-regional contacts [...]
- (Visegrad Declaration 1991)



Drawing on universal human values as the most important element of the European heritage and own national identities should serve as the basis for developing a society of people cooperating with each other in a harmonious way, tolerant of each other, of individual families, local, regional and national communities, free of hatred, nationalism, xenophobia, and local strife.

(Visegrad Declaration)



Visegrad Group



BRATISLAVA/PRAGUE (1993)



BRATISLAVA—Presidents of the Czech Republic (Václav Havel), Austria (Thomas Klestil), Poland (Lech Wałęsa), and Hungary (Árpád Göncz) attending Te Deum held at St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava performed on the occasion of the inauguration of the first Slovak president Michal Kováč.  
Photo: ČTK



PRAGUE—Joint meeting of V4 presidents with U.S. President Bill Clinton. From left: Michal Kováč, Lech Wałęsa, Václav Havel, Árpád Göncz, Bill Clinton (January 12, 1994).  
Photo: ČTK



GERLACHOV—V4 presidents (Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Václav Havel, Rudolf Schuster and Árpád Göncz) cut a cake following a press conference held after a presidential summit in the High Tatras (December 3, 1999).  
Photo: ČTK



TATRANSKÁ JAVORINA—Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group countries pose for a family photo before a working meeting which was part of an informal meeting in Hotel Poľana in the High Tatras on December 3, 1999 (from left: Mikuláš Dzurinda, Miloš Zeman, Viktor Orbán, Jerzy Buzek).  
Photo: TASR



TIHANY—(From left) V4 Prime Ministers Viktor Orbán (Hungary), Jerzy Buzek (Poland), [unknown], Mikuláš Dzurinda (Slovakia), and Miloš Zeman (Czech Republic) descend from a boat after a trip on Lake Balaton during their informal meeting.

ŠTIŘÍN (2000)



ŠTIŘÍN—V4 Prime Ministers raising glasses for a toast after the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the International Visegrad Fund (see right), this date—June 9, 2000—thus becomes the "birthday" of the Visegrad Fund.  
The fund was established to finance multilateral projects in the areas of culture, science, education and cross-border cooperation.  
Photo: TASR



KROMĚŘÍŽ—The first meeting of the Heads of Government of the Visegrad Group countries after the accession into the EU (May 12, 2004) in Kroměříž (from left—Mikuláš Dzurinda, Vladimír Špidla, Péter Medgyessy and Marek Belka).  
Photo: ČTK

KROMĚŘÍŽ (2004)

International Visegrad Fund

The fund is established as an international organization with the seat in Bratislava. Its principle aim is strengthening ties among the four countries and developing closer regional cooperation especially through the support of cross-border civil society initiatives. To date, the fund is the only solid organization of Visegrad cooperation.

The objectives of the Fund shall be pursued through financial support of activities, in particular in the following areas:

- promotion and development of cultural cooperation;
- promotion and development of scientific exchanges, research and cooperation in the field of education between the Contracting Parties;
- promotion and development of exchanges between young people;
- promotion and development of cross-border cooperation;
- promotion and development of tourism of the Contracting Parties.

(Statute of the International Visegrad Fund)

The Visegrad Group countries are strongly determined to jointly contributing to the fulfillment of the European Union's common goals and objectives and to the successful continuation of the European integration. They reiterate their commitment to the enlargement process of the European Union. They are ready to assist countries aspiring for EU membership by sharing and transmitting their knowledge and experience. The Visegrad Group countries are also ready to use their unique regional and historical experience and to contribute to shaping and implementing the European Union's policies towards the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

(Kroměříž Declaration)



*It is foreseen that the Visegrad co-operation will not develop only between the governments, but also other forms of co-operation will be encouraged, such as the meetings of the heads of state, regular communication between the parliaments, intensive contacts between "intermediary bodies" of civil society, etc.*

(Contents of Visegrad Cooperation, Bratislava 1999)



Visegrad Group

VISEGRÁD (2006)



**VISEGRÁD**—Meeting of V4 Prime Ministers in Visegrád on October 10, 2006. The group's official logo with the four characteristic "dots" representing the capitals was first unveiled at this meeting (from left—Mirek Topolánek, Robert Fico, Ferenc Gyurcsány and Jaroslav Kaczyński).  
Logo: Lucia Kleindlerová, a young Slovak graphic designer, designed both the logo of the group and the corresponding logo of the International Visegrad Fund. Her design was selected from 200+ proposals submitted by students of graphic design in the V4 region.  
Photo: TASR

BRATISLAVA (2011)



**BRATISLAVA**—A press conference following a meeting of V4 foreign ministers with German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle.  
From left: Mikolaj Dowgiałecki (State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland), Karel Schwarzenberg (Czech Foreign Minister), Guido Westerwelle, Mikuláš Dzurinda (Slovak Foreign Minister), Catherine Ashton, János Martonyi (Hungarian Foreign Minister) and Štefan Füle (March 3, 2011).  
Photo: ČTK

