Visegrad Fund

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BETWEEN COHESION AND DIVERGENCE

The Visegrad Four in a Changing International Order

DATE
8 October 2026

HOST
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS)

PROJECT
No. 22430169

VENUE
Faculty Council Room (Room 4.35), Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, UMCS
ul. Głęboka 45, 20-612 Lublin, Poland

PROGRAMME

08:15–08:45 **Coffee Break**

08:45–09:00 **Registration**

09:00–09:30 **Opening of the Conference**

dr Ewelina Kancik-Kołtun
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Poland
Welcome and introduction

prof. Marek Pietraś
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Poland
Director of the Institute of International Relations, UMCS

dr hab. Péter Rada
Budapest Metropolitan University (METU), Hungary
Project Leader

09:30–10:30 **PANEL I**

The Visegrad Four in a Changing European and International Environment

Moderator: dr Ewelina Kancik-Kołtun

09:30–09:45 **prof. Marek Pietraś**
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Poland
Ontology and Epistemology of International System Change

09:45–10:00 **prof. Ladislav Cabada**
Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), Czech Republic
Too Small, Too Weak, Too Disjointed: The Visegrád Group in the New Geopolitical Game

10:00–10:15 **doc. Katarína Liptáková**
Matej Bel University (UMB), Slovakia
Local Currencies as an Economic Tool of Public Policy in the V4

10:15–10:30 **dr hab. Péter Rada**
Budapest Metropolitan University (METU), Hungary
Central Europe in the Changing World

10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00–12:00 **PANEL II**

Moderator: prof. Ladislav Cabada

11:00–11:15 **dr Péter Stepper**
Budapest Metropolitan University (METU), Hungary
Cooperation without Convergence: Selective Regional Cooperation and the V4

11:15–11:30 **mgr Natalia Krawczyk**
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Poland
Beyond Political Divides: The Role of the International Visegrad Fund in Fostering the Future of Youth Cooperation

11:30–11:45 **dr Adrian Szumowski, dr Ewelina Kancik-Kołtun**
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Poland
Visegrad Nations and Nuclear Weapons

11:45–12:00 **mgr Laura Nyilas**
Budapest Metropolitan University (METU), Hungary
Strategic Thinking from the Perspective of V4 Countries

12:00–13:00 **Lunch**

13:00–16:00 **City Walk around Lublin**

16:00–17:00 **YOUNG LEADERS PANEL**

The Future of V4 Cooperation

Moderator: doc. Katarína Liptáková

16:00–16:15 **Bence Harrach**
Budapest Metropolitan University (METU), Hungary
Challenges in Hungary after the 2026 Elections

16:15–16:30 **Miroslava Pindurová, Karolina Konturová, Karolina Molčanová**
Matej Bel University (UMB), Slovakia
Central Europe from the Perspective of Slovakia

16:30–16:45 **Michael Jarkovský, Martin Růžička**
Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), Czech Republic
Central Europe from the Perspective of Czechia

16:45–17:00 **Daniela Trčková**
Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), Czech Republic
Appropriation of Human Rights Repertoires by Anti-Gender Actors in the Czech Republic

17:00–19:00 **Dinner**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference is organised within the International Visegrad Fund project **"V4 Joint Special Course as an Ongoing Brand for Central Europe"** (No. 22430169). It brings together academics and young participants from the Visegrad countries to discuss Central Europe's changing international environment, the prospects for regional cooperation, and the balance between cohesion and divergence within the Visegrad Group.

The project is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

Hosted by UMCS · with project partners METU, UMB and MUP