Visegrad Fund

# Advancing Ideas for Sustainable Regional Cooperation in Central Europe

# "Advancing Ideas for Sustainable Regional Cooperation in Central Europe"

- Visegrad Group = 1991; Visegrad Fund = 2000

- Established to develop and foster ties among citizens and institutions in the V4 region (bottom-up)

- Basic objectives: development of civil society and support of internal cohesion of the region

- Key principle: governmental funds → non-governmental recipients

- Principal beneficiaries: civil society organizations, public institutions, municipalities, local/regional governments, private citizens

- Search for impactful ideas with value added for the region

- Focus—internal (V4) and external (primarily EaP and WB6 regions)
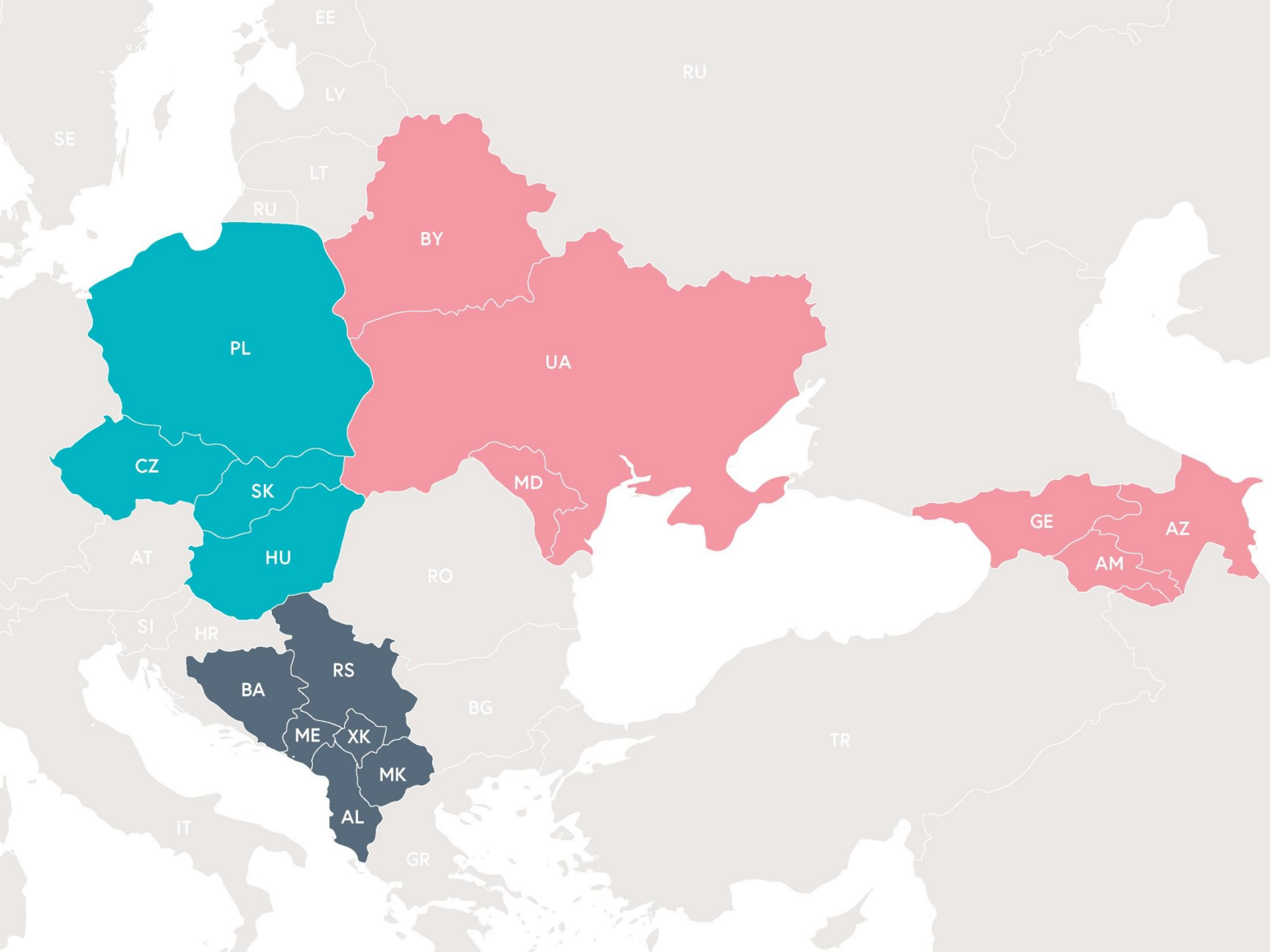
# The fund in a nutshell