[...] to facilitate the process of enlarging the area of stability and democracy in the EU neighbourhood and actively contribute towards the implementation of European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions of the countries of Eastern Partnership and continue to support the Western Balkan countries in their EU and NATO integration. The added value of the unique know-how of the V4 and pooled resources of IVF may effectively assist partner neighbourhood countries to turn their integration and democratisation endeavours into success [...].  
(From the Bratislava Declaration of V4 Prime Ministers, February 15, 2011)

V4+

Visegrad EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Based on the Annex to the Content of Visegrad Cooperation (2002), the V4+ framework is introduced for concrete projects between the group and other countries. The Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans have been the group's key foreign policy targets. The Visegrad Fund assists in the implementation of some aspects of the group's foreign policy, as the Bratislava Declaration (2011) introduces the V4EaP program set to help share some of the region's unique know-how on transformation and EU accession with the EaP countries. Already at the end of 2015, more than 20% of the fund's approved contributions were distributed outside of the V4 region with EaP and Western Balkan countries as the main recipients of the support. This ratio has been kept to date when about one fifth of all approved funding goes outside of the V4 region.



A postcard with a photo of the Visegrád castle and the Danube issued by the Czech Post commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group.



Anniversary stamps were issued on the occasion of the group's 20 years in all four countries; this is a €0.90 Slovak stamp.

WARSAW (2013)



**WARSAW**—Visegrad Group's Foreign Ministers (from left) János Martonyi, Karel Schwarzenberg, Radosław Sikorski and Miroslav Lajčák visit the National Stadium in Warsaw during their meeting held under the Polish presidency in the group on October 25, 2012 (the meeting took place in the V4+ Western Balkans format).  
Photo: PAP/Pawel Superniak

CRACOW (2013)



**CRACOW**—(From left) European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle, Hungary's Foreign Minister János Martonyi, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, Slovakia's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Miroslav Lajčák, and Czech Republic's Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg at a press conference during V4+ Eastern Partnership ministerial summit on May 17, 2013.  
Photo: PAP/Jacek Bednarzyk

BRATISLAVA (2014)



**BRATISLAVA**—V4+ Western Balkans format becomes a "traditional" annual meeting on the foreign ministerial level; this meeting took place during the Slovak presidency in the group on October 30-31, 2014. Apart from the Western Balkan counterparts, the meeting hosted also Sebastian Kurz, Foreign Minister of Austria, and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. In the picture, Miroslav Lajčák (fifth from the right) opens the press conference.  
Photo: TASR

CRACOW (2013)



**CRACOW**—The winners' podium of the first edition of the Visegrad Bicycle Race during which the racers cycled 533 km from Budapest through Slovakia and Czechia arriving in Cracow early morning on May 18, 2013.

PRAGUE (2015)



**PRAGUE**—Extraordinary summit of V4 prime ministers dealing with the migration crisis held in Prague on September 4, 2015 (from left—Robert Fico, Ewa Kopacz, Bohuslav Sobotka and Viktor Orbán at a press conference).  
Photo: ČTK

1st Visegrad Bicycle Race

Since 2013, the Visegrad Fund has been supporting the annual Visegrad Bicycle Race, a 500+ km race for amateur cyclists with (a) route(s) in all four countries.



Visegrad Group



Badge of the European Union Strategic Operational Command in Cracow built to support the V4 EU Battle Group on standby in 2016.

OLOMOUC (2015)



OLOMOUC—Soldiers of the 153rd Engineer Battalion from Olomouc and the 151st Engineer Battalion from Bechyně load a field kitchen onto a train car as part of a Balaton 2015 exercise during which the Czech Army extended its assistance to Hungary in securing the Schengen border.  
Photo: ČTK

BUDAPEST (2015)



BUDAPEST—Slovak police officers put on their armbands during the welcoming ceremony of 50 Slovak police officers upon their arrival in Budapest on October 20, 2015. Slovak police officers are scheduled to help to their Hungarian colleagues in border protection at the Hungarian-Serbian border.  
Photo: MTI/Zsolt Szigetváry

GDYNIA (2015)



GDYNIA—The 2015 International Visegrad Prize (awarded annually by V4 ministers responsible for culture) went to Olomouc Museum of Art on June 1, 2017. The prize was presented by Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, Piotr Gliński (second from the right), for the realization of the idea of the Central European Forum in Olomouc.  
Photo: Danuta Matloch, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland



PRAGUE—V4 Prime Ministers' summit marked the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Visegrad Group on February 15, 2016. On the occasion of the summit, the Prime Ministers adopted the Prague Declaration (on the 25th anniversary of the Visegrad Group) and a Joint Statement on Migration (from left—Viktor Orbán, Beata Szydło, Bohuslav Sobotka and Robert Fico).  
Photo: Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

PRAGUE (2016)



The Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI), which started operation on July 1, 2016, is an intergovernmental organization for cooperation in the field of patents established by the four Visegrad countries. The VPI was appointed as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in order to attain a wide range of important objectives at various (global, European, regional and national) levels.

