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
20 years