- V4's <u>only (solid) organization</u> to date

- Status of <u>international organization</u> with the seat in Bratislava

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

- <u>Budget = annual contributions</u> (€2.5 million p.a./country)

- <u>Co-financing</u> external chapters since 2012 (Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Korea, Switzerland, U.S.A.)

- Staff of ±14 staff members + 2 executives (+ interns)

# Key instruments—Grants & Individual mobility

- <u>Internal</u> & <u>External</u> Grant Vehicles
  - Visegrad Grants, Visegrad+ Grants (EaP/WB6), Strategic Grants
  - V4 Gen Mini-Grants
  - Strategic Conferences (no open calls)

- <u>Scholarships</u>/<u>Fellowships</u>
  - Visegrad Scholarship Program, Visegrad Fellowships
  - Visegrad Scholarships in Taiwan
  - Research Fellowships at the EU Archives of the European University Institute
  - Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives in Budapest

- <u>Residency Programs</u> (V4 only)
  - Visegrad Residencies—Visual & Sound Arts
  - Visegrad Residencies—Performing Arts
  - Visegrad Literary Residencies
  - Visegrad Residencies in New York

- <u>Other</u>
  - Think Visegrad think tank platform (incl. Brussels)
  - Civil Servant Mobility Program
  - V4 Startup Force, Bicycle Races, V4 Energy Think-Tank Platform…

Think Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

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Think Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# **Visegrad Grants**/Visegrad+ Grants/Strategic Grants

- ideas with <u>V4 added value</u>

- active participation of project partners from <u>at least 3 V4 countries</u>

- grant can cover up to <u>100% of project costs</u>

- paid <u>in tranches</u>
  (up to 80% of project costs paid in advance; the rest after Final Report)

- up to <u>15% overhead costs</u>

- costs documented by copies of invoices/contracts, or by audit report
  (grants with budgets of €10,001 or higher)

- <u>one project per applicant</u>
  (project partnerships not limited)

- applying online: <u>February 1</u>, <u>June 1</u>, <u>October 1</u>

# Visegrad/Visegrad+ Grants Project Cycle

## Timeline    Deadlines: 1 Feb / 1 Jun / 1 Oct

| 20 work days | 60 work days | 20 work days |
|---|---|---|

Application System Opens — Application Deadline — Results Announcement — Project Implementation Start

- max. project duration = **18 months** (Strategic Grants = 18–36 months)
- **2 rounds** of group evaluations →
  → ExecDir **recommends** projects to the MFAs →
  → Council of Ambassadors gives **final approval** within 60 workdays
- individual **consultations** before deadline/individual **feedback** to rejected applicants

# V4 Gen Mini Grants

- youth exchanges between groups of 12–30 Y.O. (bilateral, trilateral…)
- active participation of project partners from <u>at least 2 V4 countries</u>
- grant can cover up to <u>100% of project costs</u>
- paid <u>in tranches</u>
  (up to 80% of project costs paid in advance; the rest after Final Report)
- budget constructed on the basis of <u>people-days</u> (e.g., # of students and accompanying persons * days * €50–60)
- no documentation of costs or auditing
  (table with cost overview and attendance sheets)
- <u>one project per applicant</u>
  (project partnerships not limited)
- applying online: <u>March 15</u>, <u>July 15</u>, <u>November 15</u>

