



# VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2018



## 17. Diplomatic Salon: The evolution of Czech diplomacy through the years

On November 15, 2018, the XVII. Diplomatic Salon took place, organized by the Junior Diplomat Initiative (JDI) student organization, which operates at the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics in Prague as part of the Visegrad Youth Forum 2018 organized by the Euro-Atlantic Center in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia.

The topic of the event was "The evolution of Czech diplomacy through the years", in honour of this year's many notable anniversaries. Three generations of diplomats spoke at the event, namely **Vladimír Galuška**, *former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Ambassador to Slovakia and the United States*, **Ivana Grollová** *from the Department of Multilateral Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and former Ambassador to Mongolia*, and **Matti Tetřev** *from the Department of Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic*. Chairing the debate was **Radka Druláková**, *Vice-Dean for Science and Doctoral Studies at the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics in Prague*.

Prior to the debate itself, the attending students were greeted by the *Deputy Director of the Department of Public Diplomacy* **Sandra Miholová**. Then each of the guests got the opportunity to present a selected period from the history of Czech diplomacy and to evaluate its development. The common conclusion was that, in earlier times, everything was slower in terms of communication and international negotiations, which could last for several months, not to mention the time that it took to get to a certain location of said negotiations. The guests shared their own experiences gained during their time at each respective embassy or meetings they have participated in as well, making the subject even more interesting.

Matti Tetřev also focused on the development of the Czech Republic's participation in NATO and the EU, stressing that the Czech Republic was the first post-Communist country to host a NATO summit or the European Commission. On the question asked by Radka Druláková, what has remained the same and what has changed in the diplomatic world, the guests have agreed that the





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way of communication within the Ministry in the form of TICs has remained unchanged. However, this is beginning to change with gradual replacement by e-mails. The nomenclature (ambassador, consul, etc.) has not been altered as well. There was also time for questions from the audience, for example about French President Macron's proposal to create a European army, the level of funding for NATO joint units and a comparison of Czech and Slovak diplomacy.

