

Can an Idea of “the Balkan Fund” Become Reality?

**A Possible Instrument Designed to Help
the Western Balkans “Consume” their History**

Sarajevo, 18 November 2010

“The Balkans produce more history than they can consume.”

Winston S. Churchill

1. Is there a will to establish an institution like the International Visegrad Fund?

IVF answer:

- ✓ the will to continue in the Visegrad cooperation.
- ✓ idea to help to this process by the Fund

WB context:

- ✓ positive changes in relations among Balkan countries
- ✓ three partners would be enough in the beginning

2. Are there any worthy aims?

IVF answer:

- ✓ development of civil society
- ✓ strengthening links among Visegrad citizens

WB context:

- ✓ the settlement of various problems
- ✓ interesting impulses to authorities

3. What about the content of such cooperation?

IVF answer:

- ✓ cross-border cooperation, youth exchanges
- ✓ promotion of tourism

WB kontext:

- ✓ knowing one another prevents prejudices

4. What should be the nature of the Balkan Fund?

IVF answer:

- ✓ full support from the four governments
- ✓ focus mostly on the non-governmental sector
- ✓ the Fund is not directly involved in any political activities

WB context:

- ✓ possible problems inside have never affected the IVF
- ✓ only a positive agenda

5. Can regional cooperation be a threat to Euro-Atlantic Integration?

IVF answer:

- ✓ substitution for the full membership in EU and NATO?
- ✓ demonstration of the ability to develop the integration

WB content:

- ✓ from a fund to a group

6. What should be the status of such a fund?

IVF answer:

✓ international organization operating under diplomatic regime

WB context:

✓ the same could be the case here

7. Who shall pay for it?

IVF answer:

- ✓ start with one million Euro
- ✓ each country pays the same sum

WB context:

- ✓ one million Euro enough for the start
- ✓ potential matching funds with foreign donors

8. How to run the means?

IVF answer:

- ✓ the Secretariat spends less than 9.5% of the budget
- ✓ each V4 country receives approximately the same proportion

WB context:

- ✓ to keep the national principle

9. How to decide about the seat of the fund?

IVF answer:

✓ then the question was solved in favour of Slovakia

WB context:

✓ territorial criteria could be priority

10. What about the staff?

IVF answer:

- ✓ the size of the staff depends on the number of programs
- ✓ ED and DED are nominated for three years
- ✓ ED and DED cannot be from the same country
- ✓ most of the staff local to save operation costs

WB context:

- ✓ depending on the initial budget and program structure

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



• Visegrad Fund
• 2010
• years