# V4 Gen Mini-Grants Project Cycle

## Timeline

**Deadline:** 15 Mar / 15 Jul / 15 Nov

20 workdays | 10 workdays | 20 workdays | 60 workdays

Application System Opens — Deadline for Drafts — Application Deadline — Results Announcement — *Latest Start of Project Implementation*

- max. project duration = **6 months**
- two-stage application: **drafts first** (by Mar 1, July 1 and Nov. 1), then full application form (= individual consultations)
- suitable for "simple" cross-visits of groups of young people (12–30) organized by relevant organizations (schools, youth clubs, sports club, NGOs, etc.)
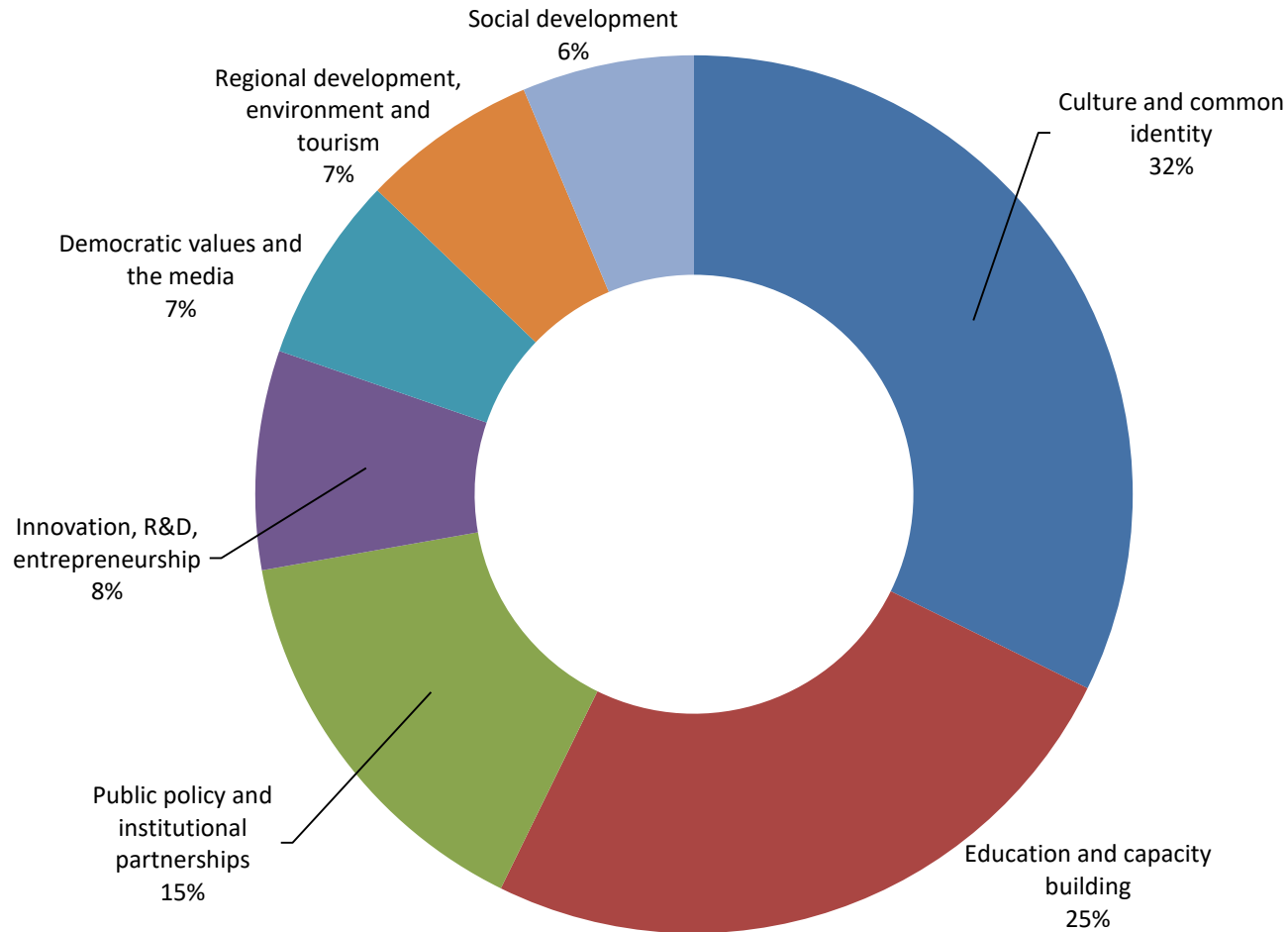
# Visegrad Scholarship Program