KRYNICA-ZDRÓJ (2016)



KRYNICA-ZDRÓJ—Meeting of the Heads of Government of V4 countries and Ukraine on the sidelines of the Economic Forum in Krynica on September 6, 2016. The main topics of the talks were the cooperation and joint V4-Ukraine initiatives, cooperation to strengthen the infrastructure in the Carpathian region, and the security situation.  
Photo: PAP



WARSAW—Cooperation of digital markets was discussed during the summit of V4 Prime Ministers on March 28, 2017. The prime ministers adopted the Warsaw Declaration which focuses on the coordination of innovation policy among V4 countries.  
Photo: Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

WARSAW (2017)



Joint Declaration of Intent of Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group on Mutual Co-operation in Innovation and Digital Affairs, the so-called "Warsaw Declaration" adopted at the CEE Innovators Summit in Warsaw on March 28, 2017.

BRATISLAVA (2017)



BRATISLAVA—In 2017, the headquarters of the International Visegrad Fund moved to new premises in the center of Bratislava. V4 Ministers of Foreign Affairs during their meeting in the headquarters of the Fund (May 26, 2017) emphasized the importance of the International Visegrad Fund for the development of lasting ties among the societies of the V4 countries.  
Photo: International Visegrad Fund

BUDAPEST (2017)



BUDAPEST—V4 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on July 24, 2017 (from left—Miroslav Lajčák, Péter Szijártó, Witold Waszczykowski and Jakub Dür).  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

*"The Visegrad Group countries reiterated their strong support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine and confirmed the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. (...) The Government of Ukraine will do its utmost to swiftly fulfil commitments ensuing from the provisionally applicable Association Agreement with the EU (...). The Visegrad Group countries offered their support to the reform efforts made in this context."*

Communiqué of the Visegrad Group Prime Ministers after the meeting with Prime Minister of Ukraine (Krynica-Zdrój, 2016).

Visegrad Group

SZEKSZÁRD (2017)



BUDAPEST—V4 Sunday Cultural Event on October 8, 2017.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



SZEKSZÁRD—V4 Heads of State Summit on October 13, 2017  
(from left—Andrzej Duda, János Áder, Andrej Kiska and Miloš Zeman).  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

BUDAPEST (2018)



BUDAPEST—V4 Prime Ministers' Summit and V4 + CA5 (Central Asia) Foreign Ministers' Meeting on February 26–27, 2018.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



BUDAPEST—V4 cooperation among statistics offices launched on April 19, 2018.  
Photo: Tamás Weisz, Hungarian Central Statistical Office

BRATISLAVA (2019)



BRATISLAVA—Summit of Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group countries with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on February 7, 2019. A joint declaration on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the communist regimes in Central Europe was adopted (from left—Viktor Orbán, Angela Merkel, Peter Pellegrini, Andrej Babiš and Mateusz Morawiecki).  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



BRATISLAVA—Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Visegrad Group countries with Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on June 7, 2019 (from left—Jacek Czaputowicz, Kang Kyung-wha, Miroslav Lajčák, Tomáš Petříček and Péter Szijjártó).  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



BRATISLAVA—The third Visegrad Group plus Japan summit meeting on April 25, 2019.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

*30 years ago, the profound political and societal movements for freedom and democracy overthrew totalitarian regimes in Central Europe and made way for the reunification of Germany and Europe. Peoples of Central Europe reclaimed their freedom and democratic rights as well as the possibility to re-join the community of Western democratic nations. Commemorating events of 1989, we acknowledge a key role of then Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Germany in the fall of communism. (...) Common values and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were the driving force of the political changes in the region. That was the reason why the vision of joining EU and NATO was always so clear. (...) We intend to deepen further our relations for the benefit of our citizens, our countries and the European Union as a whole. Unity is key. We are ready to make our contribution for a stronger, safer, more cohesive, prosperous and successful Europe and we continue to uphold the Transatlantic Alliance based on shared democratic values and common interests.*



Visegrad Group

BRATISLAVA (2019)



BRATISLAVA—An extended ministerial meeting of the Visegrad Group countries and the Eastern Partnership countries on May 6, 2019.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

PRAGUE (2020)



PRAGUE—V4 and Western Balkans Foreign Ministers' meeting with the presence of Austrian, Croatian and Slovenian partners and the European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement on February 27, 2020. The V4 Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement supporting the EU integration of the Western Balkan partners. On the margin, directors of the International Visegrad Fund and the Western Balkans Fund signed a memorandum on the continuation of their cooperation.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

PRAGUE (2020)



PRAGUE—Extraordinary V4 Prime Ministers' summit focusing on V4 and EU reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 4, 2020.  
Photo: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

WARSAW (2020)



