

### **Katalin Miklóssy: Regional strategic culture in the Visegrad-countries: Poland and Hungary**

There is a basic assumption in mainstream scholarship that strategic culture per se is primarily nationally rooted and thus ought to differ from one state to another. This article argues, however, that regional analogies can be detected in the countries' national strategic perceptions. These convergences are anchored in the joint geopolitical space which is subject to same historical events on the international arena. In addition to shared experience, the vicinity of countries in a region equally matters because it can reveal the multiple political-economic-cultural interactions and interlinked-ness of development. Close connections, on the other hand, make the consciousness of the shared experience clearer – which eventually magnifies the regional angle. The regional gaze translates the changes of the international arena for the domestic sphere. Shared regional experience, however, does not result similar interpretations, meanings or emphasis on the national level. Still, we can detect resembling notions or domesticated 'travelling' concepts, especially in reflections on Russia. Our first purpose is to investigate what are those elements in the strategic culture that are regionally coded in the perceptions of two Visegrad-countries. We selected as case studies the most dissimilar states of the region, the mid-sized Poland and the non-Slavic, relatively small Hungary. The second aim is to evaluate what kinds of variables are unique and particular to a country's strategic culture and how these divergences correlate with regional convergences.

### **Sándor Gallai: The Political Importance of the Visegrad Cooperation**

The migration crisis along with the sluggish and ineffective response by the European Union increased the relative political weight of the Visegrad Countries (V4). Resolute and united in their opposition to key elements of EU migration policy, the V4 introduced the Visegrad brand at European level. One should not overvalue the V4 cooperation, but it goes well beyond diplomatic declarations, protocol events and subsidiary projects. The political collaboration of the V4 and their joint actions can now shape EU policies substantially and transform the Visegrad countries from policy takers to policy makers.

### **Nóra Lázár: V4 Connects – The Hungarian Presidency 2017/2018 of the Visegrad Group**

The fifth Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group has started in a limelight that any Presidency had never experienced before. The Visegrad countries represent a sharply different solution proposal than the European mainstream on the migration crisis which causes an increased media and political attention. Under the Hungarian Presidency, burning issues such as Brexit, the ongoing debate on the future of the EU and the institutional questions require firm V4 standpoint. For this purpose the Hungarian Presidency focuses on four priorities: European Visegrad, Regional Visegrad, Digital Visegrad and Global Visegrad and it tries to strengthen the cultural, scientific and civil connections of the V4 countries as well. The Presidency also gives great emphasis to the cooperation with countries of the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans to facilitate these countries European integration.

The motto of the Hungarian Presidency is V4 Connects which symbolizes the close connections between the four countries while it also refers to the Presidency's focus on connectivity.

### **József Dúró: Becoming Mainstream? Euroscepticism among Established Parties in Visegrad Countries**

At the time of the Big Bang enlargement in 2004, there was a broad pro-EU consensus among the established parties of the Visegrad Countries. However, more mainstream parties have started to criticise the European Union in recent years due to the handling of the economic and migration crisis. The paper examines the established parties (changing) attitude to the European

Union and aims to explain the reasons lying behind their Euroscepticism/Europragmatism. It also answers the question if criticism of the EU is a consequence of the ideology or only a part of a broader party strategy.