- reciprocal individual mobility:
  - within the V4 region (Intra-Visegrad)
  - reciprocal between the V4 region and the EaP countries and the Western Balkans (Out-going/In-coming)
- <u>BA</u>, <u>MA</u>, <u>PhD</u>, <u>postdoc</u> levels (2 concluded semesters = minimum)
- support of both <u>scholar</u> and <u>host HEI</u> (€2,500 + €1,500/sem.)
- no limit as to <u>age</u>, <u>student status</u> and host <u>institution</u> (all accredited public or private HEIs, incl. science academies)
- applying online only by <u>March 15</u>

# Visegrad Artist Residency Programs

- individual and group mobility w/in the V4 region
- <u>Visual & Sound Arts</u>
- <u>Performing Arts</u> (ind. + group residencies)
- <u>Literary Residencies</u> (w/ Villa Decius, Cracow)
- <u>Residencies in New York</u>
  (w/ Arts in General, Brooklyn, NY)
- <u>Fashion Residency Program in Milan</u>
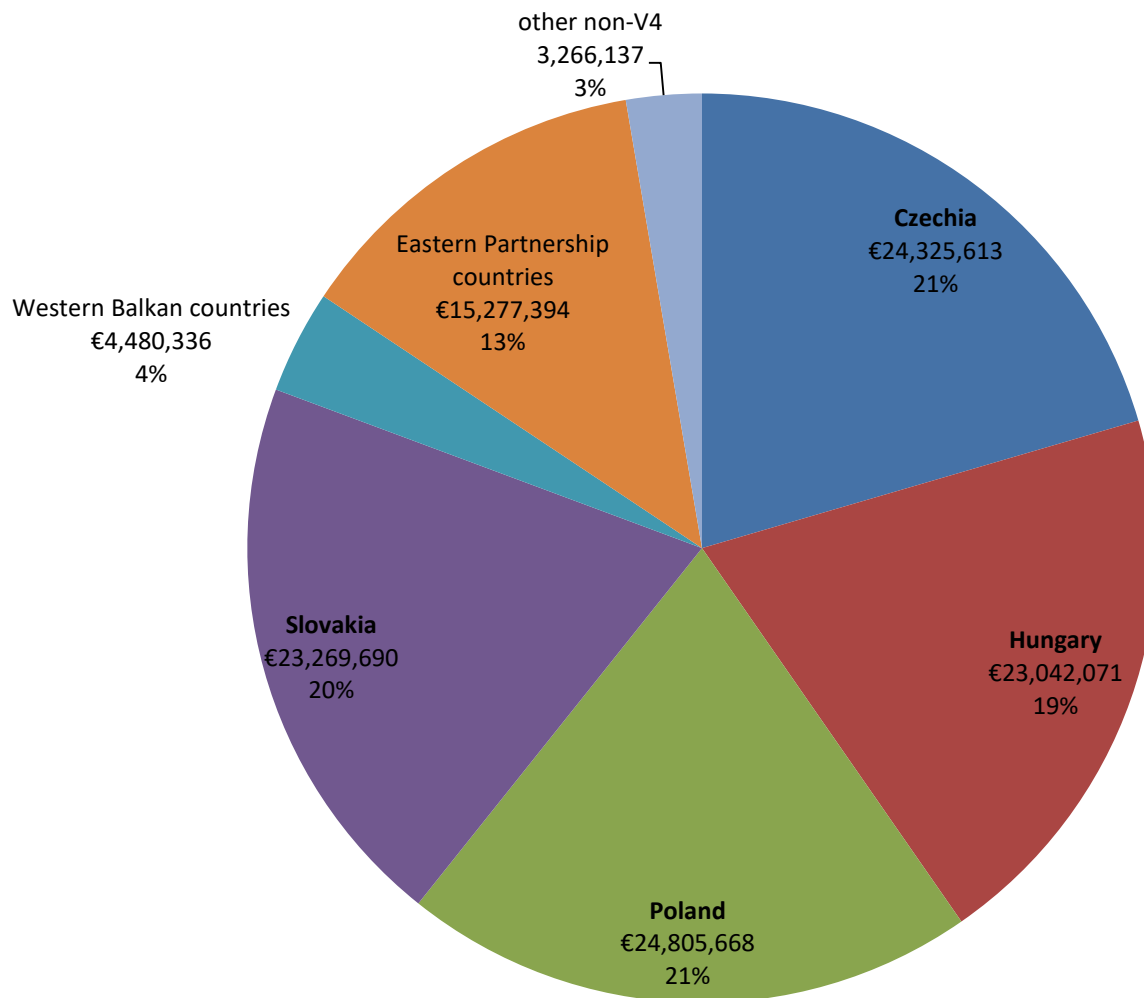- applying online only (deadlines individual)