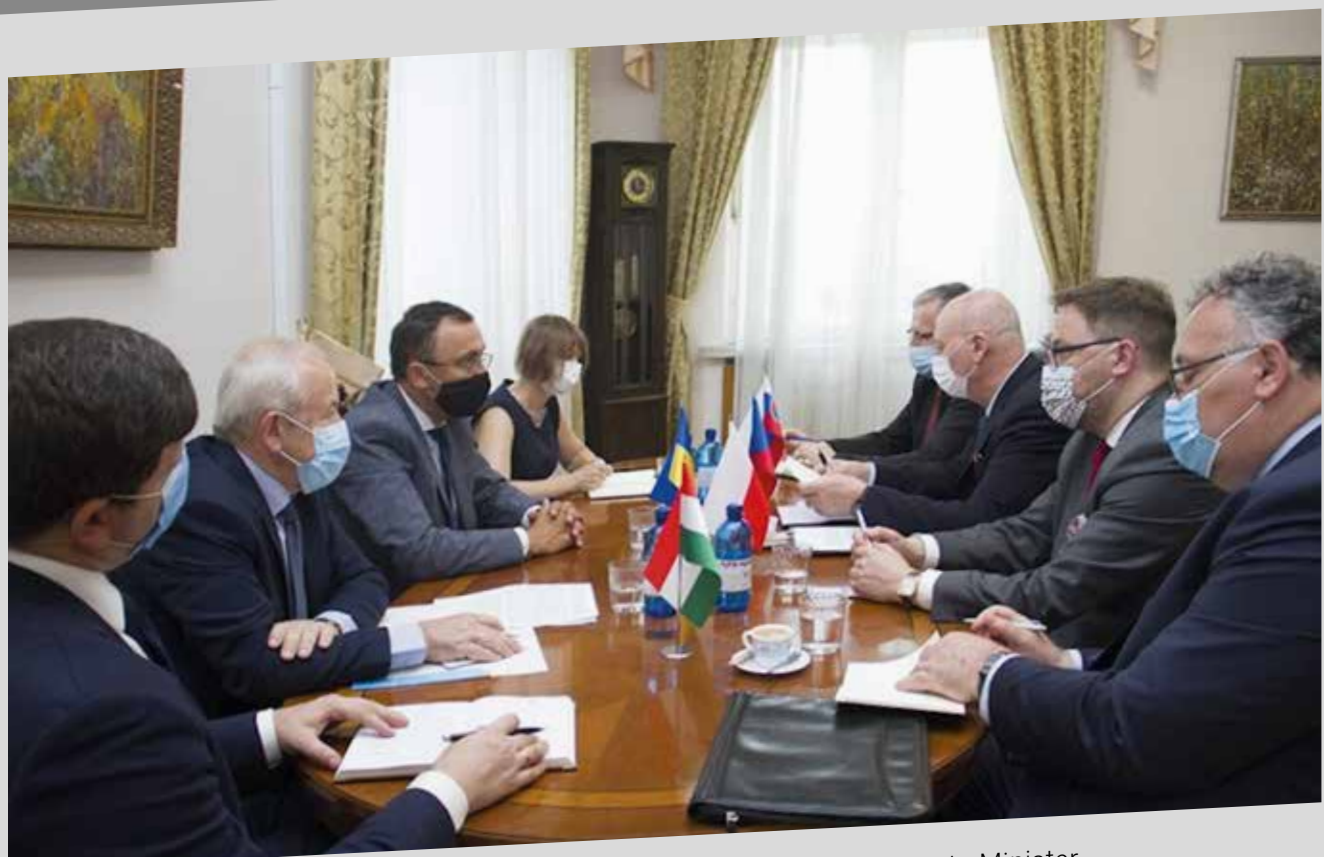
WARSAW—V4 Prime Ministers met in Warsaw July 3, 2020 to discuss the draft EU budget for 2021–2027 and the European Instrument for Reconstruction, as well as other issues related to the current EU agenda (from left—Igor Matović, Andrej Babiš, Mateusz Morawiecki and Viktor Orbán).  
Photo: Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

LUBLIN (2020)



LUBLIN—Meeting of the heads of government of V4 countries on September 11, 2020.  
Photo: Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

KYIV (2020)



KYIV—Meeting of the Ambassadors of V4 countries with Vasyl Bodnar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on June 30, 2020—presentation of the extraordinary V4 East Solidarity Program administered by the International Visegrad Fund and dedicated to the practical strengthening of the social and economic resilience of vulnerable groups of citizens of the Eastern Partnership countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.  
Photo: Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kyiv

PRAGUE (2020)



PRAGUE—Czech foreign minister Tomáš Petříček (second from the left) during a teleconference of foreign ministers of V4 countries and Germany on March 13, 2020.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

WARSAW (2020)



WARSAW—Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Szymon Szynkowski vel Sek during a meeting launching the virtual V4 Centre for COVID-19.  
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

*“The Ministers underlined the importance of strengthening dialogue and cooperation within this format as a significant contribution to making the European Union a more united, efficient and effective actor, both internally as well as at the international stage, and shared the assessment that only a united, well-coordinated and self-confident EU can play an active, ambitious geopolitical role, as is also a priority of the new European Commission. To reach this goal it is of utmost importance that all Member States as well as European institutions—while taking into consideration national sensitivities and competences—actively support the work on a common ground and understanding and implement agreed policies and positions with regard to the most topical geopolitical issues.”*

Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group and Germany



- Visegrad Fund

# GRANTS

# 5,847

Number of grant projects approved by the end of 2019

## Culture and Common Identity



Workshop in Székesfehérvár, HU (Let's superhero ourselves); Photo: Fusion Association

We support projects that strengthen regional and European identity through common cultural initiatives in the Visegrad region.

## Education and Capacity-Building

We support projects that raise Central and Eastern European regional competitiveness through improved skills of citizens.



Workshop in Banská Štiavnica, SK (Midpoint TV Launch 2019); Photo: MIDPOINT

## Innovation, R&D, Entrepreneurship

We support projects that improve the environment for innovation and create new approaches to existing regional public challenges.



Conference for Social Innovation Allies, Cracow, PL (Social Innovation Ecosystem Index); Photo: Ashoka Poland

## Democratic Values and the Media

We support projects that advance democratic values, support human rights and minorities, contribute to the development of civil society, strengthen media freedom and access to information.



'Explore Impact' Seminar, Warsaw, PL; Photo: Watch Docs—International Film Festival

## Public Policy and Institutional Partnership

We support projects that contribute to good governance and improve the effectiveness of public policymaking in the regional context.



Group discussions in Serock, PL (Improving Energy Security of Visegrad through Better Energy Efficiency of Buildings); Photo: Buildings for the Future

## Regional Development, Environment and Tourism

We support projects that advance strategies for environmentally sustainable regional development and tourism.



Mountain Rescue Training in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine (Carpathian Mountain Rescue Cooperation Platform); Photo: Rovin Mountains Guides Association

## Social Development

We support projects that increase awareness and practice of a healthy and active lifestyle and reduction of substance abuse.



Danube River race, Kravany nad Dunajom, Slovakia (Walruses V4); Photo: Marta Sláviková

*The purpose of the fund is to facilitate and promote the development of closer cooperation among citizens and institutions in the region as well as between the V4 region and other countries, especially in the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership regions.*

*The fund operates several grant programs, and also awards individual scholarships, fellowships and artist residencies. Grant support is given to original projects of multilateral character that display sufficient regional added value within the main focus areas.*



The platform of leading V4 think tanks established in 2012 as a network for structured dialog on issues of strategic regional importance.  
<http://think.visegradfund.org>



Inspired by the structure of the Visegrad Fund, the Western Balkans Fund is a locally-owned international donor organization supporting regional projects in the Western Balkans.  
<http://www.westernbalkansfund.org>



# Scholars by citizenship 2000–2020

Visegrad Fund

- LEGEND**
- Grants (official seats of grantees)
  - Scholarships (host higher-education institutions)
  - Residencies (seats of the artists' host institutions)

For currently running projects see <http://visegrad.online/>

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

**Basic figures:**

**€95,984,358**  
total approved amount in 2000–2019

**5,847**  
total number of approved grant projects

**3,400**  
approx. number of supported grantees

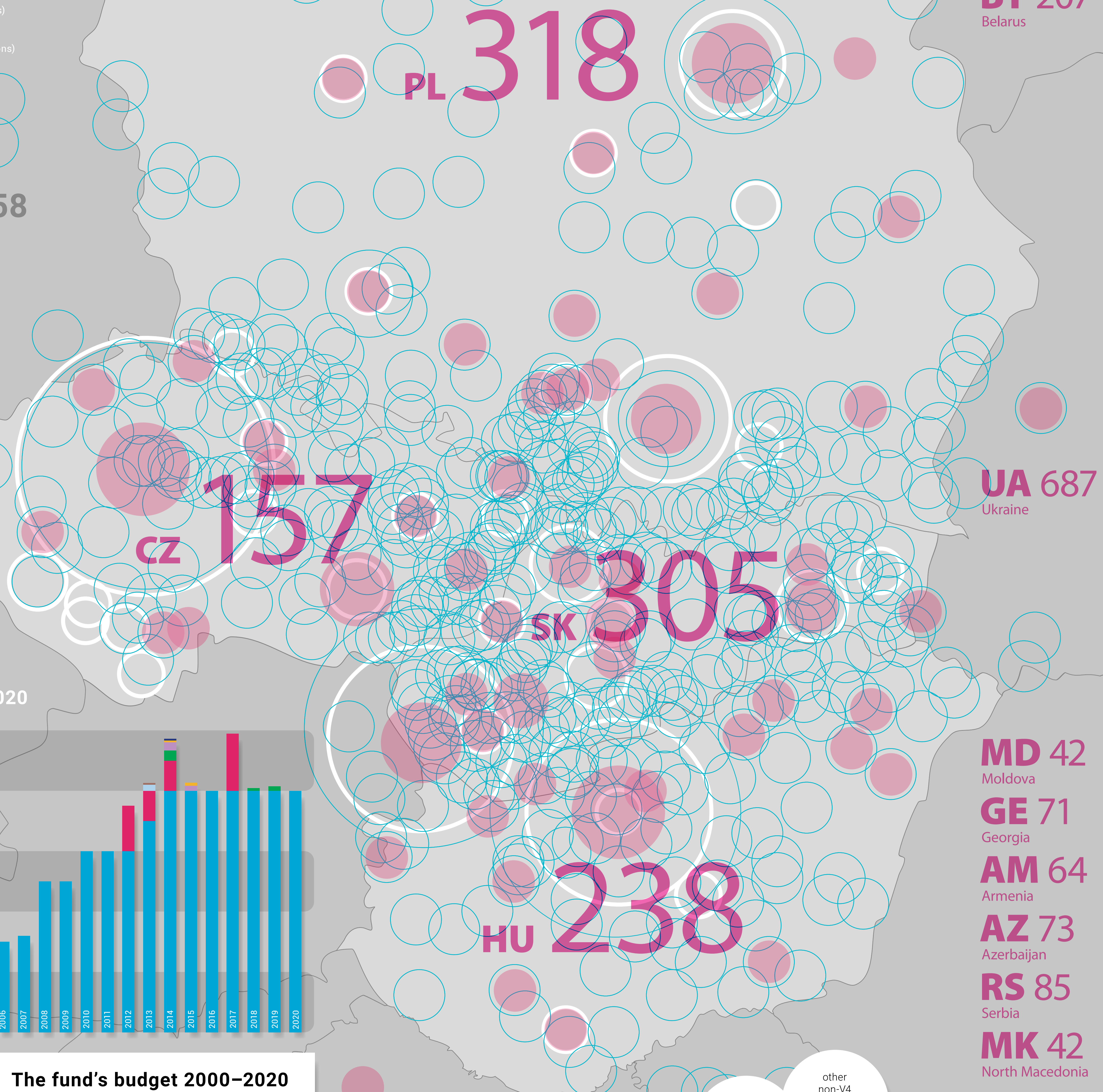
**2,357**  
total number of supported individual scholars