# Visegrad Grants—main focus areas



Social development
6%

Regional development,
environment and
tourism
7%

Democratic values and
the media
7%

Innovation, R&D,
entrepreneurship
8%

Public policy and
institutional
partnerships
15%

Culture and common
identity
32%

Education and capacity
building
25%

100% = 6,500+ grant projects approved in 2000–2022

http://map.visegradfund.org/

# Support by country/region



other non-V4
3,266,137
3%

Eastern Partnership
countries
€15,277,394
13%

Czechia
€24,325,613
21%

Western Balkan countries
€4,480,336
4%

Slovakia
€23,269,690
20%

Hungary
€23,042,071
19%

Poland
€24,805,668
21%

100% = €118,466,909

# Main results in figures:

| | |
|---:|:---|
| ≈ **120 million** | total approved sum (€) |
| > **6,500** | total number of approved grant projects |
| ≈ **3,500** | total number of supported individual scholars |
| ➢ **750** | number of cities with approved grants |
| > **500** | total number of approved artist residencies |
| ≈ **250** | number of universities hosting supported scholars |
| **39** | number of countries with supported projects |
| **11** | number of currently operated programs |
| ≈ **25%** | average application "success rate" |
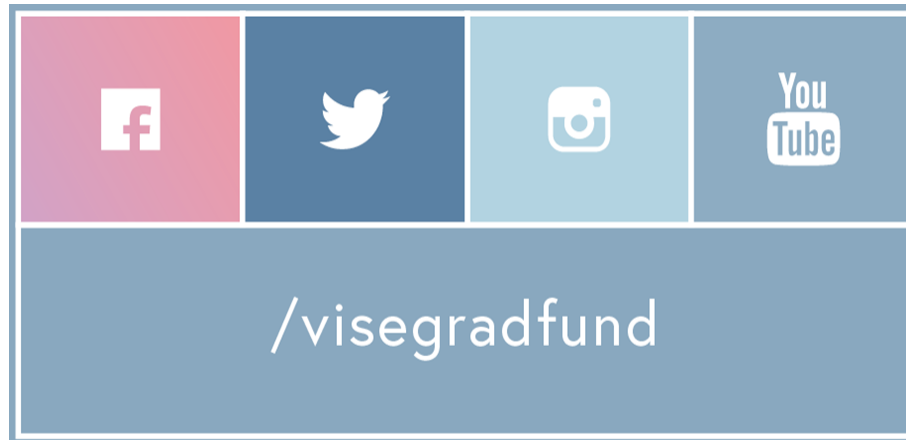
# Thank you and stay in touch!