**601**  
number of cities with approved grants

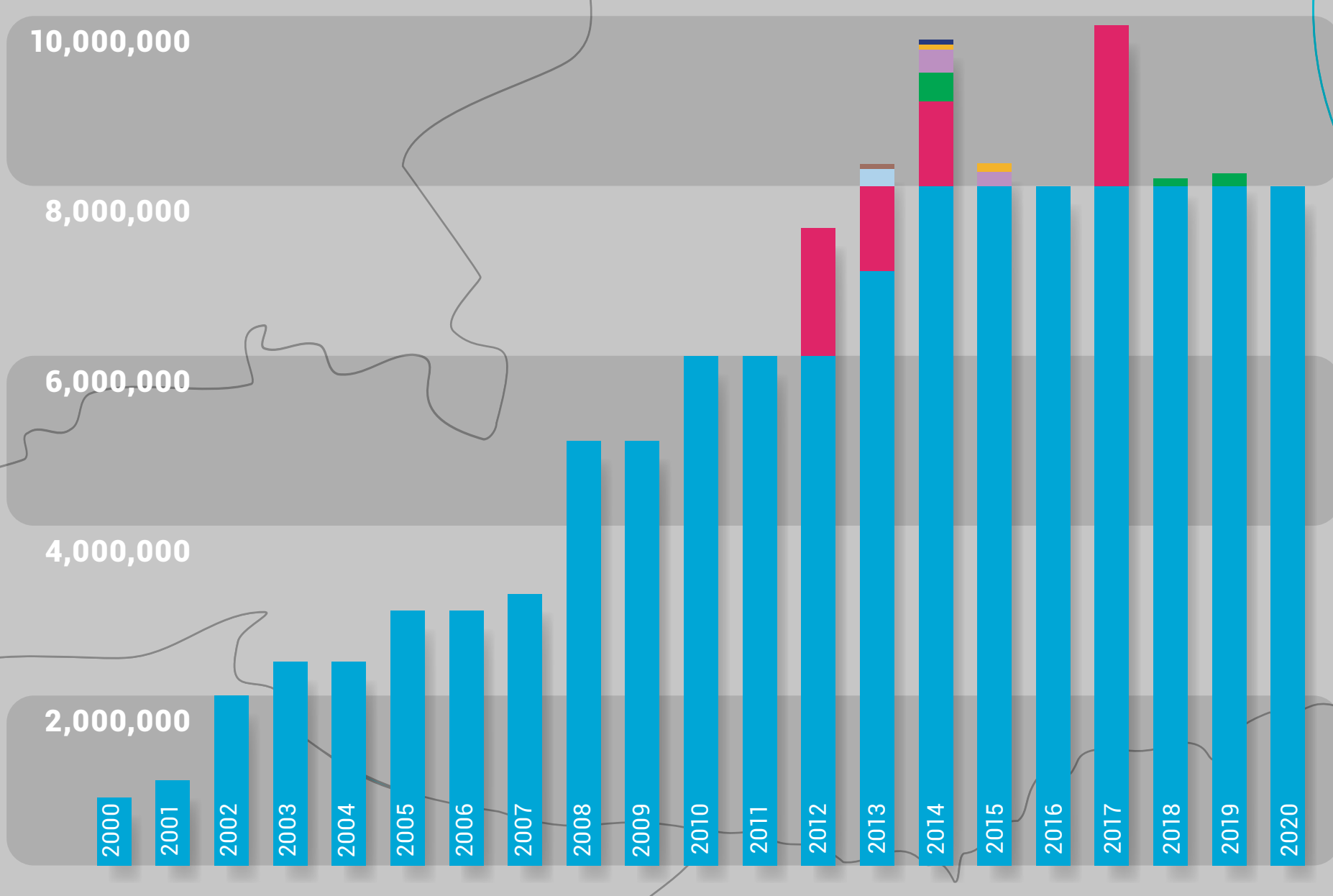
**520**  
total number of approved artist residencies

**190**  
number of universities hosting supported scholars

**39**  
number of countries where projects have been funded



**Incomes 2000–2020**

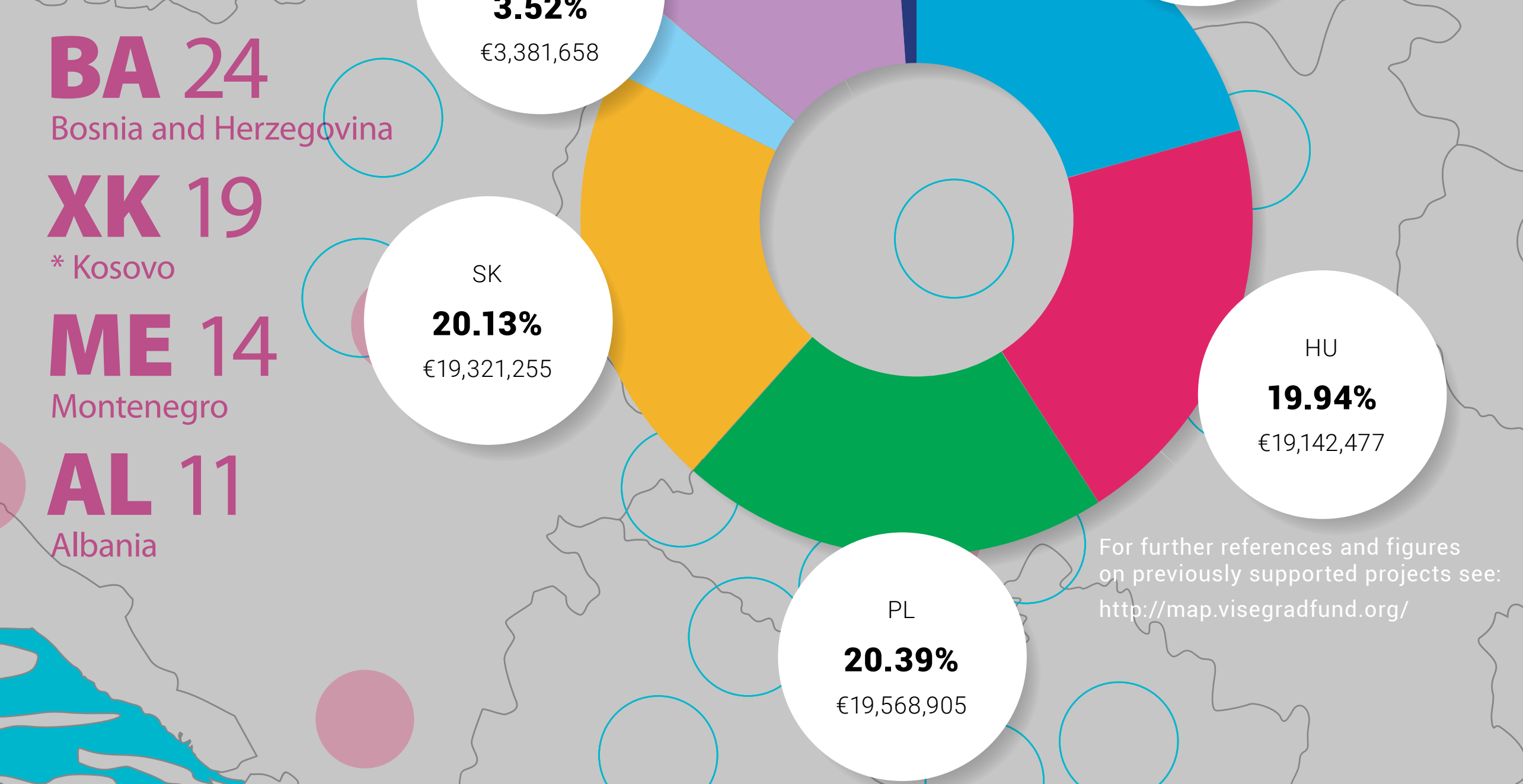


- V4 Annual Contributions
- The Netherlands
- Korea
- Sweden
- U.S.A.
- Germany
- Canada
- Switzerland

**The fund's budget 2000–2020**

The fund's annual budget (€8 million as of 2014) consists of equal contributions of V4 governments. The fund has also utilized (in the form of subgranting or co-financing) contributions from other governments/governmental organizations, in particular from Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

**Approved funding by country/region 2000–2020**



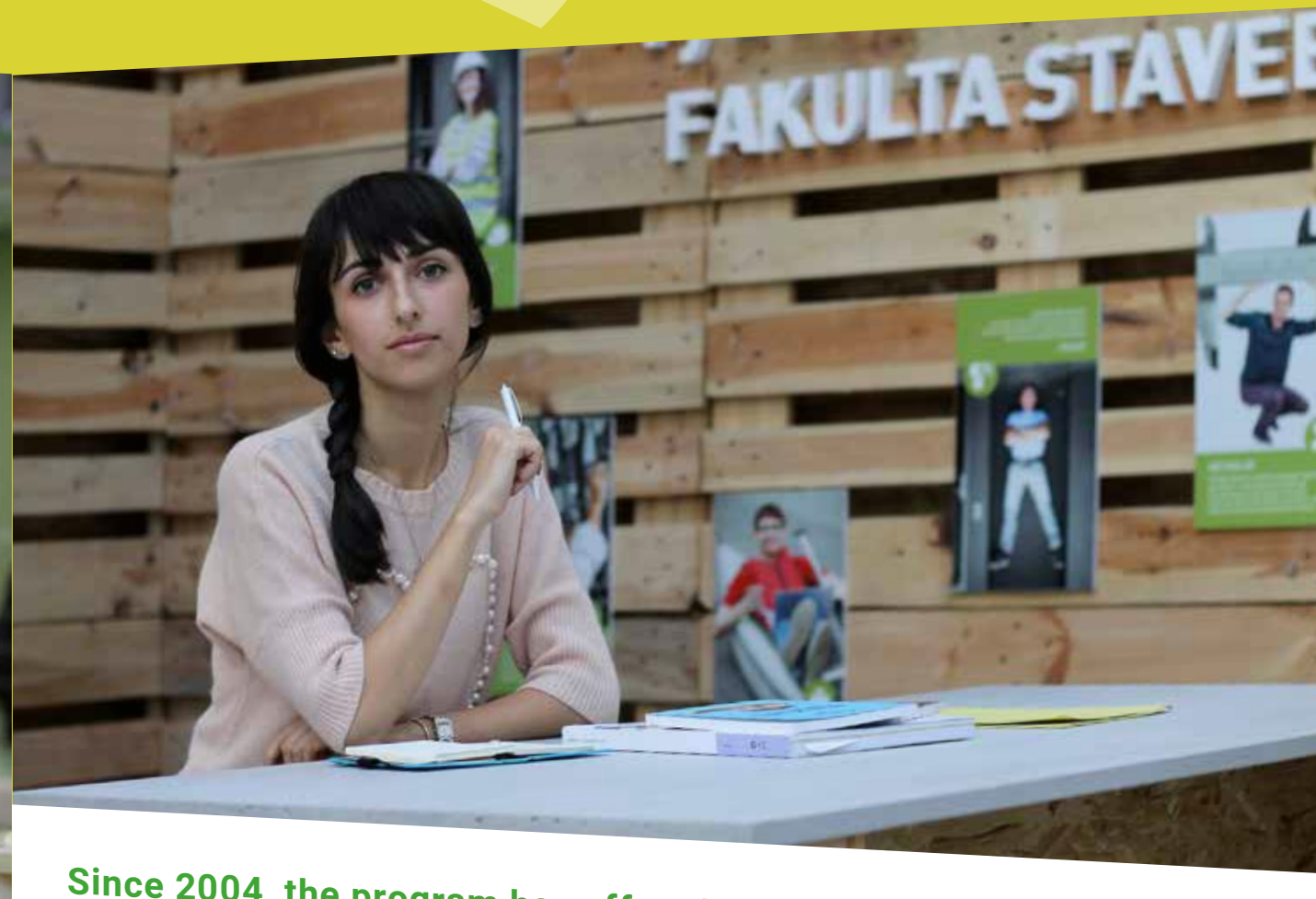
For further references and figures on previously supported projects see: <http://map.visegradfund.org/>



• Visegrad Fund

# 2,357

Total number of individual scholars supported by 2020



## VISEGRAD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2004, the program has offered financial support for degree studies and independent research to hundreds of citizens of the V4 region and the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries. The program facilitates a simple individual mobility on Bachelor's, Master's as well as post-Master's levels and supports both the individual scholars and the receiving higher-education institutions.

<http://visegrad.study/>



Short-term fellowships awarded to artists or journalists from V4 and non-V4 countries who conduct research at the OSA Archives in Budapest

Number of approved residencies by 2019

# 520

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

### Visegrad Literary Residencies

Coordinated by Villa Decius in Cracow, the program facilitates exchanges of writers of fiction and non-fiction, poets, essayists, critics as well as literary translators, publicists and journalists. Other partners are Arts Institute in Prague, Petöfi Literary Museum in Budapest and Centre for Information on Literature in Bratislava.

### Visual & Sound Residencies

Mobility for artists working in various visual arts disciplines (including performance art, textile art and architecture), design (fashion, costume, jewellery, ceramics and furniture design, visual communication), music/sound (interpretation, sound installation, sound performance, composition) and video/film/new or mixed media.



### Performing Arts Residencies

Support of innovation, experiment and creativity in performing arts—new drama, contemporary dance, new circus, physical theatre, visual theater, alternative theater and performance art. Run in cooperation among Nová síť Prague, L1 Association in Budapest, Art Stations Foundation in Poznań and Stanica Žilina-Záriečie.

### Residencies in New York

Run in cooperation with FUTURA Prague, the program provides four V4 artists with 3-month artist residencies in a prestigious studio in New York.



years of V4

